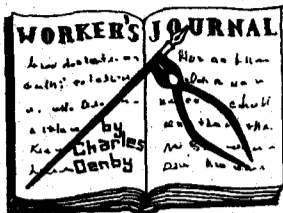


ON THE INSIDE

- Bhutto anti-labor terror hits Pakistan p. 8
San Francisco dock walkout p. 3
Students lose spark of Black revolt p. 5



Union leaders fight workers, not problems

by Charles Denby, Editor

I have just read the Assembler, the Local 216 UAW paper from one of the GM plants in California, where the shop committee chairman put out a vicious attack against some workers in that plant for reporting the inhuman conditions that exist there. His anger seems to be mainly because they are putting out leaflets and are not signing their names to the articles.

Any worker knows the harassments and attacks they can get from the company if they use their names in an article that tells the truth. Many workers have been fired, and the union reps have helped the company do it.

This kind of union rep cannot do one thing to help workers, but only wants to keep them quiet. In fact, union reps are so much a part of the company today that workers no longer trust them.

UAW YESTERDAY AND TODAY

I have worked in the auto plants for over 30 years. When the union was first organized, it meant a whole new life for production workers. We scorned and abused any worker who would accept overtime. That was the union position: eight hours a day, and a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. That slogan was the autoworkers' Holy Bible. We had something to say over what constituted a fair day's work.

After automation came in, our production was timed while we were working; after each model change the company set the lines faster and overtime was something that happened every day. Now there is no such thing in an auto plant as eight hours; ten and twelve is the standard. The union goes around pleading with GM to ease up on their work standards. Bluestone is calling these "hit and run" strikes, which are a big joke. One day workers at two or three GM plants strike. Nothing changes at the point of production and the next day you go back in anyway.

GM Chairman Gerstenberg said that their plants are good places to work, because the average worker earns \$12,466 a year before taxes. That is possible if a worker works 12 hours a day, and six or seven days a week. But many workers I know say they can only go to bed after coming home from work. His thinking is that you only evaluate human beings with material things. Gerstenberg also said that production workers earn more than school teachers. One worker said, "Is that a crime? Let them exchange jobs for a while and see how many automobiles will be made."

I know that labor is the source of all value, all wealth. Today the dead labor of the machines and the

(Continued on Page 8)

Miners oust Boyle; vote for work control

Morgantown, W. Va.—Newspaper headlines blazing the report of the Dec. 16 explosion that ripped through the Itmann, W. Va. No. 3 mine, blasting five miners to death and seriously injuring three others, highlight the main reason why 49-year-old West Virginian and black-lung pensioner Arnold Miller soundly defeated incumbent President W. A. "Tony" Boyle, who ruled the United Mine Workers of America for 10 years.

The miners voted, by a 70,000 to 56,000 margin, their deep and bitter dissatisfaction over years of neglect by the top union bureaucrats.

WANT CONTROL OF WORKING CONDITIONS

What the miners were voting for was nothing less than being able to control their working conditions. Nobody knows better than a miner when he is forced to work in unsafe conditions with unsafe equipment. And he has been forced to work like this because he has seen grievances protesting these conditions pile up or thrown out by his local or district union bureaucrats.

And so the blasted and mangled bodies of the dead and injured pile up, and the number of widows and orphans continues to mount. To such tragedy, like the 1968 Farmington, W. Va., explosion which claimed 78 miners, Boyle could make the incredible statement that such things had to be expected in the mining industry—rather than blasting owner Consolidation Coal Co. for violations of mine safety laws.

When conditions got so bad that miners went out on spontaneous wildcat strikes, Boyle's answer was to threaten the men with fines and suspension of their local union charters. When West Virginia miners waged a political strike to win legislation recognizing black-lung as a coal industry-associated disease, the miners not only had to fight the coal companies and hostile legislators,

10¢ NEWS LETTERS

"Human Power is its own end"

VOL. 18—NO. 1

27 Printed in 100 Percent Union Shop

JANUARY, 1973

Two Worlds

Russia, China bring pressure on Hanoi to accept Pax Americana

By Raya Dunayevskaya,
National Chairwoman, News & Letters Committees

The Deputy Premier of North Vietnam, Le Thanh Nghi, suddenly flew into Paris on Dec. 10 as the Le Duc Tho-Kissinger talks were in recess, but the technicians were in session, General Haigh had flown to Washington, and the rumors of peace were countless. The Deputy Premier had come directly from Moscow, where the day before he had concluded a new agreement with Russia for "large-scale deliveries of goods, equipment and other property of great significance."

The "large-scale deliveries" have been infinitesimal in relationship to what the U.S. has been pouring into South Vietnam and were also less, even in Russian terms, than what Russia had given to Egypt. Nevertheless, the present timing and the pressures put on North Vietnam, ever since the U.S. mining of Haiphong went unchallenged by Russia, have indeed opened a new stage.

THE TINY CARROT AND THE BIG STICK

China, which had been giving even less to its "great socialist ally," had likewise dangled a little carrot and a big stick to make North Vietnam forget 25 long years of struggle and battle victories for independence, and instead, accept U.S. imperialism's phony peace offers. Ever since it had unrolled the red carpet for Nixon, China, like Russia, worked for Nixon's victory at the polls, which Chou proclaimed to be "good news because he did play a role in improving relations between the U.S. and China."

China's criticism of Russia on this question was its usual forked-tongue kind: "The Soviet Union has publicly expressed the wish to see the war in Vietnam come to an end. But it is very difficult to differentiate between their true and false words."

For that matter so did Nixon promise North Vietnam "to help rebuild it" at the very time he was carrying on the genocidal bombing of the country and the unprecedented mining of its harbors. Anything, anything at all, in order to get North Vietnam's signature to a piece of paper that would create the illusion of peace while everyone sets about to prepare the battle lines for the next war.

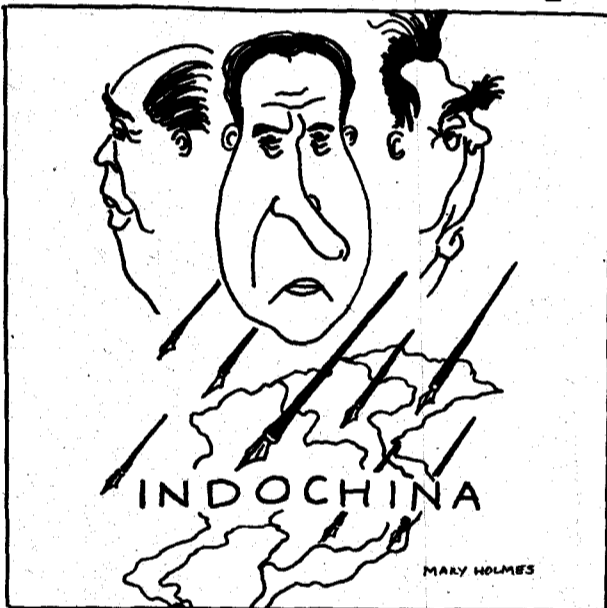
That three such opposing big powers as the U.S., Russia and China can all be out for the same thing—to christen a temporary truce, bent toward saving more than the face of Nixon-Thieu, a veritable "generation of peace"—shows the abysmal depths of global politicking out to still the movement of freedom for national independence. Whether or not the long-promised end of the Vietnam war, even if only in a "cease-fire" form, is achieved this month, the point is that it is not only U.S. imperialism that will not change its class nature, neither will the Sino-Soviet world.

The fact that Both Russia and China want the war ended doesn't mean they both wish the same thing. Each wants to be the dominant force—and not only in North Vietnam but in Southeast Asia. Yet the very fact that China can still look "revolutionary" makes it imperative that we probe deeper into its present role.

WHAT ABOUT CAMBODIA AND . . . ?

All Chou had to say on the question of Cambodia is that it was "more complicated" than the question of North Vietnam. That certainly isn't all he had to

(Continued on Page 5)



Nixon, Brezhnev, Mao: pens poised to carve Indochina

Blacks and Chicanas hold rent strike in LA

Los Angeles, Calif.—Twenty-eight Black and Chicano families are in the midst of a rent strike against the Los Angeles Housing Authority. All of these families are headed by women.

The William Mead housing project on the outskirts of downtown L.A. is a low, cramped, thirty-year-old project entirely surrounded by industries. The apartments are dingy and narrow, and are without sufficient electricity or space. For this, rents can be as high as \$135 per month, since the Housing Authority assessment is automatically one fourth of the family's monthly income.

NO PRIVACY

The attitude of the Housing Authority is very similar to that of the Welfare Office. They feel that it is their right to come and go in any apartment as they please, at any time that they please. If they don't approve of a woman's housekeeping, she can be evicted for being too sloppy.

All of these difficulties finally erupted when the management decided to remodel the apartments. At this point the women organized a rent strike and put forth the following statement.

"We as tenants are sick and tired of the inequities and the inhuman conditions we have had to endure.

While remodeling of the kitchen was in progress, the tenants have had to live in conditions as bad as in the days of the tenant farm laborers."

"We have had our walls torn up, our kitchens torn up so that you could look from the kitchen into the restroom. Filth has been on our floors that was torn from the decayed and roach-infested walls."

