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*A contribution to the materialist interpretation of women's oppression....*

## Two lines on women's liberation

special 4-page section

*Black and white, unite and fight for a*

# WORKERS WORLD

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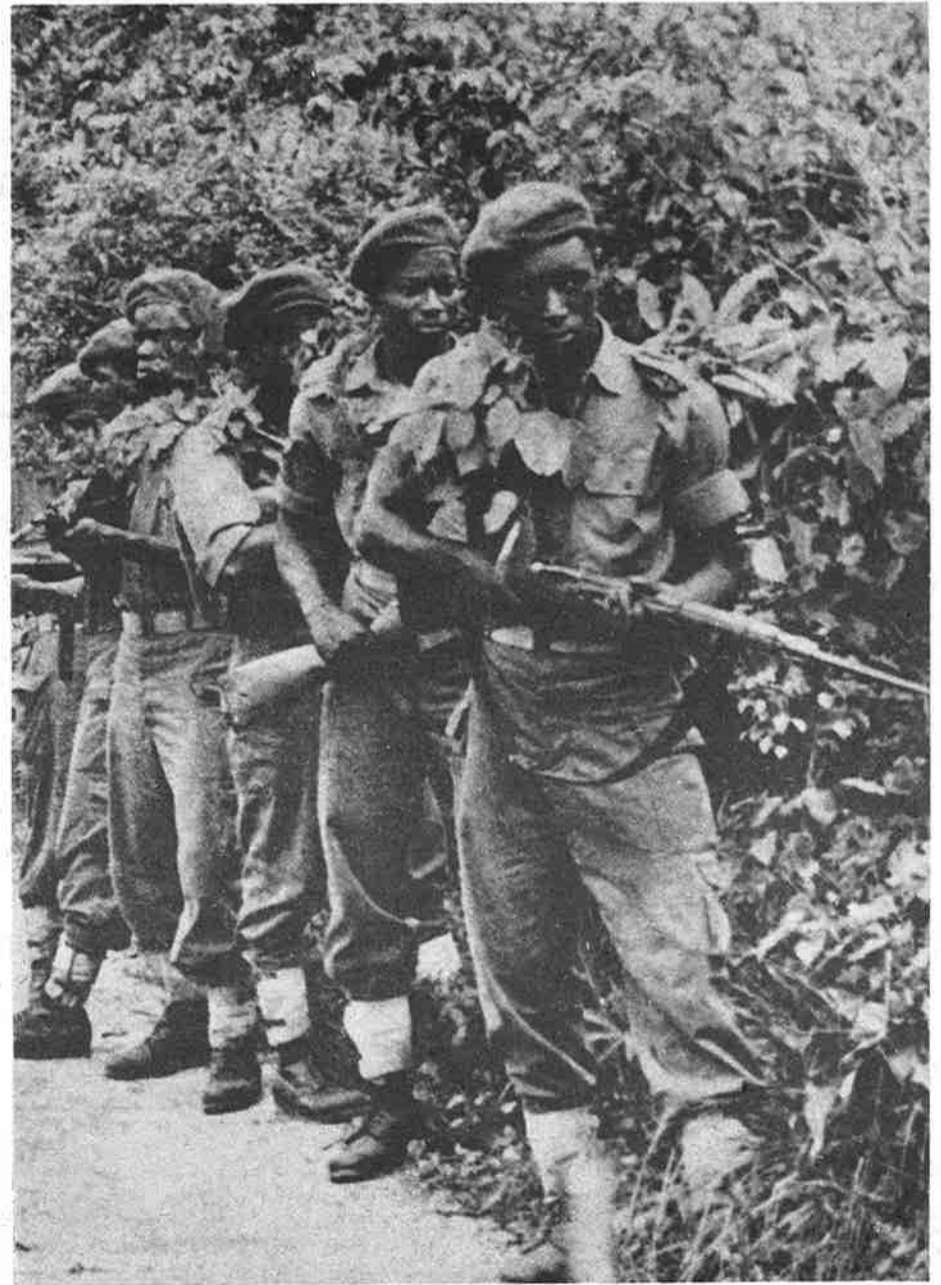
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# US rehearsal for North Vietnam invasion?

## North Vietnam

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# revolutionary people's

## U.S. Constitution written by slavemasters

by Edward James

For 183 years the U.S. capitalist class has ruled over the people—legally, by observing the rules provided by the U.S. Constitution—and illegally, by violating those sections of the Constitution which the masses succeeded in getting their rulers to write in it.

But now, at the Revolutionary Peoples' Constitutional Convention organized by the Black Panther Party, representatives of the revolutionary movement are going to write a new constitution, one based exclusively on the needs of oppressed and working people.

When Americans study the Constitution in school, it is presented as the bedrock of democracy. Any faults that may exist within the capitalist government or capitalist society at large are blamed on the individual officeholders or on the electorate themselves, but never on the Constitution.

The Constitution was not in the least an abstract document created by disinterested minds for the purpose of building a democratic society in North America, as it is depicted in the history books. Far from it. It was initiated, written, debated, passed and campaigned for by men whose personal economic interests were very much involved.

(The bourgeois historian, Charles Beard, shows that the speculative gains made by the holders of government securities which had been virtually worthless until the new federal government redeemed them at face value amounted to approximately \$40 million, or one-tenth of the then taxable value of all the land in the thirteen colonies. Many of the Constitutional Convention delegates held large amounts of these securities.)

Moreover, the key figures behind the Constitution—James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay—were all men with a high degree of ruling class consciousness—and interests! They con-

sciously sought to create a constitution which would serve not only their own interest and the interests of their peers, but also the interests of future generations of their class. In this, they certainly succeeded!

### The Bill of Rights

The ruling class represented by Madison & Co., would not put any provisions in the Constitution guaranteeing free speech, press, assembly, right of trial by jury, right to carry arms for self defense, etc., etc. until the people rose up with demonstrations and protests from one end of the continent to the other. The first ten Amendments, the famous Bill of Rights, were thus forced out on the new ruling class, not given to the people by the "founding fathers" at all.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, the only other ones that really bestow any rights upon the people (except for the too-little, too-late Women's suffrage Amendment) were extracted from the rulers by the bloodiest war in U.S. history (bloodiest for Americans, at any rate).

It is precisely the Bill of Rights and the three Amendments just named which are constantly violated by the country's rulers, and which constantly have to be reasserted by the people. The capitalists have the all-important state apparatus of police, prisons, etc. and they rule unconstitutionally with it nine times out of ten when it comes to questions regarding these crucial sections of the Constitution.

But let us see how the unamended Constitution, the document hatched in the dark of night at Philadelphia in 1787 without any guarantees for the people's liberties came into existence in the first place.

The Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation, which were considered sorely deficient by most segments of the capitalist class. The Articles of Confederation provided only a loose structuring of the thirteen colonies, with no strong central government able to enforce the mutual interests of the big merchants, land speculators, financiers, manufacturers and slaveholders.

The merchants needed a navy to protect their sea routes; the land speculators needed an army to destroy the Indians and open up the West; the financiers needed a government that would be able to repay the loans they made during the Revolutionary War; the manufacturers needed protective duties levied on competitive products imported from abroad; the slaveholders needed protection from slave revolts, and guarantees that runaway slaves would be returned.

All required a stable currency, necessary for the efficient conduct of commerce. But most important of all was protection of the sacred right of private property, i.e., the right to keep the wealth robbed from the poor. This particular right was coming under heavy attacks in the legislatures of the various colonies, and it was expected that the forces behind these attacks (primarily small farmers at that time) would be considerably weakened if forced to operate on a national level instead of on the state level.

The question of private property rights is the root that anchored the entire Constitution solidly among the various interests of all the different sections of the capitalist class. Certainly all the other benefits mentioned above were available to the bourgeoisie only through the establishment of a strong central government with the power to tax, raise armies, levy duties and so on.

This "strong central government" was historically progressive as the school teachers told us—but only as opposed to the kings and lords, not as opposed to real equality and real freedom.

### Private property attacked

Private property rights were very susceptible to attack because the vast fortunes being accumulated then carried little or no air of legitimacy. Much of the new wealth was war booty—land expropriated from the British and land stolen from the Indians. The masses who had fought the war, freeing the colonies from the British, deeply resented the wholesale appropriation of new lands by a handful of absentee owners.

Another cause for attack on the right of private property lay in the barbaric treatment of debtors (as well as all other prisoners, slaves and indentured servants). Jail and the vicious physical punishments that accompanied jail were very often the fate of the debtor. This oppression led to open rebellion in Massachusetts (Shay's Rebellion) and to continual legislative efforts at making it more difficult for the creditor to collect his money.

In 1786, a General Knox wrote to George Washington warning that "the insurgents (Shayites) ... see the weakness of government; they feel at once their own poverty, compared with the opulent, and their own force, and they are determined to make use of the latter, in order to remedy the former. Their creed is 'That the property of the United States has been protected from the confiscations of Britain by the joint exertions of all, and therefore ought to be the joint property of all'... Our government must be braced, changed, or altered to secure our lives and property."

James Madison prophesied that the landless proletariat would become an overwhelming majority, and would sacrifice the rights of the minority—the property owners. "To secure the public good and private rights against the danger of such a faction and at the same time preserve the spirit and the form of popular government is then the great object to which our inquiries are directed."

In 1788 Madison wrote Jefferson, "In our Governments the real power lies in the majority of the Community, and the invasion of private rights is chiefly to be apprehended, not from acts of Government contrary to the sense of its constituents, but from acts in which the Government is the mere instrument of the major number of the constituents." The 'private rights' that Madison was so worried about were, of course, the rights of private property—the rights of the slaveholder and the capitalist.

### The people couldn't vote

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention were appointed by the state legislatures, whose

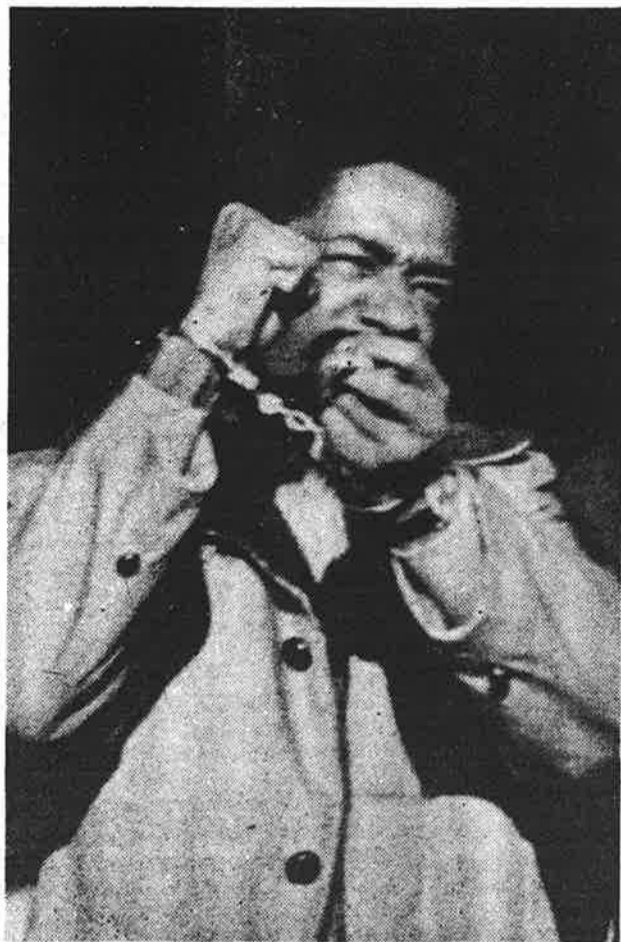


Black community holds the New Orleans police back

# Victory in New Orleans!

# People defend NCCF

# constitutional convention



## CP-SWP-PL attack the Panthers

by Sam Marcy

As the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention draws near, it is important to review the political attitude of some of the radical organizations towards the Black Panther Party. Some of these organizations have for a long time claimed to base themselves on the teachings of Marx and Lenin and some even on Mao. Three of these organizations in particular, the CP, the SWP and PLP, have been most vociferous in proclaiming themselves to be the true Marxists whose ideological and political hegemony the Black Panther Party must accept or else face certain disintegration and political doom.

Each of these organizations has professed, as the occasion has suited them, friendship, concern for the Panther defense, and on other occasions have even offered some help. These three organizations, although they vary in theoretical, political and tactical conceptions, have nevertheless one common denominator. While proclaiming friendship and even solidarity with the Panthers, their main thrust is to vilify and denounce them as "adventurers" and "individual terrorists"—code words for revolutionaries.

