**ON THE INSIDE**

**IRAN: UNFOLDMENT OF, AND CONTRADICTIONS IN, REVOLUTION**

by Raya Dunayevskaya

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**NEWS LETTERS**

by Charles Denby, Editor

VOL. 24—NO. 4

MAY, 1979

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**New strikes are U.S. workers’ answer to raging inflation, Carter 7% wage plans**

by Michael Connolly

The national economic figures released for the first quarter of 1979, suddenly showing virtually no growth in the U.S. economy at all, coupled with a raging inflation rate conservatively placed at 14 percent, were termed a “real shocker” by economists both in and out of the Carter administration. From all sides came predictions of a 1979 recession of increased severity, just as new strikes were begun or threatened in a dozen different sectors of the economy.

Once again, throughout the month of April, President Carter’s policies were being bounced from crisis to crisis, whether on his seven percent wage guidelines, or his campaign for “energy independence.” Carter’s “anti-inflation plan” has self-destructed, Fraser said, and the only ones who have benefited from the “seven percent voluntary wage guideline” to combat contract demands are the Teamsters and the rubber workers’ contracts expired, what became clear was that Carter had launched a new practice of open intrusion into every major new labor negotiation. The only one who was not confused was the worker who asked, “How many times have we all heard militant talks from union leaders that never came to

(Continued on Page 12)

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**Nationwide anti-nuclear demonstrations mark new protest stage**

Thousands around the world took to the streets in anti-nuclear protests in the wake of the Harrisburg, Pa. near-distaster. Below are reports from News & Letters Committee members who participated in the demonstrations across the U.S.—Ed.

Midland, Mich.—Steady rain and cool temperatures couldn’t dampen the spirits of the 5,000 anti-nuke demonstrators who assembled here on April 21, in Michigan’s largest anti-nuclear power protest to date. Marching two-and-a-half miles to a point close to the construction site of the Dow Chemical-Consumers Power nuclear plant, the line of protesters, including many high school age students, extended for more than a mile.

Before the rally, a UAW local from a Chevrolet plant in Flint had ordered 5,000 copies of a special anti-nuclear issue of the Flint Voice, and UAW locals from both Lansing and Flint formally endorsed the Midland rally. Construction, telephone, and Dow Chemical workers were also protesting and spoke against the unjustifi---

(Continued on Page 4)
Interview with Iranian women

(Selections are excerpts from an interview with two Iranian women in the U.S. about today's women's movement in Iran. For an analysis of the Iranian Revolution, see excerpts from Raya Dunayevskaya’s Political Philosophic Letter, “Iran: Unfoldment of, and Contradictions in, Revolution,” p. 6—Ed.)

Maryam: If I were in Iran today, I would be with the women and the movement. I couldn’t believe they were even there. I know they were the same women who were in the past demonstrations. They have lost their families. They have lost their homes. Now they cannot go back to the chador and the way things have been for the past 400 years. They have to go to the kitchen.

When you wear the chador, it means you cannot work. It means you are not allowed to talk with a man. It means you have to be in the kitchen. It means you have to be a slave. It means women can’t be useful for society and they have to be the property of their family. They could call a woman “my house,” or they would call her the name of their oldest son, or they would call her “my house.”

Kohomei said women would have to put back the chador and go back into the kitchen and not work. It’s like they are being put in another jail after they fought for freedom from the Shah.

The women now know that the thing Islam says women have to do—like put back on the chador—is something that puts them back to many years ago. So the women are standing up against the right.

What the women did was very great, but if they don’t continue, then it will not be an important first step. It will be lost. If they sit back and say in their friends and say, we don’t have to wear the chador now, then it will not be a good job. I believe that if we can explain to women what Marxism means, that we have a communistic approach to things, then they could call a woman “my house,” or they would call her the name of their oldest son, or they would call her “my house.”

Ting Ling, the Chinese feminist, author of “Thoughts on the Eighth of March,” who was purged in 1957 during the 100 Flowers Movement, was rehabilitated just after International Women’s Day. It is still not known where she is or what happened to her during her years as a “non-person.”

A celebration of International Women’s Day in Chile, organized by the Union of Households, became, at one point, a protest against the dictatorship in spite of a heavy police guard. Thousands sang the songs of Victor Jara, who was murdered by the junta in 1973 and executed, and the Committee for the Disappeared was mentioned.

Native American activist Tina Trudell, her mother and three of her children were burned to death in their home on the Duck Valley Paiute-Shoshone Reservation where she had been active in the struggle for water rights. The state had obtained custody of the wife of John Trudell, chairman of the American Indian Movement.

In Northern Ireland, pressure from feminists and women’s groups resulted in the release of 25-year-old Noreen Wheeler, convicted of “murdering” her father who had raped her and her younger sisters over a period of years since her mother’s death. The judge had openly stated that she had willingly participated in incest.

