

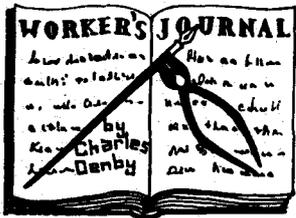
On The Inside

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How will poor people keep living?

by Charles Denby

President Ford has said that all older people on Medicare should pay the first \$500 of their hospital bill, and the first \$250 of their doctor bill. But every older person I have talked with is saying "Where will we get the money?"

He spoke as if the government was doing elderly people a big favor, while in the same breath he tells the world how much he intends to use on defense. UAW President Woodcock had to say something against this proposal of Ford because it only benefits the wealthy and hurts the poor.

Lockheed Aircraft was hollering that they were broke several years ago and the government stepped in to bail them out with a loan of millions. In return, they gave it to foreign capitalists as a bribe. Now they are saying that they are broke again and are asking for millions more, at the same time the poor people of this country are having what little they get taken away from them through higher prices and inflation.

Everyone is yelling about the high utility bills they are paying now compared to last year. They have increased 50 percent since last year and the companies are asking for higher rates and will get them. One wonders just how the poor will survive.

What Ford seems to be saying to the American poor people is, "If you can keep up with this inflation and high prices you can exist, and if not then it is just too bad. We are just waiting for every corporation that needs the help of the government to ask, so we can give them whatever they want."

Ford is not playing games with anyone when he says one thing and does another. He says he is against busing and he thinks the federal judges have made mistakes in handing down their decisions. He always ends up by saying that he believes there is a better way, but he never says what the better way is. Now he is trying to outdo Wallace and at the same time outdo Reagan.

There was a lot of noise some weeks ago that unemployment had gone down from 8.3 to 7.8 percent. But the truth of the matter is they do not count those that have drawn all of their unemployment compensation. If they were counted, unemployment would be ten percent or higher.

One worker said that those people deal with statistics, not with human beings. The same day they came out with the statement that unemployment had gone down, the plant where he was working closed down, putting the workers out on the streets.

Those statistics are only put out for those who are employed and the capitalists who are saying the depression has bottomed out and the economy is on the upswing. In the next two months we will read about another reduction in unemployment. At the same time they are building more cars than they built last year, with far less workers. Automation is taking away the jobs of many workers each and every day.

In the face of the economic disaster facing this nation, Ford has presented nothing that could even be

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Hundreds jam hearing to protest Medicaid cuts

Detroit, Mich.—More than 400 people crowded into the Feb. 12 City Council hearing here to discuss the effects of cuts in the Medicaid program which provides health services to poor people.

Under an order from Governor Milliken, which was approved by the state legislature, anyone earning a few dollars above the standard for welfare is cut out of the Medicaid program totally.

For those still on Medicaid, all payments for vision, hearing and dental services for anyone over 21 were terminated Jan. 1, 1976. Also eliminated were speech therapy, artificial limbs, non-prescription drugs when ordered by a doctor, occupational therapy, and transportation services and physical therapy for people in nursing homes. In-patient psychiatric care is now limited to 14 days a year. Any remaining health services for poor people are to be cut by 11 percent.

These same health services have been cut recently in 21 states. A doctor testified that the Medical Association is not encouraging doctors to participate in the Medicaid program because it is no longer "economically feasible."

At the hearing, senior citizens and people with handicaps spoke of the deadly seriousness of the government's action. One 23-year-old woman told how all of her teeth were pulled and now Medicaid won't honor their agreement to provide her with dentures. She asked how she was ever supposed to get a job or live a normal life without any teeth at all.

NEWS LETTERS

10¢

'Human Power is its own end'

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Ford's budget can't solve growing economic crises at home or abroad

by Andy Phillips

At GM's 2,500-employee South Gate Plant in California, the workers vote at their local union meeting to occupy the plant if GM goes through with its plan to indefinitely layoff all employees and close the plant. In Pittsburgh's Jones and Laughlin plant, 4,000 steelworkers laid off since last June are only now beginning to trickle back. In Santa Clara, Calif., 34,000 job hunters create the worst day-long traffic jam

in Bayshore Freeway's history in response to an ad for 2,200 part-time amusement park jobs paying \$2.25 an hour. In Detroit, skilled and production auto workers join together the first time in many years to fight against company speed-up and oppression and the union's do-nothing policies. Unemployment in the construction trades continues at higher than depression levels, with as many as 50 percent unemployed in Michigan, and over 30 percent in the industry as a whole. In auto, over 70,000 workers remain unemployed — with more layoffs announced practically every week. Over one million workers have already exhausted their 63 weeks of unemployment compensation, and another million will be getting their last checks in the next two months.

Inflation, down from 12 percent last year, continues at a ruinous seven percent, eating away at the standards of living of the poor and the working class, which lost four percent in buying power due to inflation last year. On this basis alone, workers would have to get at least a 20 percent wage increase to simply keep even with the rising cost of living. But this doesn't tell the whole story. The fact is that essential living costs — food, clothing, shelter, utilities, taxes, transportation and medical care — have gone up much more than the "average" of 37 items figured in the Consumer Price Index.

In the face of this national economic disaster, President Ford says that he is "optimistic" about the future of the U.S.—and presents a national budget that cuts every social and job-making program by billions of dollars to add billions to non-productive defense expenditures and business tax write-offs.

MORE GUNS, NO JOBS

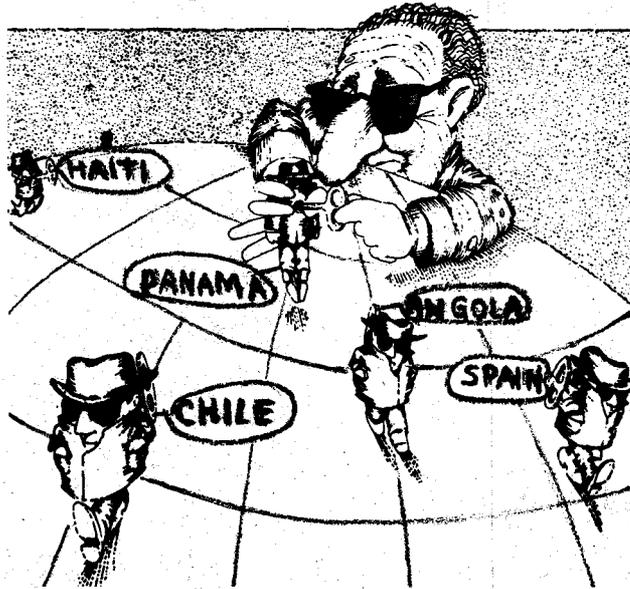
The budget proposed by Ford has no relation at all to what will be finally passed by Congress. Ford's State of the Union message and budget comprise the political platform he will be running on for re-election to the presidency this year. His message is clear: more profits for the corporations in tax write-offs and defense contracts, with continued and increasing unemployment for the poor working class — and especially for the Blacks, women and youth.

A look at Ford's budget and actions shows his philosophy and position with crystal clarity. Out of a budget of \$394.2 billion, he demands \$112.3 billion for defense—guns, bombs, nuclear, electronic, laser, atomic and conventional weapons of destruction—and vetoes a \$6.2 billion public works bill that would create 600,000 jobs. Ford proposes to cut \$1.2 billion in food stamps from people who need it but are above the poverty level. He proposes this cut knowing that in 1974 over 1.3 million new persons were thrown into the poverty classification — a family of four with an income of \$5,000. As a matter of fact, more than 24.3 million Americans were classified as poor in 1974, more than 10 percent of the population.

The inescapable fact is that the U.S. and the rest of the world were all thrown into a depression in 1974, and every nation is still trying to recover. It will take years.

When there is a depression, there are bankruptcies. That's what happened to the retail chain of W. T. Grant stores in the U.S.; to New York and Yonkers and threatens most large cities; to Chrysler in Great Britain, and very nearly to Volkswagen in West Germany and Citroen in France. Japan suffered its worst bankruptcies in its history, and for the first time corporations broke with their traditional system of lifetime employment; employees were laid off, shaking the economic and social

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GLOBAL REACH

A man in a wheelchair—who had to pay \$25 for a one-way ambulance ride from the nursing home where he lives to the hearing—told of how elderly people end up in the emergency room if they don't have teeth to eat properly. People told how their cancer treatments, their heart medicine, and their kidney machine treatments have been taken away. One woman who suffers from epilepsy told of how she falls a lot and asked "What would I have to get up for if I couldn't see or hear or walk?"

Ernest Davis of the Michigan Department of Social Services, the agency which implemented the cuts, declared how proud he was to be representing his department and "witnessing this exercise in democratic rights." The outrage of the audience was reflected by one senior citizen speaking after Davis who likened the official to one of Hitler's henchmen.

A blind man testified about the necessity of a united fight against the social service cutbacks in all areas. He was disturbed that more welfare rights members hadn't spoken at the hearing.

One radical welfare woman explained that many of the most militant ADC recipients have been sent to work in low-paying, part-time jobs. She works for two hours in the middle of the day at such a job, which prevents her from participating in hearings and protests.

But she shared the desire of many speakers at the hearing to continue fighting to have these vitally necessary health services for the poor restored and expanded.

Welfare—the inhumanity that breeds revolt

Detroit, Mich.—I came home one day last month and found that someone had broken into my mailbox. Whoever it was, took my food stamp card. I called down to the food stamp office and asked if I could get another card. The lady told me that if I came down and applied for another card now, I couldn't get a card for next month, and that they would determine whether my card was "really" stolen.

After I buy stamps, I have only \$40 left for the next two weeks from my aid check. I have to pay \$47.50 for \$83 worth of stamps. They accuse me of trying to get an extra card, when I can't even afford to buy extra stamps.

I read in the paper about a man who had six children and couldn't get any food stamps from the welfare office. Nobody would listen to him, so he came back with a gun and held the people hostage. I can understand just how he felt. You have to do crazy things just to get them to listen to you. Now they have locked him up, and I wonder what is happening to his children?

