

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Reprinted from
the *People's Tribune*

Unemployment in the US has well passed the 10% mark, a life and death struggle is being waged in Angola to free it from the shackles of imperialism, the split within the Socialist camp is intensifying daily, and the imperialists, particularly of the USNA, are preparing at home and abroad for the most devastating world war that mankind has ever seen. At this time, what is the significance of International Women's Day?

Women of all classes have waged a protracted militant struggle for the past 150 years for the right to vote, right to education, right to unionize and most importantly the right to employment. Yet what is the position of women in the USNA in 1976? What has been gained from these militant struggles — the Mulligan vs. Oregon Decision of 1908, prohibiting more than 10 hours per day labor for women in the factory; the Suffrage Act of 1920, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Minimum Wage Law of 1976 for \$2.30 per hour? These laws have been passed, and rights guaranteed, only to be snatched away. Fundamentally, the position of women, and especially working class women, has deteriorated, despite the numerous reforms won.

First and foremost, there are 4.8 times more men who are industrial workers than there are women. The unemployment rate amongst women is two and a half times as great as amongst men, even though women constitute 45% of the work force. And amongst national minority women, unemployment is almost double that of Anglo-American women. Equal work for women — of course! Yet as of April, 1975, women's wages in comparison to men's, have dropped 5.9% since 1960. On the average, women earn \$5,903 compared to \$10,202 for men. Women earn only \$100 more after four years of college than men after one year of high school. No more than 13% of women employed are unionized compared to 30% of the men. The situation is deplorable for women, but the whole working class suffers.

What have these laws done? Absolutely nothing. They only give the facade of improvement for women. Why is it that in a capitalist society in which all the factories, mines, transportation, etc. are owned by a handful of bloodthirsty millionaires, that women of all classes suffer from male supremacy, and are in the main excluded from social production? Why is it that women are

forced to take the most menial low paying jobs, if they are given a job at all? Why, in the USNA, the most "civilized" and industrialized country in the world, and not in the Soviet Union?

In the Soviet Union, as in all other Socialist countries, the working class — the proletariat — not only controls the state, but collectively owns the means of production: the factories, mines, and transportation. The proof is in the pudding. Women in the Soviet Union constitute 80% of the work force. The trade unions, to which 90% of the women belong, can fire factory management and shut down plants. Seniority is not lost by changing jobs. 59% of all skilled, educated specialists, i.e. doctors, lawyers, scientists, engineers, heads of industry and collective farms, are women, as compared to 20% of the women in the USNA. 72% of the women are receiving higher education or secondary education paid for by the government. All women are paid their full wages when given 112 days for pregnancy or if given a lighter job during pregnancy. Day care is free. Women retire at the age of 55, and 45 if the work is hazardous. Since 1950, the wages of all workers has doubled, and those of women have tripled.

Not only have laws been passed in the Soviet Union, but guaranteed and enforced under the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. The first, and most important step in the Soviet Union, to insure the equality of women, was their rapid integration into social produc-

tion — not one-fourth of the female population, as in the USNA, but two-thirds of the female population lead and develop production for the whole society. It is only in a planned socialist society, in which all workers are guaranteed a job and women are consciously involved in social production, that the equality of women can be realized.

Of course, it is clear that we do not have a planned socialist society, in which every part from the working class struggle? We do not have a society in which all production is geared to the needs of the majori-

ty, but to a handful of profit-hungry capitalists. Thus, we do not have a society in which women are equal, in which unemployment is non-existent, and in which imperialist wars are not fostered.

How can and must we struggle with a divided working class to insure the equality of women, and prepare for the emancipation of the entire working class? Can we do it apart from the working class struggle? We

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CLP BALLOT CAMPAIGN

WORKERS & OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE!

THE WESTERN WORKER

Vol. 3 No. 4 COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the U.S.N.A. Mar. 8, 1976

WOMEN LEAD STRIKE AT CALIFORNIA ORIGINALS

Nowhere were the fatal consequences of the divisions between men and women, and the different nationalities shown more clearly than at California Originals in Carson, Calif. After dividing the workers, convincing parts

of the work force that they would be better off siding with the company and against the strikers, the capitalists showed their true colors when they were in a position of strength.

Not only was the strike lost, but the company successfully kicked the union out of the plant! Every worker must take the lessons of this struggle to heart if we are to unite against the fascism, slavery and death the capitalists have in store for us.

Women Workers in the Lead

The California Originals Strike was led from start to finish by militant women workers, mostly undocumented workers, who never gave up even in the face of overwhelming odds. For over five months, every single day, these women maintained their picket line, against the combined force of the company, the police, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the corrupt leadership of the Pottery Workers Union.

Fairchild Electronics

During January, three pregnant women in the automotive department at Fairchild Camera and Instrument in Mountain View, California, asked to be transferred to safer working conditions. Despite doctors' warnings of the possible dangers to mother and fetus from close contact with the chemicals found in epoxy, the company responded with an ultimatum — either work with the chemicals or take medical leave.

In California medical leave for pregnant women means no disability or unemployment benefits. Pather

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KKK THREATENS BESSIE HARLAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY PRESS TIME

Bessie Lou Cornett, editor of the *Harlan Labor News* (Ky.) and long-time fighter for the Mineworkers' union has again been threatened by the KKK. Two ex-Klansmen reported that the KKK plans to TAR AND FEATHER Bessie when she returns to Kentucky.

