America's rulers have embarked on an all-sided assault on the poor, the elderly and children. In the past month, Congressional committees have voted to scrap the national school lunch program, food supplements for pregnant women and infants, assistance to unmarried mothers with children and aid to thousands of poor children with physical or mental disabilities. There are also plans afoot to reduce the Medicare program for the elderly, while the so-called balanced budget amendment—which recently failed by one vote in the Senate—would entirely gut the Social Security system, already regularly looted by the federal government. Now the Republican-controlled Congress is rewriting the Democrats' "crime" bill, passed last fall, to make it even more vicious, jacking up federal subsidies for spending on prisons to over $10 billion. And crowning it all is the massive speedup on death row.

The bipartisan drive to deny millions of poor people even a semblance of subsistence has nothing to do with "balancing the budget," which is bloated by hundreds of billions in military expenditures. What they want is to be rid of a whole layer of the black population which has been deemed "surplus" by the racist rulers. The coldblooded policy of starving black welfare mothers and their kids is augmented by a racist "war on continued on page 6

For Workers Political Revolution to Stop Capitalist Counterrevolution!

Turmoil Brewing in China

After their bloody suppression of the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising, the aged bureaucrats running the People's Republic of China smugly basked in a booming economy as other Stalinist regimes collapsed throughout East Europe and the former Soviet Union. Today, working people from East Germany to Siberia face the miseries of mass impoverishment and all-sided social reaction produced by capitalist counterrevolution. In response, many leftists, especially leftover Stalinists, have desperately latched onto Deng Xiaoping's "socialist market economy" to answer the bourgeoisie's triumphal cry of the "death of communism."

Yet capitalist financiers and industrialists around the world are also praising Deng's China, and pouring in tens of billions of investment dollars, fueling its galloping growth rate and an apparent rise in living standards of workers and peasants. Why? Many imperialist spokesmen see the "Chinese model" as a better road to counterrevolution, aiming at a regime of "market authoritarianism" (as an American banker in Hong Kong, William Overholt, advocates) along the lines of South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan.

The impending death of "paramount leader" Deng Xiaoping is serving to throw a clearer light on developments in the Chinese bureaucratically deformed workers continued on page 8

Turmoil Brewing in China as masses of unemployed laborers flow from countryside into cities looking for work.
 Obscenity in Texas
Prison Bans WV Over Vietnam Photo

The authorities of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division outlawed an issue of Workers Vanguard and prevented men and women languishing in the Lone Star State's jail cells from receiving their subscriptions. The particular issue in question (WV No. 613, 30 December 1994) was banned because of the photograph reprinted again here which depicts the utter terror of Vietnamese people. The photograph shows Vietnamese children running away from a U.S. napalm bomb attack on their village. The young girl in the center of the picture ripped off her burning clothes as she fled.

This photograph brought the truth and horror of U.S. imperialism's dirty war home to many Americans and stirred revulsion against a government that burned babies in the name of "national security." This photograph by AP photographer Huynh Cong Ut won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in 1973. Today, it is banned in Texas. In a "publication denial notification," the Texas authorities inform us that "page 2 contains picture of a nude child" and notes: "(d) A specific factual determination has been made that the publication is detrimental to prisoner's rehabilitation because it would encourage deviate criminal sexual behavior."

Maybe the bureaucrats in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice get off fantasizing about human bodies blown to bits by U.S. anti-personnel bombs and find babies charred beyond recognition by Dow Chemical Company's incendiary napalm jelly a real turn-on. We don't, but neither would we underestimate the state of Texas' lust for genocide.

After all, this is the state which concluded with Janet Reno's "Justice Department" in murdering 86 men, women and children by burning them to death in the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas on the pretext of "child abuse!" This is the state whose uncontrollable thirst for death has made it the "legal lynching" capital of the country—Texas has executed over 90 prisoners since the death penalty was reinstated in the U.S. In Fort Worth, Christian fundamentalist prison authorities have even gone so far as to establish a segregated prison population, the "Christian Rehabilitation Pod" (known by inmates as the "God Pod"), to force white Christian "morals" down the throats of people imprisoned in Texas.

The hypocritical and truly obscene morality of the capitalist state and its vast prison complex recall the words of playwright George Bernard Shaw: "The nation's morals are like its teeth: the more decayed they are the more it hurts to touch them." Looks like we really hit a nerve. Stop government censorship of prisoners' mail! Let Workers Vanguard be read!

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Mao's China: A Deformed Social Revolution

The Stalinist bureaucrats in China are distorting many of the gains of the 1949 Revolution which smashed the semifeudal landlord-capitalist rule of Chiang Kai-shek and established a bureaucratically deformed workers state. In 1955, the then-Trotskyist American Socialist Workers Party warned that Stalinism would imperil the revolutionary gains, and called for workers political revolution to oust the bureaucratic misrulers.

Today, in the wake of the counterrevolutionary destruction of the Soviet Union, the Chinese Stalinist bureaucrats have vastly increased social inequality and brought the country to the brink of capitalist restoration.

China is a deformed workers state because of the Stalinist deformation of the Third Chinese Revolution:

(1) The contradiction between the conquests of the revolution and the bureaucratic rulers is the central internal contradiction of Chinese society, determining its movement. At the same time, it is the point of departure for the Trotskyists to base their policy for China...

(2) Exploiting the social antagonisms, along with their prestige as leaders of the revolution, the Chinese Stalinist bureaucrats have intrinsically altered uncontrolled caste alienism to socialism.

(3) The revolution, deformed by the ruling bureaucracy, manifests its proletarian character in the new property relations and planning; the superiority of these new productive relations and institutions is bound to assure a stormy growth of industry and social weight and bringing it into conflict with Stalinist methods of rule, management and administration.

(4) On the road to socialism the workers would have to abolish the bureaucracy along with the Mao leadership that now heads it....

The impact of the Third Chinese Revolution, the social transformations it brought about, the blows it delivered to world capitalism, have been second only to those of the 1917 Revolution in Russia. The "Russian question" has been the main axis in world politics for nearly four decades; it now has found its expansion and deepening in the "Chinese question."...

One thing is certain, there is no solution along the course of the Peking and Kunming bureaucracies. Their narrow nationalist course, their coexistence line, brings them into conflict with the needs of the world socialist revolution, but it will not save them from imperialist assault. The interests of the working class in the capitalist countries, just as the interests of the workers of China and the Soviet Union, are expressed in the program of the permanent revolution, the program upon which the Fourth International is founded.


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International Campaign of Protest—Mobilize Now!
SAVE MUMIA ABU JAMAL!

Sponsored by the Partisan Defense Committee
All proceeds from these events go to Jamal’s legal defense

VANCOUVER, CANADA

Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
Centre cultural francophone
de Vancouver
1561 West 7th Avenue
(604) 687-0553

SPEAKERS

Yvonne Brown
Mary Ann Carllton, Political Action Committee member, and jailed Worker, Bargaining Committee member and former president, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 391
Gord Hill, Anti-Fascist Info
Asexual Isaa, Somali Friendship Society of B.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(604) 884-0101

TORONTO, CANADA

Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Centre
427 Bloor St. W.
(416) 533-4138

SPEAKERS

Marc Lamoure, Habitan Resistance Committee in Toronto
Zoeta Lupco, Prison News Service
Peter Stevens, Partisan Defense Committee

*Organization for identification purposes only

Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!
Union Tops Obstruct All-Out Strike

German Metal Workers Stand Off Bosses' Offensive

The following article is adapted from Socialist Worker, February 27, 1995, published by our comrades of the Spartakist Workers Party of Germany.