There was a time when the question of food and medical care was something that only affected the poorest people. But today, it's a crisis because so many people are unemployed and their compensation has run out.

People are being cut off welfare without notice, because they aren't aware of the different changes taking place in the welfare rules, like what they call "verification." These people are starving today in the U.S. not in another country.

The system is so screwed up that when a person really needs help, there is only a slight chance they will get it. People on welfare are a part of this world, and their lives are being led down the drain by this system. Changes must be made, and made soon.

—Tommie Hope

Detroit, Mich.—Once a week I have treatments on a kidney machine. A few weeks ago I got a postcard from Medicaid. I found someone to read it to me a day or two later. It said that after April, Medicaid would not pay for any more treatments. Each one costs \$300.

I had a treatment that day, so I asked the doctor

Employers silence WL group

Los Angeles, Cal.—The first sparks of a new women's liberation group at a record company in answer to "Alice Doesn't Day" has come to a sharp and not so surprising end. As one of the female workers, I must say we began this group with a kind of healthy honesty, openness and spontaneity. But as time goes on, one soon realizes the reactionary decisions that are made behind one's back.

Not long after our second meeting of 30 women, there was a curious and uneasy feeling in the air. The women in this company refused to talk about this exciting, new beginning. Suddenly no further meetings were held or planned. Even I began to feel ostracized from the women because of my constant questioning of the situation.

Indirectly, I learned that the word had gone out: "Any worker who starts another WL meeting will be fired." This statement was related to the woman who was the main speaker at the two previous meetings. The oppressive decision was made by a few male executives (whose names were never mentioned).

—Record company employee

what would happen if Medicaid cut me off. He hemmed and hawed and finally said that I could die in a couple of months. I called my worker, and she said she'd give me some names of kidney foundations to apply to.

I didn't hear anything for a week, so I called her back and she said, "Oh yes, I was going to get you those names . . ." I was getting very uptight so I called Medicaid. They finally said that if I had no other resources they would continue to pay.

The worst thing was the way they said, "No more treatments," just like that. If you could call any of those people just once and get a straight answer, it would be incredible.

—Blind ADC recipient

WL NOTES

In Portugal, close to 2,000 women and teenage girls occupied the multinational Time company to prevent the lay-off of over 600 workers. The women managed to get to the factory, located in a rural area, even though Timex had suspended regular bus transportation. The women have set up workers' committees to organize their strike.

The 25,000-strong pro-abortion march in Italy, Dec. 6, was planned as a march of women. A group of men, members of the left organization Lotta Continua, charged the demonstration. They beat the security women with sticks, broke women's ribs, and called the marchers "whores." A woman participant said: "Feminist ideology has never up until now been assimilated by the men in the extra-parliamentary left. They see it when they can, as marginal, as civil rights, as right to opinion, but not as revolutionary."



In Germany, women in Berlin and Frankfurt threw stink bombs, pig's tails, and paint, and tied up an usher in a movie theater that was showing the sado-masochistic pornographic film "The Story of O." This movie, as well as the book, have been touted as "art" by those who make money by degrading women.

On Jan. 12, 200 women in Madrid, Spain, demonstrated outside the Standard Electric Company, protesting the arrest of labor leaders. Three days later, after the government drafted thousands of striking postal workers, 3,000 women marched silently in downtown Madrid protesting inflation, demanding amnesty for political prisoners, and an end to discrimination against women. Riot police clubbed and gassed them.

Three hundred high school women boycotted classes and marched around school shouting at their teachers at Heaton Comprehensive School in England. This erupted when the headmaster decided, two weeks after new laws banning sex discrimination were passed, that now he could inflict corporal punishment on the women students at this school. Several dozen male students also joined in the protest.

ERA defeats reveal power of the counter-revolution

by Molly Jackson

The startling defeat, by large margins, of the state Equal Rights Amendments in New York and New Jersey, has shaken the women's movement in its assumptions about its major national issue. It is worth examining to understand both the strength of the counter-revolutionaries who organized the opposition, and the inherent weakness of the proposed amendments to the federal and state constitutions.

The federal ERA states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex," which is so general that it means nothing—or rather, it means whatever the executive officers and courts say it means.

When the reactionaries spread the Big Lie that ERA means unisex public bathrooms, drafting women into the army, and forcing housewives into the factory, some could believe them because there is nothing in the ERA to say otherwise.

At the same time, a perverted twisting of "women's liberation" has been used by the capitalists to take away the hard-won rights of workers wherever possible. Look what has gone on in the name of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlaws discrimination in employment (and covers women only because sex was added to race by Southern Congressmen in an attempt to kill the legislation).

While many gains have been made under Title VII and its state equivalents, it has also been the excuse for such things as the Attorney General in Michigan declaring the protective laws abolished, whereupon all the women's chairs were removed from the Wonderbread factory. In California a bank stopped bus service for night shift women employees, until the men went on strike with them, demanding that the bus service be extended to them too.

If equal rights legislation specifically provided that "equality" will not be achieved by taking away one sex's rights, but by expanding the other's, not only would working class women work for such a law, but so would working class men, and the women's movement would have entirely new dimensions.

The feminist movement, although jarred by the state defeats, appears not to grasp the class aspect of the ERA question. Various "leaders" have said it means moving more slowly to "raise the consciousness" of the masses of women—the typical elitist view that if the program fails, it is because the masses, not the program, needs improving.

The defeats have, however, increased awareness of the threat of the counter-revolutionaries who organized so effectively against the amendments. These right-wingers, aided by the Catholic and other churches, are the same groups who are trying to turn back the laws on abortion and have the gall to call themselves the "right-to-life" movement. They are financed, we now learn, by insurance companies and other capitalists who stand to lose money if women gain legal equality.

It is this counter-revolution at home that poses so serious a threat to the women's movement that it demands that the voices of the Black and working women begin to be heard, and that "women's liberation" is made concrete. The celebration of International Women's Day this year has to begin right here, with that struggle.

Letter exchange with NOW discusses race and class

(The following are excerpts from an exchange of letters that followed our report and analysis of NOW's National Convention in News & Letters, Dec. 1975—Ed.)

Dear Ms. Moon:

It seems that you share the opinion of others and are disappointed in the conventional politics that seemed to be displayed at the NOW National Convention in Philadelphia. The question in your letter "Why wasn't there time to discuss issues vital to us which some of us came hundreds of miles to talk about with each other?" and also the recent article in News & Letters that the issues of race and class were not brought forward, is what I would like to address here.

First of all, I think the class issue was what the whole convention was about. Originally NOW was formed mainly by upper class white women who, because of their financial resources and know-how were able to maintain control over the National offices . . . Because NOW has grown so much and so rapidly it does contain many poor women and women sensitive to the problems and degradations of most women . . .

MAYBE it wasn't clear enough, but the fight at the National Convention was between two groups. One who stated that we need to pay attention to only sexism and not be distracted by other problems such as: (1) the right for a woman to control her own body . . . (2) the double and triple oppression of white and black lesbians. (I was surprised that this was not mentioned in the News & Letters article as this definitely is a class issue as well), (3) the double oppression of black women. The opposing group called the Majority Caucus stands for these three issues as well as demanding full employment and a dignified adequate annual income for all . . .

The Majority Caucus stated in its platform "that NOW should not identify as a mainstream organization. Why? Because struggling solely for an equal place in the American mainstream divides women who are victimized or oppressed because of their race, sexual preference, economic status, age, ethnic and/or religious background in addition to their gender."

I HOPE this letter sheds some new light on what's happening in NOW . . . There are continuing attacks on the Majority Caucus that have been taken to the media. I do hope that our energies will not be dissipated in this struggle and that we will move forward without diversion.

For Equality, Gloria Sackman-Reed
President-elect, Pennsylvania NOW

Dear Ms. Sackman-Reed,

We welcome your letter and wanted to share it and our answer with our readers because to us the "battle of ideas," far from being diversionary or a dissipation of our energies, is one of the most important battles in the struggle we are waging for our liberation. Indeed, we see the present divisions as a high stage precisely because, as you point out, they are about race and class—and, not separate from that, a total philosophy which is not an abstraction.

. . . THIS IS what I mean. A Black woman worker wrote a leaflet to be distributed where she works at Uniroyal tire company. She asked the News and Letters Women's Liberation Committee to help distribute at the factory. She wants the women to get together to fight the company and the union who give the women the dirtiest, hardest jobs in the plant and say, "Well, you

wanted women's lib," as well as the male-chauvinism of her co-workers who go along with it. She ended this leaflet by writing:

"They are always using Women's Liberation against us at Uniroyal. We all know that the company and the union are lined up against us. But we can change things. Can't Women's Liberation mean that we begin our own women's organization at Uniroyal? . . ."

One of the great things about the Women's Liberation Movement was that we fought against being objects—bodies without minds. We insisted on being Subject—thinking human beings fighting for freedom.

If we understood Black and working-class women as Subject—as revolutionary force and reason—we would never use the slogan, "Save Our Sisters" because we would know that it is women like this Uniroyal worker, women who experience all that is wrong with this society who can show us what must be done to have a different world based on new human relations. It is only when the thoughts and activities of Black and working-class women are the ground—the basis of an organization—that we can be sure of going all the way to the kind of revolution that is not transformed into its opposite.

WE THINK it is important to clarify where the divisions in the Women's Liberation Movement are and what they represent. That must be part of working out how we can unite those who are fighting for freedom together with a philosophy of liberation. I hope our exchange of letters can be a beginning of just such a process.

For freedom, Terry Moon
Women's Liberation, News & Letters Committee

Stockpiling, speed-up and chemical danger at Uniroyal

Detroit, Mich. — They've got the Uniroyal plant on 12 hours a day, six days a week, and everyone knows it's to build up the tire supply for the strike. The union doesn't say anything about it or fight for all the workers on lay-off.

Everyone sat down on the seventh floor when the company changed the standards again. The fifth floor was going to join in when, by that time, the company got a hold of the union and they ordered people to get back to work. They said they were going to get together with the company and straighten this matter out, but we know that's the end of it. You still have to build more tires for the same amount of money.