This is the sum and substance of the real relationships and political attitudes which the CP, the SWP and PL have maintained toward the Black Panther Party ever since its momentous rise and development as the most determined and revolutionary party of the Black people.

Careful examination of the official literature of these organizations in so far as it concerns the Black Panther Party shows that their assertions of friendship and solidarity against the unprecedented repression of the Black Panther Party are of a purely pro-forma character and merely designed to cover themselves.

Their real line is disguised but the Panthers are depicted as "adventurers," "individual terrorists," "sectarians," "anti-working class," "divorced from the mainstream of the people," etc., etc.

Their most vicious and abusive attacks are against the well-known and popular slogan of the Black Panther Party of "pick up the gun." Nothing enrages them so much as this popular slogan which has become the hallmark for revolutionary struggle against imperialism and has made the Panthers the object of worldwide sympathy and support by millions of oppressed people.

This line of attack by the CP, SWP and PL, which is masked by revolutionary phrases now and then, is nothing but a reflection in different words of fundamentally the same line which the imperialist establishment daily pours out through its media to vilify and slander the party.

While the racist, genocidal war machine of Nixon, Agnew and Mitchell daily visits death and destruction on the oppressed people both at home and abroad, they assign the task of preaching nonviolence, accommodation to the yoke of the oppressor, and slavish obedience to bourgeois legality to the liberal and radical apologists for imperialism. "Confine yourself to those tactics and avenues of struggle which the master class allots to you and don't go beyond their restrictions." This, in essence, is what the CP, SWP and PL have been urging the Panthers to do.

Now and then one of these groupings concocts a new stratagem to put across the same old line. In a long article in the *Militant*, November 27, the SWP has suddenly become aware of "the need to build a Panther defense." The article devotes more than two and a half columns to presumably urge support for the Panthers. In reality, however, it is a vicious attack on the

Panther leadership for presumably failing to build a nationwide defense campaign. And, of course, the article ends with the usual tirade against "picking up the gun" and failing to have a program for "mass action."

(It is also worth noting that with all their protestations about the need to build mass support for the Panthers, the SWP-YSA have been conspicuous by their absence at the demonstrations and rallies which have been held to mobilize support for the Panther Party under attack. In fact, the picture used by the *Militant* to illustrate the need for support actions is in reality a shot of a contingent of young people from Youth Against War & Fascism marching with signs, "Free the Black Panthers" and "End the Racist Frameups.")

Nothing could be more cynical and disgusting than this rank hypocrisy. The attacks of the CP, SWP and PL differ only in form, but the essence is the same. At a rally at the UN last Saturday, William Patterson of the CP could not resist attacking the Panthers just once more along the usual lines for urging the people to "pick up the gun."

The Black Panther Party is not a bunch of individual terrorists, as the racist, imperialist media is forever telling the American people, nor are they committed to violence for the sake of violence, as radical apologists for the Establishment say. They are not adventurers nor are they isolated from the main stream of Black people. As the *Wall Street Journal* showed last march in a poll taken by its own investigators, the majority of the Black people support the Panthers.

The Black Panther Party is conducting a resolute and determined revolutionary struggle for Black liberation. It is precisely for this reason that the government is using every device at its disposal in an attempt to exterminate them. Because the Black Panthers have dared to defend themselves they have earned the wrath of the entire imperialist establishment and all its lackeys. They have set an example of courage, fortitude and revolutionary determination unsurpassed in the annals of American history. In spite of all its frantic efforts, the Nixon-Agnew-Mitchell campaign of harassment, intimidation and outright assassination, the Black Panther Party lives. Its imprisoned leaders are undaunted.

In spite of the foulest frameups and persecution, the Black Panther Party has deep roots in the Black community and the terror of the government cannot sever these roots as was shown in Philadelphia and more recently in New Orleans. The people were standing behind the Black Panther Party in both these cities. The police, although armed to the teeth with the sanction of the entire government and geared to destroy the Party in those cities, nevertheless were forced to back down.

These two victories are tremendously significant. They showed that the revolutionary determination of the Black Panther Party to stand its ground in defense of its rights and in defense of the rights of the people, forced the strongest imperialist power to back off. It showed, among other things, that their strategy is correct and appropriate to the form of struggle imposed upon them by the particular conditions prevailing in this country.

The urgent task right now is for all progressives and militants throughout this country to give unstinted and unconditional support to the heroic struggle of the Black Panther Party and to defeat the genocidal strategy of the Nixon-Agnew administration.

Long Live the Black Panther Party!  
Free All Panther Prisoners!  
Free All Political Prisoners!

## Free all political prisoners!

Free the N. Y. Panther 21!

Free Bobby Seale!

Free Ericka Huggins!

Free Angela Davis!

Free the Soledad Brothers!

members were elected by a very limited portion of the population. Slaves, indentured servants, women and free white men who did not own sufficient property were all excluded from voting. Thus, the vast majority of the colonies' population was totally disenfranchised. But even those few who could vote were not fairly represented at the Convention, since the delegates were appointed by state legislatures that had been elected prior to the call for the *Constitutional Convention*.

Although today's oppressed masses have not yet conquered power, their needs are well known. The people require a state that can take all the stolen wealth away from the handful of parasites who use it now to exploit and repress people all over the world, and restore it to the working people who create the wealth in the first place.

We require an end to imperialist wars, capitalist exploitation, white supremacy and male supremacy. We require decent food, housing, clothing, medical care, education and jobs. We require, in a word, power.

The People's Constitution, whether it be the one written in Washington or some other adopted after the Revolution that will be a constitution for the working people to cherish.

ALL POWER TO THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES' CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION!

Hundreds of angry Black people held off a small army of New Orleans pigs on November 19 and won a ringing victory for the liberation struggle. The cops were trying to capture the office of the Black-Panther-affiliated National Committee to Combat Fascism. They came with everything from riot guns to helicopters and a tank. But when these racist lackeys of the ruling class reached the Desire housing project, they ran into a solid wall of hundreds of Black people determined to defend their brothers and sisters.

The police set deadlines for the surrender of the NCCF staff. The deadlines came and went — and the crowd of militant Black people grew denser. "More power to the people," they chanted, and "Death to the pigs."

The Superintendent of Police and his heavily-armed bodyguard had to walk past a freshly painted slogan: "Power comes from the barrel of a gun!"

They got the message. After hours of threats and eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation, the pigs withdrew. It was a highly significant victory in the unfolding liberation struggle of the Black nation, and a magnificent vote of confidence in the Black Panther Party.

## Editorial

## U.S. dress rehearsal for invasion of North Vietnam?

Once again the U.S. has carried out a murderous bombing attack against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and once again it took a heavy toll of Vietnamese lives and property.

Pentagon public relations aides thought they had cooked up a real ingenious cover story to hide the criminal nature of their predatory conduct. The gimmick they employed to deceive the people at home was to land a band of fascist commandos on the soil of Vietnam in what they labelled a "mercy mission" to free U.S. prisoners.

The crude character of this strategy was so transparent the Pentagon itself had difficulty in keeping a straight face when they finally decided to tell the American people the story.

What made a mockery of this shameless exhibition was that the U.S. Air Force and Navy unloosed 250 bombers to raid North Vietnam at the precise moment the commandos were supposed to be liberating U.S. prisoners.

Of course, no prisoners were found. And still another bombing round of an even more massive and destructive character, with more than 400 Air Force and Navy planes, attacked the very next day in Laos and Cambodia, which completely unmasked the real purpose of the raids. There are no prisoner of war camps of U.S. pilots in Cambodia and Laos.

It must now be crystal clear that all the talk of "de-escalation," "Vietnamization" and "early withdrawal," during all these many weeks by dove and hawk politicians alike, was so much cruel deception for electioneering purposes to put a democratic face on U.S. imperialism.

The latest escalation proves once again that the issue of U.S. war policy is not a question of mere "mistaken foreign policy." The U.S. government has now gone through four successive administrations and has had a veritable horde of foreign policy advisors from almost every segment of the ruling class. But the net result has been a deepening of U.S. militarist involvement. At the same time, this involvement has been accompanied by ever-increasing amounts of sickening peace propaganda in which doves and hawks compete with each other, particularly at election time.

The fact that the U.S. bombing raids of Vietnam coincided with the Portuguese invasion of Guinea is by no means accidental. On the contrary, the invasion of Guinea and the bombing raids on Vietnam are two thrusts coordinated by the Nixon administration as part of an overall intensification of U.S. imperialist aggression on a global scale.

Portugal is a small poverty-stricken nation with a population of

only 9-1/2 million, with about 80 per cent living in rural areas, where the average daily wage is about \$1.50, where the rate of infant mortality is staggering, and where even the Prime Minister gets a salary about the same as a New York cop. It is one of the least industrialized countries in Western Europe.

While simultaneously carrying on a colonialist war against the Angolan people and the Mozambique people, how can they undertake to invade Guinea by themselves? This can happen only because the tiny ruling class of Portugal rules over the tiny country with truly fascist terror. But this is due fundamentally to the fact that the Portuguese colonialist ruling class is merely the commission merchant for the U.S. military industrial complex. The tiny dynastic clique of Portuguese rulers acts as the proconsul for U.S. banking and industrial interests in what is supposed to be the Portuguese empire.

Actually, the Portuguese government is very much like a dummy corporation which the U.S. has set up so that it can more easily channel the vast riches and wealth from the African continent without being the visible master behind Portugal.

But all the world knows that it is the U.S. Treasury which pays the mercenaries behind the invasion of Guinea,

just as it was the U.S. paymaster in the Congo and earlier in the Sudan as well as Nigeria. In the same way, but in a different form, the U.S. is the paymaster in Jordan and is using the puppet Hussein and his army as mercenaries in the struggle against the heroic Palestine Liberation Movement.

The coordinated attacks in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Guinea and the intensified pace of rearmament of the Israeli puppet government, the threats against the Allende government of Chile, the constant harassment of Cuba, the conspiracy of the Nixon Administration with the Trudeau government to crush the Quebec National Liberation Front—all these apparently separate and independent developments are in reality manifestations of the concerted efforts of the U.S. imperialist machine to widen and deepen its global struggle for world domination.

The bourgeois liberal establishment often refers to these attacks as "mistakes" which with greater "wisdom" could be corrected. But these so-called foreign policy "mistakes" are in reality an organic outgrowth of the nature of monopoly capitalism. Imperialism is capable of only short interludes of peace between imperialist wars. Its periods of peace, if they exist at all, are merely periods in which new wars of aggression are prepared. It is impossible to have an enduring peace as long as imperialism exists.

## People's China wins UN vote; kept from seat by U.S. fraud

The ridiculous annual charade of excluding People's China from her rightful seat in the United Nations has just been played again. This time, however, the maneuvering and bribing by the U.S. could not prevent China from receiving a majority vote. Only the gimmick that the U.S. has relied upon—demanding a two-thirds vote on the basis that seating People's China is an "important question"—kept China from being seated this year.

It should be remembered that when the U.S. desperately wanted UN sanction for its invasion of Korea in 1950, it was satisfied with a simple majority vote in the Security Council. The resolution launching a three-year war that would be so costly in Korean, Chinese and American lives wasn't an "important question!"

The UN has shown in Korea, the Congo and many other infamous examples that it is nothing more than another "thieves' kitchen"—Lenin's apt phrase for the defunct League of Nations. The very fact that this "world

body" excludes the representatives of one-fourth of humanity is proof of this. But even though the UN has proven to be a body manipulated by the U.S. in every important political crisis, this does not mean that therefore the struggle to have People's China represented is unimportant or irrelevant. On the contrary, a strong campaign on this issue just further exposes the fact that imperialism calls the shots at the U.N.

The current vote is an indication that despite strong U.S. pressure, China's growing prestige is demanding recognition around the world. It coincides with the establishing of diplomatic relations by Canada and Italy. Thus, twenty-one years after Chiang Kai-Shek was kicked off the mainland, and after many years of U.S. imperialist wars in Asia attempting to roll back the rising revolutionary tide, capitalist diplomacy is finally beginning to acknowledge that the Chinese revolution is here to stay.

China has stood firm in demanding that the Chiang puppet regime be ousted from the UN. This gang of bandits has occupied Taiwan rent-free under the protection of U.S. guns while arrogantly holding China's seat in the Security Council. Not content with their salary from Washington, they have ruthlessly oppressed and exploited the people of Taiwan. The liberation of Taiwan from these bankrupt warlords is justly a priority of the Chinese people.

