Civil rights leaders say: 'No draft!'

By Osborne Hart and August Nimtz

Black and student leaders are urging a gigantic turnout for the March 22 national demonstration against registration and the draft in Washington, D.C. Significant support has also come from unionists and from the antinuclear and women's rights movements.

Teach-ins and rallies to build support for the demonstration are going on throughout the country. In the past week, antidraft gatherings of 3,000 in New York, 800 in Washington, and 400 in Denver helped promote the national mobilization.

Bus ticket sales are moving into high gear. Tens of thousands of leaflets and posters are out.

On the West Coast, March 22 antidraft actions are set for Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego.

Significantly, some of the strongest support for March 22 has been voiced by Black leaders.

U.S. Rep. Parren Mitchell from Baltimore recorded a message to be played on radio stations in the Washington-Baltimore area in the final days before March 22.

"My name is Parren Mitchell," the recording says, "and I would suggest to all Black Americans that we rally in Washington on March 22. You don't solve Black unemployment by drafting Black youngsters. You don't solve Black ills in economics by rattling sabers and by armaments."

"The only way we can stop the power of the military-industrial combine is to show our bodies."

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Women, the draft, & U.S. military

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IRAN

Auto workers leader speaks out

—PAGE 7

OCAW strikers stand up to oil company greed

Los Angeles solidarity march. Sentiment is growing for more such actions. See pages 3-4.
To break Big Oil's stranglehold...

The American people face an inflation emergency, and energy is at the heart of it. Energy prices rose a staggering 7.5 percent in February alone. That's an annual rate of 90 percent, without compounding.

Energy accounted for more than half the 1.5 percent increase in producer (wholesale) prices for February.

Carter and his advisers have been sending up trial balloons for a major policy statement promised soon on the inflation crisis. According to published reports, the centerpiece of Carter's plan is to balance the federal budget through . . . higher energy prices.

Specifically, the administration is said to be weighing a $10 billion tax on oil imports. This would work out to at least another ten cents a gallon on gasoline.

The tax comes on top of Carter's earlier decontrol of domestic crude oil prices, which will cost consumers some $1 trillion (yes, $1 trillion) over the next decade.

The other part of Carter's "anti-inflation" plan is federal budget cutbacks. The Wall Street Journal reported the latest list: $2.3 billion from jobs programs, $2.2 billion from revenue-sharing, $500 million from abandoning Saturday mail service, $400 million from abandon­

ning if not much else. This year's "bullet."

"We're trying to do in this country what the Pentagon will have plenty of victims of the energy monopoly's profit grab."

"That's an annual rate of 90 percent, without compounding."

The real meaning of the Carter administration's proclamation on Ford was made clear by a council decision the same day okaying Chrysler's revised contract with the UAW. Under the guise of "bailing out" the ailing corporation, Chrysler workers have been saddled with an agreement that robs them of up to $643 million in wages and benefits.

We warned when scheme was first proposed that it wouldn't stop with Chrysler workers. If the employers could get away with it once, they would try it again and again. Is Ford next? It too is pleading poverty and threatening to close plants.

It's time for labor to draw the line. No more Chryslers!

Help get out the truth

Carter and all the capitalist politicians competing for his job are covering up the real causes of unemployment, soaring prices, and cutbacks in social services.

And the big-business news media are trying to fill our eyes and ears with lies about Iran, Vietnam, and Kampuchea (Cambodia).

When they're not lying, they build up a wall of silence like the one around the Nicaraguan revolution.

That's why the ten-week circulation campaign that supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are beginn­

ing this week for "Militant and Perspec­

tiva Mundial" is so important.

Week after week, we tell the truth, providing information you will find nowhere else. We defend the interests of working people and all the oppressed—in this country and around the world.

"Militant and Perspectiva Mundial" are also campaign newspapers for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann. Their campaign fights to build a working-class alternative to the reactionary policies and empty rhetoric of the Republican and Democratic contenders.

We urge all our readers to join this effort to get out the truth. Contact the SWP or YSA nearest you—a list is on page 23. Or write to the Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

Hands off Nicaragua!

Thousands of Nicaraguan workers and students demonstrated March 6 against U.S. government freeze of loan to their country. Page 8.

Fire fighters return victorious

Chicago fire fighters ended a twenty-three-day strike, dealing major setback to Mayor Byrne's union-busting drive. Page 11.

Auto jobs & imports

Auto workers speak out against attempts to blame imports for unemployment, pitting U.S. workers against their brothers and sisters in other lands and letting profit-hungry U.S. companies off the hook. Pages 12-13.

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23 11 Chicago fire fighters end a twenty-three-day strike, dealing major setback to Mayor Byrne's union-busting drive. Page 11.
Solidarity deepens for striking oil workers

By Walter Lippmann

LOS ANGELES—Following meetings between the area's local 1-5 in Martinez, California, next week, which included several oil companies that will distribute leaflets at Bay Area plant gates, rail yards, docks, and campuses to seek support for their strike.

By Jim Garrison

The OCAW Daily Strike Express is scheduled to roll out of Martinez, California, next week, carrying with it a message of solidarity to striking workers on tugboats that will refuse to derecognition from the California Labor Law movement, including the heads of the major Bay Area Labor Councils and the various coalition groups fighting for a living wage, medical benefits, and decent working conditions.

The coalition has broad endorsement from the California labor movement, including the heads of the five major Bay Area Labor Councils and the various coalition groups fighting for a living wage, medical benefits, and decent working conditions.

The coalition is helping to organize a solidarity rally March 22, at which speakers will include Robert Goss, international president of OCAW, and James Herman, international president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Dangers to health, safety posed by Big Oil scabs

By Jim Garrison

A Shell refinery is always a hazardous place to work. Even with highly-skilled union workers on the job, the danger of injury and death from explosions and poisonous gases is a constant threat to both the workers and the community they work in.

But today that danger is vastly increased by the oil companies' policy of using untrained non-union personnel as strikebreakers to maintain production during the current OCAW strike.

In a drive to maintain their huge profits, Big Oil is using supervisors, engineers, secretaries, and many others unfamiliar with the refinery and its hazards.

To date, this policy has claimed the lives of at least two strikers—two contract workers caught in an explosion when an oil recovery tank at the Amoco Refinery in Texas City, Texas, February 13.

The tank ignited from the fumes of a sulfane production unit. Because the danger was not spotted in time, the explosion was catastrophic, killing the two workers.

With the union out of the refinery, critical health and safety measures are ignored at will. In violation of union contract and federal law, Amoco has been blocking an investigation of the deaths by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration accompanied by the union-designated safety representative.

Just five days after the accident, the pro-company Times-Picayune of New Orleans published a story from this same Texas City refinery under the title "Big Oil scabs live it up; strikers scrimp".

The story reported that the company's policy of using untrained non-union personnel as strikebreakers to maintain production during the current OCAW strike.

The company stonewall. The oil workers' fight for health and safety for OCAW, pointed out a recent union-sponsored forum, "During this strike, the health risks—corporate satisfaction in keeping oil production high without any new workers."

"When you have real hardship conditions and the adrenaline is high, people can really work," one company officer said, adding that it is always the same Texas City refinery where the explosion occurred.

"Of course, nobody is a prisoner and many do go home after work, but many do sleep in the plants too.

Supervisors who are paid a salary instead of an hourly wage have their income converted to an hourly rate and then get regular overtime for all hours worked over 40 a week.

This means they get 32 hours of overtime pay a week, which amounts to a substantial sum and a "real incentive to keep working," said one company executive.

The strikers are living on their savings, plus $20 a week they get from the union in strike benefits.
Socialist auto worker runs for Calif. Senator

By Arlene Rubenstein

SAN FRANCISCO—Socialist Workers Party presidential standard-bearer Andre Johnson joined in launching the candidacy of George Johnson for U.S. Senator at a March 1 rally here.

Rallying several days of campaigning in the Bay Area, Pulley and Johnson also spoke to thousands at plant gates, at support meetings for striking oil workers, and at campus gatherings.

"I'm running for the first time from 176 people. They heard Jake Jacobs, head of striking Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in Martinez, and Fernando Guerrero, a member of the negotiating committee of OCAW Local 1-128 in Livermore. The oil strike leaders were greeted by the audience with chants of "On strike, shut it down!""

Among the groups attending the rally were oil, auto, steel, and rail workers, members of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and others. More than $3,700 was raised in a spirited collection.

Johnson opened his speech by bailing the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution. He reconjured them from a one-week fact-finding tour of Nicaragua. "From the Nicaraguan campaign that I am running for president, I talked with two weeks ago, I bring you revolutionary greetings from Nicaragua!"

"As you might have guessed, compu means means compu, and you hear that word everywhere in Nicaragua. I think you see compu everywhere in Nicaragua. We're going to have to fight to have our democratic rights, and our ability to express our thanks for the help we need but ask, and in most cases we don't even have to ask. SWP was there when we needed help, as you are now."

Johnson's campaign calls for cutting the "work week with no reduction in take-home pay and a massive program to build schools, hospitals, clinics, and low-cost housing to provide jobs for everyone."

Johnson dissected the programs of his Democratic and Republican opponents for the senate seat. Of the Republican contender is Paul Gann, co-author of Proposition 13, which has resulted in cutbacks in social services throughout the state.

Rallying the masses of workers and peasants in the revolution in the coming months as the masses of workers and peasants, led by the Sandinista government, mobilize against sabotage by Washington and the remaining Nicaragua capitalists and mercenaries.

He urged the audience to redouble efforts to defeat the revolution against attack and to demand the material aid that Nicaragua desperately needs.

Jobs crisis

"Here in California," Johnson continued, "there are not so many people who are calling themselves compu. But more and more will change as the employers try to resolve their crises by driving against our living standards, our democratic rights, and our ability to survive on this planet."

Johnson, a laid-off member of the United Auto Workers Local 1364 at the Anaheim Motors plant, continued: "Like me, like the United Auto Workers Local 1364 at the 1-670 Pico Rivera auto workers who fell seventy feet from an I-beam at the Kaiser cardboard mill in Cupertino. There were no safety rails or nets and the workers had been complaining about the unsafe conditions for months. Until the accident, this company would have been exempt from OSHA inspection under Cranston's bill."

"You know, four steelworkers are killed each month in basic steel accidents. Does it sound to you as if safety requirements in industry should be weakened? Hardly, but that's because you're workers. Cranston writes bills for the employers, not us.

Johnson cited signs that working people are looking for alternatives to the Republicans and Democrats. "In the antiwar movement. We were on the march of more than 4,000 people on March 8. Right, George Johnson campaigns at an anti-nuclear-power demonstration in Livermore."

"In particular," he added, "I think that every antidraft, anti-militarization effort, and consumers protest should have a representative of the oil workers to speak. Because the oil workers are in the front line of resistance to the sacred sacrificial war. They have to be heard in that political fight, to reverse the present situation in which we pay while the rich benefit."

After the rally, a former auto work

Oil workers' leader to SWP: 'I defend your ballot rights'

Jake Jacobs is secretary-treasurer of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in Martinez, California. Following his succeesful personal campaigns he gave to the March 1 campaign rally.

"I've been waiting for an opportunity to express my thanks for the support you have given to our campaign. I have not rendered the oil workers union in the past as well as now, and the assistant editor of this paper that I have been rendered as in the future by the Socialist Workers Party.

"Let's always know that if we need help we need ask, and in most cases we don't even have to ask. My association with the SWP goes back quite a few years, to the time of the oil strike against the mighty Standard Oil Company in 1969, one of the bitterest strikes I've ever been involved in. The workers were in trouble as we are now once again. The SWP was there when we needed help as you are now."

"I personally recognize that you have fought for most of the great social issues in this and other countries. I am not a member of the SWP, but I will defend your right to a ballot on the California ballot."

"The socialist candidate pointed to the March 1 rally that many workers "are calling themselves Socialists."

Johnson dissected the programs of his Democratic and Republican opponents for the Senate seat. Of the Republican contender is Paul Gann, co-author of Proposition 13, which has resulted in cutbacks in social services throughout the state.

"But the rich aren't being taxed," Johnson answered. "Working people pay more through the sales tax and other unfair taxes, while the rich get breaks like Proposition 13 and often don't pay taxes at all."

Cranston's record

"I've always known that if we need help we need ask, and in most cases we don't even have to ask. SWP was there when we needed help, as you are now."

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After the rally, a former auto work

from Flint, Michigan, volunteered to help build support for Pulley's and Johnson's campaign. "This is the party where I belong," she said.

Ballot drive

In an interview the next day, John­son told the Militant about the Social­ist Workers Party's ambitious plans for getting on the ballot in California. It's a big job. We'll have to get 100,000 signatures. Pulley and Zimmermann on the ballot and 100,000 more for me to be on the ballot against Gann and Cranston," he said.

"We'll need all the help we can get. But we'll be using the petitioning, too, to spread the word about the campaign and get new supporters."

Johnson welcomed a state court of appeals ruling that independent candi­dates can choose a party label, but it put it on the November ballot. In the past all parties that had to petition for a place on the ballot had to appear under the heading "independent" and were not allowed to use a party designation.

Petitioning to place the socialist alternative on the California ballot is to begin June 7. Johnson urged every­one interested in helping to contact the Socialist Workers campaign office in your area.

Pulley: Oil strike is fight for all

LOS ANGELES—"The Socialist Workers Party stands on the side of the OCAW strikers," said Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for presi­dent, at his March 4-7 campaign tour here.

Pulley met with members and leaders of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-129, who told him of the area-wide solidarity march of more than 4,000 people on March 1.

"We need more events like the Labor Solidarity March," Pulley said afterwards. "And we should extend that solidarity to include Blacks, Latinos, women, youth. Everyone who is under attack by the government's austerity and militarization drive should back the oil workers."