MARCH 7—After provoking the first West German metal workers strike in eleven years, today the metal industry bosses agreed to a settlement with the association of metal unions. Until the last minute, through ten days of the strike, the Gesamtmetall employers association refused to make a counteroffer to the workweek to 35 hours. The gradual order books full and signs of labour costs up. To back up their hardline stance, metal workers strike in 11 years, today the metal industry refused to make a counteroffer to the workweek to 35 hours. The gradual order books full and signs of loss in pay. Union tops limited the strike to 33 plants, worried many of the metal bosses; the head of the AEG household with barely margin. The dismantling of the "social state" is part of a broader development throughout Europe. In Italy, the rulers de facto "grand coalition" with the CDU/SPD cabinet through its control of the Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament. At a meeting with federal chancellor Kohl and metal workers' representatives at the end of January, DGB union leader Dieter Schulte responded to the metal workers' demand for "guaranteed full employment" by offering to introduce Saturday work with no premium pay. Last year, IG Metall chief Klaus Zwickel worked out a deal with the SPD government of Niedersachsen (co-owner of Volkswagen) to introduce a four-day workweek at VW as a "saving" measure. In reality, this turned out to be a 20 per cent wage cut, and saved no jobs at all.

Gig Metall workers rally, February 15. With more than 3 million members, an all-out strike by metal workers union could spark working-class offensive against German capitalists war on labor and minorities.

But the profit-hungry employers wanted much more. To undercut labor costs and weaken the union, the bosses have begun transferring production to low-wage countries such as Mexico, South Africa, and above all, the former deutsch marks devalued workers states of East Europe. This trend will undeniably escalate. Volkswagen pays workers in its Skoda works in Czechoslovakia one-tenth as much as VW workers earn in Wolfsburg. The trade-union bureaucrats' only answer is the poison of protectionism, which sets unions against their fellow workers abroad. Given the intensifying international competition, this is a call for trade war, which ultimately leads to imperialist war. And the SPD knows its place: they defend "production site Germany," tomorrow, as in the past, it will be defending the "fatherland.

The Social Democrats also played a key role in the drive for capitalist re-unification, which whipped up German nationalism, preparing the ground for the rising racist terror against immigrant communities that was reinforced by the wholesale destruction of the East German economy. In West Germany as well, unemployment has been at the highest level since the immediate postwar years, and economic insecurity has fed Nazi attacks in the West. The SPD's support for getting the right to asylum helped block strike action in protest against the racist attacks that kill workers and their families in Mölln and Solingen. The Spartakist Workers Party fights for full citizenship rights for immigrants and for mobilizing the power of the working class to smash the bosses. While the bosses' offensive was stalled, the IG Metall strike could have been extended to a workers' class struggle across the board. For starters, the metal strike should have been extended from the car workers to all workers. This would have brought VW workers angry over the "four-day workweek" swoop, into strike. But the workers concentrated in the Ruhr are a stronghold of union militancy. The economically weakened German unions, which showed their will to struggle in a solid 1993 metal strike, need the full strength of the international working class in fighting for equal pay for equal work. But the DGB bureaucrats do everything to keep the metal workers isolated from the rest of the working class. Meanwhile, the PDS (Party of Democratic Socialism, successor to the former Communists in the DDR), in its self-appointed role as "people's representative" of the East, is supporting the workers' struggles in the state of Sachsen-Anhalt, whose economyc, minister was in charge of the chemical industry for the Treuhand, the hated government agency which has laid waste to East German industry.

Metal workers showed their readiness to strike together. At the beginning of the strike, a bus with workers from Zwickau (in the East) showed up at the gate of a plant in Ingolstadt in Bavaria to walk the picket line, while a solidarity delegation of workers from the West showed up at the steel plant in Zwickau. Metal workers in Stuttgart showed up at AEG. In contrast to the U.S., Britain or France, where unions have been greatly weakened over the last decade, IG Metall remains a powerhouse of German labor. But in the long run, in the face of the bosses' threat to shift production to low-wage countries, it is necessary to wage an international workers' struggle. This underscores the need for the leadership of an internationalist workers party, built in struggle against social democracy—both in the West (SPD) and East (PDS) variants—which is the main obstacle to waging even defensive strikes. The answer to the current offensive of capital is not to uphold a non-existent "social order for conomy," and its institutionalized class collaboration of "social partnership." It is necessary to wage a political struggle against social democratic forces, such as the SPD and its "social state," which is the main obstacle to waging even defensive strikes.

The Social Democrats also played a key role in the drive for capitalist re-unification, which whipped up German nationalism, preparing the ground for the rising racist terror against immigrant communities that was reinforced by the wholesale destruction of the East German economy. In West Germany as well, unemployment has been at the highest level since the immediate postwar years, and economic insecurity has fed Nazi attacks in the West. The SPD's support for getting the right to asylum helped block strike action in protest against the racist attacks that kill workers and their families in Mölln and Solingen. The Spartakist Workers Party fights for full citizenship rights for immigrants and for mobilizing the...
Join the Campaign to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Rallies in U.S., Paris, Tokyo, Sydney

Around the United States, in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland, and Washington, D.C., and internationally—particularly from Berlin to Paris to Tokyo and Sydney, Australia, trade unions, students, minorities, leftists and death penalty abolitionists came together over the last three weeks in rallies and demonstrations to demand: "Save Mumia Abu-Jamal! Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!"

At a February 21 protest rally outside the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris, a statement was read from the Confédération Générale des Travailleurs (CGT) dockers union in Marseille: "Today they condemn a man to death because he had the courage to say ‘No’ to barbarism and arbitrary cruelty—but above all to racism against blacks and the poor... Mumia Abu-Jamal must not die!"

In London, several members of parliament have endorsed a motion by Labour MP Neil Gerrard which reads, "That this House is dismayed at the decision of the Governor of Pennsylvania to begin signing death warrants; believes that the death penalty is barbaric; and in particular calls on the Governor not to sign such a warrant in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, where there is grave concern that a serious miscarriage of justice took place in his conviction."

The life of Jamal—a former Black Panther, supporter of the MOVE organization and award-winning journalist who was sentenced to die for his political beliefs—is in imminent danger. On February 28, Pennsylvania’s Republican governor Tom Ridge signed three death warrants. While the state house gears up to open the execution chambers which have not been used since 1962 in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia police have renewed their vendetta to silence Jamal through death (see article on page 5).

At a February 25 Oakland rally, held at the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union Local 6 hall, Fred Goldsmith and Weinglass, told a crowd of some 200 people, “The opposition is strong and the odds are great, but the support that’s building is also strong... So it just might be that this case becomes the focal point of the opposition and even the international debate on the death penalty."

Although modest in size relative to the urgent task at hand—to save the life of this courageous and eloquent spokes­man for the oppressed—the united-front rallies and protests sponsored by the Partisan Defense Committee and its fraternal organizations internationally have brought together individuals and organizations behind which stand thousands of workers, youth, minorities, opponents of the death penalty and others who can and must be mobilized in Jamal’s defense. In the proletarian tradition of anti-sectarian defense work, embodied in the slogan of "an injury to one is an injury to all" and carried forward by the PDC, many other left organizations were encouraged to participate in these rallies, and did so with speakers and literature tables.

