

# PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE



"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin

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## May Day; Holiday of World Proletariat

May 1st will mark the 86th celebration of May Day. May Day has always represented the militant struggle of the working class. The bourgeois ruling class distorts and misrepresents the true meaning of May Day to the working class. They have always tried to take the militancy out of our struggle and weaken us. Today, when capitalism is on its last legs, and they are pushing towards fascism, "the open terroristic dictatorship of the most reactionary most chauvinistic and most imperialist elements of finance capital" (1), they push more and more the white chauvinism and anti-communism that divides our class. We workers have two choices: to give in and accept fascism or to fight for socialism. This means to fight to unite our class, to build a class party and take the ideas of scientific socialism to the whole class. May Day is one of the few holidays that represent the class consciousness of the proletariat and the road to socialism. This is why we must

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## U.S. Workers-It's Up To Us To End The War!

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. So long as there is an aggressor left in our country, our people will continue the fight to sweep him away." Ho Chi Minh. (1)

On March 30, the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces launched a fierce offensive against many enemy positions in south Vietnam. Demonstrating their iron will and heroic spirit the 34 million Vietnamese people are striking decisive blows against the U.S. imperialists and the Saigon puppet forces.

The U.S. imperialists confronted with fierce attacks by the South Vietnamese Peoples' Liberation Forces, and the failure of their "Vietnamization policy", have intensified their position in the war. Large numbers of aircraft have been dispatched and the U.S. 7th Fleet warships moved in to support the south Vietnamese puppet troops.

The current offensive and rapid military advance have proved Nixon's policy of Viet-

namization is a failure. It has been reported that there has been large scale defection of puppet troops. In one case reported, "Many of the regiments (56th Regiment of Saigon) 4,000 men including officers, left the field...and others joined the oncoming forces...". (2) The wanton bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong by hundreds of U.S. aircraft has also further proved the policy of Vietnamization has failed. It has shown that the U.S. imperialists have no intention of getting out of Vietnam and if necessary they again may use U.S. ground troops. The U.S. imperialists have shown the world that they will go to any lengths necessary to keep South Vietnam a neo-colony.

Under the policy of Vietnamization the U.S. imperialists have forced puppet troops to fight their war, replacing the U.S. troops. The U.S. imperialists supply the military training, advisors, money and the military equipment to continue the aggression in south

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## Women Industrial Workers - Inequality On The Job

In the industrial plants, the triple burdens forced on working class women are clear to see.

It would be difficult not to see that, in general, conditions for women workers are much worse than for men, even within the same plant. Women usually have the most tedious, speeded up and lowest-paying jobs. While both men and women workers suffer the harassment of supervisors, women are subjected to male supremacy in the form of pats, pinches, and slaps on the rear, and have to control their response to whis-

tles and passes made at them if they want to keep their jobs. National minority women suffer this oppression coupled with white chauvinism.

When you go in a plant and see no women at all in skilled jobs, and only women in the lowest-paying job "classifications", and women doing exactly the same work men do for \$1.00 an hour less, you begin to get an idea of the extra exploitation working women suffer.

Frequently workers are told that the reason women aren't allowed to take the bet-

ter-paying jobs is because the work is too hard, or takes more strength than a woman has. In another plant, or even in another division of the same plant, women do that same job and get the familiar \$1.65 or \$1.85, while the man's wage for the job is \$3.60. In that case, the woman is told she's paid less because she "doesn't need the money as much." And in companies where women do have to be paid as much as men, and the wages are relatively high, there are not very many women.

Clearly, the ideas about "women's" jobs are only excuses for the extra weight of the oppression of women, in other words, cover-ups for the

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# VIETNAM

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Vietnam, while carrying out a policy of saturation bombing in the North. "President Nixon's Vietnamization program is nothing more than a form of terror to suppress the people.

"The sole purpose of Vietnamization is to use Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese. In this there is nothing new except the changing of the color of the dead." (3)

The social chauvinists around the world have supported the program of Vietnamization. They have praised Nixon for withdrawing U.S. troops and "winding down the war". Lenin pointed out very clearly in speaking about the bribery of the imperialists' own working class, in efforts to gain support for the imperialists' plunder of the colonies, it is necessary for "the formation of armies recruited from subject peoples". (4)

The Communist League does not support the policy of Vietnamization or any other U.S. imperialist trick aimed at enslaving the peoples of Vietnam or any other peoples of the world.

The U.S. imperialists think that the stepped up air attacks will cow the Vietnamese people, but in fact over the last ten years they have only made them more determined to win. The U.S. imperialists "may use thousands of aircraft against North Vietnam. But, they will never be able to break the iron will of the heroic Vietnamese people to fight for national salvation. The more truculent they are, the graver their crimes. The war may last another five, ten, twenty or more years, Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities and enterprises may be destroyed, but the Vietnamese people will not be intimidated." (5)

The war in Vietnam is the apex of the class struggle in the world today. On the one hand U.S. imperialism with the aid of the Saigon puppet troops are trying to enslave the Vietnamese people. In opposition to them, the Vietnamese people fight for independence and freedom, supported by the exploited and oppressed peoples of the world. The Peoples Republic of China, Albania, and other socialist countries as well as many anti-imperialist countries, give assistance and express their fraternal solidarity with the struggles of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialism. The Peoples Republic of China have always been very clear on their feelings toward the war in Indo-China, U.S. imperialism and the peoples of the U.S. At present the Peoples Republic of China's table tennis team is in the U.S., in efforts to promote peace and friendship between the peoples of China and the U.S. The following quote

expresses very well their position on the war in Indo-China and U.S. imperialism. "We have always regarded the struggle of the Vietnamese people and the other peoples of Indo-China as our own struggle. We firmly and unswervingly stand together with the Vietnamese and other peoples of Indo-China, and resolutely support them in carrying their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation through to the end. We firmly believe that, confronted by the three countries in Indo-China who are united in battle, all the U.S. imperialist war adventures are doomed to failure. The just struggle of the three peoples in Indo-China against the U.S. aggressors will surely win final victory!" (6)

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the National Liberation Front delegation and foreign minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, stated: "only two alternatives remain for Mr. Nixon: either end the war or continue the 'crime of Vietnamization'. To do the latter...would mean that the U.S. would become ever more deeply involved in the war..." (7) This has been born out in the sending of hundreds of planes to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong, and sending U.S. troops to back the puppet troops.

The U.S. imperialists have taken their stand, they have refused to let go of Indo-China. Instead of setting a date for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops and arms, they have blatantly refused to negotiate and have stepped up their criminal acts of bombing and terrorizing the Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese people are not afraid of the bombings and threats of heavier raids. The greater the determination of the people in Vietnam, the further Vietnamization fails and the closer they come to the goal of re-unification of their country.

On the other hand, the stand of the vast majority of the people in the United States is to live in peace and friendship with the peoples of all other nations. The peoples of the U.S. are also the victims of U.S. imperialism. The victory of the Vietnamese peoples against U.S. imperialism would be a victory for all the exploited and oppressed peoples of the world. The defeat of the U.S. imperialists by the Vietnamese would be a victory for the Negro, Puerto Rican, Indian and Mexican national minorities who are linked by this common oppressor, U.S. imperialism, in their struggles for independence and freedom. It would be a victory for the whole working class in the U.S..

The entire working class is rising up and voicing their opposition to this criminal war in Indo-China. The complacency and apathy of the social chauvinists at this time is also a criminal act. Wide spread mass agitation and propaganda, exposing U.S. imperialism and

for the victory of the Indo-Chinese peoples is the task of all class conscious, revolutionary workers.

Comrades and friends it is our duty in the name of the whole of humanity and in the interest of proletarian internationalism to do all that is necessary to expose and get rid of these capitalist dogs that are running this country. And, who in the name of the peoples of the U.S. are carrying out vicious and barbarous crimes against the peoples of Vietnam and all of Indo-China.