It was carefully noted by the imperialists that the Soviet UN delegate Yakov Malik spoke strongly for China's admission—the first such speech in two years. His support was seen as yet another indication that relations between the two great socialist powers are improving.

The imperialists claim to be relieved at this, explaining that they feared war between the USSR and China. Actually, nothing would please them better than an irreconcilable antagon-

ism within the socialist camp. Their assertions to the contrary are sheer hypocrisy, only meant to give their dire predictions more weight and increase their effectiveness as self-fulfilling prophecies.

Those in the international camp of the workers and oppressed, however, have every reason to welcome such a development. It will help the struggle everywhere if state relations between the USSR and China are normalized, even while a political struggle against revisionism continues to be waged.

We are confident that such will be the course of events. The basic and irreconcilable conflict of our epoch is that between the imperialist ruling class and the international camp of the proletariat. The struggle to overthrow capitalism and usher in a new socialist society for all humanity is complicated and arduous, and subverted at every step of the way by imperialism in all its guises, including such "neutral" organizations as the United Nations, but the balance in the world is inexorably shifting to the side of the revolution.

## Meyers robbed of 60 days

Joel Meyers is the kind of prisoner of war that the U.S. government doesn't like to talk about. He's an anti-imperialist draft resister who is currently serving a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence for refusing to fight against his Vietnamese sisters and brothers.

While in prison Joel, who is a leading member of Youth Against War & Fascism, has not given up his revolutionary determination to continue the struggle. And, therefore, he has been the object of a tremendous amount of repression on the part of the prison authorities. After spending three weeks in solitary confinement for allegedly leading what was a spontaneous strike at Allenwood Federal prison last August, Joel has been transferred from Allenwood, a minimum security prison, to Lewisburg, a maximum security penitentiary,

then to Danbury and now back to Lewisburg.

On November 13 a prison board announced that Joel would be forfeited 60 days of good time that he has accumulated during his year in prison. This punishment is almost unprecedented in its severity. It means that the prison authorities are going to try to take away almost all of the good time he has earned. The punishment also means that Joel won't be considered for parole for another year!

This harassment of Joel Meyers and political prisoners in general grows out of the many prison rebellions that have occurred in the U.S. concentration camp system throughout the country. Prison officials are desperately trying to stem the tide of revolt with more repression. However the victims are fighting back and in the process of the struggle, more prisoners are becoming revolutionary fighters.

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How strong will it be?

## The new plant safety bill

With 20,000 U.S. workers killed and 2.2 million disabled in industrial accidents every year, the question arises: What are the causes of this carnage, and what, if any, are the organized forces which prevent it from rising to five or ten times that amount?

Part of the answer to that question was provided in the debate in the U.S. Senate last week and the circumstances surrounding a national plant safety bill.

The bill provided that the office of the Secretary of Labor could issue stiffer safety regulations against the big corporations and actually close down an offending plant for three days if the safety violations endangered human life in obvious emergency conditions.

This is considered a "landmark" piece of legislation. But the fact that the "landmark" wasn't marked for the first 181 years of the U.S. Senate may be

explained by the fact that lately there have been more and more strikes by workers protesting safety conditions, notably in the coal mining industry.

And as workers get more aware of their rights and more militant on the job in general, they have a tendency simply to refuse to work under what they consider unsafe conditions. The loss from such strikes is far greater than the loss from paying insurance policies.

But the big bosses' government in Washington is not rushing in to substitute itself for the wrath of the workers themselves. It is not going to shut down very many plants if the votes of the Senators provide any measure by which to judge the matter.

For example—there was a big

fight in the Senate over the question whether the proposed law would be enforced by a Presidential board or by a subdepartment of the Department of Labor—at first sight a tempest in a teapot, since either agency would be a capitalist one.

However, the Department of Labor is a more or less permanent bureau under the aegis of the capitalist liberals, with a back door open to the labor bureaucrats who do, in their own way, occasionally express the interests of the workers. A Nixon commission would be a more or less open tool of the corporations, with direct ties to some of the corporations themselves.

Within the capitalist framework, therefore, who enforces the law is not a teapot affair, but a very real question. The "compromise" worked out

after a long Senatorial debate was to allow the Secretary of Labor to set the standards, and then let the Presidential commission enforce them.

That is, Nixon's direct appointees would decide whether to close down one of Atlantic Richfield Oil Company's plants if it were unsafe, causing the company to lose ten or twenty million dollars in the three-day shutdown.

(Robert O. Anderson, president of Atlantic Richfield, was Nixon's biggest campaign contributor.)

This watered-down version of the original labor-sponsored bill was considered harmless enough so that it was passed by a vote of 82 to 3.

The workers can only fight for their own lives not by arraying one set of capitalist Senators against another and hoping for the head capitalist's puppets to close an unsafe plant for three days, but by having their own workers' representatives running the whole of industry and closing whatever factory needs closing for however long it is necessary to stop the butchery of people.

## Interview with an injured auto worker



Workers leaving Ford's River Rouge Plant in Detroit. (Women's Graphics Collective/LNS)

DETROIT (Liberation News Service)—Ford's River Rouge Plant, sprawling on 1,200 acres of land outside Detroit, is the largest industrial complex in the world. It has its own railroad and a power plant which generates 340,000 kilowatts, enough to light the entire city of Dallas. Its steel foundry and glass factory produce 7,000 tons of steel and 12 miles of 1/8-inch-thick Ford glass every day.

Ford workers at River Rouge turn out 1,078 cars a day—that's one every 53 seconds—and 14,500 gas tanks.

The following story is told by a young white worker who was disabled in the River Rouge Plant after working there for one month.

\*\*\*

I got out of the Service in September '69, and after a couple of weeks of unemployment I had to get back to work to make a living, so I went down to the Ford Company business office. It was a Friday afternoon and they sent me over to the Specialty Dept. which is where they make crankshafts, camshafts, things that have to be cast. OK, just go in, they said, we'll get you some overalls, you can start today.

Beside me, and across a conveyor, there was a machine. Every two minutes it would spew out to me 12 molded shells, made out of sand and silicone; each half weighed about 26 pounds. I would pull them off with the two other men I worked with, put them together, with six metal clips, and then pick 'em up with a "meat hook" (put together they now weigh 52 pounds) and carry them about 20 feet

### MORE CASUALTIES THAN IN VIETNAM

"The factory claims more lives, more casualties, than the Vietnam conflict... go out to the plants, look at the people with one finger missing, two fingers missing, or crippled. These people don't go in the plant like that. They won't hire you into the plant if you're crippled."

—worker from Detroit's League of Revolutionary Black Workers

down this platform and put them on the conveyor.

The conveyor would take them up over my head, a ways down the line, and steel would be poured in them. They would go upstairs, cool off. About 3 hours later, the molds were busted off and like magic there were two crankshafts for a Ford motor car.

OK, I did this 1,200 times a day, on this lousy, smelling, hot machine, pulling these things off, clipping them together, and walking them down the line. This was an old plant. There was no screen or anything over our heads and when the conveyor would go up over our heads, every once in a while it would jerk, or just stop and start again real quick, and it would wiggle the jollies that were holding the shells, and the shells would empty out, and they'd fall down the platform. A couple of times they'd miss people and sometimes people got hit with the shrapnel.

We complained about it to our foreman, who was supposed to be a real militant union man. And his thing was the standard company thing. "OK, I'll have a millwright look into it," or "we're gonna check on it." Or "the safety engineer's been trying to work out a solution," so on and so forth. And all we wanted was a little bit of screen over our head so it would at least break the fall of the shit, which was never done.

When our line would break down (which was often because our machines were old and fucked up) they'd send us down to the foundry. They used this as a kind of threat against some of us, if you don't quit fucking around, we'll send you down to shovel shot. This was a real thing. Now, half the shovel with shot about an inch high weighed about 15 pounds, and you're down there shoveling stuff that weighs a ton to start with. Secondly, the conveyor is running right over your head and all kinds of hot shit is dropping down. You come out of any of those foundries, and you blow your nose, and little pieces of black garbage come out every time you blow your nose, for three or four days.

OK, it was in December, the shift had just started. We'd been working about a half hour. I picked up a shell and was carrying it down the line to put it up, and I had my back turned to the rest of the platform, and that's all I remembered for a few minutes. It turned out that above me the line had stopped for a second and started again and emptied two shells out, and both of them just emptied right on top of me.

I was still dizzy so I went over to Medical. It started to really get painful. The nurse in the first aid station said we don't treat back injuries, go over to Central Medical. So they sent me over to Central Medical and the doctor looked at me. He was about 85 years old. Well, doesn't look too serious, he said. Take these two Darvon, I'll give you this light duty slip, and go back over to the Foundry, they'll find some easy job to do.

If it bothers you any more over the weekend, he told me, come back and we'll be more than glad to make repairs on your ass. So I said OK.

At this time I was only beginning to be aware that the Company really fucked with me. I thought this doctor was running it to me straight. I wasn't aware of the fact that that pig worked for the Company so consequently he would say whatever was right for the Company.

I got back over to the Foundry and gave this light duty slip to my foreman, who took it to the general foreman, and they came back and said, OK, get back up on the table. And I said, look man, that slip says "light duty." And I went down and got the Committeeman. Well, with something like that, the Committeeman has no choice, he had to stick up for me. At least to some degree. So he comes back down and says this guy is really hurt, he is still dizzy, he is still bleeding from his nose, so we've got to send him home. After they complained about that and argued for 20 minutes, they finally sent me home.

I went to get out of bed the next morning and I couldn't move. Sunday the same story. Monday I had to be helped into a car, half-carried, and they took me down to Central Medical. They treated me every day for almost a two month period. They couldn't find anything wrong, gave me a back brace to wear, and told me this thing was totally psychosomatic.

One day when one of the nurses was twisting my head around, I was getting really belligerent. So this doctor comes in and he tells me "You are very interesting. Freud said that pain induces things like belligerence. My opinion is that belligerence in your case is what is inducing the pain."

I finally went to my family doctor who I'd known since I was a little kid. In 35 minutes, he told me that my neck was broken in three places. He sent me down

(continued on page 8)

## The madness of imperialist logic

## U.S. rulers weighing atomic annihilation

By Deirdre Griswold

C.L. Sulzberger of the New York Times is one of those "deep" thinkers who feed us three times a week with a digest of what the bourgeoisie is thinking. His regular editorial column—"Foreign Affairs"—ponders in a measured, weighty manner the international problems facing the U.S. ruling class.

He is never hasty, abhors extremism and tries to consider all the varied interests of U.S. capital before suggesting a course of action.

**A-Bombs for "moderation"**

Last week he wrote that the only way for the U.S. to resolve its dilemma in Vietnam—and guerrilla warfare in general—may be tactical nuclear weapons. Insane? In a sense. But this impeccable voice of the Establishment is echoing the frantic, mad desperation of his class. In the hushed and cultured tones native to the drawing room of a gentlemen's club, the bourgeoisie is plotting the unspeakable destruction of millions—all because they can think of no other way to perpetuate their rule.

Sulzberger—and a good section of the ruling class who are weighing ever greater mass murder—sees "tactical" atomic bombs as a golden mean, a moderate solution to the dilemma of "impossible nuclear disaster" versus "unsuccessful conventional warfare." "There appears to be no other middle road," he says, "between supineness and suicide."

**Almost used them in Jordan**

The Times' authority posed the question in the abstract as merely an "unpleasant" alternative that must be discussed, but a news story in his paper

the very next day (November 16) shows that the Pentagon long ago resolved this question to their satisfaction. The article, about a reorganization of the Special Forces, calmly dropped the information that sabotage teams had been ready to use A-bombs during the Jordanian crisis!

"Informants say such teams, with special language skills, were put on alert for possible deployment to the Middle East during the recent Jordanian crisis. The hand-picked teams of ordnance experts could be dispatched by submarine or helicopter into an enemy area to emplace and detonate a small atomic demolition charge next to a high priority target where bombers or missiles might not be accurate enough."

The vague wonderings of Mr. Sulzberger, then, are really a veiled discussion of plans that long ago left the drawing board of the Pentagon and are being implemented at this very moment. Isn't it amazing how the independent minds of the Fourth Estate run in the same channel as the bloodthirsty brass hats! But as long as there is a ruling class, there will be plenty of erudite pimps of the press eager to justify its bestial degradation and murder of the masses.