Everyone is really angry over an arbitration suit we just "won." When some of us came back from lay-offs, the company had changed the standards so that we were making as little as \$4 an hour, where we were making \$6 before. We took it to arbitration and the board said they had to pay us \$18,000 in back pay.

So the company, instead of paying what they owed

Longshore strike threat wins

San Francisco, Cal.—A decision of the longshore local here to strike the port led the International to retreat from a company-union decree that unless the workers got a certain number of hours in each quarter of the year (an "Hours Test") they would be ineligible for the Pay Guarantee Plan.

The anger of the working longshoremen was so evident over this latest sell-out to the employers that even some of the local union officials in the Bridges camp reacted to it (this is election time) and went through the motions of taking action.

Discussion among a few longshoremen and ship clerks working Pier 80-A on one shift led to an estimation that the "Hours Test" would have cut off about 25 per cent of us from the Pay Guarantee Plan as well as almost all of the "B" men (a second-class category).

As one stevedore puts it, "The International must think we have short memories. They put over this contract by telling us that everyone would be guaranteed 36 hours pay a week regardless of the amount of work available and now they want to renege on that." Another added that the Pay Guarantee Plan had been a farce every week since the pact went into effect last year, "Nobody has collected 36 hours—the fine print in the contract allowed a reduction."

Over 100 dockers confronted the Pacific Coast officers of the union at the International headquarters uptown to get the "Hours Test" rescinded. One of these officials "explained" the ruling was made because of "chiseling" on the part of the longshoremen.

He was answered with the charge that the top officials of the union are always talking about the "chiseling" of the people they're supposed to represent without ever a word about the real chiseling of the employers. When this exchange was related to one brother on a job he got right to the heart of it. "Chiselers? Christ, the International insists on keeping the Steady Men who by-pass the Hiring Hall and get all the work they want while we can't get enough to live on. So the chiselers are the employers, the union officials who go along with them, and the Steadies."

Suspicion is widespread that the International and PMA (Pacific Maritime Association) plan a deregistration of a portion of the longshore work force. The resistance and will to fight being shown may cause the "tops" to pause if this is their plan.

—S. F. Docker

each worker, made out a check for \$18,000 to the union. We all see it as going straight into the pockets of the union officials. We feel that we will never see this money that we have already earned.

—Midnight shift worker

I was doing some research and found that rubber workers have a shorter life span than the average industrial worker because we use so many chemicals. In certain departments at Uniroyal, like the millroom, there are a lot of heart attacks and strokes. In the millroom they use all kinds of chemicals like different kinds of sulfur, polyethylene, and others that cause shortness of breath.

I talked to one of the people who went to the meeting to plan the contract negotiations. He said these questions were raised, but elected representatives like himself hadn't heard anything since.

There is no further consulting of the representatives or the union members until suddenly you have the national contract. He said they take the easy way out and save the problem of health and safety for the supplemental contract.

But when it comes time to negotiate the supplemental contract we can't do anything either, because the company says it's an industry-wide practice and other plants have the same conditions. So another contract goes by with nothing done.

—Day shift worker

WORKER'S JOURNAL

(Continued from Page 1)

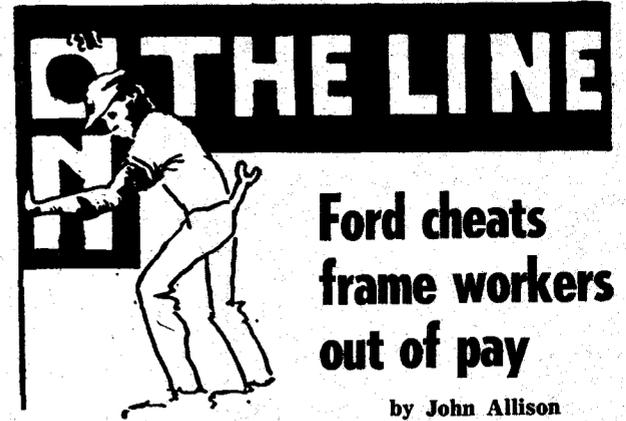
called a token program. Reagan, on the other hand, has not said a word about working people and those that are on welfare. He seems to discount their votes. From what he did to those on welfare in California while he was governor, I think he would be better off by not mentioning them. But they have voting strength too.

As a worker said, "I know that most of those running for the Presidency are not going to do anything for workers. But I have never seen a man running for that job that has not said a word about workers, Blacks or people on welfare, as Reagan has done."

Now 44 federal judges are suing the government, charging that they are underpaid at \$40,000 a year. They are saying that inflation has been eating up their salaries since March, 1969, and this is a violation of the constitutional provision that judges' pay shall not be diminished. Some make up to \$42,500, but now they say they want \$60,000, plus a cost-of-living allowance.

What would workers say if they only made half of that salary. Yet if they ask for a raise, and they are the ones that need it, what a holler you would hear, even though the prices have hit them much harder than those judges. There is a need for a total reorganization of this society based on all human needs, not just the privileged few.

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Ford cheats frame workers out of pay

by John Allison

Auto workers at the Ford Rouge Frame Building have asked News & Letters to make public the manner in which the Ford Motor Company stole a day's pay from them, and how the UAW failed to fight for them.

At the time of a layoff, seniority workers are supposed to be entitled to 95 percent of their pay, to be paid from unemployment compensation and SUB (Supplemental Unemployment Benefit).

On Dec. 15, the Frame workers were laid off for one week. In that week, they received no money from the company. When they went to sign up for their unemployment and SUB pay and were asked if they had received any income for the week they were off work, they all naturally said they didn't get anything.

However, they were then told that Ford had applied a floating holiday to that week the workers were laid off. Now this was negotiated as a benefit the workers are supposed to choose when they want it, not something the company can arbitrarily use to penalize the workers.

As a result, the workers only got a partial payment for the week they were off, and were cheated out of \$52 that they should have gotten.

On Dec. 22 when the workers returned to work, they checked into why they were cut in their pay and why the unemployment and SUB pay didn't make it up. The workers also found out that those few Frame workers who did work during the week got a sixth day of pay from the company's tacking on the floating holiday to that week.

The workers immediately appealed the SUB decision that was made to allow the company to tack on the floating holiday to the lay-off week. But the union didn't do a single thing to support the rank-and-file.

The workers are so mad at the UAW and Ford that they are going to court to straighten out the language of the contract. They are sick and tired of "Now you have it, now you don't."

Auto management has found many ways to cheat workers out of benefits they are entitled to, that they have fought and struggled for. Any time there is a loophole the company can use to try to cheat the workers out of money, you can bet your bottom dollar they'll use it.

What is human power?

by Felix Martin, West Coast Editor

A group of workers were sitting around while the line was shut down at break time and one worker was looking at a copy of News & Letters. He asked, "What does the masthead slogan 'Human Power is its own end' mean?"

One worker said it meant that everything we produce is bringing us closer to the end of time. Another said everything that is produced for defense will be used in the next war and that will be the end of all human beings.

Those six words kept coming back to me and I started thinking about them. Either of those two workers could be right about what the phrase means if this society isn't changed. Because now, our human power is really being used to oppress us. We build machines which end up running us. And our human power builds weapons of war which could end up destroying all of us.

But to me those six words should mean the opposite of that. They come from Karl Marx. What I believe he meant is that the creative power of human beings striving to be free is the greatest power on earth.

It is not science, or industry, or machines, or bombs which should be the goal of society. Not material things, possessions, commodities that are the measure of society, but instead the power of human beings to create, to be whole, to have both mental and muscle power, to both think and act. In other words, to be total.

The capitalist sees working people as commodities when they buy us for a day's work. The system turns us into a pair of shoes, a pair of pants, a car, or something to eat. All of this is produced by workers' labor and when finished belongs to the capitalist who hasn't done anything.

The worker who is still working sees his payday like a shower of rain on a very hot day. But for the worker, this rain is really his own sweat. In fact all of society is built by the sweat of the worker. That is why if this system is ever to be done away with, it will have to be the workers who do it.

Many of the groups on the left have the same ideas as the capitalist—to do the thinking for the workers, while the workers do the work. Those kinds of ideas don't change anything. To change this system working people have to be the ones to do away with it, with their minds and muscle, and replace it with a system where "Human Power is its Own End."

FROM THE AUTO SHOPS

Trenton Engine

Detroit, Mich.—Some workers on the afternoon shift were mad about the way their production standards had been pushed up again. The machines they work on are always going haywire and several workers have lost fingers.

The union didn't do anything. So three or four of them went over to the control panel area that controls the stock flow in the department, and screwed the control panel up good. The foremen came running from all over, and then started yelling for security. Most of the workers in the area got around the men at the control panel, so there were 30 or 40 people between them and the security guards.

Finally, after a lot of arguing, the union people showed up. They said that the workers were wrong, and there was nothing the union could do. Then the regular police came in—not company security—and they said they were going to arrest the men who messed up the control panel. After a lot of yelling, the police left, and it was agreed that the workers at the control panel could leave without being arrested. I know these men will never get back.

—Heard it through the grapevine

Fleetwood

Detroit, Mich. — In Dept. 11 there are 78's that are unsettled everywhere. Woodcock and Fraser got on TV last week and talked about how this is labor's year of decisions — the contract and the election. But they can't even decide to settle 78's. How can they think of bigger things?

I know the leaders of the UAW are going to do what they're going to do. You don't even get a chance to vote them out if you don't like it. I feel the emphasis this contract should be on the working conditions, and on getting the younger workers on lay-off back to work.

Last month the general foreman asked me was I interested in being a foreman. The line is so hard these days, that you think it over. But I told him no. Because when you are a foreman, you're the man in the middle. All those 78's are on you. You have to get along with the people to get production. But if you try to get production out the way GM wants, you will soon be hated by everyone. If you fail, you will have no protection. Being a foreman is nothing but trouble.

