Oil companies use Iran as excuse for huge consumer price rip-off

by Peter Mallory

The temporary cutoff of Iranian oil, which amounted to less than 5% of total U.S. consumption, has led to higher gasoline prices, artificial shortages in jet fuel, threats of rationing and rampant predictions of dire consequences. Central to the U.S. fuel and energy crisis is the pressure on and off work.

OIL PROFIT

The oil companies promised that if given higher prices for "new found oil" that they would increase exploration, but have not. This, together with the fact that the oil giants have been buying up many of the smaller oil companies in recent years, has been the basis for several consumer price rip-off suits. The oil companies have been accused of selling "old oil" as "new oil," thereby instantly raising the price from $5 a barrel to $14 a barrel or better.

The oil companies are working on a profit last year of $2.76 billion. Every time the price of oil goes up, the oil giants reap huge profits from the relative low cost oil already in their storage tanks or in transit.

At the pre-OPEC oil price level of $2.50 a barrel, the U.S. oil companies prospered and built vast empires on the profits. Now, by their own figures, they are making $8 (31.42%) more profit on every $14 a barrel oil pumped through the Alaska pipeline. Still they complain about lack of incentive.

CONSUMER RIP-OFF

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In Texas, two small oil companies and five of their executives have been indicted for selling old oil as new oil at a profit of over $8 million. The U.S. Attorney says the case is just the tip of the iceberg, that the practice is widespread.

The Alaskan oil pipeline, while capable of producing and transporting two million barrels of oil per day, is shipping only 1.2 million barrels per day. This unused capacity would about equal the loss of Iranian oil. Reasons given by the oil companies for not increasing production include lack of facilities for handling the oil on the West Coast. California utilizes only 700,000 barrels a day from tankers while plans for more docking facilities are held up in the courts. Also, plans to build a new pipeline through the federal, state and local permits, according to the oil companies have cancelled the pipeline project.

Meanwhile, the oil companies promise that they will start examining the Alaskan basin to see if there is something there. But there is no indication that the oil companies will be able to find anything of any significance.

Proven gas wells are capped and unproductive due to lack of incentive.

Continued on Page 8

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Iranian women protest Khomeini p. 2

APRIL, 1979

VOL. 24—NO. 3

Printed in 100 Percent Union News
The magnificent demonstrations of the Iranian women, led by Khomeini, have initiated the second chapter of the Iranian Revolution by making it unmistakably clear that they will not stand for anyone turning back the clock in the name of revolution. With the major banking institutions and the national airlines off their jobs to join the demonstrations, tying up all workers; and has not subsided as of the date of this writing, a full week later.

DIMENSIONS OF THE REVOLT

On March 10 tens of thousands of women walked off work in the major cities of Iran. As a result, all the major banking institutions and the national airlines over 15,000 women marched that day and took over the Palace of Justice for three hours. By March 12, the demonstrations had spread to Abadan and Tabriz.

And from the first day, while there were many chants, the general cry was: “Down with the Shah.” In the aftermath of the attack on the protesters, there were many negotiations. There were demonstrations on March 15 in Detroit, New York, San Francisco, and by the thousands who marched two days later in Paris. (See “Women Worldwide,” this page.)

The new slogan of the Iranian women’s movement has become “the dawn of freedom, we have no freedom.” As Khomeini seeks to impose the shroud-like chador and ban abortion, women in the military, men’s right to a court divorce, women’s protection from polygamy, and co-education, calling the schools “centers of prostitution,” the women are crying, “Death to all forms of oppression!” The future has become the center of opposition to Khomeini.

Other voices are being raised objecting to the narrow view of revolutions. That is the only distance between an Islamic republic and a monarchy, and where each ballot will be the voter’s name and address.

**LEISHAN PROJECTS SEPARATION**

Chicago, Ill.—On Feb. 24 I heard Mary Dale speak about her experiences working and travelling in Iran, involving Coffeehouse here. She addressed an audience comprised primarily of 200 young lesbians.

The first, and one of the origin of words used to describe women. She blamed patriarchy for changing the meaning of words, rather than seeing words as a reflection of oppression. Looking at word origins doesn’t give us anywhere to go.

The second portion of her presentation dealt with physical violence suffered by women through history, such as foot-binding in China, genital mutilation in Africa, burning of widows on the graces of their deceased husbands, etc. Her presentation was focused only on oppression. She never spoke of women’s fight to overcome our oppression. She never referred to the fact that women are the ones who are victimized.

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In talking to women later, it became clear that much of her support came from the separatists, and not even from the more radical separatists. A detailed look at word origins did not always give us any place to go.

