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Chicago Students Rip McNamara Peace Prize

"Give Mac the Knife"



May 22, 8 p.m.

Two effigies burn at the University of Chicago campus. The flames ignite the bloodstained dummies of Robert McNamara. And as the flames spread a pin punctures his balloon head. Over 1500 people cheer.

May 22, 9 p.m. The sea of angry protestors surges towards the Gothic arch of the Hutchinson Commons where McNamara and the tuxedoed guests of the University of Chicago dine. Inside, Robert McNamara, former Secretary of Defense, is being awarded \$25,000 for "outstanding contributions to international understanding."

"They want to give McNamara an award. Well, send him outside—we'll give him what he deserves!" Chants of "Give Mac the Knife" surge through the crowd and tensions pop as people wait for this butcher to come out. Robert McNamara! The cold, calculating son-of-a-bitch who brought the "automated battlefield" to Vietnam, who streamlined the U.S. war machine for the Vietnam war, and brought "cost analysis" to the Pentagon. Robert McNamara! The "body count" man for whom the lives of the Vietnamese people and the U.S. soldiers were just so many statistics to be fed to the blood-thirsty computers in the Capitol.

Suddenly a squad of riot cops pile out of a paddy wagon, march down the street, clearing the way for McNamara's getaway, and push the demonstrators onto the sidewalk.

In open defiance of the state's show of force, a disabled Vietnam veteran and several other demonstrators went into the street and sat down. They called for others to join. Tensions mounted as more students filled the street. The top cop on the scene demanded that the people disperse or be arrested and the words were barely out of his mouth when he was hit full force with a strawberry pie in the face. Strawberries still clinging to his face, he ordered his men to grab the pie-hurling demonstrator.

The cops moved into the crowd on the street, grabbing people, and dragged 25 protesters into waiting paddy wagons. Outraged students, many of whom had never been to a demonstration before, chanted "Cops off campus" and "Cops are a tool of the rich man's rule."

Undaunted, the protesters rushed forward to jeer the celebrants of the ludicrous ceremony as they passed through police flanks. Their plastic grins could not hide their terror as hundreds of angry voices screamed menacingly, "Shame on You."

When it became clear that McNamara had made a secret getaway and as the last of his cronies received the wrath of the crowd, 200 demonstrators took the protest directly to the home of the University President. She had personally awarded the University's Pick Award to this butcher. "Hannah Gray, come out," they demanded under her bedroom window. "You won't sleep tight tonight!"

And so all the plans that the University of Chicago Administration had carefully laid to bring back McNamara as a "good guy," a "humanitarian," were blown to bits right in their faces. They thought they could get away with painting a new face on this well-known butcher to create public opinion for the

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CAPITALISTS' CRUDE PROPAGANDA: "BLAME OPEC"

T-shirts for sale, inscribed "Screw OPEC." Paul Harvey coming on the radio in his daily syndicated broadcast pushing a new song: "Cheaper crude or no more food." ("A bushel of wheat for a barrel of oil" is another favorite slogan of Mr. Harvey's.)

"There is a real oil shortage," says an Energy Department official in Congressional testimony. "Blame it on Iran."

The message is clear: Blame it on OPEC, blame it on Iran. The oil shortage is real, our rulers are saying, and we're not to blame. All your troubles originate *out there*—with greedy Arab sheiks and frenzied Iranian revolutionaries.

Every bit of this is a sham and lie. The big oil "shortage" looks hokey as hell to everybody, and the mouthpieces of the ruling class are kept busy scrambling every day for a new way to convince us that "this time it's real." Even their own figures show that the total supply of crude oil now in the U.S. is almost exactly what it was a year ago.

And it's also a sham for the capitalists to be pointing the finger at OPEC. It is these capitalists, the im-

perialists, and the needs and crisis of their system, which are to blame for both the manufactured shortage and the higher gas prices. OPEC is not withholding oil, and the price at the gas pump has risen out of all proportion to the OPEC price rises.

So OPEC isn't where the fire of the masses of American people should be directed—our own rulers deserve that distinction. But besides this, OPEC isn't even really the enemy of the imperialists, either. It's true that OPEC has caused some difficulties for the imperialists, and they would have preferred for it not to exist. But given that it does exist, they've been able to adapt to the organization and its actions, and even to make use of it. A look at the development of OPEC and its relation to imperialism will show how this is so.

History of OPEC

OPEC was formed in 1960 to try to get a better deal for the oil-producing countries in bargaining with the oil companies which totally dominated the production of oil. But it proved a toothless tiger for over 10 years, mak-

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Brown Decision: Oppressors Claim Credit For Black "Progress"

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U.S. Senate Resolution on Iran Executions—Butchers Cry "Blood!"

Outrageous Resolution

Unanimous. 100%. With straight face and pious pose every member of the U.S. Senate agreed. On May 17 they passed a resolution condemning the executions in Iran of former military generals, police agents and high government officials of the former regime of the Shah of Iran. The executions offend the basic principles of justice and humanity, their resolution said.

Justice and humanity? These words should turn to sawdust in their mouths and choke these doddering political pimps of U.S. imperialism!

Where were their resolutions when the *people* of Iran were being murdered in the tens, even hundreds, of thousands by the butcher Shah? Where were the Senate condemnations when these

generals, some of whom are finally now getting the axe, were using machine guns to mow down thousands of demonstrators in the streets of Iran? Passing resolutions to supply the machine guns, that's where the Senators were!

Not only did these gentlemen—who knew full well of this—agree to remain quiet about the torture murder of hun-

dreds of political prisoners and the torch murder of 800 men, women and children in the Abadan theater fire—the U.S. government *trained* the SAVAK agents who perpetrated these crimes! The pious resolution condemning the execution of these dogs has as its blood relative ancestors all the resolutions supplying \$18 billion in military hardware and torture machines to the Shah of Iran—a murdering dog, only with a U.S. pedigree.

Now, as the revolutionary justice of the people, even restricted as it is by the current Iranian government, cuts down the thieves who used to ride herd for the U.S. imperialists in Iran, the Senators, newspaper editors, TV commentators and various other mouthpieces for the bourgeoisie barrage the American people with self-righteous expressions of outrage: "shocking," "unbelievable," "crude," "repugnant." Even now in the United States there are 500 people on death row—more than twice as many as have been executed in Iran. Of course, to the gentlemen of the U.S. Senate these are worthless "common criminals"—not the highly trained, skilled and refined sort like themselves who are now getting it in Iran.

What's really shocking to them is who's killing who. Political assassinations, bloody suppression of revolutionary uprisings, even plans for World War—these are believable, business as usual in the hollowed marble chambers of Capitol Hill. What's an unbelievable nightmare to them is that the tables could ever be turned. But they will be—turned upside down and smashed! And not just in Iran!

When the working class and masses of people in this country finally rise up to overthrow capitalism and sweep aside its 2-bit lying politicians, maybe this outrageous resolution will be of some use. Together with mountains of resolutions and rooms full of garbage propaganda, it will be evidence against them in the trials they will surely face. The tears shed in Congress today for the murdering scum of Iran will be nothing compared to the weeping they will do when they come face to face with justice at the hands of the American masses. ■



Martyrs Square, Tehran, September 8, 1978—BLACK FRIDAY. Iranians carry fallen comrade after the Shah's troops trained and armed by the CIA with U.S. weapons, opened fire

on unarmed demonstrators, killing 10,000. The Congress didn't condemn this massacre, and the U.S. press didn't mention it.

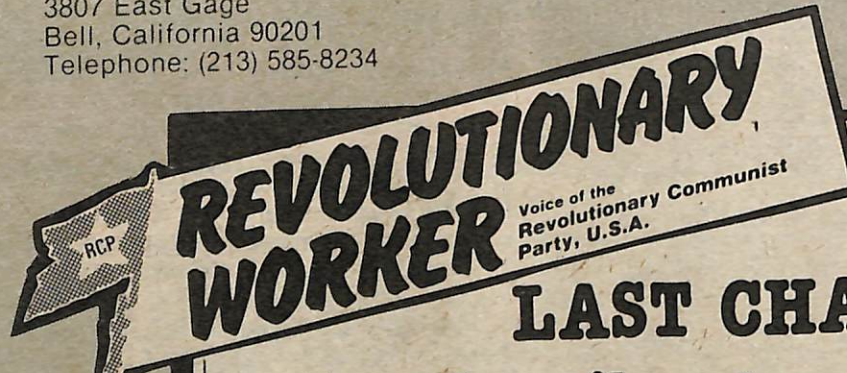
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Red Lake, Minnesota



Indians Take Up Guns, Torch Jail

Red Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota.

The cops never had a chance. The smoldering ruins of the police station offer silent testimony to how surprised they were. You can still see the eight squad cars, two trucks and half a dozen other vehicles neatly parked out front—burned to the bare brown metal, with the words "pig car" spray-painted in white across the remains of the chief's vehicle. All that's left of the police station is the skeleton bars of the jail cells. The rest is collapsed into ruins. It'll be a long time before any more of the Red Lake tribe are locked up here.

There were six cops on duty at 4 a.m. Saturday, May 19. They were playing pool. Suddenly, before they realized what was happening, they found themselves surrounded by armed men. One of the Indians blew a hole in the floor in the middle of them to show the cops they were serious. Then they herded the swine into a jail cell. The men gave the cops two cases of beer and some whiskey, and the cops, in mortal terror, began what must have been the

sorriest drunk of their lives.

Through the early morning mist more armed Red Lake Indians began to fill the reservation police station—a jail that many of them knew too well, since the cops were accustomed to throwing people in there for all sorts of petty reasons. From the outside, things appeared normal, but the word was spreading.

By 10:30 that morning, when the hostages were allowed to stagger out, hundreds of Indians surrounded the police building. The occupiers marched out proudly, and the trashing and torching began. Soon practically nothing was left of the hated fortress of oppression. Even the few sticks left still standing and the burned car frames that remained were riddled with shotgun and rifle holes, testimony to the rage that boiled over. But it was not a blind rage. According to reports the station house was thoroughly cleared out of arms and ammunition before it went up in flames. The pigs who run wild harassing, insulting and abusing people now quietly crawled out of town. But the people were after bigger game.

The man who stood behind the cops, who used the tribal police as his personal troops, tribal council chairman Roger Jourdain, was their target. With Jourdain's bully boys now disposed of, the growing crowd went for Jourdain himself. As they marched over to his house, stepping to the rhythm of gun fire, Jourdain took off running out the back into the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which somehow got him safely off the reservation.

Jourdain's house, bought with the money he's accumulated by bleeding the 3,000 people on the reservation, was burned to the ground. His brand new cadillac went the same way. Jourdain's right-hand man on the tribal council, who got rich the same way Jourdain did, lost it all the same way, too. The store which earned hatred by charging twice as much as the stores off the reservation was also cleared out and put to the torch. As the afternoon wore on into evening more and more people came, guns in hand, from their homes scattered throughout the woods of this 660,000 acre reservation to join in the struggle. Never had the people been

more united and happy.

Meanwhile, of course, cops were pouring in from all over the area to avenge their brothers' humiliation and put these Indians down. Cops from every neighboring town were joined by BIA police and later federal marshalls and the FBI. They set up roadblocks on the main blacktop coming in and out of Red Lake to try and keep Indians from getting in, but the Indians just poured through around them. Soon this motley police army, wearing every sort of uniform and carrying guns of every description, was exchanging shots with the Indians. But the police didn't dare move into the tiny town. In front of them was a counter-roadblock set up by older Indian women. And behind that, hundreds of people with rifles, shotguns, pistols and other weapons. It seemed that practically the whole reservation was up in arms in this uprising they called "the revolution." In fact, as more than a couple remarked later on, they saw themselves as doing the same thing as the people of Iran—arising and toppling a hated tyrant.

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Karen Silkwood Trial

Verdict Covers Up More Than Murder

We are supposed to be relieved at the newspaper headlines—"SILKWOOD HEIRS WIN \$10.5 MILLION IN SET-BACK TO THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY." Perhaps there is justice after all—the "reasonable" hand of justice under the law has prevailed in the Karen Silkwood case.

But this ruling is nothing more than a pressure valve to release the steam building up around this whole disgusting and criminal affair and the whole nuclear scene. In fact, it is a slick extension of the massive efforts of the Kerr-McGee Co. (where Karen Silkwood worked) and the U.S. government to keep the lid on this whole thing.

Karen Silkwood played by the rules. She was a union activist in her OCAW local—a health and safety representative who had the welfare of her fellow workers at heart and risked her life to expose the criminal workings of the Kerr-McGee Co. She worked with 150 others at Kerr-McGee (one of the largest makers of fuel for nuclear reactors and bombs) in their Cimarron, Oklahoma plutonium fuel plant which has since been shut down. She had faith that if only the word could get about the conditions at the plant and the callous disregard of Kerr-McGee Co. for the lives of millions, then its murderous practices could be stopped. She believed that justice would prevail. She carefully collected the evidence against the company and set up a

meeting with two officials in her union and a *New York Times* reporter to deliver the goods and blow the whistle on the company. She never got there.

Karen Silkwood was by no means a revolutionary and yet she met with the kind of cold-blooded execution-style murder that is reserved for the capitalists' most bitter enemies. She was more dangerous than she herself knew. She knew too much. And so on Nov. 13, 1974, while she was on her way to spill the beans on Kerr-McGee, her car was slammed from behind at 60 m.p.h. and rammed into a concrete abutment, killing her instantly.

But the coupon-clipping filth who planned her murder had already covered all the bases. They had contaminated her house with so much plutonium that she was certain to die of radiation poisoning. They put plutonium in the bologna in her refrigerator and she was literally burning up inside. Her house was so contaminated that after her death the entire contents of her apartment had to be gathered up by workers in "moon suits," sealed in stainless steel drums and buried at a nuclear dumping site. She couldn't even be buried in one of her own dresses—nothing she owned escaped contamination.

Dangerous Information

And what was the information that Karen Silkwood had in the inch-high



Karen Silkwood and her 3 children. Below: The car she was driving when forced off the road by her killers.

stack of papers that was stolen from the car she died in? What was this dangerous knowledge? It was 1) that all the 150 workers at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plant were breathing plutonium dust (one millionth of a

gram causes cancer); 2) that 39 out of 100 workers at the uranium mines on the Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo reservation have a rare and fatal form of lung cancer, an added bonus to the

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The Sentencing of Those Who Dared to Rebel

This statement was read at a press conference in New York City after the sentencing of the Moody Park 3.

Greetings Comrades,

Yesterday the fate of Travis Morales, along with the fate of all those who dared to rebel in Houston against the archaic imperialist system, was further sealed. In the darkness of night, behind the pillars of democracy and justice, the puppet judiciary system of the capitalists levied heavy fines against the comrades in Houston. These fines were coupled with threat of further punitive action.