It is in the interests of all exploited and oppressed peoples of the world that we demand:

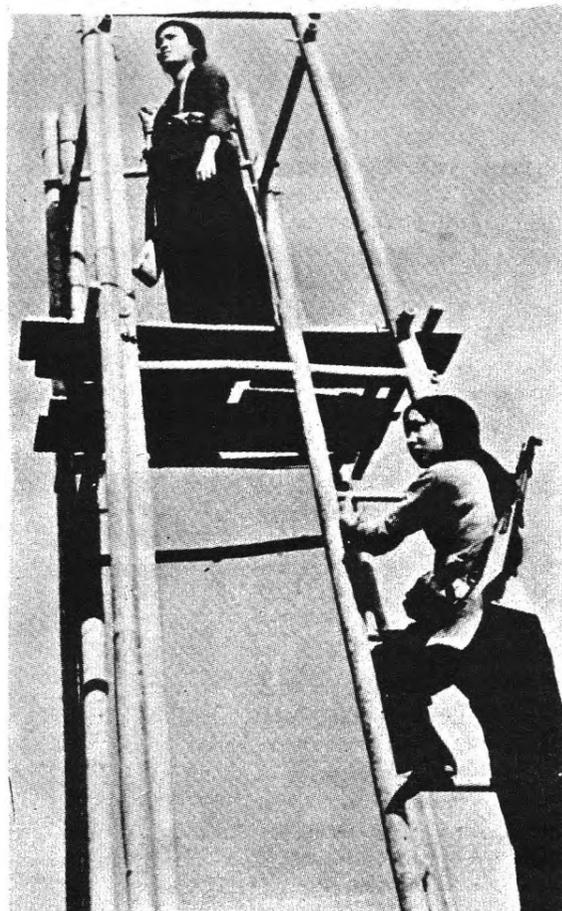
THAT THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS SET A DATE FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL U.S. TROOPS, EQUIPMENT, AND RENOUNCE SUPPORT OF THE THIEU GOVERNMENT!

VICTORY TO THE THREE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES--DEATH TO U.S. IMPERIALISM!

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, UNITE!!

## Footnotes:

- 1) South Vietnam In Struggle, Ho Chi Minh, No. 90, March 1971, p.3.
- 2) Chicago Sun Times, 4/10/72, p. 38.
- 3) Ibid., p. 2.
- 4) Imperialism, Highest Stage of Capitalism, V.I. Lenin, FLP, Peking 1965 p.123
- 5) Against U.S. Aggression For National Salvation, Ho Chi Minh, FLP, Hanoi, 1967, p. 144.
- 6) "The Vietnamese People Have Fought Splendidly", Resolutely Back Vietnamese People In Carrying War Against U.S. Aggression and For National Salvation to Complete Victory, FLP, Peking, 1971, p. 11
- 7) Chicago Sun Times, 4/10/72 p. 38



Militant No. Vietnamese women vigilantly defend the air space of Hanoi.

# News Briefs from the Negro Nation

KENNER, LA.-

The Ku Klux Klan of Kenner, La. has been placing posters around town which warn Anglo-American national minority residents to "Save Our Land, Join the Klan". Two Negro youths were assaulted by Klansmen when they stopped to read one of the posters.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.-

In New Orleans, the American Nazi Party recently staged a public parade.

MERIDIAN, MISS.-

In Meridian, Miss., two members of the Ku Klux Klan have been released after serving only a short part of their sentences for the lynching-style murders of two civil rights workers in 1966. Judge Harold Cox, upon releasing them, asked why they had not been released sooner.

The U.S. state fears losing its imperialist grip on the Negro Nation, so it invites and welcomes the aid of agents like the Klan and the Nazi Party. In this way they attempt to scare the revolutionary struggles out of Negro workers and further increase fascism in the Negro Nation.

The fascists and their agents, in this case the Klan, tell the Anglo-American national minority workers that the way to "Save Our Land", is to increase the oppression of the Negro people, to bring back the horrors of slavery and lynchings. Those members of the Anglo-American national minority who fall for these lies, only aid the fascist imperialists and their death grip on all people in the Negro Nation.

JACKSON, MISS., MARCH 25-

Relatives of the youths murdered and injured at Jackson State in 1970 are suing the Mississippi law authorities for damages.

The whole incident seems to have been forgotten by those who still talk about the Kent State murders. It seems that the U.S. has done a good job of convincing the Anglo-American citizens to see the lives of Negroes as insignificant and therefore their deaths as less than tragic. The state and federal juries found the murders justified and returned no indictments, even though the President's Commission on Campus Unrest found it "unreasonable, unjustified, over-reaction". Why is this? Because the President's Commission is just a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down. The U.S. official mouthpieces can thus wash their hands of these murders by denouncing them, and let its courts, its henchmen, do the

dirty work of legalizing these and other murders.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.-

Last years bloody prison riots have caused U.S. citizens to take a look at the prisons of this country. What they are seeing is sickening, like the corruption in a coffin just opened. The convicts themselves shut off from view behind the prison walls, left to the tender mercies of sadistic mental midgets who are free to work out their derangements upon them, struck the first blow at opening this "coffin" to view. Now, more and more chilling details of prison life are being exposed.

Today the fight against these conditions is being led by Negro legislators across the country. In Louisiana, the Black State Legislators Association, (BLA), led by Representative Dorothy Taylor, is seeking legislation to reform the infamous Angola State Prison and Parish Prison of New Orleans.

Reforms such as these can never be any more than patch work on the same old rotting system. Reforms can never solve the problems of prisons or any other problems for that matter. The fact that the struggle to change the rotten "symptom" of U.S. imperialism is left in the hands of reformers, is a testimony to the urgent need for a Party of the working class, for a real Communist Party, not a party that fights for patch-work solutions to social symptoms but a party of revolution, a party that can lead the class in smashing U.S. imperialism, the disease itself, and in building a new, bright future under Socialism.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.-

On March 5, the New Orleans City Council (all Anglo-American national minority), assigned the task of redistricting New Orleans so as to give fair representation to its equal Negro and Anglo-American national minority population. They adopted a plan that so gerrymandered the city that its two Negro majority districts were redrawn so as to insure New Orleans a lily-white, totally chauvinistic city council.

To fight for a fair representation of Negroes on the City Council, the Coalition for a Fair Redistricting Plan was formed. It calls for an eleven man council with at least five Negroes on it.

As Communists, we know that the state is only a tool for the suppression of one class of people by another. The people most brutalized by the imperialist ruling class are the Negro people of the Negro Nation. The imperialists are relying more and more

## MAY DAY

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know the history of May Day in order to revive it in the militant spirit of proletarian internationalism.

The first May Day was held May 1st, 1886. Thousands of workers held a general strike that was centered around the demand for an eight hour day. Workers from New York, Baltimore, Washington, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago and many other cities participated in this demonstration of strength and militancy.

The center of the strike movement was Chicago. The state attempted to contain the strike by arresting the strike movement and harrasing it. On May 4, 1886, a demonstration was held in Haymarket Square. It was called to protest the murder and beating of people at a meeting of striking McCormick Reaper workers, where 6 workers were killed by the police and many injured. The demonstration was about to be adjourned when police launched an attack against the workers and threw a bomb into the crowd. Four militant labour leaders were framed and hung over the incident. Two of them, Parson and Spies, are still remembered as militant fighters and heroes of the working class. The Haymarket Affair as it became known, is still a symbol of the militant struggle of the working class and the brutal attempts by the bourgeois state to repress the working class movement.

In 1889, at a meeting in Paris, May 1st became international and stands as a symbol of the militant struggle for the 8 hour day and for the struggle to overthrow capital. The struggle was broadened by Engels and Lenin. Lenin wrote in 1904:

"Comrade Workers! May day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom." (2)

May Day continued to be celebrated by workers all over the world through World War I,

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on ruling oppressed nations through "their own people" in the service of the imperialists (compradors). The question that must be asked is that since a man cannot serve two masters but "must love one and hate the other", which master will he serve once we put him into office? Which one can he serve from his state position?

# Nazi Pacheco Goes Free

Manuel Pacheco is a cop with the Los Angeles Police Department, Harbor division. One night last year, he and his brother (also a cop) broke into the house of Pacheco's ex-wife and shot 4 bullets into the bedroom. Their two sons were in the house at the time, but officer Pacheco didn't care, he kept shooting until he almost killed their mother and her boy friend. She died a week later in Harbor General Hospital.

Sounds pretty sick, doesn't it? But this isn't all. This dog has gained quite a reputation for his brutality against the Mexican national minority community in Los Angeles. In plain clothes, together with his policeman brother Alfredo, Pacheco took a 17 year old Banning High School student from a dance to an office where he was beaten. Another cop stood by the door while Pacheco beat the 120 lb. youth and broke the student's jaw!

The same cop, beat another 17 year old Mexican national minority youth so badly that he now suffers from permanent brain damage. He threw a grandmother through a plate glass window, and caused another woman to lose her soon to be born baby! As you can see officer Pacheco is quite a cop! He has been given the Medal of Valor by his superiors in the L.A.P.D. for these and other similar "exploits"!

The working class in the Harbor Area of Los Angeles have been complaining about these two cops for a long time. Two Mexican national minority community organizations have filed charges against them for police brutality, but nothing was done. Now, with the murder of his ex-wife, the State has been forced to put up a front of taking some kind of action against Pacheco. The actions of the court were predictable. The first thing the judge did was to release Manuel Pacheco on only \$5,000 bail! After a short trial the jury stated their verdict, INNOCENT OF MURDER!! But to make things look good, they said he was "guilty of involuntary manslaughter". In other words, he didn't mean to kill his ex-wife (after breaking into her house, pulling his gun and aiming it at her), he just couldn't help himself!