"In particular," he added, "I think that every antidraft, antiscience, antinuclear, and consumer protest should have a representative of the oil workers to speak. Because the oil workers are in the front line of resistance to the sacred sacrificial war. They have to be heard in that political fight, to reverse the present situation in which we pay while the rich benefit."

After the rally, a former auto work
The March 22 national demonstration, D.C., will assemble on the Ellipse at 12 p.m. The march begins at 12:30 p.m. and will proceed past the White House to the Capitol at 2 p.m. For more information contact Mobilization Against the Draft:

In Washington (202) 234-6883 or 234-0620.
In New York City (212) 260-2002.
In San Francisco (415) 731-9378.

Corporation led by leaders who are all too ready to turn away from the real problems that face our nation—inequality, unemployment, racism, and the energy crisis,” Mason said.

We know how powerful financial interests are in shaping political policies and priorities. I am absolutely convinced that a push for the draft is a direct threat to the American people which the people do not want. It serves not your and my interests, not the people’s interests but the interests of the U.S. military and the multinational corporations.

Once again our people’s real interests are at stake, especially in our national budget, because our resources will be gobbled up in a hungry defense machine.

“We know that this registration, the draft, and war are all closely related to profits. All of this killing is so that some people can get rich. I’m totally opposed to the registration and the draft.”

As for March 22, Mason said, “We’re organizing very hard to get as many people as possible—Blacks, browns, whites, and all people—to participate.

One of the first Black leaders to speak out in support of March 22 was U.S. Rep. Ronald Dellums of California. In a statement last month he declared, “I am appalled at the proposal to make a new generation of young Americans hostage to the participation in a confrontation with the Soviet Union.

“The March on Washington is a constructive first step in the struggle to determine your own destiny and not to have it determined for you by whose professional comfort for human rights is in direct contradiction to their political actions.”

Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, also endorses the March 22 demonstration. His address is scheduled for the march.

Andi Pulley, the Black steelworker who is Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, is urging participation in the march on Washington as he campaigns across the country. Campuses have been the main organizing centers for the antidraft movement. The United States Student Association and its president, Frank Jackalone, helped initiate the March 22 demonstration and have spread the word to hundreds of student governments.

Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) chapters are also organizing on high school and college campuses throughout the country. Mobilization for Survival and other anti-nuclear groups have been deeply involved in the beginning, along with such traditional peace groups as SANE, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Among the political organizations participating in the national protest are the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, Communist Party, Young Workers Liberation League, Libertarian Party, American Action, and War Resisters League.


Union support

Union support for March 22, while still modest, is a significant indication of the new potential for labor involvement in the antidraft movement. District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is sending buses to Washington. Its director, Victor Gotbaum, is scheduled to speak. District 63, United Auto Workers, is also backing the action.

West Coast antidraft protests have drawn broader labor participation.

You can count on the continued support of the Machinists, whose national campaign to stop the draft,” was the message from Raymond Gabel, directing business representative of District 115, International Association of Machinists, to a March 6 news conference announcing plans for a San Francisco march and rally on March 22.

Gabel noted that the draft sweeps up “mainly the poor and disadvantaged.”

The California Federation of Machinists, representing 150,000 IAM members, had been planning a convention, but at the last minute, the union’s national house of delegates voted to drop the convention, and moved to build a national demonstration for March 22.

NOW backs protest

Andrew Pulley, a founder of the San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women, told the San Francisco News Conference, "NOW is opposed to compulsory draft. The draft is a return to the racist and sexist discrimination of the past. It is against the draft for women and men."

In California a March 7 news conference that included Milton Miron, local president of the California Postal Workers Union; Karen Watts, branch director of California at Berkeley student body president; and Randall Stalling, Unitarian Christian.

The San Diego Coalition Against Registration and the Draft plans a March 17 rally in San Diego to spark that city’s March 22 demonstration. A letter sent to unionists urging their involvement was signed by Doug Dunter, Machinists Local 2215; Larry Schwartz, American Federation of Teachers; William Foster, California Federation of Teachers; and Carolyn Ferrar, Communications Workers of America Local 11059. The executive board of CWA Local 11059 recently passed a resolution against the draft.

Local chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) are also supporting the antidraft protest. Sixty students representing campuses in the UC system met March 8 and endorsed the March 22 actions in the three California cities.

In Denver, nearly 400 people rallied at the federal building March 8 to oppose the registration. "We’re not going to fight for the oil companies’ profits" was the overriding theme.

Jan Bell, representing Service Employees International Union Local 105, told the crowd, "Carter says we have to protect our oil interests in the Middle East and Afghanistan—it’s not our oil, it has never been."

Ernesto Vigil, Crusade for Justice; Frank Black Elk, American Indian Movement; James Hearn, National Nurses United; and Sylvia Zapata, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, also spoke.

More than 1,000 people attended an all-day antidraft teach-in at New York University March 10. Among the speakers at the evening rally were Kevin Lynch, UAW District 65; Herman Montoya, El Salvador Solidarity Committee; Michael Harrington, Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee; and NVU President. Other building activities for March 22 were reported in Washington, Baltimore, Newark, New Jersey; Detroit, and Boston.

Additional March 22 protests are slated in Minneapolis, New Orleans, San Antonio, and Kansas City, Missouri.
**Return of shah is only just solution**

Iran masses defend embassy occupation

By Fred Feldman

On March 10, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini threw his authority behind the following the Imam's Line (the youth occupying the U.S. Embassy) and the thousands of Iranians who have gathered daily outside the embassy to support them. The students, citing "intolerable pressures," declared themselves ready to turn the hostages over to Iran's Revolutionary Council which was demanding that they allow the United Nations commission of inquiry to visit the embassy.

The students feared such a visit would legitimize Carter's claim that the hostage situation was "Washington's "grievances" against Iran as well as the crimes of the shah.

The Carter administration was determined to keep working people stopped in to make their views known. Demonstrators called for no compromise on the demand that the hostages be returned only when the shah is turned over to Iran. They opposed any concessions to Washington over the role of the UN commission.

According to the March 11 New York Times, "Several groups, including construction workers, gathered in front of the U.S. embassy and demanded that they be allowed to strike if the hostages were freed."

Khomeini's statement declared that the hostages should remain in the students' custody, and that the UN commission should be allowed to visit all the embassy personnel as soon as it issues its report on the shah's crimes. He added that the commission could include representatives from the Islamic regime, and the UN should report issues of Washington's role in the shah's crimes.

Later on March 10, the Revolutionary Council endorsed Khomeini's position. Telegrams followed on the following day without completing its investigation.

A letter began: "John Kifher in March 12 New York Times tended to confirm the students' view that the United States was trying to advance Carter's goals and not justice for Iran.

"To the Iranian revolutionaries," wrote Kifher, "the purpose of the commission was to carry out a serious investigation of the shah's crimes."

But Carter and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali saw the commission simply as a gimmick to get the hostages released, Kifher explained.

"There was little pretense that the United States was suddenly moved by either curiosity or outrage at the prospect that the shah might not have been a benevolent ruler after all."

The New York Times confirmed that, in the eyes of virtually every human right, the people of Iran were the only real justice in the hostage crisis.

Carter not only continued to protect the royal butcher, but told journalists on March 10 that he still won't consider a simple making for Washington. A whole new team of government officials confirmed that, in the eyes of virtually every human right, the people of Iran were the only justice in the hostage crisis.

Carter not only continues to protect the royal butcher, he told interviewers on March 3 that he still won't consider a simple making for Washington. A whole new team of government officials confirmed that, in the eyes of virtually every human right, the people of Iran were the only justice in the hostage crisis.

"The Carter administration," wrote Kifher, "continued in a similar vein. Carter administration officials continued to hold the U.S. embassy as a symbol of the Moslem"s "madness.""

They expected that the Pakistani military dictatorship would welcome the chance to forge open military ties with Washington against Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Iran, it was hoped, would now see Soviet troops in Afghanistan as its real enemy, and would hasten to support the Carter administration. A brutal ruler facing growing opposition, the Carter administration is the only justice in the hostage crisis.

The big capitalist powers of Western Europe and Japan would forget their differences and unite with Washington against Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Moscow and military moves to bar new Iranians and Afghans.

This new spirit of unity behind Washington was to be symbolized by the boycott of the Moscow summer Olympics by an outraged world.

Many observers were surprised to mark the end of the "Vietnam Syndrome" in the United States—the term the government and media use for our opposition to foreign wars. As a kind of "Stemped into pariah fervor, American working people would support big increases in arms spending, accept the reinstatement of the draft, and go along with economic sacrifices to meet the "Russian threat."

When bodies like the United Nations and the governments of most Islamic nations issued condemnations of the Soviet Union, and when Congress clamored for the return of the hostages as a symbol of the Carter administration. After a "serious investigation," many observers thought the American rulers were making headway. The fact that those bodies were not reported as good for the oppressed people or the oppressed of the world was overlooked.

But when it came to moving from tough talk to action, Carter's plans ran into a stubborn obstacle—the antiwar sentiments of working people in the United States and Europe, and the anti-imperialist struggles worldwide around the globe. His moves to reassure Washington's domination, and to isolate Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, are coming a cropper.

On March 6, the Pakistani military dictatorship of Zia-ul-Haq announced rejection of a $400 million arms and economic aid package offered by the Carter administration. As the Soviet Union foreign minister, Zia, who is growing increasingly more independent of the U.S., Zia decided that open ties with Washington are the kiss of death.

Zia had earlier dismissed the offer as "peanuts," but more that: the size of the bundle was involved. As Zia, U.S. official said, "It seems that the government in Islamabad concluded that the political costs of relying on us were as outweighing the economic and military benefits."

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Zia warned to interfere with many Pakistanis that Soviet troops in Afghanistan were a threat to their interests. While the U.S. embassy in Islamabad was burned to the ground in anti-American demonstrations, no protest actions have been reported against the Soviet Union. And many among the oppressed Pakistani and Afghan minority groups in Pakistan are attracted to the gains that have been won by national minorities and other working people in Afghanistan.

To the growing frustration of the Carter administration, horror stories about Afghanistan haven't made the Iranian revolution go away either.

In Monroe, Louisiana, Hoveyda's visit provided a glimpse of the kind of political cooperation that would be necessary to bridge the gap between the U.S. and Iran. Meanwhile, Iranian students were still on strike in Tehran.

The appeal has been signed by prominent individuals who have indicated their support to the Iranian Revolution. Among the U.S. government's threats against it are the suppression of free speech, the arrest of hundreds of citizens, and the participation of U.S. war workers in the conflict.

**HKE prisoners**

Supporters of the Iranian revolution are circulating an appeal for release of two women prisoners in Iran, Mahie Hashemi and Fatima Fakhr, members of the Iranian Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) and long-time activists in the fight against repression. The two women are being held in Evin Prison in Tehran.

By Fred Feldman

"The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan changes everything." U.S. officials and news media crowed during his reign. But Carter and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali saw the commission simply as a gimmick to get the hostages released, Kifher explained.

"There was little pretense that the United States was suddenly moved by either curiosity or outrage at the prospect that the shah might not have been a benevolent ruler after all."

The New York Times confirmed that, in the eyes of virtually every human right, the people of Iran were the only justice in the hostage crisis.

Carter not only continues to protect the royal butcher, but told interviewers on March 3 that he still won't consider a simple making for Washington. A whole new team of government officials confirmed that, in the eyes of virtually every human right, the people of Iran were the only justice in the hostage crisis.

"We must first distinguish between the Afghan groups attached to the U.S. and to Pakistan and those really fighting for the independence of their country, these being the only ones we would like to support. The task is not easy and takes time," Washington's European ambassador and special envoy reported on March 7 New York Times that "during Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's mission to Western Europe last month, allied leaders were unwilling to agree to any punitive steps in their relations with Moscow."

The West German and French governments have been particularly recalcitrant, with French President Giscard d'Estaing warning against attempts to draw him into "bloac bloc confrontations" with Moscow.

But concluded that the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan "created a new strain in European-Arabian relations. The West German administration's belief can, however, threaten the foundations of Western solidarity."

The boycott of the Moscow Olympics is also in trouble. Athletes in the United States and around the world have stepped up demands that the games go on as planned. The French and West German governments have yet to endorse Carter's call.

In Australia, the boycott proposal met opposition Continued on page 20

**Did U.S. war drive gain from Afghan events?**

By Fred Feldman

The U.S. war drive in Afghanistan was a threat to their interests. While the U.S. embassy in Islamabad was burned to the ground in anti-American demonstrations, no protest actions have been reported against the Soviet Union. And many among the oppressed Pakistani and Afghan minority groups in Pakistan are attracted to the gains that have been won by national minorities and other working people in Afghanistan.

Hundred of thousands continue to mobilize demonstrations and demonstrations against the U.S. government. But as long as the U.S. government continues to hold the U.S. embassy, its personnel, with the backing of Khomeini's regime, has not been the only ones we would like to support. The task is not easy and takes time," Washington's European ambassador and special envoy reported in the March 7 New York Times that "during Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's mission to Western Europe last month, allied leaders were unwilling to agree to any punitive steps in their relations with Moscow."

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In Australia, the boycott proposal met opposition Continued on page 20
Iran auto worker leader speaks out

By Cindy Jaquith

At the General Motors stamping plant in Tehran there is a display of posters showing U.S. cops beating up American demonstrators.

The American managers regularly reported to SAVAK about "troublemakers." And if you got arrested, you would be tortured and likely killed, as happened to three GM workers who helped lead a strike several years ago.