The KKK has stepped up its activity in Ky., shooting into the home of two women residents of Evarts, then burning their home to the ground. The Sheriff declared both incidents "accidental!"

Bessie has always fought for the rights of workers of all nationalities and will continue in that struggle. People everywhere must act to defend her life and the work she is involved in. Write the Governor of Ky. in Frankfort and the Sheriff in Harlan County and demand that she be given protection.

SUPPORT TEXAS FARMWORKERS

The farmworkers' movement, long a focal point of the working class struggle, is today at the most critical juncture in its history. In the oppressed Southwest region and across the USNA, it is under vicious attack by the ruling class. The destruction of California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), renewed violence by growers and Teamster goons, and the bitter struggle of the Texas farmworkers attest to the seriousness of the bourgeoisie's preparations for a fascist

dictatorship. Successful struggle hinges absolutely on the unity of farmworkers across the country and the unity of the working class — both rural and urban — as a whole.

Texas Citrus Strike

Led by the independent Texas Farm Workers Union (TFWU), a militant strike and union organizing drive in the citrus fields of the Rio Grande Valley is currently being waged against tremendous odds. Since it be-

gan on January 12, the strike has met with resistance and violence from the big growers and Texas Rangers, and has been shunned and neglected by certain leaders of the United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO). But it has received the overwhelming support of the farmworkers from both sides of the Texas-Mexico border, those with and without documents, all of whom are being organized by the TFWU.

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Kotzin Garment

Tobias Kotzin has never been a great place to work. The lint from the material gets into your eyes, noses, throats and lungs. In the summer it heats up to 120°F. There is no paid sick leave and health insurance is minimal. Until recently the average wage was around \$2.80 an hour — when there was work. No one has ever claimed it was paradise. Even so it was better than the average Los Angeles garment sweatshop.

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INDIANS UNDER SEIGE

STOP EXTRADITION OF DENNIS BANKS

TO GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES:

"We are citizens of California and we urge that extradition of Dennis J. Banks to South Dakota be denied. Even as whites were welcomed to this country by the ancestors of Dennis Banks, we welcome him to California. He is a man guilty of no crime who has dedicated his life to serving his people and to the cause of justice for all."

The above is a copy of the message sent to Governor Brown by the Banks/Brightman Defense Fund.

American Indian Movement leader, Dennis Banks, is still facing extradition to South Dakota. The Attorney General of that state has publicly threatened his life, stating that killing Banks is the "Only way to deal with the Indian problem in South Dakota."

The danger to Banks' life if extradited to South Dakota is a very real one. Under the rule of terror of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and former Tribal Chairman Dick Wilson as well as the FBI, 240 people were killed on the Pine Ridge Reservation: 40 of those murdered were AIM members. Since Wilson's election loss to AIM-backed Al Trimble several weeks ago, three more Indians, including one AIM member have been murdered and one AIM supporter severely beaten.

Hundreds of Indian activists face jail on a variety of trumped up charges stemming from Wounded Knee, struggles in the Pacific Northwest, and across the country.

Leonard Crow Dog, leader of the Sioux and Indian peoples movement, has been shuttled back and forth from prison to prison by the FBI. Other Indian leaders recently arrested who face long prison

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BUILD THE PARTY PRESS

This International Women's Day marks the beginning of the period of working class holidays which includes May Day (May 1st) and Negro Nation Day on June 19. These holidays are times of great activity for Communists and revolutionary workers. Everywhere, demonstrations, meetings, rallies, social functions and picnics have been planned to celebrate the victories of the international working class and to reaffirm the militant unity of workers and oppressed people around the world. For the Communist Labor Party, this period is a time to consolidate the unity of the workers around the call for "Jobs, Peace, and Equality!" It is also a period for our Party to begin the transformation from a Party which has influenced the movement of the workers, into a Party which leads the struggles of the working class around economic and social conditions, and on this basis begin the political struggle for the establishment of socialism.

An extremely important aspect of bringing the CLP into leadership of the working class is building the Party's press — the *People's Tribune*, the Spanish language *Tribuna Popular*, and the *Western Worker*. During the period between the First and Second Congresses of the CLP, the main role of the press was the collective organizer of the Party and the many sympathetic workers and progressives who worked with and supported the Party. Through the pages of the Party press the line of the Party was developed on the most vital questions facing the working class — the causes of the current economic crisis and the fight for jobs, the pressing struggle for peace, the movement of the oppressed peoples of the USNA, our position on the socialist camp and the struggle against revisionism, and our attitude toward imperialism and the rise of fascism. Also during this period the practical experience of the Party was collectivized through the press so that the Jobs with Peace campaign, and the campaigns against the fascist gangs and around the busing struggles spread from one part of the USNA to another.

Now the time has come for the Party press to become the collective organizer of both the Party and the working class. Accomplishing this task will require changes in many aspects of work. Accordingly, a

PARTY PRESS CAMPAIGN will be conducted from March 1 through May Day. The following are the goals of this campaign.

First, by May Day there must be at least 3,000 annual subscriptions for the *PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE*, 1,500 subscriptions for the *TRIBUNA POPULAR*, and 1,000 subscriptions for the *WESTERN WORKER*. These subscriptions will form the basis of a stable political and financial network for the press, and will be a strong impetus in moving our Party more and more into the spontaneous struggles of the workers. Leading the way in this effort will be the members of the CLP who will all take out subscriptions for their own personal copies of the papers. Then it will be necessary to rally Party supporters and sympathizers to purchase annual subscriptions. In the main these will not be mailed subscriptions, but hand-delivered subscriptions which Party members will bring to the workers around them and discuss with them.