TENANTS DEMAND RESPECT

"We as tenants are tired of the dehumanization of us by the inept procedures and actions of the managers and commissions that are in charge. We are fed up with the degrading treatment we receive when we go in to negotiate with the Housing Authorities who seem to try and treat us as children who have no intelligence, because children should be seen and not heard. But Housing must realize that we are adults, and therefore demand the respect and dignity of adults, because we are going to be seen and also heard."

At the beginning of the strike the Housing Authority sought to divide the strikers amongst themselves by offering some of the leaders special privileges. One of the women was offered four different houses on four separate occasions, all at very low rent. All were some distance from the project. When she refused the last offer she was served an eviction notice. Other strikers are being similarly harassed, and their cases are now in court.

Men refuse to be scapegoats for SF bank's ERA policy

San Francisco, Calif. — The Equal Rights Amendment was passed in California last week. As predicted, without its also guaranteeing equal protection for men, it is being used instead to take away protection from both working men and women.

The first case came from the giant Bank of America computer center in San Francisco, which employs many women, especially foreign-born and minority women. They pay the lowest wages in the field and operate full-speed around the clock.

For over 30 years, the bank has been providing taxi service for about 300 women who work the night shifts and who cannot afford their own car. The bank announced that it would stop the taxi service home on March 1, 1973, because "some male employees claimed this service was sex discrimination."

This action precipitated a real surprise to the bank — the next day the male workers organized a demonstration outside the computer center protesting that they were being made into scapegoats for the bank's decision! "All we want," said one of the pickets, "is a safe place to park our cars. We never wanted the taxis taken away from the women."

A picket line and protest demonstration was called for on Friday, December 8. It was organized by Union W.A.G.E., (Women's Alliance to Gain Equality) and the Bay Area News & Letters Women's Liberation Committee, who have been active in trying to force the signing of the Equal Protection Amendment.

Signs saying: "Don't be a scapegoat for the biggest piggy bank in the world," "Rights are Universal, Workers are Unisex," and "We want safety day and night—for women and men — it's our human right," were made. Many labor groups agreed to participate, but when the new president of the local N.O.W. chapter was phoned, she said, "We don't picket!"

Tying in with the demonstration is a union organizing campaign by Union W.A.G.E., with a contract that will ensure some real protection for all the bank employees.

—N&L W.L., Bay Area Committee

Fight for heat goes on


Detroit, Mich.—Welfare recipients are still trying to get a guarantee that no family who pays the amount in their welfare grant for heat will have their gas shut off. A few sympathetic stories appeared in the daily press and on local radio shows after welfare rights groups picketed the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. (See N&L, Nov., 1972).

The battle for heat has now gone to the state government. More than 100,000 petitions now in circulation request that the Governor's budget include an adequate amount of money for heat in welfare grants.

While the gas company prefers that the state pay the money for heat directly to them, which would rob welfare recipients of even more dignity and freedom, they are not opposing the petition drive. If welfare mothers are successful in obtaining the increased grant for heat, it would guarantee 100 percent payment of the utility. But, the gas company continues to cut-off heat to hundreds of poor families each month.

Welfare Rights Supporter, Detroit

If you have a story, or want to contact News & Letters Women's Liberation Committees in Connecticut, Detroit, Los Angeles or New York, write to the addresses in the box, page 3.



**FORCE
AND
REASON**

**Organization means power
for domestic workers and WL**

A new and very important aspect of women's liberation is emerging throughout the country in the struggle by domestic workers against their status as the lowest paid and least respected workers in the labor force.

In Detroit last month, the Detroit Household Workers Organization, an affiliate of the National Committee on Household Employment, was successful in obtaining the first union representation election ever granted to household workers in Michigan. It is probably a first throughout the country. (See Dec. 1972 N&L)

No one needs to be told that domestic workers, many of whom are Black women, are the lowest paid workers in the economy. They are denied protection under practically all labor and protective legislation, including the Minimum Wage Law and Workmen's Compensation. Their employers only rarely even contribute to social security benefits.

DIAL-A-MAID FIRMS

The union campaign here in Detroit arose from the existence of "housework" companies. Dial-a-Maid is one of a number of such firms which hires women and transports them in mini-buses to the suburbs. The women work in teams of two or three, cleaning several houses a day. They earn \$12 to \$14 per day, while the company gets \$24 and up per house.

These companies are relatively new here. The majority of household workers still work on the old basis: finding jobs through the state employment agency, newspapers or the grapevine. Unlike the company workers, the majority still must confront their boss on a one-to-one basis. If a woman demands more money or benefits, she is easily fired and replaced.

Thus, the advent of "rent-a-maid" firms, while imposing a new form of exploitation on household workers has simultaneously created a means for potentially revolutionizing their conditions of labor: the women have contact with one another as they commute and work together; they have a single boss to confront together. They have a new power.

If we compare the situation of the average housewife who does her own work with that of the paid worker, the similarities are striking. Like the household worker, the housewife is isolated from other women. She, too, must confront, as a lone individual, her "employer" or husband. She, too, is easily replaced if she doesn't conform to his standards.

ISOLATION A BARRIER

This isolation has been an historic barrier to all women. It is a major reason why it has taken us so long to organize for our freedom.

Just as the condition of labor of the household worker is a determinant factor in keeping her the lowest paid, so also does it determine her aspirations—to totally abolish the indignities visited upon her, as a woman, a worker, and frequently, a Black. Such aspirations and the ideas and actions they generate are both the source and force of our movement.

The success of the household workers' fight means not only a totally new dignity for the houseworker (be she paid or married to the job), but of necessity, a revolutionary contribution to what freedom itself means. To learn from her, we must actively join in this fight.

—Lee Tracey, Detroit

WAY OF THE WORLD

Detroit police raid homes

by Ethel Dunbar

When I read about the Police Department hunt for those three Black youth who are suspected of shooting four white STRESS (Detroit's police decoy unit) officers a week ago, it frightened me and made me angry to see the methods they are using.

Mrs. Caroline Tyler, a 42-year-old mother, said she was frightened practically out of her mind, at 4:45 a.m., when she was awakened and heard her door rattling as if it were being broken down, and saw that there was a mob of policemen outside. After she opened the door, they rushed in with guns drawn, and ransacked her home before telling her what was involved.

The Detroit Police rounded up 23 suspects that night, using the same method, and released them all the next day. They say it was not racism, but no one can make me believe that this same thing would have happened in Grosse Pointe, Birmingham, or any other all-white neighborhood.

SHE HAD NO CHOICE

The Police Inspector said it was technically legal, because Mrs. Tyler had opened her door and let them in. But if she had not, they would have forced their way in and killed her for resisting and this also would have been legal.

Mrs. Tyler said, "My God, is this city in a state of war? Must this city become a police state in order to survive?" One must say that if we are not in a police state, we are running in that direction.

I remember shortly after my marriage, while living in Alabama, when two white policemen came to our home before daylight and were knocking as if they wanted to break in. My husband yelled, "Who is it?" There was no answer so he stood behind the door with his gun drawn and said, "If you break my door in I will shoot you unless you get me first."

Then, when they said, "Policemen, open up," we could not believe it. One of them said, "We were chasing a man through your back way and we thought he came in here." They were lying about a man getting away. They were looking for some Black women to date who had been hiding from them. Any person is supposed to protect his home at night against an intruder and it frightened me to know that my husband could have been killed or killed one of them trying to get in.

NO REINS ON POLICE

The police have sure gotten the message from Wallace's and Nixon's speeches, about taking the handcuffs off the police. But the crime rate has increased since Nixon's election and the police have increased their terror tactics against innocent citizens, especially the Black citizen. Most everyone is against crime and wants it stopped, but the method that the police department is using against innocent Black women, is nothing short of the beginning of a police state.

It was just reported that a man helping a holdup victim was killed by a policeman because he shot at the bandits running away. The police are told to shoot first and ask questions later. When the innocent are gunned down, it is called a justifiable mistake. I keep asking myself the same question as Mrs. Tyler: "Where are we headed to?"

Black construction project picketed by Newark whites

Newark, N. J.—Since Nov. 9, white residents of Newark's North Ward have barred construction of a Black-sponsored high-rise apartment complex. The whites have picketed and chained themselves to the gates and attacked Black workers trying to get on the site.

The project is sponsored by the Temple of Kwaida, led by Imamu Baraka (Leroi Jones). It is being built in the North Ward, of Newark, which is about 70 percent white and 30 percent Black and Spanish. Newark is about half Black and half white. The whites say this is an attempt to "force" them out of "their" neighborhood.

Unlike the whites in New York who tried to hide their racism behind slogans about quality education and community control, the whites in Newark say outright that this is a racial question. "We just don't want these people in here; look what they have done to the First Ward."

The City Council, which whites dominate six to three, voted to rescind the tax abatement for the project granted in 1971. One councilman is leading the picketing!

They also tried to get an injunction against construction, but the judge turned them down and limited the number of people who could picket. Some Black workers have gotten on the site with police protection, but they have not been able to do much work. Teamsters Local 478, whose president urges support for the residents, won't cross the picket lines to deliver materials.

In spite of the racial epithets, Baraka has convinced the Newark Blacks to refrain from counter-demonstrations that could lead to racial violence and would give the racists even more publicity for their cause.