—Afternoon shift, Fleetwood

EDITORIAL**Panama Canal: U.S. imperialist time bomb**

Not even Secretary of State Kissinger's arrival at a hermetically-sealed Caracas airport, followed the next day by his carefully-orchestrated "policy speech" to a hand-picked audience of businessmen and government officials, could manage to hide completely the explosive feelings against U.S. imperialism now raging in Latin America — and most especially on the issue of the Panama Canal. The turmoil in Latin America, fueled by the massive unemployment and incredible inflation from the worldwide economic crisis, was too great for even this aristocracy to ignore. (See lead article, p. 1.)

No sooner had Kissinger finished outlining his six-point plan for "better hemispheric relations" — in which the question of U.S. ownership of the Panama Canal suddenly became an example of a "bi-lateral issue" on which the U.S. would simply keep the rest of Latin America informed — than three of the six Central American heads of state, scheduled to meet Kissinger in Costa Rica and "be informed," cancelled out.

U.S. COLONIALISM—1976 REALITY

Whatever new plans Kissinger or President Ford have for keeping the Panamanian situation quiet, it becomes clearer each day that the U.S. has every reason for wanting the Canal issue out of the world spotlight.

The whole world knows the story of how Teddy Roosevelt created Panama out of a Colombian province in 1903 in order to grab "in perpetuity, the use, occupation and control" of the Canal Zone.

U.S. control today remains total, over not only the Zone, but all life in Panama. In such complete economic subservience has Panama been held that the canal fees and charges, raised only once in its 61 years of its operation, still contribute an estimated 20 percent to the Panamanian GNP.

The 40,000 U.S. citizens in the Zone enjoy plantation life-styles behind barbed-wire fences separating them from shanty-towns across the "border." Every aspect of life is segregated, from the golf courses and swimming pools to the theatres, restaurants and commissaries. Panamanians working for the Zone administration make

only 35 percent of the wages of their U.S. counterparts.

Every inch of the Canal Zone is run by the Defense Department and its notorious Southern Command, which has turned the Zone into a hemispheric headquarters for training in "counter-insurgency warfare." Over 50,000 Latin Americans have received such "schooling" here.

It is no wonder that Kissinger and Ford would like to flee from all but the most private, "bi-lateral" discussions of such brutal domination. Unfortunately for them, Panama now has a seat on the Security Council at the UN, from which to transform such private discussions into world forums. Nor can Gen. Torrijos' January trip to Cuba, where he denounced U.S. control of the canal in front of mammoth crowds, have gone unnoticed, despite Castro's remarks urging Torrijos not to press for immediate U.S. withdrawal from Panama. Add to this the fact that the Latin American heads of state will be meeting in Panama City in June 1976, just as negotiations on a new Canal treaty are supposed to be entering a "critical phase."

The U.S. "compromise" proposal in these negotiations is itself a study in colonialist attitudes: 25 more years of continued complete U.S. control, followed by 25 years of U.S. control of the Canal's "defense." Yet so unstable is Ford's presidency at home, that he is evidently on the verge of withdrawing even this proposal under the pressure of attacks on it by Reagan, George Meany, George Wallace, and numerous Congressional liberals. Their position (as expressed by Reagan) is the unbelievable: "We bought it; we paid for it; it is sovereign U.S. territory and we should keep it."

A NEW SOLIDARITY DEMANDED

It was this barbarous and racist attitude which directed the murder of 22 Panamanian students when they entered the Zone in 1964 to raise the Panamanian flag. It is this same pathology of a dying colonialism which caused Ford to quietly dispatch 1,100 fresh "counter-insurgency" troops to Panama this fall, after new demonstrations by 3,000 Panamanian students.

There can be no dividing U.S. policy in Panama

from that of the politics of assassination so clearly revealed in Chile's fascist coup of 1973, and which is currently seen administering an "economic shock treatment" policy to the Chilean proletariat, under which literally tens of thousands of children have been intentionally starved to death. In fact, this nightmare program was written for the Chilean junta by Ford's favorite economist, Dr. Milton Friedman.

Neither can there be any continuation of the silence on Panama which has characterized the U.S. Left, as if the Chilean events did not demand that U.S. revolutionists find new forms of solidarity with all Latin America.

Whether those new forms include the Black GI's who have returned from the Canal Zone with tales of racism not only against Panamanians, but against themselves; or the Panamanians in New York who arrived here in search of jobs less exploitative than those at home, and now face the terror directed against "illegals" — whatever those new forms become, they must begin by demanding everywhere that the U.S. end now its imperial rule over the Panamanian people.

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AMERICA'S FIRST UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

I must confess that until I read America's First Unfinished Revolution I greatly underestimated the importance of the Bicentennial. So has most of the American Left.

To look at history simply as who won in the end is to miss all the high points, such as the guerrilla—not simply as a technique, but as a philosophy in action. The American Revolution has never had this kind of serious Marxist study made of it, as has the French Revolution. That is proof not of the underdevelopment of revolutionary consciousness in 1776, but of the underdevelopment of American intellectuals.

Student
New York

Your celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial is as misguided as your attempt to categorize it as an "unfinished social (proletarian) revolution." The fact that you are forced to produce a series of individual incidents for evidence shows how isolated they were . . . Every one you mention pales beside the struggle of the French Revolution. The "Committees of Correspondence" cannot compare to the clubs of France, the Jacobins and Cordeliers. The "Town Meetings" cannot begin to compare to the Paris Commune. The "revolutionary war of the guerrillas" cannot compare to the revolutionary army of France.

The bourgeoisie has always preferred the American to the French Revolution, since the former hardly disturbed the question much less the relations of property. In France, emerging capitalism razed feudal property to its roots. In the U.S. the only roots to be razed were that of slavery, the foundation of emerging capitalism itself, and the enlightened colonists did their best to avoid tampering with that issue. The most charitable thing we can say about the U.S. war for independence is that it was a revolution not quite begun.

"A Marxist, but not a Humanist"
Chicago

I have run into a lot of vulgar Marxists who denigrate 1776 and see it only as a "backward" USA which led inevitably to the kind of society we have

today. It must have been difficult to do the research required for a pamphlet like this, since there was no paper like N&L around then, to record what the deeper layers of the population were thinking and doing, not only in the American Revolution itself, but in creating ground for both the French Revolution and the one in Santo Domingo.

It is the first time I really understood what Marx was talking about when he wrote that "the American war for independence sounded the tocsin for the European."

Marxist-Humanist
New York

Here are some thoughts to ponder as we make out our income tax returns this year. Every year since 1967 individuals have paid an increasing percentage of federal revenues while the big corporations' share has declined. Ford Motor Co., with a corporate profit of \$325 million in 1974 not only didn't pay any federal income taxes at all that year, but received \$57 million in tax credits which it can deduct for future years. They weren't the only ones. American Electric Power, Allstate Insurance, U.S. Industries, Honeywell, Lockheed, American Airlines and Eastern Airlines all paid no federal income taxes in 1974.

Tax-angry people started what you called "America's First Unfinished Revolution." I'm willing to bet there are a lot of people ready to have another try at it now.

Taxpayer
Pennsylvania

Editor's Note: See ad, p. 6, for our newest pamphlet, America's First Unfinished Revolution.

THE BLIND ORGANIZE

Since the birth of our nation, blind people have been stifled and suppressed in their struggle for freedom. We were taught that our meager way of life should be accepted without question. But we learned from the Black movement, and the women's movement, that separate does not mean equal. During the 1940s, an organization called the National Federation of the Blind sprang into existence. Since then, court cases have sprung up all over the land.

Omnibus Bill 749, declaring civil rights for the blind and physically handicapped, is now up for passage in Michigan. By repeated trips to Lansing, and lobbying of the legislators, we hope to ensure unanimous passage by the House and Senate. It would be a fitting celebration of our Bicentennial anniversary.

Blind Activist
Detroit

THE CIA

The situation in Angola may convince a few more people that no amount of Senate investigations can change the nature of the CIA. It also showed up a few African "revolutionaries" like Kaunda. He is, in effect, in alliance with South Africa. Now we understand what the hired editorialist of the *Zambian Times* meant when he wrote that "the interests of South Africa and Zambia are not necessarily opposed." They would both prefer to see Holden Roberto in power. There is also a limit to how far the Chinese can go in allowing the Soviet Union to dictate their foreign policy!

African Student
Canada

The UAW executive board finally voted to protest the opening of a General Motors auto and truck assembly plant in Chile. Ford, Chrysler and GM submitted bids in April, 1975, along with their foreign competitors, while 236,000 U.S. auto workers were unemployed, to reopen their assembly plants under the military dictatorship. Only the bids of GM, Renault and Fiat were accepted.

Laura Allende complained that in 1971, when the elected government of Allende was struggling for its very existence, these same U.S. auto makers closed down their plants, conspired to cause a parts shortage and cripple the transportation systems of the country.

European trade unions have instituted a boycott on shipments to the dictatorship since 1974. British dock workers, French dock workers at Marseilles and the Australian Council of Trade Unions

Readers

have stopped shipments to Chile.

Outside of the UAW, other U.S. trade unions have remained silent, perhaps because of their participation with the CIA, through the AFL-CIO American Institute for Free Labor Development, which was active in efforts to "destabilize" the Allende government using CIA funds. This AFL-CIO-CIA puppet labor organization is the only one permitted to exist under the military dictatorship.

Observer
Detroit

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

At the sixth annual convention of the National Farmers Union, members were urged to accept the theme of "Challenge to Change," individually in their own lifestyles as well as collectively as members of the union. By the end of the week it was clear the challenge had been accepted by many. For the first time in our history a position paper on women's rights was adopted following serious debate.

NFU Member
Canada

The so-called "feminist" credit unions had a big meeting in Detroit where they split into two groups over the issue of what a national credit union organization should be. Even though they disagreed on some things, they all seemed to think that they had to "finance the revolution" and have a big "economic base." Now really, if some "feminist" credit union ever did manage to get more money than GM would that make a revolution?