Second, by May Day we must have a general circulation of 10,000 papers for the *PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE*, 4,000 papers for the *TRIBUNA POPULAR*, and 5,000 for the *WESTERN WORKER*. These additional papers above the number of subscriptions to members and contacts, will be sold to the workers and progressives at factory gates, union halls, in door-to-door canvassing of neighborhoods, at markets, schools and everywhere the masses of people are to be found. Party members and non-Party activists alike can order extra papers for distribution. Party members should take out subscriptions for themselves, should solicit subscriptions among close contacts and friends. Non-party persons should order directly from the *People's Tribune*, *Tribuna Popular*, or *Western Worker*. Orders for the number of papers needed must be in by the 5th and 20th of each month.

Only through the efforts of Party members and the revolutionary and progressive workers around the Party will these goals be met. There are many other steps that will be taken to strengthen the Party press and put it in the position to lead both the Party and the working class. However, unless this first step of establishing a political and financial base is successful, all further steps will be unsuccessful.

WIN THE VANGUARD OF THE PROLETARIAT TO THE CAUSE OF COMMUNISM!

BUILD THE PARTY PRESS!

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

LATIN AMERICA

KISSINGER'S TRIP

After four postponements, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger — handmaiden of Wall Street imperialism — recently traveled to Latin America to develop what he referred to as the "New Dialogue."

Ever since the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the ruthlessly exploited and savagely oppressed peoples of Latin America have been US imperialism's greatest economic and political reserve of strength internationally. The timing of Kissinger's visit was not accidental, it comes at a time when US imperialism has received sharp blows in Southeast Asia and West Africa. Latin America is the key if US imperialism is to maintain its advantage in the world economic arena — it is no wonder the base of operations of the fascist CIA has been Latin America.

Kissinger spoke of certain "concessions" to Latin America, but behind these so-called "concessions" is the continued and intensified rape of the countries of Latin America by imperialism. Maximum profits is the basic law of monopoly capitalism and this absolutely dictates the increased economic exploitation and political oppression of the Latin American masses.

Kissinger's so-called "New Dialogue" conforms to the shifting economic and political forces in Latin America. US imperialist expansion in these countries as well as the Caribbean increasingly is shifting to the manufacturing sector, as opposed to the simple extraction of raw materials to be processed in the USNA. This is why Kissinger during his visit spoke of the USNA now favoring "a reduction in the barriers to increased processing of raw materials in exporting countries" (i.e., the colonial Latin America). Imperialism is intensifying its exploitation of Latin American workers — through starvation wages, long hours and work weeks, and higher productivity — in the processing and assembly plants (among others) it is developing there.

Kissinger told Latin America that "the private (i.e., imperialist) sector has played the critical role in bringing about growth... Yet for it to be effective, the proper environment must be created."

This "proper environment" is not simply tax credits, etc., but basically US instigated fascist regimes, which Kissinger made clear would be backed by US intervention. The fascist coup in Chile is one example of this bitter truth. Part of the reason for Kissinger's visit was to strengthen fascist regimes —

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BRAZIL

MODEL OF FASCISM

In the interests of proletarian internationalism the *Western Worker* will consistently be publishing articles on Latin America. The following article on Brazil shows the brutal nature of USNA imperialism in that country and exposes the lie that imperialism "helps" the Latin American peoples

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Brazil is as large as the United States of North America and has only 95 million people. Yet, between 1965 & 1972, the USNA financed and controlled Planned Parenthood Foundation, sterilized over one million women according to the Brazilian National Conference of Bishops. This is only one of the many acts of barbaric imperialist oppression which Henry Kissinger glorified when he lauded Brazil as the "model" for Latin America.

In 1964, a constitutional government was overthrown by the fascist, military elements financed and groomed by US imperialism's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The imperialists have used this fascist regime to intensify their exploitation of the Brazilian workers and peasants. Since the coup the industrialization of Brazil has rapidly accelerated. The increased profits to US corporations have been astronomical; for over each of the last two years the US has invested over \$3 billion in Brazil.

The control by USNA imperialists is demonstrated by the facts that some foreign firms receive up to 50% tax deductions and that twice as many USNA officials work in Brazil in proportion to that country's population as the British had in India when they ruled India directly.

Conditions in Brazil

The USNA imperialists are quick to claim that their investments "benefit" the Brazilian people. However, facts expose the naked oppression of the Brazilian people.

-WAGES- Between 1960 and 1974, real wages dropped 29% because of the Arrocho Laws that institutionalized wage roll-backs in the country while inflation reaches staggering proportions. As a result the richest 5% of the population, dependent on USNA imperialism, own 38% of the wealth, while the poorest 40% own only 8%. A large permanently unemployed army is growing in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia among others.

-EDUCATION- Today, more than 2 million children ages 7 to 12 are not able to go to school for the lack of facilities.

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JUSTICE FOR RUBEN CASTAÑEDA L.A. SCHOOL BOARD VOTES FOR SEGREGATION

The cry "MIGRA" signals terror and violence for every Spanish speaking worker in this country. Ruben Castañeda, a 19 year-old undocumented worker, upon hearing this warning, hid in the hole of a digging machine during an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) raid of the factory where he worked in Gardena, California. Being fully aware of this, the cruel and ruthless officers of the INS turned on the machine which crushed and mangled Ruben's legs.