The meeting was a success, and GM was forced to return. The workers returned and immediately organized a slowdown in all departments. The slowdown was aimed at improving conditions in the plant, which was also part of a wider factory protests calling for the overthrow of the shah.

The relationship of forces was now qualitatively changed inside the plant. Most importantly, the system of terror designed by the American managers and carried out by SAVAK was gone. Before that, the shora leader explained, "SAVAK created such a dictatorship that no one dared say a word."

GM workers also have strong opinions about what kind of vehicles they should produce. Instead of big sedans, the workers want to concentrate on small sedans, the workers want to. The GM workers recognize that they do all the work while the profits went into U.S. pockets," the shora leader told me.

The slow-down was aimed at improving conditions in the plant, which was also part of a wider factory protests calling for the overthrow of the shah.

GM workers are determined that U.S. capitalists will not again dominate their country. They know this is a political, as well as an economic, battle.

What revolution means at GM plant

"Our aim was to move the revolutionary feelings of the workers at GM with the anti-shah movement outside the plant," the shora leader explained. This happened not only at GM, but throughout.

GM contingent at December 23 workers demonstration in Tehran.

Workers in Iran have made important gains since last February. In listing the advances at the plant, the shora leader emphasized that there is still a long way to go. "The working class has suffered for so many years in Iran, I don't think we can overcome everything in just two years," he told me.

Gains won by shora

"Nevertheless, the gains are big ones:

* The shah's company union has been dissolved, replaced by auto workers in other Tehran plants, as well as in the cities of Arak and Tabriz, to collaborate on finding the parts needed.
* The shah's company isn't any longer, the American-owned shares have been nationalized. The shah's company was sold, worth 80% of its 45 percent.

We owe U.S. nothing"

"They don't own anything here, not because we've taken it away, but because they owe us so much," he explained.

GM didn't invest its own money in the plant, he pointed out, "it was the money of our people that they used to start up the plant. They made huge profits by exploiting the workers, and then sold their products high."

GM workers are determined that U.S. capitalists will not again dominate their country. They know this is a political, as well as an economic, battle.

That's why outside the plant a banner hangs - "We appeal to the workers of the world: We appeal for the overthrow of the colonial system headed by U.S. imperialism."

American auto workers, and all U.S. working people, have earned a great deal from our sisters and brothers in Iran. We owe them our solidarity in return.

The shora committees were set up to organize management, production, finances, raw materials and imports, waste control, and sports. A five-person executive committee was also established, and shora representatives were elected to it.

At the General Motors stamping plant in Tehran a lot had changed since the shah's time. A leader of the plant's shora, the factory committee elected by the workers, told me how the changes came about.

"That's why outside the plant a banner hangs - "We appeal to the workers of the world: We appeal for the overthrow of the colonial system headed by U.S. imperialism."

American auto workers, and all U.S. working people, have earned a great deal from our sisters and brothers in Iran. We owe them our solidarity in return."

THE MILITANT/MARCH 21, 1980
Salvadoran rulers launch new wave of repression

By Fred Murphy

MANAGUA—The U.S.-backed military rulers of neighboring El Salvador have launched a fresh wave of repression and terrorism against the workers and peasants movement.

According to figures released March 11 by the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, ninety-four persons were killed by the repressive forces or by paramilitary right-wing terrorist groups during the preceding week.

Among the victims were Carlos Arias, a leader of the People's Action Front (FAPU), and Rosario Castellano, press secretary of the Democratic National Union (UDN), Castellano's wife, Annette Mabila—a Danish citizen—was also killed.

Following declaration of a state of siege and suspension of constitutional guarantees on March 6, security police carried out raids on the homes and offices of activists in left groups, trade unions, and other popular organizations.

At the same time, right-wing terrorists stepped up their activity, focusing on the campus of the National University, one of the few places in the country where revolutionary organizations have been able to maintain public headquarters and hold meetings.

The government's new attack on the Sandinista forces accompanies a series of desperate maneuvers aimed at diffusing the raising mass movement in the countryside and weakening the opposition politically.

On March 6, the ruling military-civil junta announced the confiscation of some 376 big estates—about 30 percent of all cultivable land in the country—and sent army units to occupy them. The government then gave an order to the peasants and laborers who live and work on the seized estates to hold meetings and organize cooperatives.

In a sermon delivered March 9 at a funeral mass for Castellano and Mabila, Archbishop Oscar Romero condemned the continuing repression and termed the land expropriations "capitalist reforms" that are "taking place through a military occupation of the countryside that at a given moment can generate the return of the wealthy to power."

Despite its demagogic "agrarian reform" and similar moves such as the nationalization of the banking system and the imposition of state controls on foreign trade, the Salvadoran junta is now more isolated than ever.

The only civilian political force that has lent support to the dictatorship is the Christian Democratic Party, three of whose leaders joined the junta when it was formed in early January. On March 4, however, one Christian Democrat, Héctor Duda Hiriart, resigned from the junta and went into exile in Mexico.

When the Christian Democratic leadership met on March 9 to choose a replacement for Duda, a sharp debate broke out and culminated in the expulsion of ten leaders from the party. These figures claim the support of the left, and are reported to be involved in talks with the Revolutionary Coordinating Directorate of the Masses, the opposition block that includes the FAPU, UDN, Revolutionary People's Bloc (BPR), and the February 28 People's League (LP-28).

Round-up of solidarity meetings

A Nicaraguan solidarity meeting in Denver February 23 heard Art Warner of the American Friends Service Committee, attorney Harry Nier, and Socialist Workers Party U.S. senatorial candidate Silvia Zapata.

Two hundred dollars was raised at the Colorado-Florida Solidarity Committee's first public event February 24. Speakers included Baldomar Vásquez, president of the Toledo-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee; Father Robert Scullin, co-coordinator of the solidarity committee, and John Powers, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate who recently made a fact-finding tour of Nicaragua.

Supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution in Toledo are gathering forces to form a chapter of the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People by showing the Network's slide show. Seventy-five students at Bowling Green State University saw the show March 5 at a meeting sponsored by the Campus solidarity committee, the Afro-American Awareness Committee, and a Social Justice Committee, Latino Students, and All African Peoples Revolutionary Party.

Seven people attended a solidarity rally at San Jose City College February 27. Featured speakers were Sandy Hernández and Noel González, representatives of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Several weeks before, 200 had turned out at Santa Clara University to hear Miguel Obando y Bravo, the archbishop of Managua, who was on a brief visit in the United States.

St. Louis dance raises $900 for medical aid

The Greater St. Louis Latin American Solidarity Committee sponsored several activities in support of Nicaragua last month. A dance on February 16 raised $900 to send medical aid. A slide show at St. Louis University on February 13 was cosponsored by the Latin American Studies Department on campus.

The National Town Meeting sponsored a slide showing at Southern Illinois University on February 20. It was attended by Dr. Richard Borchardt, author of a book on Somorza called Guardians of the Dynasty, also spoke at the meeting.

Missouri campus hears Nicaraguan consul

As part of the international week of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people, the Peace Studies Program and the Association of Latin America Students at the University of Missouri in Columbia held a teach-in February 21. Hilda Sequeira, Nicaraguan consul in Washington, D.C., was the featur ed speaker, reports Militant correspondent Antonio Vindell. The impact of the civil war in Nicaragua if estimated in terms of human costs, writes Vindell, is 34,000-40,000 dead, 100,000 wounded, 40,000 orphans, 300,000 homeless, 100,000 per cent unemployed, and 75,000 dependent on food assistance. "Our revolutionary goals were to eradicate illiteracy, poverty and exploitation, and this is what we are going to do," Sequeira told the meeting.

New fund-raising materials

The February/March newsletter of the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People reports several new materials available for fund-raising. These include Literacy Crusade Bonds from Nicaragua ($10 each), literacy crusade T-shirts ($5 to committees, $6 to individuals), a Network poster on the literacy crusade ($6 to committees, $2 to individuals).

For a resources brochure and more information, contact the National Network at 1332 Eighteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 223-2528.
Gov't still refuses to act

Ultratight Cuban terror group exposed

By Gus Horowitz

Articles published recently in two New York City newspapers have shed
new light on the functioning of Omega 7, the Cuban anti-Castro terror
group claiming responsibility for bombing the Cuban Mission to the
United Nations twice in recent months, as well as the Soviet Mission
and the New York City offices of the Soviet Airline Aeroflot.

Omega 7 also claimed responsibility for the murder in Union City, New
Jersey last November 26 of nailbóx José Negrín. Negrín, a 37-year-old Cuban-
American, was a member of the Committee of 75 that negotiated with the
Cuban government to arrange travel by Cubans living here to visit their
families on the island.

The March 3 New York Times car-
ried an article by John Herman in which United States government offi-
cials are said to be giving "highest priority" to the capture of the anti-
Castro terrorists.

FBI officials told the Times that they now regard Omega 7 "as the most
dangerous terrorist organization in the United States." The FBI said, however,
it was experiencing "unusually difficult problems" in penetrating the
organization and gathering the evidence for a conviction.

These assertions were disputed by John Stein in the March 10 Village
Voice, who reported that the federal government claims "are met with con-
siderable skepticism by local and re-
gional officials, who still complain that the Justice Department has failed to
generate a national strike force for the effort."

Stein's article, as well as an earlier article he wrote in New York magazine
(September 10, 1979), is a devastating indictment of the national inaction
and covert encouragement of the terrorists.

Leaders known

"There is little doubt," he reports, "that both local and federal intelli-
gence agencies have known for years who the key Omega 7 figures are." And
he goes on to cite names, dates, and places. Much of the information pro-
vided to him by federal and local police investigators.

In the Times article reports en-
ough of this information to discredit the government's claim that it cannot
dig up the evidence.

The associates of Huber Matos

Revelations about Omega 7 and other anti-Castro terrorist activity have unearnt information about the
associates of Huber Matos, who was recently released after serving twenty
years in prison in Cuba for counterrevolutionary activity. Ma-
tos was portrayed in the mass media in the U.S. as a heroic fig-
u.re.

Manuel Santana, who provided the bodyguards for Matos when he
came to the New York area in 1975, was said in one of a series of Cuba-
related "Foreign Relations" for Abdala, one of the key groups linked to Omega 7.

José Dionisio Sudrez, who was associated with Matos in Cuba, be-
came a member of the Cuban Nationalist Movement here, Sudrez is also
said to have been a member of the Cuban Nationalist Movement (CNM), which maintains
public offices in Union City, New Jer-
sey.

The current leader of the CNM, and the reputed head of Omega 7, is Ar-
mando Santana, who served two years in jail for an attempted bombing in
1974. Santana assumed leadership of the CNM after the former leaders,
Guillermo and Ignacio Novo, were convicted in connection with the murder of Orlando Letelier.

Also linked to Omega 7 is Abdala, a youth group with headquarters on
Twenty-ninth Street in New York, and a chapter at Rutgers University in
New Jersey.

Important in the Miami area is Bri-
gade 2506, originally composed of ex-
iles who took part in the CIA-organ-
ized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

The New York Times article points to
"extortion of Cuban businessmen" as one source of funds for the terrorist
organization. Stein reports that Robert Carballo, until recently the head of Bri-
gade 2506, "is also said by Dade County police officers to be on a per-
sonal retainer to [ousted Nicaraguan dictator] Anastasio Somoza, now in exile in Paraguay."

Union City connection

A connection also exists with offi-
cials of the Union City government, which in the past eighteen months spent $30,000 in city funds for advertis-
ing in Cuban counterrevolutionary papers, including $6,000 to Gwerve, the
paper of Brigade 2506.

Julia Valdivia, who is officially an aide to Mayor William Muño, but who
is generally conceded to be the real power in the city, is a CNM sympa-
thizer.

"I don't see any violence to worry
about," she said, in reference to Omega 7 bombings in Union City.

She describes Guillermo Novo, who was convicted in the Letelier murder, as "a friend", and she appeared at
rallies in his defense. "He believed in what he was doing, and I respected what he did," she said.

Why no arrests?

In view of the public knowledge of the groups and individuals linked to
Omega 7 and the additional informa-
tion supplied to the Times and Voice

Two murder suspects linked to Omega 7

Arthur Nehrahez, special agent in charge of the Miami FBI office, said on March 5 that an assassina-
tion plot by anti-Cuban Cubans was thwarted when two of the would-be assassins were arrested in connection with an unrelated "vio-

lent act."

He gave no specifics, but Miami Herald reporters Dan Williams and John Finucane disclosed March 6 that the "violent act" was the murder of an 18-year-old youth in an argument over a parking space.

The two individuals charged in connection with the murder are Mario Tauler of Westbury, New York, who is accused of firing the gun; and Carlos Domincis, a den-
tist from the Union City, New Jersey area, who, according to witness, told Tauler to "shoot 'em, shoot 'em, shoot 'em."

Domincis is reputed to be a leader of Omega 7, while Tauler, who was recently released from jail in Cuba, was acting as Dominici's bodyguard.

The intended victim of the assassi-
nation plot is Bernardo Benes, a banker, associated with the Com-
mittee of 75. Benes was recently slandered by Hialeah minister Manuel Espinosa, who accused him of being a Cuban agent.

Authorities indicated that Benes' life is still in danger.
Steel notes...

Good reading

The February issue of Steelabor, the official union paper, is worth reading. In the last year there has been an improvement in both format and content of the publication. It is mailed free to all members of the union. If you are not getting it, the address is Steelabor, 2457 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46201.

There is a full-color cartoon showing a U.S. Senator barricading a plant gate to an OSHA inspector. Behind the gate is a fat capitalist with his diamond stickpin and bag of money and three injured workers behind him.

There is an article in the paper about the British steel strike. The article notes that the "International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), of which the USWA is a member, has called upon all European affiliates to stop steel exports to England."