Just the fact that they have decided to devote their energies to this kind of project means that they accept this sexist, racist, State Capitalist society and are, in fact, afraid of revolution. It is only under capitalism where money means power, and that is opposed to the power of the idea of freedom and new human relations that is being worked out in the movement.

Feminist
Detroit

TWO WORLDS

Middle East, UN, OAU—and ideological obfuscation

By Raya Dunayevskaya

Author of **PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION**
and **Marxism and Freedom**

Editor's Note: We print below excerpts from the first of a new series of Political-Philosophic Letters by Raya Dunayevskaya (see ad, p. 7). The historic analysis of the Middle East, the UN, and the OAU may appear "dated" now that the OAU has voted to recognize the MPLA as the legitimate government of Angola. In fact, however, it is more relevant than when written because, in the dialectics of liberation, time is decisive. There is a world of difference between voting when the battlefield victories are beyond dispute, and voting when everything is at razor's edge.

January 24, 1976

Dear Friends:

Three fantastic occurrences in three widely separated parts of the world this month exude such abysmal lower depths of ideological obfuscation that they could lay ground only for counter-revolutionary, not for revolutionary, developments. It is imperative, therefore, to look at these events, not merely as passing "immediates," but in an historic-philosophic context.

First, let's look at what followed the passing of that UN Resolution which equated Zionism with racism: 1) the break-up of the OAU meeting in Ethiopia over the question of recognizing the legitimacy of the MPLA government in Angola; and 2) the war in Lebanon which is calling into question the philosophic underpinnings not only of that UN Resolution, but of that whole "thieves' kitchen." This expression of Lenin's for the League of Nations that followed World War I, just as succinctly characterizes the UN that followed World War II and also called itself a "peace" establishment . . .

In the Arab Middle East, the unifying force—anti-Israel—cuts across the myriad contradictions. Thus, as if Lebanon wasn't disintegrating in a fratricidal war between Christian and Moslem, Arafat feels no compunction about shouting, over machine-gun fire, the thousands of dead bodies, and the rubble, that this all is an

Israeli "conspiracy," a war initiated by "international Zionism."

Lebanon, an artificial state which does have Christians and Moslems, can't escape the class divisions, and is at this very moment steeped in civil war. Those Lebanese Moslem Left, who are fighting a genuine revolutionary class struggle against its rulers, Christians mainly but Moslem, too, are being kept in check. The overriding order is never to forget that Israel is the enemy. Lebanon, 1975-76, is in danger of replaying the slaughter in Jordan, 1970-71. Will Syria enter, or the PLA under its control? The PLO allows its adherents anything except a revolutionary class struggle within "the Arab nation" . . .

RATHER THAN CONCERNING ourselves with the UN vote on the Resolution equating Zionism with racism—72 for, 35 against, 32 abstaining—we can get more illumination on whether that Resolution is but the latest form of anti-Semitism or a genuine struggle against racism by turning to the second event that followed the vote—the break-up of the OAU meeting in Ethiopia, January 8.

Heretofore, the one thing that always united all independent African nations and those fighting for independence was the total, the unequivocal opposition to apartheid South Africa. No matter how wide the division between the African countries, and no matter how deep the division within any one country, including even the outright civil war in Nigeria, no African entertained the slightest doubt that, as a continent, Africa will never be fully independent so long as racist South Africa exists.

Suddenly, the world was confronted with this spectacle at the OAU meeting in January, 1976:

- 1) The U.S.-Zaire-South African-supported FNLA and UNITA leaders were seated on the platform.
- 2) Not one word was spoken against the Africans' new rich "friend," Saudi Arabia, that was funneling money to these puppets.
- 3) The 20 African nations who had already recognized the MPLA as the legitimate government of Angola could muster only two others to be with them.
- 4) The OAU adjourned with no decision being taken.

The tragedy isn't so much whether or not a decision on Angola was arrived at but why the shadow of South Africa hanging over the contending forces didn't act as the unifying force it had always been. Clearly, the global struggle for world domination had entered that cockpit, as it had in Portugal . . .

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to see what one does not want to see. The oil-rich kingdoms can hardly be considered an integral part of the poor Third World, the world that
(Continued on Page 7)

WHO WE ARE

News & Letters was founded in 1955, the year of the Detroit wildcats against Automation and the Montgomery, Ala. Bus Boycott against segregation—activities which signalled new movements from practice, which were themselves form of theory. News & Letters was created so that the voices from below could be heard, and the unity of worker and intellectual, philosophy and revolution, could be worked out for our age. A Black production worker, Charles Denby, is the editor.

The paper is the monthly publication of News and Letters Committees, an organization of Marxist-Humanists that stands for the abolition of capitalism, whether in its private form as in the U.S., or in its state form calling itself Communist, as in Russia and China. The National Chairwoman, Raya Dunayevskaya, is the author of **Philosophy and Revolution and Marxism and Freedom** which spell out the philosophic ground of Marx's Humanism for our age internationally, as **American Civilization on Trial** concretizes it on the American scene. In opposing this capitalistic, exploitative, racist, sexist society, we participate in all freedom struggles and do not separate the mass activities of workers, Blacks, women and youth from the activity of thinking. We invite you to join with us both in the freedom struggles and in working out a theory of liberation for our age.

'Views

Wouldn't you know? Most U.S. Senators who have voted against abortions because they are supposedly for the "right-to-life," are the same Senators who have voted for capital punishment, according to a survey I just read. (They are also the same ones who have been voting against food stamps and medical care reforms.)

Feminist
New York

BLACK DIMENSION

On January 23, 1976, "Peaches" Moore was arrested in Los Angeles, for the attempted damage of a federal building with an explosive device. The charge grew out of the discovery of a purported explosive device on the steps of the Federal Court House in Oklahoma City, September 28, 1975. Her fingerprints were allegedly found on a brown paper bag on the courthouse lawn. She is a former member of the Black Panther Party and believes that the charges are based on her past political activities and on her recent activity as a community organizer in Oklahoma. A defense committee has been formed at the Peoples College of Law in Los Angeles where she is a first year student. Contributions can be sent to:

Peaches Moore Defense Committee
c/o People's College of Law
2228 West Seventh St.
Los Angeles, Cal. 90057

As horrible as it was that a British officer ordered a firing squad to murder fourteen white mercenaries, in all the news reports on the television there was just one sentence about how this same officer had also killed Angolan citizens. What is more horrible still is the fact that no one, including Harold Wilson, would ever have ordered an investigation if it had been "only" Black Africans who were being murdered.

Digusted
Detroit

DEATH IN THE MINES

I just read in the **UMW Journal** that Sherry LeGace has just become the first woman coal miner to be killed on the job. The machine she was operating, owned by Hol-Acc Corp. in Pike County, Ky., turned over on her when the engine stalled while traveling upgrade. It wasn't equipped with a roll-over protection device that could have saved her. She was 31, a divorcee with four children.

It isn't surprising that it happened in Kentucky. Deaths in the coal mines there doubled last year. It's because of the terrible speed-up and unsafe conditions as the operators try to squeeze the increased demand for coal for all its worth. And Kentucky is worse than any other coal state because they really managed to break the union there. Sherry was working at a non-union strip mine when she was crushed.

Ex-Miner
Detroit

THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION

The new independent Left born in the near-revolutions of 1968 is not dead, nor has it gone over completely to Maoism. That is what the appearance of organizations such as the PRP, MES and FUR in Portugal demonstrates to me. The continuing self-organization of Portuguese workers, peasants and soldiers, combined with the impending upheaval in Spain is why, despite the Nov. 25 counter-revolution, the reactionaries hesitate, and why the headline of last issue's **Two Worlds** can still ask, "Will the revolution continue?"

Not since 1968 has there been such a world-shaking revolutionary movement as the Portuguese-African revolutions. And just as Czechoslovakia in 1968 exposed Russia for a whole new generation of revolutionaries, so Angola is exposing China.

The highpoints reached in Portugal, Africa and Spain are in sharp contrast to the disgusting lowpoints achieved by the three contending super-powers. I

could not forget, reading the Editorial article on the CIA and FBI, that for Blacks the U.S. has always been a fascist country. The KKK predated fascism. And I couldn't help thinking when I read Leonid Plyushch's moving and Marxist statement against Russia's tortures of their political dissidents that the CIA was probably taking notes on how to use those techniques here, at the same time our government was publicly condemning it. As for China, their invitation to the mass murderer, Nixon, is beyond belief.

Veteran of the '60s
New York

Your article on Portugal was very informative, though I suppose you folks would be shocked to find that I consider the developments since last November leave a better chance of bringing about the sort of future you and I would want than would the alternative development of a CP victory. And these were the limited choices.

Fellow-Worker
Chicago

We have received the special issue of **N&L** and will write you more on the article on Portugal later . . . Recent world events are of great historical significance. They have thoroughly exposed the very much aggravated moribund stage of world capitalism. At the same time they have revealed the petty-bourgeois class character of Stalinism, Trotskyism and Maoism, which serve as life-drugs for dying world capitalism. All revolutionary Marxists must seriously ponder their attitude towards Communist parties and countries and cooperate to expose their anti-proletarian character . . . We consider the proletarian revolution in India today to be a pivotal point in the dialectical process of development of the world socialist revolution.

RSP
India

FIGHTING THE CUTBACKS

The rent strike at Co-Op City, the world's largest housing project, continues. Eighty percent of the 50,000 families have withheld \$20 million to protest rent

increases by the state that will drive many of them from their homes. What is really at stake is any middle-income housing within New York City.

A recent demonstration in support of the Co-Op City strikers brought out thousands of residents of other state-controlled "co-ops." They received a telegram from Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers Union, who said "your fight is our fight." That union has more sense of class solidarity than any of the ones 3,000 miles closer to us.

Observer
New York

Like most other necessities of life today, day care is being cut back on welfare recipients. The new payment plan was so abhorrent that representatives of several Wayne County centers and their lawyer met with John Dempsey on Feb. 12 and succeeded in getting him to postpone implementation until July 1. It will give us time to organize and make sure they don't split working from welfare people.