**Times have changed**

There was a time when this bomb-rattling seemed to achieve its purpose—to paralyze the will of the oppressed. Today such threats just enrage the masses even more, because they are correctly interpreted not as a display of strength but rather as a confession of the weakness of imperialism. Sulzberger admits as much when he says that "conventional forces" cannot be relied on to defeat the liberation forces in Vietnam or elsewhere

because the "political system refuses to provide" enough troops, and the public won't "pull in its belt and protect the West."

Yes, Mr. Sulzberger, and you generals and admirals, the people are refusing to do your dirty job of murder and plunder. The youth are burning draft boards and files, going to Canada, disappearing into the protective arms of the Black and Latin communities; the soldiers are shooting their officers, contesting the brass's authority, demanding the right to choose what they will fight for. The whole elaborate network of terror-based authority you have built up to police the world is crumbling beneath your feet!

And in the same way, mass struggle will make your "tactical A-bombs" as outmoded as "conventional forces."

**They have no conscience**

This is the way to stop the imperialist murderers in their mad drive for world domination. No appeal to conscience or rationality can override the live-or-die dependence on profits that compels them to oppress and exploit. A measure of their madness is the calm way in which a mouthpiece like Sulzberger can argue for genocidal atomic weapons and make them sound like a reasonable and moderate choice.

Only by intensifying the struggle against this vile capitalist system, dissolving their very apparatus, and destroying their political base in the masses can their doomsday power be broken. In the long run, their command over the most sophisticated weapons depends on the loyalty of the rank-and-file.

Every blow struck to raise the political consciousness of the masses loosens the grip of the imperialists on their horrible weapons of destruction. The power of the people is greater than the man's technology!

## Buckley's banker backers

By Bill Smith

James Buckley, the new Senator from New York and an arch-reactionary, got his job thanks to the Nixon Administration and the powerful bankers behind it. Now, Buckley is a Conservative and Nixon is a Republican. How did they manage to swing such a maneuver across traditional party lines?

While the public was being treated with a heavy dose of propaganda about the voting trends this year going to the right, many of Nixon's top financial backers met privately at a plush dinner for Buckley held in the Waldorf Astoria on October 5, two months before his election to the Senate.

If you had been standing in the red carpeted lobby at the right place and time, you would have seen such bigwigs as George Champion, former chairman of Chase Manhattan, Bernard J. Lasker, chairman of the board of governors of the New York Stock Exchange and Elmer T. Bobst, the semi-retired "Vitamin King."

The significance of this gathering was not pointed out by the press for the illumination of the voters, but turning back the pages of the New York Times, to Jan. 17, 1970, would reveal an interesting article entitled "Nixon's inner circle of friends."

The article comes on as a human interest story. "In the five years that Richard M. Nixon lived in New York, 1963-1969, he had a small group of friends, men with whom he dined, shared his deepest thoughts, played golf or otherwise relaxed."

If Nixon relaxed with these men, it was after long and strenuous political maneuverings. After he lost the

California governorship in 1962, he handled the PepsiCo franchise in Taiwan, with Chiang Kai-Shek. Donald L. Kendall, president of PepsiCo, is one of the inner circle. He is a close friend of Champion of Chase Manhattan, one of the six Buckley fund-raising dinner hosts. Champion himself is also named as part of Nixon's "inner circle."

Horace C. Flannigan, former chairman of Manufacturer's Hanover Trust, also sponsored the Buckley rally. He isn't listed as an inner circle man, but the president of his bank is Gabriel Hauge, who is being considered for the Cabinet post of Secretary of the Treasury.

Last June Nixon appointed William H. Morton to the President's Commission on Financial Structure and Regulation. Morton, the president of American Express, helped Champion and Flannigan host the Buckley dinner.

The man who may qualify as top stomach-turner is Elmer Bobst, honorary chairman of the Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Company. The "Vitamin King" was fined pocket money (\$3,000) by a federal court in 1941 for conspiring with German Nazi interests to restrain the import and manufacture of medical hormones. "In addition to his frequent White House visits," wrote the Times, "Mr. Bobst writes to Mr. Nixon, offering to Mr. Nixon his thoughts on economy, on Congress and such other matters as come to his mind." This Nixon-loving pill-pusher was also at the Buckley meeting, looking after his interests.

The list of Nixon's golf-playing friends in the metropolitan area is staggering, like their wealth and power. They were powerful enough to warrant the last-minute arrival of Spiro T.



Agnew who spoke for ten minutes. Everyone knew that while political etiquette prohibited Agnew from openly endorsing Buckley, that's what his appearance did in effect.

Agnew was sent in an obvious political move by the Administration to create Republican defections to the Conservative Buckley. He warned against "obstructionists" who would not support the Nixon Administration. It wasn't necessary to say more to the audience.

In fact, it wasn't necessary for him to do anything but be there.

These pigs, with their small change, raised the funds for Buckley to saturate New York with television commercials for his campaign. After that, it was a mere technicality to wait for the election returns. The results had already been determined.

New York's so-called turn to the right can more accurately be called Nixon's turn to his friends.

**DEMONSTRATE FOR ANGELA DAVIS!**

at final extradition proceedings

10 a.m.

100 Centre Street December 3, 1970

sponsored by the N.Y. Committee to Free Angela Davis

## THANKSGIVING

# A day of mourning for American Indians

By M. Margolies

The chief executive of U.S. imperialism has once again proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. It is supposed to commemorate the Pilgrims' first successful harvest and building of homes after a terrible winter the year before. But there is another way of looking at it—from the point of view of the interests of an oppressed people, the American Indians. And from that point of view, it can be seen as the cynical celebration of deceit, land theft and genocide of the original inhabitants of North America.

One tribe, the Delawares—that is not their name but the name "given" them, that of the British Lord de la Warre—had met Henrik Hudson on the shore in 1609, some years before the Pilgrim landing. They, like all the tribes who met the Europeans, aided and befriended them. Like all the other tribes, they were tricked, robbed and murdered. Their first treaty with the United States (signed in 1778 at Fort Pitt) had said "...the United States guarantee to said nation of Delawares, and their heirs, all their territorial rights in the fullest and most ample manner as bounded by

former treaties."

Despite the promises, the Delawares, as well as other east coast tribes, were robbed and forced further and further westward, but never far enough for the United States. In 1833, the Secretary of War said that "...the country north of the Ohio, east of the Mississippi, including the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and the Territory of Michigan as far as the Fox and Wisconsin rivers..." had been practically "...cleared of the embarrassment of Indian relations."

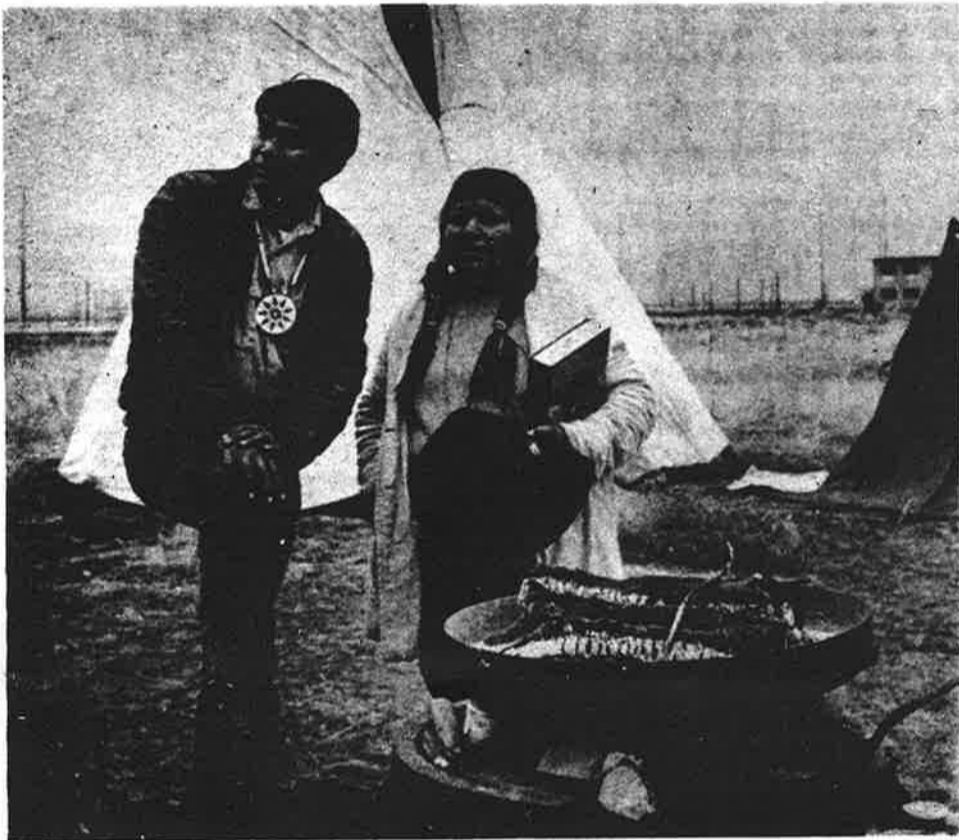
Countless numbers of Indians died on forced marches. There was hunger, disease and no day of Thanksgiving. In the infamous Cherokee Removal, the "Trail of Tears," 4,000 Cherokees died.

Scalping and the taking of souvenir ears or fingers or breasts were commonplace things for U.S. troops as well as other soldiers and colonists throughout North America. In Canada, several Indian villages were wiped out by the "gifts" of military leaders—

the clothes of smallpox victims.

In Mexico, the Governor of Sonora had hired an American trapper, Johnson, for an ounce of gold per scalp, to drive Apaches out of the area. After some Apaches had invited Johnson and his friends to a feast, Johnson fired a mountain howitzer into the midst of squaws, warriors and children seated before the fire. Most of those who lived were picked off by rifle fire.

The Wampanoag tribe was among the first to greet the Pilgrims after their landing. Yet, where in the history books are they mentioned? Nevertheless, they must have suffered and been as oppressed as all the other tribes. They cannot celebrate "Thanksgiving Day." Instead, they have called for that day to be declared a National Day of Mourning. Tall Oak, a spokesman for the Wampanoags, recently said that the holiday should be changed into a "...solemn day of international protest against the longest, unending period of genocide the world has ever known."



Two of 75 Indians who invaded a deserted Army communications center in Davis, California.

By Ellen Pierce

When someone gets badly hurt or sick, the reaction of his or her family or friends is "get him to the hospital!" (It used to be "get a doctor" but doctors rarely bother leaving their offices to go to the sick or injured—even if the patient can afford their bloated fees.) It is comforting to think that once the patient gets to the hospital, doctors and nurses will rush to his or her aid, like they do on TV in "Medical Center" or "The Internes," and everything will be all right.

That may happen in the fantasy hospitals on television and perhaps at expensive private ones, but the story is very different at public hospitals. A report on New York City hospitals published this month charges that "hundreds of preventable deaths annually" are caused by the critical shortage of nurses.

### "Nocturnal death syndrome"

In some city institutions, less than 10 per cent of the nursing positions are filled, and on the average less than 40 per cent of the nursing staff officially authorized in the hospital budget are actually employed. A large number of deaths occur during the night shift, when even fewer nurses are available. This is known as the "nocturnal death syndrome."

Several fatal situations were described in the report prepared by the Society of Urban Physicians.

"A patient in a municipal hospital whose life depends on a respirator may die because his tracheostomy tube accidentally disconnects from the respirator in the absence of a nurse.

"Another may choke to death on his own secretions while a single registered nurse caring for 300 patients is far too busy to notice him, let alone relieve his distress.

"A third patient with a heart attack may develop a fatal disturbance of heart rhythm, which could have been treated, were there a nurse to watch and interpret the pattern on his cardiac monitor."

Reports like this are neither new nor unusual. They seem to come out regularly, and each time the conditions they uncover are worse. While advances in biology and medicine are occurring all the time, the care that actually reaches the people reflects the low priority that health care gets in this society, rather than the high level of scientific knowledge and techniques available.

### Health is for profit

Although hospitals are called "non-profit organizations"

## Black workers protest profits from apartheid

BOSTON—The Polaroid Revolutionary Worker's Movement is a group of Black employees of Polaroid Corporation fighting the involvement of Polaroid with the apartheid regime of South Africa. Their three demands are: 1) that Polaroid announce a policy of complete disengagement from South Africa, 2) that the management meet the entire company and announce its position on apartheid in the U.S. and South Africa simultaneously, 3) that the company donate all its profits from South Africa to the recognized African liberation movement in that country.