For the longest time now the ruling class has turned to its repressive system of law as a means to still the flames of revolution. But no matter how many of the vanguard they continue to jail, the struggle will remain an ever growing force among the masses of oppressed people.

This fact can be clearly seen as we have witnessed the endeavors and heroic actions of Travis Morales and the Chicano people of Houston become a twisted fabrication in the eyes of the imperialists, induced to confuse the masses.

Threats of imprisonment behind steel walls cannot hold back the will of the people. The muffled voices of those who have already been jailed for daring to awaken the masses will continue to be heard throughout all the labor camps of the world.

Cries of freedom for the Moody Park 3, freedom for the masses shall prevail and lift us into a state of conscious revolution. Free the people!

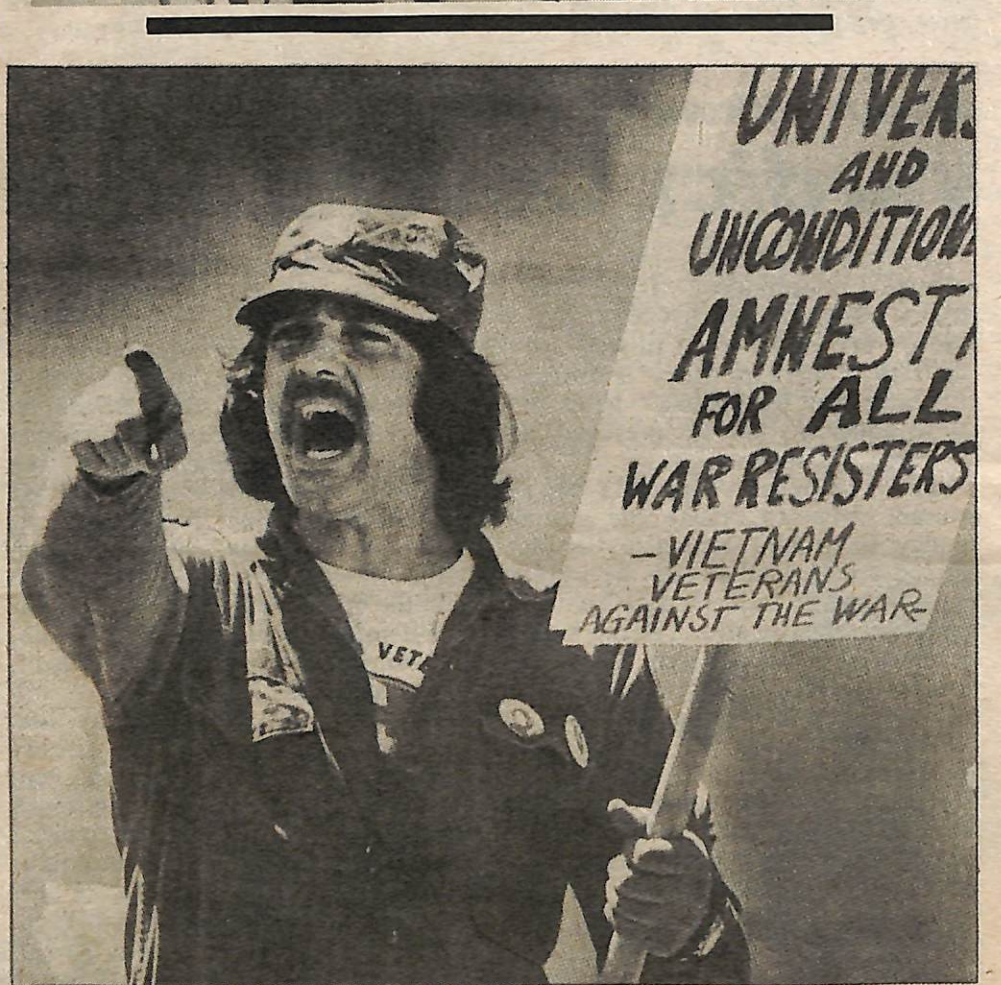
An Attica Brother who was imprisoned during the 1971 Rebellion at Attica Prison, New York.



Two reactions to the Moody Park 3 at the April 29th demonstration in Houston. Above, the people. Below, the Chief of Police. The authorities have no intention of backing off their efforts to hound the 3 or other Houston activists. A woman remains in jail for contempt after denouncing the court during the 3's sentencing. In the week following the 3's trial, Travis Morales and Mara Youngdahl and two others were dragged into court for former and phony "impeding traffic" and "resisting arrest" charges. These arrests are only four out of fifty which have occurred since the beginning of the year.

Travis himself has two more charges pending. One is for felony spray painting (!), the other for tampering with a witness (telling an undercover pig to get off his back). The D.A. recently offered a "deal" on these however. He generously offered to drop the tampering charge if Travis would plead guilty to spray painting. No deal.

A sympathetic news reporter, one of the few in Houston, unknowingly explained the reason behind all this hounding when he told Mara Youngdahl, "You don't know how much you've changed this town."



Like other cities of the country, the ruling class made a big deal out of Armed Forces Day in Charleston, W. Virginia. As the U.S. imperialists move toward world war, they're trying to build up sympathy for the military. The city fathers in Charleston cooked up a parade for this purpose featuring military equipment and troops, a National Guard battalion and units from the Army and Air Force. But the parade also featured something the authorities didn't expect. Vietnam Veterans Against the War joined the parade to denounce U.S., Soviet war moves as one member does above. VVAW's demand for unconditional amnesty underscores the need to defend those who resisted the last war as part of opposing the next one.

Vietnam Veterans Week

Red, White and Blue Booby Trap

May 30 is no ordinary Memorial Day. It is, as usual, a national holiday "celebrating" the slaughter of millions in predatory wars of the imperialist ruling class. But for the first time, Memorial Day this year is being used to kick off a week of activities literally called for by an act of Congress—Vietnam Veterans Week. Events are planned in several major cities and Carter will speak at a national conference on Vietnam Era veterans initiated by various reactionary organizations.

Why have they invented Vietnam Veterans Week? Could it be to honor the men who blew up their own officers in Vietnam? To remind people of the thousands of vets who returned to join the anti-war movement? To call attention to those who stood at the Capitol in Washington D.C., denounced the war and declared, "If we ever fight again it will be to take these steps!"? Not exactly. While the proletariat may celebrate these things, the bourgeoisie would certainly rather have the masses forget them.

In fact, Vietnam Veterans Week has been cooked up for just this reason. It is part of our rulers increasing efforts to bury the lessons of the Vietnam war as they prepare public opinion for World War 3. To these ends, they have suddenly "discovered" the problems of Vietnam Vets and are attempting to rally these veterans around a reactionary pole of patriotism. They must "heal the wounds" of Vietnam and use these Vets as a force for opening up new ones as war with the Soviets grows closer.

A deluge of books, plays, movies and newspaper articles over recent months have promoted the basic theme of Vietnam Veterans Week—that Vietnam

veterans were the *real* patriots who did their duty, followed it through, carried it out, etc. Along with this, the ass of the bourgeoisie is covered and the masses are blamed for the disgusting situation that has been faced by Vietnam vets. As a recent editorial in *Stars and Stripes* magazine put it, "Although few veterans expect a ticker tape parade, none could have anticipated the mood of public resentment and nagging dishonor that greeted the veteran of Vietnam."

But the key thing behind the sudden concern for the Vietnam veteran was hinted at by David Bonior, a Congressman who has formed a caucus of Vietnam veterans in Washington. "If we know who to call upon in time of war," he said recently in a speech, "then we should know who to thank in time of peace."

Peace, of course, has nothing to do with it, and while the bourgeoisie might fork over some token benefits as Bonior is promising, the main benefit it seeks is that of veterans organized under its red, white and blue banner. New organizations like the Vietnam Veterans of America have been formed to act as a force to whip up national chauvinism throughout society as a whole, while old line reactionary groups like the American Legion are now trying to attract more Vietnam Vets to its ranks for this reason.

Far from an attempt to make up for the "dirty deal" given to Vietnam veterans, as the bourgeoisie is proclaiming, Vietnam Veterans week is an attempt by our rulers to deal out something much dirtier not only to veterans, but to the masses of people in this country and the world. ■



These active-duty GI's of the Vietnam era came to learn which side was right and which side was wrong. Proudly holding "the enemy's" flag, they welcome the ceasefire and impending victory of the National Liberation Front.

The Vietnam War Nothing Can Reverse The Verdict

The war in Vietnam! The mere mention of it still shudders like a burst of automatic weapons fire, tearing through the guts of the rulers of this country, exploding many of the deception and lies, bullshit they tried to feed us for years. Vietnam. The very word itself is enough to conjure up for millions the vivid memory of that brutal war—a war as monstrous as any in the history of mankind.

But today, many who looked to Vietnam, inspired by the heroic struggle that stood up to U.S. imperialism, are now watching in disgust as the Vietnamese rulers bully their way around Indochina, invading Cambodia at the bidding of their new imperialist masters in the Soviet Union. This has raised serious questions, questions which we must deeply analyze so that the lessons of the victory—and defeat—of the struggle in Vietnam will not be lost. The *Revolutionary Worker* will soon devote a series of articles to just this purpose.

The U.S. imperialists are certainly eager to answer these questions. In fact, they are rushing to straight-out reverse the correct verdict that history has already leveled against them for their savage war in Vietnam. Now they point to the aggression committed by Vietnam, attempting to convince us that the U.S. was the good guy all along.

When the U.S. rulers were kicked out of Vietnam, they were running for cover, forced to cop the puny plea that the whole thing was "a terrible mistake." But though it was indeed quite terrible, their war in Vietnam was no mistake—and these bastards knew it. History has taught us time and again

that it is the very nature of their imperialist system which inevitably gives rise to wars such as these—unjust, reactionary wars of plunder waged by the imperialists to enslave whole peoples and nations.

But imperialism also gives rise to another kind of war—wars between the imperialists themselves to steal each other blind, to redivide their colonies and spheres of influence, in short, to carve up the entire world. It is their growing necessity to mobilize for this that is driving the U.S. rulers back on the offensive around the question of Vietnam. In their haste to prepare us for a war that will be far more barbaric—a war with their arch rivals, the imperialist rulers of the Soviet Union—they are working feverishly to heal their wounds and wash their bloody hands of the whole Vietnam affair.

Less and less are they running their raggedy excuse about how Vietnam was an unfortunate "blunder." And in the process they are taking advantage of the reactionary role the Vietnamese are now playing and the new freedom it has given them. Now we are treated to such putrid crap as *The Deerhunter* which strangles the reality of the Vietnam war and turns it on its head—just some good ol' red-blooded American boys being brutalized and tortured by a savage enemy!

Maybe if they fog our minds enough we won't remember the real brutality—the flaming horror of human beings enveloped in jellied gasoline that graced the picture on our TV screens, presented in living, obscene color.

Maybe they will be able to blot out the real torture—the revolting sight of interrogation by drowning, the liberation fighters thrown to their deaths from the open doors of helicopters, the wholesale immolation of entire villages to the hissing sound of U.S. flame-throwers.

Or perhaps we'll be fool enough to believe the "enlightened" new studies coming from their think-tanks like the Brookings Institute which conclude that Johnson's decision to escalate the war was "a showcase example of democracy in action."

But how will they ever make us forget the "democracy in action" of U.S. marines and Korean mercenaries who burst into village after village, massacring the inhabitants with hand grenades, spraying the survivors with poison gas, and mutilating the bodies of infants clutched in their dying mothers' arms? Or the tender concern for "liberty" of the marine commander who offered up a case of beer to the first man to bring back the head of a Viet Cong?

These are but a few reminders of the searing memories these sons of bitches burned into people's brains.

We learned from bitter experience the real meaning of their "freedom and democracy." The precious "freedom" of the Vietnamese people to "choose" an endless string of U.S. puppets at the barrel of a gun, from the butcher Diem

to the dope-runner Ky to the mass murderer Nguyen Van Thieu. The precious "democracy" of LBJ's "pacification program" where as one Green Beret put it: "We carry out pacification by killing the people first." The "democracy" of Nixon's strategy of "Vietnamization" where the hired ARVN mercenary troops took over the grisly job of "saving Vietnam from the Vietnamese."

Yes, the U.S. imperialists would like us to forget—forget their ruthless, bloodthirsty nature and unspeakable crimes. But the verdict on the war in Vietnam has long since been signed, sealed and delivered. The U.S. imperialists were found guilty as charged—guilty of waging a criminal, unjust war of aggression, a war to defend their far-flung empire of plundered profits, a war that was supposed to create a terrifying example that would prove it was useless and suicidal to resist the iron heel of their grinding military machine.

And the imperialists would like to convince us that the defiant and determined struggle of the Vietnamese people who brought these bloodsuckers buckling to their knees was meaningless in light of what is happening there today. In their drive to hype us for an even more vicious war of plunder, they hope to obliterate the fact that the war in Vietnam was a just war on the part of the Vietnamese, a righteous and revolutionary war for the liberation of their country, a people's war full of rich and valuable lessons for the masses who supported this struggle against U.S. imperialism in every corner of the globe.

And now that Vietnam has gone down the tubes, they would like to portray as meaningless the powerful anti-war movement in this country that grew from hundreds to thousands and finally millions. Meaningless, the hundreds of thousands of Americans challenging them in the streets, the tear gas canisters thrown back in their faces, as the war left their bestial system more and more nakedly exposed for all to see! Instead of defying their filthy war, they would have us believe that people should have joined it.

But the U.S. imperialists can never erase the verdict on the war in Vietnam—it is written indelibly in the minds of millions. And despite the fact that Vietnam has since degenerated into a pawn of Soviet revisionism fighting their wars of aggression by proxy, this verdict still stands. ■



Free the Embassy Five!

Glass shattered and white paint splattered the walls of the Chinese embassy, exposing the traitorous Teng Hsiao-ping and the capitalist restoration he and his class of new exploiters are pushing on the Chinese people. The revolutionary message made at the embassy cut the capitalists in this country to the bone, forcing the State Department to make a public apology. Five revolutionaries were arrested after the incident, and are now facing a number of trumped-up charges, some that could put them away for life. Their trial begins June 11.

The prosecutor has already made a pre-trial motion to exclude all political motivation for the incident, hoping to grease the tracks for the railroad. Committees to Defend the Mao Tsetung Defendants are being formed in cities throughout the country. Telegrams of support are being sent to Earl Silbert, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia demanding that the charges be dropped. Funds are urgently needed. Funds can be sent to P.O. Box 1992, Baltimore, Maryland 21203.



Who will ever forget this scene of the puppet Saigon police chief brutally executing a liberation fighter? Eager to reverse the verdict on the war—in fact, to brainwash the American people — the *Deer Hunter* told the "Big Lie" that Liberation Fighters played Russian Roulette with American troops.