This plan, plus new licensing regulations designed to favor newer buildings, is intended to get rid of a lot of independent centers operating in old buildings, and to favor the "Kentucky Fried Children" type of day care chain. It is also designed to cut people on welfare out of every chance to work their way into a better life. If children paid for by welfare can't attend our center, we'll miss a lot of terrific youngsters, and the cost for employed people and students will have to go up.

Parents
Detroit

WORKERS' TEXT BOOK

The Jan.-Feb. issue is a textbook for unemployed workers and for over-worked workers. It should be studied singly, in groups, and discussed widely. It represents no end of labor. Enclosed several dollars to send sample copies to the enclosed names . . . The religious, racial, feminine, economic mystiques must be dissolved and resolved as nightmares.

Steady Reader
Nebraska

UFW calls for boycott of Sunmaid and Sunsweet

Detroit, Mich.—Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers (UFW) announced on Feb. 11 that the farm workers union is asking American consumers to begin a boycott of Sunmaid raisins and Sunsweet prunes and other dried fruits.

These two grower co-operatives — Sunmaid sells produce of 1,600 growers while Sunsweet markets that of 3,400 growers—lobbied successfully to kill the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act (CALRA).

Compact to plunder Puerto Rico

New York, N.Y.—The so-called Compact of Permanent Union between Puerto Rico and the U.S. has been drawn up by the U.S. Congress. After approval by that body it will be put before the Puerto Rican people to be voted upon.

The Compact would ostensibly allow Puerto Rico a greater voice in deciding which federal legislation would apply to the island. Puerto Rico would also be given the right to set its own minimum wage standards as well as be exempt from federal environmental regulations.

Supposedly this document would eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and ease the tremendous economic devastation of what was once referred to as the "Showcase of the Caribbean." Inflation there is double that of the U.S. and the economy has declined in the last two fiscal years. Unemployment has been reported at 19 percent and is probably a great deal higher, about double that amount. Three-fifths of Puerto Rican families live below the official federal poverty levels, and seven out of ten individuals qualify to receive food stamps. It has 15 times the population density of the U.S.

Granted, the measures provided in the Compact offer a greater degree of autonomy and as such have been long overdue. But is that really the answer? It would seem that these are half-way measures which would only attract further capitalist exploitation. It is the kind of arrangement that perpetuates a "lend-lease policy." The inducements that would be offered would attract a kind of fly-by-night business operations.

The Compact provides the means for the existing commonwealth government to further exploit and abuse the island without accounting for the quality of life and general welfare of the people. It would continue providing low wages and no long range security for the people. What was once a "showcase" stands to be blighted and stripped of its natural resources.

—Don Albiza

Unity: prisoners' only weapon

Editor's Note: Recent widespread reports about the brutal results of overcrowding at Lucasville Penitentiary in Ohio, which have exposed rampant violence among inmates—one prisoner was acquitted of attempted escape on the grounds that life in Lucasville is so dangerous prisoners are forced to escape for their own safety—make the following article especially important.

Lucasville officially opened its doors Sept. 22, 1972. It was meant to serve as America's finest maximum security prison. Rehabilitative treatment for the prisoner received priority over punitive, custodial practices. Prisoners were allowed to govern collectively the convict population. Representatives from the various prison factions joined in forming a united front.

This group quickly established three major rules: no stealing, no raping, and no snitching. This was to preserve respect and unity among the prisoners. Those prisoners who violated these rules were treated as enemies, labeled reactionaries and allies of the prison administrators.

Many prisoners started organizing rap groups, political study groups, and contacts with outside prison groups. This activism soon politicized most of these prisoners. They established a prison union, by bringing together the different factions, and called a work strike to show the prison administration their strength and unity.

At first the strike was a success. But the prison administration soon undermined it by granting special concessions to different prison factions. The Muslims were granted segregated religious privileges; the Jewish community was given private housing; and the Black Nationalist group was granted an Afro-American program.

These concessions were used to produce petty jealousies and distrust among the rival factions. Before the prisoners became aware of it, the prison union was dissolved, the prison population disunited, and the prison administration was in control again.

Lucasville, today, is a perfect example of the behavior modification techniques of "divide and conquer." The prison administration continues to perpetuate chaos in order to keep the prisoners from attacking their policies. They are content to see the prisoners wipe themselves out with dope, rape and stabbing each other.

Unity is the only weapon these prisoners have against their common enemy. They could begin with communication and cooperation between the prison factions. There is no other way to break the ruthless cycle that keeps Lucasville prisoners divided and conquered.

—Prisoner

After only five months, the historic CALRA has been rendered ineffective. Elections stopped, hearings on unfair labor practices were suspended and CALRA offices closed indefinitely Jan. 31, when an emergency appropriation of \$1.25 million was exhausted.

The growers' lobby, particularly Sunmaid and Sunsweet, but also the Sunkist orange co-op and Blue Anchor Lettuce, persuaded rural legislators to kill further funding of the election certification law.

Failure to get emergency funding came after grower-backed legislators were unable to kill provisions allowing union organizers free access to workers on grower property and election board intervention in contract negotiations.

Sixteen contracts providing a minimum wage of \$3.10 an hour for field hands were signed as a direct result of the CALRA. The most impressive of these was with Interharvest, the world's largest lettuce producer. The final election tally showed the UFW winning 201 elections to the Teamsters' 107, representing 29,404 workers to the Teamsters' 12,724.

On Feb. 11, Cesar Chavez outlined the UFW's new strategy further, declaring that growers have double-crossed both the governor and the farmworkers. The UFW is launching a petition drive to obtain 312,000 signatures in order to place on the November ballot a labor relations act of their own writing which would actually amend the state constitution.

Its outstanding feature would be the inclusion of recognitional strikes, meaning that if over 50 percent on any ranch strike, it is equivalent to the UFW winning an election there.

Additional legislation proposed by the UFW would limit the use of taxpayers' money in financing agribusiness' projects and abolish marketing orders which manipulate food prices in the growers' favor. Such legislation is not an impossible dream if one recalls that in '72 UFW forces rallied to defeat a referendum to restrict strikes during harvest season.

There is renewed emphasis on the pre-existing boycott and the new boycott against Sunmaid and Sunsweet in the awareness that rural legislators are sensitive to their constituents, the growers, but that the growers are sensitive to their constituency, the supermarkets.

**BOYCOTT NON-UFW GRAPES, LETTUCE AND GALLO WINES.
BOYCOTT SUNMAID AND SUNSWEET.**

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Pine Ridge defeats Wilson; Indian repression stepped-up

by Shainape Shcapwe

In the election on Pine Ridge Reservation, Jan. 27, Tribal Chairman Dick Wilson was defeated. The vote was 1,610 to 1,079. His successor, Albert Trimble, was supported in the election by the American Indian Movement (AIM). A native of Pine Ridge, Trimble was the first Indian to be appointed Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Superintendent of the reservation with Wilson's approval, after the occupation of Wounded Knee. When he became too "impartial" toward people trying to get rid of Wilson, he was reassigned by the BIA headquarters to a BIA office in Albuquerque.

I talked to Kathy, a spokesperson for the Wounded Knee Legal Defense Committee. She said, "Nearly twice as many people voted this time as there were two years ago. The federal monitors probably helped keep it a little more honest."

BOMBED, SHOT IN BACK

But four days after the election, a dozen carloads of goons (who are themselves Indian) went shooting into cars and homes of AIM members and traditionalists and firebombed two houses. Jim Little, whom Kathy described as "a rallying point for the reservation", was severely injured by an explosive device. One hand was blown off; he might lose the other thumb even if they save the other hand, and both eyes had to be removed.

Byron DeSersa, also an AIM supporter, was run off the road and shot three times in the back. He was dead on arrival at the hospital. More AIM supporters were arrested after his funeral.

This has all been the work of Wilson's goon squad, hired to help put down the four impeachment attempts against him in his first year of office. The last attempt led directly to the Wounded Knee Occupation of February, 1973. Since he's been Tribal Chairman, more than 30 of his opponents have been killed.

I'm sure most people feel the election was a victory for Pine Ridge. Trimble talked about regular Tribal Council meetings to work out solutions to problems of housing, land use, and law enforcement. I'm hoping, as most people are, that the election of Trimble will not only get rid of Wilson, but that he can really help the people on Pine Ridge.

There are many people who want to get rid entirely of the Tribal Council system imposed by the U.S. in 1934, and return to a traditional form of self-government.

STRENGTH IN FACE OF REPRESSION

It is a very important time for all Indian people. Many AIM leaders and other activists have been jailed or tied up in legal battles recently. Dennis Banks was arrested on Feb. 1 in California. Over 40 police and FBI agents surrounded the house where he was staying with friends. They telephoned Banks to come out or they'd shoot into the house. There were several children inside.

When he did come out, police found no weapons in the house. He faces 15 years in jail on several counts. This is just one month after Loud Hawk and Redner were jailed in Oregon. (See News & Letters, January-February, 1976, p. 9).

I was told that many people around the country, Indian and non-Indian, put signs up in their houses saying, "Dennis Banks Welcome Here". Since any involvement could bring long jail sentences, especially for Indians, this shows me an incredible strength within the movement despite the repression.

Kathy spoke about AIM on the reservation: "It's bad to lose strong people like Byron DeSersa. But for every death on the reservation, support for AIM grows stronger. I feel that on Pine Ridge AIM is stronger than it ever was."

Our supporters should know that we desperately need money to fight the legal (and actual) lynchings going on right now. Send donations to: Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee, P.O. Box 2307, Rapid City, S.D. 57701.

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Mackenzie students sit in against hall sweeps

Detroit, Mich.—On Wednesday morning, Feb. 4, all 1,500 of us students crowded onto the second floor and sat down. Pretty soon there were police cars circling the building. We weren't sure if any of the teachers had called the police, but they couldn't come in without permission from the principal.

The principal got us to go to the auditorium where everyone voiced their opinions for the rest of the period. They said they would talk more later, and then we went back to class.