The support to the British strike is welcome. It does not mention whether the IMF is calling for a strike of all British steel companies to try the same.

There is a full-page attack on the TV program Skag. The article quotes four steelworkers who point out unrealistic incidents. The writers of Skag could not decide whether the character is a steelworker or a foreman. The article quotes Pete Rumanski, an electrician at the U.S. Steel Torrance, California, mill, where scenes for the show were filmed: "A boss leading a wildcat strike? Why, they'd have him canned immediately."

While some readers have written in about their own and other workers' reactions to Skag, if you have any comments, let us know.

Most impressive in this issue is the full-page article with pictures of the labor march for the Equal Rights Amendment in Richmond, Virginia, on January 13. The article is very positive and ties the USWA closely to the movement to win ERA.

The February issue of Steelabor, (that's how it's spelled) is 55 Eglington Ave. East, 8th floor, Toronto, Ontario M4P 1B5. Showing the Canadian edition around may help encourage subscriptions. (Some steelworker readers have written in about their own and other groups and individuals. The suit claims that U.S. Steel violated a contract agreement by not paying the bonus to the steelworkers there."

The mood was decided differently at the meeting of several hundred first and third shift workers later on. They had come with questions on their minds, and expected answers. Steelworkers who attended the meeting told the Militant that the major question was wages. After several members of the negotiating committee spoke, referring to general aspects of the contract in regard to non-economic language, modster people turned to challenges and questions shouted from the floor.

When no answers were forthcoming, b品位 started. Each official speaker "said just about what the last one said," a steelworker later told the Militant.

Workers shouted out:

"What does the language say?"

"Language won't put food on the table."

"What about money?"

Other steelworkers defended the character of the report. "Things changed since the meeting was called," they said. "Next meeting it will all be out in the open."

"It's all up to the company now," a young worker told the Militant. "Tenneco sure as hell knows what's going on."

The combative mood at the meeting is an indication of the readiness of Local 8888 to do whatever it takes to secure a decent contract this time. Many workers have gone two years without a wage increase. According to the USW Newsport (Northwestern Pennsylvania), "workers are the lowest paid in the shipbuilding industry. One of the meetings was a mandate for the union and its negotiators to press ahead with a strong economic package."

"It's all up to the company now," a young worker told the Militant. "They know where we stand. Our people are hurting. We don't want to hurt any­body. But if they force us out, it's on them."

By Jon Hillion

9,000 steelworkers rally, demand contract

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Thousands of steelworkers sent Tenneco a message on March 7, in a huge turnout at the Hampton Coliseum. The message was: "We want a decent contract now!"

Nearly 9,000 workers attended the two meetings called by United Steelworkers Local 8888, a daytime gathering for the first shift and a 5 p.m. meeting for the first and third shifts.

The massive show of force was bigger than the mobilization of steelworkers that authorized the union's 1979 strike for recognition.

The meeting had been called on February 23 in the wake of what USWA District 35 Director Bruce Thrasher termed an "imposte" in negotiations.

At the time, union negotiators explained to shipyard workers that Tenneco's economic package was totally unacceptable. Thrasher stated that the "details of the negotiations" would be "thoroughly discussed" at the meeting.

On February 27, over 500 shop stewards met and mapped out plans to build the meeting, the first union gathering since early winter.

On February 29, in a statement to the media, Thrasher reported that the impasse had been broken and negotiations would resume. Talks reopened on March 5.

According to steelworkers in attendance, Thrasher told union members at the second shift meeting of the changed negotiating situation. The talks were now at "a delicate stage."

Thrasher had heard of a rumor that Tenneco was considering a new economic package which would be ready in "a few days."

The USWA official urged the workers to "be patient" and to "bear with me." He said he hoped they understood why neither he nor the members of the union's negotiating committee could answer questions at the present time.

Other committee members spoke, stressing general gains in the area of contract language over earlier sweet­heart deals between the shipyard and the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association, the owned company union.

Tenneco's new package was available. Thrasher said, it would be presented, along with non-economic and setup proposals, for discussion at a membership meeting. The contract would then be presented in written form for a study. A next bilateral would follow later.

The loudest applause from the more than 1,200 workers at the second shift meeting came when Thrasher and committee members pledged that Tenneco would not reschedule an unsatisfactory offer from Tenneco and to take whatever steps were necessary to secure a better contract.

"It was an OK meeting," one departing worker told the Militant. "Nothing much was said, so we just have to wait and see what Tenneco comes up with. I'm pretty optimistic."

Thrasher was expected to speak for most of the steelworkers there.

Other steelworkers defended the character of the report. "Things changed since the meeting was called," they said. "Next meeting it will all be out in the open."

"It's all up to the company now," a young worker told the Militant. "They know where we stand. Our people are hurting. We don't want to hurt any­body. But if they force us out, it's on them."

Youngstown

A federal judge issued a temporary order to U.S. Steel to try the same.

While the company is taking $1.28 million a year from the pockets of steel workers there.

A federal judge issued a temporary order to U.S. Steel not to close its Steelabour, Pittsburgh, Pennsyl­

The Feb­

While the company is taking $1.28 million a year from the pockets of steel workers there.

A federal judge issued a temporary order to U.S. Steel not to close its Steelabour, Pittsburgh, Pennsyl­

The Feb­
Labor/Black alliance turns tide

Chicago fire fighters win union victory

By Hattie McCutcheon

CHICAGO—For Mayor Jane Byrne, signing a “letter of agreement” with the fire fighters union instead of a contract was a face saver—but not much.

Reporting the end of the strike, the March 8 Chicago Tribune recalled that during the first days of the strike, Byrne “vowed that no one on strike would work for the city again.”

Even before the walkout, Byrne declared on TV, “I will never again sit down with Mr. Mascare (the union president) and his men—not again, not ever.”

On March 3, a federal mediator told reporters he had contacted city officials and their position remained unchanged: “Return to work, there will be no contract.”

That same day, Mayor Byrne said a political reception: “Nothing has changed. I will not sit down with the fire fighters union. It is an illegal group, and I will not meet with it.”

Five days later, “Stonewall” Byrne signed a union agreement.

March 6 march through Loop (top). Jesse Jackson (left) and Ed Sadlowski at March 5 strike rally. An example for all labor.

Terms of agreement

CHICAGO—According to initial reports, the agreement won by the fire fighters union includes the following terms:

- An affirmative-action program will be established with a reported goal of hiring at least 500 more Blacks and 500 more Hispanics. Among the city’s 4,350 fire fighters, there are presently 400 Blacks and 46 Hispanics.
- Crew size on fire trucks will be increased from four to five. Half the shifts at fire stations will be increased from four to five. Half the shifts at fire stations will be five.
- The fire fighters will receive all rights and privileges held prior to the strike.
- Chances initiated against striking battalion chiefs, which would have cost them their jobs, will be dropped.
- The city will seek “leniency” on the $910,000 in fines levied against the union and twelve of its leaders for defying an antistrike injunction. The judge who put union president Frank Mascare behind bars was slated to consider a motion to release him on March 13.
- The union’s demands on overtime will be submitted to a fact-finding panel and then, if need be, to binding arbitration. The union will apply on the union’s demand to represent officers as well as rank-and-file fire fighters.
- The only penalty accepted by the union is that fire fighters will work one day without pay; five battalion chiefs will lose four days pay.
- The pact signed by the city and union is designated as a “letter of agreement,” and includes provisos for its being superseded by a formal contract after a year of fact-finding and arbitration on unresolved issues.

According to initial reports, if the union is dissatisfied with the outcome of such negotiations, it has the right, on ten days notice, to go on strike.
Auto workers discuss imports

United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser announced in January that his union was launching an anti-imports campaign. Imports should be restricted, he said, unless foreign car corporations move production to the United States. The fact that this is Fraser’s major proposal for combating unemployment among auto workers has provoked discussion among UAW members. Below is a letter to the editors that debuts from auto workers in Kansas City and Detroit. We urge other readers—especially auto workers—to send in their comments.

What about international solidarity?

By Tom Headley

DETROIT—With nearly 200,000 American auto workers unemployed, there was a concerted campaign to focus us on the cause and what can be done. The big-business media accused them of a “foreign import problem,” which they claim is responsible for stealing jobs. To our true corporate interests they represent, Republican and Democratic politicians eagerly chime in with the message.

The purpose of this campaign is to divert our attention from the fact that it’s U.S. employers who decide how many workers are employed and how many are laid off. Unfortunately, this campaign has found an echo among union leaders. United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser recently traveled to Japan to coax auto companies there to either reduce their U.S. exports or build plants here.

But Fraser has admitted that a “strategy” imposed by U.S. manufacturers to the public’s demand for small cars was at the root of the import boom. So why all the noise about Japanese imports? Shouldn’t we go to the root of the problem?

According to Solidarity, Fraser also sugarcoating trade barriers, not the answer to the import problem except as a last resort. Setting quotas, he declared, would only increase the number of workers in the country. UAW unfair trade position. A few letter-writers in some papers also saw it as a way to “modernize” the UAW’s fair-trade position. A few letter-writers in some papers also saw it as a way to “modernize” the UAW’s fair-trade position.

Tom Headley, currently unemployed, is a member of United Auto Workers Local 262.

Toledo bosses push for givebacks

By Peter Archer

TOLEDO—Workers from plants throughout the Toledo area gathered at the Militant Forum recently to discuss the United Auto Workers contracts that are being negotiated in the next month or more in North America to build “a substantial percentage of the content” that are occurring across the nation. The structure of negotiations workers have been indefinitely suspended by Champion for her part in organizing a pro- Tierney outlined the socialist proposal as one of breaking with the UAW in this country do the same?

From South African chrome on bumpers to fully-assembled engines from Canada, “our” products usually consist of parts and raw materials from several countries. The “world car” recently developed by General Motors and Ford, with its standardized interchangeable parts, makes this the more obvious.

The world car trend also increases the importance of international labor solidarity. If workers go on strike at a world car plant in one country, the company involved can just increase production in similar plants elsewhere. Fraser’s recent handling of the imports issue leads away from developing international labor solidarity.

So it is the American employers who make the decisions to lay off American workers. They have been making such decisions with a vengeance lately. Threats—or implementation—of international trade barriers are no substitute for a shorter work week when it comes to fighting unemployment.

Why not a campaign to nationalize?

By Martha Pettit

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The lead story in the February issue of Solidarity, the United Auto Workers’ monthly, is: “Fraser Challenges Japanese Automakers: ‘If You’re Going to Sell Here, Build Here!’”

Douglas Fraser, the UAW president, warns Japanese auto makers to follow Volkswagen’s lead and build plants in the United States. The German manufacturer assembles the Rabbit in Pennsylvania.

“If the Japanese auto firms want to continue to benefit from the American marketplace,” he told charging delegates at the UAW legislative conference in Washington, D.C., “they must also contribute to it.”

The article admits there has been some confusion about Fraser’s campaign. UAW national and local union officials have “misstated his position as one of breaking with the UAW’s fair-trade position. A few letter-writers in some papers also saw it as an attempt to throttle competition from abroad,” says Solidarity.

Martha Pettit is a member of United Auto Workers Local 93.
For example, a fifty-nine-year-old worker who faces massive layoffs and plant shutdowns must adapt to new circumstances. Fraser denied favoring import barriers—"except as a last resort." He also said that he "welcomed the competition from Japanese-owned companies because of the pressures it placed on U.S. firms to build smaller cars."

But a much quicker way to convince Chrysler General Motors, and Ford to build smaller, safer, and more economical cars could be a UAW-led move to gain control of the giant auto companies. They've proven over and over again that they simply don't care about the health and safety of their workers or consumers at heart. Their only concern is profits.

Ironically, the publication also features an article explaining the heartbreak, economic loss, and dislocations of thousands of UAW members by auto plant closings or relocations.

For example, a fifty-year-old auto worker in Gary, Indiana, a happy-go­ lucky to severely depressed when the Snowman Manufacturing Company in Pontiac, Michigan, closed. His wife testified that he stopped eating, attempted suicide six times, and died prematurely of "heart failure" six weeks after the plant closed. The family would be one of thousands of Japanese auto workers and their families if Datsun, Honda, and Toyota moved plants to America.

There is much discussion among auto workers and other working people about Ford's attacks on the Ohio State Legislature, provides for a plant 2 for four-cylinder engine production. This proposal would shut down the plant for two-and-a-half to three years, putting 2,000 employees out of work.

Ford Vice-president John A. Betti attributes the problems to the recession. "It would not move to Mexico, but Ford threatened to close the plant from closing, nor does it save employees losing their jobs.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported that "Ford is talking of moving to Mexico a ploy to force a Chrysler-style agreement on its workers"

So-called plant closing legislation is being pushed by Democratic Party politicians as a way to solve the problem. What will this legislation do? Senate Bill 188, introduced in the Ohio State Legislature, provides for a 15,000 workers. Before the latest announcement, 5,000 were on indefinite layoff, and another 5,000 were on temporary layoff. The layoffs have occurred in the auto and steel industries in northeast Ohio during the last year.

Many workers are talking about Cleveland as "another Youngstown," alluding to U.S. Steel's devastation of that city through mill closings.

There is much discussion among auto workers and other working people about Ford's attacks on the overall economic crisis, layoffs, inflation, and the energy ripoff.

Is Ford trying to force a Chrysler-style agreement on auto workers? Will its next demand be that UAW members reopen their contract and take less for the "good of the company and jobs?"

The company would have to pay minimal compensation—one week's pay for every year worked—toemploi­ ment. Casstevens urged support to protest this action.