—Black Observer

SF Pier 50 walkout foils bosses' overtime plan

San Francisco, Calif. — Longshoremen and ship clerks turned to on the night shift at 7:00 P.M. at San Francisco's Pier 50 and within minutes the word got out that the company intended to work us to six in the morning instead of our usual quitting time of 4:00 A.M. Communications began immediately between the four gangs on the ship and the clerks on the dock and it was decided that we'd go out the door at four. It became a kind of joke among us and dockers would greet each other during the night with variations of, "Out at four," and the response, "Right on!"

Minutes before 4:00 A.M., much to the chagrin of the Walkers (Unionized bosses) and the Superintendent (unorganized company boss), longshoremen and clerks walked off the job together.

Behind the charade of the union's International officialdom "battling" Nixon's wage board during our 134-day strike of 1971-72 the people at the "top" sidetracked the rank and file demands for dumping extended shifts, steady men, and other on-the-job issues. This "extended shifts" thing is a provision of the union-company contract providing that the stevedoring companies can work us two hours overtime if a ship is sailing out or shifting to another pier in the port area like across the bay from San Francisco to Oakland. It's this latter provision, ignored by the union's coast committee headed by Harry Bridges, that causes most indignation.

There is no truly human reason for extended shifts at all but there is a vast difference in the eyes of the guys who do the work between working overtime because a ship is sailing for the Orient or South America and a vessel shifting to another dock location a short distance away just to get more longshoremen to load more cargo. And it often happens that the same ship will shift back again to that same pier a day or so later after having worked more gangs overtime across the bay because of that shifting.

But this incident at Pier 50 was neither a case of a ship sailing out of the port or shifting to another pier. One brother on the job said he'd run into it before, a contract provision allowing the company to work us overtime if it was a shift just before a holiday (in this case the next day was Thanksgiving) when the company couldn't get gangs. So it appeared that we were being required to work an extended shift merely because the company couldn't get gangs until Friday, the day after the holiday.

The reaction was clear, "What about our holiday?—

what happens to it if we don't get to sleep until after seven in the morning?" So, as I said, out the door we went at four. But one guy mentally dragged his feet.

The two issues that slop over into everything else related to the on-the-job issues here are the "steady men," a very small portion of longshoremen, and the "request-system" men, a large group among the clerks. These are the people who are "privileged" to work more than anyone else and make a mockery of the union hiring hall. It will come as no surprise to any longshoreman or clerk that the only one to hesitate in this beef was a basic clerk who is only occasionally "on request."

This feature of the beef at Pier 50 confirms how "right on" the longshoremen and clerks are in paying major attention to getting rid of these twin evils that the top officialdom of the union favors against us.

San Francisco Docker

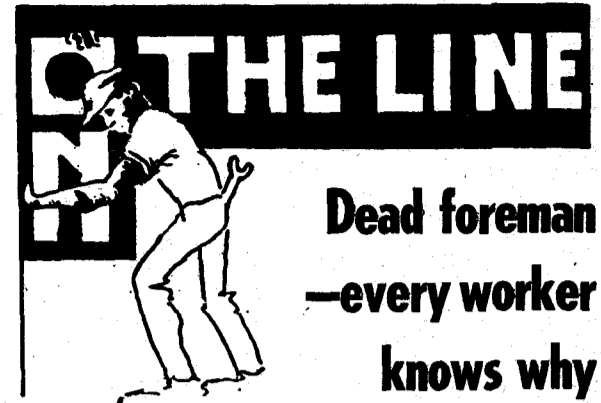
'Don't buy Farah slacks!'

El Paso, Tex. — Almost 3,000 workers at Farah Pants Company are now on strike for union recognition in an organizing campaign which has been going on for many months. The strike started in April when workers at the San Antonio plant walked out to protest Farah's firing several workers for union activities. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) has launched a nationwide "Don't Buy Farah Pants" boycott to focus attention on the vicious and illegal company activities the workers are facing.

Farah, which has eight plants in Texas and New Mexico, is one of the largest pants makers in the U.S. They employ over 10,000 workers; 95 percent are Mexican-Americans, with almost 85 percent of the work force women.

The strike has been gaining momentum despite the firing of 24 workers; despite the company's use of illegal Mexican nationals as strike-breakers; and despite the arrest of over 800 for peaceful and orderly picketing. Unconstitutional, anti-picketing injunctions and NLRB "proved" unfair labor practices have not worked either.

The National AFL-CIO has endorsed the strike as have local labor councils, civic groups, and VIP's like Senators McGovern and Kennedy. The workers need your support to picket stores selling Farah pants and need demonstrations to expose Farah's union-busting tactics. Their fight for union security is basic; which side are you on?



by John Allison

Chrysler has a training program for supervisors before they are assigned to the line. This question is raised because of the recent death of a Chrysler-Jefferson plant supervisor, who was shot by a worker he had discharged.

Who is to blame? Chrysler's production! Line speed makes foremen unreasonable and unwilling to listen to workers' grievances. Workers become angry. The union disappears to a safe place. The foreman tries to enforce Chrysler's anti-labor rules. The result: one dead foreman.

PRESSURE SPOT FOR MURDER

Every worker knows that the authority of human nature will have its way whether the supervisor agrees or not. The speed of the assembly line is a pressure spot for murder.

When a new worker is hired, he or she is given the Santa Claus treatment in the front office. Now to the line. Hand shaking takes place. The foreman calls the worker "Sir" or "Mam". The next time he or she will be treated again like a human being will be the day retirement takes place.

The old-timers always smile and shake their heads when new workers are brought in the department. The time clock is the first trouble-maker the new worker faces. Don't be late. Don't ring another worker's time-card. Stay away from the clock. The clock will get you fired before you get started.

TROUBLE SPOTS

Second, the toilet is a trouble spot. The new worker is told never to use the toilet unless it's necessary—because you can get discharged before you get started by going to the rest room too often. So much for the clock and toilet.

The third joker in this deck is the machine the worker will run. The foreman starts the machine, and tells the worker to watch him as he places the stock in the machine, presses the button. The part is formed. He takes the part out of the machine and gives the worker a warning: Now get to it! Don't get behind! Make production or you will be discharged before you get started!

All of this happens in a short span of time.

The second day you are reminded that you have 90 days to stay alive before the union can protect you. Meanwhile, the clock, the toilet and the supervisor lay in wait to fire you. It's 90 days of hell.

ALWAYS ON YOUR BACK

If you last 90 days and become a seniority worker, by then you know the foreman always wants to stay in one place—on your back. From that point on it's a life of being written up and threatened with discharge at every turn you make that the foreman doesn't like.

You and the supervisor get into battles. The union is called for, but retreats to a safe place. The result— one dead foreman.

The only ones who ask why are people who don't know about the life of hell in the shops.

Miss. poultry workers, Black and white, win union

Forest, Miss. — Workers at Poultry Packers, Inc., voted 95 to 76 to have the Mississippi Poultry Workers Union (MPWU) as their bargaining agent.

The MPWU was formed last May when Black workers struck at Poultry Packers. After winning a 10-cent-an-hour raise, the workers voted to end their strike so they could strengthen their position in the plant. At the same time, they asked the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to hold an election. The company began to harass union sympathizers, but this backfired when another walkout in mid-September was led by white workers.

Although the number of workers in this plant is small, the election was a major development in a new organizing drive that may reach plants throughout Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. The gigantic chicken-processing industry employs thousands of workers in the deep South. Most of the plants are small, pay low wages, and have oppressive working conditions.

The growth of Black-white unity among workers in this area started with organization of woodcutters into the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA). Poultry workers were inspired to organize by a strike of woodcutters in 1971.

FROM THE AUTO SHOPS

Chrysler Mack

Detroit, Mich.—All the talk about humanizing the auto shops is a joke. The union officials are talking about a meeting between management and working people, but there will not be one production worker at those meetings to tell what the shops are really like.

They may get some Committeemen to talk, who have not done a day's work in years. Or they will listen to some union officials that have been sitting in plush offices for 20 years. Irving Bluestone, a vice-president of the UAW, is now the main spokesman for production workers, and he never worked a single day in an auto shop. I wonder how many people would go to a doctor who never practiced medicine?

I do repair work, and am working ten hours a day or more. I'm over 50 and so tired when I get home that when I turn on the TV I'm asleep before one program is through. Every worker my age is trying to get the hell out of this plant. Some have enough seniority to retire, but many don't. Our Army Seniority is added to our Regular Seniority for general purposes, but when it comes to retirement, Army seniority doesn't count.

One worker who is retiring next month has a job oiling the machines, a good job for an older worker to do. I put in an application for the job and was told there were 10 to 15 applications ahead of mine.

No worker believes all the talk about humanizing the workplace will come to anything unless workers force the company and union to give us back our rightful say over production. Many of the younger workers realize they will never be able to survive 20 to 30 years in the shops with the production standards we have today, and working days 10 to 12 hours long.

The life in the auto shops takes away our life outside the shops. We don't have time to do anything for ourselves that we want to do. We are just too tired. I often wonder how a worker will be able to live in these plants if the pace continues another 10 years like this.

All I hope for is to try to stay awake and alive long enough to make the few more years until I can retire. The trouble is that every year seems like ten, the way we are working today.