The sit-in changed a few minds. Now we have ten extra minutes for the first hour class, and five extra minutes for the second hour class. Before the sit-in, you weren't allowed to talk to counsellors in the library. Now we can talk to them when they're there. And now we can be in the halls and the library without passes.

We had the sit-in because hall guards, teachers, or other officials can ask for your picture I.D. whenever they want, and if you don't have it, they can send you home. On a hall sweep, they write down your name from the I.D. card on a computer card, and then they stamp the date on it. The next time you get caught, they stamp it again.

When you're late to class, what's five minutes if there's 40 minutes to learn in. When you get caught, you lose that hour. You can be 20 paces away, but if the bell rings, you're kept out.

Midnight blues—school, work

Detroit, Mich.—For the past nine months, I've been working full-time at a home for the aged as a nurse's aide. I've worked five days of every week during that time, while a part-time student at Wayne State University.

We just received a "cost of living increase". It's actually to lure more people in to work midnights at the home; you have many transportation problems working that shift. There's a 15 percent increase for working midnights and 10 cents per hour for having worked there over 180 days.

I'm up to \$2.90 an hour—big thrill. But compared to what waitresses make, this is good, really. There's the security of knowing I'm not depending on anything as arbitrary as somebody's tip.

Yet, since this is a non-profit home, if I lose my job for any reason, I don't get any unemployment compensation. In my job I provide a necessary personal service . . . now if only the pay could provide a decent living for us workers. If I had any children, then I'd really be hopeless.

I don't have Blue Cross, but do have a \$36 insurance policy through the university, and at least there you can get a sort of assembly-line health care for nearly nothing—and that's what it's worth. Things like dental bills are constant worries.

Part of the reason I'm working so hard is to buy the privilege of more work in the classroom. But if I'm wiped out from participating in all the other struggles, like the UFW, what good is it?

—Working woman student

Accept rules 'against our will'

Detroit, Mich.—At Cass Tech we walked into class one Friday and were handed little blue booklets.

It is the Uniform Code of Student Conduct. It describes what the students can do and what they can't do—more "can't's" than "cans"—like unruly behavior, general prohibitive behavior, illegal behavior, untolerated behavior, and even "do not wear clothes that will pose a health problem."

And then in the back of the book it says "student rights" and it has about two paragraphs on the last page. If you are called for a trial, you have the right to have your parents there. If you are held before the board for something, you are allowed one phone call.

Then we got these little green slips of paper we had to sign saying we received it. Everyone just sat there at first and refused to sign it.

Finally, we signed it, but we put "under duress" or "under pressure" or "against our will". When the bell rang after the homeroom, the code books were all over the floor.

—Cass Tech student

Even if you're at the classroom door and they catch you, they take you downstairs to the auditorium or to study hall. If you get caught three times, you get suspended. Then your mother or father has to come to school and have a conference with the principal before you can come back.

You must have a picture I.D. But sometimes the I.D. machine messes-up. A new student might not have an I.D. because of that, but he or she might get kicked out. If you have a problem like that, you can take it to the principal, but the principal usually doesn't have time.

The counsellors often aren't in their offices when you need them. A lot of times you have to wait in long lines to get bus tickets. The lines are longer now, even though they stopped having counsellors give out the bus tickets.

The attitude of the teachers is bad. They don't take time with you to explain anything. They just copy stuff on the blackboard and tell you to learn it. Half of them won't excuse you if you're sick.

Mackenzie is the same now as it was before they started the busing plan, except now there are hundreds more Black students. I think they brought in four white students. The crowding this semester has been so bad that it's impossible to get through the packed halls between classes, which is why a lot of people are caught in sweeps.

—Mackenzie High student

500 support SF peace march



—News & Letters Photo

San Francisco, Cal.—Over 500 people gathered in Union Square on Saturday, Jan. 1, to welcome and join the Continental March for Disarmament and Justice, a group of peace activists including four Japanese monks and a nun from Hiroshima who are marching across the country to Washington, D.C.

They are calling for an end to the nuclear arms race and for using the money the Pentagon gets for jobs and social services.

The rally was highlighted by speeches from Dick Gregory and Rev. Ralph Abernathy. Gregory attacked the Pentagon as a bunch of "sick, degenerate, slimy old men" who have no regard for human values. Rev. Abernathy related the struggle for peace to the struggle for freedom of all people.

Although the mostly young crowd was energetic and a few carried signs such as "Free All Political Prisoners" and "Will Angola be another Vietnam?", the organizers didn't seem too concerned that there were hardly any Blacks or Latinos in the march.

When the March passes through other cities this year, more of an effort must be made to unite all oppressed people against this government.

'Forced labor' in Guyana

Georgetown, Guyana — University Education in Guyana is not free. Students buy their own books. Then they have to give a year's National Service. The Director General of the Guyana National Service (G.N.S.) said that the pioneers at Kimbia often work 15 hours a day. This is a full day's work and seven hours overtime—nearly two days' work per day.

If this labor is valued at the minimum wage of \$5.60 per day, at that rate and at time and a half after eight hours, what do you find? The University of Guyana (U.G.) students will pay back for their fees \$75 a week. In 52 weeks they will contribute \$3,900. U.G. fees as set by the People's Progressive Party in 1963 were \$100 a year. Thus U.G. students who do a year at G.N.S. are paying for nearly 40 years of education!

Of the 63 first-year students sent recently to Kimbia for a year's National Service, only seven agreed to go. They are victims of the ruling politicians. All of them, it seems, refused to support the People's National Congress' candidate for President of the U.G. Students' Organization, the Assistant Superintendent of Police. Some voted for the People's Youth Organization candidate. Others carried out or supported a no-vote campaign.

Although African (descent) students are now said to be a majority at U.G., the National Service List is about 85 percent Indian.

African students have been victimized also, but the victimization fell more heavily on Indian students.

—Excerpted from "Dayclean"

TWO WORLDS

(Continued from Page 5)

has suffered most from the quadrupling of oil prices, which followed the Arab-Israeli war of 1973. If there is any possible affinity of ideas between the oil kingdoms and the independent African nations, that affinity surely lies elsewhere. The ideological disarray is, rather, like the one that's pervading much of the Left who, knowing well the feudal class structure of the Arab theocracies, hungering for a socialist alternative to the capitalistic structure of Israel rather than any relapse to feudalism, much less mistaking Israel and apartheid South Africa as one and the same, nevertheless parrot the UN Resolution on Zionism . . .

It is high time not to take either Arab or Israel's ground for argumentation, or, for that matter, what can best be called "the middle of the road" (which has always been the best place to get run over). It is high time to strike out for totally new ground, the total philosophy of human liberation Marx called "a new Humanism" . . .

When Marx broke with bourgeois society and Left Hegelians, who were arguing "On the Jewish Question" in 1843, he commented on the equating of Judaism not only with religion, but with "bargaining", with "money", that money does, indeed, "degrade all the gods of mankind . . . and converts them into commodities." But if they looked they would, in that case, have to admit that "Judaism has perpetuated itself in Christian society . . . achieved perfection in the Christian world", "in the prevailing world", i.e. capitalism. Therefore, what needs uprooting is the commodity structure of society, without which there can be no "universal human emancipation." Because that principle underlined all Marxist revolutionaries struggling for a classless society, without which there can be no "universal human emancipation" the "Jewish Question" was not dealt with as a separate issue.

During Tsarism, however, when the persecution of the Jews reached the pogrom stage, after the assassination of Alexander II by the Populists, and whether in barbaric Russia, or cultured France, where anti-Semitism reared its ugly head in the Dreyfus case, many Jews began to reject "Western civilization". The pogrom on top of the ghettoization, economic, political and social persecution of the Jews, gave rise to Zionism at the end of the 19th century. As a national movement, revolutionary internationalists rejected it. . . .

Everything totally changed with the Great Depression, and the rise of Nazism, accompanied by such manifestation of anti-Semitism also in the "degenerated workers' state" that Trotsky changed his position on the Jewish Question. The density of today's Trotskyists in not grasping either theoretically or practically what happened shows itself clearest in their positions today which have nothing whatever to do with Trotsky's principled statement, be that on the question of permanent revolution or the Jewish question. Not having the slightest conception of what is the dialectical relationship of the objective to the subjective situation—what is the dialectics of liberation when more than one national movement arises, they simply hide both the fact of the change and the why Trotsky, as the great revolutionary he was, changed his position . . .

WORLD WAR II had totally changed the objective situation. The creation of the state of Israel changed it still further for the Middle East. Two realities, thereupon, were new: the existence of Israel, and with that success, the creation of another national consciousness—the Palestinian people. Their right to self-determination can no more be decided from above, be it via the many Arab kingdoms and emirates, or the PLO claiming sole spokespersonship, much less through a UN command. Let the Palestinian people speak for themselves. Naturally, Zionism in power, like the ideology of all ruling classes, be they Jewish or Moslem, Christian—or the big powers themselves, West and East, is exploitative. Which is why, precisely why, the main enemy is always in one's own country. The Israeli masses will fight that battle. Far from encouraging such action, the UN Resolution equating Zionism with racism, while the PLO representative shouts: Zionism differs "in no way from apartheid in South Africa", cannot but remind one of the Big Lie . . .

For the Left to countenance, nay, to aid in such ideological obfuscation cannot but smooth the way for the counter-revolution. A necessary first step to turn matters around is to clear up our heads so that the history of revolutions, the dialectics of liberation becomes the path for their actualization.

Yours, Raya

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by Peter Mallory and Ron Brokmeyer

Widespread Spanish strikes protest post-Franco fascism

A wave of strikes and demonstrations erupted throughout Spain in January. More than 100,000 workers marched in Madrid in a demonstration called by strike committees at Chrysler and Standard Electric, a subsidiary of I.T.T. They called for wage increases, amnesty for political prisoners, and the resignation of Finance Minister Juan Villar Mir, the government official responsible for the recent wage freeze.

When the government arrested 30 leaders of Workers Commissions and 145 strike leaders, thousands more joined the strike movement. Women and children marched on company offices and four of the wives of those arrested began a hunger strike. The arrested strikers were then released.