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Mary Dale speaks of “self-development” but only as looking inward. If we want to change society so that women are not oppressed, we cannot do it by that narrow kind of looking inward that isn’t aimed at changing the world, but becomes an end in itself. That view may make it possible to see that others are fighting for freedom too.

**WRITING ON**

In solidarity with Iranian women freedom fighters, we are devoting the entire column to activities in support of their struggle.—Ed.

NEW YORK.—A group of 1,000 mostly women, participated in a demonstration called by Ms. magazine, March 15, at the Iranian consulate. A number of women organized a “Ladies” section, to show their support of an “international feminist action” of support for Iranian women in several U.S. cities as well as Paris, London, and New Delhi.

DETOUR.—A demonstration by members of several women’s liberation groups and other supporters of Iranian women, on March 15, a committee comprised of members of two Maoist groups, the RCP and the Iranian Students Association. Their shouts of “Long Live Women’s Liberation! Long Live the Iranian Revolution! Long Live Women’s Freedom — not Khomeini!” from the women demonstrators.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Several hundred demonstrators marched to the Iranian Consul on March 14 to express their support for Iranian women. The march which included some Iranian organizations refused to participate, claiming that the Iranian women were victims of a conspiracy to return the Shah to power.

PARIS.—Thousands of women demonstrated their concern and support of women’s rights in Iran during the demonstrations in Paris, with the participation of Sophie Keir on March 19, after being held overnight at the Teheran airport. The Iranian women expelled her “protestations,” when she had, in fact, been invited to Iran by feminists there.

American feminist Kate Millett who had joined in the marches of women in Iran was arrested and put on a plane for South Korea. In turn, the Iranian women were victims of a conspiracy to return the Shah to power.

**WOMEN-WORLDWIDE**

*See Raya Dunayevskaya’s draft chapter, “Relationship of Philosophy and Revolution to Women’s Liberation.” (News & Letters, January-February, 1979)*.

**FOOD STAMPS—$2 a day to live**

New York, N.Y.—I am angry about what is happening with food stamps, and I want everyone to know about it. I get $35 every two weeks, and I paid $35 for $65 worth of coupons. After January, I got a letter telling me that some people will receive less money for food, and some more. I will get $10 a month in coupons, but that’s no good. I have to buy food for five days or a week, some times I take the money order I receive for the children that I’m supposed to send to welfare and buy milk instead. If welfare wants the money order, they’ll have to take it. A lot of people have the same problem as me, and we have to do something about it.

*—Welfare mother*

**SOJOURNER: Special Issue,” 143 Albany St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139**

The February 1979 issue of this newspaper, named after and for the feminist, Sojourner Truth, is devoted to the ideas and struggles of Third World women, whether in the U.S. or in Africa. It includes pieces by Ntozake Shange, Audre Lorde, and Grace Nnake, and some more.

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French steelworkers defy government lay-off plan

The French government announced a plan to lay off 20,000 workers in the key steel region of Lorraine several months ago. This region borders the German Ruhr district, and the response of the French steelworkers to these government plans was massive and militant. Union leaders called strikes, and the results were the biggest strikes in the area in over 15 years, but the rank and file workers soon went beyond the plans of the union leaders too.

Beginning late in January, workers, mostly but not exclusively young, blocked and overturned railroad cars, destroyed company records and occupied mills, especially in and around the town of Longwy, Managers were locked inside their offices and several police stations were burned down after one tried to escape the rioters. While some labor bureaucrats supported the workers, the Communist-dominated CGT blasted them and branded this young workers "provocateurs." As in 1968, when they helped to save the system from the worker-student uprising that year, the Communists had to deal with this internal riot, and the whole community of the plant is in fear of a breakdown of the company behind their backs after Thanksgiving. But since workers out of the plant on sick leave. But the workers have five times the chance of other types of cancer.

The international gave way a lot of jobs and agreed to all the company's speed-up plans because they knew what was going to happen to all that in all the companies. They have even been cutting back in the production and organizing more and more workers to fight back. The workers at Fleetwood are after the union as hard as at the company.

FROM THE AUTO SHOPS

Ford Rouge

Dearborn, Mich. — The sexual harassment that some women get in the plant makes them into nervous wrecks. The harassment from the foremen, in addition to the pressure from management to get out production, is bad enough. But we get it from male co-workers also. It seems like some of them have never thought of women as people to talk to or even to look at and smile. If foremen act this way, you can try to report it to someone. If they do nothing, then you can report it to the company. While some labor bureaucrats supported the workers, the Communist-dominated CGT blasted them and branded this young workers "provocateurs." As in 1968, when they helped to save the system from the worker-student uprising that year, the Communists had to deal with this internal riot, and the whole community of the plant is in fear of a breakdown of the company behind their backs after Thanksgiving. But since workers out of the plant on sick leave. But the workers have five times the chance of other types of cancer.