—Chrysler Mack Worker, Dept. 9790

Fleetwood

Detroit, Mich. — Speed-up is the word here at Fleetwood. The company is moving in on every job they can. The window regulator job on the fifth floor used to have four men on each side of the line. Two men put in the tracks and two put in the regulators. Then the company took one man off each side. The six men left on the job are doing the same work that eight men used to do, and the line has not slowed down one bit.

Fleetwood is using the same tactics they always use to get more work out of each worker. They always move in on jobs where there are new hires, who can't file a grievance until they have 90 days. If they are able to stand the terrible speed long enough to get to file a grievance, it is too late because the company has already "settled" the job with the committeeman. Our committeemen know exactly what they are doing when they lock men into speeded-up jobs. It's not just committeemen either. The smell reaches all the way to Solidarity House.

What good are all Bluestone's mini-strikes doing for us here at Fleetwood? That's what everyone wants to know ever since the union promised that it was going to "stand up" to GM. We could see that the company was holding back for a little while to see if the UAW meant business. Now they know that it was a bluff. It's business as usual.

—Fleetwood worker

Local News & Letters Committees can be contacted directly in the following areas:

- CONNECTICUT: PO Box 291, Hartford, Conn. 06101 (527-9868)
- LOS ANGELES: PO Box 24371, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024
- DETROIT: 1900 E. Jefferson, Detroit 48207 (961-1010)
- NEW YORK: PO Box 5463, Grand Central Sta. New York, N.Y. 10017
- MONTREAL: Le Comite Humaniste-Marxiste de Montreal, PO Box 134, Montreal 600, Quebec

Readers' Views

NIXONISM ABROAD

Nixon's victory was a defeat for the freedom forces all over the world, and on both sides of the Iron Curtain. The dissent movement in Russia has recently been suffering severe setbacks, and one of the best-known of the dissenters, the physicist, Sakharov, recently remarked privately that the situation has become worse for dissenters since Nixon's visit to Moscow last May. Almost all the dissidents agree that the Russian authorities believe "Western public opinion" is more concerned with improving relations and trade, and will thus ignore police actions against Soviet civil-rights activists.

Observer
East Europe

BLACK REVOLT

Ruchell Magee was ejected from his trial in Marin County courthouse, for the 23rd time. He claims his court-appointed counsel is a Klansman and wants him removed from the case so that Ruchell can defend himself. He was brought into court in chains, again, with an admonishment from the Judge "to restrain himself." Yesterday Magee spat upon the unwanted Counsel, and today declared, "What about the disguised restraints that no one sees? Mr. Carrow is guilty of assaulting me. He filed fraud transcripts in my name — I consider that assault . . ."

Observer
Oakland, Cal.

Two days after the murder of two Black students at Southern University by the police, a rally was held in Hartford in support of the striking students.

It was a quiet, directionless gathering of about 80 college students and professors. It took a few activists in the crowd to point out the fact that the two victims were Black, and not simply students. The white students who had called the rally seemed to ignore the racism of the killings. And no one tied them in to the racist Nixon victory a week before.

Yet these students had come off of their sheltered campuses, and dared to speak. I feel their recognition of the deep racism of this society will come. They are headed in the right direction.

Activist
Conn.

Since mid-Summer, the regular meetings of the Duluth School Board have been consistently disrupted by Wallacites who have been opposing any attempts at integration. At the last meeting, the Board was scheduled to confirm the appointment of the present temporary Superintendent of Schools to a permanent post. He has recently promised to carry out integration plans if appointed.

The Wallace people disrupted this last meeting too. They have temporarily prevented any moves for school integration.

The left in Duluth, especially the "Communists," has totally ignored these developments.

Young Worker
Duluth

As far as the color of a man's skin, the way I feel is like this. When I was in the Army, fortunately I didn't go to Vietnam. Me and three buddies, two Black guys and another white guy from my home town, were in the same units all through basic. We ended up at Fort Jackson, S. C., which was a nasty cracker town. The stockade there was really bad too, and they had a riot while I was down there.

One day I was in a bar with my three buddies and some other guys from the unit and the owner said he wouldn't serve the Black guys. We argued with him but he stuck to what he said. What we did then was we had a little riot, about 20 of us, and tore his whole bar apart.

Young White Teamster
Connecticut

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Carol Downer, who was charged with "practicing medicine without a license," has been acquitted. The charge came when she advised a woman to use yogurt for an infection during a class at the L. A. Self-Help Women's Center. I wonder if they are going to charge all those Jewish mothers, who have been prescribing chicken soup all these years for various ailments. (Even though the medical profession has just claimed it is healthier than all those patent medicines advertised on radio and TV!)

Reader
Los Angeles

One of the few, if not only, popular songs which portrays a female human being as strong, sensitive, and struggling is "I Am Woman" by Helen Reddy. Many women call in to the popular radio stations requesting to hear this uplifting song, only to have male disc jockeys ridicule their request or make derogatory comments while the record is playing. This illustrates "the long way we have to go" of which Ms. Reddy sings. Today women have the strength and, hopefully, the philosophic wisdom for the struggle ahead.

Marie Dignan
Detroit

Last week at the opening of the Hartford Women's Center I saw a girl wearing a Free Angela button. I asked her why and she said it was the only one she had. I told her the button should say, "Free Angela, Now More Than Ever!" I wonder if anybody would want to finance such a button?

Feminist
Connecticut

PRISON LIFE

Prisoners at the Washington State Penitentiary have been on strike since the end of November. The prisoners feel hopeful that it will be a success. A strike vote was taken Nov. 26, and the Resident Government Council approved it.

The thought of one prisoner there was that "since the election is over and we had all the promises from the politicians, it's time to cash in on them . . . but we have to deal with Nixonianisms, too." I hope to pass on more news later.

Prison Reform Backer
Connecticut

Inhumanity does not exist only in the prisons. It also exists at GM. You land out on Tweedy Blvd. if you don't jump at their whistle.

GM Worker
California

WORKERS' STRUGGLES

There's been all kind of stuff in the daily papers about finding more Nazis in Argentina. It seems to me that they're looking in the wrong place if they can only find one big Nazi every ten years. If they were to go through the management of my plant, I wonder if they might not find the rest of Hitler's general staff?

Factory Worker
Long Island City, N. Y.

The United Farm Workers Union has called for a boycott of Guild Wineries and Distilleries as they are the largest users of grapes from the White River Farms, where the farm workers are still on strike since last August. Guild has wines and brandies under 14 different labels — so look closely at that holiday cheer.

Supporter
Fresno, Cal.

When we speak of Workers Control, we mean exactly that and nothing less. When we speak of workers' freedom, there can be no ifs, ands, or buts. Like N&L, we are small. Organized in the

AS 1973 BEGINS—A FEW OF MANY APPEALS

People are cold and the government talks about welfare fraud . . .

The average amount designated for heating fuel in a public assistance grant is \$17 per month — usually too little to pay actual heating expenses, especially in the old, poorly insulated housing in which the poor are forced to live. (Michigan Consolidated Gas Company estimates that the average recipient receives \$70-\$90 per year less than he needs for fuel expenses.)

Thousands of poor, elderly, blind and disabled persons and their children are without heat each winter. In the interest of obtaining statewide reform, we are urging Governor Milliken to seek from the Legislature an amount in public assistance grants equal to the amount actually needed to pay heating expenses. For more information on how to help, contact:

Metropolitan Detroit Welfare
Reform Coalition
305 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, 48226

A Chara,

Already, Christmas is here again and there are, to date, fifty-one Republican prisoners in various jails, both north and south of the border. There are over one hundred refugee families and a great number of men and women at present staying in the 26 Counties.

Some of the prisoners have been in jail since 1969. Their families and dependants are finding it hard to clothe and feed the children while the breadwinner is in jail. As this is a special time of the year, particularly for children, I earnestly appeal to you to give generously to our Christmas fund. All donations will be receipted.

Cheques and Postal Orders may be made out to:

James McKeon
c/o 30 Gardiner Place
Dublin 1, Ireland

Waking up Wednesday morning, Nov. 8, made many of us feel like simply turning over and going back to sleep again to escape a living nightmare. Except that nobody can sleep for four years.

It is not at all certain that we are moving toward an Indochinese ceasefire. But even if that does happen, we know that apart from such immediate tasks as amnesty, the far deeper issue of humanity trapped in a state of nuclear terror must be confronted.

For almost fifty years the League has been able to maintain that commitment in the most difficult of times. To con-

U. S., Canada, Australia, Sweden, Britain, and Guam, we are only just back on our feet. Two defeated factory strikes in Chicago and California; a construction workers' union smashed in B. C.; a silver mine crew in Colorado; a May Day strike at the University of Wisconsin. The last two years have been hard ones, but full of promise. There is a new day dawning. We either take it for ourselves, the workers. Or we fall back into a new Dark Ages.

Wobbly
Toronto

The working class has won a series of victories against the Tory Government this year, and only a few days ago, soon after the wage freeze began, we had a demonstration and half-day strike of London teachers, and more than 12,000 took part in the march. In the kind of upheavals we are seeing, the need for and interest in revolutionary Marxism is bound to increase rapidly, and I think the whole scene here is very optimistic.