Sima: I don’t believe in the chador because it makes the women inactive. You know the woman is always pushed away from the right. The right is for men to fight for their rights. Maybe some of that is because they want women to have more responsibility to talk, to go to school, to see. It has caused a change.

It is so great now that women know their rights, and that they fight for their rights. Half or more of the Iranian population are women. And if they are killing the activity of the women, then we cannot have an active nation.

Women, men march through the streets of New York City for abortion rights and against sterilization abuse.

New York, N. Y.—An international day of demonstrations for reproductive rights brought 5,000 women and men into the streets here on March 31. Before we were marching from the UN, past St. Patrick’s Cathedral where anti-abortionists had gathered, to a rally in Union Square, other women and men had already died for the right to choose abortion and protesting against forced sterilization. Rallies were scheduled for 19 cities in the U.S., six in Europe—France, Germany; Peru; England, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium and Spain; Australia, New Zealand and Israel.

The New York march was impressive in its variety: young old, from colleges and women’s organizations all over the city and suburbs; anti-nuke activists with a sign, “Reproductive rights also means radiation-free air”; medical students and doctors; gay men in support of reproductive rights; religious groups; and people opposed to the planned closing of city hospitals.

The women who had been fired from Park Med abortion clinic for union organizing, (see N&L, March, 1979), also marched, as well as a new group called New Wave Feminists. Women and men who had changed their own demonstration came and joined this one. Some of the demands of the rally focused on defeat of the Hyde Amendment, which makes it impossible for women to have the right to abortion, the end of forced sterilization, and the end of sterilization abuse.

This was the largest abortion demonstration since we won the “right” to abortion 20 years ago. Coming soon after the outpouring of support for the Iranian women, it indicates the women’s movement is reaching for the unification of its own ideas and issues on an international scale.

—Anne Molly Jackson

Research and Political-Philosophic Letter, "Iran: Unfoldment of, and Contradictions in, Revolution," p. 6

WOMAN AS REASON

Michele Wallace distorts Black mass freedom struggles

Black Macho and The Myth of the Superwoman, by Michele Wallace (Pantheon). Michele Wallace’s book is divided into two essays, “Black Macho” and “The Myth of the Superwoman.” I strongly felt it was crucial and essential that I begin with the two essays, “Black Macho” and “The Myth of the Superwoman,” not because it is on Black women, but to show how Ms. Wallace, using her low-key ideology of the Women’s Liberation Movement, is not anything that will help us.

Throughout this section, Ms. Wallace’s mythological characterization of the Black woman is so active in the Black women’s movements, from slavery, through the Civil Rights Movement, to today. During the Civil Rights Movement and the beginning of the Women’s Liberation Movement, she was a teenager, shielded from what was happening in the real world. She was a middle-class parents who tried to forget their Blackness.

Therefore Ms. Wallace, by not being an activist and not having actually participated in the movement, arrives at her analyses by being a well-read person. (She never interviewed or quoted any movement participants.) But what about the mass of people who are not well read? She writes, “I believe that the Black woman thinks of her history and condition as a woman. I think that makes her different and therefore separate and therefore exempt from human responsibility.” Her solution is simply not to understand.

To Ms. Wallace, the great revolutionary women of slavery, such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, are hardly learned people._MISC.

So when we think about free black women and men and women from their captivity in slavery as “women whom no man in his right mind would want.”

She says, “I don’t know what it is to be a woman who has been raped by a white man, who has been degraded by the society and the church and the state, what it is to be a woman who has been forced into abortion.”

I would like to express how a Black male worker, who put himself in this movement and talked to, Mrs. Parks back then, put it in her book, Indig­nomed: Heart of the Civil Rights Movement. She says, “I’ve talked with Mrs. Parks many times, and she has told me she didn’t even know the plans for a bus boycott were going on.” At the time she was teaching a sewing class, and one of her students told her about a bus boycott. She went to the meeting with her student, and became an active member in the boycott until it was over.

Ms. Wallace certainly does not have an affinity with Angela Davis, even though both were middle-class. She derides Angela Davis as being an “Amazon Queen of the movement.” She was a worker, a communist, instead of the Black masses. She says, “I don’t even know the plans for a bus boycott were going on.” At the time she was teaching a sewing class, and one of her students told her about a bus boycott. She went to the meeting with her student, and became an active member in the boycott until it was over.

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Carter's homemade crisis another loss for us

by Felix Martin, West Coast Editor

Carter has taken the controls off of oil and now the price of gasoline is soaring. Of course he has done this to tie the lifting of controls with an "excess profit" which both Democrats and Republicans won't pass. Another loss for workers. Carter says the removal of controls will allow oil companies to drill for more oil. What for? They send m4 40 to 50 trucks full of gasoline to Mexico every day because there's no demand in the states. The oil companies have lost control of the markets and are no longer able to set prices. They sell at a loss. Even before the controls were lifted, they were supplying the markets with more oil than they could sell. Now they are forced to sell at a loss to maintain their market share.