The Essential Jerry Brown

Is it a bird, a plane? No, it's super jerk, Jerry Brown. He says, "The first rule of politics is to be different." And, naturally, hip and far out—Catholic priest—then Buddhist—advocate of the simple life—Linda Ronstadt's swinging boyfriend.

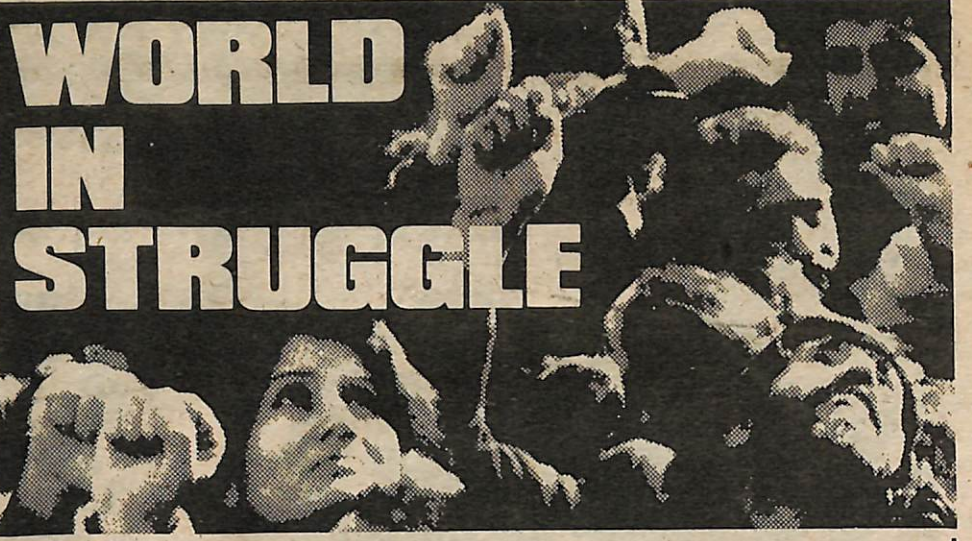
Yes sir, Jerry is your man. He'd disco or roller skate—at least if it's still fashionable.

Whatever's in you can count on push-button Jerry, for he'll go anywhere and say anything. Phony, plastic? Come on folks. He's only trying hard to be "all things to all people." (And of course one man to his class.) Why, he's got more moves than Earl the Pearl, and more colors than a chameleon. Check this out. Proposition

13—He was violently against it until it passed, then it was trim the fat Jerry. Anti-nuke crusader—"No more nuclear plants," yelled Jerry in Washington D.C., while back in California's the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant will soon open 2 1/2 miles from the Hostri fault.

His well-publicized safari was terrific. It put an end to all those nasty rumors about Jerry's manhood and he chose Africa because, as his P.R. chief Gary Davis puts it, "Brown needed a metaphor to encompass Black concern."

Well Jerry, have we got a trend for you. California suicide rate is one of the highest and climbing. Why don't you jump to the head of this movement and become a metaphor for your class. ■



Vieques Fishermen Fight U.S. Navy

"If the Navy wants a fight, we are going to give it to them," said Carlos Zenon of the Vieques Fisherman's Association to cheering supporters at a rally on May 20th. The struggle of fishermen against the U.S. Navy is sharpening. The Navy uses this island off Puerto Rico for amphibious assault operations and air-to-ground and ship-to-shore bombardment. It closes down the fishing grounds around it during maneuvers.

The day before, over 100 people had set up camp on a beach on the island to protest the latest Navy operations. Navy police invaded on a landing craft and arrested many on charges of "trespassing on restricted Navy land."

While under arrest, the fishermen refused to sign a statement saying they would not take part in further demonstrations, and they pledged to step up the fight.

Migra Murder on Juarez Bridge

For several days the Mexican people gathered at the center of the Rio Grande and hurled bottles and rocks and used slingshots to attack the Migra (Immigration and Naturalization Service). This was in response to the murder on May 16 of Rodolfo Ramirez Montiel at the hands of the U.S. imperialists' hated Migra. The police in El Paso withheld the results of the autopsy on the pretext of a promised press conference to release the details of the death. They had hoped to bury this case along with their other crimes against the people.

This is just one crime of many in the stepped-up terror campaign of the Migra aided by local cops. On May 15, one day before this murder, a 12-year-old boy was threatened at gunpoint and arrested, a paperboy who they said had crossed illegally. Several young men in California were arrested, handcuffed and shot down in cold blood when they tried to flee back to the Mexican side.

The U.S. Immigration Department was asked why they were the target of recent outbursts of violence from the Mexican people. "I guess it's because of our high visibility profile." That's true, the profile of U.S. imperialism is very visible.

Wave of Struggle Erupts in El Salvador

Since the murder of twenty demonstrators by Salvadorian police on May 8, El Salvador has erupted in revolutionary struggle. As of May 15, 2 million workers were on strike. Revolutionaries occupied seventeen churches, the Central American University, and the French and Venezuelan embassies which they seized two weeks ago.

The faculty of El Salvador University's College of Law issued a statement denouncing the May 8th massacre of 20 demonstrators, saying that "justice is a myth" in El Salvador.

A *New York Times* reporter and several others were beaten by Salvadorian police, and local television reporters and cameramen were clubbed while filming army tanks rolling through San Salvador streets.

In every city, squads of students and workers are dealing out revolutionary justice to security police and agents of the ORDEN (the government financed para-military organization). When revolutionaries announced they would take over ten more embassies on the 16th, forty countries immediately shut their embassies down because the El Salvador government was not capable of providing security. The government has shut down the Ford and General Motors factories in San Salvador, saying they are "hotbeds of insurrectionary activities on the part of the workers." ■

Police Attack RCYB

Baton Rouge, La. Police here further revealed their role as armed thugs for the capitalist ruling class when, on May 10, they attacked and heaped outrageous charges on two members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB) who were building support for the Moody Park 3.

The incident took place while the two were out in the mainly Black East Boulevard Terrace Street area of the city, rapping with some of the youth about the Moody Park 3. When the cops arrived, the RCYB members pointed out that they weren't doing anything illegal, to which the pigs responded, "You are too. You're handing out literature against the American government!"

The two were both busted on the spot, and one guy was choked. The charges? For the woman, "resisting arrest" and "littering" (the cops knocked some leaflets out of her hands!) The man was arrested for "simple battery," "resisting arrest," "interfering with an officer" and an outrageous charge of *criminal anarchy*. This last charge is an old law (first used against communists and other revolutionaries during World War I) which makes it a crime to pass out literature and make speeches which

point out the need for revolution. Following the bust, the apartment where the two lived was ransacked, with literature seized and property destroyed by the pigs.

For two days people trying to bail the two out were given the run around. One cop asked another what the RCYB members were doing that was so serious, and the other replied, "They were down on East Boulevard upsetting the niggers."

The political nature of the attack became even clearer the day after the attack. The Chief of Police of Baton Rouge called a press conference—at the pig sty, of course—and said there was no room for the RCYB in Baton Rouge, slandering them as "terrorists" and threatening to drive them out of town.

With their arrogant blustering, vicious beatings and ridiculous charges the Baton Rouge pigs are giving the people of the city a lesson on exactly what a sham all the capitalists' talk of "democracy," "freedom of speech" and so on really is. The RCYB held a press conference of their own on the street corner where they had been busted and made clear that they would continue to conduct revolutionary work in the city of Baton Rouge. ■



Gunman Gets Off: "Twinkies Made Me Do It" S.F. City Hall Trashed

San Francisco, May 21, 1979. Dan White cried tears of joy all night at the San Francisco city jail after his verdict came in. Voluntary manslaughter. 2-7 years for committing two cold-blooded murders. One victim being the mayor of San Francisco no less, another a city supervisor. This will go down with the Patty Hearst trial as the getaway of the century.

White, an ex-San Francisco Supervisor and ex-cop, shot Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in a fit of temper last November 22 after resigning his position and then losing his bid to be reappointed. The trial, billed as a triple tragedy (White, the all-American boy being the third) was unique. White's defense was based on testimony by a psychiatrist that he shot the mayor and Milk because of "... a major mood disturbance compounded by a biochemical reaction in the brain brought on by twinkies, cupcakes and chocolate bars and cokes." The Twinkies made him do it!

The other victim besides Moscone was Harvey Milk, a homosexual representing the interests of the large San Francisco "gay" community. In response to the verdict, hundreds of homosexuals marched to city hall chanting "Avenge Harvey Milk." The crowd grew to thousands, and the anger erupted as the doors and windows of city hall were smashed. After several hours the cops finally moved in, and at about 10:30 p.m. all hell broke loose. Few windows in the many city buildings were left intact. Two banks were trashed. Fifteen squad cars and two paddy wagons went up in flames. Streets were barricaded, and thousands of rocks and bottles showered the cops, who went berserk, beating and smashing anyone and anything in their way.

When things finally quieted down the next morning the city was reeling. "A Night of Fury," "The Swift Swords of Vengeance," read the headlines. The mayor, Diane Feinstein, trapped all night in her chambers, emerged to condemn both White's sentence and the rioters. This uproar had not been expected.

The immediate reaction of most people to the Dan White sentence was, "Hey, if it had been you or me we would have gotten the chair." What would have happened if just an average citizen would have blown away two politicians? What about the George Jacksons and Ruchell Magees and the Moody Park 3 and millions of convicts incarcerated by this system? What kind of justice do they get?

Taking Care of Their Own

But Dan White was not one of the

people, he was square in the camp of the oppressor—their All-American Boy, an ex-cop politician, and he clearly represented a lot more than just one dissatisfied junk-food junkie. In fact, his murder of Moscone and Milk was precisely a reflection of contradictions among the ruling circles of San Francisco. First, Moscone and White clearly represented different sections of the city establishment—Moscone being a representative of the presently more influential "liberal-chic" types and White representing the "old guard" local rulers. It was the contradiction between these sections that led Moscone to refuse to reappoint White and opt for one of his own men in the first place.

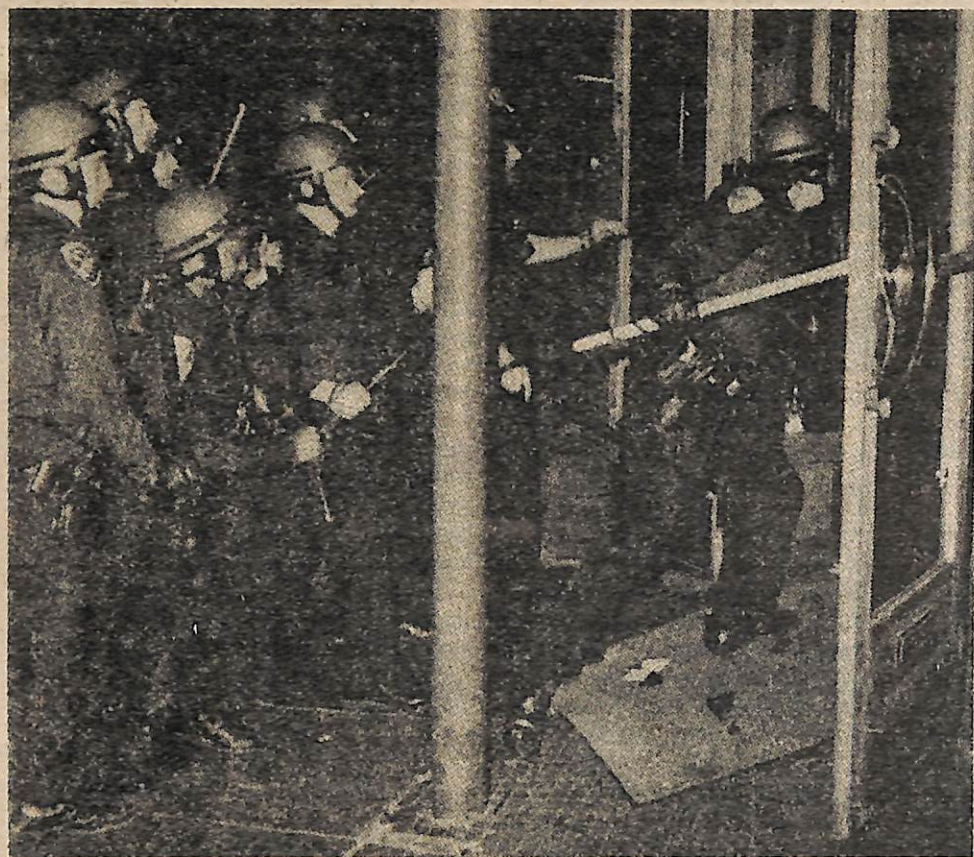
Harvey Milk was a political representative of San Francisco's 125,000 homosexuals. This section of San Francisco, by its sheer size, not to mention its ownership of a sizeable section of small businesses, is a force that S.F. ruling circles have had to reckon with. Moscone and Milk had made a political alliance and both opposed White's reappointment. This was far more Dan White's motive for murder than the fact that Milk was a homosexual.

It was because of the political necessities among San Francisco's rulers that Dan White got off so easy. While we don't claim to know all the intrigues and infighting at S.F. City Hall, it's pretty clear an agreement had to be made. A guilty verdict was necessary—after all he did kill the mayor and that sort of thing cannot be encouraged. But neither section would be served by more infighting over White—a slap on the wrist would be appropriate—after all, he was one of their own.

So the D.A. went light on him. The jury which he helped select included an ex-cop who proudly walked by and tapped White's table after the verdict, and a number of old women who were sympathetic to the soap opera presented in court—the tragedy of a good boy gone bad, or as White's lawyer said, "Common sense will tell you that a man with Dan's background doesn't go and kill in cold blood" (except when he's on duty, of course).

However, the organized homosexual community of San Francisco was outraged and demanded retribution. One of their representatives had been killed. They took the verdict as a direct attack on homosexuals. Boom! It erupted! At its height the riot drew in others who were just plain outraged at the travesty of justice that had gone down and joined the general melee.

The pigs went wild, into a frenzy of reactionary violence. As TV cameras zoomed in on the riot, all that was seen was the TV camera being hit over and



Above, cop stares forlornly at incinerated patrol car. Fifteen cop cars, two banks, and S.F. City Hall got trashed in response to the Dan White verdict. Below, S.F. cops retaliate, charging into homosexual bars, grunting, "Bon-zai!" and "Sieg Heil!"

over again. "We'll be back in a minute, folks," the news commentator said. "These demonstrators seem to be causing a problem here." A few minutes later the reporter on the scene appeared on the screen. It was obvious he'd been beaten. All he could say was, "The cops just attacked us. It was the cops. They just kept swinging. We yelled 'press.' And they said, 'We don't give a shit who you are' and they kept swinging."