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Bush offers Ford's threat to move the plant. Powers remarked, "The best cure for "runaway shops is to give them no place to run." The senatorial candidate calls for repealing the Taft-Hartley Act and the anti-union "right to work" laws in the country. Such laws aid Ford and other corporations in blocking union organizing.

Powers says that labor needs to break from the Democratic and Republican parties, who serve only the interests of Ford and other giant corporations. The SWP campaign advocates that labor form its own political party. "A labor party based on the strength of the unions—the UAW—could fight politically in the interests of auto workers and all working people," Powers concluded.

Cleveland—John Powers, Socialistic Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, voiced strong support for auto workers' protests against the threatened shutdown of Ford's Brook Park assembly plant.

"Ford—the twelfth most profitable corporation in the country—"supposedly" drive for even more millions ahead of the jobs and lives of thousands of workers," Powers said.

"Ford shut down the plant for two-and-a-half to three years, putting 2,000 employees out of work.

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Where NOW position paper goes wrong

Women, the draft & U.S. military

By Suzanne Haig

"NOW Opposes Draft: Supports Women's Registration" is the headline of the March issue of the National NOW Times. It attempts to sum up a position paper issued by the leadership of the National Organization for Women that appears in the paper along with a statement by NOW President Eleanor Smeal.

The position paper, like the headline, tries to be contradictory. It professes opposition to the draft, but advocates registering and drafting women if those are imposed on men. This is a concession to the reality that registering women is incompatible with a stand against the draft.

The paper itself is devoted to arguing that the U.S. army is more effective for Washington than a draftee army and is in the interests of women. It portrays a volunteer army with a higher percentage of women as a better killing machine, and argues that women's role in helping to build a powerful U.S. army will be a big step forward for women's rights.

In short, the army needs women and women need the army—although the position paper claims those needs can be better met without the draft.

This position has been put forward without discussion by the NOW leadership. It poses a mortal danger to NOW and to the entire women's movement. It threatenber us into an alliance with the very forces that are the worst enemies of women's rights, the worst enemies of working people all over the world.

Discussion

Fortunately, this policy statement by the national leadership has provoked widespread discussion within NOW chapters. Some have already unequivocally rejected the false notion that registering to die for Exxon is a step forward for women.

"We are opposed to reinstatement of compulsory registration," Smeal's statement begins.

"NOW believes that the registration of young people precisely because it is a response which stimulates the environment of fear that is the cause of war," the position paper reads. "Too many of us still remember the senseless killing and destruction of young American army soldiers with Vietnamese—which we also protested."

In another section it states correctly that thousands of working people believe: "To fight a war for oil is to deny that the inherent rights of all human beings are inextricably connected to the economic self-interest of a very few." However, the remainder of the six-page position paper and Smeal's statement is in contradiction to this stand.

The position paper's arguments against the draft are largely presented in terms of how it weakens the military machine. It argues that the U.S. army can best be strengthened by maintaining the all-Volunteer Force (AVF) that has existed since massive popular opposition to the Vietnam war forced the government to end compulsory military service.

Reading the position paper underlines the need for a broader discussion of what attitude to take to drafting women cannot be separated from the question of the role of the U.S. army.

Whose interests does it serve? What kind of war is it fighting? Why is Carter pushing for the draft now?

World cop

While slick advertising paints the army as a great place to learn skills, have fun, see the world, and have equal opportunities, this is a cruel deception.

The U.S. army is a killing machine whose function is to protect the property and profits of Big Oil and other corporate giants. It is used against working people and oppressed nations around the world.

For decades it forcibly conscripted young working-class men to fight and die for those ruling-class interests, and now Carter proposes to push women into the most grimmer too.

Washington's ability to use this instrument of terror was dealt a stunning blow by the powerful, organized opposition to the Vietnam War. But today Carter is striving to reverse the anti-war sentiments of the American people. He needs to beef up the war machine so it can be used to take on challenges to big business, particularly from the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He needs to be able to use U.S. military force as a credible threat against the Iranian people. Billions—including millions of women—went into the streets to bring down the shah, who made that country safe for the oil companies by torturing and killing tens of thousands.

Washington wants to be able to use its army to stop freedom struggles in Central America. In El Salvador a contingent of U.S. marine "advisers" are reported to be fighting to keep a hated military dictatorship in power.

Nicaragua and Cuba

Carter calculates that reinvigorating the draft would make military blackmail more effective against Nicaragua. There working men and women are taking the land and resources into their own hands, repairing the destruction carried out with U.S. planes and weapons by the Somoza regime.

Washington wants to escalate the pressure on Cuba, where the socialist revolution has eliminated unemployment, illiteracy, and malnutrition by throwing out the profit-hungry U.S. corporations.

Even more, Cuba continues to trample its own U.S. foreign policy interests by actively supporting revolutions in Nicaragua and in Africa.

Carter's military threats are directed against the workers and peasants—and women—of Afghanistan, who are fighting to end centuries of feudal relations. Washington is backing the ultra reactionary forces who are trying to bring down this government, one of whose "crimes" was to begin to educate women.

Ultimately, of course, Carter's threats are directed against the Soviet Union. Washington's antagonism has only been heightened by Soviet military and economic assistance to Afghanistan and Cuba.

Aimed at U.S. workers

And Carter's militarization drive is aimed at the masses of American working people. We have to be convinced of the need to sacrifice for Texaco before we will accept the blows being dealt to our standard of living and our rights—including the blocking of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The answer is a rearmed force used against working people at home as well as abroad. Carter threatened to use federal troops to break the United Mine Workers strike in 1978. Federal troops killed dozens of Black people during the Detroit rebellion of 1967 in an operation directed by the current Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance.

The women's rights movement must stand shoulder to shoulder with the social forces fighting for equality and a better life at home and abroad. Our enemies are the same and our victories are intertwined. Our stance must be one of unconditional opposition to the U.S. army, which exists only to protect the economic interests responsible for our second-class status.

Unfortunately, the NOW leadership's position paper has a very different stance.

The best way to improve the quality of the national defense... is to re­move the sex discrimination that affects all cán­cels on women in the military.

Women, Blacks, and Latinos who find themselves drafted by the military by law or by economic compulsion must fight racist and sexist victimization by the professional officer corps. It is a matter of elementary justice and common sense to try to improve the fighting qualities of the military machine. But this is not the NOW leadership's position.

"Without these discriminatory practices," they say, "women recruits would be far greater applicants for a higher caliber than additional male recruits."

Women as cannon fodder

The paper reasons that women should be regarded as a special-good if not better—cannon fodder than men.

"Our experience in ground combat with Asian men ... tells us that the aver­age smaller among American women) in Korea and Vietnam demonstrated that smaller men can be the victor because of skill or training," the NOW leadership says. Moreover, "any person who pushes the button may be in a combat role, but does not require extraordinary strength to carry out the task."

"A small, agile person is more ad­vantageous than a large, heavy person in many situations," the position paper proclaims.

The authors stop short of suggesting that Carter could save money by sending boxes by providing them for "small" women rather than for "large, heavy" men. But they come dangerously close to that kind of thinking.

Women are not fighting for equality in order to meet military needs, but to the lives and livelihood of our sisters and brothers in Vietnam or any other country. Nor would it be any more respons­ive to have the honor of pushing the button that launches a war of nuclear annihilation. The position paper says it opposes new wars. What, then, are those bellisic arguments doing here?

While talking about pressing a fight against sexism in the army, the paper suggests that the Pentagon can turn discrimination to its advantage. "The average woman recruit is much less likely than a man recruit to become a discipline problem," the position paper asserts, failing to fall back on the stereotype of women as gentle and respectful of male authority.

Job discrimination can also work in the military's favor, according to the disparate categories required by the modern armed services—clerical workers, key­punch operators, communications experts, administrative personnel—-are more readily found among women.

Make the army better?

Not only are women good for the military, according to the paper, the military is good for women. "Despite the sex discrimination which restricts them to few career paths," it states, "the military is attrac­tive monetarily to many wo­men. The servicios, unlike the private sector, do pay men and women equally if they are of the same grade,
The Militant/March 21, 1980

longevity, and skills. Like the private sector, however, women are clustered in the lower pay grades and are under-represented in the higher pay grades.

The National NOW Times issue which carries the position paper is full of pictures of women in the military practicing with M-16 rifles, firing machine guns, climbing into cockpits, and undergoing basic training. It could look to some like a recruiting poster.

The paper treats the military like any other employer in society which practices sex and race discrimination.

But the army can no more become a vehicle for advancing the interests of women and oppressed nationalities than the police force can be reformed by recruiting more women, Blacks, or Latinos. Their job is to intimidate and repress working people into accepting the rule of the rich.

Our stand must be one of unconditional opposition to the army, not attempts to give it a more “progressive” image through improvements in its "hiring practices.”

Discrimination against women

The position paper argues that if the draft is reinstated women will benefit by having years ripped out of their lives by the army. “Omission from the registration and draft ultimately robs women of the right to first class citizenship and paves the way to underpaying women all the remaining days of our lives from four tours. Marketing because men exclude women here, they justify excluding women from the decision-making new restrictions made.

Women are not discriminated against in society because we are “omitted” from history and dying for Exxon in equal numbers.

Women’s second-class status is rooted in our economic dependence: inequality is indispensable to the profits of big business. That is what “paves the way” to underpaying women.

The corporations reap profits from paying women fifty-nine cents to every dollar made by men, and from using women’s unpaid domestic labor in the families to replace the costs of的社会 services. The same forces opposing the ERA are those who favor reinstating the draft.

Do the authors of the position paper believe that by women showing concern for U.S. military superiority, the current war drive atmosphere generated, will lead the government to reward women with equal rights? Dying for imperialism—the very assumption that discrimination against women—will never bring us one step closer to equality.

On the other hand, our plight is not the same as that of Blacks and Latinos today. They served more than equally in the fighting and dying on the front lines in Vietnam. They received no rewards or inclusion in the “decision-making of our nation.” The vets have been subjected to poverty and unemployment. Many were victims of domestic violence, cancer and other diseases caused by the deadly Agent Orange. The conditions of Blacks and Latinos in jobs, education, health, and housing has deteriorated since Vietnam.

Women can fight

In contrast to the reactionaries who argue that women are too weak to fight, the position paper stresses correctly that women are as capable of fighting men.

Women’s capacity to fight heroically for a cause that is in their interests has been demonstrated from the American war of independence in 1776 to the battles of the labor, civil rights, and women’s movements.

National liberation struggles in Algeria, Vietnam, and Nicaragua vividly showed examples of women fighting side by side with men for freedom.

But the authors of the position paper pass over an important fact: the great majority of women, including those firmly committed to the fight for women’s equality, oppose the registration and drafting of women.

We oppose being registered or drafted for the same reasons men do! Being drafted is not a “right” but is a violation of our rights and our interests. It is a forcible disruption of our struggles.

In the actual feelings of women, the position paper’s repeated promise that “women will serve” rings hollow. If ever masses of women “serve” the army, it will be for the reason that many men did in the past. They were compelled to on pain of jail or exile, or by unemployment and poverty.

“Equality and Equity”

“Equality and Equity”

No. It is the government that young people resent, for it is trying to force women and men to give up their aspirations and hopes. Demonstrations have been called to oppose the draft to not insist that women be included in an “equal” draft.

Contrary to the authors, drafting women has nothing to do with equality. Equally for the oppressed sex means the extension of rights and opportunities for women on the job, in education, and society.

Registration and the draft would not be a new opportunity for women, but a new restriction on our freedom.

Women’s rights supporters never argued that violations or restrictions of rights should be extended to women. They are not in favor, for instance, of taking away those protective legislation measures which benefit women’s health and safety.

These should be extended to men.

The Militant and the Draft

Military & the Draft

Militarist and Anti-Militarist

by Karl Liebknecht 176 pp., $2.00

The Socialist Workers Party in World War II

by James P. Cannon 446 pp., $6.45

Out Now! A Participant’s Account of the American Movement Against the Vietnam War

by Fred Halstead 759 pp., $9.95

“Revolutionary Strategy in the Fight Against the Vietnam War,” an Education for Socialists Booklet

94 pp., $2.50

Order from: Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 (include 3.75 for postage and handling).
Toxic waste time bomb: PCBs in Baltimore

By Baxter Smith

BALTIMORE—Despite plies by union, local officials, and others, the federal government is moving ahead with a plan to stockpile thousands of gallons of dioxin-like chemical in the Baltimore area.

The first load of toxic PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) waste, placed in rusting oil tanks in Shurpont, Maryland, a small community on the southeast coast of the state, arrived last week.

The PCBs were previously kept legally outside in rusting oil tanks in Shurpont, Maryland, a small community on the southeast coast of the state. But repeated complaints from Shurpont residents forced their removal.

PCB is so toxic that its manufacture was outlawed by the federal government in 1978. It is a known carcinogen or cancer-causing substance. For decades it was used in electrical transformers and other devices because of its extreme resistance to heat.

Events leading up to PCB’s transfer have produced front-page coverage in the local press. The official notice referred to the issue as the “burning issue of the day.”

In early October fifty gallons of PCB oil leached from two electrical transformers abode a truck in a East Baltimore parking lot. The Coast Guard has begun a clean-up operation on the handling and cleanup of PCB spills, ordered the tanks and the 400 square feet of oil to be dug up and buried in an EPA-approved site in Baltimore County.

Later in October it was discovered that dozens of PCB transformers were leaking at Bethlehem Steel’s giant Steelman mine in Mt. Iron, Pennsylvania. A power cable made of PCB rubber was moving fell on her, puncturing her heart. She died of internal bleeding.

The first woman killed at Minntac

At a campaign meeting here Mark Keemer, a District 6 union official, charged the company was responsible for Salo’s death. Keemer worked as a mine worker at Minntac mine and is a member of United Steelworkers Local 1938.