International Socialist
London

tinue the struggle when everything seems so hopeless, help is desperately needed. So many of our members gave their funds to the McGovern campaign that our office is now short of money for stamps. All help will be welcome.

War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y. 10012

The deplorable conditions of life and work of the seven million Mexican Americans in the United States are no longer problems only of the borderlands. They involve communities as distant from the Mexican border as Chicago, New York, and Detroit.

Our story is one of continuous struggle for survival — economic survival, survival of the family, survival of cultural heritage. In the barrios hope and determination are kept alive despite our average family income of under \$60 a week.

The Southwest Council of La Raza represents the determination of Chicanos to solve their own problems, through a coordinated network of barrio community organizations working together. Please tell your readers that helping La Raza will insure their contribution will be put to work on constructive programs for social reform.

Southwest Council of La Raza
Thomas Plaza Building
1325 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

It is astonishing to see the odd sense of values this season generates. To guarantee "not a kid without a Christmas," America suddenly becomes a benevolent society. The Good Fellows, Odd Fellows, Lions, Tigers, Donkeys and Elephants all collect money, thousands of dollars. But who benefits?

Sure, the kids get some kind of toy, and some families get a dinner or clothes that they desperately need. But the big profits are made by the manufacturers and merchants. And once Christmas is gone, what about all the rest of the year?

Shouldn't the poor have education, books, clothes, housing, food — even toys — all year long? How about organizing to provide employment, education and housing so people can provide their own toys for their kids? How about a change of values from this society where the Almighty Dollar is God?

F. S.
Detroit

HAVE YOU PUT N&L
ON YOUR GIFT LIST?

News and Letters

Vol. 18, No. 1 January, 1973

News & Letters is published every month except during the summer months when issues appear June-July, August-September, by News & Letters, 1900 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Mich. 48207. Telephone: 961-1010. Subscription: \$1 for 12 copies; single copy 10c; for bulk order of ten or more—6c each.

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Russia, China pressure Hanoi to accept Pax Americana

(Continued from Page 1)

say before Nixon's visit to China. Quite the contrary. The one time that China acted in a revolutionary way was at the time of the U.S. invasion of Cambodia. Moreover, this was not merely because it attacked U.S. imperialism's invasion; Russia did as much. Nor was it only because, unlike Russia, China did not continue its relations with the Nol counter-revolutionary regime and gave sanctuary to Prince Sihanouk.

Rather it was because China had the good sense to stay in the background while the Khmer revolutionaries of Cambodia, the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong, as well as the revolutionary forces from Laos and Thailand, met to work for a united fight against U.S. imperialism in the whole of Indochina.

All this changed the minute the flirtation with U.S. imperialism became serious. All talk of the "continuous revolution" becomes nothing but a whitewash for a "philosophy" of counter-revolution as Mao's China sets out to double-cross Cambodia and help betray North Vietnam.

What has characterized China as well as Russia ever since those fateful meetings with Nixon is that their ally, North Vietnam, counts for nothing at all. And when North Vietnam dared to continue its own battle in the spring offensive last year, both Russia and China were big on words and nil on action as U.S. imperialism reacted with the most massive bombing ever. There is, in fact, evidence enough that Nixon planned this in full confidence that Russia and China would not come seriously to the defense of North Vietnam. The whole operation against Hanoi was carefully planned to coincide with the announcements of trips to China and Russia.

THE UNHEARD VOICE

North Vietnam's plea (Aug. 17, Nhan Dan editorial) read: "... to carry out the 'Nixon doctrine' U.S. imperialists have applied the policy of reconciliation toward a number of big powers in the hope of having a free hand to consolidate their forces, oppose the world revolutionary movement, suppress the revolution at home, bully the small countries, break the national liberation movement while not relinquishing its plan to prepare a new world war ... if out of the narrow interests of one's nation, one tries to help the most reactionary forces avert the dangerous blows, (it is) just like throwing a life-buoy to a drowning pirate ..."

The fact that Russia and China can march in opposite directions so long as each one's national interests are concerned, and yet hit against the same target once there is an independent movement for national liberation, shows just how alike are these state-capitalist countries calling themselves Communist. That has been the characteristic ever since the Sino-Soviet orbit became the Sino-Soviet conflict in 1960. But never before have their actions been so tied in with the dominant world imperialist power, the U.S.

The tragic truth is that to each of these "Communist" big powers, the Other, not the U.S., is Enemy Number One.

North Vietnam, in peace as in war, will remain a

battleground where the relationship among the Communist-powers becomes the more incestuous the more it moves to the "ideological field."

Neither Russia nor China has any intention of letting the other be the dominant "influence" in North Vietnam. The jockeying for position started long before the latest economic agreement between the U.S. and Russia. As soon as the first "feelers for peace" were put forth, China at once announced it would under no circumstances participate in another type of Geneva agreement that had settled the first Indochina war.

What it meant was it will not participate in anything where Russia has a voice. The latest rumors hinted that Russia would not be part of the "international commission" to supervise the peace but Poland and Hungary, along with Indonesia and Britain, would. Despite the fantastic 1965 massacre of Chinese and hundreds of thousands of Indonesian Communists who had followed the Mao line, even Indonesia seemed preferable to China. In any case Chou En-Lai has let it be known that China intends to have veto power on any "international guarantees."

In a word, North Vietnam's problems are by no means ended; they are simply moving to a different level. Why then are some in the "New Left" still entertaining illusions about Mao's "continuous revolution"? Surely it isn't because of any "revolutionary" actions on the part of China since it joined the UN and vetoed Bangladesh's request for entry. Surely it isn't because of any of its actions anywhere in the world from Pakistan to Palestine and from Yugoslavia to the counter-revolutionary assault on its own left, the Sheng Wu-Lien, and the destruction of Lin Piao.

"CULTURE" VS. REVOLUTION

No, the truth is that in our state-capitalist age the administrative mentality has long ago replaced confidence in proletarian revolution. Every leader is out for "a shortcut," even though that be via protracted war, an outflanking not only of cities but of the self-activity of the masses which they fear most of all.

Everything and anything that can be done to lessen the hard labor of leadership needed to work out a new relationship of theory to practice is touted because it is so much easier to rest on some state power, to lean on The Leader, to substitute the thought of One, "the helmsman."

And Mao is a genius in the brainwashing of intellectuals! Presently he claims, and the "New Left" agrees, that by the chaos of 1966-69 he has saved China "from taking the capitalist road like Russia" and that in a July 1966 letter to his wife at the very outset of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution he questioned both Lin Piao's "revolutionary elan" and "rightism."

Mao genuflectors like Han Suyin are busy spreading the word that Lin Piao was, at one and the same time, "the real backer of the ultra-left" and a rightist and a "dissembler": "... Lin Piao is worse than all other 'dissemblers' because he is guilty of parricide, for the attempt to kill one's teacher is to kill one's spiritual father." (New York Times, Aug. 27, 1972).

The question however is: Who ordered that the Cultural Revolution be stopped if it was not Mao? Who united with "Enemy Number One," USA imperialism, if it was not Mao? Who except Mao ordered as big a turnabout in relations with Tanaka's Japan? And who except his co-Communist enemy, Russia, is now compelling the Vietnamese revolutionaries to accept Pax Americana?

The tragedy is that Vietnam is not merely geographically the key to Southeast Asia but is, above all, the only revolutionary force that brought the American Goliath to its knees and could also expose the clay feet of the Sino-Soviet world, in orbit or in conflict. If the New Left cannot see this staggering truth, if they cannot transform the anti-Vietnam war movement into a movement for social revolution, then the state capitalist age has won. That cannot be, that must not be. The self-activity of the masses will see that it will not be.

BLACK-RED VIEW

U.S. student movement loses spark of Black revolt

By John Alan

In the last few years the protest movement of white students on the campuses of the great universities and state colleges has been reduced to a whimper.

This is not meant to convey a minimization of the student movement. The movement had many heroic moments and performed an important historical task — bringing to the consciousness of white middle-class students the realization that they too were mere objects of alienation and de-humanization in the scheme of the capitalist system, just as are the workers, Blacks, other minorities and women.

SHIFT TO THE RIGHT

But the recognition upon which we will have to act is the fact that there has been a shift to the right on the campuses. The tragic indication of this is only too clear, when two Black students are murdered at Southern University and Black sailors are openly protesting the racist practices within the U.S. Navy, and neither event touches the consciousness of the campuses.

It would be superficial to say, as some are, that students are "tired" of protesting; that there is a whole new generation of students on the campuses who have had no direct connection with the Civil Rights Movement or with the student struggles of the 1960's, and who are, therefore, immune to what is happening around them. This implies that a history of struggle has somehow died without any possibility of future new developments.

What has taken place, for the present at least, is much more insidious in terms of politics and history.

The Black Civil Rights Movement in this country gave birth to the student rebellions that swept this nation from 1964 to the beginning 1970's. Mario Savio, the spokesman for the University of California Free Speech Movement, in Berkeley, was very conscious of the debt the student struggles owed to the activities of the Black Civil Rights Movement.

DIRECT PARTICIPANTS GAIN CONSCIENCE

Savio recognized that it was during the direct participation in these Black struggles that the white middle-class students gained the consciousness and energy "to turn squarely on the vast faceless University Administration" and that it was both "the irrationality of society, that denies to Negroes the life of men, and the irrationality of the University, that denies to youth the life of students, which caused last semester's rebellion."