Ruben Castañeda came to this country because of the hunger, poverty and destitution that characterizes life for workers in Mexico and all colonies of imperialism. From where he came, the work day is from the first ray of sunlight to the last. The wages are anywhere from 3¢ per hour to a dollar or two a day. There are no unions, no welfare systems, no unemployment benefits, no political rights, and hospitals are for the wealthy. Education is what a tired and weary parent can manage to pass on after 12 to 15 hours of work. The average number of children to a family is seven. It is a common sight to see families of ten and twelve huddled

into whole ghettos of cardboard shacks with no running water or electricity.

It was these conditions, the struggle to survive, that forced Ruben and the millions of undocumented workers like him to come to this country. Coming here with the hope of finding a job and being able to send home a few dollars to feed relatives, the undocumented worker is still faced with slave-wages, discrimination, and political repression.

There is no excuse for the terror unleashed on the undocumented worker by the INS. It is clear that undocumented workers are not the reason for unemployment and the drop in the "American living standard." The responsibility lies with the economic crisis of capitalism, which created the wretched destitution in the colonies as well! It has been from the toil and torment of workers all over the world that Rockefeller and the capitalist class has made its billions. The fight of the undocumented worker is the fight of every worker in this country.

To allow the terror of the INS to continue sets the conditions for the whole working class to be terror-

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RUBBER WORKERS

Contract Struggles

Contract negotiations are underway for 200,000 members of the United Rubber Workers (URW). The UPW represents workers in rubber, cork, linoleum and plastic throughout the USNA and Canada.

If a settlement is not reached by this April 21 - and one isn't likely to be reached as of this writing - a long strike seems inevitable against the "Big Four" billionaire capitalists of Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal and Goodrich.

From one end of the USNA to the other there is hardly a place of employment that has not been affected by the current economic and political crisis. The real wages of workers in every industry (the actual amount of goods their paychecks can buy) have fallen drastically. This year contracts are up for 4.5 million workers in key industries - auto, electronics, construction, apparel, trucking, food and farm equipment. Most of these contracts were negotiated during Nixon's wage-freeze. Severely limited wage increases have not kept pace with rising prices.

The capitalists have set the tone for these contract struggles. General Motors executive Murphy recently told a meeting of the New York Economic Club that no increases or benefits will be negotiated without a guaranteed rise in "produc-

tivity." By productivity, the bourgeoisie means increased profits and exploitation through two main methods: 1) the increase in the work day through mandatory overtime, increase in the work week, all while millions are unemployed; and 2) murderous speedup through fewer workers forced to produce more in less time. This outright assault in the economic life of working people can only take place with the steady attack on the political rights of the people and the drive for a fascist police state in our country.

A look at the conditions of the rubber workers show why they and millions of their co-workers must take a united stand and demand a decent standard of living for every worker.

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WOMEN'S DAY

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cannot afford to further the imperialists' split of the working class along national and sexual lines. We must forge unity where they have created a split. The equality of women in general, can only be achieved if we deal with the special oppression of women not as a separate question, but as part of the overall working class struggle. Can and should we ignore the struggles for reforms since the position of women has worsened despite the militant struggles and many reforms won? Of course not! It is only through the consistent revolutionary fight for reforms that we can expose the special oppression of women, the exploitation of all workers, and organize

On March 1st in front of an angry crowd overflowing into the hallways, the Los Angeles School Board heard speaker after speaker condemn an anti-busing motion introduced by "liberal" Board member Howard Miller and co-authored by Governor Brown's sister, Kathleen Brown Rice. The motion was introduced to meet the possibility that the State Supreme Court would soon hand down a ruling on the Gitelson decision that would require the Board to desegregate the LA schools.

Speakers for the NAACP, the SCLC, the United Teachers of LA, Women For, Venice Equal Rights Council, the Urban League, the Communist Labor Party, a city councilman, a spokesman for LA's Congresswoman, and other progressives condemned the Board for using the busing issue to oppose integration and to incite national hatred.

After this eloquent and fierce outcry, the very least the Board could have done, was to withdraw the motion. They are setting up a public task force of 100 with NEW funds. The purpose of the task force supposedly is to investigate and make recommendations for integrating the schools. But in blatant disregard for the voices of the Negro people and progressives in the city, they have ruled out busing from the get-go. In a city the size of LA, with such large segregated communities, this means ruling out integration.

How could they do this. How could they take such an anti-Negro, anti-education

stand. The main answer is that they have managed to isolate the Negro national minority in Los Angeles. This, of course, is not just happening in LA, but across the country.

With the exception of a spokesman from the Mexican American Education Commission and a Mexican national minority man from Pasadena no other representatives of the Mexican national minority spoke in favor of busing.

The bourgeoisie for some time has been dividing the Mexican and Negro national minority workers. They grant bilingual education for a few LA schools. Then the Mexican national minority is told that if busing happens their children won't get bilingual education any more. Meaningless fights between the nationalities occur over whether a "brown" or "black" face sits on a committee to rubber stamp next years budget.

Anglo-American workers weren't out in support either. But does any worker think that the capitalist class really cares for him because of the shade of his skin? Not in the least.

All the capitalists care about is profit and profit is green. Education is deteriorating, not because of the Negro people but because our sons and daughters are more and more superfluous to them. Mechanization and electronics mean that there are no jobs and the jobs there are demand less skill and education. Money is not being spent on education but on bombs to destroy humanity. Cont. on p. 8

such as the Congress of Labor Union Women and National Congress of Neighborhood Women, to insure not only the revolutionary struggle for reforms, but also class conscious proletarian leadership which the women's movement has never had.