Certain demonstrations and marches were singled out by the police for attack with clubs, rubber bullets, and tear gas—including a march of 3,000 women in Madrid demanding amnesty for political prisoners, an end to inflation, and an end to discrimination against women. By Jan. 16, 500,000 work-

ers were out on strike.

Strikes and demonstrations were also widespread in Barcelona, Valencia, Zaragoza, Seville and among the coal miners of Asturias. When the government drafted 55,000 postal workers and 70,000 railroad workers into the army and ordered them to return to work under threat of court martial, the workers returned wearing protest armbands.

The government is looking for conspirators everywhere, while everyone left and right is surprised by the depth and independence of the movement. Moreover, the movement is multi-dimensional. Successive Sundays in February saw masses of Catalans demonstrating in Barcelona for Catalonian national self-determination, which was experienced only briefly along with the Basque region during the Civil War of 1936.

The refugees from that Civil War, where fascist generals supported by Hitler and Mussolini defeated the Republican government, are still waiting and paying for fascism's rise in western Europe, when

World War II was supposed to have settled that 30 years ago.

Nancy Macdonald, director of Spanish Refugees Aid Inc., reports that aside from 40,000 refugees still in France and 60,000 who fled to Mexico and Latin America, there are still refugees in Africa, Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, Sweden, Russia and the U.S.

The refugees, for whom Juan Carlos is (as one refugee wrote) "the spiritual son of the dictator", are watching very closely for a genuine amnesty and a chance to return to their homeland. Franco's fascist oligarchy still dominates and received a more than doubling of the already profuse military aid from Ford-Kissinger—raised on Jan. 23 to \$1.22 billion for the next five years.

But the Spanish people are signaling their total disgust for post-Franco fascism and are continuing and deepening the movement for a total transformation of society that started anew in the last few years.

FBI and Panthers

Some of the sordid details of the FBI's war on the Black movement in this country in 1969 are only now beginning to surface. Documents released by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence show just how central a role the FBI played in creating a murderous conflict between two Black groups in San Diego.

Two months before Black Panthers Alprentice Carter and John Jerome Huggins were murdered on the UCLA campus, J. Edgar Hoover ordered "hard hitting" measures to accelerate the conflict between the Panthers and the US organization in Los Angeles.

Hoover had already ordered the anonymous mailing to Panther leaders of false documents on FBI stationery listing certain Panthers as police informers. A series of nine cartoons had also been disseminated. One pictured Ron Karenga, head of US, checking off the names Huggins and Carter on a list of Panthers titled "Things to do today."

When two Black leaders—George Stevens, head of San Diego CORE, and Leon Williams, San Diego's first Black councilman—tried to negotiate a peace between the two groups, both were informed by the FBI that the Panthers had put a "contract" out on their lives. Furthermore, in 1974 the Stiner brothers, George and Larry, who were supposedly US members and sentenced to life in prison for the

murders of Carter and Huggins, mysteriously escaped from St. Quentin and are still at large.

In 1969 there were 30 different raids, most without warrants, conducted against Panther headquarters throughout the country. One of these was the pre-dawn raid in December, 1969 in which Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were assassinated by police in Chicago. The chief of Panther security and Fred Hampton's personal bodyguard, William O'Neal, was an FBI infiltrator paid more than \$10,000 from Jan., 1969 to July, 1970.

Leonid Plyushch

At a news conference in Paris on Feb. 3, Leonid Plyushch described his several years as a victim of Russian totalitarianism. He was branded as a schizophrenic and confined in Dnepropetrovsk mental hospital where he was made senseless with painful injections of Haloperidol and sulfur, and subjected to insulin therapy. He attributed his release to the efforts of the international movement on his behalf.

Plyushch was tortured because he criticized the regime. He described his participation in the underground samizdat press: "A Marxist by conviction, I took Marx and Lenin as a point of departure for examination of all these questions. I demonstrated that Stalinism is nothing more than a Thermidorian and bonapartist distortion of the October revolution; that a form of state capitalism had been erected in

the Soviet Union, that property is held not by the people but by the state, isolated from all the classes, that the bureaucracy is at the service of an abstract capitalist, the state . . ."

Plyushch also appealed to "all honest people" to fight for the release of his fellow political prisoners still in captivity: Vladimir Bukovsky, Semyon Gluzman, and Valentin Moroz.

Zambia

In response to student demonstrations in support of the MPLA in Angola, Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda assumed emergency powers on Jan. 28. Kaunda closed indefinitely the main campus of the university, arresting several of the student leaders and sending the rest back to their villages.

While the Russian government is certainly an enemy to freedom, especially in its own country and where it most dominates in Eastern Europe, why did Kaunda single it out as the biggest threat in explaining his actions? Why, if not from fear of the masses in his own country in the face of its worst economic crisis, would Kaunda talk as if Russia really did overshadow the very real and long-standing presence of American imperialism in Southern Africa, built around one of U.S. capitalism's most lucrative sources of profit, the apartheid Vorster regime?

Ford's budget can't solve growing economic crises at home or abroad

(Continued from Page 1)

system as it had never been shaken before. Italy, like Great Britain, is on the literal edge of bankruptcy. In French industries, massive layoffs have resulted in the return of hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers from Portugal, Spain, Algeria, Africa, Italy and Yugoslavia.

WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC DECLINE

Unemployment has gone up in all industrialized nations, in Britain from 3.1 to 5.6 percent; West Germany from 2.3 to 4.6 percent; Italy from 3.1 to 3.5 percent; Japan from 1.4 to 2 percent, Canada from 5.5 to 7.2 percent and Australia from 2.4 to 4.9 percent. These account for a total of over 15 million unemployed, and the number is expected to rise rather than decline this year.

Inflation in these nations averaged some 15 percent last year — as high as 25 percent in Great Britain and even higher in Italy. It all means the same for the working class — a continuing decline in the standard of living of those still working, and a grinding poverty for those thrown out of work.

At the international economic conference held in France recently, the strategy laid by the advanced nations called for measures to stimulate economic growth in the U.S., West Germany and Japan, with the hope that recovery in these critical nations would restore the others to economic health. There is a lot of official rhetoric from Washington, Bonn, Paris and Tokyo, but all the words from the slickest phrase-mongers cannot cure the sickness of the capitalist system that has long outlived any usefulness.

In the third world of Latin America, Africa and Asia, the question for literally billions of people is one of a life of hunger or death by starvation. In many of these nations, 75 percent of the small family income goes to food — if it can be gotten at all. In Latin America, in Chile, Brazil and Uruguay unemployment is as high as 40 percent, with even higher inflation rates. In Argentina unemployment was kept at 8 percent last year, but inflation zoomed to an incredible 355 percent!

Africa, the least economically developed region in the world, has been staggered by the inflation and huge budget deficits resulting from food scarcity and quad-

rupled oil prices imposed by the OPEC nations led by Saudi Arabia. Under present capitalist trade relations, there is general agreement that Africa will be the last region to recover from the present worldwide recession — if it can ever recover under capitalism.

Nor are the state capitalist countries of East Europe free from the worldwide capitalist crisis. In Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, and Russia, prices were kept down for many years. But Russia's doubling of oil prices to its satellites, plus a poor wheat harvest, has pushed up consumer prices as much as 30 percent in the Russian block of state capitalist nations.

In short, the worldwide crisis of capitalism — in both the state and private forms — shows with absolute clarity that the system cannot provide the basic requirement of any economic system . . . a viable living for the people under that economic system.

The revolt against capitalism is international. After the British government bailed out Chrysler-Leyland with the workers' hard-earned money, the workers went out on strike when the company tried to scrap the contract. There was no scraping and bowing by the rank-and-file to this blatant attempt at exploitation, even though their very livelihood was at stake. In all of the industrialized countries — France, Italy, West Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Scandinavian countries — workers are constantly striking to protest their declining standards of living.

While the Communist Parties in France and Italy control huge segments of the labor movement, it is clear that their tactic is not to move in the direction of revolution to replace capitalism. Instead, they boast that they are more efficient and responsible in administering the affairs of the state, and demand a greater voice in the existing, and tottering, capitalist governments.

WORKERS SEEK NEW SOLIDARITY

In the U.S., meanwhile, the nation is faced with contract negotiations in 1976 that will involve over five million workers who are determined to have a greater voice in deciding their conditions of work first and foremost, as well as wage and fringe benefit increases to keep up with the rising cost of living.

The major unions, number of workers involved and the contract expiration dates are as follows:

Union	No. Workers	Con. Exp.
Teamsters	450,000	March 31
Rubber Workers	68,000	April 19, 20
Building Trades	334,000	May 1-31
GE Electrical	115,000	June 27
Westinghouse	59,000	July 11
United Auto Workers	715,000	Sept. 14
UAW (Int. Harvester, Deere, Caterpillar)	94,000	Sept. 30

Under the impact of the economic recession, management is determined to keep any increases down to a minimum, and will have the full support of the Ford Administration.

In the last quarter of 1975, corporate profits increased by a whopping 25 percent. Those profits came out of the backs of the workers from increased productivity, that is, speed-up of production with less workers.

GM Board Chairman Murphy has already told UAW President Leonard Woodcock that management appreciates these swollen profits from increased workers' speed up, and that the upcoming contract is going to be based exactly on this kind of dehumanized production.

Woodcock has responded by saying that the companies have to be realistic in the negotiations, even though he, Woodcock, recognizes the economic plight of the auto companies.

As for auto workers, as well as the hundreds of thousands of workers who went out on 4,400 wildcat strikes in the first nine months of 1975, the revolutionary response of the South Gate auto workers who voted to sit-in at the plant is where the real answer lies to the crisis that grips this nation. The rank-and-file resolution passed at South Gate noted that workers in both Great Britain and Italy have also sat down in struggles to defend their jobs.

This shows the internationalism of American workers and the need for workers' solidarity the world over in the coming battles to replace this present corrupt and totally inadequate capitalist economic system with one that will be based on providing human needs.