No one was really fooled by this trial. No one really expected him to pay for his crimes. The cops in L.A. have murdered hundreds of workers in cold blood over the years, and not one has had to pay for their crimes.

The problem isn't that there is one mean cop and his brother terrorizing the Mexican national minority workers and their families in the L.A. Har-

## MAY DAY

(cont. from p. 3)

the years of imperialist expansion, the depression years and World War II. Today it is a major holiday in socialist countries like China, Albania, Korea, Vietnam and in countries such as France, Mexico etc.. In the United States today every child still hears of May Day. But the ruling class, the bourgeoisie, turns it into some kind of Spring festival or makes out that it's the remnants of ancient fertility rites. Reformers and agents of the bourgeoisie have always tried to sabotage this militant political struggle. The reformist 2nd International fought to celebrate May Day on Sunday so that workers wouldn't strike on that day. They talked of the 8 hour day as if it was the end in itself, not part of the revolutionary struggle of our class.

The labor "misleaders" in the U.S. supported the capitalists when they declared May 1st as Child Health Day (as if they ever cared about our children's health!) They cheered when it was made Law Day, honoring the capitalist state that oppresses us all. And this year Nixon is calling for Loyalty Day on May 1st. The A.F. of L. itself said why they were doing this. "At the same time May 1 no longer will be known as either strike day or communist day." (Report by the executive committee to the 1928 Convention of the A.F. of L.). They try to create a "Labor Day" as a picnic day in September. But we laboring people will not let them succeed. We will struggle to revitalize May Day, to make it a day which will show our determination to carry the fight through to liberation.

Where does this leave us on May Day 1972? It leaves us in a world situation where the wars of national liberation are defeating U.S. imperialism, shrinking its markets and intensifying the contradictions among the imperialists themselves. As a result, the U.S. working class is moving towards revolution,

bor area, the problem is that under this system - capitalism - everything serves the capitalist class, especially the police.

We can see that as long as the U.S. imperialists occupy the Southwest, with their police, armies, courts and government, the Mexican national minority will never have justice, will never be free from Pacheco and his kind. The only solution is to oust the U.S. imperialists from the Southwest and return control of this land to the Mexican national minority people of the Southwest. This solution is Regional Autonomy for the Southwest. Under Regional Autonomy the Mexican national minority people would control the police, army, government, courts, schools, and industry of the Southwest. Only in this way can real equality for the Mexican national minority people be achieved.

while the capitalist ruling class is moving towards fascism.

The working class in the U.S. needs organized, unified leadership. We need a communist party with a correct Marxist-Leninist analysis of the history and current situation in the U.S. state to guide us. This party will be able to rally our class and lead the struggle for proletarian internationalism to support the independence movements of the colonies. Only in this way can the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism become a reality.

We will fight for many reforms on the way to revolution. But we know that the struggle for reforms is subordinate to the revolutionary struggle for liberty and socialism. We can never allow reforms to be granted one section of our class which are paid for by the blood, sweat and tears of another section. Communists and all honest working people must fight for an end to the privilege of one nation over another. We will fight for the 8 hour day--but we must fight for it for the international working class. We must fight for proletarian internationalism. This means revitalizing May Day as a revolutionary holiday for working people, a day for our class to express its determination to lead the struggle to overthrow imperialism.

8 HOURS WORK, 8 HOURS REST,  
8 HOURS RECREATION !

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE NEGRO NATION  
AND PUERTO RICO!

REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR THE  
SOUTHWEST!

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM!

Footnotes:

(1) Dimitroff, The United Front. Int. Pub., 1938, P. 10  
(2) Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. 7, "May Day", Progress Pub., Moscow, 1965, p. 199

At the same time, we can see that the imperialists are not about to willingly give the Mexican national minority people control over their land (the Southwest), but that this can only be achieved by a fierce revolutionary struggle of the whole working class, and that this struggle can only be successful by uniting all of the struggles of the working and oppressed people in the U.S. into one gigantic thrust against capitalist rule. Unity can only be achieved by a strong leading organization of advanced workers, a multi-national communist party, guided and disciplined by the Marxist-Leninist scientific theory of revolution.

REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR THE  
SOUTHWEST!!

MAKE THE CAPITALISTS AND  
THEIR PUPPETS LIKE PACHECO PAY  
FOR THEIR CRIMES!!

# Plant Organizing in Detroit

Recently many workers have asked how can the science of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought be used in plant organizing? How can we apply the strategy and tactics of proletarian revolution to our daily work? For answers to these questions we can look to both J.V. Stalin and Mao Tsetung. Comrade Marshal Joseph Stalin stated: "Strategy deals with the main forces of the revolution and their reserves.", and further, "While the object of strategy is to win the war against... the bourgeoisie, to carry through the struggle against... the bourgeoisie to its end, tactics pursue less important objects, for their aim is not the winning of the war as a whole, but the winning of some particular engagements or particular battles..." (1) And, regarding political motion, Comrade Mao Tsetung pointed out: "The masses in any given place are generally composed of three parts, the relatively active, the intermediate and the relatively backward. The leaders must therefore be skilled in uniting the small number of active elements around the leadership and must rely on them to raise the level of the intermediate elements and to win over the backward elements." (2) Both of these statements represent the summation of years of experience in the class struggle and can be used to illuminate our organizing path.

In considering one of the major auto plants in Detroit, Dodge Main, the first step necessarily was to carefully analyze the objective and subjective conditions of this particular plant. We see that in the plant there are production workers, upgraders (those unskilled workers attempting to become skilled workers), part time upgraders, apprentices, and Journeymen; all of which represent various imperialist gradations between so-called skilled and unskilled proletarians. Journeymen and upgraders who are usually Anglo-Americans are both considered to be skilled tradesmen—the upgraders finishing their education and the journeymen who have supposedly completed their skilled tradesmen education. These different job classifications and the material base of pay that accompanies them provide the basis for the divide and rule tactics of the imperialists. Further, the monopoly capitalist class uses nationalities, men and women, employed or unemployed, domestic or foreign, etc. as distinctions to divide the work force and prevent a joint struggle against capital from being mounted.

The struggle between the bribed, skilled proletarians and the unskilled proletarians

is vicious. It sees the Journeymen and upgraders on one hand, opposed to the unskilled point of production workers. The skilled workers are almost entirely Anglo-Americans while the unskilled workers (who represent the vast majority in the plant) are primarily Negro national minority and other various oppressed national minorities. What this represents is that those workers from the imperialist nations (i.e., the U.S.) are favored over those workers from the oppressed nations. The capitalists throw "favors" to the workers from the imperialist nations (over for instance workers from oppressed nations such as Puerto Rico or the Negro Nation) in order to accelerate class division and prevent revolution. Concrete examples of this are as follows. When there's an unemployment crisis the national minorities if hired at all are hired after Anglo-American workers. Those who do get hired can always be sure they'll be in the front ranks of those who get layed-off. Thus, the age old proverb of the oppressed Negro people depicting white chauvinism, "Negro people are the last to be hired and the first to be fired, or White is right, Black step back."

Here's another example of how class divisions are accelerated. The statement "the more repulsive the work, the lower the wages" of K. Marx and F. Engels in the Manifesto of the Communist Party, is indicative of working conditions at the point of production which is concentrated at Dodge Main with Negro national minority workers. These workers stand in direct opposition to the upgraders. The production workers, after a period of time, are allowed to take a plant examination to become an upgrader whose aim is to become a Journeyman. However, as was pointed out earlier, the majority of the upgraders are Anglo-American, while the majority of production workers remain Negro national minority workers. The white chauvinism in this plant is obvious to all.

The chances for a Negro national minority worker to ever become a Journeyman are about as good as those of a man going into battle with his hands tied behind his back. The imperialist paid, white chauvinist employers use several methods to keep national minorities, but Negro national minority workers in this plant in particular, from advancing. They will hire an "experienced" Journeyman, or transfer, fire and rehire a Journeyman. Or, they'll lay off the potential and imminent Negro national minority Journeyman, thereby preventing him from accumulating the needed hours and letting an Anglo-American surpass him

in hours to get the job aimed at, or, as indicated in the first method, by putting a Journeyman from elsewhere in the expected and anticipated position of Journeyman. This type of suspended "limbo" is perpetrated continually for "undesirables" and national minorities. One worker who is an Arc Welder at Dodge Main, a sub-division in the largest union local of Chrysler, has been on the waiting list of upgraders for years. And, like so many others, he is as skilled as they come, but has never been allowed to become a Journeyman because of the white chauvinist policies that exist at this plant. He is compelled to work as part time upgrader, repeatedly doing acetylene torch work while cutting pieces of metal other than arc welding on automobiles, as his upgrading aspirations and classification called for. Yet, chances are he will never become a Journeyman.