Not only was the press viciously attacked, but the cops continued to rampage late into the night. They roamed up and down Market Street, around the Civic Center area, up Van Ness. Anyone they found on the streets alone became their prey as they whipped out their billy clubs and swung. They stormed into the heart of the homosexual community on Castro Street and charged into the "gay" bars screaming

"Seig Heil!" and "Bon-zai!" Foaming at the mouth the cops yelled, "Kill the queers!" as they dragged the people out of the bars, beating the hell out of them.

These events have stirred up a storm of controversy around the question of homosexuality. The stand of the Revolutionary Communist Party is to unite with all people who are playing a progressive role in fighting against this imperialist system. As for homosexuality, we do not agree with it and don't support it. Homosexuality is overall more encouraged by this country's rulers than it is attacked by them.

People who get into homosexuality, driven by the rot which this society spreads into all social and personal relations, often think they are rebelling against bourgeois ways. In fact the opposite is true. Homosexuality is one form—a concentrated form—of the capitalists' "look out for No. 1, Me... Me... Me..." ideology, and it is a concentrated form of the line that sex is everything. This ideology is a poison and a burden that must and can be thrown off.

The bourgeoisie promotes all kinds of reactionary ideas around the question of homosexuality, from "gay is good" and "it's just a matter of whatever sexual preference you have," to "homosexuality is a sin" or "it's caused by your hatred of your mother" and other such trash. We seek the elimination of homosexuality like all forms of enslavement to capitalism by overthrowing the rule of the capitalists and eliminating all remnants of their decadent system.

This does not mean, of course, that we advocate attacks on homosexuals like Anita Bryant's reactionary political campaign. Neither does it mean that communists stand for philistine attacks on homosexuals of the sort supported by Mickey Jarvis, a revisionist (who

Elizabeth, New Jersey Chemical "Three Mile Island"

Nitroglycerine; crystallized picric acid, ready to explode at any time; radioactive lithium; and a witch's brew of various metals, oxides, acids and gases. Now picture this witch's brew in your backyard, its foul odor assaulting your nose daily, the death and disease it causes seeping into water supplies, soil and air. This is what happened to residents of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Over two million gallons of highly toxic wastes have been stored at Chemical Control Corporation, most of which is unidentified. These unknown chemicals have been mixed together, explosives stored next to highly flammable materials, much of it seeping through corroded drums leaking into the Arthur Kill, the waterway between Staten Island and New Jersey. After months of legal dillydallying, the corporation was put into receivership

and a team sent in to clean it up a bit. The discovery of explosives and radioactive materials among the 40,000 barrels on the site forced the authorities to close off the peninsula and call in military and private experts to defuse the "chemical time bomb."

Everyone at the site wears a respirator and protective clothing, yet area residents were told there is no danger and there is no need or plan to evacuate. Stores were told it's OK to keep their operations going, only a few feet from the oozing sore. When a drum of nitric acid broke open and five cops were sent to the hospital, residents and a public school just down the road were told to keep the windows shut and *don't worry*.

What happened in Elizabeth is sickening, but what is outrageous is that it is not an uncommon mishap but a

common occurrence. Look at New Jersey alone. In Jackson township in Bergen County, 300 residents live on top of the highest known concentration of mercury in the world and are lied to about its dangers. Republic Wire Corp. in Woodbridge, N.J. destroyed a lake with pollution discharges, and since 1957 the company has found it cheaper to pay the fine each year instead of cleaning up its act!

Health and safety laws, environmental laws don't mean anything to these capitalists. These minor "annoyances" are swept out of the way by paying tiny fines or getting embroiled in years of bureaucratic court battles. But there's one law they don't ignore—the law of profit. Anything you can make money on is fair game, anything you can't—dump!

Florida Executions Imminent

Capital Punishment— Weapon of Capital

On Friday, May 18th, Florida Governor Bob Graham signed the death warrant for John A. Spenkelink and Willie J. Darden. They were scheduled to be executed Wednesday, May 23, the first victims of legal murder since Gary Gilmore, who was the first to be executed in this country in 12 years. As we go to press, the Supreme Court has handed down stays of execution on both men (after turning down Spenkelink's appeal 3 times). But these threatened executions have once again focused national attention on the death penalty, including being the target of recent national demonstrations in Atlanta, Georgia.

Spenkelink is no psycho with a death wish like Gilmore. He admitted killing a professional criminal in self-defense, a man who ripped off his money, forced him into homosexual relations and then made him play Russian roulette with a loaded pistol. Unlike Gilmore, who begged his rulers to kill him, Spenkelink has been fighting the fate this system has in store for him, as well as fighting the conditions other prisoners face. While in isolation, he joined with other prisoners in protesting the denial of visits from lawyers and relatives. For this he was beaten by the guards.

History of the Death Penalty

The death penalty was temporarily stopped in 1967 in the midst of the turbulent decade of protest against capitalist injustice and oppression. As part of this there was growing outrage

over state executions, including the fact that it was obviously the poor and the oppressed nationalities who were being executed. Dragged into the light of day were statements like the one made by a former police chief, who testified before the Ohio state legislature in 1964 that "We need capital punishment to keep the Blacks in line." In 1972 the Supreme Court declared state capital punishment laws to be unconstitutional on the grounds they were unfairly applied against Blacks and the poor.

But as with all concessions and reforms forced out of the capitalists no sooner are they won than the ruling class prepares to take them back and step up new attacks. Immediately following the 1972 Supreme Court ruling on existing death penalty laws, politicians scurried about to come up with "acceptable" laws providing for official murder that "wouldn't discriminate." And in 1977 the Supreme Court in a new ruling said all the problems with discrimination and injustice had been solved and gave the green light to several states which had worked overtime to come up with reworded death statutes.

Gary Gilmore's so-called "right to die" was an opening wedge in preparing public opinion for a full scale reinstatement of the death penalty. And in the last 2 years, death sentences have been handed out at the rate of 2 per month.

The Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court has recently been on a state-wide crusade whipping up support

for quickie executions of those now on death row, in the name of judicial "efficiency." According to this reactionary agent of his murderous class, "If they know they're going to get punished, brother, they're going to think twice about it."

But even the ruling class has a hard time backing up the lie that capital punishment "deters" or prevents crime. In England in the Middle Ages petty theft carried an automatic death penalty, but more pickpockets plied their trade at public hangings than anywhere else!

Crime soars with or without the death penalty, as the economic crisis and the thrashing of the decaying system drives people to desperation, turns them into petty hustlers (pale reflections of the dog-eat-dog hustle on a

grand scale that the capitalists practice themselves) and twists some of them into creatures like Gary Gilmore. Besides, if they wanted to execute the biggest criminals in this society, they would have to pull the switch on themselves, an unlikely possibility.

No, protecting the people is not the concern of our rulers, but protecting their system from the people is.

Murder Incorporated

They yell for the death penalty to give the phony impression that they can somehow "keep order in society" but the basic reason they are restoring the death penalty is because they see their system sinking deeper into crisis and moving toward a war they will call on the masses of people to fight. They know that struggle will inevitably arise out of this situation, and they must reassert their authority—their legal power over life and death—and use the death penalty as a sword above the heads of the masses, ready to drop when they "get out of line."

In the last few years as states have rewritten their death penalty laws to make

Continued on page 16

25 Abortion Clinics Firebombed

Church Blesses "Pro-Life" Terror

The anti-abortionists or "pro-life" movement, as they like to call themselves, get a lot of coverage loudly demonstrating and flying their chief mouthpieces like Phyllis Schlafly around the country to spew reactionary garbage that "a woman's place is in the home" having and raising kids and doing household tasks.

The movement is closely associated both ideologically and by generous funding with the Catholic, the Mormon, and various fundamentalist churches, of which the Catholic Church is the biggest organized and organizing force. This year it has publicly put up \$250,000 for its Human Life Amendment, Inc. alone (created to build support for the Right to Life Amendment).

But apparently the movement's anti-abortion tactics also include more clandestine attempts at "convincing" women contemplating abortions of the "error of their ways," including straight-out terrorism.

One particularly insidious example of their sick campaign begins in the Philadelphia White Pages, under the innocuous listing, "Abortion Birth Control and Pregnancy Testing Clinic." Women desiring abortions unwittingly dial this number only to be subjected to an anti-abortion tirade relating in gross detail what an unborn fetus supposedly goes through during abortions. Some victims, caught off-guard and emotionally upset, have given their addresses or phone numbers only to be hounded on the phone and through the mail with typical anti-abortion literature laced with religious overtones and puritanical warnings: "Natural sex is open to the transmission of life," but sex with birth control devices "is a couple's selfish attempt to grab the pleasure and destroy the creative forces..." In other words, ladies, ab-

stain or stay barefoot and pregnant.

It turns out the address of the phony clinic and the organization, Save Our Unborn Lives (SOUL) are the same—217 Greendale Road, the home of anti-abortion zealot, Jeannette Neary, complete with a statue of the Virgin Mary on the front lawn.

But these reactionary sickos don't stop at psychological warfare. The Bill Baird Abortion Clinic in Hempstead, New York was the latest target in a rash of firebombings hitting 25 clinics in various states. Fortunately the screwball terrorist inadvertently set fire to himself and was caught in the act with the 50 occupants of the clinic getting away unharmed although the clinic was completely gutted. But the other 24 firebombings remain unsolved. What Bill Baird, a long-time pro-abortionist wants to know is, "Who would be so slick as to have 25 firebombings and nobody caught? Can you imagine 25 Catholic churches bombed and nobody arrested?" He has reason to be particularly suspicious of the Catholic church which has denounced him as the "peddler of death" and the devil personified. The bombings go unsolved and pro-abortionists are forced to live with the fear of being burned alive. The 20th century crusader for the Virgin Mary, Mrs. Neary, continues delivering her sadistic mental tortures to unwary victims—Ma Bell has refused to remove her phony clinic listing from the phone book.

What a shining example of this "modern" and "enlightened" society! Nothing is too low—these reactionaries are free to run their stone-age "barefoot and pregnant" line on women and when that doesn't work, they just resort to open terrorism, and all of this with the unofficial blessing of the godfathers of church and state. ■



The death penalty—a weapon of the capitalist class against the masses. Capital punishment has always been used as a weapon against Black people in particular. Pictured are sharecropper Rosa Lee Ingram and her sons, ages 14 and 16. They were all sentenced to death in 1948 after killing a white farmer in self-defense.

Prisoner's Call for Support Stop "Long-Line" Slavery

May 10, 1979

Dear Comrades,

We are writing to ask your help in exposing inhuman conditions here at Ft. Pillow State Prison. Here, they have a system called the long line where convicts are made to wear striped clothing and forced to do manual labor while being stood over by guards carrying rifles and shotguns. It is reminiscent of the slave plantation days. On May 8, members of the long line held a peaceful sit-down to protest these inhuman conditions. In retaliation, guards locked-up six of us and charged us with refusing to work and inciting a riot. (There was no violence or disturbance or anything resembling a riot.) I was put in a cell with a stopped-up commode that had overflowed and the floor was covered with feces and urine. Several hours later a plumber was allowed to unstop the commode, then several hours later I was given a mop and allowed to clean-up some of the mess. Even now over 36 hours later, the floor is still wet and the odor is so terrible that I am suffering headaches and dizzy spells just from breathing it. We are also forced to eat all our meals in these cells. The pigs told me that if I would plead guilty they would move me to another cell. I refused as a guilty plea would involve my being locked-down indefinitely and losing good time enough to add from 1 to 5 years to my sentence. The whole thing is strictly an oppressive move to stop solidarity and political awareness among the cons and to make sure certain politically active cons never get out. We are in dire need of outside support and need people to write letters to Gov. Lamar Alexander, State Capitol, Nashville, Tenn., protesting the conditions here and the unjust prosecution of us 6 off of the long line. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to use my name as I don't see as how I have anything else to fear from the state.

A luta continua!
James W. Parker, 71108
Fort Pillow State Prison
Fort Pillow, Tennessee 38032

Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls

Contribute to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

The Revolutionary Communist Party receives many letters and requests for literature from prisoners in the hell-hole torture chambers from Attica to San Quentin. There are thousands more brothers and sisters behind bars who have refused to be beaten down and corrupted in the dungeons of the capitalist class and who thirst for and

need the *Revolutionary Worker* and other revolutionary literature. To help make possible getting the Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party as well as other Party literature and books on Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought behind the prison walls, the *Revolutionary Worker* is establishing a special fund. Contributions should be sent to:

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund
Box 3486, Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654

Reactionary New Book: "God and the Astronomers"

Did The "Big Bang" Blow Away Science?

Want to be a highly honored scientist today in the U.S.A.? Easy. Just be a shameless hack ad man, promoting a turn-the-clock-back philosophy and groveling publicly at the altar of know-nothingism.

The latest entry in this hotly-contested field is a book by Robert Jastrow, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Called *God and the Astronomers*, it baldly puts forward the ridiculous idea that all of modern astronomy, and in particular its "big bang" theory of the "origin" and development of the universe, boils down to the same thing already written down in the Book of Genesis over 2000 years ago.

For this great contribution to the bourgeoisie's current "holy cause" of promoting mysticism, religion and pseudo-scientific cultism among the American people, Jastrow has been lavished with praise. He is referred to as a "top expert" on astronomy. *Time* magazine reviews laud his book. The reactionary screen writer Paddy Chayevsky even blubbered that "Robert Jastrow is the greatest writer on science alive today"! And the capitalists package Jastrow's book in a form perfectly suiting its hollow content—a slick production full of snapshots of the "great minds" of astronomy and big type, which they have the nerve to foist off for \$9.00. Ah, science—what heights you are achieving under the bourgeoisie!

But far more important than the crass commercialism and shoddy sensationalism of this book is its thoroughly reactionary content, its attempt to use the "big bang" theory to promote religious dogma.