“U. S. Steel says it was a freak accident,” Gerash said. “They’re going to try to blame it on one of the crew members, or really no one at all. I’d call it murder.”

More than 120 other steelworkers around the country have been killed in the past three years in the job accidents. They were killed by the company’s own product—PCB rubber. The “clean-up” has been a non-event. By speed-ups on the job and overwork, PCBs “are just enough so you don’t have the energy to watch out for your own safety.”

“The U. S. Steel and the other criminal companies blame it on human error. But that’s just a cover-up. Shelly’s death was a gross, outrageous example of how the U. S. industry is getting billions in profit—regardless of human lives.

“The government should be forced to make the mining companies comply with safety and health laws,” Gerash continued. “As it is now, the Mine Safety and Health Administration just fines the companies a few dollars a violation. And today, when the numbers of deaths and injuries on the job are increasing, they’re talking about doing away with MSHA altogether.

“Let the blame for killings like this be where it belongs—on the company and on the government.”

Coal companies have been under pressure to hire women in large part because of laws filed by women throughout the coalfields. The biggest action was a complaint filed by the Coalition of Women in United Steelworkers (CWOUS), against 153 coal companies in 1976. Consolidation of the nation’s second largest coal producer, reached an out-of-court settlement in December 1975, agreeing to hire one woman for every four inexperienced men.

A similar affirmative-action plan was agreed to by Blue Diamond Coal Company for its Kentucky operations in December 1979.

The NIOSH figures on the hiring of women are reported in the February issue of the CEI’s newsletter, Coal Mining Women’s Support Team News. It also includes a newsletter as well as status of new women miners. (West Virginia tops the list in 1979 with 174 hires.)

Cashen of the City-County Coalition for Survival. “We’re not going to let the conversation take place, the conversation is the issue. The public will only win if we make sure that they live up to their promises.”

Toxic waste time bomb: PCBs in Baltimore

“Take away the PCB. Take away the PCB,” they chanted.

[Mark Keemer, Secretary-Harlan] Hughes thinks PCB means Pollute Curtis Bay,” read one protester’s placard.

“We want to let them know that even in the morning we’re going to watch them to make sure they live up to their promises,” exclaimed Michael Cashen of the City-County Coalition for Survival. “We’re not going to let this thing die.”

1.5 billion deadly tons

BALTIMORE—The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Agency (MOSH) sponsored a one-day seminar on PCBs February 23.

Speakers included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, MOSH, United Steelworkers of America Local 2690 at Sparrows Point, and the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Council. The manufacture of PCB, it was pointed out, began in 1929 by the Monsanto Chemical Corporation. It is estimated that some one-and-one-half billion tons of PCBs have been manufactured in the U.S. by various companies under about twenty brand names.

PCB is found in heat exchange systems, fire retardants, electronic magnets, adhesives, textiles, sealants, printing inks, caulking compounds, air conditioners, microwave ovens, and elsewhere.

The first evidence that PCB had slipped into the life cycle of animals, and possibly of humans, was when biologists found it in the eggs of peregrine falcons. And possibly of humans, was when biologists found it in the eggs of peregrine falcons.

In 1958, the Rice Oil Epidemic in Japan was traced to PCB that had gotten into rice oil. Thirteen hundred people were hospitalized. The hallucinations of the victims had daria skin than their parents and some had internal bodily disorders.

PCB attacks the mucous membrane and respiratory system. Some victims contract jaundice and liver problems. PCB has caused pancreatic, skin and cancer, and it affects the reproductive system.

PCB is not broken down by the body if ingested, but is stored chiefly in the fatty tissues.

It is estimated that most people have less than 10 parts per billion of PCB in their bodies. The Rice Oil Epidemic victims had about 30 ppm. EPA regulations call for the burial in approved landfills of any contaminated PCB in the U.S. by various companies under about twenty brand names.

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PCB attacks the mucous membrane and respiratory system. Some victims contract jaundice and liver problems. PCB has caused pancreatic, skin and cancer, and it affects the reproductive system.
Carter's nuclear waste plan: still no solution

By Dick Roberts

After months of deliberation, Carter sent Congress his plan for the long-term disposal of nuclear wastes last month. He called it "this nation's first comprehensive radioactive waste management program."

It proposes studying the problem for several more years, trying to come up with both a method and disposal sites, which are projected to be operational by 1995 at the earliest.

The program conceives just how far science is from finding a solution to the problem of radioactive wastes that can be disposed of safely.

Meanwhile every day that nuclear power plants continue to operate, they are producing more of this waste. Utilities are already running out of space for temporary storage bins at reactor sites.

Carter's go-slow study proposal is also a recognition of the increased public awareness about the nuclear waste danger. It will require a high premium on the part of the government to sell the idea to any state or community that they should take the risk of being a permanent storage site.

One part of Carter's proposal is abandoning the long-planned plan to bury military nuclear wastes in a salt dome near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Ninety million dollars has already been spent developing the site, but apparently not as an obstacle. Instead, Carter suggested eleven possible sites for study, including Carlsbad.

Site selections

The White House is under consideration for a storage plant for spent nuclear fuel from commercial power plants.

Carter's proposed bill also calls for setting up a nineteen-member council of governors and other officials to "overcome the local political problem of site selections." The euphemistic words of the Wall Street Journal.

Carter's study proposal, complained Business Week, "will add to public pressure to halt new nuclear construction and makes it unlikely that the industry will get much domestic support until the problem of waste disposal is solved."

That will be a tall order to fill.

Every aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle is dangerous—from the mining of uranium to the disposal of what is left after the nuclear fuel has been consumed. It is this last part of the cycle that is concerned in the White House's proposed $300-million nuclear waste bill.

A good place to get an idea of the problems involved is the pamphlet What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power by Fred Halstead.

High-level nuclear waste, which would kill people exposed to it for even a few seconds, results from the use up of the fuel rods and other parts of the reactor core in nuclear power plants.

According to Halstead, "Sections of the core must be replaced every year or so. This means removing thousands of pounds of heavy metal and spent fuel, all of which is not only deadly radioactive but hot in temperature as well. It remains deadly radioactive for thousands of years."

"This waste," Halstead continues, "is removed from the core by remote control. The used-up sections of the reactor core are placed in a large pool of water, something like a deep swimming pool, with the reactor next to the reactor. The original pool plan was to remove these bundles of spent fuel rods to a permanent, government-operated storage facility after no more than ten years.

"But the government has been unable to develop a permanent storage facility, so the stuff is piling up at the plant sites."

Plutonium removal

The distinction between permanent and temporary storage sites for military wastes and storage sites for the spent nuclear fuel comes from the fact that plutonium and other isotopes that could be used for weapons are still locked up in spent fuel, so they can be removed through reprocessing.

The waste that remains after the removal of plutonium is what the federal government wants to bury permanently.

According to Washington Post reporter Thomas O'Toole, "Almost all the radioactive waste in the United States is spent military fuel that has been reprocessed to extract the plutonium since before 1950. About 100 million gallons of highly radioactive waste is stored in double-walled stainless steel tanks at Hanford [Washington] and Savannah River, South Carolina, alongside the reprocessing plants."

Halstead describes this reprocessing "nightmare" at Hanford and Savannah River: "Most of the waste is kept in large carbon-steel tanks which resist corrosion for only twenty-five years. Newer stainless-steel tanks are expected to last fifty years. Since the first such wastes were deposited twenty-five years ago, the early tanks are about to give out."

"This liquid must be kept from contact with living things for thousands of years, but some of the tanks have already leaked. One wrong move or mishandling. Some 440,000 gallons have leaked into the soil at Hanford. It is leaking into the water table and the Columbia River."

There are fierce local objections to becoming a nuclear dumping ground and becoming another Hanford. The governor of Washington is attempting to prevent other states from dumping low-level waste in large quantities at Hanford in the future and there are six states—California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New York, Oregon, and Wisconsin—that presently prohibit the construction of new reactors until the disposal issue is settled.

Carter's promise of a 1995 solution can have done little to reassure people in these states or any others. This once again bolstered the arguments of those who demand: Shut the nuclear power plants down today!

200 at So. Calif. conference

By Barry Selicht

FULLERTON, Calif.—More than 300 people met here on the weekend of February 23 for the semi-annual conference of the Southern California Alliance for Survival.

The conference endorsed the anti-nuclear group's rapid growth from a few dozen members in mid-1977 to over 15,000 members in more than seventy chapters and eight-teen action teams.

A rally preceding a series of workshops featured Rev. Jim Lawson, regional vice-president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and Stan Schecter, a maintenance mechanic at Alameda Nuclear, a nuclear fuel-reduction production facility in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley.

Contrasting the plant's extreme security measures with its lax health and safety precautions, Schecter charged that it is possible for workers to walk out of Alameda International each day with as much as three grams of uranium dust in their hair, clothing, and shoes.

A resolution urgently stepped up efforts at reaching out to Black, Latinos, and labor leaders and one supporting the national oil workers strike was both approved by the conference unanimously.

The meeting also endorsed an extensive list of spring events including a March 22 Los Angeles anti-draft rally and teach-in, March 28-30 commemorations of the 1979 nuclear disaster at Three Mile Island, April 20 local rallies in solidarity with that day's march on Washington, and a May 4 antinuclear, anti-draft, anti-nuclear march in Los Angeles on the tenth anniversary of the killings of antinuclear students at Kent and Jackson State universities.

Notes from the movement against nuclear weapons and nuclear power

March 28: Three Mile Island one year later

"THE ACCIDENT IS NOT OVER," declares a call to action by the March 28 Coalition in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The one-year-anniversary of the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster will be marked there by a series of protest activities.

Friday, March 28, will begin with a 4 a.m. vigil near the site of the power plant, followed by an 11 a.m. speakout. After an evening interfaith service in downtown Harrisburg, protesters will march by candlelight to the Harrisburg Forum auditorium for a nuclear debate. The nationally televised live debate over PBS stations will begin at 9 p.m. The pro-nuclear side will include Dr. Norman Rasmussen, author of the famous 1977 Rasmussen Report, which was so full of lies that even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had to repudiate it last year. The anti-nuclear debaters will include Dr. Henry Kendall, a founder of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Dr. Vince Taylor, an energy research specialist.

On March 29, anti-nuclear forces will rally at 11:30 a.m. at the Capitol building in Harrisburg.

Other anti-nuclear events are scheduled on March 25 in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Mountain Lakes, New Jersey. March 29 activities in San Diego, and for Boston. For more information, contact the March 28 Coalition at 1037 Macay Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102 (717) 233-6853.

Maine to vote on nuclear power

Maine will become the first state where voters will decide whether an operating nuclear power plant ought to be shut down. A May 4 referendum announced March 9 that a group called the No Nukes! campaign had submitted 55,383 signatures calling for a late-summer vote on a proposal to ban nuclear generation. Only 27,026 signatures were needed.
Antidraft youth arrested at Texas campus

In an attack on the right of young people to oppose the draft and support socialist candidates, police in Arlington, Texas, arrested two supporters of the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign's Dallas headquarters, in which antidraft posters are prominently displayed, has been the target of gunfire. Chris Horner and Floyce White were distributing statements against the draft by SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley and congressional candidate Lea Sherman when they were arrested, handcuffed, frisked, and taken to jail.

They were released on $50 bail, but face possible $200 fines for "criminal trespass." Both plan to fight for the right to campaign for socialist candidates on the campus. "The University administration has a double standard on this," insisted Horner.

"Two weeks ago when Alex Haley, the author, spoke on the campus, the Ku Klux Klan picketed in full regalia without any interference by the authorities. And before that the University administration brought two busloads of high school students to campus for an anti-Iranian rally. But we criticized Carter's draft proposal and ended up in handcuffs. This is a threat to the rights of everyone opposed to the draft."

Telegrams protesting the arrests should be sent to President Wendell Nederman, University of Texas-Arlington, Post Office Box 19125, Arlington, Texas 76019.

The arrests came in the context of stepped-up KKK activity in the Dallas area, and escalating harassment of socialist opponents of the draft. Nineteen shots have been fired into the Dallas headquarters of the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign in four separate attacks. Although the headquarters is just down the block from an all-night restaurant that is a favorite hangout, the right-wing attackers have felt secure enough to stop in the intersection in front of the window and calmly fire as many as six or seven shots.

The Dallas Police attribute the attacks to vandalism by teenagers. "There is nothing we can do," they tell the socialists.

Le Sherman, candidate for congress from the fifth district, charged that these attacks were intended to intimidate her and her campaign supporters from speaking out against the draft.

The campaign is circulating a public statement condemning the attacks and demanding an investigation of right-wing attacks in the city. Initial signers include Daisy Anderson, president of the Dallas NAACP; Judith Tim, president of the Dallas American Civil Liberties Union; Robert Medrano, Dallas School Board; Cyndy Bulledge, president of Dallas County NOW; and Charlie Young, coordinator of the D'Arc Patriots, a large tenants rights organization.

Ky. campaigners gain support on campus

By Chris Rayson

"Hey, is this the Socialist Workers Party? I've been meaning to get in touch with you." Tom Pinckley's comment summed up the enthusiasm that greeted socialist candidates and their supporters at the YSA convention held in Louisville last weekend. The four YSA members—Tom Swetland, SWP candidate for U.S. senator, Nederman, University of Texas-Arlington, to raise $50,000 by June 15. So far, $3,165 has been contributed.

Send your contribution now to help keep the Young Socialist candidates on the road.

There's a lot more to the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign than the promises and hoopla that are filling the newspapers and advertising in the primary season. The Pulley-Zimmermann ticket goes all out to build demonstrations against the draft like March 22 and other struggles in the interests of working people.