The opportunity placed before us with the upcoming contract negotiations for the UAW, as well as the many other contracts expiring this year, is a gold mine. We cannot afford to let any of these struggles go by without injecting class consciousness into the proletariat. It is clear, that as lay-offs have increased, women, generally with lower seniority, have been thrust out of production, only to be recalled at lower wages during imperialist war.

The fight for the equality of women is a fight to not only insure a job for every working class man and woman, but also to double if not triple the involvement of women in industry. It is a fight to illuminate in the process of these struggles that the fate of the working class rests on its unity and the understanding of the only solution - socialism.

On this International Women's Day, we must not only sum-up and analyze the situation in which women find themselves, but to double and redouble our efforts to struggle for the equality of women, drawing into this struggle of the masses of men and women. A united working class is the precondition for the emancipation of all society.

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!



and lead the struggle to overthrow the source of our misery.

The opportunities are ripe. What better avenue is there than to become part of those spontaneous struggles to insure that the ERA enforces the equalization of wages for women, recognizing the physical differences and historically imposed inequalities between men and women? We must insure that the ERA is not used by the imperialists to supply working class women as more cannon fodder for the pending world war, under the guise of implementing equality.

Our tentacles must branch far and wide to all working class women's organizations

WORKERS CORRESPONDENCE

Western Worker:

Postal workers' jobs are under heavy attack from the media and many politicians. The U.S. Postal Service management, which was appointed by Nixon, is doing its best to destroy the service and thus help these reactionaries who say mail delivery should be turned over to "private enterprise" by abolishing the 1st class mail monopoly we now have.

What these creeps really want to do is grab off the lucrative high volume areas such as major office buildings and upper class neighborhoods and leave the working class and poor neighborhoods to get high cost, lousy

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ALBUQUERQUE

TENANTS STRUGGLE

Pitched battles against evictions and for decent housing are taking place throughout the USNA. In the oppressed Southwest region the struggle for housing often takes on the character of a struggle for land and equality.

The struggle of the tenants of the Osuna Apartments in the Northeast Heights of Albuquerque, New Mexico is one of these rising battles.

In the Osuna Apartments a militant tenants organization has been formed to fight against deteriorating housing conditions and the actions of the Manager, Phylis Peterson.

Peterson has outraged the tenants by intruding into

their homes without permission or notification. She refuses to give tenants notice, and when she comes in she leaves degrading messages. Tenants have reported personal belongings missing. Peterson calls the children abusive names and the apartments are without good play areas for the children, adequate maintenance, plumbing, or security services.

The Osuna Tenants Association has organized militant pickets of the homes of officials of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The apartments are federally subsidized, but the federal government refuses to listen to the tenants' demands. The tenants are asking for a FHA investigation of the mismanagement of the apartments and the bad housing conditions. The Manager, Peterson, also just happens to be the daughter of one of the FHA officials, Fayne Coffman.

The Association's demands include the firing of Peterson, tenant input into management selection, the correction of building code violations, more play areas for the children, etc. They have started a financial drive to file a discrimination lawsuit, are publicizing the plight of working class, especially national minority, tenants, and are working with other tenants organizations for changes in state laws that favor landlords.

The Apartment's owners, the Sovereign Corporation, is tied to finance capital. Its interests are solely for profits, not the needs of the tenants. Acting through the Manager they have responded to the Osuna tenants' demands with eviction notices to the leaders and anyone who protests.

The courts that serve and protect the capitalists are being used against the tenants. One of the leaders of the Association, whose car was "mysteriously" burned, was tried by an Albuquerque court. The court refused to hear his defense that he had been evicted for exercising his right to free speech, although the owners were allowed to present all the evidence that they wanted.

In spite of these setbacks the workers struggle is growing. Different organizations have come to the aid of the Osuna Tenants. The Association is part of a coalition of organizations, PEOPLE UNITED FOR POLITICAL ACTION. This coalition is also supporting the fight for justice for Mike Mackey, a Negro national minority recently framed by the police, the Tierra Amarilla struggles against police attacks, the stealing of funds at the expense of the Indian peoples, and the land grant movement of La Alianza. The PUPA is organizing an important march on April 3 to demonstrate the need for unity for all organizations and individuals fighting for equal rights.

In the Southwest, the struggle for better housing is closely tied to the struggles of the Mexican national minority and Indian peoples to gain control of the land annexed by force by U.S. imperialism. Only by ridding the Southwest and the world of US imperialism can the working class achieve true equality and justice.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

The Communist Labor Party of the USNA also publishes a national newspaper, the *People's Tribune*, which is the central organ of our Party. We encourage our readers to support & subscribe to this newspaper.

For more information about the Communist Labor Party, the *Western Worker*, or the *People's Tribune*, write to:

P.O. Box 72306
Watts Station
Los Angeles, Ca. 90002

P.O. Box 24241
Bayview Station
San Francisco, Ca. 94124

P.O. Box 25884
Albuquerque, N.M. 87125

VETERANS FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

Veterans Outreach in South Los Angeles is a federally funded program which was set up to help veterans with bad discharges--in this area mostly Negro national minority vets--get their cases reviewed and their discharges upgraded. From among these workers, the Veterans for Equal Rights has been formed.