No student leader, since 1965, when Mario Savio made this statement, has been so clear in defining the role of Black people in the course of American history.

The students' move to the right came from ceasing to take their cue from the Black struggles at home, and from seeing the war in Vietnam and Southeast Asia as a one dimensional issue.

DUAL FATALITY

The inability to understand that the war in Southeast Asia and racism at home, are integral parts of American Imperialism was fatal to the student movement — even when it was at its highest point of mass action — in two ways:

One, Blacks gave only lukewarm support to the peace movement when the sole issue was "end the war in Vietnam," that is to say, keep the protest movement lily-white and don't muddy it up with the race issue!

Two: this subtle form of racism left white students wide open to the blandishments of liberal politicians, whose promises to end the war got the students to work for their election and give up their independent anti-war actions.

After a magnificent start, the student movement re-entered capitalist politics through the back door of the same liberalism from which the Black Revolt — by imbuing them with a new sense of self-consciousness — had saved them.

Black people, because of their position in capitalist society, cannot engage in such "luxury;" they must fight racism wherever it is, whether in Vietnam, aboard aircraft carriers, at European Military bases, at home in America.

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YOUTH

Students occupy Quebec schools

Montreal, Quebec—Four years after the 1968 school occupation movement (see N&L, Nov. 1968), the CEGEP (junior colleges) are alive with activity again. The most determined struggle is going on right now at the St. Hyacinthe CEGEP (SAY-jhep) where students and faculty have taken over the school and have established their own parallel courses for over two weeks now.

Though the Minister of Education, Cloutier, claims that these courses are "valueless," the students and faculty participating say on the contrary that this is the first time that they have found school worthwhile.

In their criticism of the new regime which Cloutier is trying to force upon them, the strikers are protesting:

The reduction of philosophy courses; the attempt to abolish those courses which permit a global and coherent view of society.

Blacks defy racist mobs on Wisconsin campus

Superior, Wisc.—A few days before Thanksgiving, there was a very serious outburst of white racist violence in Superior, Wisconsin (just across the bay from Duluth). It was the worst event of this kind to happen around here . . . to say nothing of the largeness of scale.

The campus of Wisconsin State University in Superior has a fairly large Black community with a structuralized "Black Studies Program."

The violence began when several white students baited and name-called a few Black students. To the surprise of the racists, the Blacks did not meekly accept the abuse, but talked back! Soon, blows were exchanged. The university authorities intervened to stop the situation.

PUNISH BLACKS ONLY

That night, however, it became known on campus that only the Blacks would be punished because of the incident. The Blacks responded by organizing a marvelous demonstration of solidarity: they overwhelmingly boycotted classes the next day and organized protest meetings in three Black dormitories.

Later that day, a mob of 300 white students laid siege to the Black dorms. The Blacks barricaded themselves inside for protection. Chancellor Meyer called in the police. A small-scale, three-way battle followed.

Meyer put the pressure on the Black students alone. He brought in more police and buses. Under armed-guard, he herded the Black students into the buses—while the racist mob watched—and sent the buses across the bay to Duluth. Still under armed-guard, the Blacks were kept in Duluth all night at a secret location.

The next day, the student government on the Wisconsin State campus in Superior, without any Blacks present or represented, proclaimed the innocence of the Blacks in this event and issued a statement encouraging the campus Administration to show "reasonableness."

The results thus far show the depth of racism at this institution of learning: two Black students have been expelled with words to the effect that more expulsions are coming. Not one white student has been punished! Jim, Minnesota

Graffiti on NY subways

New York, N. Y.—Law and order in New York City means arresting kids for writing their names on the subways, while jet-setters and politicians get amphetamine injections from fancy doctors. No wonder N. Y. youth are rebellious and destructive!

The uproar over graffiti has climaxed in the City Council passing a law that it is illegal to carry spray paint on the subway. The funny thing is that the kids don't write anything obscene or even political. They simply write their names and street numbers. If this isn't a sign that they feel alienated and are desperate to assert their identities, I don't know what is. The names may not be beautiful, but they are no worse than the "legitimate" Madison Avenue subway propaganda.

The drug problem continues to be the major one for young people. There are now several self-help groups for addicts, and many community groups wage campaigns against hard drugs. But kids still die from drugs here every single day.

In contrast, The New York Times revealed last week that a Park Avenue doctor has been shooting up actors, writers, and politicians with "speed" for years. The authorities knew he was pushing dope, but nothing was done about it.

The change-over to the credit system which increases the already intolerable work overload.

The new system categorically rejects any principle of co-evaluation or self-evaluation by the students and puts everyone back on the old-fashioned exam system, going against even the "official" Parent Report which describes the student as his own teacher.

The new regime discriminates against poorer students who have to work their way through school by limiting the period of time which they can take to complete their diploma.

At last report, the Alma CEGEP is also occupied, three others have voted in favor of a general strike if necessary, and a half-dozen others have held "study-sessions" during school hours. The strike shows signs of spreading. One young woman student put it this way: "School must become human, we have to take the time to live and to think so that we can relearn to walk and to love instead of to run a rat-race and to hate everyone." The movement has come a long way since 1968.

—R. Lafleche

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DOING AND THINKING

Nixon tries repression to pacify youth revolt

By Janis Mitchell

The Nixon administration has embarked upon a schizophrenic course. On the one hand, Tricky has vowed to end "permissiveness." Repression and racism are the Nixonian doctrines of capitalistic control. At the same time, the power brokers try to appease members of the left. The Berrigans have been given parole, the convictions of five of the Chicago Eight were overturned. Scholar Samuel Popkin and a journalist Peter Bridge were released from prison on contempt of court.

The capitalist leaders point to the acquittal of Angela Davis, and hung juries of Huey Newton and Bobby Seale as evidence that "the justice system does work." Sure it does. If one is well enough known to create a base for mass support. If one is too dangerous to convict and could serve as a rallying point. Or if one has wealth and power.

The appeasement game has only one purpose—it is aimed directly at the youth — to diffuse any mass movement which could develop to challenge capitalism and its tools. King Dick has done this with the Indochina war. Through his "peace" efforts, mechanization of the genocide, and elimination of the Draft, he has virtually eliminated the threat of the Anti-War and Student Movement.

STRIPS DIGNITY

The same fascist system of injustice operates to strip working people of dignity. They must work exploitative jobs to subsist. At the same time, they are told that "anyone can make it." False dreams of affluence sit at the end of an endless tunnel.

Racism, too, is explained away through appeasement. Racists point to Black men and women who have "made it" in capitalist society. They praise the gains made in the last twenty years, such as more minority people in professions, business and government as proof that the situation has improved.

Women receive the same chauvinistic treatment. Sexism is denied by citing the fact that women are now telephone lineworkers and drill operators. It is Virginia Slims psychology for women and Black, Brown and Red people — "You've come a long way, baby."

Any gains which have been made have come through long, hard struggle against repression, racism and sexism. But today the forces of capitalism try to take credit for the fruits of struggle and use them against the people. They excuse their inhumanity with euphemisms of "benign neglect."

FEAR FREEDOM FORCES

As repression and racism worsen in the hands of King Dick and his corrupt court, attempts at appeasement increase. In their paranoid desire for power, they recognize the strength of the forces of revolution. Just as they fear the strength of freedom forces in Vietnam, they fear the threat of domestic revolutionaries.

Their response to our threat is doubly pronged: appeasement plus repression. They react out of desperation and immediacy and have no philosophy except profit and power. The freedom forces throughout the world do have a philosophy. We act, not react, and revolutionary action based on philosophy does not need protection through appeasement.

Meskill prolongs bus strike

Hartford, Conn.—For more than a week and a half, the drivers of the Connecticut Company, the major bus company in the state, have been on strike. The strike had been threatening for two months, and came during the busiest shopping time of the year.

The company, which is owned by a single capitalist, serves 100,000 people per day. Most of the riders are poor working people and the elderly, none of whom have any other means of transportation. Although public service groups in the area have offered some help, it is very little. Workers have had to walk for up to an hour, hitchhike, or take taxis if they cannot arrange car pools.

The issue is wages. The drivers have been threatened with a pay cut, since the company is losing money. The fare is already 35 cents minimum, and many routes have been cut, as well as Sunday and holiday service.

Governor Meskill refuses to authorize the use of public funds to serve the public. Instead, he is using the drivers by giving them the alternative of lower pay or no jobs at all. Funds appropriated for transportation have been used only for building superhighways.

The governor has proved his lack of concern for the citizens of the state. Those who most need public transportation are without it. If the strike lasts very long, many small businesses will not survive, since they will lose holiday sales. This will increase the hold of monopoly businesses and chain stores.

Fortunately, the people affected by the strike have given strong support to the drivers. They direct their anger at the Governor, who refuses to spend the public's money for the public.



—LNS photo
Farm workers tend lettuce with short-handled hoe.

Lettuce worker's lot: back-breaking, low-paid

(We thought workers in other industries who have been supporting the lettuce boycott would like to know about the working conditions of lettuce workers—ed.)

Lettuce work is done in wet fields in a bent-over position at an inhuman pace. A lettuce worker spends six or more months in the fields each year; on that schedule, he will last only six to ten years before he is "quemado", burned out, and condemned to low hourly work with the short-handled hoe.