Pulley-Zimmermann supporters want to reach into every community throughout the United States and mobilize American workers around the major issues that affect their well-being. To do so we need your help. The campaign is on a drive to raise $50,000 by June 15. So far $3,165 has been contributed.

Send your contribution now to help keep the Young Socialist candidates on the road.

Enclosed is my contribution of $

Name

Address

City__Zip__Phone__State__

Union/School/Org. ___

Make checks payable to: Socialist Workers Election Campaign Committee, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014

Send this copy to a friend and help get the Young Socialist candidates on the road.

Printed on recycled paper.
By Frank Lovell

(Third in a series)

"In the end he was a man of great political power who felt that he could challenge the President as almost an equal," considered the New York Times obituary for George Meany.

This image of the man who for a quarter of a century was the nation's most prominent labor official sharply contradicts with reality.

When Meany died January 10, labor's political influence was weaker than anytime since the early years of the CIO movement-despite an increasing interest in politics today by new layers of the working class.

The only social legislation on the AFL-CIO agenda is a national health plan, and labor lobbyists see no possibility of getting this "elected-by-labor" Congress to pass it.

Other legislation that has been high on the AFL-CIO priorities list is the common situs picketing bill, which the building trades unions have been pressing for a long time, but which they no longer talk about a schedule. For all practical purposes, that bill is dead.

The same can be said of the labor law reform bill that stirred up a lot of controversy in 1978. And the list goes on.

It is the story of a labor bureaucracy whose political strategy consists of total subservience to its fair-weather friends in the Democratic and the only place where union gains could be protected and extended.

Meany adamantly opposed the labor party, of course, but others played the key roles in averting it.

Labor's Non-Partisan League

United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis, who had been through the CIO movement, was determined to have his piece of the action and led a CIO splinter group through elections to set up its own "labor party" in the 1930s. Their purpose was to divide labor's interests and in New Deal politics.

"They talked about independent political action, but that was only a way to keep the attention of the many hundreds of thousands of unionists who then customarily voted Socialist or Communist or were looking for a labon party." Those workers would not vote for the machine-controlled Democratic Party, but they could be persuaded to support independent labor organizations. In this way the union bureaucrats managed for a time to control and deliver a decisive bloc of votes to Democrats.

Through its pro-war alliance with the government during World War II, the union bureaucracy managed to use this popular antiwar sentiment for their own purposes.

The payoff for the workers was political powerlessness in the face of speedup, inflation, the no-strike deal, and imperialist slaughter. Control over more and more aspects of union functioning was aided both to tighten its own shackles over the union and to institutionalize union subordination to the Democratic Party.

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"labor 's candidate."

The many other political differences between Meany and Reuther were exactly the same kind—all involving tactics within the Democratic Party or the policies of a two-party system. But they agreed completely that the union movement should not organize a labor party to challenge the political monopoly of the employers.

After the defeat of the Democrats in 1968 and the election of Nixon, Meany began to despair of the future of the Democratic Party. The Democrats had held a majority in Congress, but this "new majority" was not what Meany expected.

Nixon's 1970 invasion of Cambodia had aroused the antiwar movement in this country to new heights. Some Democratic Party politicians sought to use this popular antiwar sentiment for their own purposes.

In a Labor Day interview that year, Meany expressed his doubts about the Democratic Party. "It is not the so-called liberal party that it was a few years ago," he said. "It almost has become the extremist party insofar as these so-called liberals or new lefts, or whatever you want to call them, have taken over the Democratic Party."

Meany then set about demonstrating that the Democratic Party could no longer sit in the White House without AFl-CIO endorsement. And he expected to gain a few favors from Nixon in the process. He failed completely.

Nixon's wage controls

On August 15, 1971, Nixon announced a "New Economic Policy," reversing his previous stand against wage-price controls. He froze wages for ninety days. After the freeze he introduced Phase 2, which established a government-controlled Pay Board to regulate wages.

Meany and other top union officials, including UAW President Leonard Woodcock and Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, were invited to serve on the Pay Board.

All labor representatives left after a few months, except Fitzsimmons, because Meany discovered it was a "staged deck." This did not discourage Meany—and all the others—from returning to serve

Continued on next page
From camp of 'jungle luxury'
Pol Pot admits 'errors,' asks more U.S. help

By Fred Feldman

Khmer Rouge units are making no headway in their battle to topple the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. But the top leaders evidently still manage to enjoy life.

This emerged from a recent series of articles in the *New York Times* by correspondent Henry Kamm. Kamm visited the main base camp of Pol Pot's forces in northern Kampuchea at the end of February.

Since being driven from Phnom Penh in January 1979, the Khmer Rouge have held the town of Pursat, which was captured, submitting them to forced labor and starvation. They have been supported by international aid agencies.

But beyond the brutal lifestyle that the Khmer Rouge commanders impose on ordinary Kampuchaeans is not for the leaders themselves.

"The camp, recently built, is the latest in jungle luxury," wrote Kamm in the *New York Times*.

"The knowledge of the hunger of Cambodia, so painfully visible anywhere in the country, was crowded out by ample supplies of food brought from Bangkok. The meals were French, except for the prime minister's banquet, which featured an infinite variety of Cambodian, Chinese and Western dishes. The best Thai beer, American soft drinks, Johnnie Walker Black Label, bottled water, soda and ice brought from Bangkok hundreds of miles away."

**Crimes admitted**

Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge spokesmen, would not hide the desperate political and military straits of the Khmer Rouge.

He deplored them as holding only widely separated enclaves along the border, completely dependent on the Pol Pot regime for lines of supply and communication.

"A visitor's impression was that Mr. Khieu Samphan is the nominal political leader of a guerrilla movement that is headed by former Prime Minister Pol Pot as military Commander in Chief and that governs no significant parts of the population's territory," Kamm stated on March 2.

Pol Pot and his sidearms want a massive American military presence in Cambodia and its allies as their only chance of presenting a serious challenge to Heng Samrin's government of working people all over the world against the crimes of the Khmer Rouge regime has been driven to the last desperate ploy in order to make a more open and active stand by Washington. Khmer Rouge diplomacy now centers

Pol Pot (left) wants all of us to forget his past (right)
on cosmetic measures aimed at removing this obstacle.

The latest play, for which Kamm was invited into the jungle, was a public criticism of some past Khmer Rouge policies by Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary.

"Mr. Ieng Sary," Kamm wrote Feb. 29, "said Cambodia should have allowed families to live together rather than separate them into work brigades, allowed schools to function normally and not imposed collectivization by abolishing private property or the use of currency. It should also have permitted freedom of worship, he said."

Ieng Sary denied mass extermination, but admitted "abuses," attempting to shift the blame to local commanders. "Each region constituted a small kingdom. They ran their own affairs," he said of Pol Pot's four years in power.

**Feared Vietnamese revolution**

Ieng Sary said he had been attacked as a rightist during Pol Pot's reign because he had supposedly "defended the intellectuals." Kamm added, "The remarks seemed to concede implicitly that many educated Cambodians were killed or mistreated merely because they were educated."

While claiming that he personally was opposed to the expulsion of the urban poor by Pol Pot's regime, he said April 1975, Ieng Sary tried to defend it. "He said the decision, which was fatal to countless city dwellers, was made out of fear that Vietnam would have infiltrated the cities, killed Cambodia's leaders and "taken us quickly, as they did Laos."

This statement is noteworthy from two standpoints. First, it is further confirmation that fear and hatred of the Vietnamese revolution was, from the outset, a major factor behind the reactionary and repressive course charted by the Khmer Rouge when it took power in 1975.

Second, the reference to Laos was evidently intended to win sympathy from Washington and other imperialist capitals by reminding them how much better off they were with the Pol Pot regime than with the government that took power in Laos in December 1975. Unlike the Khmer Rouge, the Pathet Lao sought to retain the support it had won among workers, peasants, and the urban poor. The result has been a deepening social revolution and a stirring of a tight alliance with Vietnam against Washington's pressure.

Having sought absolution over a few "errors" the Khmer Rouge commanders got down to appeals for more help from the capitalist West.

**Forgive and forget?**

Kamm reported in the March 1 *New York Times*:

"Sounding deeply pessimistic, Mr. Ieng Sary said that no single group could succeed in driving Vietnam from Cambodia. 'We alone cannot succeed. We need international support. Not necessarily with armed forces, but economic, political and diplomatic pressure can do it.'"

Khieu Samphan thanked the U.S. government for helping the Khmer Rouge keep Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations. "Your interests and ours coincide."

"Our main concern," he emphasized, "is to fight to drive all the Vietnamese forces out of Cambodia and defend our nation, our people and our race."

In return, he said, the Khmer Rouge leaders stood ready to forget the U.S. war in Kampuchea.

In the name of forgive-and-forget, Pol Pot calls on the U.S. imperialists who devastated Kampuchea during the war to unite with the wing of the Khmer Rouge that committed barbaric atrocities in its wake in order to smash those who fought against both.

It can be safely predicted that such appeals will win Pol Pot no new friends among the working people of the world.

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...Meany

Continued from preceding page
again in a later phase of Nixon's New Economic Policy.

Neither did it stop Meany from embracing the "national unity" of the AFL-CIO executive council in the 1972 presidential race between Nixon and Democrat George McGovern.

Neither did it stop Meany from endorsing McGovern. Several building trades unions and the Seafarers contributed money to Nixon. The reelection of Nixon was in no way associated with the union support he received.

Neither was McGovern's defeat caused by the AFL-CIO's boycott of his campaign. The union movement apparently viewed the support of one large company as irrelevant, without political influence.

Meany was among the first to call for the implementation of conscription during Watergate. But none of this served to restore either credibility or prestige to the union bureaucracy. It only added another touch of hypocrisy to their tarnished image.

At Nixon's request, Meany adjusted easily to the "new look" Ford administration.

Ford publicly endorsed the common situs picketing bill, which guaranteed some picketing rights to the building trades union, but then vetoed it in response to open-shop forces who opposed any form of union control.

What they called the "Ford double-cross" brought the open flotation of the union bureaucracy with the Republican party to an advantage. One of its purposes had been to put pressure on the Democratic Party, but that failed. There was nothing left for the labor bureaucracy but to support Carter in the 1976 election.

Now that 1980 has rolled around, Meany's grade of "C" for Carter's policies has been put aside. Top AFL-CIO officials are siding up to Carter. Some others have thrown in with Edward Kennedy. The result has been another antilabor politician in the White House.

Meany's political record is the most solid argument there is in favor of an independent labor party.

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...Afghan

Continued from page 6

from the Labor Party, the Australian Confederation of Trade Unions, and sporting groups. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the boycott has been well-received only by Washington's most slavish friends, as Muhammad Ali found out when Carter sent him as envoy to Africa.

But the biggest blow to Carter's war moves has come in the United States, where the "Vietnamese syndrome" is proving to be alive and well.

The struggle will be one of increasing the war budget, building up a U.S. armda in the Arabian Sea, and probing for the right to use bases in Oman, Kenya and Afghanistan. It will be strengthened well before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

But when he began openly to push for the sacrifices that working people will have to make for new Vietnam, he got a sharp rebuff. At the suggestion of draft registration, the student movement went into high gear. Black leaders have been virtually unanimous in denouncing the proposal.

The deep antiwar sentiment in the union ranks has already found unprecedented reflection in official union bodies, with two dissenting votes cast in the AFL-CIO Executive Council against endorsing Carter's proposal. The California Conference of Machinists adopted a strong antidraft resolution.

The national anti-mobilization in Washington called for March 22 has become the focus for the opposition.

And events like the oil workers' strike show that workers are far from ready as also their demand for decent living standards a back seat to "national security" interests.

Instead of strengthening Washington, the aftermath of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has further undermined Washington's capacity to use working people here or in Europe as cannon fodder against oppressed nations like Iran and Afghanist---

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The discussions, debates, and clashes provoked by the struggle in Afghanistan are strengthened well before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.
On making it—Jeno Palucic, founder of Chung King products and Jeno's products, advises: "No matter what you're selling, charge all you can for it... You've got to be tough. I tell my people they only become individuals after five o'clock; before that they're productive units. If anyone gets in the way of the process, he or she becomes like a rotten limb on a tree, I saw him off."

Morality department—We must admit to being impressed by the righteousness of the Pentagon. The folk who gave us the bomb, napalm, and the morality department—We must admit to being impressed by the righteousness of the Pentagon. The folk who gave us the bomb, napalm, and the war on human nature and socialism. Speaker: Stephanie Coontz, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 22, 8 p.m., Mission Forum. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

Clear, frank, unequivocal—Deputy Du Pont, a former member of Congress, was among those named in an Iranian document as taking bribes from the U.S. government. He has nothing in his possession now that he received from Iran.

Soulful Dirge—Some people might think they don't have any, but Mortuary Management reports that the growing demand for less expensive alternative funerals is rocking members of the funeral industry to "the very core of their souls." And, adds the philosophical inclined funeral service insider: "The only difference between the person who doesn't see any value in a traditional funeral and the one who says he will spend less than the same time, simply is a matter of degree."

Consistent—Charles Manson, the cult leader convicted of mass murder, says, "I'm all for the country," adding that if the hostages were not freed, "I'd turn Iran into a parking lot."

**Union Talk**

**Crew cuts on the Missouri Pacific**

This week's column is by Gary Sage, a switcher on the Missouri Pacific Railroad and a member of a United Transportation Union Local 1403.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—On March 30, 1980, the Missouri Pacific Railroad will begin implementing the reduction in operating crews from the present four-man crew (one engineer and three switchers) to three-man crews (one engineer and two switchers).

The agreement between the Missouri Pacific and the United Transportation Union will set the trend for other railway carriers in eliminating the third switcher on the crew.