- In Sydney, Australia, a February 9 rally at the Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union hall raised over $900 for Jamal’s legal defense. Speakers included student and trade-union militants as well as Sam Watson, manager of the Aboriginal Legal Service in Brisbane.
- On February 16, a rally in Boston, whose speakers included well-known Boston University professor Howard Zinn, raised over $600 for Jamal’s defense. The same day a rally was held in Atlanta, co-sponsored by the Georgia State University Black Student Alliance, whose president has suggested a city-wide action conference for Mumia bringing together all the BSAs in the area.
- In Paris, the February 21 protest demonstration was supported by the Committee for the Defense of Liberties and Human Rights, the League for the Rights of Man, the CGT National Journalists Union and Voice Proletarian (OCML). Letters of protest to Governor Ridge were read from the Confederation of Kurdish Associations in Europe, from Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld in the name of the "Sons and Daughters of Deported French Jews," and from the CGT union of proofreaders as well as the dockers.
- In Washington, D.C., a rally on February 23 at Howard University was addressed by Mrs. Dorothy Coppl Elliott, whose son Archie was killed by the police in Prince George’s County, and by George Moffat, a former political prisoner from South Africa, who spent 15 years imprisoned on Robben Island. Leith Dingerson, executive director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, said: "You can’t take the slime out of the swamp, and you can’t take the racism out of capital punishment. It simply would not exist and could not exist if it weren’t for the disparities that make it up.”

From behind bars at Mule Creek State Prison, former Black Panther leader Geronimo ji Jaga (Prati), who had been imprisoned for close to 25 years for a crime he did not and could not have committed, wrote of Jamal’s “compassion and outstanding abilities” and called “for those who have supported me to join the struggle to save the life of Mumia.” A moving personal account by Jamal’s sister, Lydia Wallace, brought a standing ovation from the crowd who contributed over $1,700 to Jamal’s defense.

- In Tokyo, on February 26, over $300 was raised at a forum attended by death penalty opponents in Japan, the only other major industrialized country which still has the death penalty. Speakers included a Meiji University law professor.

Urgent: Send Funds for Jamal’s Defense!

You Can Help—Join the Campaign to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal! Jamal fights with his voice and his pen. We must organize mass protest to save his life and fight the racist death penalty. Take petitions. Ask your friends, neighbors and co-workers to sign. Organize a showing in your union, community group, church or school of the Partisan Defense Committee. Send letters and get postal cards to Jamal’s powerful columns into your community group, church or school of the Partisan Defense Committee. Write letters; raise motions in your union or at your school to send a letter to Penn­sylvania governor Tom Ridge. Send letters; raise motions in your union or at your school to send a letter to Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge. Send letters; raise motions in your union or at your school to send a letter to Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge.

Mumia Abu-Jamal must not die! The organized force of labor, minorities and opposition to capital punishment must be brought out in social struggle and protest to stop the execution. For information on how you can help to save Mumia Abu-Jamal, contact the Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013, or call (212) 406-4252.

Send $$ for Jamal’s Legal Defense Now! Funds are urgently needed to wage the fight to save Mumia Abu-Jamal’s life. All money being raised through these rallies and forums organized by the Partisan Defense Committee goes directly to Jamal’s legal defense. Since February 9, over $12,000 has been collected and pledged! More is needed now! Jamal’s legal team initiated the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, co-chaired by actors Davis and Mike Farrell, to help raise funds. Make out your tax-deductible contribution for the defense to: Bill of Rights Foundation, earmarked "Mumia Abu-Jamal Legal Defense," and send it to: Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Ave., No. 115, New York, NY 10023-5001.

Spartacist League Public Offices

Bay Area

Phone: 510-491-0103

1834 Telegraph Ave., Suite 100
Oakland, California

Chicago

Phone: 312-669-0175

P.O. Box 1634
Chicago, Illinois

New York City

Sat. 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
37 W. 43rd Street
New York, New York

Workers Vanguard
Youth Outrage Over Racist Cop Killing

Paterson, N.J.

Paterson, New Jersey has been rocked for more than a week by protests over the cold-blooded police killing of black high school student Lawrence Meyers. The 16-year-old youth was shot in the back of the head by white housing cop Ronald Cohen February 21 during a joint "drug patrol" with city police outside the bleak Ellison Street housing project. Lawrence Meyers died three days later. He was buried on March 2.

For more than a week by protests over Ronald Cohen February 21 during a joint high school student Lawrence Meyers. back of the head by white housing cop. Many protesters recalled the racist cop killing of another 16-year-old black youth, Jerry Williams, was shot in 1990. Cohen has now hired the same lawyer who got Pannell's killer acquitted of exise.

Paterson cops responded to the outpouring of protest with a virtual state of siege, surrounding Eastside High and arresting 33 demonstrators. They treat us like animals, said a Hispanic student. On February 20, 300 Eastside High students as they walked out of an NAACP meeting shouting for justice, while a National Guard helicopter hovered overhead. Earlier that day, a police cruiser ran down 16-year-old Roberto Rodriguez while elementary school students watched in horror. The cops have gone out of their way to provoke a riot which they could use to justify a bloody massacre. The day after the shooting, as Meyers lay in hospital on life-support systems, they went on the air to say he had died. Two days later, an Eastside High student was arrested for "inciting a riot," only hours after he had urged the protesters at City Hall to stay calm. That night, riot-clad cops blocked off the street in front of the school after school officials canceled a talent show. Defying the cops, the students stood their ground and refused to go home.

Following Meyers' killing, black youth have been voicing their bittersness at the rotten conditions around them and the cop terror that constantly hounds them. We live in a kind of slavery, said one. An unemployed cook remarked bitterly, This used to be a real city of opportunity—Silk City—but now there's nothing. Thousands of black families moved here from the South after textile mills, followed by large numbers of Hispanics. Today this aging industrial city symbolizes the decay of capitalism.

Paterson is notorious for racist repression. Despite a population which has a large majority of blacks and Hispanics, and a growing number of immigrants from the Near East, the police force is overwhelmingly white. In 1966, middleweight boxing contender Rubin Hurricane Carter, targeted by the government for his outspoken advocacy of black self-defense, was framed up with his friend John Artis for the murder of a Paterson couple. Carter spent 18 years in prison before the courts admitted he was innocent. And it was at Eastside High that principal Joe Clark became a Rambo "hero" during the Reagan years for walking around with a baseball bat threatening students.

City officials turned to the NAACP to put a lid on the boiling anger over Meyers' killing, but their efforts failed utterly. They have also looked to an outfit called "Black Cops Against Police Brutality," led by DeLacy Davis, which along with the Nation of Islam has been a heat source from many of the protesters. The existence of such an organization, which is composed of black policemen from cities and towns in New Jersey, speaks volumes about the depth of vicious cop racism in the state. Davis describes the nationalist demagogue Leonard Jeffries as his mentor and recently spoke alongside NOI anti-hero Louis Farrakhan at a meeting in Paterson.

The NOI and Davis' black cops joined in political the March 2 protest, and both promote the racist "war on drugs," which has now claimed Lawrence Meyers as a victim. By channeling the anger of Paterson's desperate youth away from the racist capitalist oppressors, they also help set the atmosphere in which some white youth who have come out to express solidarity have been driven off.

Leading the March 3 protest were Al Sharpton and Herbert Daughtry. While marchers chanted stop the killer police, a group of white housing cops issued liberal appeals to vote out the city's white mayor. Meanwhile, refor- mers of the City Hall Workers Party have called for a civilian police review board. Behind this demand, like the call to "stop the war," comes the technocratic high places, is the illusion that the racist capitalist state can be pressured to serve the interests of working people and the oppressed.

Ironically, while Paterson City Hall labored to cool down the uncontrolled pouring riot batons, student protesters could see a Black History Month Flag flying above City Hall. The illusion of slavery survives in the segregation, poverty and racist police brutality of capitalism. But the fact is that at high places, the illusion that the racist capitalist state can be pressured to serve the interests of working people and the oppressed.