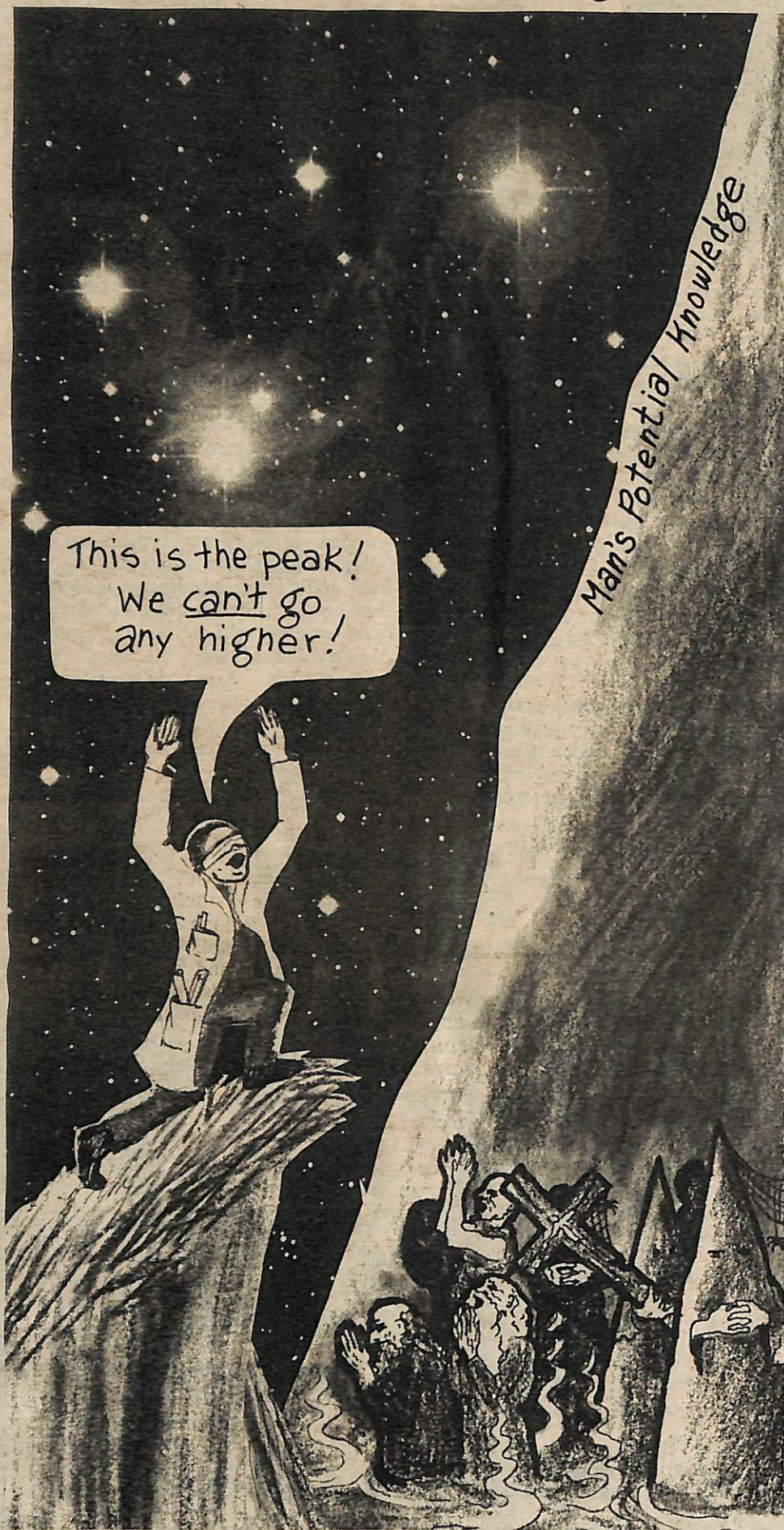
The "Big Bang" Theory

This theory has been brought to prominence by a series of discoveries over the last 50 years. In the 1920s, comparisons of the intensities and spectra of light received from hundreds of stars led to the conclusion that they were receding from one another—that is, that the universe is presently expanding. Further, the fact that the speed at which the stars receded from one another was proportional to the distance between them was discovered. These two discoveries pointed to a common propulsion from some central point in a huge explosion in the past—now calculated to have occurred roughly 18 billion years ago.

This idea, that the universe had a history, had undergone development, went up against reactionary views of the time, particularly religious ideas—including the line that nature does not evolve. The Genesis story, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished . . . and on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested . . ."—this static view was challenged. In science the big bang theory opposed the similarly static "steady state" theory which said that basically the universe never really changes, a theory whose proponents went to great lengths to save, even concocting far-fetched ideas about the "continuous creation of matter." But in the mid-1960s the big bang theory won much more widespread support with the discovery of the cosmic background radiation which could best be explained as the "fallout" from the big bang.

These discoveries, and the big bang theory itself, are scientific advances. But of course there is no particular scientific discovery that will by itself abolish religion. Religion, reeling from the blow, will back up, regroup and come again. It will adjust itself and say this all fits in. So it is with the big bang—the idea that it was the "birth" or "beginning" of the universe is pushed.

Putting this idea forward in his book, Jastrow babbles about the "striking similarity" between this "birth" of the universe and the Biblical accounts of creation. Writing of the big bang, he says, "in the searing heat of that first



"For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

R. Jastrow, author of *God and the Astronomers*

moment, all the evidence needed for a scientific study of the cause of the great explosion was melted down and destroyed."

Well, a careful thief also destroys the evidence, but we do not usually attribute burglary to divine intervention. All that follows from the "destruction of the evidence" is that we do not now know the exact forms of the motion of matter that existed before the explosion. It does not mean that "God existed," "nothing existed" or "we cannot know." In fact a consistent scientific understanding means there can be no doubt that matter in motion did exist prior to and give rise to the big bang. For example, some scientists today hold that it was the pressures created in matter, tightly compressed into a

superdense, superhot state, which caused the enormous explosion that is still propelling its debris outward. It is Jastrow who is pulling some real thievery, trying, with his jive philosophy masquerading as science, to steal man's ability to gain ever-increasing knowledge and to substitute God instead.

Jastrow believes science can go only so far—no farther. The same fable was spread when the atom was discovered—it was said to be the "ultimate particle," but further discoveries have exposed this as the nonsense that it always was. Jastrow says, "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is

about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

Actually what has happened is that Jastrow has lost his grip on science and plunged 5000 feet into the bottom of a mystical pit. Wallowing in this kind of idealism is always easier than consistently struggling to apply science.

It is easier to resort to the idea of "God" to explain the unknown than to grasp that man's knowledge is limited but is constantly advancing to new heights. So Jastrow's confused ideas seem plausible to many people. "Yes, there must have been a beginning—everything has a beginning. True, there's no scientific way to understand this beginning, since the big bang destroyed all the evidence that would be necessary for a scientific study. So maybe all this God stuff shouldn't be ruled out." To get past this confusion, it is necessary to apply the science of Marxism.

Communist Answer to "Birth" of the Universe

In a forum on religion sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Party, in response to a question raised about ideas similar to those in Jastrow's book, Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP, made a number of remarks which bring out a Marxist understanding of the so-called "origin" of the universe:

"Some people will say, 'Yes, it took millions of years for the earth to evolve and for life to evolve from the plants in the sea, maybe all that evolution is correct.' Some people will grant all that because the theory of the creation in six days doesn't go along much with geological and other discoveries . . . But still people say, 'Maybe that's all true, but nevertheless something had to start all this' . . .

"Everything in the world undergoes a qualitative leap when it comes into existence and another one when it goes out of existence. But first of all those boundaries are conditional—they're not absolute, and if you try to fix them absolutely you will go crazy. And second of all, while individual things have beginnings and ends, that makes people accustomed to the idea that every thing has to have a beginning and an end.

"But if you think about it, why is that so? Why is it so that matter in different forms in the universe has to have limitations on it? It's only because we're used to thinking in limited terms, thinking of boundaries on everything. But once we explore them and get a scientific view we see that they're not absolute. But because every particular thing has a beginning and an end, people think that the whole deal does also. And if that's your view then you run into mysteries that you can't solve, such as, what comes before the beginning? And that's also impossible to contemplate, isn't it? So then you have to posit something else—God.

"The only answer to that is a scientific understanding, not any particular scientific discovery, but a scientific understanding that matter (whether it's in the form of energy or whatever)—that matter, moving and constantly changing, always has existed and always will exist. That's hard to imagine, but when you think about it it's no harder to imagine than something existing before the beginning. If you postulate God, I still say, what is the impulse that created God? Since you're gonna make that argument to me, I'll put it back to you.

"You say God was there, then the only difference between your argument and mine is that you want to say that something unknowable that cannot be understood nor touched nor transformed by people, has existed from eternity;

Sorry, Han Suyin

Revisionism is **NOT** a Many Splendored Thing!

Han Suyin, a well-known writer, recently completed a speaking tour of the U.S. which clearly demonstrated how far she has gone from former supporter of Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Revolution to an enemy of Mao's and a pawn of the revisionist traitors to socialism who run China today.

Her speeches in both Chicago and Ann Arbor, Michigan were advertised as presentations on literature and art, but this agenda was scrapped in favor of an all-out assault on the accomplishments of the proletarian rule which held sway in China until the revisionist coup of 1976.

Such attacks are, of course, not unusual these days, as Teng Hsiao-ping and company have enlisted the aid of any willing nit-wit ever associated with China to bolster up sagging interest in revisionist rule. But because of her prestige among a number of professionals, intellectuals and artists, Han's speaking tour is worthy of comment.

Han is the author of a lengthy two volume biography of Mao Tsetung completed in 1976, as well as a number of novels, the most famous being *A Many Splendored Thing* (on which the movie, "Love Is A Many Splendored Thing" was based). Her books on Mao, both written before the revisionist coup, are favorable and played a positive role in spreading information and creating support for revolutionary China. These books were definitely not written as a communist analysis; still the first volume in particular, *The Morning Deluge*, gives a generally accurate picture of the struggle in China and

Mao's leadership of it up through 1954.

The second volume, *Wind in the Tower*, deals with events in China from 1954-1975, going into the years of the Cultural Revolution in depth. This book tends to give a rightist interpretation to many events and gives a great deal of aid and comfort to the right. Still it praises Mao and in general upholds his line and the Cultural Revolution. It even says some supportive things about those now Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan.

But what does Han Suyin say today, less than three years after the completion of her biography of Mao? The years of the Cultural Revolution were called by Han at her Ann Arbor speech, "The worst tyranny China has ever known." But now, everything is all right, said Han. "You don't know what a liberation it was for the Chinese people when the 'gang of four' got overthrown." She even offered an explanation of the campaign Mao initiated aimed at Teng Hsiao-ping, who was knocked down in early 1976 and exposed as an unrepentant revisionist. "It was a well-known secret at the time in China," said Han, "that Mao had arteriosclerosis of the brain."

Flip-Flop

Come on Han Suyin! Is this the same Mao Tsetung who you describe in the book you finished only months earlier? "Poet and peasant, classicist and Marxist theoretician, master of the strategy of modern war, and liberator of the

creative energy of his people, Mao in his thinking and his vision of the world transcends national boundaries..."? Hardly a picture of a senile old man! Is this the same "gang of four" who you praise and whose line you praise in the final chapter of *Wind in the Tower*? Is this the same Cultural Revolution to which you devote no less than 180 pages and which up until 1976 you not only gave support to but openly advocated in public presentations in this country and others?

No, what accounts for the change is not the revisionist coup, the danger of which Mao continually emphasized and which Han also notes in her book. "Every day for the last five years, the Chinese press has warned against the dangers of revisionism, of capitalist restoration..."

For years Han Suyin supported the Chinese revolution, but not from a communist perspective herself. She is a petty bourgeois with even higher aspirations. She has seen her own future tied to China, and to its success. Of course, up until the coup that meant the success of the revolution, while now it means success in restoring capitalism. Her allegiance to China is basically that of a nationalist. Her admiration of Mao in her books tended heavily to individual hero-worship and seeing Mao's revolutionary line as only "his own" ideas, rather than Mao's development of Marxism-Leninism—the revolutionary outlook representing the highest interests of the working class.

Her emphasis on the "excesses" of the Cultural Revolution shows that she

never really united with the final aims and goals of the revolutionaries in China. But even with these weaknesses, she popularized what was objectively revolutionary and this played a positive role.

But now, with the revisionists in power, what we see unleashed in Han Suyin is an unrestrained attack on the achievements of revolutionary China coming from her own bourgeois world view which is right in line with that of Teng Hsiao-ping, Hua and company.

This came out in her tirade against the Four's (and Mao's) "worst tyranny China has ever known." She hailed the "splendor" of Teng Hsiao-ping's much fanfared "liberalization" and "democracy" when she said, "You Americans know what it is to have a democracy, now the Chinese people can have a democracy too."

How does this stack up against what she used to say about the *real* democracy for the people in China? Listen to how she wrote three years ago: "Every day (in the Chinese press) there are exposures of errors and misdeeds; frank and revealing articles debate the two line struggle and the class struggle which goes on among the eight hundred million Chinese and the Party."

Today, *this* kind of democracy goes against Han Suyin's grain, and with good reason. Because it was through such struggle and debate that the consciousness of the masses in China was raised, traitors like Teng Hsiao-ping exposed and the dictatorship of the proletariat deepened.

Instead of the wall posters where much of this struggle was carried on, now the Chinese people get Teng's "democracy wall," a place for sniveling bourgeois intellectuals to scribble their drivel about the insufficient privileges they received under the "gang of four," and their hatred for the time when *ordinary workers* dared step out of "their place" to run things.

Democracy in China today is a catchword of bourgeois rule. The revisionists throw it around a lot specifically to rally this section of the intellectuals, people who have long yearned for a return to the days when their privileged position above the masses would be restored. It's their "democratic right" to regain this position which is now being hailed by Han Suyin.

In order to accomplish her purpose of whipping up support for Teng Hsiao-ping, Han attempted to knock down the opposition. It's obvious that her speeches were altered to aim in part at the Revolutionary Communist Party, which she implicitly and repeatedly attacked during her lectures. She apparently felt that upholding, as the RCP does, the revolutionary line and achievements of China under Mao and the Four was just too potentially dangerous among her audiences to go unchallenged.

No Excitement

While Han Suyin drew 500 to her Chicago speech, more significant is the fact that during her previous trip to Chicago, before the coup, when she was upholding revolution and not revisionism, Han drew 1500. This shows how revolutionary China rallied many thousands in this country, even from more privileged petty bourgeois people.

Teachers, sick of irrelevant, bourgeois and boring education, had their minds blown by even the idea that workers were running universities in China. Doctors, disgusted with the appalling state of health care in the U.S., looked to China where an army of peasant barefoot doctors were bringing health care to the masses on a scale never dreamed of in this country. Then, China was alive, vibrant, exciting—revolutionary!

Some of these people moved forward to a conscious understanding of what happened in China in 1976, others simply lost interest, and a few, like Han Suyin, have degenerated into a fifth col-

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the COMMUNIST
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Of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

- Beat Back the Dogmatist-Revisionist Attack on Mao Tsetung Thought
Comments on Enver Hoxha's Imperialism and the Revolution
- Some Notes on the Study of What Is To Be Done? and its Implications for the Struggle Today
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The bourgeoisie constantly puts forward its theories in a thousand and one forms. These theories have to be hit hard and exposed as the bankrupt trash they are, especially when they come from the mouths of people who claim to be on the side of revolution.

The latest issue of *The Communist* contains a number of articles which represent a valuable contribution to the class struggle on the theoretical front:

- Full reply to Hoxha's wretched attack on Mao Tsetung Thought. When revisionism triumphed, for the moment, in China after Mao's death, many revolutionaries looked to Albania with hope. But now this article shows how Enver Hoxha's new book

is really a stab in the back and betrayal of Marxism and revolution.