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GM South Gate

South Gate, Cal. — Yesterday an inspector from the main building worker's union told us to get out of the building. We told him we didn't want to let the local union officials off the hook. The fact is, the situation is still the same. The company still violates the contract at will and doesn't believe in the union, or even take it seriously.

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Dodge Truck

Warren, Mich. — Many main building workers are wondering what happened to committeeman Jack Barrett. I was working with Barrett about five years ago, and then we heard that Chuck Colon was the alternate committeeman. Then around the time of the special bargaining conference with management last August, Colon was listed on some bulletins reporting on the conference. Since then the committee has come to the conclusion that the demands of speed-up production they had no time to notice each other.

UAW Local 351 and its membership went out on strike in the main building worker's union, the International Union in Longwy, France. As in 1968, when they helped de Gaulle to save the system from the worker-student uprising that year, the Communists had to deal with this internal riot, and the whole community of the plant is in fear of a breakdown of the company behind their backs after Thanksgiving. But since workers out of the plant on sick leave. But the workers have five times the chance of other types of cancer.

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Main building worker
Far from being a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, what Carter engineered during his desperate trip to the Middle East is a military pact with U.S. imperialism.

It is not that anyone believed that there would ever be peace in the Middle East so long as the Palestinian people are denied the self-determination they want. Despite that, the occupation is the highest of crimes, and the increasingly brutal suppression of all such revolt, which is the expression of trust the population would die, mostly the very young and the very old. The middle group (the most "useful") would be richer on a per capita basis. When workers 14 hours a day for 10 years the economy in Israel would be twice as rich as that of the U.S. It all scares the hell out of me.

Russia's ships in the port of Dongho mean another possible starting point for WWII. While watching a Polish government-made movie of the China-Vietnamese fighting I could not help remembering that, under one of the war plans of the Warsaw Pact, the Polish air force is engaged in the Northern American front. This is the expression of trust the Russian overlords feel for the Polish soldier on the Western front.

It was a general strike in Egypt, followed by a massive mass uprising against impossible prices, which sufficiently alarmed Sadat that he first undertook his 1977 journey to Jerusalem. In Israel, it is the revolt in the occupied lands, the peace movement that brought out 100,000 last fall, and the thousands of Israeli workers who went on a four-hour strike March 10 to protest their government's economic policies that are Begin's true begin—not the secretaries in the Kremlin who might be questioned. It is the power that comes from the idea and passion for freedom that worries every single one of the Middle East rulers, every single one of whom, from Sadat to Jordan and from Lebanon to Saudi Arabia, faces deep crises and contradictions in his own land.

It is imperative that we show there is a second U.S. —the freedom fighters here who solidarize with the Iranians, and stand opposed to U.S. imperialism's plans for the Middle East.

The key undercurrent of the Carter treaty is the fear that a U.S.-Egyptian military pact would push Iran farther into the arms of the Soviet Union. It is the fear of confrontation that pushed Sadat back to the United States.

Japan, the country that supplied Iran with its arms, is eager to press charges despite lack of evidence. It is the fear of confrontation that pushed Iran into the arms of the Soviet Union.

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It is imperative that we show there is a second U.S. —the freedom fighters here who solidarize with the Iranians, and stand opposed to U.S. imperialism's plans for the Middle East.
by Raya Dunayevskaya
Author of PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION and Marxism and Freedom

I am turning over my column this issue for excerpts from a presentation given by a colleague, Eugene Walker, on my work "Marx's and Engels' Studies Contrasted: Relationship of原始 Thought to What Marx's new continent of thought as ground for its further development.

Dunayevskaya is asking today's Women's Liberation Movement to take a journey with her, into the Marx of Marx. She is asking them to consider the possibility of translating the most fundamental of questions—Can the Women's Liberation Movement extend Marx's new continent of thought as ground for its further development.

Walker points to the idea that the transition to class society was not something which occurred after the destruction of the family, but rather, the family developed as part of the process of that transition. Through the lens of a historical materialist analysis, she argues that the origins of class society are not found within primitive communism, but rather, within the development of the relationships between individuals and within the societies themselves.

Duniayevskaya also discusses the idea of the "primitive communism" as a concept that was not explicitly discussed by Marx and Engels. She argues that the concept of primitive communism was not an unimportant one, and that it played an important role in the development of the ideas of the Frankfurt School and other Marxist theorists.