A growing number of vets seeking upgrades have recognized that the isolated individual dealing one-to-one with the state apparatus, the courts and military, of the entire capitalist class could never hope to win justice. Veterans being aided by the Outreach program have united into a political force to fight against oppression and inequality.

Their first step was the following letter which went out to all the vets.

"Dear Vets:

"Most of us went into the service either because we were drafted or to leave a situation of heavy discrimination and unemployment. We were used as pawns by the U.S. government to fight other poor and oppressed people. But many of us woke up during the course of both the Korean and Vietnamese wars. We discovered that we as colonized people within the United States were fighting against colonial people in other nations. But the same people that mistreat, discriminate, oppress and exploit us here at home want us to do the same to others abroad. Many of us said no to that. For that we got Undesireables, BCD's and DD's.

"We get home and what do we have; the same discrimination, the same oppression, the same exploitation and most of all permanent unemployment. We have no G.I. benefits, no possibility of job training, and no jobs. They are forcing us and the young people in the community into a life

of crime. They deaden our minds and bodies with dope and alcohol. They rob our culture, repackage it and they sell it. They are committing genocide against our people just as they would have us do against the Vietnamese. Then they divide us by upgrading some people's discharges and leaving the rest of us out.

"We can change this situation. But only our own efforts can insure that. If we lay back, the man will take it all away. If we get organized and educated, and if we start to gather support and unity from other groups, we can make changes. We want an organization which is democratic, action oriented and controlled by the vets."

The group met to discuss and adopt this program as the basis for their struggles:

1. Full G.I. benefits for all veterans.
2. Federal legislation to upgrade all discharges to honorable.
3. Unemployment and welfare benefits for all veterans.
4. Jobs for all workers at the expense of the military budget.
5. Support busing and bilingual education, national-ize education.
6. No direct or indirect military intervention in Africa, the Middle East, SE Asia or Latin America.
7. Smash the KKK, Nazi Party, Posse Comitatus etc.

Unconditional Amnesty

The fight for unconditional amnesty is part and parcel of the workers' fight for civil rights, equality and jobs with peace. The Position Paper of Unconditional Amnesty of the Americans Exiled in Canada (Amex/Canada), quoted in the *People's Tribune* (2/21/76) said: "Today working class and national minority

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CLP BALLOT CAMPAIGN

Starting March 1, and concluding April 30, the Communist Labor Party will conduct a massive campaign to register the CLP as a recognized political party in the state of Michigan.

Nearly 17,500 signatures of registered voters will be legally required. Since the ruling class uses every weapon at its disposal to keep socialism from the working class, a goal of 50,000 signatures has been set for this effort to offset an expected high disqualification rate at the hands of the government agencies and commissions that oversee the bourgeois electoral apparatus.

The CLP is concentrating its electoral efforts in Michigan because the workers of that state will be the spearhead of the labor struggles this year. Michigan is the center of the automobile industry which accounts for more than 10% of all industrial production in the USNA. This year the automobile workers will be battling the corporate giants for a new union contract. Automobile workers represent one of the largest concentrated sections of industrial workers. Their battles for a fair living wage and decent working conditions influences the workers in other key industries like steel, rubber, electronics, transportation, chemicals and petroleum.

Moreover, the automobile workers have a valiant history of struggle for justice, equality and peace. In the early 1930's, the Anglo-American automobile workers of Detroit left the shops by the tens-of-thousands to stage a massive political strike and demonstration against the lynch law frame-up in the Negro Nation of the Scotsboro Boys - a group of Negro youth. Auto workers have consistently fought for the rights of national minority workers in the shops and communities. Over the last 10 years auto workers have been staunch supporters of the farmworkers and their struggles. Throughout the Vietnam War, United Auto

Workers (UAW) union locals constantly protested the savage intervention in Indochina. More recently, auto workers have been in the forefront of the battle against the fascist gangs like the Ku Klux Klan, Nazi Party, Detroit's MAD - particularly around the busing struggles for equal, quality, integrated education.

California Auto Workers

Auto workers in California are continuing this noble tradition today, with their support for justice for Danny Trevino, a young Mexican national minority man who was brutally murdered on January 22nd by two San Jose policemen. Expressing the sentiments of their members, UAW Locals 1364 (GM Fremont) and 560 (Ford Milpitas) and Region Six of the UAW have publicly opposed the murder and spoken and marched in support of the demands of the community. These demands for justice and equal rights raised by the auto workers will strengthen and help unite their ranks for the contract battles ahead.

The working class of the USNA needs a political voice of its own. Through the battle to register the CLP in Michigan the working class will get an important forum to raise the banner of the campaign - JOBS, PEACE, EQUALITY.

Not just the workers of Michigan need to be involved in this ballot struggle. It is for every worker in the USNA. It is a struggle to give the working class another platform to voice their hatred of capitalism and the capitalist class which mercilessly exploits and oppresses them. The elections provide a platform from which to rally the masses to the cause of socialism.

Resolutions, statements and letters of support are needed. So are your donations. All statements, letters and donations will be acknowledged in the *People's Tribune*, *Tribune Popular*, and those from the West and Southwest in the *Western Worker*.

Send to:
CLP Michigan Registration Campaign
c/o People's Tribune
P.O. Box 3774
Chicago, Illinois 60654

DENNIS BANKS

Cont. from p. 2

terms include: Nichols Banks, wife of Dennis Banks, Anna Mae Aquash from the Pine Ridge, Russell Redner - a Western Shoshone active in Washington state fishing struggles and Sioux leader Ken Loudhawk.