Polaroid's image as a "liberal," "equal-rights employer" was shattered when it was discovered that 65 ID-2 systems have been supplied to the South African military and industry since 1967. These systems keep track of Black workers who work in gold and diamond mines under concentration-camp-like conditions. Because of the low wages paid to Black workers, South Africa offers the highest average profits in the world, second only to the Middle Eastern oil fields. Polaroid, as with all big private enterprises, has not hesitated to take advantage of the situation. Polaroid sunglasses

are now manufactured in South Africa.

On October 21, under pressure from the Polaroid Revolutionary Worker's Movement, the company agreed to cut off its sales of ID equipment to South Africa. But the ID sales are a less significant source of profit to Polaroid than the manufacturing of sunglasses in South Africa where Black workers receive an average wage of 30 cents a day! Of course, the sunglasses they make sell for \$7.90, the U.S. price.

Despite Polaroid's "liberal" image, it plays just as corrupt and exploitative role as any other corporation when it comes to lust for profits. Thus, the Polaroid Revolutionary Worker's Movement has called for a total boycott of all Polaroid products until the three demands are met.

The Polaroid Revolutionary Worker's Movement is a clear example of the growing movement in this country of rank-and-file workers to confront the bosses with political issues. We say RIGHT ON! to the brothers and sisters at Polaroid.

— Boston YAWF

the health industry operates just like every other capitalist enterprise—for profit. Drug manufacturers, for example, put brand names on their products and sell them for 10 or 20 times the cost of the compounds used.

The use of electronic devices in hospital procedures is expanding rapidly—and so are both the profits to corporations selling them and the deaths from electrocution due to faulty equipment. According to Dr. Carl Walter, professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, 1,200 such deaths occur every year.

The Wall Street Journal reported on November 16 "...sales of X-ray and other equipment are expected to reach \$560 million this year, up sharply from the \$382 million of 1968. And the growth is just beginning. Some analysts estimate that by 1980 medical electronics will be a \$1.5 billion-a-year market. Already, the field has attracted more than 200 manufacturers, including such major companies as General Electric and Westinghouse.... But problems developed because some of the equipment, turned out in a hurry (to cash in on the boom—ed.), is faulty...."

In addition to the capitalist motive of profit, health care in this country suffers from the medieval way in which doctors are trained. This profession can be entered exclusively by those who can afford the cost of medical school and only after a long apprenticeship. The number of doctors is deliberately kept down and limited almost entirely to well-to-do white males.

### Socializing medicine

Some people call Medicare and other government programs that provide health services "socialized medicine," but these have absolutely nothing to do with socialism (and at times are hardly recognizable as medicine either). Socialized medicine means medical care based on the need of the patient, not the size of his or her wallet. It means hospitals that are institutions for healing, not hierarchies with doctors and administrators on top and miserably paid aides and orderlies on the bottom with no hope of advancement. It means equipment and drugs that are safe and useful, rather than hazardous to the patient but profitable to their manufacturers.

Socialized medicine is not the grudging, minimal care found in clinics and city hospitals, because only a socialist society can provide truly socialized medicine for all the people.

## DEATH IN THE HOSPITALS

# The Pakistan tragedy: Is nature to blame?

By Emily Hanlon

One million dead is the latest estimate of the victims of the 120-mile-per-hour cyclone and 20-foot tidal wave that ripped through East Pakistan, destroying whole villages and submerging whole islands under water. But a large percentage of those one million survived the storm — they died in the days that followed from typhoid, cholera and starvation. And they are still dying.

The U.S. press has been full of the most pitiful stories and photos describing the awful calamity. One relief team visiting a devastated island sent back the children's clothing they had brought with them — no children had survived. Bodies fill the ditches and streams; the air is heavy with the stench of rotting flesh. Survivors wander through the wreckage stunned. Their homes, their families — all their world is gone. Cholera strikes, and the victims die within hours of dehydration and exhaustion.

It is described by some as the worst natural disaster of the century. But is nature really to blame?

Some people did escape. A team of American "aid" officials and representatives of the World Bank took over a concrete building that could withstand the fury of the storm. Few Pakistanis were so "lucky."

The question the press here doesn't ask is: was this horror inevitable, or could most of the casualties have been prevented? Is such widespread death and destruction in this twentieth century a natural disaster, or a monumental crime of social origin?

The Bay of Bengal, which flanks the shores of East Pakistan, is one of the most fertile breeding grounds for tropical cyclones, said to be the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena. There is at least one extremely bad tropical storm a year in the East Pakistan Delta and there have been eight cyclones in the last ten years. In 1961, 10,000 people died and in 1965, 12,000 died from cyclones. In 1737, 300,000 were killed by a cyclone and tidal wave. It was totally predictable that a bad storm

would hit again soon.

Despite this history there was very little preparation or preventative action taken by the Pakistan government. The government rules from West Pakistan, which is separated from the East by 1000 miles of Indian territory. On the island of Manpura, for example, which is no more than 20 feet above sea level at any point, the people had repeatedly asked for sea walls to be built. They never were. And since the only means of communication between Manpura and the outside world was by boat, the people on the island had no warning. Today there is little left of Manpura.

## Humanitarianism or political blackmail

The U.S. has hundreds of thousands of troops equipped with helicopters, swamp boats, food and material of all kinds stationed in Vietnam and Thailand. It was able to move these troops with lightning speed into Cambodia; its planes have delivered more bombs over Vietnam than were dropped in all Europe during World War II; satellites circle the earth hourly radioing back information on weather conditions, etc.

Imperialism can do all this to oppress the people. But it has barely moved a finger to help or warn the people of Pakistan — only its own officials.

History has shown over and over that the imperialists will only introduce technology to an underdeveloped country, build large irrigation projects, sea walls or dikes when it is to their economic advantage. Vulnerability to catastrophes keeps the oppressed nations dependent on imperialism. In times of national disaster, aid and relief can be withheld as a form of political blackmail. (The U.S. just did this in Peru after a major earthquake.)

Yahya Khan, the President of Pakistan, rules through a military dictatorship. Although the U.S. has significant influence through the World Bank, and supported Khan in the face of a revolution, Pakistan is not the tool U.S. imperialism would

like it to be. Pakistan recently signed an economic treaty with People's China and has long been opposed to the Vietnam War. Nixon clearly hopes to put pressure on Khan by holding back aid.

On the other hand, the Pakistan government has not been too quick to move into the East with relief supplies. In fact, it was only after harsh criticism and demonstrations in the streets of Dacca, the capital of East Pakistan, that President Yahya Khan declared East Pakistan a "calamity area."

## East and West Pakistan

### are two different nations

East and West Pakistan are in reality two nations, artificially pieced together in 1947 by the British at the time of Indian independence. The two Pakistans have strikingly different national, religious cultural and economic ties. East Pakistan is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. It is slightly larger than the state of Arkansas and has a population of 72 million — more than 60% of the total population of both Pakistans, although the West is almost seven times as large.

All the wealth, industry and power however, lie in the West, which has been heavily financed by Western capital. The East is primarily peasant, with the land suited mostly for rice. East Pakistan cannot, however, even supply her own people with enough rice. In February and March of 1969, the workers, peasants and students rose up demanding national autonomy. For a short time the country was in the hands of the people, with hundreds of police and landlords executed and the rest in hiding. General strikes finally reached the West in March. Ayub Khan backed by the U.S. turned the power over to the military. The heroic rebellion in the East was viciously crushed.

## Underdeveloped nations

### at the mercy of nature

Pre-revolutionary China was economically very much like East Pakistan is today. In China, too, human life was the cheapest commodity to the imperialists, foreign investors and the collaborating landlord class. If a million people died a year in China due to storms, floods, drought or disease, it didn't particularly stir the humanitarian instincts of the oppressors. It was not until after the revolution that the land and natural resources of China were literally rebuilt, often by hand, rock by rock, until nature corresponded to the needs of the people as far as was technologically possible.

The East Pakistan people are an oppressed nation and their fight is truly one of national liberation. The people of East Pakistan will never see their land ready to withstand the fury of a cyclone until they liberate their country and like the Chinese, rebuilt it and remould it themselves, so that they are no longer at the mercy of nature, the West Pakistani ruling class or the U.S.-dominated World Bank.

# Women march for abortion repeal; support miners' widows

CHICAGO—Over two hundred people, mostly women, gathered in Chicago's Civic Center to hear various speakers on the subject of abortion repeal November 20. The rally was called by TRIAL, Total Repeal of Illinois Abortion Laws. YAWF Women were present with two banners saying, "Free Abortion on Demand, No Forced Sterilizations" and "Sisters, Unite and Fight," and several leaflets.

One leaflet in particular asked the sisters at the rally to join YAWF Women in a march to the midwest offices of Consolidation Coal Company where YAWF was calling for a demonstration to commemorate the murder of 78 miners in Farmington, West Virginia, two years ago. The miners' widows had called for a national day of solidarity on November 20. The leaflet distributed by YAWF Women appealed to women who were fighting for abortion repeal to show solidarity with miners' wives who are struggling every day for survival.

A TRIAL speaker announced that the rally would be marching to the American Medical Association office. A YAWF sister, Marina Sertic, was able to address the rally and she outlined the connection for women between the fight for free and safe abortions and the

everyday struggle of miners and their wives to stay alive. "These two struggles are against the same enemy, U.S. imperialism, but on different fronts," she said.

The rally then proceeded to march, chanting, with YAWF Women's banners in the lead to the American Medical Association. After an AMA spokesman refused to meet with the angry sisters, a brief picketline was held in front of the entrance. As the picketline was breaking up, YAWF Women unfurled another banner which read, "Support Miners' Widows—Stop Industrial Murder." A YAWF sister again appealed to sisters to join them in a march to Consolidation Coal Company.

About 10 women and one man joined and began a spirited march about eight blocks to the John Hancock Building, which houses the midwest offices of Consolidation Coal. The marchers chanted loudly, "Miners wives fight for their lives—solidarity with our sisters" and "Remember the Farmington 78—Stop industrial murder."

A militant picketline was set up. The line continued for about three-quarters of an hour and due to extremely cold temperatures and

terrific winds, the demonstration broke up for a brief rally.

Lotta DeWitt, a woman from Milwaukee who is on the staff of a militant trade union newspaper, The Union Activist, spoke on the treacherous working conditions that exist in all industry. She emphasized the need to build unity, so that when mine disasters such as the one that occurred in Farmington, West Virginia happen, there will be massive solidarity wildcat strikes.

Mary Jo Wuetrich spoke as a member of Local 484, Hotel and Restaurant employees. A veteran of the Venceremos Brigade, she discussed the dreadful living conditions that are imposed on the wives and families of miners. She also mentioned that Consolidation Coal is a subsidiary of Continental Oil Company which has huge oil holdings in the Middle East and she emphasized that these same widows' sons might have to go and die in the Middle East to protect these oil interests.

Marina Sertic, representing YAWF Women, was the last speaker. She emphasized that the enemy is imperialism and that fact necessarily links all progressive struggles in this country, from the fight for abortion to solidarity with the miners' widows.



Pakistani victims  
of 'natural' disaster.

(Continued from page 5)

to the hospital where they took x-rays, and he looked at all the pictures and said well, there it is right there, and there, and there, and you're in a jam.

Because what had happened was the breaks had started to separate, calcium had started a deposit in there, and they are having a hell of a time getting the calcium out now. The doctor that's treating me now, his contention is that I will never be able to lift anything really heavy again without getting an immediate reactive pain, and there's a possibility that they'll have to operate, and when they do it's going to limit the mobility of my head. But more important is the fact that when you come right down to it, there is a very good possibility that they've taken away my source of income for the rest of my life.

And dig this. This is really the frosting on the cake. Immediately after something like this happens,

if it's a factory-connected injury, they are supposed to start paying you disability compensation or group insurance, or one of the two. But Ford said to me, "We're not paying you a cent because we're going to have to investigate on whether or not it was an industrial accident."

It happened in the plant! It happened on your property, and you're trying to tell me you don't know if it's an industrial accident? But that was their contention. No bread until such time as we can determine exactly what the story is on this or whether you're bullshitting or not.

They still haven't put any screening up. Any of these big companies, it's cheaper to pay the individual cat that gets fucked up than it is to spend a lot of bread trying to make a safe factory. There is no such thing as a safe factory. That's a given. You could tell a hundred thousand stories about any factory in this country...