- Lenin's *What Is To Be Done?* and its role today. This book of Lenin's played a crucial role, not only in preparing the way for the Russian Revolution, but in other times and places. What Lenin says here has been the subject of debate among revolutionaries throughout the 1970s.

- Plato was an ancient Greek reactionary. But the bourgeoisie still finds him relevant and likes to push him. The proletariat has an interest in discovering the *real* roots of Plato's thought.

- Charles Bettelheim was the President of the France-China Friendship Association, but quit in protest against the revisionist takeover in China. Now he has written an analysis of the counter-revolution in China. But is his criticism really based on revolutionary Marxism, or not?

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Puerto Rican Fighter Escapes

(New York City) Monday, May 21 7:30 a.m. Every major radio station in New York City interrupted their daily programming for the latest news. "Convicted terrorist," William Morales, a supporter of the Frente Armado de la Liberación Nacional (FALN) who was arrested when he was found unconscious after an explosion in a Queens apartment, had escaped from his third floor cell in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital. According to reports, the Puerto Rican man whose hands and part of his face were blown off in the explosion, cut the metal window of his high security cell and without being noticed by the guards, used an ace bandage to lower himself to the ground and freedom.

The thwarted hangman, the judge who sentenced Morales to 89 years in jail for possession of weapons and explosives, said "I warned the correction department that although Morales lost his two hands in the explosion that he still had his brains and would try to escape." However, it didn't take brains for the judge to say this. Morales told him straight out that he'd try to escape, and he defiantly spit right in the face of the imperialists and their 89-year sentence, saying, "My people will continue fighting until they kick your goddamn system out of my country."

Ever since Morales was arrested, the capitalists used their media to create a distorted picture of Morales and the righteous struggle of the Puerto Rican people for their independence, saying, in effect, it's all about wild terror against whites. In fact, to the contrary, FALN has hit imperialist targets like oil companies, etc. While their apparent near-exclusive emphasis on individual armed action doesn't represent the road to victory for Puerto Rican liberation, the bourgeoisie is attacking Morales as part of attacking the Puerto Rican movement as a whole.

But nothing they did could suppress the excitement and joy that the masses, particularly though not exclusively the masses of Puerto Rican people, felt. From the prison ward at Bellevue to Rikers Island to the streets of midtown Manhattan and the South Bronx, people cracked up at how ridiculous the bourgeoisie looked. (In fact, they have a completely new \$12 million prison ward at Bellevue that they cannot afford to open, sitting a thousand feet from the cell that once contained Morales.)

Reporters on the scene told of an exuberant reaction by Puerto Rican hospital workers at the Bellevue prison ward. "Beautiful," one enthused, while another declared, "Another point toward the revolution."

At Madison Square Garden the night of the William Gomez fight, person after person expressed support for Morales. "Hey, I hope he gets away. I don't think he should have been convicted anyway. Why should he hang around if he can take a walk." "I say, good luck, man, and don't get shot. The guy has no hands and he gets out of the third floor. He oughta get a medal."

Morales' escape really blew a hole through the intimidation and scare tactics of the bourgeoisie. When Morales was convicted and sentenced, he didn't waver and his stand was firm, but even more significant are the revolutionary sentiments and desires of the masses that were unleashed with his escape. ■



From the pages of Vogue to the halls of reaction—demonstrators jeer McNamara's admirers as they enter Chicago University to attend the award ceremony.

"GIVE MAC THE KNIFE"

Continued from page 1

imperialist system. They thought they could get away with giving this bastard a "peace" prize when every day it becomes clearer that the U.S. and the Soviet Union are getting ready for World War 3.

But they were wrong. For here at this elite, Rockefeller-endowed university, which ruthlessly suppressed the student movement of the '60s through massive expulsions and firings of faculty, they could not erase the memories of much of the faculty about what really happened in Vietnam and in the '60s. And in this training ground for bourgeois experts and loyal servants, they could not get over with their "new improved" version of Robert McNamara to the students, even though many of them were too young to know much about the Vietnam war.

The faculty reacted immediately when they found out about the award. Nearly 300 faculty members signed a petition disassociating themselves from the award. Many had seen their colleagues fired for taking a stand against the Vietnam war. They could not stand by and let this atrocity happen in their name. Many mobilized their students and were key in pulling together an organizing meeting, attended by over 160 people, to plan the teach-in and protest.

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War took part in building for May 22 and played a big role especially in educating people about what the Vietnam war was really about and on the current revving up of the U.S. and

Soviet war machines. The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB) spread the call to hit McNamara and his backers beyond the University of Chicago to other students, especially at Northwestern University.

When invitations were sent out to faculty members, so many were returned in protest that not only a second, but a third mailing had to be sent to get enough people to fill the chairs at the black-tie banquet award ceremony. The actions by the faculty were a spark to ignite the anger of the students into an all-out struggle against McNamara and the university's role in this disgusting spectacle.

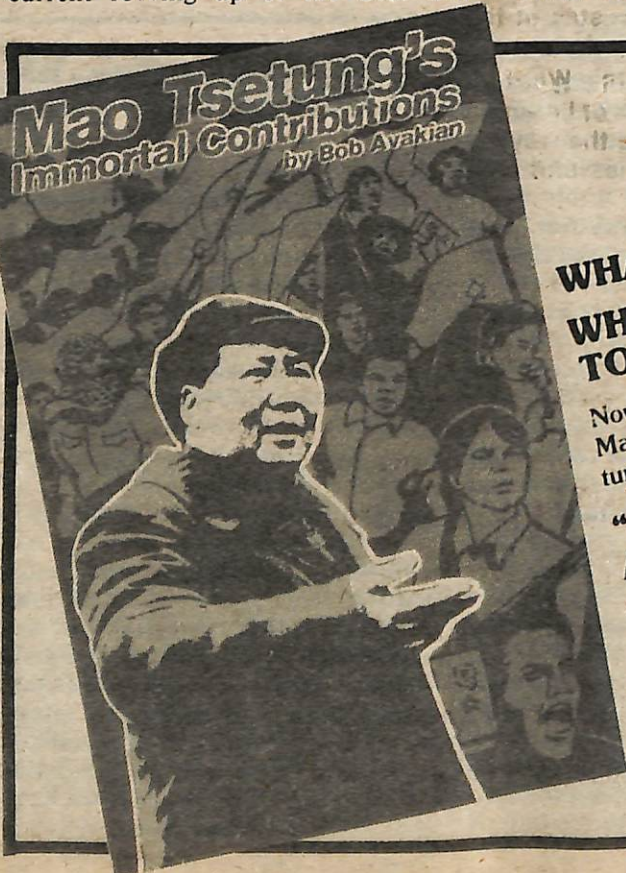
All along the university maintained that this "peace and understanding" award had nothing to do with McNamara's role in the Vietnam war. They said that this was for the "great contributions to humanity" that he had made since he moved from the Defense Department to the World Bank. They tried to get the people to think that somehow this man who engineered the policy of dropping jellied gasoline on the Vietnamese people, burning them alive, was a true humanitarian now. "Now he's at the World Bank," they said. "Why, his work is to help the poor people of the world, it has nothing to do with his past job."

But contrary to their "turning over a new leaf" hogwash, McNamara is the same man with the same politics, which even he admitted in his speech. He thinks he's always been a Humanitarian! Speaking about the relationship of the World Bank to the people in the underdeveloped countries, this mass

murderer had the nerve to say: "What is beyond the power of any set of statistics to illustrate is the inhuman degradation the vast majority of these individuals are condemned to because of poverty. Malnutrition saps their energy, stunts their bodies, and shortens their lives. Illiteracy darkens their minds, and forecloses their futures. Preventable diseases maim and kill their children. Squalor and ugliness pollute and poison their surroundings."

All in all, this is a fitting description of the World Bank who's "charitable" loans provide misery for millions in Latin America, Asia and Africa at exorbitant rates so as to make them permanently indebted to the western imperialist powers. It makes the Mafia juice loans look like a bargain basement. Same McNamara, same blood of the people of the world dripping from his hands, except now he does it from the mahogany offices of the World Bank instead of the mahogany-offices of the war department.

But all the administration's carefully laid and orchestrated plans were shoved back down their throats so powerfully on May 22 that they practically gagged on them. Not only didn't the people accept all their lies, but they brought to life in living color and glory the student movement that the bourgeoisie had hoped to bury for good in the early '70s. The media screamed, "It's *deja vu*. This is the '60s relived." But it's not *deja vu*. It's 1979. It's *what's in view* in the future—the draft, the nukes, the war on the horizon—that's raising all these questions and pulling people out to take this militant stand. ■



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In the 1960s the struggle of Black people went over from a civil rights movement for reforms to a powerful Black liberation struggle, which began to point toward the need for revolution as the only solution to Black oppression. Over 100 cities, such as Watts (top left) and Newark (right), exploded in rebellion.



Oppressors
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It wasn't too long ago that signs saying "White Only—Colored Keep Out" were more common than pornography is today. The 1954 Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* decision against legal segregation in public schools was part of a series of concessions wrenched out of the ruling class one by one in a decade of struggle against the segregation and oppression those signs stood for.

During the 25th anniversary celebrations of that decision which are taking place this month, the capitalist ruling class has been going around patting itself on the back for that decision. "The system worked," crowed one newspaper editorial, and another referred to that decision as proof that oppression can and will be ended by "the judicial process: the rule of law."

But this is shameless hypocrisy. It doesn't explain why the same system and the very same courts which had maintained legal segregation for so long were forced to end it. And it doesn't explain why, long after the fall of legal segregation, Black people are still bound by the chains of injustice even under the law that supposedly guarantees their freedom. What the capitalists are trying to hide with these 25th anniversary celebrations is that with or without "White Only" signs to flaunt it, the oppression of Black people is part and parcel of the rule of the capitalists.

To listen to some of the TV programs or read the newspapers, you'd think that what happened in 1954 was that the kindly Supreme Court looked down upon the Black people, saw the injustice they suffered, and determined to right that wrong. But why did the same Supreme Court which had ruled legal segregation perfectly constitutional for several generations suddenly change its mind? Certainly it wasn't the Constitution, because slavery was enshrined in the Constitution. Up to the Civil War the Supreme Court ruled it constitu-

tional to hunt down slaves. Long afterwards, the Constitution was used as the legal authority for segregation. In fact, there was no strictly legal reason for the Court to oppose segregation—the decision arose from events completely outside the courtroom.

The whole structure of segregation was set up after the Civil War and the reversal of Reconstruction, with laws restricting Black travel, Black political rights and education and so on, to keep the newly-freed slaves working under the thumb of the landowners on the plantations—an arrangement that benefited both Northern capitalist and Southern landowner.

In fact, many segregationist laws were not passed until the end of the last century and the first part of this one as more and more Black sharecroppers tried to flee from the arbitrary and vicious plantation owners to seek work in the factories of the North. The semifeudal system of sharecropping was the economic base that determined the rise of the legal superstructure of segregation designed to enforce it.

Economic Changes in South

But after World War 2, the sharecropping system was becoming obsolete. True, there was still plenty of profit in stealing half the crops produced by hard labor with a hoe, but there was even more money in large-scale modern mechanized farming, where a smaller number of laborers produced far greater profits. With the ending of

the sharecropping system as the main form of exploiting Blacks in the South and the great increase of modern industrial development there, the previous economic basis for legal segregation was being uprooted. In fact, while the plantation system meant keeping Blacks chained to the land, and found it better to keep them without any education, capitalist agriculture

and industry required workers who could be drawn into exploitation from across large areas and who had at least some education. Besides, during the 1950s, the issue of segregation of Blacks was an international scandal, and the U.S. imperialists needed to clean up their image in order to pose as a force for "anti-colonialism" and scoop up for themselves many former colonies of

Black Youths Check

Chicago. For the second year in a row an all-Black team from George Washington Carver High School, which draws its students largely from housing projects on the far South Side, has pushed ahead to a smashing city-wide victory. The game? Basketball, football, baseball? Nope. Chess.

OK, modern-day racist theorists—take that and shove it up your pseudo-scientific ass along with all your disgusting "theories" about the mental inferiority of Black people. All your theories that Blacks are "naturally" better equipped to run, leap, jump and engage in other physical activities (like chopping cotton and toting bales, no doubt) are nothing more than racist myths—with the obvious implication that Blacks' physical abilities are counterbalanced by a "natural" deficiency in the brain department.

Well, these racists can twist their own

small brains all day and still not explain how "natural rhythm" or the "natural" ability to run, jump, leap and stuff baskets accounts for the Carver Chess team's stunning upset last year over Lane Tech—the predominantly white, highest-rated academic high school in Chicago and 6-year holder of the city chess championship. And when Carver's ghetto youth went on to clinch the all-state chess title the same year, it really sent some stiff-necked racists reeling. Imagine the repeat shock this year, when the Carver team, in their gold and white jackets and mirrored shades, again proved that they can outwit, out-concentrate and out-strategize the best brain power in the city, place sixth in the state, and send a sophomore to the national championship tourney in Philadelphia!

For years the bourgeoisie has run out the line that Blacks are "natural

**Claim Credit
Progress"**
**All the
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ion?**



Above left: Black students demonstrate at Rutgers; Dartmouth students (above right) hurl red and black paint at a traditional winter carnival ice sculpture, as East Coast college campuses became the scene of struggle against oppression this spring.



forced them to make a few concessions.

There was a resurgent mood of rebellion among Black people in the South. Before the struggle against segregated education went into the courts, it was boiling in the streets. In at least one of the four schools whose Black students later became part of the court suit that led to the Brown decision, there had been a massive boycott of segregated facilities by Black students, and such events were becoming more common. And that Brown decision itself might very well have never been considered a famous beginning if it had not been for the even greater battles which followed it.

The truth is that one reason that the ruling class is so nostalgic about the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision is that the demand for "equal opportunity under the law" of the civil rights movement was tame compared to the powerful revolutionary demands of the Black liberation struggle which grew out of it.

Of course, what these capitalists don't admit is that even when Black people were demanding no more than the right to sit in the front of a bus or at a lunch counter, even when it was mainly a matter of the right to go to school or to vote and not a struggle threatening their very system, still the ruling class, through the Congress, the courts, the President and other means, did everything it could to hold back or sabotage the movement. It worked to have its own flunkies appointed to head it and repressed the people with the help of the FBI, or it unleashed local law enforcement officials and the Klan (often the same people in different uniforms).

When more and more Black people in the cities of the North as well as the

South saw that their oppression was not just something that could be ended by a few concessions, but that it was something far more fundamental and tied in to the very workings of the system, when the mass, violent rebellions began to break out in Black ghettos across the country, then the capitalists brought in the National Guard and the Army to stop them and their most high-powered mouthpieces to slander them.