There are also contradictions in the plant posed by the presence of the apprentices. The apprentices immediate aim, like that of the upgraders, is to become a Journeyman. Again, apprentices are predominantly Anglo-Americans. Although they are initially paid less than the upgraders, because of their being sent to skilled tradesman school "free of charge" by the company, their "superior" education to the upgraders propels them to a speedier advancement to Journeyman, and they automatically, on the way up, begin to receive a higher wage than the upgraders. Thus we see, there is a continuous struggle between the skilled and unskilled tradesman, from Journeyman to production worker and all the varying degrees in between.

It is the production workers, excluding the Journeymen of course, especially those with the hottest, dirtiest and hardest jobs, who are continually attacked by the capitalist system of agents, union class collaborators, and company policies. A specific example of this is the recent counter-revolutionary bargain struck between the Dodge Main capitalists and the UAW (United Auto Workers) to cut the wages of all job setters (national composition 50-50) and for the Rod and Cap department (national composition 99% Negro national minority). Further, the capitalist dogs and their puppets continually dangle the carrot before the most oppressed workers, especially the Negro national minority, encouraging them to drive full speed into a dead end street. For example they take a part-time upgrader, whose aim is to become a Journeyman, "let" him work overtime on weekends and train him to do skilled

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## WORKING WOMEN

(cont. from p. 1)

extra profits for the capitalists! As for women not needing the money: 15% of all working women have to support their families, and their wages are about half of those of men. 1960 statistics showed that while over 1/3 of the total labor force was made up of women, they averaged only \$2,531 in annual wages. During that same period, men averaged \$4,919. (Statistics from Labor Research Foundation, Labor Fact Book, International Publishers, New York, 1965, pp. 32-3) As for the abilities of women, the capitalists themselves shoot holes in that lie when they force women into the so-called "men's" jobs. But also, it is important to point out that in socialist China, Vietnam, Korea, and Albania, women not only participated in the military struggle for liberation, but they also do every kind of work, for bridge-building and construction to factory work to the so-called "professional" work.

Here in the U.S., there's an example of how the special position of women helps capitalism: during World War II, women flooded the industrial work force, and no one would have dared to drop a hint that women couldn't rivet, make torpedoes, or work on presses, or that women were stupid, lazy, inferior, etc.. But women were forced back out of the work force into domestic labor at the end of the war.

Clearly, keeping women out of the work force means that when capitalism needs cheap labor, women are IT! Even more so than national minority men, women in general, and especially national minority women, are a cheap, available reserve of labor for the capitalists. This means that now, when imperialism is dying and has an ever increasing need for profits and cheap labor, more and more women are entering the work force. Many women are being hired to replace men, who were laid off, at a much lower wage. Those relatively high-paid women are being forced into lower job categories (with less pay!), and, in general, women workers (who are 80% unorganized) are being forced to work for lowering wages.

The total number of women who work is steadily rising. There are now a total of 31 million women workers. It is important to note that 49% of all Negro and Negro national minority women work, while 41% of "white" women work (these government statistics are extremely misleading because Mexican and Puerto Rican national minority women are included in the "white" category). (Statistics from Guardian, March 29, 1972, p. 6)

The ideology of male supremacy, that dictates the inferiority of women, is a principal prop of capitalism. As

Mao Tse Tung says, "...every kind of thinking, without exception, is stamped with the brand of a class" (Mao Tse Tung, On Practice, Selected Readings, FLP, Peking, 1967, p.55), and this ideology of the inferiority of women is the kind of thinking that is stamped with the brand of the bourgeoisie - the capitalist class.

Obviously, then, if this male supremacy helps the capitalists get richer and stronger, it doesn't help men workers. As long as these rotten wages are paid to women workers, men workers will also be paid low wages, and be in danger of losing their jobs.

But even this reason isn't the main one for men workers to fight male supremacy. The real price working men are paying for a few temporary privileges, such as higher wages, union membership, and being able to make passes at women workers, is the unity of the working class against the enemy of the whole class, the capitalists.

As the capitalists become more dependent upon women workers for cheap labor, they are, at the same time creating the conditions for the eventual equality of women - their re-entry into production. The beginning of this process has already given rise to the militant women's rights movements. But as this equality stands in contradiction to the capitalist system of maximum profits the fight for equality must become a part of the general revolutionary anti-capitalist movement.

The entire capitalist system is on its last legs. But, it will not crumble away, we are going to have to beat it to death, and we will not succeed unless we throw out all the methods the capitalists want us to use to supposedly "better our conditions". We can't fight just for better conditions or better pay. Working women and men must see that the only way to free women from this inferior position is to change the status of women as a reserve labor force of capitalism - and that can only be done by uniting the working class against imperialism and fighting for socialism.

Stalin wrote on the occasion of International Women's Day, "The fate of the proletarian movement, the victory or defeat of the proletarian revolution, the victory or defeat of proletarian power, depends on whether or not the reserve of women will be for or against the working class.

"That is why the first task of the proletariat and its advance detachment, the Communist Party, is to engage in decisive struggle for the freeing of women workers and peasants from the influence of the bourgeoisie, for political education and the organization of women workers and peasants beneath the banner of the prole-

tariat." ("International Women's Day, 1925, Joseph Stalin: A Political Biography, Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute, New York, 1949, pp.65-66)

The most important aspect of the oppression of women is the disunity of the class: let us all fight to overcome this disunity by struggling against male supremacy, for equality for women, and for socialism!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

LONG LIVE PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM!

## DETROIT

(cont. from p. 5)

labor without the pay which should accompany the work. He most likely will never attain "official" Journeyman status, particularly if he is a national minority. These workers are led on with the promise of "times will be better for you soon". This is nothing but wholesale exploitation and more and more profits for the capitalists!

The imperialists justify this type of economic exploitation by saying "We are letting you work because we know you need the money; we are actually doing you a favor until you are able to make the grade of Journeyman." This white chauvinist attitude of the fascists is common in all the plants. However, it is precisely this type of severe economic exploitation and oppression that prepares the Negro national minority proletariat for the revolutionary struggle.

Thus we see that the Journeyman section, like the union misleaders is the counter-revolutionary antithesis of the proletariat at the point of production, the majority of which at this plant are Negro national minority. Not only are the Journeymen linked to the capitalists through the material benefits they receive, they are also most closely linked in ideology, for among the skilled workers, anti-communism, white chauvinism, pornography and reformism are the main ideologies.

On the other hand, we see that the reformism of the CPUSA and the UAW has called forth disgust and disappointment among the most exploited and oppressed. But, their rebellion against reformism has been manifested in the spontaneous, disjointed struggles of the anarchists and syndicalist groupings which spring from their ranks.

Taking into account that our strategy is to build a multi-national, Marxist-Leninist political party of the proletariat and that our tactical path is to the most exploited and oppressed workers we turned

(cont. on p. 12)

# Sweatshops In Chicago

Along the streets and alleys near the Chicago River, in the neighborhoods by the railroad tracks which divide Chicago north and south--east and west, and alongside the diagonal streets and expressways which lead from the center of Chicago to the suburbs there are thousands of small factories. It is here that hundreds of thousands of Chicago workers slave under brutal working conditions for very low pay; processing and packaging food; stamping out nuts and bolts, screws, coils and springs; producing precision tools and dies; molding rubber and steel forms; making woolen and cotton clothing, and testing electrical equipment.

These small shops are sweatshops. To the workers they represent hard work, long hours, constant attacks by the capitalists and foreman and poor working conditions---all for wages so low that after taxes workers have barely enough to survive on. To the U.S. capitalist class these shops represent a source of cheap labor and profit.

## General Working Conditions in Sweatshops

In one dirty, smelly, industrial area on the northside of Chicago along the river, there are many examples of how sweatshops work. Most of the plants in the area employ between 10 to 300 workers, although a few employ as many as a couple of thousand. The majority of plants are "owned" or managed by a single family (although in reality they're usually financed and controlled by banks) and are often subsidiaries of big corporations. Only about half the plants have unions. Most of the workers are national minority workers--Negro, Puerto Rican and Mexican, the rest are generally Anglo-American workers from Appalachia or the Negro Nation and a few are from Eastern Europe or Italy and often don't speak English. Over half the workers are women, usually national minority women. Almost always the women are supervised by Anglo-American males.

Working conditions in the plants are bad, often dangerous and unhealthy. Most of the factories are in old buildings. The floors and lighting are bad. The machines are old with no safety devices causing eye injuries, chopped of thumbs, arms caught in presses and severe burns from ovens and welding machines. Poor and non-existent ventilation systems have caused lung problems and other ailments because workers are constantly breathing dangerous fumes. Heating systems in the plants don't work half the time, and few of the plants have cooling systems. During the below zero weather this past January, at least eight plants in

the area had no heat, but workers had to stay at their machines or get fired. And in the 90 degree heat of Chicago summers, many of the plants in the area are 120 to 130 degrees, causing workers to drop from heat exhaustion.