# —Injured Ford worker



# Gov't plans camps for political prisoners

The unprecedented growth of a prison proletariat that is literally tearing down the walls of oppression is reflective of, and directly proportionate to, the increase in the repressive measures, "legal" and extra-legal, being taken against, and planned for, the American working masses and oppressed minorities by a frantic, fascist government. Unable to camouflage the rising tide of economic depression and deteriorating environment, the Congress has hurriedly passed (and King Nixon even more rapidly signed) the Anticrime Act of 1970.

This law features a "no-knock" provision and "dangerous special offenders" section which authorizes Federal Judges, on the basis of a hearing rather than on the basis of a jury trial, to impose an additional sentence of up to 25 years. This would supposedly affect those defendants who have previously been convicted of two felonies, whose criminal offense was part of a "pattern of criminal conduct" or whose crime was part of a conspiracy to engage in a pattern of criminal conduct, according to the New York Times, October 13. The bill, however, is clearly aimed at Black liberation fighters and white revolutionaries.

This "writing of fascism into law" is being complemented in the streets by the extra-legal, government-condoned and-sponsored, terrorizing activity of on-and-off duty cops and vigilante groups such as the American Nazi Party, the Legion of Justice, Vietnam Veterans Association and the Cairo White-Hats, to name but a few.

Having built its pyramid of power on the cornerstones of prison walls, the American government is belatedly planning to cement and seal the gaping fissures made by the prison proletariat in an effort to forestall the rapidly approaching and inevitable collapse of capitalism.

The new "dogrom" has its origin in the crucible of experience. James V. Bennett, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and a Dr. (Strangelove) Schein have been recorded as follows:

Bennett: "Well, the prisons have been filled with such groups at different times. During the war (WW II) we struggled with the conscientious objectors — non-violent coercionists — and believe me, that was really a problem. Every day they got together as a group and put sand in the grease boxes and refused to eat and went on hunger strikes and agitated, etc., and we were always trying to find some way in which we could change or manipulate their environment. Dr. Schein, do you have a technique to change any of these fellows?"

Schein: "I'm just wondering whether we have a talent as a country of being unable to handle these kinds of situations. Of course, what I'm thinking of is the Kogi incident in Korea, with our handling of Communist prisoners whereby, failing to isolate and segregate the Communist agitators, we suc-

ceeded not only in having a whole bunch of real bad prison riots on our hands, but as you will recall, in having an American general captured by the prisoners. I think there is no question about the fact that the prison camp was naively handled, that recognizing the aims of the Communists and knowing something about their techniques of organization should have made us feel perfectly free about going in there and hauling out every single one of them that we could find and isolating him from the rest of the prison groups.

"Somehow we failed to do this, probably because we had some doubts about whether this was legitimate, or perhaps we weren't strong enough at the time to do it, but the consequences were certainly serious. I think in that situation, as far as I can see, the ethics were clear — when a group really is arrayed against you and you allow it the means of organizing itself and subverting all your goals, there is no question in my mind but that you have to take physical action, in the sense of pulling out the leaders, just as the Communists pulled out the leaders from our own prisoner groups and isolated them from the rest of the group."

Thus, the threat of new concentration camps is in the air and the unavoidable dialectic in light of the economic crisis, the environmental devastation, increased repression, overcrowded and disassembling prisons, the Canadian precedent and the recent comments and exposure of "unpublicized meetings." Supreme Court Justice Douglas publicly suggested the other day that the concentration camp section of the McCarran Act be declared unconstitutional. And a caseworker at the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary remarked to a political offender that he would probably be better off in a specially created camp rather than there. And the Concerned Black Draft Counselors reported in Muhammed Speaks (October 23, 1970) the occurrence of secret meetings between the Selective Service and white "peace" and church organizations. The topic of discussion, it seems, centered around the creation of "orientation camps" for C.O.s who were unable to find suitable alternative service which, it was correctly pointed out, would mean that these camps would be filled with oppressed peoples.

This attempt to sneak a "final solution" in the back door through the Selective Service branch of government and cowardly complicity of certain racist and opportunistic "peace" groups will not go unopposed and can only lead to strengthening the determination of the masses to swiftly finish off the process of capitalist decay and bury the giant side by side with the broken bones of whip-slavery and feudalism.

Sean Cashin  
Nov. 3, 1970  
Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary

organized, both militarily and politically and with such a sure feeling for the response of his fellow creatures in his class. Even the reference to the dress of the slave children, which today would be patronizing, was at that time sure to arouse genuine sympathy and deep feelings of revolutionary protest among the free farmer class in the North.

And as for the religious vein of his remarks — his well-known "messianism" — it must be noted that every single white farm family was saturated in this very same tradition. Millions of them who had no individual interest in getting western land, but were already swept up in the opposition to the slavemasters, now found their own anger at Black slavery welling up in their blood with a passion they could not deny, and expressed in the very same Biblical words as Brown's.

"The raid aroused and directed the conscience of the nation," says DuBois. "Strange it was to watch its work. Some, impulsive, eager to justify themselves, rushed into print (to condemn Brown)... Then came an ominous silence in the land while his voice, in his own defense, was heard over the whole country. A great surging throb of sympathy arose and swept the world."

Emerson, who lived in Concord, Massachusetts, in the midst of small farmers, said that Brown had "made the gallows glorious like the Cross." In Brown's home state of Ohio, the people strung giant banners across the streets with his last quotations on them, particularly this one:

"I cannot now better serve the cause I love so much than to die for it."

## Two betrayed classes

The Civil War did not really free the slaves, as we all know. But it also did not really give land to the poor whites who were seeking it. The capitalist mining, timber and ranching interests got the west.

The great alliance of the Northern whites and rebelling Blacks who fought the war was betrayed by the big capitalists, who at first only half-betrayed the white farmer class, but finally destroyed them utterly. And the capitalists made a monstrous deal with the plantation owners after a decade of Reconstruction and relative Black Freedom, a deal that meant the virtual re-enslavement of the Black people.

Forgotten was the division of the plantations for "40 acres and two mules"; betrayed was the 14th Amendment; and swindled were the majority of whites

who expected western land.

But today the old classes have disappeared. The descendants of the Black slaves and the white farming class who did the fighting are no longer farmers, either tenant or owner. They are all proletarians, all landless, but with the colonialism of slavery reproduced within this proletariat.

The big question for us today is not how to create men and women as brave as John Brown. There are always such men and women. (Some of them have already taken to the field and already given their lives.) The question is: where is that class to whom their sacrifice is to appeal as did the sacrifice of John Brown?

If the hundreds of thousands and the millions could do what they did in those days regardless of betrayals and disasters, can the present male and female John Browns of Black self-determination not find their responding millions to fight together with them in our day?

They can, and not only among the Black people. There is a class whose objective interest now lies in the forcible overthrow of the capitalist system, in the elimination of racism and in the creation of a true social, political and economic equality for all. That is the Black and white working class.

## John Brown's victory

It is with this class, in spite of all pessimism about it, in spite of all cynicism and all misleadership, that the great new alliance will be forged, as with the poor farmers of old. This is going to be a slower and tougher alliance. But it has this great advantage over the old one: that the enemy against whom it will be directed is the same one who was the betraying leader of the old struggle: the U.S. capitalist class, now more treacherous than ever, but historically weaker, and now clearly marked as The Enemy.

Newer John Browns will arise, Black and white, to undertake the leadership of the working class and to guide the alliance. Both the interests and the idealism of millions will converge in fighting a Second Civil War, this time a revolutionary and successful one, which will also be the continuation of what John Brown and his Black and white companions began with such Promethean optimism, even though they could but dimly perceive the final goal.

## — John Brown

(Continued from page 12)

deemed it an act worthy of reward rather than punishment.

"This court acknowledges, as I suppose, the validity of the law of God. I see a book kissed here which I suppose to be the Bible, or at least the New Testament. That teaches me that all things whatsoever I would that men should do to me, I should do even so to them. It teaches me further, to 'remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them.' I endeavored to act up to that instruction. I say, I am yet too young to understand that God is any respecter of persons. I believe that to have interfered as I have done — in behalf of His despised poor, was not wrong, but right. Now, if it is deemed necessary that I should forfeit my life for the furtherance of the ends of justice, and mingle my blood further with the blood of my children and with the blood of millions in this slave country whose rights are disregarded by wicked, cruel and unjust enactments — I submit; so let it be done!"

## Love and revolution

These words came from deep within his heart. But every one of them was objectively calculated to arouse the passions of the men and women of his class in the North — and subjectively calculated, too. Even his death itself was such a calculation. (There is evidence that elements in the Virginia ruling class were willing to arrange a getaway for Brown before the trial; but he would not hear of it.)

"My love to all who love their neighbors," he wrote in one of his final letters. "I have asked to be spared from having any weak or hypocritical prayers made over me when I am publicly murdered, and that my only religious attendants be poor little dirty, ragged, bareheaded, and barefooted slave boys and girls, led by some gray-headed slave mother. Farewell! Farewell!"

Never was a "deranged" man so consummately

# On the organizing

## Philadelphia

### Pig Rizzo gets "Zionist award"

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 22—Frank Rizzo, the super-racist Chief of Police and mayoral candidate in this "city of brotherly love," was honored at a dinner here this evening by Histadrut, the Zionist "labor" organization, which is naming a youth center in Israel after Rizzo.

A demonstration called to protest this event brought a wide variety of anti-Rizzo people into the streets, but many of them refused to see the ties that link a fascist like him to the Zionist group.

A group of militants, centered around the Philadelphia Free Press collective and Youth Against War & Fascism, pointed out that the Israeli state is a tool of imperialism in the Middle East rather than a haven for oppressed Jews. "Fascist Rizzo—Zionist Hero," said one banner. On another the letter Z in Rizzo was twisted into a swastika. They chanted "Avenge Harold Brown, Avenge Paul Frankenhauser, stop Rizzo now," (Brown and Frankenhauser were murdered by Rizzo's pigs) and "Stop the war, off the pigs."

When slogans about the Mideast were raised, however, a group of "Radical" Zionists on the demonstration started chants like, "Israel yes, Rizzo no." The militants would counter with "Jewish people yes, Israel no." And others in the crowd, seeking to keep it a "single issue" action, chanted "We hate Rizzo, fuck the Mideast." They apparently felt that ignoring the struggle of 100 million oppressed Arabs would solve the whole thing.

Next to the several hundred anti-Rizzo demonstrators marched a group of about 30 members of the pro-fascist Jewish Defense League, waving a huge American flag and a smaller Israeli one. They were counterpicketing to support their racist friend Rizzo.

After demonstrating across from the Bellevue Stratford Hotel for almost an hour, the people began to march to a nearby church for a rally. As the pro-Palestinian militants passed the Zionists, verbal hostilities broke out. At this point, two JDL'ers attacked Pam Meyers, who was carrying a YAWF banner. Hitting her in the face with sticks, they drove several pieces of glass from her eyeglasses into one eye. A brief but furious fight broke out. Although the two pigs who attacked Pam were taken out of the area by uniformed cops, saving them from the anger of the crowd, they apparently were not charged with anything. Pam was taken to the hospital by a number of her comrades and has had two operations on her eye. She may lose some peripheral vision as a result.

At the church, the Free Press collective's Stop Rizzo banner formed the backdrop on the stage where speakers from the Black and Puerto Rican communities of Philadelphia described some of the injustices and brutality they have received from Rizzo's pigs. One Black man, who had refused to show a cop his driver's license without an explanation, had his house surrounded by police, was shot and then beaten with a blackjack by Rizzo himself as he lay wounded and handcuffed.

Bill Biggins from the Free Press told the meeting about the vicious attack on Pam, stressing the need for revolutionary action. But when Roger Taus, also of the Free Press collective, began to rap about Palestine, he was cut off by the Zionists.

Tonight's demonstration was the first held in the police city of Philadelphia since September, when the Black Panther Party held its Constitutional Convention here in spite of Rizzo's efforts to terrorize the Panthers and their supporters.

## Milwaukee

### Quebec demo confronts Canadian MP

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 19—Approximately 50 people held a rally and demonstration in front of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Fine Arts Building this afternoon in support of the Front for the Liberation of Quebec (FLQ) and protesting the presence of four Canadian representatives at a special institute on Canada sponsored by the UWM Institute of World Affairs Extension. At one point the demonstrators had a verbal confrontation with John Roberts, a member of Prime Minister Trudeau's Liberal Party in Parliament, who voted for the fascist War Measures Act.