Banks, himself, faces extradition to South Dakota on a conviction stemming from a demonstration outside the

Custer, S.D. courthouse in 1973. This frameup is typical of many others. A prime tactic of the state is to force confrontations with Indians by raiding their lands, gatherings and homes. When the Indians try to resist and defend themselves from attack, they are charged with interfering with arrest or a "peace" officer, assault, attempted murder, etc.

The Indians are then dragged before chauvinist

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SAN DIEGO INS ON RAMPAGE

On Monday, February 23 at 9 AM over a thousand Mexican national minority and Mexican national workers, together with other nationalities, were put through a humiliating "check" by National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (NASSCO) and the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in San Diego, California.

All "green card" workers were told to report to an office at 9 AM. There they were single filed up some stairs, at the end of which INS agents were waiting. In a room the INS checked everyone's Alien Registration Card ("Green Card") for its legality and asked each worker the name that appears on his or her pay check.

Afterwards, everyone was to return quietly back to his work except for the ones who were suspected of having false "Green Cards." Later on in the week one worker (and maybe more) was asked to go again to have his "Green Card" checked.

Only this time his "Green Card" was checked by FBI agents!

Although there were jokes by the workers themselves of getting "sent back to Mexico", there was the distinct feeling of being in a concentration camp.

The workers were outraged at this raid by the INS, conducted with NASSCO'S blessing, but at the moment felt helpless to prevent it.

As a result of this raid many workers were deported, and the head of NASSCO personnel, Jerry Cooper, was fired. Cooper, no friend of the workers, hires undocumented workers for a \$300 "fee", then sends them to the worst jobs in the yard.

There was no previous warning of the raid for the first work shift, but on the second shift a foreman told his crew to make sure that all "Green Card" holders bring their cards next week because the INS was going to come by and check them!

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CONSENT DECREE RIPOFF

Giant ripoff Number 2! First the union leadership gave away the right to strike for \$150. And now the Consent Decree ripoff is forced on us by the unholy alliance of I.W. Abel and gang, the Big Steel companies and the Nixon-Ford gang.

The Consent Decree is a court order which provides for minimal back pay awards to some minorities and women for past job discrimination. United Steelworkers President Abel made the Consent Decree deal secretly with the companies and the government.

One Negro worker at Bethlehem Steel Corporation in Los Angeles had been cheated out of 20 cents an hour for the past 15 years. Not counting any overtime pay this would come to a total of \$6,240 that is owed to him. Decree backpay is about \$650 - and taxes are taken out of that!

The money that is paid out actually has nothing to do with how much any individual suffered. Rather it is based on the pay differential between minority workers and Anglo-American workers in each plant and also on seniority. So if you are lucky you get 5-10% of the money you could have made and all you have to do to get it is sign away your right to sue the company for any past violations of your civil rights.

In addition, the limits on the Decree also mean that discrimination has been big business in steel for a long time. It only applies to Negro, Spanish-surnamed and women workers who were hired before

1968 and maintained continuous employment through April 12, 1974. Pay differentials for Arab, Filipino, Asian and Indian workers is just money in the bank for the companies.

The Consent Decree is the opening gun in a new offensive to squash the growing workers struggle against job discrimination and for equal rights in the factories, mines and mills of the country. The companies and the union never once admitted that discrimination existed. They entered into the agreement voluntarily with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Departments of Labor and Justice because they wanted to eliminate the numerous suits facing them and do away with the possibility of any future suits.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals said in a decision that denied all challenges to the Decree: it is "the chance justly to finalize a matter that otherwise would burden agencies and courts and continue to disrupt an industry vital to the national security for years to come." That's the heart of the matter to the capitalists and their servants. The struggle for equal rights is a burden which interferes with the smooth inflow of profits and has to be eliminated. The court also claimed that the companies have "achieved broadscale compliance with the Civil Rights Act, Title Seven" which covers job discrimination. So it will now be almost impossible to sue the corporations for discrimination, past or present.

Cont. on p. 11

TEXAS

Cont. from p. 1

The conditions faced by farmworkers in this part of the oppressed Southwest region are brutal: low wages, atrocious working conditions, NO legal protections and naked violence against any worker who dares try to change these conditions.

Today wages for all farmworkers are virtually starvation wages. California's farmworkers make only a little over \$2.00 an hour. Farmworkers in the citrus fields of Texas make at best \$1.00 an hour.

Texas, in theory, has a minimum hourly wage law for agricultural workers. But this doesn't apply to piece rate work! So, of course, the growers always choose to pay the least. In Texas citrus workers are paid as little as 11¢ a bushel on this piece-rate basis. Since citrus harvesting is very hard work and often done in freezing weather, farmworkers are lucky if they can pick 8 or 9 bushels an hour and go home with \$6 or \$7 in their pocket to pay for all the necessaries of life. The average yearly income in Southwest Texas is the lowest in the USNA.

Sanitation in the fields of Texas is almost nonexistent. Ladders used to pick fruit are so shaky, it is not uncommon for at least one person in each orchard to suffer a fall each day. And, of course, Texas farmworkers don't have any kind of hospital or accident insurance. Nor are there any stringent regulations on the use of pesticides, and it is common for workers to get sprayed while working.

All this is a product of the capitalist system in which the giant food monopolies have raised their prices 50% over the last 4 years and are reaping the greatest profits in their history, while those who harvest the food are undernourished and have a life expectancy of only 48 years.