## Conditions in Specific Plants

These conditions exist in most all the plants of the area whether unionized or not, they are much worse in the non-union plants. One non-union plant, Delicious Cookie Company, a subsidiary of Peter Paul is a good example of the exploitation and oppression which workers experience in these plants. The plant is managed by the family that used to own the factory. They employ about 50 people with all but a few being women. About half the women are Anglo-American, the others are Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Negro national minorities. The women are supervised by an Anglo-American male who holds the attitude that women are good for only two things--for sex and hard work. He treats the women like slaves, continually screaming at them on the line to speedup, and if the law allowed he would probably use a whip to beat maximum production out of the women. During working hours he divides the women by making sexual advances at a few, giving those he likes favored jobs and higher pay. In one case he laid off a number of women and replaced them with relatives of his girlfriend.

Wages in this plant and others are based on nationality and sex. Negro nationality minority women get paid the least, no matter how long they have worked at the factory. Mexican and Puerto Rican national minority women get a little more and Anglo-American women even more. However, all women are paid less than men. One Negro national minority woman who has worked at the plant for eight years and who is considered "the most conscientious, hardest working person" there, makes only \$2.05 an hour. For a few years she received a nickel a year raise, but the last raise she received was 15 months ago and the boss claims that things are too slow to give her one now.

Although all the working conditions in the plant are bad, the most severe threat is lack of job security. Often workers are allowed to work only 3 or 4 days a week, meaning that they don't make enough to pay rent and feed their families, much less clothe them and pay the other bills. To make it, a person is forced on supplementary welfare. And nobody knows how long they'll have a job.

## Exploitation in Union Plants

The union plants are not much better. They pay on an average \$7.00 a month union dues and get little in return except union leaders siding with the company whenever an issue arises. In addition most of the unions work in close connection with the syndicate and/or are part of the Daley political machine, collaborating with the ruling class against the working class.

## Intercraft Industries

In one factory in the area where about 1500 people work (most of the workers national minorities), the Upholsters International Union, which is syndicate controlled has consistently failed to defend workers against the companies attacks. When workers have stopped work to fight compulsory overtime, forced holiday work and no heat, the union leaders have acted for the company to get workers back on the job. In addition the union leadership actually aids the imperialists in their exploitation of workers around the world. They use union dues to buy Israel war bonds which supply the Zionists with arms to carry out their war of aggression against the Arab and Palestinian people. They also support the mass murder of the Indo-Chinese people by going along with the reactionary AFL-CIO leadership in its support of the U.S. polices in Vietnam.

In another union plant, Globe Feather Company, where about 50 national minority workers are employed, the workers can't even find out what union represents them. All they do know is that they have \$7.00 a month taken from their checks and in return the men (all Negro national minority) work 10 hours a day, 5 days a week, and 6 hours on Saturday--all for about \$90.00 a week take home pay. And the women (all Mexican and Puerto Rican national minorities) work for minimum wages.

In still another plant, Midwest Coil and Transformer Company, where there are about 300 employees, over half national minorities, the workers are supposedly represented along with five other locals in the Metal Processors Union which is a division of the International Toy Workers Union. While the union leadership gives full support to the Democratic machine in Chicago, it gives little more support to workers than allowing them two union meetings a year and \$1.90 an hour starting wages. The head union steward in the plant, actively makes it known that she doesn't like people who ask questions and fight for their rights.

These small shops are a good example of the special oppression and exploitation of women workers. The capitalist system of exploitation combined

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# Port of Shanghai Today

BY HAI WEN

The port of Shanghai, one of China's major foreign trade ports, is bustling with activity. Along the dozens of miles of the Whangpoo River where the port is situated, from the estuary of the river to Minhang, a rising industrial district, huge ocean-going freighters, many over 10,000 tons designed and made by China as well as from various countries of the five continents, are at anchor. On the docks, cranes and lorries of all types work round the clock.

This century-old, all-season port in the middle of the Chinese coast, is a hub of water and land transport, ranking first among Chinese ports for the exchange of goods between town and countryside. A trade centre linked with more than 100 countries and regions, it plays host every day to foreign ships and seamen and fosters profound friendship between the Chinese people and the people of the rest of the world.

Before liberation, however, the port of Shanghai was an example of the untold suffering of old China. After the Opium War of 1840, the imperialists seized control of the customs, piloting and dredging, and the port became a bridgehead for imperialist military, political, economic and cultural aggression against China. Foreign warships and other vessels sailing the Whangpoo obeyed no law. They shipped in large quantities of weapons for the Chinese reactionary regime to suppress the Chinese people's revolutionary movements, dumped opium and surplus goods to poison the Chinese people and seized industrial raw materials and other wealth the Chinese working people had produced by sweat and blood. Under the rule by the imperialists and the Kuomintang reactionaries, the docks were shambles and the dockers struggled day and night against cold and starvation.

The port of Shanghai returned to the people after liberation. Guided by the great leader Chairman Mao's great principle "Maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts", the port workers undertook large scale renovations and expansion. By their wisdom and strength they transformed hand loading and unloading into mechanized work. The work at the port is planned carefully and handling efficiency has risen.

The fifth working zone before liberation was rugged and filled with filthy pools of water and it was inadequately equipped. It is now covered with cement and tall, neat warehouses and multi-storied buildings flank the road. Many pieces of loading machinery have been installed. Six 10,000-ton

ocean-going freighters can berth at this dock and simultaneously be loaded or unloaded.

The harbour has gradually been expanded with the growth of China's industry and agriculture and the constant increase in foreign trade. Inspired in 1958 by the Party's general line of "Going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism", the dockers dared to think and act and built the ninth working zone -- a reinforced concrete dock for joint land and water transport service. The spur rail line go directly to the ship berths and goods are loaded without ever touching the ground. Later, they built two big warehouses, each with a floor space of 8,600 square meters. Lorries, electric fork lifts, cranes and trailers can move freely in these warehouses.

The dockers' consciousness of class struggle and the struggle between the two lines has become higher during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Under the guidance of the Party organizations and the revolutionary committees at all levels the workers carried out technical innovations to raise the mechanization of loading. Technical innovation groups have been formed in every working zone with the workers as the main force and including revolutionary cadres and technicians. Doing away with all fetishes and superstitions and emancipating the mind, they have devised new techniques and equipment. The number of cranes in 1971 was over 31 times that in the early days after liberation. Over 70 per cent of the handling of goods is mechanized or semi-mechanized. For some kinds of goods it is 90 per cent.

A freighter with 20,000 tons of wheat anchored at the second zone of the harbour. The workers inserted the pneumatic suction pipes which they had designed and made by themselves during the cultural revolution and with the help of conveyer belts, the wheat moved directly from the holds into the warehouse. 200 tons of wheat were unloaded every hour from each hold. The 20,000 tons of wheat were unloaded in less than two days. Formerly only 12 tons of wheat were unloaded from each hold per hour.

With the increase in mechanization, the cargo handling capacity has been raised. The cargo handled every month in 1971 equalled one and a half times that handled in one year in the early post-liberation days.

Nurtured by Mao Tsetung Thought, the Shanghai dockers have matured politically over the past two decades. In the

old society they were called "coolies". Today many of them have become engineers, captains, pilots or leading cadres in charge of port management. The leading bodies include 800 cadres promoted from among the workers, comprising two-thirds of all the cadres.

## Lynchings- an Ongoing Horror in the Negro Nation

---Lynching; the killing of a person or persons by mob action without a lawful trial.-----

Lynching is a part of the bitter history of the oppression of the Negro people and the Negro Nation, a history that is seldom spoken of today. You will find nothing written about thousands of Negroes lynched in the history books our children study at school. You will not hear a single word of lynchings past or present from the politicians-liberal or conservative. It is a part of U.S. history that the capitalist ruling class would like to keep hidden.

The fascist act of lynching Negro workers and peasants is one of the darkest, most chauvinistic pages in the history of the oppression of the working class. Below are some excerpts from newspaper articles describing lynchings: "This evening at 7:40 p.m. J.H. was tortured with a red hot iron bar, then burnt....A crowd of more than 2,000 people.... many women and children were present at the incineration... After the Negro had been bound from behind, a fire was kindled. A little further away, another fire was kindled in which an iron bar was placed. When it was red hot, a man took it and applied it to the Black's body. The latter, terrified, seized the iron with his hands, and the air was immediately filled with the smell of burning flesh. The red hot iron having been applied to several parts of his body, his shouts and groans were heard as far away as in the town. After several minutes of torture, masked men poured petrol on him and set fire to the stake. The flames rose and enveloped the Negro who implored to be finished off with a shot. His supplications provoked shouts of derision".....(Chattanooga Times, Feb. 13, 1918) "15,000 people, men, women and children applauded when petrol was poured over the Negro and fire lit. They struggled, shouted and pushed one another to get nearer the Black....Two of them cut off his ears while the fire began to roast him." "Another tried to cut off his heels.... The crowd surged and changed places so that everyone could

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# Militant Chicago Workers Protest War

On April 16, 1972, the Chicago Area of the Communist League sponsored a demonstration in support of the heroic Vietnamese people in their war for liberation and against the increased bombing and murders by the U.S. imperialists, headed by Nixon.