Two categories of switchers will be created: those hired prior to March 30 to be designated "protected employees" and those hired after this date designated "unprotected employees."). The two-switcher crews will first be filled by "protected employees" before any new hiring is done.

To make this reduction in the work force more palatable, the carrier will pay an extra $5.02 a day per person to the switchers working on the reduced crews. Also, $40 for each two-switcher crew will be contributed to a "productivity fund" that will be divided among all switchers within a district according to the number of times each worked on a reduced crew.

The fund will be administered by an independent trust company that will take off the interest as payment for managing the fund. The $5.02 a day payment will be paid to both categories of switchers, but only "protected employees" will be eligible for the "productivity fund" contributions. In addition, the $5.02 is subject to cost-of-living increases and future contract negotiations, but the $48 is a fixed amount.

This is a big step backward for railroad workers. The result of the agreement will be to divide the work force along seniority lines, reduce the number of switchers, and thus sap the strength of the United Transportation Union.

It creates two classifications of workers with unequal benefits who perform the same task. This is a continuation of the recent agreement that pays new employees only 90 percent of the basic wage in their first year. If this pattern is followed, each successive generation of rail workers will get fewer benefits and fewer co-workers to share the workload. Secondly, this agreement gives the company an economic incentive to fire "protected employees" whenever the opportunity may arise in order to get out of paying them benefits not required for "unprotected employees." If the company succeeds in creating animosity between rail workers, the older employees will find it harder to rely on solidarity from younger workers.

If this crew contract agreement is implemented, it will cut membership in switchers locals of the UTU by a third. Not only does this numerically reduce the size and influence of the union, but it places more burden on fewer workers for dues and pension contributions.

Any reduction of the work force increases the likelihood of serious injury on the job. Due to the nature of rail work, we are often separated from members of our crew by considerable distances. The carriers promise that radios will replace the third switcher. The quality of radio equipment that we are currently provided makes me doubt the reliability of hand-held radios to pass signals. There is a considerable difference in safety between watching someone pass hand signals and having to interpret faulty radio communications.

It doesn't take much to see who gained and who lost in this agreement. The company will save seventeen dollars a day just on wages, not to speak of benefits for the third switcher. Rail workers, on the other hand, will lose a big chunk of their union membership, solidarity between younger and older employees will be jeopardized, and safety will be undermined.

Despite the international union's resistance to oppose crew cutsback, it can be fought. Membership ratification of agreements is not allowed in the UTU, but the rank and file of the union can and should make our opposition clear.

We should decide to draw the line at this point. If not, the carriers' future demands will be even worse.

**What's Going On**

**CALIFORNIA**

**SAN DIEGO**

Revolutions in Central America, Department of Latin American Philosophy, Peace House, 1545 Second Ave., San Diego, March 23, 7 p.m. Donation: $3-50. San Diego Marxist Forum. For more information call (619) 236-3766.

**MISSOURI**

**KANSAS CITY**


**NEW MEXICO**

**ALBUQUERQUE**

Stop the Draft. Speaker: Manuel Arechiga, SWP candidate for Congress, Vendor's St., May 17, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $1-25. SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (505) 842-0654.

**NEW JERSEY**

**NEWARK**


**OREGON**

**PORTLAND**

Reception and Rally for Socialist Workers Presidential Candidate, Speaker: Andrew Fisher, SWP candidate for president. NPA candidate for mayor of Portland. Fri., March 15, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $1-25. SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (503) 824-6054.

**UTAH**

**SALT LAKE CITY**

Debs on energy crisis

Withholding vital energy resources in order to boost prices and profits as the oil companies have done, is an old tactic. This ploy was used by the coal companies during the early part of the century and was blasted in a speech by Eugene Debs.

Debs, the famous union leader and five-time socialist presidential candidate, made these remarks in 1918 at the convention of the Socialist Party in Ohio. This speech was the main evidence used to convict Debs of sedition; he was sentenced to ten years in prison. It is reprinted from "Eugene V. Debs Speaks" (Pathfinder Press, 1946).

 Again, they tell you there is a coal famine now in the state of Ohio. The state of Indiana, where I live, is largely underlaid with coal. There is practically an inexhaustible supply. The coal is banded beneath our very feet. It is within touch all about us—all we can possibly use and more.

And here are the miners, ready to enter the mines. Here is the machinery ready to be put into operation to increase the output to any desired capacity. And three weeks ago a national officer of the United Mine Workers issued and published a statement to the Labor Department of the United States government to the effect that the 600,000 coal miners in the United States at this time, when they talk about a coal famine, are not permitted to work any more than half time.

I have often been in the coal fields; again and again I have seen the miners idle while at the same time there was a scarcity of coal.

They tell you that you ought to buy your coal right away; that you may freeze next winter if you do not. At the same time they charge you three prices for your coal.

Oh, yes, this ought to suit you perfectly if you vote the Republican or Democratic ticket and believe in the private ownership of the coal mines and their operation for private profit.

The coal mine now being privately owned, the operators want a scarcity of coal so they can boost their prices and enrich themselves accordingly. If an abundance of coal were mined there would be lower prices and this would not suit the mine owners. Prices soar and profits increase when there is a scarcity of coal.

It is also apparent that there is collusion between the mine owners and the railroads. The mine owners declare there are no cars while the railroad men insist that there is no coal. And between them they defraud and rob the people.

Let us illustrate a vital point. Here is the coal in great deposits all about us; here are the miners and the machinery of production. Why should there be a coal famine upon the one hand and an army of idle and hungry miners on the other hand?

Is it not an incredibly stupid situation, an almost idiotic if not criminal state of affairs?

We Socialists say: "Take possession of the mines in the name of the people." Set the miners at work and give every miner the equivalent of all the coal he produces. Reduce the work day in proportion to the development of productive machinery. That would at once settle the matter of a coal famine and of idle miners.

But there is too simple a proposition and the people will have none of it. The time will come, however, when the people will be driven to take such action for there is no other efficient and permanent solution of the problem.

Letters

Press lies on Afghanistan

"These reporters spend all day at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, drinking and making up stories."

That was what C., a reporter for New York magazine who spent a week in Afghan­istan writing for the London Daily Mail, told me about her colleagues from the Western press.

I met her on a plane trip to New York the following week.

C. was opposed to the Afghan regime in the West. She thought the rightist guerrillas were destructive, backward, and had nothing to offer Af­ghan­istan.

"And they lie all the time," she told me, "Looking at the Russians dropped napalm on me. He didn't have a single burn on his body.

But the worst liar, she said, is the US. embassy. "They told us that there were 600,000 refugees from the Afghan regime in the camps. We visited some of those camps. We asked one guy how long he'd been there. "Six years," he answered (the Afghan revolution began two years ago). We figured out that there were maybe 70,000 refugees in the camps."

The reporters in Kabul make up their stories. News­week's De Borchgrave wrote that there was a riot outside the prison where some political prisoners were being re­leased, she said, showing me the article. "He says that the oriel­ed the attack on Jones at this time is because he is leading a school re-zoning plan that called for moving students from overcrowded inner-city schools to inner-city schools with open space. Shortly after his suspension plan was essentially scrapped.

In general, Blacks and many other working people here feel the issue is not misuse of public funds. And the issue is not whether Jones did what he was charged with. At issue is the double standard of racist policing.
Learning About Socialism

Has Kremlin changed its line?

In a conversation a few days ago, a friend said, "The Militant has always argued that the Soviet government's accommodation policy in the Middle East is aimed primarily at imperialism to preserve the status quo. Now they are helping to preserve the gains of a revolution in Afghanistan, a situation that Washington is very hostile to. Has their policy changed?"

In part, the answer to this question was given by Leonid Brezhnev in February 11, when he demanded that the two superpowers and its allies stop their counterrevolutionary drive against the Afghan government. He added, "People in Washington like to speak about the need to ensure the safety of the routes along which oil is delivered to the United States. This can be understood to some extent."

Now Brezhnev knows that Washington's talk about security for oil routes is codes for preserving the domination of the oil companies over the Middle East. He was indicating willingness to help Washington block further revolutionary developments in that region, provided Washington calls off its support to the counterrevolution in Afghanistan, which the Kremlin sees as potentially threatening Soviet borders.

This is not the first time that the Kremlin has been forced to give vital material aid to a revolutionary struggle, while simultaneously fighting for its right with Washington at the expense of revolutionary struggles. In 1945, 1954, and 1972, Moscow put heavy pressure on the two superpowers leaders to stop the drive against Washington that left the Vietnamese people far short of their goals of full independence and unification.

In 1972, we saw the awakening specter of Nixon being embraced as a friend of peace by both Peking and Moscow while the air war against Indochina was wrecking unprecedented destruction. But none of these betrayals was not the whole story. Moscow provided limited—yet vitally needed—military and economic aid to Vietnam. Without this, the liberation struggle would have faced far more overwhelming odds.

And Soviet food shipments to Kampuchea last fall were decisive in winning the struggle against famine. These presents are a direct threat to the U.S. and the Soviet Union as imperialist or "hegemonistic" superpowers.

In Afghanistan, the interests of the Soviet state required the Soviet leaders to take the side of forces that are fighting for social progress; while Washington's interests lie with the heroin traffickers, landlords, and the oppressees of literacy and women's rights.

In Kampuchea, the interests of the Soviet state obliged Moscow to take action to save the people from famine. But Washington sought to use the famine as a lever to overthrow the Heng Sotou government.

The contrast between the Soviet rulers' striving for a live-and-let-live agreement with imperialism and the aid they provided to certain liberating forces is so marked that contradiction between the Soviet state—a workers-state and the privileged, conservative bureaucratic caste that governs it. This contradiction didn't always exist. The Bolshevik Party headed by Lenin, which led the workers to power in October 1917, identified with the struggle of workers and oppressed people all over the world.

They knew that imperialism's profit hunger required reversing the revolution and subjecting the Soviet Union, like the rest of the world, to imperialist domination. And they knew that imperialism's hunger and greed required victorious revolutions so that international economic planning based on the collaboration of workers in many countries could be established.

On November 27, 1920, Lenin stated, "We have now passed from the arena of war to the arena of peace but we have not yet passed from the fight against imperialism to the fight against capitalism and socialism remain side by side: we cannot live peacefully—peaceably if the one or the other will be the victor in the end.

An obituary will be sung either over the death of world capitalism or the death of the Soviet Republic." An obituary will be sung either over the death of world capitalism or the death of the Soviet Republic."

Lenin's policy was expressed in the founding of the Communist International in 1919, which he designed to foster collaboration of revolutionary workers parties around the world.

After Lenin's death, a bureaucratic layer headed by Stalin put the workers and their representatives to work in their own hands. The bureaucracy was concerned with preserving and extending its own material privileges. To that end, it suppressed the democratic rights of Soviet workers and farmers, and began the search for deals with imperialism—"socialism in one country" which is defended by the imperialists. As a result, the bureaucracy wanted to help the imperialists and the bureaucracy's desire for stability cannot be brought about.

But the bureaucracy's desire for stability cannot be brought about. The bureaucracy cannot stop the drive to reconstitute the entire world, including the Soviet Union and the other workers states. Nor can the workers stop the bureaucracy's efforts to crush their struggles against the bureaucracy. Nor can the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America cease trying to get the imperialists' feet off their necks.

And gone is the bureaucratic talk about "socialism in one country," the fate of the Soviet Union continues to be directly linked to the outcome of these struggles.

The bureaucracy destroys its narrow interests by maneuvering between those clashing forces, now supporting one and then the other in pursuance of its chimerical goal of long-term stable collaboration with imperialism.

The bureaucracy's policy is a major obstacle to the world revolution. It has led to catastrophes for the world working class—from the crushing of the Spanish revolution in 1936 to the defeat of the Viet Cong in 1973. Without the collaboration of the bureaucratic, imperialism would be far weaker today.

The bureaucracy prevents socialists from defending moves the Kremlin makes that aid revolutions: whether it is sending guns to Vietnam, grain to Kampuchea, or troops to Afghanistan.

—Fred Feldman

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be edited to fit space. We cannot guarantee that we will publish all letters we receive. Indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.
**THE MILITANT**

‘On to Chicago, May 10’

San Francisco Women’s Day builds national march

By Patricia Fernandez and Steve Marshall

TH贯 truck carrying fourteen people. In addition set for May 11, has been changed to May 10 in order to secure a parade permit.

By Lynn Masterson

NEW DATE FOR MARCH

The National Mothers Day March for the Equal Rights Amendment in Chicago, called by the National Organization for Women and originally set for May 11, has been changed to May 10 in order to secure a parade permit.

Texas border cops kill 3 Mexicans

By Patricia Fernandez and Steve Marshall

HEBBRONVILLE, Tex.—Three undocumented Mexican immigrants— including six-year-old Estella Salazar de Cruz—died near here March 5 after a truck-with fourteen passengers—was fired on by two sheriffs deputies and two border patrol cops.

The killings have outraged San Antonio leaders and community activists who spoke and pledged their support for women’s rights. All told, the day involved more than thirty speakers and entertainers; some seventy unions and other groups set up booths.

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, also spoke and voiced his support to the May 10 ERA march. He told the rally, “Fighting for our rights in the streets and then in November putting the same politicians back in office makes no sense. The Democratic and Republican politicians know what they are doing; they know they are enforcing discrimination and they want it that way.”

Pulley said that a labor party based on the unions is needed so that women, Blacks, Latinos, and all working people can fight politically for their rights.

Seven-five activists from NOW, CLUW, and various unions attended a reception for Pulley after the rally.

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By Lynn Masterson

The March 8 rally kicked off West Coast efforts to build the May 10 Mother’s Day march in Chicago for the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois.

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