On February 15, the New York Times reported that Addison-Wesley Publishing Company was planning to publish Live From Death Row, a book of commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal. In response, the Philadelphia police launched a campaign to stop Jamal's book, to seize the $30,000 advance promised the author, and to escalate their persecution Jamal by execution. The Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and Pennsylvania's state house hangmen have cranked up a media blitz, grotesquely branding commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal. They know Jamal indictment the racist hypocrisy behind this vicious campaign:

How many policemen screamed 'outrageous' at the news of convicted crim- inal (ex-cop) Stacey Koon's Legal Defense Fund which has, according to one report, netted an estimated $4.7 million in donations? This cop, video­ taping the beating of Rodney King somet­ eserving a measly 30-month federal bail—is getting funds for law­ yers and to help his family. Where's the outcry?

I, after having had one court-appointed lawyer (who was later disbarred), and another on appeal, am fighting, quite literally, for my very life, against an unjust and an illegal Death Sentence, have decided to finally try to hire a good lawyer, and the huz­ zards of the FOP and political men­ thron their objections.

Refusing to bow to the pressure of the Cops, Alison Pratt of Addison- Wesley said, "Here is a voice of the voiceless. We've never heard an artic­ ulate voice from death row talking about what it's like to be there." The FOP, for the publishing company announced that Jamal's book will be available in bookstores in May.

In response, Pennsylvania's prison officials are publicly discussing plans to discipline Jamal for carrying on "commercial activity" while on death row. Already they have abrogated Jamal's lawyer-client privilege, confiscated legal correspondence and pre­ vented visits by legal assistants. Jamal's contact with his legal team and his woman has now claimed Lawrence Meyers as a victim. By channeling the anger of Paterson's desperate youth away from the racist capitalist oppressors, they also help set the atmosphere in which some white youth who have come out to express solidarity have been driven off.

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should hear from Jamal are those who got Pannell's killer acquitted of exise.

For a new trial being prepared by his attorneys.

The legal pretext for this gross vio­ lation of Jamal's rights is the so-called "Son of Sam" law which prohibits an inmate from profiting from the com­ mission of a crime. Not only has the New York state version of this law been ruled an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment by the U.S. Supreme Court, it in any case has no applicability to Jamal, who has long professed his innocence and whose writings have nothing to do with his own case. In short, this is nothing other than an attempt to stymie any effort to overturning his conviction and sen­ tence of death.

We are here, as a citizen, is a literally a life-and-death question of freedom of speech. Like mullahs in some theo­ cratic state, the Philadelphia FOP thinks it can dictate what the American public can read. When author Salman Rushdie recently threatened to make his book The Satanic Verses, people around the world rallied to his defense and in defense of freedom of speech. Now, too, it is desperately urgent to mobilize and defeat this attempt at cen­ sorship of death row writing. We need to join the fight to save Mumia Abu-Jamal!
crime" which snatches young men and women from the streets and throws them into prison hellholes. Fails replace (non-existent) jobs, billy clubs are substituted for the blackboard. In the calculations of the American bourgeoisie, the incertitude ghettos which used to provide a reservoir of unskilled labor for the auto plants and steel mills—a "reserve army" of the unemployed to be tapped when the economy needed them—are simply written off, patrolled by police who act like an occupation army and devastated by poverty and disease.

A couple of statistics sum it up. Over a million manufacturing jobs were lost in the U.S. in the 1980s, on top of the wholesale destruction of whole swaths of Midwest industry the decade before. For every place lost on the assembly line, another has been added in the prisons. Since the mid-1970s, the country's state and federal prison population has quadrupled, recently passing the one million mark and growing at the rate of 1,500 a week. Added to the nearly half million held in local jails, the total prison population of over 1.5 million equals that of the city of Philadelphia. And black people account for 34 percent of those behind bars—more than four times their proportion of the population as a whole. At the rate added today, 33 percent of blacks will be in prison in 20 years ago.

Since the feds geared up their "war on drugs" in the early 1980s, the prisons have been filled to overflowing. This was a deliberate policy decision to send hundreds of thousands of youth to jail. Fully 60 percent of federal prison sentences are now related to drug offenses, in many cases simple possession. A slew of Congressionally imposed mandatory minimum sentences has led to the spectacle of tens of thousands of teenage kids being locked away for years without any chance for parole for getting caught with small amounts of crack or marijuana. While black Democrats like Jesse Jackson note this racist crusade with demagoguery about "hope, not dope," we have insisted from the outset that the "war on drugs" is a racist war on black America.

Before 1981, the juvenile arrest rate for drug offenses was higher among whites than blacks. Yet white federal agencies concede that drug use remains higher among white youth, the arrest rate for blacks has skyrocketed. In one study, in Baltimore, the number of young blacks arrested for drug sales climbed from 86 in 1981 to over 1,100 a decade later, while arrests of white juveniles remained constant. Today, a staggering 56 percent of all black men in Baltimore between the ages of 18 and 35 are ensnared in the "criminal justice" system, with comparable figures in other major cities.

The "prison-industrial complex" is just about the only "growth industry" in America today. Not least among the factors driving the phony "war on crime" is a powerful political lobby which seeks to reap ever greater profits from the burgeoning system of incarceration and execution. Combined federal, state and local spending on prisoners almost eightfold in the past 20 years, to a rate of $30 billion a year. California alone has devoted $10 billion to prison construction in the past decade. And many of the new facilities are designed to be "supermax" high-security institutions, in which prisoners are locked up in isolation 23 hours a day behind high-voltage electrical "death fences." The prototype for these new facilities is the federal supermax prison in Waynesville, Pennsylvania—a deadly death sentence.

Rape, an ever-present horror of prison life, has also been made an instrument for control and humiliation of inmates. The Dilemmas of Confinement (1991) noted: "The contribution to sexual assaults between prisoners that is made by correctional officers...is legendary." Conservative estimates indicate that more than 60 percent of inmates are raped at least once. In one 1990 prison, every virtual death sentence for many given the high levels of AIDS in prison. On top of this is the willful misuse of medical care to punish inmates. A three-part investigative report in the San Francisco Weekly (3-5 October 1994) cited "hundreds of cases" of "incompetent, negligent or punitive" medical care, "remedies for prison conditions in centuries past."

The treatment inflicted on the mentally ill is criminal. A recent study (22 September 1994) reports that of 150,000 people detained in state and local jails every year, a virtual death sentence is imposed for an occasional cigarette. California and Texas now even refuse to allow death row inmates a final smoke as a last request before execution.

Such increasingly inhuman prison conditions provoked 374 riots in 1992-93, more than three times the number in the previous three years combined. ACLU National Prison Project spokesman Alvin Bronstein has warned that by making "prisons so harsh," politicians and prison authorities "will ensure another Attica," the 1971 prison rebellion in upstate New York which was drowned in blood by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, who unleashed a cop massacre which left 43 people dead. Today, U.S. rulers appear almost eager to provoke a revolt of prison inmates which they could use as a pretext for a major bloodletting.

In the past decade, 33 inmates have been shot to death by prison guards in California alone. The Los Angeles Times (22 September 1994) reports that guards shot prisoners as "a "routine" and accepted way of breaking up fights among convicts." A victory in 1990, 33 inmates have been shot to death by prison guards in California alone. The Los Angeles Times (22 September 1994) reports that guards shot prisoners as "a "routine" and accepted way of breaking up fights among convicts." A victory in 1990, 33 inmates have been shot to death by prison guards in California alone. The Los Angeles Times (22 September 1994) reports that guards shot prisoners as "a "routine" and accepted way of breaking up fights among convicts." A victory in 1990, 33 inmates have been shot to death by prison guards in California alone. The Los Angeles Times (22 September 1994) reports that guards shot prisoners as "a "routine" and accepted way of breaking up fights among convicts." 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judicial hearings. This is bitterly ironic: the Taser gun is an electrical shock belt, worn electronically by remote control from a central guard post, prevent communication— or even eye contact—with other inmates. Prisoners are fed alone through a slot in the door and are denied access to such basic necessities as toilet paper and toothbrushes. For the brief period when prisoners are allowed to leave their cells, they are forced to wear leg irons and escorted by a number of heavily armed guards.