This demonstration was different than many in that it brought the new and important developments in Vietnam and the question of imperialism directly to the working class. In a weeks time thousands of leaflets were passed out, both in the communities and at factories. Small neighborhood store owners sided with the working class and pasted up leaflets in their windows. The response to these leaflets was very positive. The workers were overwhelming against the war and Nixon's policy, and in firm support of the Vietnamese people and their just fight against the U.S. imperialists.

On Sunday, the day of the demonstration, it was cold, raining and dreary outside. In spite of these poor objective conditions, a small militant group of people showed up and braved the storm to march up and the down the residential streets of the community to bring the call, "End the War in Vietnam", "Free the Negro Nation", "Free Puerto Rico", to the workers. Although the demonstration was small and the weather was bad, the workers made sure they showed their resolute support of the demonstration. They came out of their houses to cheer us along. They took leaflets and bought People's Tribunes. When cars passed by they honked, waved and saluted in support. Some joined the march for a block or two. It was very clear that the workers were united in their opposition to the war in Vietnam.

The march ended with a rally and a fine militant speech. The speech pointed out how the desperate U.S. imperialists, headed by Nixon, are waging a war of annihilation, criminally massacring thousands with their bombs. To show how desperate they really are, it was pointed out how Nixon has gone one step further than his predecessors by bombing Haiphong. It was also pointed out that the Vietnamese are resolutely fighting back and deal blow after blow to the U.S. imperialists and their puppets.

The question of the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico was linked to this issue and showed that the same U.S. imperialists who are trying to enslave the Vietnamese people are the oppressors of the Negro and Puerto Rican peoples.

It was pointed out that the working class is the only class able to bring the total



downfall of U.S. imperialism. And further, that the working class, led by a Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, must take the leadership of the struggle or it will never be successful. It is the obligation of all honest, conscious workers to participate in building such a party.

The CPUSA has led the opposition to the war in Indo-China under the wing of the bourgeoisie. These social-chauvinists have tried to turn the anti-imperialist struggle into a pacifist movement and separate it from the working

class, especially the Negro national minority, Mexican national minority, and Puerto Rican national minority. It is the duty of honest revolutionaries to take the anti-imperialist struggle and support of oppressed nations to the working class.

To conclude: Because the level of consciousness of the workers was raised a notch and the working class was united a little more, the Communist League views this demonstration as a victory for the working class and a defeat for the U.S. imperialists!!!

## LYNCHINGS

(cont. from p. 8)

see the Negro burn. When the flesh was entirely burnt, the bones laid bare and what had been a human being was but a smoking and deformed rag curling up in the flames, everyone was still there to look...." (Memphis Press, May 22, 1917) "...men of all social classes, women and children were present at the scene. Many ladies of high society followed the crowd from outside the prison, others joined it from neighbouring terraces....When the Negro's corpse fell, the pieces of rope were hotly contended for." (Vicheburn Evening Post, May 4, 1919)

These are just three of the more than 5,000 recorded lynchings that took place in the south, the Negro Nation. The practices of lynching, torture and burning at the stake, were used to enslave the Negro people and the Negro Nation. In 1926 the question of lynching and terror was summed up as follows, "The Negro question in the United States is undoubtedly at the root of the violence and intimidation that is practiced there. We in Europe can show nothing to match the dementia of a mob that still tears a Negro to pieces or burns him alive for his alleged crimes....It is an odd illustration of the difference between theory and practice of democracy in the United States."

(Bristol Western Press, England 10-1-1926) The tactics of lynching and terror are still used in order for the capitalist class to keep its fascist control of the Negro people and the Negro Nation.

"In Memphis, Tennessee a 17 year old Negro, Elton Hayes was beaten to death by a pack of vicious animals known as police. These 23 peace officers were not charged with any crime, but rewarded with a paid vacation. A few days later, a 3 year old baby was run over and murdered by the Memphis police. (Peoples Tribune, Vol. 3, # 10, p. 3)

"...Yellow Thunder was accosted outside an American Legion Hall where a dance was in progress. He was stripped from the waist down and shoved onto the dance floor....The Indians contend that Yellow Thunder was tortured, burned with cigarettes and castrated before he died." (L.A. Times, 3-8-72)

The murder and torture of the Negro people historically has been carried out in the name of JUSTICE and LAW and ORDER. The lynchings are not just the Ku Klux Klan and the lynch mob, but the police and the National Guard. The capitalist class has demonstrated many times in history that they will use violence and terror legally or illegally to keep the Negro people enslaved

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# Lynchings

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and the class divided. They keep both their legal police and "illegal" gangs on hand.

But this kind of fascist terror itself is not even enough. The imperialists also rely on the labor aristocracy and the revisionist Communist Party of the U.S.A., supposed fighters for the working class, to help them divide the working class and use the Anglo-American workers to help them keep the Negro Nation enslaved. The main way this is done is by spreading their fascist ideology into the Anglo-American working class. White chauvinism is the principal ideology of aggressive U.S. fascism. In the U.S. we also always find the other principal fascist ideology which is anti-communism. Anti-communism is tightly linked to and generally expressed as white chauvinism. Many times lynchings occurred because of "a fear of Communism." "In a report issued today, the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, gave as one cause of lynching 'a consumer fear of Communism'. A recent triple lynching of Negroes near Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was directly traceable to this cause, the Commission said." (New York World Telegram Nov. 4, 1933) So we see that here in the U.S. the major ideological battle to be fought against is this fascist ideology.

Chauvinism is a concept that does away with class outlooks and substitutes for such outlooks the national imperialists outlook. Communism emphasizes the class struggle and class outlooks. The opposition to chauvinism of any type is the clarion call of the Communist Manifesto, Workers of the World-United.

It is important that the whole working class and especially the Anglo-American workers take a close look at lynching and see the role that white chauvinism has played. Like a huge rock, white chauvinism crushes the unity of the whole working class and turns worker against worker. The fascist ideology of white chauvinism is used not only to enslave the Negro people, but the whole working class. Because, as long as the class is divided there can be no revolution.

There is only one path to end the oppression of the Negro people. There is just one way to insure that this vicious history of lynching and terror does not repeat itself over and over again. It is the duty of the whole working class to fight for the Independence of the Negro Nation and all oppressed colonies and regions. Whether we are of Negro, Mexican, Puerto Rican or Anglo-American descent, we are all workers and we have a duty to stand up for each other. United we can over-

# History of the National Struggle in Ireland

On Jan. 30, 1972, the British government raised to a new level their brutal oppression of the Irish people by sending armed counter-insurgency troops to attack a peaceful demonstration in Derry, N. Ireland (Ulster). These troops opened fire and killed 13 unarmed demonstrators. The British government has 13,500 of these troops, commanded by the same generals who unsuccessfully led the counter-insurgency campaigns in the former British colonies of Malaya, Aden and Kenya. These English paratroopers use the same hideous water and electrical tortures on suspected Irish revolutionaries that the U.S. uses on the Vietnamese. One of the chief tactics of the English troops is to slowly drive the prisoners insane by keeping them awake for days and by torturing their innocent children within plain view. The vicious response of these troops shows the futile determination of the British bourgeoisie to retain the oldest and one of the most profitable of its colonies, Ireland. (1) In March 1972, the British government dissolved the comprador puppet regime in Northern Ireland and assumed direct control of Northern Ireland. This flagrant act of the British imperialists demonstrates that Northern Ireland is nothing but a colony of Britain. Secondly this act shows that the struggle in Ireland is not a religious struggle as the bourgeoisie claims, but a struggle between imperialism and an oppressed colony.

The national oppression of Ireland by Britain is truly one of the "classic" national questions. The struggle for independence in Ireland, as an example of the national liberation struggles throughout the world today, occupies a place

of primary importance for proletarian revolutionaries. For today, the most active contradiction in the world wide class struggle is focused between the imperialists and the oppressed nations. The understanding of the national question by the proletariat in the oppressor, or imperialist nation is absolutely an essential prerequisite to a successful struggle against opportunists within our ranks and our class enemy, the bourgeoisie. Under the social-chauvinist leadership of the opportunists and labor aristocrats, the oppressed nations act as a reserve of the imperialists, yet under the correct Marxist-Leninist program of internationalism and support of national liberation movements opposed to imperialism, the oppressed nations act as a reserve of proletarian revolutions. (2)

The study of Ireland and the relationship to the English proletariat is sometimes easier for the Anglo-American proletariat to look at objectively, yet we wish to go one step further and bring this lesson home, for the social laws that hold true for the relationship between the Irish national struggle and the English proletariat also hold true for the Negro and Puerto Rican national struggle and the Anglo-American proletariat.

