

BAKKE CASE:

MASSES STRUGGLE AGAINST DECISION

As this society speeds towards revolution, and doing this it speeds the disintegration of the capitalist system, we can see at all points the intensifying decay of so-called bourgeois democracy and its illusions. The latest case in point is the Allen Bakke case. Which is where a white student, at the University of California at Davis, sued that University, declaring that its quota system for admitting black and other minorities to its medical school violated his civil rights. What happened is that the University in its move to feign equality had laid aside 16 of 100 seats at the medical school for blacks and other minorities. This is supposed to be their way of making up for the slave trade, slavery, national oppression, and racism. By letting 16 blacks and other minorities into medical school each year no matter what. Bakke says he had better qualifications, better grades than the blacks and other oppressed minorities—so to bring them in the school and leave him out, is to practice reverse discrimination.

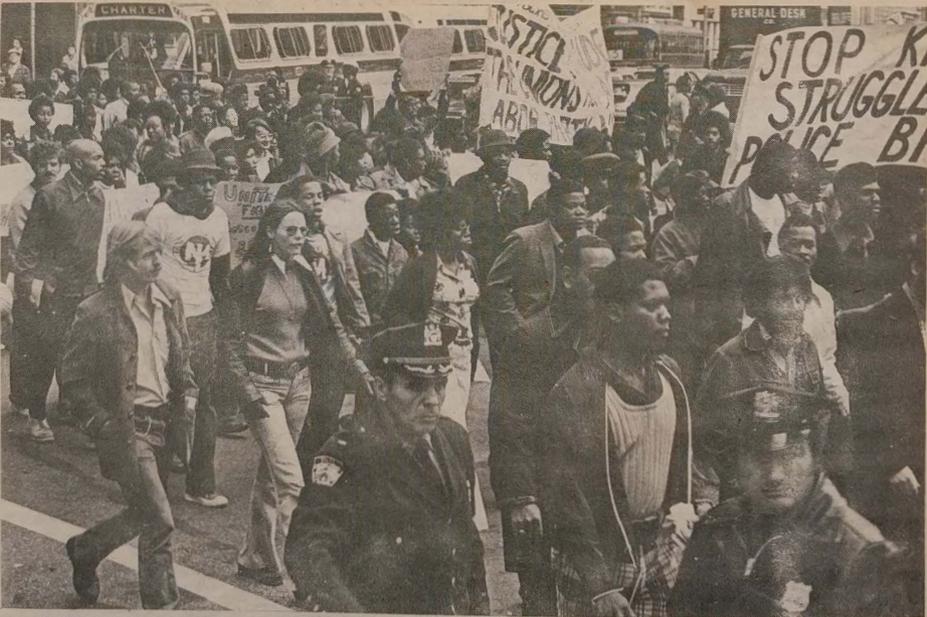
Reverse discrimination so-called is now the codeword slogan and rallying cry of

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the backward elements in society to stop any mechanical attempts at sham equality. What is so frustrating is that the 16 black, brown, yellow and red faces in the freshman class of the Univ. of California changes nothing at all in this society. Mr. Bakke's suit is in keeping with the period of reaction that we are going thru, in which the bourgeoisie state, edges further and further to the right all the time we are weighted down by the fake liberalism of smiling jimmy. The reversal of the rulings which had entitled women to compensation at their work when they were pregnant, the gradual restoration of the death penalty, the erosion of some of the gains of the black liberation movement in the 60's--this rightward move is not just spontaneous. As a result of the spontaneous uprise in the 60's, this is also being orchestrated by the bourgeoisie to take us as far away from revolutionary ferment as we can get.

The only reason those 16 have to be admitted in a special way into the medical school is because of continuous discrimination. Some opportunists have exposed themselves on this question, like the so-called friends of black people who have shown themselves to be straight out racists, for instance, the American Jewish Committee. And the black lackies like Bayard Rustin, who tells blacks that they should not resist this erosion of reforms because they are not as important as unemployment also reveal the extent of the perversion they are warped by. If we stop and think, we know that 16 minorities out of a population of 200 million is not going to make change, and that just to have this program is a pure example of tokenism and nothing else. It is really the bourgeoisie struggling among themselves, because the masses are not struggling to get into the Univ. of California Medical School. But this attack the Bakke case makes is important because it is aimed at creating a more conservative and right wing climate in the US, and the various organizations that were supposedly interested in Negro civil rights, are coming up on the wrong side of the question. This is good, and important that many of the so-called liberals are being exposed on this issue, because all this



The imperialist economic crisis worsens & the bourgeoisie increasingly reduces the economic conditions of the people and cuts away at basic rights, attempting to divide the people. The mass revolutionary struggle must close the ranks of the people vs the enemy.

can do is isolate them. The entire society is gripped by recession, unemployment, and as the bourgeoisie has to draw it in more and more they have to shift more and more of the weight of their crisis onto the backs of the people. Revolution throughout the third world is also destroying some of the superprofits, and forcing the US imperialists to harass the people even more directly. The cutbacks, layoffs, speed-ups, reduction of social programs are all part the general crisis of imperialism, particularly the declining defensive U.S. imperialism. The elimination of minority programs in the universities such as the closing of Newark Rutgers night school, the threat to close the law school at Rutgers, the repeated threat to close down the art and music programs in the public schools, all

these things are part of the same attack the bourgeoisie is making on the people. The Bakke case is the flagship effort to spearhead and legitimize such anti-popular moves. But in opposing the bourgeoisie's attempt to cutback on the peoples' movement against segregation and discrimination, we must also uphold the fact that letting the 16 students in is a trick too. And what's more by making us fight about the 16 students we are on the defensive. The real truth is that in order to get educational institutions that represent the needs of the masses that are oriented to teach the masses, we are going to have to change society itself. Reforms like adding 16 black and Chicano and Asian students to the freshman class, represent fake change and actually change nothing. In or-

der to have an all around change in education, we must have a socialist system not a capitalist system. Even in fighting against the racists who are using the doubletalk nonsense of "reverse discrimination" we must also point out the contradictions in the quota system, and the basic fact that capitalism cannot provide for the masses of people, only exploit them. The American Jewish Committee's bogus line that the Jews suffered from quotas so they should oppose quotas in the abstract is a vicious cover for their reactionary line in support of black national oppression and national exclusion. Blacks and other minorities suffered from zero quotas, the point is that we must understand the facts, and also understand the movement of the facts, i.e., how things change.