The high-tech hellholes have their origins in 1950s "psy-war" experiments on brainwashing techniques. Centered on the combined effects of sensory deprivation, they sought to "modify" the behavior and attitudes of political prisoners. Particularly in the use of the prototype supermax prison at Marion, Illinois, journalist Russell Miller wrote in London Times (23 May 1993):

"The regime makes no pretense at rehabilitation or recreation...the guards are trained in psychological warfare, in maximizing the effects of boredom, in the management of the prisoners' state of mind. They force him to conform to the most punitive and dehumanizing conditions and allow...the public will tolerate."

Key to these new "maxi"-prisons—the most recent is the Florence, Colorado federal prison—is the ability not only to control prisoners, but to kill them. As the "industry" journal Corrections Today (July 1992) coldly commented, "When contemplating the design of a new maximum security facility, issues related to the prison's forceful control should be addressed early in the planning process."

Among the four new super-maximum prisons in California is the notorious Pelican Bay State Prison near the Oregon border. Since its opening barely five years ago, guards have fired on inmates on 129 separate occasions, wounding 23 and killing three. Last month, a federal judge in San Francisco ruled that the "use of excessive force for the purpose of punishment and deterrence" at Pelican Bay violated the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Among the examples cited was that of mentally ill inmate Vaughn Dongh, who was thrown into a scalding bath that left him with second- and third-degree burns over a third of his body. One Pelican Bay prison seer remarked bitterly, "I think hell is a better place than this.

Another maximum-security institution in California is the Calipatria State Prison, opened in 1992. An inter­national human rights organization recently published in the People's Weekly World (24 December 1994) exposed the openly racist policies which are central to the purpose system: "Visits for Black and Mexican inmates will be behind the glass, limited to 15 minutes per inmate per day. Visits for white and other inmates will be unrestricted...Black and Mexican inmates will be escorted to canteen 10 minutes at a time. White and other inmates will have access to the can­

that's why he's on death row."

Darby Tills, who himself spent more than 25 years on California's death row, cruelly to the Chicago rally: "I am one of almost 450 persons in this country who are convicted of the capital crime and later found to be innocent. The death penalty is unfair, biased, racist and dis­criminatory...I was used and abused to get a message to the public at the expense of my life. Innocent—put to ride idly and I am guilty...I was wrong and I was killed,布鲁斯, desperate and frustrated, I sat helpless."

Speaking to the Oakland rally, Don Alexander of the Partisan Defense Com­mittee emphasized that the fight to save Jamal is part of a broader fight against racist capitalism. Declaring that the death penalty is "the continuation of the legacy of slavery in which black people can be killed with impunity," he explained:

"We built this country—workers, blacks and immigrants—must and it will be essential that the workers who have a front row seat to save Mumia is a way to do our duty and to defend ourselves. To get rid of this sick ruling class with its electric chart, gas chamber, and lethal injection requires the mobilization of the working class to seize state power. This requires building a multiracial workers party to lead the struggles of all the oppressed. Then we can build a genuine socialist society in which the wealth of the world belongs to the working class to intimidate and destroy the resulting class society. We add our voices to those around the world in fight­ing to save Mumia Abu-Jamal and abolish the death penalty."

hired 26,000 people in the last ten years while the higher education system lost 8,000 jobs. The capitalistic ruling class leaves us to fight our struggles."

While a "reserve army" of unemployed workers is a necessary and inevitable fea­ture of the capitalist system, the larger sector of permanently unemployed "out­casts" has historically impelled the bour­geoisie toward annihilation of those it considers "surplus" population. In the early years of capitalist development, precocious in its need to outgrow the limits of a small market, the bourgeoisie considered the Holocaust and the A-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and continuing with the racist wars of imperialist conflicts. Augmenting these bloody slaughters, many of them the product of capitalist development, the black popUlation. Particularly in the marginalized, the majority youth lies in a revolutionary upheaval. Spending on education and social services has gone bust, while prison construction booms.

Last fall, Texas simultaneously added $1 billion to the "corrections" budget while rejecting a $750 million bond issue for education. Similarly in California, the Department of Corrections is

atarica, 1971: Prisoners stripped and herded into the yard following Governor Rockefeller's bloody suppression of rebellion, leaving 43 dead.
China...

(continued from page 1)

state. Deng's rise to power in 1978 marked the ascendency of forces in the bureaucratic apparatus that aimed to decentralize much of China's nationalized economy and break up collectivized agriculture while inviting in state-owned capital investment. The professed aim was to turn China into a modernized economic superpower by the year 2000. Where official Maoist jargon called upon party members to "decentralize much of China's nation-marked the ascendancy of forces in the state. Deng's rise to power in 1978 correct the rigidities of bureaucratic alized economy and break up collectivized workers states while depriving the workers of political power, Stalinitism in China's Communist party and cadres has looked to market mechanisms to correct the rigidities of bureaucratic planning without endangering their own positions. "Market socialism" had earlier been introduced in Tito's Yugoslavia and later in Hungary, giving rise to domestic capitalistic-restorationist forces which helped destroy both of these defunct workers states.

Deng's reforms and his "open door" to imperialism (and exile Chinese) are now threatening to throw the country into turmoil. Last year, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences warned that the country could break up like Yugoslavia after Deng died. Unlike its multi-national Yugoslav federation, which was torn apart by separatist forces, in China national minorities constitute only 8 per cent of the population. Rather, the breakup of the centrally planned econ- omy into a hybrid of state firms and local collectives known as "township and village enterprises" and an imperialist- dominated capitalist class has had an increasingly independent layer of bureaucrats-turned-entrepreneurs tied to the world of international bankers. The danger that growing regionalism poses is seen clearly in Guangdong province, around the city of Shenzhen, the "free-trade" SEZs (special economic zones) were first developed. The area is becom- ing increasingly integrated into the eco- nomic sphere of capitalist Hong Kong, which shares strong cultural ties with the region. The border opening up in 1980 has been a "danger of collapse" from rampant corruption, with officials enriching themselves by playing off while connections to foreign investors, selling off state property, etc. The autonomy of regional "economic warlords" has grown to the point where they rarely listen to directives issued in Beijing, while ban- dits and even clan feuds are erupting around the country. Recently, a group of intellectuals, comprised mostly of veterans of the 1989 Tienanmen Square pro- tests but including former editors of the CCP's People's Daily, offered two peti- tions to China's National People's Con- gress, calling for investigating corrup- tion and "human rights" abuses and for a range of "democratic" measures including a "constitutional democracy.

Such abstracts calls for "democracy," in the absence of any declaration of defense of the Chinese workers state, however defected, against capitalist forces, amount to a program for bour­ geois rule, which would be anything but democratic. The petitioners claim that "the values now esteemed and striven for by the societies of mankind are the upholding of human dignity and the safeguarding of fundamental human rights.

This is the same language used by anti-Communist "dissidents:" in East Europe and the USSR, who were actively sup- ported by the Western imperialist pow- ers. The term "democracy," became a code word for capitalist counterrevolu- tion which swept the former Soviet bloc, bringing nothing but misery, and cer- tainly no democracy, to workers, minori­ ties and women.