The demonstrators demanded to know how the government justified the arrest of hundreds of progressive people in Quebec and why independence was not granted to the French-speaking Quebecois. Roberts refused to answer and left hurriedly as the demonstrators

chanted "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh, the FLQ is gonna win!" The demonstration was called by the John Brown Revolutionary Brigade, a campus group of revolutionaries which is building an anti-imperialist movement at UWM.

There was a short rally at which Jim Miller of Youth Against War & Fascism spoke on the nature of the FLQ and its relation to the revolutionary movements around the world, from Uruguay and Vietnam to Palestine, and on how fascism in Canada is the same as the continuous war going on against Black, Brown and Red communities in America. Michael Kaplan of Revolutionary Youth Movement spoke on U.S. imperialist control of Canada itself and the super-oppression of the Quebecois. The demonstrators carried a banner saying, "Free Quebec! Long live the FLQ! Smash fascism!"

Milwaukee YAWF

## Milwaukee

### YAWF protests police shoot-up of Latin center

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 16—A militant demonstration took place yesterday afternoon in front of the Safety Building, which houses the main police station in Milwaukee. The action was called by Milwaukee YAWF to protest the police shoot-up of the Latin American Union for Civil Rights and the increased harassment in the Latin community by Milwaukee detectives.

The two pigs responsible for this, Robert "Babyface" Cole and Procopio Sandoval (he was one of three pigs who murdered Youth International Party member Randy Anderson last summer during an alleged firebombing) were present during the action.

The demonstrators carried signs and chanted such slogans as "Stop racist pig attacks in the Brown community!" "Avenge Randy Anderson!" "Arm the people, disarm the pigs!" and "People's Justice for the pigs, off Sandoval and Cole." This latter chant infuriated the two pigs so much, that Cole got out of his car and walked

right into the line, arresting Hollis Stewart, a militant worker in the Spanish Center and supporter of many Latin struggles.

Stewart's arrest was a clear attempt to intimidate radical people who work in the Latin community. The pigs kicked Stewart as they took him into the station in order to try and provoke him. He was forced to pay a \$25 fine in court today.

The people reacted to this arrest by chanting "Free Hollis, jail Cole!" "Up against the wall, Cole and Sandoval!" and "We want Cole with a rope around his neck!" The demonstration ended with Jim Miller, chairman of Milwaukee YAWF, giving a short speech "thanking" the pigs for showing up and "protecting" the constitutional rights of the demonstrators, especially the guest appearance of star pigs Sandoval and Cole. He warned that the people would not let these types of police attacks continue in the Latin community.

Milwaukee YAWF

## Seattle

### Marchers protest massive Boeing lay-offs

SEATTLE, Nov. 5—The Union of the Unemployed marched on Boeing today to demand that the giant company rehire the 60,000 workers laid off by Boeing in the last year. The Union of the Unemployed had built the march under the slogan that Boeing should reconvert their plants to produce rapid transit and low cost housing.

The organizers of the march failed to say anything about the needs of Boeing workers nor did they mention the fact that Boeing and every other corporation exploits workers for their own profit regardless of what they happen to produce.

Seattle YAWF took part in the march

because it was important to show Boeing that the people of Seattle know that Boeing is directly responsible for the current depression in the Seattle area. YAWF wrote a leaflet pointing out that only by workers seizing control of Boeing and all the rest of the monopolies, will the problems of the war economy and unemployment be solved.

The 200 marchers ended the demonstration with a rally at the Boeing executive offices. A smaller contingent went to the employment office to apply for jobs but were denied entrance.

Seattle YAWF



# front

## Cleveland

### All-worker jury acquits Ted Dostal of anti-Wallace demo charges

CLEVELAND, Nov. 24—Ted Dostal, a militant unionist for over 30 years, was found not guilty today of the charge of assault and battery on a police officer by a jury of nine women and three men, of whom six were Black and one Puerto Rican. All were workers.

He was arrested on October 5, 1968 when Presidential candidate George Wallace appeared in Cleveland with his racist, fascist, pro-war, anti-working class propaganda. Well over 800 protesters lined the hall and streets around the public auditorium. The police were whipped into a club-wielding charge against the militant demonstrators. Many of the protesters were injured, several detained, and two charged; Mr. Dostal was the first to be tried. He was charged with an Ohio anti-riot law which is also being used against the students at Kent State.

#### A jury of peers

Mr. Dostal attributed this "small victory" against current repression of those fighters on behalf of the oppressed to the working class character of the jury. "This jury, composed of lower income workers, to a great degree reflected the thinking of the broad community. And these people are not accepting the hysteria of the law and order forces. These workers know the role of the police; they could understand and identify with me and those who spoke on my behalf and with those who came to court with me daily, including students and steelworkers on their days off. They understood my participation for over 30 years in the many anti-racist, pro-Black struggles. They understood because of their day-to-day contact in the plant, my 25 years of union activities and my efforts as a grievance man. Strong class feelings and solidarity spoke louder than all the rest of the minor technicalities of the trial.

"This victory against the 'law and order' fascist-minded police is a victory for the whole movement and will help in a small way to bring more victories in the future."

The jury sat through seven days of trial. The case against Mr. Dostal consisted of three white police who had worked together for several years. However, it took these three cops two months to concoct this story and two years to name the assaulted cop.

Witnesses on Mr. Dostal's behalf included a three-year law student and a Black assistant reporter assigned during the demonstration to assist in reporting the crowd response.

These two eyewitnesses gave concurring accounts of the police charge. This police

violence was further documented by newsfilm from both a local TV station and CBS. In addition, four character witnesses described the history of Ted Dostal who has taken part in all the major movements of the oppressed. Among these witnesses was Al Shipka, assistant District Director of the Youngstown Steelworkers Union who outlined Ted's 26 years in the union. Ted was among those who built the union, was the first to break down job discrimination, and won surplus food for unemployed workers. Walter Hogan, a Black 71-year-old retired steelworker told of his early picketing and boycotting of Woolworth's in support of the southern sit-in for dignity and equality. When Mr. Hogan was repeatedly asked why don't you want to hurt Mr. Dostal, he answered firmly, "He is my friend and a good man that always helped."

Geraldine Roberts, chairwoman and founder of the Domestic Workers Union, with whom Mr. Dostal is currently associated, told her impression of Mr. Dostal as a humble, knowledgeable, militant friend of the oppressed.

#### Witnesses stood fast

Dr. Gluck, a psychiatrist with whom Mr. Dostal has worked in the anti-war movement, described Ted as a militant fighter for his beliefs.

The prosecution jumped all over the words "militant fighter," but it became clear to the jurors that the doctor felt if one wouldn't defend a belief then the belief is worth little.

Often these witnesses were badgered by the prosecution or cut off by the court when it became obvious that their words had an impact on the jurors. After the verdict of not guilty, the jurors filed past the defendant shaking hands and exchanging hugs and slaps on the back. They made it known that the verdict was unanimous on the first ballot after two hours of deliberation. In the halls of the old dark court building the jurors exchanged impressions with the defendant's supporters.

#### After acquittal, a handshake

The only Puerto Rican male on the jury approached a bearded young man and smiled as he said, "I know you, you show the film to the kids in my neighborhood." The juror was a father of ten and a Ford worker. Number two juror, a young Black farm worker, said, "Just as the prosecution said, the decision wasn't hard at all." Number eight, a blond worker laid off since

June after 17 years on the job, just said, "God bless you." Number twelve juror, a woman electric welder at GE, stood on her tiptoes to reach to the cheek of the tall defendant and plant a kiss of solidarity. Number six juror, a Black man who 20 years ago did four months for assault and battery, said, "They put innocent

people in jail all the time, I like the power to find reasonable doubt." Number one juror, the Black male jury foreman, said, "Don't let them stop you, keep up the fight."

Ted Dostal, the defendant, answered him with his thick firm handshake, "Have no fear, we'll carry on."

## Buffalo

### Youth aid cabbies' strike

BUFFALO—At 4 a.m., November 18. in the cold and darkness, members of the Teamster Student Organizing Committee joined together with the striking cabbies from Teamster Local 264 and drivers from the Yellow Cab Company to surround the Yellow Cab Garage with a militant picket line.

About 100 pickets marched from the parking lot to the garage to force Charles Montana, who owns 75 per cent of the cab industry (Van Dyke, Yellow Cab and Madison), to recognize the just demands of the striking Teamster Local 264. Called as a work stoppage by the Yellow Cab drivers, the unity of students, young workers and older drivers was high as they carried picket signs reading, "Yellow Cab is unfair to drivers who join Teamsters Local 264," and chanted, "Free Jimmy Hoffa, Free Bobby Seale; get the scabs out from behind the wheel."

The strike began in January 1970, when the drivers and mechanics who are members of Local 264 completely shut down Van Dyke Cab in an attempt to change their miserable working conditions. Workers put in a sixty-hour week to try to make a living wage for their families. Out of this, they have to pay for the operating costs of the machines they drive. They receive no holiday and week-end premiums, no differential for working nights, no vacation pay and no pension plan. And Montana has refused to negotiate. He is out to break the union.

The drivers at Yellow Cab will no longer allow themselves to be used against the strikers from Van Dyke. Since the war has been declared on Yellow Cabs, Montana is getting very uptight. He is constantly hanging around the picket line now and has some uniformed lackeys from the local pig department guarding his property. The war is being waged on many fronts and his pockets will be hurting more and more until he surrenders. He will be forced to recognize the

demands of the workers at Van Dyke and also those at Yellow.

#### The right to organize

A struggle that was won in many other industries over 30 years ago is just now happening in the taxicab industry in Buffalo. The workers are demanding from Montana that he pay for gas and repairs on the cars, hospitalization, pensions, holidays, shift differential and a higher rate of commission. They have never received any of these benefits, not to mention that they have no guarantee of their work. In forming the union they will win the rights they deserve, and take control of their jobs.

Because of the demoralizing conditions that these women and men have been forced to work under, it has taken a long time for the drivers from both companies to come together. This unity is due to the fruitful efforts of a newly formed committee called the Teamster-Student Organizing Committee (TSOC). Robert Smith, President of Teamster Council and Business Agent Local 264, has welcomed and encouraged this support from the students and young people.

The TSOC is a coalition of striking Teamsters from Van Dyke, drivers from Yellow and other organizations, including Buffalo Youth Against War & Fascism which committed their members to fight against Montana in the interests of: the Van Dyke strikers who want their jobs back; the Yellow drivers who have the same inhumane working conditions as Van Dyke; and all the taxicab workers in this city who have the right to organize to have a voice in their work.

Our unconditional support goes to the workers struggling at Van Dyke and Yellow Cab companies. The amazingly bold struggle against Charlie Montana's near monopoly of their industry will be victorious because of their strength in unity.

Buffalo Youth Against War & Fascism

housing, but for salaries to bureaucrats and subsidies to Dupont-controlled companies to finance the erecting of shiny new office buildings.

Of the \$500,000 going to the model cities program, for instance, over \$300,000 is allocated just to bureaucrats' salaries, the rest going to planning, legal fees and administration rakeoffs. Meanwhile, not one family unit of low income housing has been erected in the two years of model cities existence in Wilmington.

The Duponts responded to the Young Lords' peaceful occupation with a violent attack by 40 armed, club-swinging police, personally led by Mayor Harry Haskell himself. Many Lords were forcibly "subdued," some sustaining injuries and Haskell had two youths arrested. Allan C. Rustin, a former Dupont executive and presently running the city as Haskell's personal aide, widely proclaimed that he had been held hostage during the negotiations. The facts later revealed that this was only an attempt to justify Mayor Haskell's unprovoked police attack.

Haskell, the son of a Dupont director, and himself a director of the Dupont family's holding bank, Wilmington Trust Company, wanted to weaken the negotiating position of the Young Lords by forcing an end to their occupation. As his fantasies of roughriding were dancing in his head, Haskell personally lead the police charge with bellows of, "What the hell is going on here?"

#### YAWF, FIST demonstrate for YLP

On Thursday night, Youth Against War & Fascism and Wilmington's FIST (Fight Im-

perialism, Seize the Town) Collective asked that same question of "Dupont Harry," issuing a press release expressing their solidarity with the Young Lords and "putting the Mayor on notice that the people of Wilmington will no longer stand by while our Black and Puerto Rican brothers and sisters are oppressed." Thousands of leaflets exposing the Dupont's urban renewal program where given out at Wilmington's high schools.