The workers' lives are further shortened when company foremen induce them to take "pingos", pills, to withstand the pain of the work and to speed up the work pace. The companies and labor contractors also supply workers with pills and beer to keep them going.

Steady work in lettuce is a myth as each month is filled with half days due to rain, irregular maturation of crops and ice in the fields during the winter. In an attempt to control production, growers will declare "holidays" or as recently done in Salinas, suspend all harvesting on Saturdays.

At current piece rates, each individual lettuce worker is paid one-twentieth of a cent for each head of lettuce. The entire cost of farm work comes to 2.4c per head of lettuce, yet workers are paid only \$1.40 to \$1.80 per hour. You can help the lettuce workers in their struggle to change these conditions by continuing to support the lettuce boycott.

—from LA CAUSA, UFW's Detroit newsletter

Letter from Mass. prisoner

In the last few years, prisoners have had to define themselves in words for some very good reasons, the first of which was self-identification. We had to discover reasons, apart from the labels attached to us, why we lived in constant conflict with the total environment. We couldn't accept the dictate that we are ignorant or subnormal, subhuman beings.

Every one of the men I've come to know and respect in confinement was there because of his reaction to abject inhumanity and his inability to deal with it. Until they came into contact with the persecuted of the Third World, many looked upon this inability as a weakness instead of the strength it really is.

There were others of us who never subscribed to the values and mores of this society which tried to prescribe the tenets of manhood, womanhood, strength and weakness. We knew that what was basic to our existence was impossible to achieve under our materialistic (capitalistic) way of life.

We have had to use the psychological language that the mass exploiters have devised. That is, example by reaction. Therefore, we must keep the world in a constant state of emergency in order for it to learn from reaction upon reaction, until people reach the point of true preventive action as a natural co-commitment of living.

The Marin County massacre was a good lesson in the teachings of reaction learning. The conclusion was that the death of young Jackson and the prisoners was more valuable than the life of the judge. This man, who by his years of service to the perpetuation of the system, should have been given every consideration, was found to be expendable by the officers who fired the shots and caused his death.

There are, there must be other and better ways than violence. However, the problem is to convince a violent society that it cannot win with the violence it has used to solve its problems in the past. We are approaching that point, but many have had to sacrifice their inhumanity, their lives, before this point could be reached. Perhaps many more will have to come to this same end. The difference being that we will know what we are sacrificing, and why.

—Massachusetts prisoner

Massive Mexican crowds gather to hear Allende

Mexico—Allende arrived in Mexico Dec. 1 and received the biggest welcome any visitor has ever received. Throngs of people gathered to show their support and to hear him talk.

The great number and the many hours the gathering lasted was quite a change from the usual crowds paid by the government to attend political events. In fact, quite the contrary to soliciting crowds for this occasion, the government has tried to discourage demonstrations of support for Allende.

The 25th of October movement was scheduled for a legal demonstration in support of Chilean workers in front of the American Embassy in Mexico City. In spite of having given permission for the demonstration, the government sent several battalions of soldiers in tanks, jeeps and buses, fully armed with machine guns and long-distance rifles, to the appointed scene for the demonstration.

The next day, the bourgeois press tried to justify the military action, saying that it had been necessary to intercept three buses of students from the Popular

Preparatory of Tacuba (an independent school of higher education for workers), and implying that the students were a threat to public order.

Otherwise, the biggest signs of unrest currently are two events that took place in Yucatan. Farm workers who receive a starvation wage demanded an "audience" with a local bank manager (the agricultural banks with their credit schemes are the real employers or "owners" of the small farmers). The high functionaries of the bank all locked themselves in an inner office, so the farmers climbed on the roof, where they started boring holes.

The falling plaster and lime dust forced the functionaries out of the bank. Would you believe the bank manager, not a guard, just happened to have a pistol and a revolver? From the doorway he shot and fatally injured one of the delegation of farmers. As the murderer ran away, the crowd stoned him to death.

Can you guess the bourgeois news reports? "Farmers from Yucatan Lynch Bank Official."

The second event in Yucatan is more recent. A crowd hacked to pieces a statue of President Juarez, the hero of the Reform War, and the Civil War hero of the 1800's, which had just been erected and dedicated by President Echeverria. The official reports accuse the opposition leaders (PAN reactionary party) as instigators.

Although Juarez failed in most of his attempts at reforms for the people, he is genuinely respected. All this year the government has carried on a publicity campaign, capitalizing on the year 1972 being the 100th anniversary of the death of Juarez. The sentiment here is that the present government has no right to try to claim any of Juarez's glory, and therefore the anger aroused by the dedication of the statue.

Reactionary legislation used to intimidate LA teachers

Los Angeles, Cal. — Veiled in the cloak of "accountability", a bill directed against the harried teacher and threatening the very fiber of the long-abused public education system in California has been passed by the state legislature.

Written by reactionary politicians, the Stull Act nullifies the Teacher Tenure Law, on the books since 1929, and creates a means by which permanent teachers can be dismissed without due process by doing away with the Superior Court hearing.

The Act also gives the school administrator the right to begin dismissal procedures on mere hearsay, as well as makes possible four more methods by which a teacher can be dismissed.

In Los Angeles, the Superintendent of Schools, who has eyes on higher political office, has decided to take a very strict interpretation of the law and points the blaming finger at the teacher in case the educational system goes wrong. He is, as the local teachers' union, UTLA, puts it, "confusing job evaluation with program evaluation."

There is a growing discontent among teachers with the way the union handled the situation. The teachers protested the Stull Act but this protest lost all its impact because of the lack of coordination from union leadership.

A fear of intimidation and a growing inward anger grips everyone in teaching as a result of the onslaught of controls set by non-teachers in high government posts hundreds of miles away from the L.A. ghetto.

In a recently-filmed CBS documentary, a teacher in one of the ghetto schools said, "We are dealing with the developing human being and humanistic values cannot be measured by statistics."

By throwing a cloud of intimidation over the classroom teacher, who in the recent past has countless times been the scapegoat of our ailing society, being called the barrier to quality education, the legislature is only creating a lie that is going to have deep repercussions on the already-limping public education system in California.

—A Los Angeles teacher

Harlem tenants fight NYC plan to jack-up rents

New York, N. Y.—Harlem and East Harlem working-class residents have joined together in a coalition to fight rent increases, some as high as 85 percent, which threaten to drive them from their homes. Five "Mitchell-Lama cooperatives" containing over 20,000 people, most of them Black and Puerto Rican, have pledged to support each other in their fights with the City and State agencies which control their housing.

Franklin Plaza, a 1600-unit "co-op" in East Harlem, has already been brought into court by the city for refusing to implement the 58 percent rent increase ordered there over the next two years. The Board of Directors may soon face jail; meanwhile, the residents are planning a rent strike to show the city that the entire Plaza means business.

One man described the rent increases as an attempt to drive the working class and poor out of the city, leaving all the decent housing for the rich. The next increases planned would raise Franklin Plaza rents 69 percent, to \$65 a room, at which time 80 percent of the present residents would have to leave. New housing being built a few blocks away is going to cost \$450 for a two-bedroom apartment.

A woman at the meeting described neighbors who often skip a meal in order to pay their rent. They say, "I can live without a meal, but what will I do without a roof over my head?"

The so-called cooperatives are all in financial trouble. And since the government agencies retain control over all money matters, they simply order rent increases to protect the bond-holders.

The coalition's position is that the city, state or federal government should assume the mortgages for them. One speaker at the Franklin Plaza meeting said, "If they can spend the money to bomb Vietnam and to send men to the moon, they can find a way to let us stay in our apartments."

— Rent Strike Worker

Prison union seeks aid

"I work an eight hour shift, five days a week—sometimes more. My wife and kids are on welfare. I want to be able to support my family, pay taxes and maybe even save a little, but 35 cents a day doesn't stretch much.

"I'm a convict and I'll be one for a few years. I know it's not supposed to be fun and I'm not asking for charity or pity. Just give me a job to do, one that will train me to get and hold employment when I'm released, and then pay me a fair wage to do it.

"We've always thought of ourselves as just prisoners, and it's not a good feeling, not good at all. Then I heard about something new called the Prison Labor Union and it made me realize that although I'm still a prisoner, I'm also a laborer—and that's worth something, inside or out.

"The Union's demands are the same ones that all unions have already fought for and won: to bargain collectively for wages, hours and working conditions. Prison Labor Unions have been organized in federal and state prisons in over a dozen states. We've made some progress, but I still earn 35 cents a day. We've got a long way to go and we need your help and support."

Those interested in contributing to, or receiving more information about the Prison Labor Union may contact:

THE PRISON MEDIA PROJECT
857 MONTGOMERY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94133

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WORLD IN VIEW

By Eugene Walker

Bhutto orders new anti-labor terror in Pakistan

The silence of the American press on the labor upsurge in Pakistan, which was climaxed in October by the workers' occupation of some factories, has ended. This is because it can now gloatingly record President Ali Bhutto's order to the police to storm the plant.