The Stalinitism bureaucratic's delicate balancing act between world imperial- ism and the workers and peasants in whom name they rule cannot last much longer. On the one hand, they are pressed by the demands of foreign capital and its local "comrades," whose property rights they will not sacrifice without the establishment of a bourgeois state. On the other, there are signs of rising pro- letrarian struggles, from the capitalists SEZs to state-owned industries where workers are faced with the dismantling of "cradle-to-grave" benefits, which are among the most cherished gains of the 1949 Revolution. This situation cries out for the leadership of a communist/ internationalist vanguard, fighting to defend the gains of the Chinese Revo­ lution through a political revolution overthrowing the bureaucracy, and link­ ing up with proletarian struggles in Southeast Asia and extending the world-wide Japan, the industrial powerhouse of Asia.

Social Unrest Wracks China's "Socialist Market Economy"

While the number of "labor-management disputes," many of them protesting corruption, reached 12,000 in 1993, a rise of 50 percent from the year before, the number of strikes and labor protests, including violent attacks on managers and property, rose again by 66 percent in the first quarter of 1994. (The term "labor-management disputes" is used by Chinese analysts, who worry that Chinese administrators haven't yet learned to "respect" bourgeois property rights, and whom they compare to the feudal landlords of the War of 1950-53.

Growing class division in Deng's China: high rises sprout in the "free trade" Special Economic Zones.

Volkswagen joint venture in Shanghai: Deng's "open door" to imperialism exploitation fuels capitalist counterrevolution.

The issue of inflation is particularly volatile: together with anger at official corruption, this was behind the working class upheaval in May-June 1989 that nearly toppled the government. Last fall, infla- tion reached an annual rate of 27 percent, the highest since 1989. Sounding the alarm against rising prices at a time of social stress and political transition, the 22 February People's Daily noted that prices for basic foods in 1994 rose over 50 percent, which disproportionately affects urban residents.

The fear of social "chaos" helps explain why the regime, to the conster­ nation of international bankers, has increased investment in state-owned plants over the last five years. More than 70 percent of investment in China still goes to state-owned factories, although their share of national output has fallen to 43 percent. Last month, Beijing declared an outright moratorium on clos- ing state factories in key industries, and has recently imposed price controls on foods and other items. Meanwhile, the government is scrambling to assemble a "unified social security system" for laid­ off state workers, in order to begin phasing out state worker benefits, which are due to the estimated segregated enclaves and taking on jobs that in urban areas, this is in addi- tion to the estimated 70 million peasants who provided the labor for both the SEZs and newly privatized "collective" in- dustries the first decade of market "reforms." Others are mortgaging their homes to save face among the urban elite, for a chance to emigrate. Poverty rates are increasing faster in the countryside than in urban areas, while the population squeeze is tightening with leasing of farmland to private industrial develop­ ment. A record 12,000 companies, whose brutal...
exploitation rivals that of early 19th-century textile mills. The SEZs have since expanded throughout key industrial centers like Shanghai, Wuhan, and the Northeast, where Japanese, American and European capital is geared toward advanced technology and heavy industry like power production and aircraft manufacturing.

Renewed inter-elite rivalries touched off by the collapse of the USSR are certain to heat up over China, whose masses of available labor, expanding internal market and geographical position in booming East Asia were touched off by the collapse of the internal market and geographical position in booming East Asia.

The anticipated death of 90-year-old leader Deng Xiaoping has prompted debate inside the CCP leadership over how to maintain social peace in this volatile country. In early September, a group around former propaganda minister Li Peng, the magazine In Search of Truth, openly held a conference to discuss "bourgeois liberalization." Around the same time, an anonymously authored book called Viewing China Through a Thin Thorax discussed the party with its criticism of Deng's reforms. Warning of impending chaos at the hands of the "livelihood of the people," it is said, it called for confining peasants to the land and argued against any kind of "democracy." Following on a visit to Russia, where the book sold some 200,000 copies and became something of a bible for those elements of the bureaucracy who want a tightly controlled transition to capitalismo. They argue for the party to get more involved in businesses.

The one common concern of the CCP apparatus—which is shared by bourgeoisie-democratic "dissidents" and world bankers—is the need for social stability. In this vein, the regime has recently been on a campaign to uphold Confucian values, seeking to inculcate Confucian values, seeking to inculcate

But it was Mao's version of "socialism in one country" that led to disastrous policies that more than once threatened to ruin the People's Republic, and which set the stage for the rise of Deng Xiaoping. With the victory of Mao's powerful guerrilla army over Chiang Kai-shek's decampment to Taiwan, the People's Republic was born as a de facto successor state to the imperialist-based Chiangist nationalism. The adventurist "Great Leap Forward" of the late 1950s sought to propel China into the ranks of "capitalist" nations. The course of economic development there since then cannot be understood outside its larger context. The failure of the agrarian project to provide food and warmth, the newly rich made rich by the breakdown of the TVEs in SEZ boomtowns cost ten times a worker's annual wage. Such ostenta-

[Contingent from Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation arriving in Tiananmen Square, May 1989. Entry of working class into mass student demonstrations posed proletarian political revolution.]

Soviet Union (dubbed "social imperialist") as a greater enemy than American imperialism. Thus the stage was set for renewed anti-Japanese sentiment in 1972, initiating a strategic alliance against the Soviet Union, while the U.S. was racing death and destruction in Vietnam. In the aftermath Beijing opened the door to foreign investment, while beginning the liquidation of collectivized agriculture.

Mao's heirs have now brought the Chinese Revolution to the edge of the abyss. The situation in China today fully con-

President Bush's escalation of the war in Iraq, the world's largest, has fueled a military buildup, which has set alarm bells ringing from Taiwan to the Pentagon. This development has precious little to do with defending the Chinese deformed workers' state against imperialism, and everything to do with promoting Chinese nationalism, which serves to derail everything to do with promoting Chinese nationalism, which serves to derail

Workers Raise Their Heads

Due to its imperialist-financed eco-

nomic growth, China's proletariat is rapidly expanding. In March, a petition circulated in Beijing calling for "freedom from exploitation," the right to better wages and the right to strike. The independent union movement of the working class has been recognized by a section of the pro-

independent of the bureaucracy is not in itself a barrier to capitalist counterrevo-

lution. It is quite possible to have econo-

mics schools and unaffiliated groups which accept the framework of capitalist exploita-

tion. Yet the mounting workers' strug-

gles are being marked by a new kind of "market reforms" that Soli-

darnoski fought for and enacted once in peaceful. In the Shenzhen SEZ, 2,350 labor "dissidents" were recorded in the first six months of 1989. The number of "dissidents," many of them women, are typically just a few years removed from rural life. The horrendous risks of labor activism have often includes working up to 15 hours a day, seven days a week, and sleeping in "dormitories" designed to confine workers away in cheaply built deathtraps, while government "inspectors" are hand-

The government reported that in 1993 in Guangdong province there were 45,000 "dissidents" among the newly rich, 9,000 of whom were women. Last summer workers staged a militant protest outside an SEZ plant in Zhanhai after a fire led to the building's collapse, killing 76. A variety of leftist parties have claimed that the new movement has increased the number of "dissidents," or, as a "socialist" alternative to exploitation by foreign capital. By pro-

ductions for the market rather than accord-

ing to a centralized plan, the TVEs oper-

ated at a loss, and were thereby a barrier to capitalist counterrevolution.


China... (continued from page 9)

which they formerly took for granted as the "iron rice bowl"—guaranteed employment, stable wages, free medical care at factory clinics, free childcare centers for working mothers, etc. Instead, 40 percent of workers in state plants now sign new contracts each year which must follow contracts drawn up between the ACFTU and plant management.

For Politiccal Revolution!