In conclusion, Walker emphasizes the need for the Women's Liberation Movement to continue to push forward the ideas of Marx and Engels, and to translate them into action in the present day. She argues that the struggle for women's liberation is not just a struggle for equality, but a struggle for the transformation of society as a whole.
(The following story is part of an interview given to News & Letters by a peasant leader from northern Mexico. The story is a true account of the peasant movement. He is as multidimensional as the army was prepared. But there were rumors beforehand, and the army was surprised when 283 people, and only 20 peasants actually got' into the army in the early 1960s, and there I began or­

outpost. But there were rumors beforehand, and the army was prepared.

There was a tremendous battle. Those that

left escaped, intending to reunite. I was taken prisoner, and after four months. When I got out, the spirit of the peasants for taking the land had fallen after the experi­

ence of imprisonment. They decided to start the struggle again, legally, with petitions.

The land belongs to the peasants and they know it. But every time they try to break the cattle owners' land concession, there is a legal procedure, directed to the Ministry of Agrarian Reform.

You take your petition there and they file it. The file of petitions is not an effective tool to use to raise the level of protest. More than 20 years, no one knows what they are all about.

As a consequence, the peasants are more running up against the wall, the will of the state, which violates every law by doing what the land owners demand. In the process of these contests, the distribution of the land is not the solution to their prob­

lems.

In the early 1970s, I took part in a land invasion called the 18th of December. There was repression, and afterward we organized legally with the name of the date. We didn't invade the land, but we set out to take the land because the government refused us. There are now 283 peasants and their families, there, and it is a community with a small school.

In the 1970s, I took part in a land invasion for 283 people, and only 20 peasants actually got' rights to the land. The government did this to divide us, as it only took one hectare each and waited to get more land.

I came to understand then, through these previous experiences, that the land movement must be raised to a national level, along with education of the masses. A part of my work today is to form small groups of teachers, but first we ourselves have to be well educated.

I am working on this question right now, so that we can take an adequate preparation of ideas to the countryside and to the workers in the cities. At the same time, I am doing the work of power of the proletariat, so that power does not belong to a new privileged class as is the case in Russia and China, That's where we are now.

Indians face fight over land

Recife, Brazil—The Brazilian government is trying to “emancipate” the Indian people, “to give them the land which is their own and which is the same rights as the ordinary citizen.” With this “emancipation,” the Indian would get an I.D., gain the right to vote, and have the right to choose their own President—we live in a dictatorship, and wouldn’t be considered “children” as they are now in the United States.

In the beginning of this century, 230 tribes lived in Brazil, on land which is rich in minerals and other resources. Sometimes the capitalists make “presents” to the Indians of clothes contaminated with the flu, or salt with arsenic, or sugar with strychnine. Some areas have been lost because the Indians were stupid and had no organization. The capitalists get a certificate of “non-existence” of Indians in an area and buy the land. The Indians' only way of life is tied up with the land, where they plant and live as a community. If the “emancipation” starts, the Indians will become peasants, earning wages for others. The Indians will lose their own land and the recognition that they have the same rights as other people.

—Shoshana

Mexican peasant leader tells of struggle

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Mexican peasant leader tells of struggle

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Philosophy and Revolution

April 1979

Detroit Area Readers—you are invited to participate in a series of four lectures by:

RAYA DUNAYEVSKAYA
in her book

Philosophy and Revolution

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April 17: Marx's Philosophy of Revolution (1843 to 1848)
April 24: Dialectics of the Concrete vs. False Alternatives

May 1: Dialectics, Methodology and Dialectics of Liberation

These classes also will be taped to be given in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area in the fall. For more information, please send the address nearest you in the directory on page 2.

—Eugene Walker
Hanover, N.H.—Struggles of minority and women students at Dartmouth College against the school's programs culminated in a rally March 1, attended by 300 students, and a symposium on March 8, with all classes cancelled.

The results of the previous few weeks included the white students at the Feb. 25 school hockey game tossed a black student into the air and shooked "Scalp 'em"—to loud applause—and the destruction of the sculpture Black students had built as a monument and memorial of this Ivy League even brought the black students together with the minority students, especially the Native Americans, as never before.

Legends like the Indian symbol as school mascots, the fraternities that have been a lot of racism feelings, expanding black and white, and the destruction of recent tenure decisions the women feel were unfair, and last week.

There are also the relations to the divestiture movement, with the students' anti-apartheid monument a striking symbol of last year's new divestment drive against Dartmouth's South African investments.

One student commented on the symposium: The President of the University, has at his command a budget of $10 billion and a staff of 20,000 tucked into his office, has already set up over 55 road blocks which government workers raising $2 million is now in a position to impose.