Working to Keep Blacks Down

"The system worked"? Then tell us, Mr. Capitalist, why is it that today the average Black family's income is only a little more than half that of the average white family—a fact that has remained without change since the year of that 1954 Supreme Court decision? Why is it that over a million Black families struggled to survive on less than \$500 a month last year (the government's so-called "poverty level"—which means starvation), and that number is rising?

Look at the unemployment, look at the housing, look at the health care, look at the police running amuck murdering people in the "inner cities" as the capitalists so nicely call the hell-holes where Black people are walled in, and tell us that the system works. Just look at education, which 25 years after the Brown decision is more segregated in the country as a whole than before!

"The system worked"? Just look at the economic crisis, ever harder scuffling to survive, the madness and degradation and the endless abuses and the threat of world war—facing all the masses of people in this country.

The capitalists have their own disgusting answer to this question—they say or imply that it's Black

people's fault, and not the fault of the capitalist system. "We" (meaning the "enlightened" rich rulers) did away with segregation, they say—now it's up to you to make something of yourselves. According to the law you're equal now—so if you're not making it, whose fault is it?

This line is sometimes run in the most openly racist form and sometimes in a more slick way by certain Black mouthpieces, most notably people like Jesse Jackson and James Brown, who go around telling Black youth that what they need is a "commitment to excellence"—that they have to stay in school, work hard and so on, or they'll have nobody to blame but themselves.

"Without an education you might as well be dead," sings James Brown. But what about the fact that there are forces far more powerful than what anybody might want which compel people to drop out and/or keep them out of work? And how can education or any kind of individual advancement work for the masses of Black people in a system based on the exploitation of the many by the few, in which the systematic oppression of Black people is an indispensable part?

After all, what capitalism's based on is that for every one who "makes it"—becomes a capitalist or assistant to the capitalists—thousands more at best never do more than earn enough to keep themselves alive and working and raise another generation to do the same. It is this very exploitation and oppression that allows a handful to make it—without backs to climb up on there'd be no "top" to rise to.

This is the situation for all workers of all nationalities—what's particular

Continued on page 15

lesser imperialists, especially in Africa.

But did the capitalists therefore decide that it would be in their best interests to end legal segregation? Never. Since the whole system of the exploitation of the vast majority by a handful depends on oppression, the capitalists were not willing to give up even the smallest part of it. It was the struggle of the masses of Black people itself which

mate Capitalists' Lies

athletes"—at least ever since Joe Lewis, Jesse Owen and countless others brought home the medals. Before that they ran the line that Blacks were inferior to whites in every respect and were not good for much of anything except slave labor and Step 'N Fetch It routines. Even when Blacks went up against tremendous odds to become doctors, lawyers, and educators, bourgeois society has continued to promote the idea that Black professionals are somehow second-rate and not quite as good as whites. A degree from a Black college has never packed the same prestige as one from the other schools.

Putting all this emphasis on the physical abilities of Blacks is "natural" enough, coming from the capitalists. It is a "natural" justification for keeping Blacks in the lowest paid manual labor jobs, just like the slaves who were kidnapped and dragged from Africa to toil

on the slavemaster's plantation. Today the capitalists still need a rationalization for the fact that their system holds minority people down, makes them the last-hired and first-fired, and maintains the masses of them in the lowest strata of the working class—the modern-day slaves of all nationalities who sweat in the mills and factories of the capitalists.

Capitalism's Division of Labor

Capitalism is based on a division of labor where, like the slavemasters of old, a handful of wealthy parasites grow rich and bloated off the sweat and labor of the masses. These capitalists, with all their preachers and theoreticians, want not only Blacks but all working people to believe that only a select handful (meaning themselves) are mentally equipped to rule, while the masses are good only for manual labor and doing what they're told. Just look

at bourgeois education, if you want to see how they keep this division of labor going: the majority of working class and minority youth get "tracked" into vocational training or the army, not into college prep courses.

But even under this system there are thousands of examples that blow away the idea that this division of society into the thinkers and the doers, the rulers and the ruled (i.e. the vampires and the warm bodies) is somehow "natural" or eternal. The victory of the Carver chess team struck just such a blow. If a bunch of street-wise ghetto kids from the projects can master the science and strategy of chess, why the hell can't they also master the laws that govern society and production? Under capitalism this potential to master society is systematically stomped out of the majority of the youth. The capitalists don't need too many brains—what they need is "good slaves"—workers who have been educated enough to work in their factories and read their lying propaganda but not enough to think about running society and changing the

world.

The ruling class doesn't encourage activities like the chess team at Carver and other minority schools. In fact, they try to play down the team's accomplishments. A year ago when Carver came from nowhere to win the all-state championship in chess, the *Daily Defender*, a local Black newspaper, was the only bourgeois paper to print the story. This year the media accounts have given most of the credit for the team's victory to the coach, the so-called "White Shadow," even though he loses 9 out of 10 games he plays with the team members.

Only in the future, when capitalism has been overthrown and its remnants wiped out, will mankind be truly free of the crippling division of labor of class society. Mental and manual labor will be equally valued and done by all. Everyone will be the master of the laws of nature and society and the master as well of applying them in practice. Only then will this positive glimmer of the future flickering in the housing project achieve its real and full brilliance. ■

Death to the Duke!

Whoa, Duke, there ol' boy, hold up just a bit longer on your last ride out of town 'cause you're sure to get a real kick out of the latest living epitaph your grateful masters have bestowed upon you—a genuine Congressional gold medal in the tradition of other great Americans like that world renowned fascist Nazi-lover Charles Lindbergh; the Creator of Mickey Mouse, Walt Disney; and song and dance man for the imperialist army, Bob Hope.

What has earned the Duke this special place in the hearts of America's rulers? Why, as his red-haired ex-leading lady Maureen O'Hara slobbered, "John Wayne... is the United States of America."

(We couldn't agree with you more, Maureen dear.) You, John Wayne, have stood for every rotten despicable outrage this country stands for and was built on from the "winning of the West" through mass genocide of the Native Americans to the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Jimmy Carter noted your "true grit helped to win the West and World War II." Jimmy somehow forgot to mention Vietnam and your Green Beret get-up, and your passing of the baton to the "Deer Hunter."

One Congressman, Frank Annunzio, was perceptive enough to note this \$5,000 gold medal was the equivalent of



the "Congressional Oscar." And indeed it is—for a "true grit" performance of upholding imperialist plunder in the guise of the No. 1 All-American tough guy from cowboy to Green Beret.

True to their nature, the capitalists are gonna make a fast buck as you slip into your grave by selling bronze replicas of your gold-cast mug at cost plus 25%. This way they'll be able to get back their initial output of five grand.

But we aren't buying your mug, or any other horseshit they're shovelling out in the hours of your final appearance. Yes, Duke, you are truly the essence of America—we can only add—hasten both to the grave! ■

John Wayne Gacy "Defense Fund" Murder-Mobile Up For Auction

Sometimes the stench of this capitalist society just makes you want to puke!

Recently the Chicago papers very calmly reported that lawyers for mass murderer John Wayne Gacy were auctioning off his 1969 Oldsmobile to help pay legal fees. But get this: Some unnamed museum has already begun bidding somewhere in the \$50,000 range! Damn! Just imagine what the museum tour guide's rap will be: "This is the seat where the young victims sat on the drive out to Gacy's death house. This is the trunk where their mutilated bodies were stashed before he threw them into the river. Some people say that if you look hard enough you can still see the blood stains..."!

Even animals refuse to live in the same place where they drop their bodily wastes, but here is someone who wants to put the oozing pus of capitalism's body-rot on a pedestal and make a fast buck off of it. And they try to twist our

minds to think that this perversity is actually "something to see."

Every year there's more of this sort of shit—spawned by the inherent, yet increasingly visible sickness of the rule of parasitic capitalists. Often it's the bourgeoisie themselves who bask in the sickness. Remember the "snuff films" of a few years ago, where wealthy patrons paid \$300 for a chance to see real women being sliced up and slaughtered on film.

So now, John Wayne Gacy's death-mobile is to be enshrined. Shocking—yes. But surprising? No, not really.

Gacy is every bit a product of a system which is rotting alive and generating such maggots with greater and greater frequency.

Now, with the Gacy car and the other Gacy massacre memorabilia that will follow, the dying beast even sees possible value in its own stinking entrails. ■

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Indians

Continued from page 3

Roger Jourdain had run that reservation as his private plantation since he took over the tribal council in 1958. He could always count on re-election because he had plenty of people dependent on him for jobs, old-age pensions, and other "favors." He controlled money coming in—both the payments from private companies engaged in business deals with the reservation, and the federal programs that went to finance his patronage machine. And for protection he had his good friend Senator Hubert Humphrey (whose coffers were filled with some of the loot Jourdain had robbed from the people of Red Lake) Vice-President Mondale, and others. The Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent on the reservation was another of his cronies. The cops were under his direct orders—and he controlled the tribal courts, too.

But while Jourdain was getting rich, some other parasites were getting richer. Thousands of acres of Red Lake woodland were turned over to timber companies—and the tribe never saw a cent of that money. Land which was the collective property of the whole tribe was sold off to private interests or the government.

Like other tribes, the Red Lake Band has been feasted upon by small, medium and large parasites for generations, since they were first forced onto the reservation. But it is the biggest parasites, the capitalists, who have benefited the most from Indian oppression.

The reservation is very unusual in that, according to a treaty of 1889, the Red Lake Band is theoretically a country within a country, not bound by the laws of the state of Minnesota or the federal government. Supposedly this reservation is their land to live on freely forever. But almost every "right" supposedly guaranteed by this treaty has been turned into a chain of subjugation.

The people live mostly by fishing and logging. Supposedly to protect them and their resources, by federal law the logs and fish cannot be sold off the reservation. The logs must all be sold to the sawmill controlled by the tribal council—which pays half or less for the wood as non-reservation mills. Furthermore the mills, like most of the

enterprises on this reservation, pay only minimum wage—a third of what workers in other sawmills receive. The fish, too, must be sold only to the reservation fisheries—which re-sell them to fish wholesale companies. What a bonanza in profits the large companies who control the markets for these products must have taken out of the reservation in this way as well as by their more outright robbery of the lands they've logged themselves without paying for it and by buying and selling the land itself! Indians may theoretically own their own lakes and woodlands—but they're working for the big commercial operations.

No one knows—or at least no one who knows will say—how many millions have been taken out this way. Some of it began to come to light within the last year, when Stephanie Hanson, who along with her husband Harry has been a leader of the opposition to Jourdain, was elected council treasurer. Since she took office last November, Hanson began to unearth and denounce Jourdain's looting. She brought to light bonuses of \$20,000 Jourdain paid himself over the last two years, in addition to his \$35,000 salary and unknown sums from hidden sources, as well as the tribal payroll with his family and all his friends on it. Two months ago, Jourdain had her suspended from the tribal council for being a "disruption." Then, May 19, he had her fired—a move completely illegal according to tribal law. The next day, the people took matters into their own hands, smashed Jourdain's little empire and ran him off the reservation. At first the cops put him up in the nearby Bemidji town jail for his own protection. Later he disappeared completely.

But so far little has come out about the powers behind Jourdain—the hands that move this puppet. At a smaller scale takeover at a Wisconsin Chippewa reservation that happened the same day as Red Lake, the FBI seized all the tribal council records under the pretense of conducting an investigation to make sure the facts hidden there remained hidden. The incorrect demand for an FBI investigation of Jourdain which has arisen among some Red Lake Indians may also serve as a pretext for the FBI to do the same here.

BIA—Bureau of Robbery

The federal government, through its Bureau of Indian Affairs, which for years had worked hand in hand with

Jourdain, coldly ignoring the growing complaints of the people, suddenly came around wagging its tail like a puppy after the people took up arms. The BIA man who was a well known Jourdain flunky was replaced by a man who immediately reinstated Stephanie Hanson and called for an investigation of Jourdain.

Faced with the unity and armed determination of the reservation, the government has had no choice but to back off in this way. But the BIA, that so-called "protector" of Indian rights, has been the federal agency in charge of robbing and raping the Indians since it was first set up to rule over these conquered peoples. Even as the new BIA superintendent was announcing Stephanie Hanson's reinstatement, a BIA SWAT team had moved into position in the BIA building on the reservation, their M-16's and binoculars glistening through the second story windows—another fortress of armed capitalist power to replace the old police station. And the FBI, which set up an armed perimeter around the reservation 'til Tuesday, May 22, has begun to slink through the reservation preparing to issue indictments. Preferring, for now, to keep what they consider a "low profile," this occupation army snakes through the reservation not in tanks and armored cars but in a convoy of dozens and dozens of identical gray four-door Ford LTD's and vans full of leisure-suited grim-faced agents carrying shotguns and carbines.

Many of the Red Lake Indians want nothing more than to live on their land in peace—to live as they used to. Many consider the outside world not only hostile, but irrelevant. But capitalism's powerful forces extend deep into the northern Minnesota woods. Through

the workings of this system, these woodlands and lakes have become a cog in the machine of the capitalist economy. Capitalism's oppression of the Indian peoples becomes apparent not only in the discrimination and the abuse they face when they leave the reservations but also in the forms and degree of exploitation they face on the reservation at the hands of the big capitalists and their petty partners like Jourdain. Even where the people seem most "free"—to harvest themselves the wild rice that grows in the wetlands—even here the Indians have been crushed by the competition of the commercial "wild" rice plantations and marketing operations. And of course, the people must buy the capitalists' products. The schools are literally wooden barracks, and the all-round abysmal conditions that drive many people to drink, an "out" which the capitalists encourage—all of this is living proof of just how much conditions here are part and parcel of the capitalist system.

The workings of capitalism sometimes show up even more directly—the imperialists reached in for their Vietnam war and plucked off many young men to fight and die to protect their empire. And, as is now being made clear at gunpoint, the rule of the capitalists extends to the supposedly "independent" and "sovereign" reservation just as its tentacles grip the rest of the country and reach out all over the world. For these reasons, doing away with the oppression of Indians is bound up with making a single national proletarian revolution which will transform the world. The rebellion at Red Lake is an example of the fury and the power the Indian people will bring to that revolution. ■

Big Bang

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and I want to say that matter, moving in different forms, has existed eternally and therefore will exist eternally—because if it never had a beginning it can't have an end. But the thing that I'm saying has been there all the time and always will be is something that people can learn about, can master, can utilize, and therefore cannot be called God, by definition. Because everybody will agree that if you can master and utilize it, it ain't God."

Call A Halt to Science?

Jastrow pretends not to uphold religion, but he vigorously pushes his attack on the "all-round scientific understanding" referred to by Comrade Avakian, which Marxism has summed up and which refuses to admit the possibility of divine creation of the universe. It is clear that the whole thrust of Jastrow's book, full of its religious metaphors and references to the "Great Plan" (as he terms the development of the universe) points exactly to religion and objectively promotes it. No wonder that his book has received so much publicity from the bourgeoisie.