To successfully defend the workers and peasants against the advancing capitalist counterrevolution, labor struggles cannot be limited to defensive economic confines which merely reform the existence of capitalist exploitation and bureaucratic mismanagement. The fight must be brought to the political terrain by mobilizing the working masses to defend the social gains of the 1949 Revolution and stop the sell-off of China to imperialism. This fight must link up with workers' struggles throughout Asia and the rest of the world. It would do a world of good for those Chinese workers with illusions in "democratic" imperialism to hear the experiences of workers in South Korea, where the right-wing government is backed by nearly 40,000 U.S. troops stationed there. Migrant labor struggle in South Korea reportedly creates a bloody state terror, and sympathy with North Korea is grounds for imprisonment and even death.

An upsurge by the Chinese proletariat may well lead to the formation of independent workers organizations, such as occurred in the spring of 1989, with the potential to grow into organizations like the Russian soviets (workers, peasants and soldiers councils) of 1917. Under an egalitarian-communist leadership, these soviets and other organs could topple the politically bankrupt Stalinist bureaucracy, which mocks its Communist name as it prepares the ground for restoring capitalist states. A workers political revolution would chart the course toward socialism by recreating a planned economy based on a regime of genuine workers democracy and proletarian internationalism. The Chinese working class, it is hoped, will take history into its own hands and move on to create a new world based on a socialist order.

China

Drug Testing

Clampdown Angers
NYC Transit Workers

The federal government's new drug testing witchhunt, targeting over seven million transport workers, has already sparked outrage among New York City subway workers. In January, conductors and motormen on the No. 7 line between midtown Manhattan and Queens launched a "Political Defense Committee protest" against the TA's new drug-testing offensive and to save jobs. When Wall Street has to hoof it to work it will dampen their interest in going into what transit workers do on their own time.

Free Roger Warren! Canadian Miner Railroaded

TORONTO—On January 20, Roger Warren, a member of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 2004, was found guilty of second-degree murder in the death of nine scabs during the bitter 1992-93 strike against conviction and draconian sentence are an outrage! "Long live the Montreal Police (RCMP)—dubbed the "Royal Oak Mounted Police" by the courageous strikers—fired shotgun volleys and tear gas barrages to break the union's picket lines.

As Roger Warren said, "The full force of the state was coming down on us." The Giant mine blast began the pretext for one of the biggest manhunts in Canadian history, as the RCMP sought to pin the "bombing" on the miners. What the cops questioned 400 unionists and families and supporters, eventually deciding to frame up Roger Warren, a prominent strike militant. Six hours into Warren's 12th "interview" with an RCMP interrogation specialist, they managed to extort a videotaped "confession." Warren retracted this statement on the witness stand, explaining that in making it he had hoped to take the pressure off his fellow unionists and unblock negotiations with Royal Oak.

When there is no official repression in Canada, the capitalist state is prepared to kill Roger Warren for the bosses. The RCMP and the Crown prosecutors know that for Warren, 51 years old with a debilitating heart condition—20 years is as good as a death sentence.

The whole labor movement must take up the fight to free Roger Warren immediately and unconditionally.

Roger Warren is a hero of working-class struggle. He is a militant unionist who had the courage to stand up in defense of his union and his livelihood. This is the real "crime" for which he is being railroaded to prison by the RCMP and the Crown, on behalf of Royal Oak Mines and its union-busting owner, Peggy Witte.

The state intends to bury Roger Warren in prison as a warning to anyone who would challenge the employers' attempts to break our unions and grind down our wages and working conditions, just as it did the Winnipeg strikers of 1919 and many more before and since. He will not be abandoned or forgotten by class-conscious working men and women.

They're truly, Peter Stevens

victorian of Canadian Auto Workers member Roger Warren. We demand he be freed immediately and unconditionally.

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Yours truly, Peter Stevens

Witch Hunt: Subway Transit Police and "Drug Testing"

Workers are sent miles downtown for the humiliating test. Subway workers on the No. 7 line are especially angry, since many conductors and motormen have been viciously harassed by uniformed transit police and "breakers" (undercover company cops) in recent weeks for such things as "being on the job!" On top of this comes the government's order of a tenfold increase in "random" drug and alcohol tests "in the interest of public health." The witchhunt Against Transit Workers, Workers Vanguard No. 611, 25 November 1994.

Nothing new about it, the drug and alcohol witchhunt is meant to terrorize and intimidate workers while allibating the capitalists for bullish and unsafe work conditions. Black and Hispanic workers are especially targeted—in one Coney Island maintenance shop they were the only ones tested—while anyone who stands up to the boss can bet their number is up. Meanwhile, Democrats and Republicans from Washington, D.C. to City Hall are chopping hundreds of millions of dollars from NYC's subway and bus systems. Besides urgently needed repairs and capital improvements, the layoff as is about to fall on over a thousand cleaners and token booth clerks. Mayor Giuliani vows to slash $59 million from the program which gets kids to school by mass transit, and the TA is threatening to jack up the cost of a subway ride by 50 cents

Transit workers are increasingly fed up with the mismanagers of Transport Workers Union Local 100, which is trying to turn workers into "train-employees by the company, the cops and the courts. Royal Oak's union-busting chairman, Peggy Witte, spent over $2 million to turn the Giant Mine into an armed camp patrolled by Pinkerton guards and attack dogs. Outside the compound, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)—dubbed the "Royal Oak Mounted Police" by the courageous strikers—fired shotgun volleys and tear gas barrages to break the union's picket lines.

As Roger Warren said, "The full force of the state was coming down on us." The Giant mine blast began the pretext for one of the biggest manhunts in Canadian history, as the RCMP sought to pin the "bombing" on the miners. What the cops questioned 400 unionists and families and supporters, eventually deciding to frame up Roger Warren, a prominent strike militant. Six hours into Warren's 12th "interview" with an RCMP interrogation specialist, they managed to extort a videotaped "confession." Warren retracted this statement on the witness stand, explaining that in making it he had hoped to take the pressure off his fellow unionists and unblock negotiations with Royal Oak.

When there is no official repression in Canada, the capitalist state is prepared to kill Roger Warren for the bosses. The RCMP and the Crown prosecutors know that for Warren, 51 years old with a debilitating heart condition—20 years is as good as a death sentence.

The whole labor movement must take up the fight to demand his freedom. We print below a protest against Warren's conviction, sent by the Partisan Defense Committee in Canada to federal justice minister Allan Rock.

* * * * *

22 January 1995

Hon. Allan Rock
Ministry of Justice
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Rock,

The Partisan Defense Committee protests and denounces the outrageous second-degree murder conviction of Canadian Auto Workers member Roger Warren. We demand he be freed immediately and unconditionally.

Roger Warren is a hero of working-class struggle. He is a militant unionist who had the courage to stand up in defense of his union and his livelihood. This is the real "crime" for which he is being railroaded to prison by the RCMP and the Crown, on behalf of Royal Oak Mines and its union-busting owner, Peggy Witte.

The state intends to bury Roger Warren in prison as a warning to anyone who would challenge the employers' attempts to break our unions and grind down our wages and working conditions, just as it did the Winnipeg strikers of 1919 and many more before and since. He will not be abandoned or forgotten by class-conscious working men and women.

Yours truly,

Peter Stevens

black and Hispanic. A union like 1199, with 117,000 workers in New York state, can play a pivotal role in sparking a fight with the labor movement. Against picket lines backed by a massive mobi­ zization of the black working class shackled to the Democratic Party, the working class must support a strike action by hospital workers, with picket lines backed by a massive mobiliza­ tion of the black working class. Students mobilized against the budget cuts must be drawn into an alliance with the labor movement.