Bhutto had tolerated some wildcat strikes when the workers seemed to follow his policy of nationalization and consider that "socialism." When the 40 percent rise in wages was quickly eaten up in galloping inflation and the conditions of labor at nationalized plants were the same as in any run by the "22 families" that control the Pakistani economy, the workers wildcatted against the government machine tool plant at Lanhi. Within hours, all industry ground to a halt. The workers, with hand-made spears, took over the cotton plant of the most notorious plutocrat of all—Ahmad Atwood—at the same Karachi suburb, Lanhi. They were met by a hail of bullets from the state police that killed 12 workers.

Having bloodily suppressed the occupation of

the factory, the self-and-China-styled "socialist" President then pressured the national telephone union to give up its threatened strike. And when two of his ministers resigned in protest against his counter-revolutionary moves, Bhutto melodramatically shouted, "We have literally gone to the edge of the precipice to accommodate labor."

Yet in 1971 when he first gained power, and called the first press conference that, December, that same Bhutto, as demagogically, declared an end to the rule of the "22 families" whom he further designated as "robber barons" who would be dislodged by his "nationalization." He did nationalize 33 basic industries. Far from dislodging the feudalistic landlords or the bloated industrialists, however, another group of bureaucratic managers were added to those exploiting the masses. Also, the military got extra aid from super-revolutionary China so as to assure the many divisions in Asia. Finally, East Pakistan (now the independent Bangladesh) was kept out of the UN by China's veto power.

Now, as December 1972 rolls to an end, Bhutto, himself a rich Sindhi landowner as well as Mao's collaborator, has struck out against labor and has promised to go no further in nationalization "for the next 5 years." No wonder that symbol of all those Pakistan reactionaries who had sponsored the genocidal war against Bangladesh—Ahmad Daywod—has recently declared: "We are very happy with the labor situation. Things are not bad at all."

Mao's cynical opportunism, which kept propping up the reactionary militaristic Pakistan in its genocidal war against the East Pakistani struggle for self-determination, is now busy red-washing Bhutto's anti-labor moves and religious chauvinism. The latter is all that is left of Bhutto's electoral slogan, "Socialism is our economy, democracy is our policy, Islam is our religion." Now, just as Mao's effusive friendship for the old Pakistan could not stop the mass movement for independence that became Bangladesh, so his support for the "new" Pakistan will not forever keep the native class struggle from undermining it.

Poland

The two years since the "December events"—strikes and demonstrations—have not been very smooth. So one can judge from the state of the nation address of Communist Party leader Edward Gierek to a long-awaited trade union congress in Warsaw. Gierek spoke against "demagogues" who he said acted "against the national interest" in provoking industrial incidents in the past two years. In the Gdansk-Gdynia area, where the "December events" began, a dispute over loading a shipment of potatoes took the intervention of leading state officials to end.

Unjustified absenteeism, poor discipline on the job and time-wasting procedures were mentioned by Gierek as problems faced. They are no doubt a measure of the Polish workers' resistance.

Bolivia

Striking textile workers won the release of 18 arrested workers and a promise of wage negotiations in the capital city of La Paz. The workers had barricaded themselves inside factories in La Paz as part of a 24-hour walkout. The walkout was called to protest recent austerity measures, including a 67 percent devaluation of the peso. The work-

ers were demanding wage increases to compensate for the devaluation.

The government declared a state of siege, saying that labor unions had been penetrated by subversive elements, ordered troops, tanks and police to surround the textile factory. They prohibited demonstrations and political gatherings in Bolivian cities and towns. After workers were arrested, the wives threatened a hunger strike as long as the men remained under arrest.

Argentina

Relations between former strong-man Peron and the present strong-arm military leaders of Argentina appear at an impasse. The military is unwilling at present to change the residency requirements which make Peron ineligible to run. The fact that Peron has as much support as he does indicates the failure of the present regime to solve any of the fundamental problems in Argentina.

But Peron doesn't, either in his past practice or in his present outlook, offer anything different. The economic policy under Peron will not move in a socialist direction. Under Peron, the internal security organization that oppresses any opposition would remain intact, even if its orientation was changed slightly. The faces change but the system remains.

Death in Japanese mines

At the Ishikori mine as well as many others in central Hokkaido, the mine owners are providing for the social security of older miners, but at a price—their lives. The Ishikori mine has been closed by an explosion killing many men, most of them middle aged and older.

Most of Japan's coal mines are uneconomical and cannot compete with imported coal. In order to try and compete, the mine owners have pushed production and cut corners, including safety. The younger miners are getting out of the mines. Employment has dropped in the last 11 years from 243,000 to 49,000. The number of mines has decreased from 693 to 87. The total production is down from 52 million tons to 31 million tons.

But those that are left—the older workers (the average age has gone from 36 to 41, and was 48 at the Ishikori mine)—have been facing tremendous productivity pushes and decreased safety. In 10 years the Japanese miners' productivity has risen from 18 tons per man month to 61 tons per man month. But the accident rate has climbed from 676 per million man days to 817 per million man days.

The Ishikori mine which was closed by a methane explosion killing many men, had had ten accidents killing 2 men in the year prior to the latest massive explosion. Whose social security is being provided for? The companies' or the men's?

Peter Brennan: Nixon's hatchet-man to discipline labor

by Felix Martin

Nixon has just paid blue-collar workers what he felt he owed us, in the form of Peter J. Brennan as Secretary of Labor. How do we take this? Will he be for labor or try to rule us with hard hat and fists?

Of all the enemies the laboring people have, war is supposed to be the worst and here we are "given" as our representative a man who supports war, Nixon and big business. How can he also represent the working people?

If we have a two-party system, this man is in the wrong party if he is supposed to represent labor. This man supported Nixon when all labor supported Humphrey. When he is asked to go against organized labor, what do you think Peter Brennan will do? Say "go to hell" or go along with Nixon selling labor down the river, like always?

Meany thinks Brennan's appointment was great. Now he can carry out the plans that they have wanted to do themselves, and become their goat if things go wrong. Remember what Meany and Woodcock said against the Nixon Administration when they walked off the pay board? Yet Meany by sitting on his hands, and Woodcock by not exposing the racism in the ranks of the UAW, both helped Nixon's reelection.

Is Brennan's appointment political or is it to further split the already divided labor movement? I believe it's a combination of both. Nixon is out to destroy organized labor. We must stick together and not let this happen. Only by splitting labor and pitting factions against each other can we be dominated.

Now it seems that the leadership of organized labor is made up of its conservative wing. We call them opportunists. They either sell themselves to the corporation for a few extra pieces of silver or make their way into the leadership of the international union. Either way they go, they are the real enemies of labor. Today they are joining with the government against us.

We are at present making trade deals with Russia. Will we find ourselves in direct competition with Russian

workers? Will our political and labor leaders try and impose control over our labor unions so that we can "compete"? What will happen to the right to strike and to organize?

I see this appointment to the Secretary of Labor by Mr. Nixon as a further move to control us. Mr. Nixon built his political career all the way to President of the United States by being against what labor stands for and calling any who opposed him "Communists."

WORKER'S JOURNAL

(Continued from Page 1)

production line is dominating the living human being, the auto worker. All of those UAW officials, from Woodcock on down, say that working conditions are the worst at GM of all the auto plants.

I have seen three articles in the Wall Street Journal entitled "The Blue Collar Blues". The articles are about production workers, mainly in auto plants, and the grievances they have. It seems that these writers have just become concerned about conditions in the plants since the Lordstown GM shutdown.

But this inhuman slavery to the automation machines was introduced some 15 years ago, with the blessing of our labor leaders, who said that it meant "progress." Workers began yelling about automation then, but it is only now that the writers have heard. In the past year workers have generated so much pressure on the companies and on the UAW by walking off the job that they have gotten national attention. Even so, nothing is being solved, because any solution must start with production relations.

The basic cause of the rat-race in production is the agreement through the contract that our UAW leaders have made with management. Gerstenberg is yelling about the wages of production workers and the fringe benefits they get. This is just like when labor leaders would yell, "look what you are getting out of the contract, high wages and fringe benefits." But they never

The only people in the ranks of labor that Mr. Nixon likes are the sellouts of labor.

Perhaps most important is that Brennan has fought against minorities entering into the construction industry in large numbers. He will perpetuate the racism that is dividing the labor movement. White workers like myself have to realize that an attack on Black workers is an attack on ourselves. Brennan does not represent any of us.

would tell workers that they had also agreed that the machines and the lines would be speeded up to cover the pay raises, and then speeded up some more for more profits. What other way could those auto barons boast about their profits being hundreds of millions of dollars higher every year?

Gerstenberg also made a lot of noise about retirement at \$500 per month after 30 years. This was also a deal between the union and management. There are not many young workers today who will live 30 years in those auto plants at the rate of speed the lines are traveling.

This is why the company and the union began to agree to early retirement when automation was introduced. They knew those older workers would not be able to keep up the pace. And for many, the bait seemed too good to refuse; and many older workers left the plant.

These are the conditions all workers in the auto shops face. This is why I was so interested in what the workers at Local 216 were doing with their leaflets, which aroused the anger of their committeeman.

The workers at that GM plant in California are fighting for every auto worker in America. They are raising the same questions that workers are raising in GM plants in Michigan or New York: control of our own lives in the plant. The malicious attacks by the union leaders of Local 216 will not stop these workers until something positive is done at the point of production.