The capitalist system today is in deepening crisis, headed for depression and world war. In periods of crisis, capitalism always has spawned big waves of occultism and anti-scientific views which have helped the bourgeoisie confuse and demoralize the masses of people and keep them away from revolutionary ideas. This was true during the general crisis of the late 1920s and 1930s which affected the whole capitalist world, it was true under Hitler's fascism, and it is increasingly true today.

Thus in recent years we have seen a spate of things like "The Exorcist," "Chariots of the Gods," astrology fads—you name it—all serving to keep the people in an ideological stupor, worshipping mystical illusions. And it is particularly satisfying—and useful—to the bourgeoisie when "prestigious" scientists like Jastrow step forward to wage this battle for them and lend it a "respectable" and "no fads, no fanatics" image. Actually Jastrow and his ilk are nothing but petty ideological

hired thugs and hit-men for reaction. The bourgeoisie doesn't want the masses to thoroughly take up science and wield it in their interests. They don't even want a questioning spirit. They want people to be in an enslaved state of ideological darkness and ignorance.

The working class has no use for any such junk. As the only class in history with no stake in any form of exploitation, its interests lie in revolution that digs deeper and deeper until all oppression is abolished and everything that can give rise to it is done away with. This includes abolishing all the ideas of the old exploiting society. Other classes, like the capitalists, overthrew *some* old ideas, *some* old institutions, when they took power in society. But since their interests lay in establishing themselves squarely on top of others in society, they wanted revolution stopped immediately once they were in. As the great revolutionary Engels put it in the 1880s, the bourgeoisie, which had originally promoted science against the Church and feudalism, had to "drop their free thought, as a youngster, when sea-sickness creeps upon him, quietly drops the burning cigar he brought swaggeringly on board."

Only the proletariat wants to push on. Only the proletariat has no stake in stopping revolution, stopping progress. It is therefore only the proletariat's outlook—Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung Thought—that is unafraid, that dares to investigate and have a critical attitude toward everything. For the proletariat there can be no "highest peak," no stop to science or to the new heights of knowledge.

Marxism holds that there is much that is *not yet known*, but it holds also that there is nothing that is *unknowable*, that by the systematic application of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung Thought and all the particular sciences which it embraces, society and along with it man's mastery over nature can move forward without limit. In this process, religion and all other forms of exploiting-class ideology which promote ignorance and serve reaction, including all attempts such as Jastrow's to make us grovel before the sermon that "we know all we can, so don't try to know any more," will be swept away as the obsolete rubbish that they are.



Rat Attack

There are indeed some creatures in this society who are free to stalk and attack. No, not the pigs this time, but the rats. In New York City recently, a woman walking home was ambushed by scores of leaping, biting descendants of the carriers of the bubonic plague. Even when she managed to find refuge inside a car, the rats kept coming. There are two rats for every person in New York City, but since this all took place just blocks from city hall, the bourgeoisie was upset. "Oh," they gasped, "who let the rats out of the ghettos?"

These rats are called "super rats", the ones the city says it can't kill but can only control. With peanut butter and jelly sandwiches laden with poison that the rats thrive on, they control them right out of the ritzy neighborhoods and right into the communities of the oppressed. When a baby is bitten in Harlem, who even hears about it?

To console the outrage of the people when word got out about the rat attack, the city put its public relations department to work and released statistics from Bellevue Hospital to say, "Don't worry, more people are bitten by humans than rats every year in New York."

The Bellevue report failed to mention that some of those responsible for eating the people alive are the "super rats" who have their offices in city hall. When the masses of people institute rat control on *them*, it won't come out of a peanut butter sandwich.

Brown Decision

Continued from page 13

about the exploitation of Black people is that the capitalists maintain their oppression as a people in order to suck even greater wealth out of Black and other minority workers in the form of superprofits made possible by that oppression. The fact that a few Black people become capitalists in their own right or make it in a lesser way—or become well-paid Black faces for rich white interests—no more changes the facts of life for the masses of Black people than the fact that a few whites get rich helps the masses of white workers any.

Divide and Conquer

The capitalists are so ruthless and shameless that they even try to take the Black struggle, twist it and use it against Black people. They tell the white workers, "Look, we know times are tough for you, but we can't help it, because the Blacks have been demanding everything." Often using their courts, a favorite weapon, along with their press and other ways of forming public opinion, they create cases like the Bakke case of last year, in which it was ruled that because of minority education programs, today it's the whites who are being discriminated against; or like the Weber case in steel, where the claim is that Blacks are getting all the good jobs.

These vicious fairy tales have the

oldest punch line in the world—divide and conquer. It's nothing but a low-down appeal to white working people to fight for what they need at the expense of Blacks. Through cases like Bakke and Weber, not only are the few crumbs—the handful of school admissions and job openings won by Black people—not only are these being stripped away, but the capitalists are also setting the stage for even more ferocious attacks on Blacks and other minorities. And they are trying to rob all the working and oppressed people of the unity needed to confront and overthrow the oppressor.

"The system works"? The tremendous struggle and sacrifice necessary to win even the barest concessions, and the fact that the ruling class is moving to snatch them away, the fact that today even without the help of legal segregation the workings of capitalism itself still enforce segregation and oppression—all this is an indictment of the capitalist system and proof of the need to overthrow it.

The Black liberation struggle of the past decade was about more than winning a two-bit program that the government closed down as soon as it thought it could get away with it—it was about rising up and being free. Because of what was learned through that struggle and because of today's conditions, there is an even stronger basis for unity among all the exploited and oppressed, to win the freedom of all from the nightmare of capitalism through revolution.

Han Suyin

Continued from page 10

umn for Teng Hsiao-ping, making a profitable career as public relations agents for revisionism.

But Han Suyin has a big fat job in front of her. Just think. Crusty Teng Hsiao-ping, his cortege of crusty old bureaucrats, his operas from the dark ages and worship of big, modern MACHINES, his down-to-business, rules-and-regulations, tough-cookie pragmatism—all this stirs about as much excitement as a prune at the breakfast table.

Face it, Han Suyin, you can't hold up a pile of shit and expect *everybody* to think it's roses. Revisionism, after all, is not a many splended thing. ■



San Francisco

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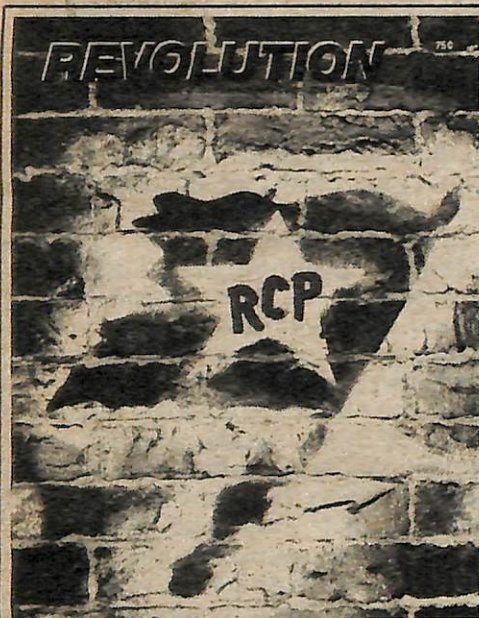
also gobbled twinkies, candy bars and cokes) who was a former leader in our Party and whose ideas on this had some influence in our ranks.

Attacks on homosexuals, like those by the San Francisco cops, must be opposed, and beyond that we oppose and must expose the hypocrisy of the persecution by the bourgeoisie of people simply because they are homosexuals. It is the capitalist system itself that

must be condemned, not those who suffer under its weight.

For all these reasons, the demands of the homosexuals in San Francisco for more representation at City Hall cannot be supported and are not in any way progressive. Still, there is an aspect of their actions that night at City Hall that can be supported. They objectively struck out at a glaring outrage of capitalist justice—the contradiction

that Dan White got off nearly free, while if some ordinary person, heterosexual or otherwise, had offended the Mayor and Supervisor, they would have gotten the axe. The court's decision was a vivid exposure of the hypocrisy of this system, and its obvious "double standard of justice" is an expression of the fact that the courts are nothing but another arm of the class dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. ■



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Silkwood

Continued from page 3

\$1.60 per hour they make; 3) that the Cimarron plant's waste has liquified and is contaminating streams and creeks that feed into major rivers; 4) that the plant put out fuel rods that were full of bad welds, and that X-rays of them had been touched up (this could cause a meltdown in a reactor); and 5) that the plant had secretly run out 40 pounds of bomb-grade plutonium on phony orders (which perhaps will find its way into the hands of U.S. "allies," all very discrete, you know).

Such information is indeed potentially dangerous to the nuclear industry and the government. It helps undermine their "nuclear strategy" and "national security"—and it's very bad for public opinion. And so the murder was committed and the cover-up began.

The road on which Karen Silkwood

died was repaved, her house packed up, and a campaign to discredit her began: she was divorced, went to rock concerts, smoked dope, etc. The F.B.I. was involved from the get. In court they testified that she deliberately contaminated herself with plutonium to discredit the company. No criminal charges were brought against Kerr-McGee and in the last-resort civil suit brought against the company by Karen Silkwood's family, all that the court would allow to be considered was whether Kerr-McGee was responsible for the fact that she had been exposed to plutonium contamination. This was the charge that was just ruled on.

Now we are supposed to be satisfied that "justice" has prevailed. The \$10.5 million fine will no doubt be lowered drastically by the judge and, of course, appealed by the company which, even if it has to pay, will be covered by its insurance company. Not even a slap on

the wrist. And even at this, the nuclear industry oinks that (horror of horrors) this decision will set a precedent that they will be legally responsible for the deaths and sufferings of workers contaminated in their plants by radioactive material.

But ruling or no ruling, precedent or not, their stinking courts be damned—Kerr-McGee is responsible for the contamination, suffering and slow death of its workers: They are guilty of the cold-blooded murder of Karen Silkwood. And this company is no "exception"—it's the rule: under capitalism nothing gets in the way of increasing profits, especially not the lives of workers.

We don't need that inch-high stack of incriminating papers to pass sentence on Kerr-McGee and the rotten contaminated system it's a part of. Verdict—Guilty. Sentence—Death penalty. The people will bury it deeper than its nuclear garbage.

Death Penalty

Continued from page 8

them "fair" according to Supreme Court standards, they have specifically included many more potentially political crimes, including killing cops and other guardians of the state, as well as crimes relating to treason against the government.

And for all the talk about "removing discrimination" from the death penalty laws, the fact is and remains today that capital punishment has special use as a weapon against Black people and all minority nationalities as a weapon to enforce their systematic oppression. In

the South, with its particular history of slavery, share-cropping and even today its kept-backward position, this fact stands out clearly. Today 84% of all death row prisoners in the country are in 11 southern prisons. In the state of Georgia, which has the all-time record for state executions, eight out of ten of the 417 people put to death between 1930 and 1964 were Black. And according to a study of murder convictions in the state of Florida, between 1973 and 1977 "the taking of a Black life, even by another Black, was one-tenth as likely to be punished by death as the taking of a white life. And yet, a Black who took a white life was five times as likely to receive the death penalty as a white doing the same thing." (*New York Times Magazine*, March 11, 1979)

Despite these particularities, the

South is not an exception. The special use of the death penalty against oppressed nationalities is a fact across the country. 54% of those executed nationwide since 1930 have been Black, while Blacks have never made up more than 20% of the population. Often the South has even been used as a "break through area" to test the waters for reactionary measures to be spread across the country. The current planned executions may be a case in point.

Of course the capitalists haven't refrained from executing people of all nationalities. John Spenkelink is white as are over half of death row inmates today. Anyone poor and oppressed can "qualify" for the death penalty. As Spenkelink himself has declared, "Capital punishment is for those without capital."

OPEC

Continued from page 1

ing timid requests and entering into endlessly dragged-out negotiations with the companies to get a few crumbs. It wasn't until 1971, with the anger and struggle of the masses pushing them from behind, and with the USSR's type of imperialism in socialist disguise challenging U.S. dominance giving them more maneuvering room in front, that the OPEC governments pushed through some price rises. And even here OPEC wasn't really fighting with the oil companies. For the companies were very worried about the falling price of oil at that time, caused by a worldwide oil glut. So they weren't averse to OPEC's raising the price and controlling (keeping down) the supply. Both the OPEC governments and the oil companies would benefit.

The price hikes of 1973 in the wake of the Arab-Israeli war were much more extreme, and although the oil companies weren't too unhappy (for the hikes enabled the companies to jack their prices way up and make some big profits), the rest of the U.S. capitalist class were not so pleased, since they had to pay more for fuel and petrochemicals—and in general the higher prices have caused problems in the U.S. economy, and even more in that of the whole U.S.-led bloc.

Doesn't Break Imperialist Chains

But although it's caused some disturbances, what the flow of money to the OPEC countries has not done is to enable these countries to break free from imperialism. Even though they are now much richer, the countries remain underdeveloped. The oil money comes flowing back to the imperialists—through huge military purchases (like Saudi Arabia makes and Iran used to make), through selling a flood of consumer goods at marked-up prices, and through getting the countries to invest in the Western economies. And even where the OPEC countries have tried to use the money to develop their economies, this has often been accompanied by big swindles, and they end up with factories that are so badly constructed they can only run at a loss.

And U.S. banks have even been able to make a killing off the bind that the higher oil prices puts other undeveloped countries in. These countries have to borrow money to pay for their oil imports, and there are the U.S. banks ready and willing to lend it—at a stiff interest rate, of course. Often when one of these countries can't meet its payments, it has to go to the U.S.-run World Bank—which makes the country reorganize its economy to make it even easier for the imperialists to come in to rape and pillage the country.

So OPEC has become just one more condition under which imperialism operates in its continued plunder and domination of these and other countries. It is not a threat to imperialism.

And it is definitely useful to the imperialists in at least one way—as a whipping boy that these dogs can beat to try to take the heat off themselves. One of the main ways they do that is by using Paul Harvey and people like him—people who act as if society today consisted of petty proprietors, each with his own little business. As if a bunch of people, each with his own little oil well, had decided to mess us over, so now all the people with their own little farms should try to get back at them. This serves the imperialists by covering over the basic facts of economic life today—the domination of the economics of the U.S. and the world as a whole by monopolies, international finance capital and a few big powers—in other words, by imperialism.

And not only that, it points everything in the wrong direction—backwards. To the extent that it ever existed, the days of everyone's "being his own boss" are gone forever. This ideology of petty proprietorship is both utopian and reactionary. Utopian because it's impossible, and reactionary because all it really does is cover for imperialism and wish to go backward instead of forward.