Any serious social struggle will quickly come up against the whole appa­ rent rights of the poor and homeless. Against the racist cops, and above all the ties that keep the working class shackled to the Democratic Party. From the Clinton White House on down, the Democrats are competing with the Gingrich/Pataki/Giuliani Republicans in slashing social welfare programs while upping billions for cops and jails.

Build a Fighting Workers Party!

To the capitalist rulers, from NYC to Washington, D.C., inner-city blacks and Hispanics are “dispensable” since their labor is no longer wanted. And in the bourgeoise’s war on the poor, the unions are the “enemy within.” Yet bureaucrats like AFSCME District Council 37 head Stanley Hill are so loyal to capitalism that they won’t even fight the guttering of their own unions. Summoned to Gracie Mansion in late January by Mayor Giul­ liani, Hill wept: “I know there was a tough budget out there. I know the mayor is going to explain what’s out there. We’ve got to listen.”

Militant labor action can smash this “budget of doom,” but it will take unions with social power: the transit workers can bring Giuliani to his knees with solid strike action, backed by the rest of city labor. In 1991 a massive march of thousands of city workers against budget cuts tied up the Wall Street area, point­ ing the way of a one-day citywide strike. But the union tops defended the Democratic Dinkins administration and blocked the review board for strike action. Dinkins had promised city rulers that “they’ll take it from me,” and the union tops took it.

Once again, thousands are in the streets, but once again the organizers of the March 1 protest were clearly afraid to really be a pep rally for letting the Dem­ ocrits to fight the cuts. Local 1199 pres­ident Dennis Rivera, who is vice chair­ man of the state Democratic Party, led chants of “Pataki Must Go!” from the rally podium and exhorted the crowd to lobby the state legislature and the city council. Rivera baldly admits “If the Assembly doesn’t fight for us, we’re dead!” (Chief-Leader, 10 March). But looking to the Democratic Party state legis­ lators who vote on authorizations for the racist death penalty, and to the Dem­ ocratic city council which voted over­ whelmingly for Giuliani’s 1994 killer budget, is a dead end.

Rivera achieved popularity among Local 1199 workers for rebuilding the union after years of bureaucratic warfare brought it to the brink of destruction in the 1980s. But his close ties to the Dem­ ocratic Party and the Catholic church hierarchy stand as a roadblock to the kind of fighting-class base needed to defend the jobs of tens of thousands of dues-paying union members.

In 1989, Rivera got on spooky Mayor D’O’Connor to broker a deal at the city’s Catholic hospitals which gave up union pension money in return for a “race” again this year, in a much-touted deal with the private hospitals, Rivera says he’s “guaranteed” hospital workers’ jobs in exchange for a wage freeze (hos­ pital workers are already atrociously low-paid). But part-time workers and room attendants who were not covered by years’ senior­ ity are “guaranteed” nothing, and even Rivera admitted publicly that if hospitals close, “all bets are off.”

The situation in New York cities out for revolution and leadership of the strug­ gles of the working class, minorities and youth. As the Spartacist League Banner at the March 1 demonstration said, what’s necessary is to “Unchain Labor-Black Power! Fight for a Workers Party!” And many of the militant, class-conscious and anti-racist workers who will join in build­ ing such a party will be found in inte­ grated unions like 1199 and the TWU, which occupy a key economic and polit­ ical position in this city. In New York and everywhere, the fight to defend the unions, to beat black racists, to house the homeless and health care for the poor, must be part of a struggle to sweep away the profit system of the racist rulers and their state. ■

**Frazier...**

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pointed a gun at them when they shot him. The gun that was “found” in Frazier’s car doesn’t have his finger­ prints, and police radio tapes show no record to back the cops’ claim that they resorted for backup to help an “armed subject.” The cops said they shot Frazier from the side of the car, but the entry wound was in his left tem­ ple! These were just a few of the holes in the official story. Nonethe­ less, James Frazier was convicted of third­ degree weapons possession, a minor charge, because they wanted to give a death in December, told a WV reporter that he and his family came back to the scene because they wanted “to see if the fal­ l was above the law.” Numerous relatives of victims of police abuse spoke out about beatings, torture and executions as a way to redress the style killings of their brothers and fathers.

During the parade of Democratic Party politicians at the meeting they got hot air: self-congratulatory speeches about the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), set up under the Dinkins administration. Liberals and reformists praised the board, which has amounted to more than few days of paid vacation. Under Gian­ liani’s police commissioner William Bratton, guilty verdicts in police depart­ ment trials dropped from 63 percent to 9 percent! Meanwhile, the NYPD’s over­ all statistics show that 34 percent of the civilians who “died while in police cus­ tody” soared over 50 percent in 1994 from 15 the year before to 23, of which 16 black, Hispanic or Asian.

One cop bragged to the New York Post (11 January) that “if Bratton wants us to break heads, we’ll break heads.” Last summer there was another chilling reminder of the rampant racist cop terror. Desmond Robinson, a black tran­ sit police officer working undercover, was shot repeatedly by white off-duty cop Peter Del-Debbio. Robinson was brought-down on police work, police department, 9,000 mostly Hispanic resi­ dents packed the auditorium. Henry Frazier-­ Bratton, guilty verdicts in police depart­ ment. Under Bratton, the daily jury’s verdict was handed down, a “Public Information Meeting” on police brutality was held at the CCRB in New York, but only a handful resulted in disciplinary actions. For the CCRB in New York, but like similar boards in other large Amer­ ican cities, it is impotent to stop the pervasive cop terror against minorities. A mere 145 of the nearly 5,000 complaints processed in 1994 were “substan­ tiated” by the review board. Of these, only a handful resulted in “disciplin­ ary actions” against police officers, which never amounted to more than a few days of paid vacation. Under Gian­ liani’s police commissioner William Bratton, guilty verdicts in police depart­ ment trials dropped from 63 percent to 9 percent! Meanwhile, the NYPD’s over­ all statistics show that 34 percent of the civilians who “died while in police cus­ tody” soared over 50 percent in 1994 from 15 the year before to 23, of which 16 black, Hispanic or Asian.

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On March 1, tens of thousands of unionized hospital workers took to the streets of New York City in outrage over the billions in budget cuts ordered by Governor George Pataki and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Two days earlier, 5,000 students rallied in Albany at the state capitol against education cutbacks. They were joined by marchers against the death penalty, which is being reinstated by the newly elected Republican governor and the Democratic-controlled state assembly. The Spartacus Youth Club carried a banner demanding that the death penalty be abolished. They were joined by marchers against the death penalty, which is being reinstated by the newly elected Republican governor and the Democratic-controlled state assembly. The Spartacus Youth Club carried a banner demanding that the death penalty be abolished.

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The scope of these draconian cuts is unprecedented. It is calculated that an estimated 80,000 health care workers will be laid off. Rudy the Slasher is threatening to cut fully one-third of the city hospital budget, including selling off, "downsizing" and closing city hospitals, which he calls "an anachronism." The elimination of home care as a death sentence for the elderly patients, and wiping out these jobs would throw thousands of 1199 members onto welfare. Pataki's latest scheme is a 90-day limit on "home relief" benefits—revertive to last June—which will immediately throw 85,000 people off welfare and into the streets. Giuliani is slashing the city workforce, and hundreds of layoffs are coming in transit, home care and hospital workers. There are 450,000 health care and social service workers in New York City, heavily massed in Midtown Manhattan March 1, marching from the Empire State Building to Bellevue Hospital. They came from Local 1199 (private hospitals, nursing homes and home care), AFSCME Locals 420 (city hospitals) and 371 (case workers), and SEIU home care workers. They were joined by students from the city and state university system, where the proposal to raise fees by at least $1,000 at CUNY and SUNY amounts to a massive racist purge of black and Hispanic students.

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