Any discussion of the struggle for the national liberation of Ireland cannot be satisfied with mere observation of the current situation, but must look closely at the history of the struggle, at the development and growth of the Irish nation under the domination of British capitalism. In particular, four questions stand out: the agrarian question; the question of who leads the

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throw Capitalism and build a new world, divided by Chauvinism we are nothing but slaves! "Fight Legal and Illegal Fascists with Communism!"

CRUSH REACTIONARY WHITE CHAUVINISM!

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE NEGRO NATION!

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# IRELAND

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revolutionary movement; the question of religion; and finally, the question of the role of the proletariat of the oppressor nation. This will entail a brief political and economic history of Ireland.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF IRELAND

The history of Ireland like the history of the world, a history of class struggles. It conforms to the basic patterns and turning points of class struggle and can therefore be roughly divided into three categories: ancient to the outbreaks of bourgeois revolutions at the end of the 18th century; from the bourgeois revolutions to the socialist revolution in Russia (1917); and the period of current struggle since the socialist upsurge, actually marked in Ireland by the Easter Rebellion in 1916.

Ireland is an island about one third the size of England, no more than 50 miles off its southeast coast. Ireland's position determines her climate. The Gulf Stream and prevailing southwest winds provide mild winters and cool summers. Engels describes the climate in this way: "And even when the rain lasts for days, as in England. The weather, like the inhabitants, has a more acute character, it moves in sharper, more sudden contrasts; the sky is like an Irish woman's face: here also rain and sunshine succeed each other suddenly and unexpectedly and there is none of the grey English boredom." (3)

The land and weather provided excellent agricultural conditions especially for grazing. "It is obvious that Ireland's misfortune is of ancient origin; it begins directly after the carboniferous strata were deposited. A country whose coal deposits are eroded, placed near a larger country rich in coal, is condemned by nature to remain for a long time the farming country for the larger country when the latter is industrialized. That sentence, pronounced millions of years ago, was carried out in this century. We shall see later, moreover, how the English assisted nature by crushing almost every seed of Irish industry as soon as it appeared." (4)

The ancient history of Ireland is that of the Gaelic peoples invading and mixing freely with the aborigines. The economy consisted of production for immediate consumption and was characterized by cattle breeding and agriculture.

The early Christian influences came by way of sea from Greece and Egypt, as opposed to the Roman conquest of England. The church was made official and united as an institution in 461 by "Patrick the Saint". The Danish invasion (795-1014) established the

principal trading cities of Dublin, Limrick, Cork, etc.. In 1014 the Danes were decisively beaten by a coalition of Irish tribal chiefs under the leadership of Brian the Brave. This marked the first successful attempt to unite all of Ireland under one political system. One hundred years later began the series of invasions led by the ruling classes of England. These invasions attempted to 1) establish the English landlords over Ireland and 2) come to peace by force with the Irish lords. However the planted Englishmen soon mixed with the Irish, most becoming more Irish than English. These lords developed definite economic and political interests of their own. Thus the Tudors and Stuarts had to reverse the policy of the earlier invaders. Instead of relying upon the Anglo-Irish landlords to control Ireland they waged a vicious war against them. The establishment of royal power was completed in 1537 with the hanging of the leading Anglo-Irish lords. For the Irish lords the lesson was made clear and permanent for centuries to come; either completely cooperate with the English or be slaughtered.

As the 16th century closed the feudal English classes were being challenged by the rising bourgeoisie; this movement was spearheaded by the Protestant Reformation. Much of the Feudal power rested in the official (Catholic) church. The bourgeois class, greatly checked by the Stuart reign, needed their own church, a church whose teachings favored them. To build the protestant church, the Catholic church had to be attacked, for an attack against the Catholic church was an attack on the whole social order of feudalism: Thus the Reformation. The English lords turned to the Irish chiefs with offers of independence in return for allegiance against the rising bourgeois revolution. There was no reformation in Ireland because there was no bourgeoisie to lead it - thus the Irish chiefs and the Anglo-Irish lords rose up under the arms of Charles I.

Unfortunately for Irish independence this was the wrong side of the historical fence. By 1649 Charles I was beheaded and Oliver Cromwell (champion of the English bourgeoisie) had crushed the Irish revolt with the use of mercenaries and brutal massacres, including the 4,000 inhabitants of the city of Drogheda. Cromwell like the bourgeois oppressors after him slaughtered the people unmercifully. One witness described this slaughter in Ireland by saying, "For several months there was no sale for bacon cured in Ireland, from a well founded fear of the hogs having fed on the flesh of men." (5)

Cromwell rewarded his armies with Irish land. (The soldiers later sold this land to the English lords for little of its value.) By 1660,

over three quarters of Ireland was owned by the Protestant landlords. This was even more prominent in the Northern part of Ireland. With the Cromwellian conquest, began the rule of ennobled bourgeois and the bourgeoisified aristocrats. The Irish peasants had to pay what ever rent the foreign landlords named. This rent presented the budding English capitalist class with huge private accumulation used in England for investment. "...and thus was Ireland forced to contribute cheap labour and cheap capital to building up 'the great works of Britain'!" (6)

Accompanying this economic oppression were a whole range of social laws whose intention it was to oppress the Catholic, i.e. native Irish population. No Catholic could vote, enter into Parliament, become an officer in the armed forces; they could not open or teach school, sell or manufacture firearms, own firearms without a license, own a horse valued over twenty five dollars. Catholics could not sell or manufacture books, and marriage between Protestant and Catholic was restricted. Catholic orphans were raised as Protestants and a Catholic wife, upon conforming to the Protestant faith could separate from her husband and force him to support her. Irish industry restricted to the pleasure of the English bourgeoisie was limited to the manufacture and sale of salted meat.

Karl Marx marks the first turning point in Irish history with the North American revolution. (7) This revolution and the establishment of the French Republic shortly afterwards weakened the English bourgeoisie and strengthened the Irish bourgeoisie. The struggling Irish bourgeoisie, both Protestant and Catholic, worked through a mass political organization known as United Irishmen. They were able to overthrow many of the social restrictions on Catholics (Catholic Relief Act of 1778), sweep away most of the trade restrictions, 1779, and establish equal rights for the native Anglo-Irish parliament (1783). The English resisted this by the establishment of a terrorist organization known as the Society of Orange. However, the "orangemen" did not prove effective enough to break the bourgeois democratic solidarity of the United Irishmen, and in 1798 this class led a rebellion for the independence of Ireland. The rebellion was crushed by the English intelligence network and army. "Every time Ireland was about to develop industrially, she was crushed and reconverted into a purely agricultural land." (8)

The English parliament passed the Act of Union, 1801, which forced the unity of Ireland and England, disbanded the the Anglo-Irish parliament and

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## CHI. SWEATSHOPS

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with its bourgeois ideology of male supremacy has enabled the capitalists to divide the Anglo-American working class between men and women, and has condemned women to the role of a reserve labor army. This is especially true of these small shops that have limited and uneven production, and must rely on extreme exploitation to compete with large companies.

Alongside of the question of women is the role that national minority workers play in these shops and the working class as a whole. The national minority workers get the lowest paying and hardest work in the Anglo-American nation. The reason for this is the fact that these workers are tied to the extreme conditions of exploitation and oppression of the colonies, the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico etc.. These conditions follow national minority workers into the Anglo-American nation and are bolstered by reactionary white chauvinism.

The U.S. imperialists use white chauvinism to divide the Anglo-American working class and rob it of its potential strength. The material basis for white chauvinism is possible because of the severe exploitation and oppression of the working masses in the colonies carried on by the U.S. imperialists. The high rate of profits gotten from the sweat and blood of the colonial workers pays for the bribed living standards of the Anglo-American working class. The oppressed and starving colonial masses are forced to pay the higher wages, sick benefits, vacations etc. of the Anglo-American working class (in particular the non-minority Anglo-American workers). With the billions of dollars robbed from the colonial workers, especially the Latin American peoples, the U.S. imperialists conceal proletarian internationalism and attempt to force the Anglo-American workers to identify their interests with those of the imperialists.

This is a very dangerous situation because as Joseph Stalin pointed out, "The imperialist war has shown, and the revolutionary experience of recent years has again confirmed:

1) That the national and colonial questions are inseparable from the question of emancipation from the power of capital; 2) That imperialism (the highest form of capitalism) cannot exist without the political and economic enslavement of non-sovereign nations and colonies; 3) That the non-sovereign nations and colonies cannot be emancipated without the overthrow of the power of capital; and 4) That the victory of the proletariat cannot be a lasting one unless the non-sovereign nations and colonies are emancipated from the yoke of imperialism.