The capitalists refuse to recognize farmworker unions in Texas. No farmworkers are covered by union contracts and growers refuse even to sit down with the TFWU even after thousands of workers sign their authorization cards. The current citrus strike is fundamentally a struggle for union recognition--a basic right of all workers. One of the demands of the strike is for a secret ballot election law, similar to, but stronger than California's ALRB.

Like in the fields of California since the destruction of the ALRB, violence is being directed against the TFWU unionization efforts as well. Last year eleven farmworkers were shot by Texas grower C.L. Miller. Nothing has been done about this by the state since the "law"

in this part of the Southwest is that whatever a grower does against his workers is his own business.

TFWU organizers report that they are now being followed and intimidated. As the strike continues, capitalist violence against the workers is bound to increase unless their struggle wins active support from workers and progressives throughout the country.

INTERNATIONALISM IN UNION DRIVE

The internationalism of the Texas farmworkers is like a beacon of light for the whole working class. They have blazed new trails in the organization of farmworkers, who have too often been divided and isolated in their valiant struggles. The TFWU not only organizes farmworkers who live in Texas, but they have been actively organizing the Mexican nationals who cross

producing seed, to the cultivating, processing, storing, transporting, retailing (supermarkets), and exporting food commodities. They exploit workers across this land, including the Southwest and the Negro Nation, and throughout the colonial world - especially Latin America.

"Agribusiness" is integrally connected through interlocking boards of directors and the banks which invest in it to every aspect of production in this country. For instance, 16 of the 20 most profitable USNA corporations are involved in basic food production.

With such an enemy, it is obvious that farmworkers in California cannot win the struggle for the ALRB, good contracts, or anything else, without uniting with and supporting the struggle of our class brothers and sisters in Texas against our common foe.

TFWU NEEDS UFW SUPPORT

The policy of certain leaders of the UFW in not

with their own hands while part of the UFW!

In the past, Chavez and the UFW leadership had a wrong policy on the question of deportation of undocumented workers. Pressure from workers and the necessity of the struggle forced the UFW to alter its position. Where the UFW has organized undocumented workers, many gains in their recent organizing drive were made. Again a change of policy is called for in respect to their position on the Texas farmworkers. Many California farmworkers, active members of the UFW, have circulated petitions in the fields, which were signed by hundreds of workers, asking Chavez to allow the Texas farmworkers to continue using the office in Texas.

Partly because the UFW leadership has of yet refused to change their stand, the TFWU and the Texas farmworkers have had to fight virtually alone. They face a grave shortage of money. Their strike cannot be sustained without the financial, political and moral support from workers everywhere. Theirs is not simply a strike on behalf of farmworkers in the Rio Grande Valley, but is an integral and essential part of the historic farmworkers and working class movement.

The Communist Labor Party and the *Western Worker* have always given our wholehearted support to the farmworkers movement. Today, we call for support of the current UFW boycott of SUN-MAID and SUNSWEET products - the prime growers behind the destruction of the ALRB. We urge all our readers to support and participate in the UFW drive to get the ALRB on the California ballot this November and to demand immediate refunding of the ALRB!

Speaking in the interests of the millions of farmworkers and the working class as a whole, we call on all our readers to give their unfailing support to the struggle of the TFWU. Do everything humanly possible to support their important strike. Raise money, hold fundraisers, pass the hat, get contributions from your union, send donations and letters of support to:

TEXAS STRIKE FUND
P.O. Box 876
San Juan, Texas 78589

El Cuhamil, the newspaper of the Texas Farm Workers Union also needs your support for its important activity of publicizing the struggles of the farmworkers movement. Please send donations of equipment, lay-out supplies, and subscription orders (\$5.00 per year in the USNA/\$6.00 outside the country) to

El Cuhamil
P.O. Box 876
San Juan, Texas 78589



the border daily in search of work. This policy has found wide support among workers on both sides of the border and has prevented the growers from using Mexican national workers to break strikes.

This stand is not only significant for farmworkers in Texas, but is important in that it has opened the door for the organization of farmworkers throughout the Southwest region and thus laid a basis for the organization of the over 600,000 Negro and Anglo-American minority farmworkers in the Negro Nation in the South.

Fellow workers, rural and urban, we must make the struggle of the Texas farmworkers our own. Our enemy, imperialism, and its violent political face - fascism - is the same. Today no section of the working class can move forward at the expense of or separated from other workers.

"Agribusiness" is an integral part of monopoly capitalism, imperialism. The imperialists own and control all significant agricultural production - from the manufacturing of farm machinery, the drilling and refining of oil, fertilizers,

supporting the struggle of the Texas farmworkers is wrong and a serious error. It can only do harm to the organizing effort across the country and to the important struggle for the ALRB in California. Such a stand can only weaken the entire movement in the face of the vicious attacks against it.

These UFW leaders have wrongly accused the TFWU of violent tactics. Years of struggle in California have written in blood the lesson that it is the capitalist growers and their state, and not the farmworkers, who are the cause of violence

In actions that have harmed the cause of all farmworkers, Cesar Chavez, President of the UFW, sent a public telegram to the TFWU condemning their actions. In August, 1975 Chavez circulated an open letter in Texas asking the public not to give the Texas farmworkers support because they were not members of the UFW. Because of this lack of support, the Texas farmworkers had to develop the TFWU. Now the leaders of the UFW have sent a letter to the TFWU threatening to evict the TFWU from the offices built