That night, YAWF and FIST tried to reach out to Wilmington's white collar workers getting off work with a militant demonstration in front of Haskell's office in City Hall. Chants of "Hands off the Young Lords, housing for the people," "The Duponts live in mansions, the people get evicted," "Dupont rule has got to go" and "Haskell must go" echoed against Dupont skyscrapers as militant demonstrators turned out despite the heavy downpour.

The same morning, the Young Lords had secured the services of L. Coleman Dorsey, advising attorney for the U.S. Commission on Human Rights in Wilmington to bring suit against Haskell's government for federal violations of the equal housing laws. Dorsey admitted that "there might well be violations" in regard to Wilmington residents getting poorer treatment than residents in other model cities areas. Late that afternoon, Haskell responded by having police arrest two leaders of the Young Lords, supposedly in connection with Wednesday's occupation of the Urban Renewal Office.

Wilmington YAWF

## Wilmington

### YLP occupy housing office; YAWF and FIST back them up

WILMINGTON—Not since the 1968 Black rebellion has the ruling Dupont family been so scared of the anger of the people of Wilmington, Delaware. Since that year, when the nine-month National Guard occupation began, Wilmington has increased its police force three-fold in order to crush any attempt by the people to resist Dupont control and domination.

During the week of November 16, the Puerto Rican community, led by the Young Lords Party, mounted a strong protest over the city government's urban renewal program. On Wednesday night, November 18, the Young Lords occupied the office of Mayor Harry Haskell's Wilmington Housing Authority to back up their demands for better housing and children's playgrounds. Even the heads of the neighborhood association had to admit that every demand was justified.

The Young Lords were demanding: 1) that the badly cracked cement of an unsafe playground be fixed immediately 2) that at least one block of housing be remodeled for neighborhood residents 3) that reporters be allowed to interview people in poorly repaired houses 4) that relocation of families be reviewed by neigh-

borhood associations 5) that the U.S. Civil Rights Commission investigate whether the human rights of citizens have been violated because of poor housing conditions 6) that less money be spent on planning and more on doing, "on housing and drug problems" 7) that everything done be reviewed by the neighborhood associations.

For years complaints by desperate residents about slumlords who have allowed houses to deteriorate have merely been channeled into the city's Westside Conservation Association, headed by Leon Weiner, himself a slumlord. Predictably, most complaints have been ignored.

#### Black and Puerto Rican removal

Instead, "Dupont city" responded to housing needs with an urban renewal project which is, in effect, Black and Puerto Rican "removal." Black and Puerto Rican families are being pushed out of their homes to make way for a new business complex that will enrich no one but the Duponts and their corporations and banks. Most of the federal money going into Wilmington's urban renewal is not for new or rehabilitated

# 111th anniversary of John Brown's hanging

By Vincent Copeland

When John Brown was hanged by the slave state of Virginia on December 2, 1859, he proved something more than his own willingness "to lay down his life for that of a friend" as he himself, trained in Bible lore from infancy, might have put the matter. He proved that there are people of the white race who have a deep feeling and a close interest with the Black people.

This feeling and this interest, however, are nearly always understood as personal, emotional or religious, rather than as the feeling and interest of a social class brought to a pitch in the heroism of an individual.

This same feeling and interest were expressed in the ensuing years after Brown's death by millions of young men in the Civil War and the millions of men and women, old and young, who supported them. Brown's passion was thus duplicated on hundreds of battlefields.

It was the great Black historian, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, who first made the profound observation that John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry was actually the first battle of the Civil War. And he showed in his biography of the martyred leader just exactly why this was true.

It would not have occurred to DuBois to add to this estimate that if John Brown's act was the beginning of the Civil War, then the Civil War was also the continuation of John Brown's raid, the deepening of John Brown's struggle.

The reason it would not have occurred to him was that the Civil War was in his day automatically assumed to have been progressive and anti-slavery. The racists and the liberal racists unanimously condemned the war as evil or "unnecessary." And the revolutionaries took it for granted that it had accomplished at least some of its anti-slavery objectives.

## Brown not alone

DuBois' task was to rescue the reputation of John Brown from those who said he was a putschist or a madman. He didn't think he had to justify the Civil War.

But today, everything is being re-examined and in the light of 100 years of racism, segregation and lynching, revolutionaries have an understandable tendency to dismiss the whole Civil War as something of a fake.

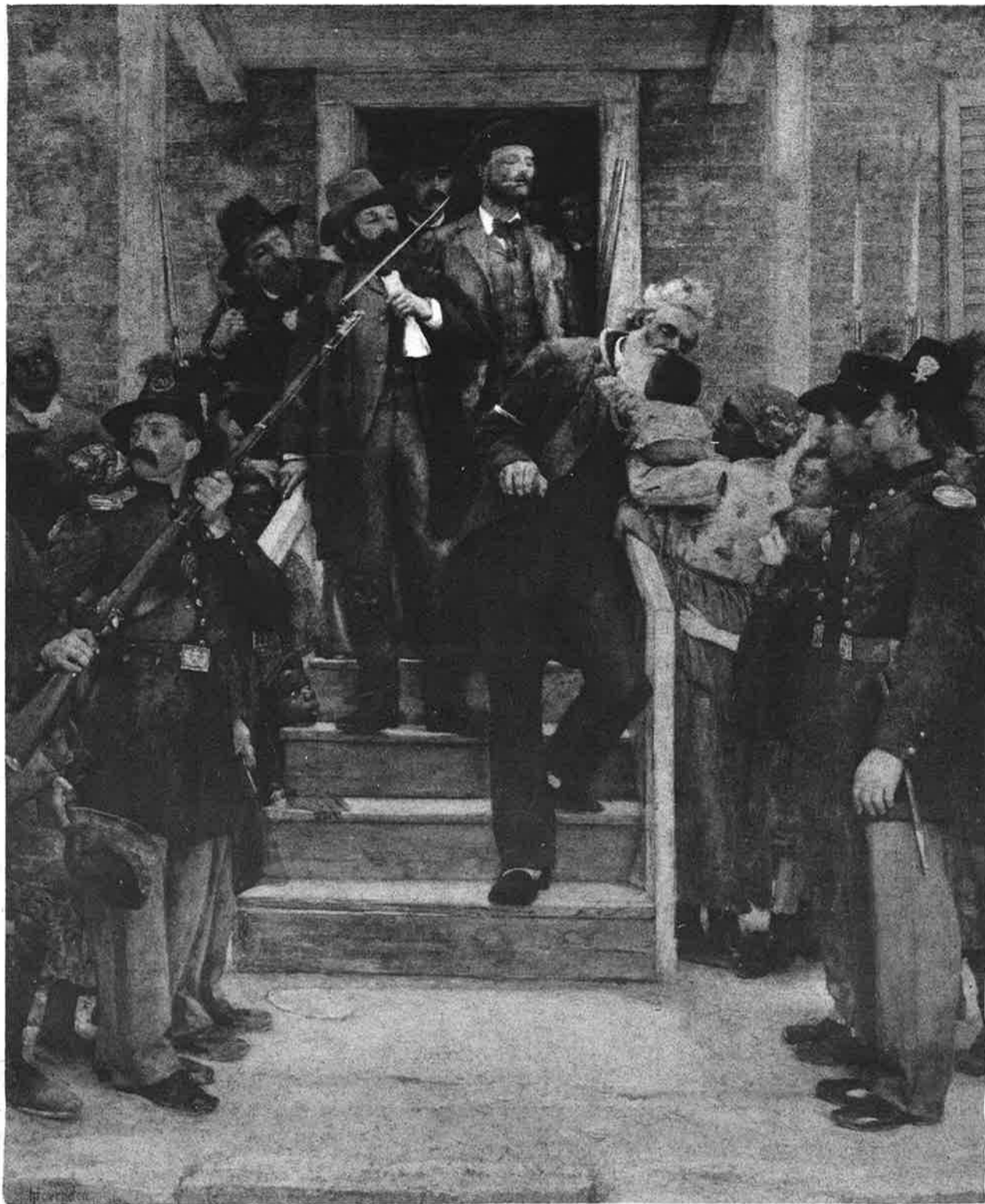
The importance of trying to set the record straight in this respect here, if even to a very small degree, is to assert that John Brown was not alone.

The Black and white people who fought the Civil War with the song, "John Brown's Body" on their lips were truly his emulators, and in a very real sense, even his followers. They fought generally with the same idealism on the part of the whites and the same hope for real freedom on the part of the Blacks that motivated his own band. They also fought with a large amount of illusion and misunderstanding of the capitalist class who were in charge of the war—an illusion that Brown, for all his mysticism, did not have.

## The class forces

Marxists understand that the Civil War was, historically speaking, a conflict between Northern capitalists and Southern slaveholders over who would rule the country. But they often forget that there were other class interests. They forget that the war was actually fought by real people who were by no means the complete dupes of the two exploiting classes, as the soldiers of all imperialist countries are the instruments and dupes of big capital today.

There were two other classes directly involved: namely the poor Northern white farmers and would-be farmers among the workers and unemployed; and above all, the slaves themselves, 197,000 of whom



'The Last Moments of John Brown' depicting John Brown on his way to the gallows.

volunteered to fight in Northern uniforms under the most difficult conditions imaginable.

These were the two classes directly represented and personified in the 22 raiders of Harpers Ferry.

Brown represented in his own person—as did the fifteen other whites in his band—the aspiration of the small farmer and would-be farmer for land in the west, needing the overthrow of the slaveocracy who prevented their access to this land. That is why Brown could lead hundreds of whites in Kansas (in 1856) against the hired pro-slavery "border ruffians" and why he and his sons could publicly kill the worst of these ruffians, openly lead crowds of fugitive slaves through town after town and be cheered on by thousands of whites.

But Brown and the other people in his band also represented in their own persons the highest devotion to Black Freedom and the most complete self-identification with the needs of the Black people. Brown expressed this in religious language. And the masters and their philistine sycophants said and still repeat to this day that he was "insane" because he considered himself an instrument of God, chosen to wipe out human slavery.

As Osborne Anderson, a Black survivor of the fateful raid, dryly remarked: "Then twenty-one other men were equally insane."

## No Black prisoners

The six Black men in the band—all free, all infinitely better off than slaves and with everything to lose—personified the cause of the slaves even more perfectly than Brown, of course. And they joined the band in the sure knowledge of greater retribution against themselves if they were captured.

(Even in the subsequent Civil War, captured Black soldiers were rarely given the meager wartime privilege of living in the disease-infested prison camps of the South. They were dispensed with in that chivalrous way the racists and masters have provided in all ages for slaves who dare to be free.)

Brown is rightly praised by those revolutionaries who hail him for his own spartan bravery under fire and his Indian-warrior-like command to one of his sons to "die like a man" when the latter, who was wounded at his side, cried out in pain. (Three sons died in the event.) But it must be

recalled that a whole generation of Northern white fathers and mothers also asked their sons to go to the South and fight, and three-hundred fifty-thousand of them received the "letter edged in black."

There were about 2.7 million men under arms in the North. And contrary to all the reactionary historians' emphasis on "forced drafts" and "bounties," about 90 per cent actually enlisted, with hundreds of thousands re-enlisting at an early period of the war, when enlistments were not yet for the duration.

## Brown the organizer

John Brown, the military hero, is rarely given credit for understanding politics, for being an organizer or being in tune with the rest of the people of the North. However, he prepared the raid on the arsenal, which was designed to give arms to the slaves, over a period of two years, as he lined up the forces and funds for the action, and none but a superb organizer could have amassed a force of twenty-one for such a bold attempt.

His political consciousness was as keen as his organizing was tireless. In his magnificent summary at the end of his trial, he made what was really an appeal to the white people of the North—the whites of his class. And it was this class that responded by the million to his martyrdom.

He hoped and planned that this would happen. Still lying wounded on his prison cot which was brought into court for the quick trial held by the slaveowners, Brown declared just before the death sentence was passed on him:

"In the first place, I deny everything but what I have all along admitted—the design on my part to free the slaves.... Had I interfered in the manner which I admit, and which I admit has been fairly proved...had I so interfered in behalf of the rich, the powerful, the intelligent, the so-called great, or in behalf of any other of their friends—either a father, mother, brother, sister, wife or children, or any of that class—and suffered and sacrificed what I have in this interference, it would have been all right; and every man in this court would have

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