"If Europe and America may be called the front, the scene of the main engagements between socialism and imperialism, the non-sovereign nations and the colonies, with their raw materials, fuel, food and vast store of human material, should be regarded as the rear, the reserve of imperialism. In order to win a war one must not only triumph at the front but also revolutionise the enemy's rear, his reserves. Hence the victory of the world proletarian revolution may be regarded as assured only if the proletariat is able to combine its own revolutionary struggle with the movement for emancipation of the toiling masses of the non-sovereign nations and the colonies against the power of the imperialists and for a dictatorship of the proletariat." (Stalin, J.V., Marxism and the National and Colonial Question, Lawrence and Wishart, London, 1936, p. 114-115)

It is evident that the key to socialism and an end to all exploitation and oppression in the Anglo-American nation lies in our ability to unite with the revolutionary National Liberation struggles throughout the colonial world (in particular Latin America) our ability to fight to the end for the Independence of the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico; Regional Autonomy for the Southwest; and for full equality for all national minorities in the Anglo-American nation.

## DETROIT

(cont. from p. 6)

again to the summation of years of class struggle, that celebrated and classical work, The Foundations of Leninism by J.V. Stalin. "Theory is the experience of the working class movement in all countries taken in its general aspect. Of course, theory becomes purposeless if it is not connected with revolutionary practice, just as practice gropes in the dark if its path is not illuminated by revolutionary theory. But theory can become a tremendous force in the working-class movement if it is built up in indissoluble connection with revolutionary practice; for theory, and theory alone, can give the movement confidence, the power of orientation, and an understanding of the inner relation of surrounding events; for it, and it alone, can help practice to realize not only how and in which direction classes are moving at the present time, but also how and in which direction they will have to move in the near future. None other than Lenin uttered and repeated scores of times the well known thesis that: 'Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.'" (3)

Taking into account this and the other above quoted passages it was clear to us that the relatively active are the production workers, the intermediate are the upgraders and the relatively backward are the Journeymen, looking at the plant as a whole. It is up to our nucleus to be skilled at mobilizing, organizing and transforming the counter-revolutionary subjective and objective social motion of the plant into its revolutionary opposite by organizing first the most oppressed and exploited of the unskilled production forces. By trying to win over the most advanced (with the aid of our paper, the People's Tribune) and relying on them to raise the level of the intermediate, and finally, either winning over or isolating the backward elements, the Journeymen.

Secondly, we must struggle to overcome the anarchist and syndicalist motions within the most exploited and oppressed by putting forward and fighting for the theories of Marxism-Leninism. Building an independent, multi-national, communist party can only be done by rallying collectives of workers around the line of Leninism.

Concerning the question of main blow, we cannot ignore the fact that the main revolutionary movement within the proletariat in the U.S. state today is the struggle of the Negro and Puerto Rican nations for independence, the struggle of the national minorities for equality and the struggle of the Mexican national minority for Regional Autonomy in the Southwest. Therefore, the injection of theory concerning the national question in particular, is of prime, strategic importance in our work. Tactically, the move to unite the most oppressed and exploited sections of the Dodge Main plant is a move toward the Negro and other national minority workers. We must firmly oppose the bourgeois metaphysics of racism on the national question and build working class unity. Therefore, we plan not only to develop the tactical programs of exposing the UAW mis-leaders, fighting for the job rights of the workers, and democracy and equality for all workers, but, to begin to train and educate the broad masses of these workers in the strategy and tactics of Leninism, of revolution, as this is the key to their liberation and to socialism. Our starting point is the national colonial question in general, and the Negro National Colonial question in particular at the Dodge Main plant.

- 1) The Foundations of Leninism, J.V. Stalin, FLP, Peking 1970, p. 86.
- 2) Mao Tsetung, Selected Readings, FLP, Peking 1971, pp. 288-289.
- 3) Foundations of Leninism, J.V. Stalin, FLP, Peking 1970, p. 22.



## Ireland

(cont. from p. 11)

reinstated the trade restrictions. The Irish bourgeoisie losing parliament, having no coal and iron deposits and lacking capital was forced to capitulate. The fate of the Irish peasants was a thousand times worse. The English landlords found that their large estates were much more profitable as grazing ranges for cattle, hogs and sheep than as leasable lands. Thus they charged outrageous rents and forced the peasants to flee the land. The Irish peasant had to pay more rent than the total value of his crop, thus after planting the crop, he migrated to England, worked their until harvest, returned home with any savings, harvested the crop, dug his potatoes, paid his rent and started the process over again. Mass migrations, plague, famine and the "starvation rents" claimed millions of the Irish population, who were replaced with cattle, sheep and hogs. The population decreased from 8.2 million in 1841 to 5.3 million in 1871. This was accompanied by a tremendous rise in deaf mutes, blind, insane, idiotic, and decrepit inhabitants. The attitude of the English landlords was well expressed by a Royal Duke in England, "I understand that rotten potatoes and seaweed - or even grass properly mixed, afford a very wholesome and nutritious food. We all know that Irishmen can live upon anything and there is plenty of grass in the fields even if the potatoes should fail." (9)

These conditions resulted in uprisings in 1831-34 (Tithe war), 1848, and finally the Fenian (Irish Republican) uprising of 1867. With the latter developed a more concerted working class leadership as several of the Fenian leaders were associated with the International Workingmen's Association. Throughout the rest of the

1800's and especially with the formation of the Gladstone government in 1865 in Britain, the struggle was dominated by Irish bourgeoisie, both Catholic and Protestant, who kept it confined to parliament. Opposed to this was the Irish Socialist Republican Party, founded in 1896 by James Connally. Connally was a Marxist who fought for the defense of Marx's conclusions on Ireland, including that the national liberation struggle was not in opposition to the struggle of the working class in an oppressed nation, such as Ireland. Lenin later defended this thesis in the Right of Nations to Self-Determination. (10)

On Easter Monday, 1916, Connally and several hundred Irish patriots rose against the English rule and captured Dublin castle. Unfortunately the rising was crushed within a few weeks and the leaders were all shot. James Connally, having lost so much blood from wounds could not stand and was executed while seated in a chair. Lenin said of this revolt;

"To imagine that a social revolution is conceivable without revolts of small nations in the Colonies and in Europe, without outbursts from a section of the petty-bourgeois, with all its prejudices--without the movement of the non-class conscious proletarian and semi-proletarian masses against oppression of the landlords, the church, the monarchy the foreign yoke, etc.--to imagine that is tantamount to repudiating social revolution.

"The misfortune of the Irish is that they rose prematurely, when the European revolt of the proletariat had not yet matured. Capitalism is not so harmoniously built that the various springs of rebellion can immediately merge into one, of their own accord, with reverses and defeats." (11)

Out of the 1916 uprising grew the Republican government of 1918. A bourgeois democratic government which was elected and generally supported by the Irish people began to challenge the English imperialists. This government represented a progressive step for the proletarian revolutionary struggle in Ireland. This government was first recognized by the new Soviet government and in turn was the first to recognize the revolutionary government lead by Lenin and Stalin.

The British responded by trying to stir up old religious antagonisms. They created the "Black and Tans", a legal terrorist organization similar to Hitler's S.S. or Mussolini's fascisti. These "Black and Tans" modern "Orangemen" led several pogroms in the Catholic sections of Belfast. The Black and Tan Orangemen are the English equivalent to the KKK. Scores were killed, over 9,000 Catholics were driven from their jobs and over 30,000 were left homeless or destitute. Finally the British turned any democratic tide with the Government of Ireland Act of 1920. This act called for the partition of Ireland (six northern counties where majority was protestant and the twenty-six southern counties where the majority was Catholic). This partition was made to 1) stem the democratic character of the Irish peoples struggle and 2) provide a new way to rule Ireland (divide and conquer).

The second half of this article will appear in Vol. 4, No. 5. It will bring the history of Ireland from 1920 on up to the present.

## LAS OBRERAS

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para ser usados como esclavos de trabajo--las posibilicados fascistas son innumerables!

La Liga Comunista siempre ha dicho que las mujeres de la clase obrera deben desempeñar un papel activo en la lucha por el socialismo. Y es más claro cada día, con cada ataque nuevo contra las mujeres, que la burguesia esta lanzando para aplastar y esclavizar más a laa masas de mujeres de la clase obrera! La burguesia tiene que ser detenida!

Nosotros urgimos a las masas de mujeres de la clase obrera para que entren en la lucha para construir un partido comunista para luchar por el socialismo. Es nuestra única protección contra el fascismo No es posible de ninguna manera que la clase obrera pueda vencer en esta batalla sin la dirección de las mujeres revolucionarias de la clase obrera!