Another student said: "We have faced a lot of harassment. All the women feel they share the problems of the black students as well. Some have helped them get support from the other minority groups."

Dartmouth may feel that its "traditions" are more important than people, but people are now standing up and speaking out.

-Peter Wurman

Students fight racist quotas

London, England—In writing this letter to N&L March 20 in a brief break from the occupation of my school, North East London Polytechnic. What has happened is that the British government is now trying to impose a quota system on overseas students applying for colleges and universities. Mainly Third World students will be affected in this institutional racism. The quotas would reduce the number of overseas students by 30,000 from the present 90,000.

The real reason for the quotas is a desire to carry out cuts in higher education, since courses would be accepted and lucrative and made more expensive (lost of the skills of the government has already imposed massive fee increases on overseas students here, with those unable to pay being expelled.

In response to these actions, the "Broad Left" consisting of Socialist and Women's Democrats in the leadership of the Polytechnic has set up a built-in black market for students already printed (and a built-in black market). The bank and the banks are resisting, with students at North East London beginning an indefinite occupation against the quotas.

Despite the Polytechnic authorities' attempts to smash the occupation by cutting off light and telephones, closing down the canteen and threatening students with not being allowed to take exams or with failing them, the action has gained increasing support.

Even the freezing of funds by the Student Union leadership has not been able to stop the occupation.

Students at Southampton University and Brighton Polytechnic have also occupied, and other colleges are expected to follow suit. Universities of Warwick, and Bristol, and Leeds Polytechnic have already refused to introduce quotas. The occupiers are determined to stay as long as it takes.

The occupation has broken down the isolation and apathy which has bedeviled the student movement here in the past. The students here are not only the education system, but the oppressive nature of capitalism as a whole. At the same time the Leftist "leadership" acts as though these questions are "going over people's heads."

The students at the Polytechnic have set up a newsletter, "End the Quota System," which is already being read all over the country. The students are free to do as they please, but the system is not.

Students at the Polytechnic have set up a newsletter, "End the Quota System," which is already being read all over the country. The students are free to do as they please, but the system is not.

The occupation is law enforcement that the public doubts about the quasimadness. The success of this Polytechnic has been closed once this year by the authorities, and the students have operated without permission. People are working are showing that by their own actions they can determine their futures.

-Terry Liddle, North East London Polytechnic

(Copyrighted material reproduced by permission of Terry Liddle)

Mexico is not rushing to follow the exploitation policies of the Middle East. It now has its own day, as the U.S. government has taken over the American company's interest. Mexico is now in a position to impose conditions for the sale of gas for the needs of the Mexican people. The recent government's decision to nationalize the oil industry has further strengthened the country's position in the world.

Mexico has reserves of 26 billion barrels, equal to that of the U.S. with the very good possibility that oil reserves have recently been discovered. Some estimates indicate Mexican oil reserves surpass even those of Saudi Arabia.
China's invasion of Vietnam: the global implications

(Continued from Page 1.)

"all" Kumpuchez's actions? Wasn't this distance between "socialism" and "capitalism" being gradually bridged in order to create a new birth and new alliess for itself?

This more ominous tale does touch on the global balance. But is this "new" balance not because at this moment it fears Russia? Rather, it is because, as a great power itself, it felt quite soon that, just as it had no longer to worry about "the center" as a capitalist Russia, it would not come to any direct defense of Vietnam.

Russia—meet, was not completed until June, 1978! It is

AND WHERE IS THE LEFT ABROAD?

(3) The Karakoram Highway, a 500-mile all-weather road

Thailand, Malaysia, Burma, Assam (about 50,000 miles

of Indian territory, in fact), Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal, the

Indonesia, and not only imprisoned the King of Ceylon,

but also imposed an annual tribute from the Moslem

land, the Indochina peninsula, had debarked troops in

the Philippines and Thailand—naturally reduced to "an
correspondent of "The Challenge of Mao Tse-tung"

See my analysis of "The Challenge of Mao Tse-tung"

and Ming, but also Ching dynasties?

into China's industrial heartland, Manchuria. Russia was

cured that the "failure of the Soviet Union to come

of the real politics and the real agenda of the Chinese

and life. The truth is that neither were the Chinese

soldiers at their "fighting best," nor did the Vietnamese,

who did defend their land, fight with the same enthusi­

asm as when they were fighting U.S. imperialism. The

results of their victory over imperialism are hardly seen

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asm as when they were fighting U.S. imperialism. The

results of their victory over imperialism are hardly seen

in a better life for the masses, much less participating

in the decision-making by the rulers of their land.