All of this for the sake of more profits. With the small rising rate of profits, the only way the big corps can stay alive is to gobble up the smaller businesses and increase autimation at the expense of the work force. The Carter administration is increasing and more unemploy­ment and make-shift government jobs.

The rising gas prices and already sky-high food prices and taxes are squeezing the workers more and more every day. Perhaps we should follow what the lesser workers did when they refused to work when the UAW announced a 20 percent increase in food prices in 1970. Their strike brought about a finance in food prices.

In my plant workers are beginning to say we have stay home and refuse to work. One worker said, "If people stop going to work, the company won't be able to operate. If we shut down the plant, people will have to go home to feed their families."

This dissatisfaction and distrust of the government has increased. As long as we don't have any say in controlling the prices, we will continue to suffer. When hundreds of Truck plant workers were laid off in August, management slowed the Main Building to the lines slowed down by only five trucks an hour.

Just what kind of workers will the new managers hire? The answer is this: workers who are prepared to work for less and who will not strike. The new managers will be more interested in profits than in the workers' wages and conditions.

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None trust the union. Right off they figured Fitzsimmons and GM had made a deal. I don't know if this is true, but the attitude of workers - their distrust of all - is important.

The only way workers will ever solve their problems is through their own organizations. This will involve changing the type of thinking that the system imposes upon us all. This is the only way this old way of producing capital­ist goods can be stopped and replaced with a system producing for people, not for profit.

Still no contract at Uniroyal

Detroit, Mich. — Our master contract expired here at Uniroyal on April 20 at midnight, and even though the vote to authorize a strike came out 2-to-1 in favor of a strike, negotiations are still going on. None of us have any real idea of what is going on, but plenty of rumors about different deadlines and different agreements.

This is the first time I know of where a master contract was refused and we still didn't go on strike. The last negotiations were on such short notice, with no news of what's going on, but plenty of rumors about different deadlines and different agreements.

What is strange about this contract is the almost complete secrecy about everything that's going on. None of us have any real idea of what is being negoti­ated or what's in the proposed contract, except that the long-time grievance that we want the Uniroyal Carter and his gang meddling in it with their wage guidelines. Even our committee don't know what's going on. But if it is wages guidelines that the Team­sters don't follow them and neither should we.

Everyone is on edge, but with all the fooling around more and more workers are expecting a strike. There was rumor of a deadline and another one is rumored for tonight. If there is a strike, it probably wouldn't start until next week. Meanwhile we are waiting, day by day.

—Uniroyal worker

Life in my machine shop

It runs better without bosses

Galveston, Tex. — The metal shop where I have been working has been bought by a new owner about a month ago. The new owner has a very different approach than the old one, though he is just as ignorant concerning the nature of the work. He decided that among other things, we are going to mass produce winches and anchors.

My workmate and I embarked on our new careers by completing our first anchor. As the work proceeded, the owner periodically appeared to ask how the job was going and to find out how many hours it took to complete. It took us 11 hours, except for the painting.

At four o'clock his product was ready and he emerged to announce that henceforth we would reduce the labor time by getting the components together instead of separately, and as he strolled away said: "You can go ahead and start on the next one." We laughed at this ridiculous presumption and instead began putting up our tools.

The same situation prevails in the machine shop. For labor the boss charges 0.50c per hour. If we were unionized while the top machinist's pay is $8.50. There are four bosses in the office and altogether the company employs nine workers. Their wages for the same amount of work, the amount of wages paid, yet they constantly and innately look for ways to cut "labor costs."

The situation is not just a machine shop. As a matter of fact, I have been told by my workmate that he had a friend of labor, what I am saying is that the real enemy is GM, Ford, Chrysler, and AMC.

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Much of the spontaneity of the March 30 action, how-
Black woman spoke about poor people's energy needs,
clear reactor, Triga II, right on the edge of Harlem.
struggle toward a nationwide rally in Washington, D.C.
ists are part of the "new passions and new forces" of
in the Indian population. Other speakers linked the
Village to Columbia University whose engineering de­
it began around 7 p.m. there were about 150 people,
call a rally in Washington Square Park instead. When
planned Friday night keynote address, they decided to
Harrisburg disaster, displaying a striking sense of a new

taneously took to the streets, March 30, to protest the

Participants here promised to extend the anti-nuclear
A speaker from News & Letters Committees placed
in new mass struggles. Is the Left ready for them?

The Shad Alliance had planned an anti-nuclear
the demonstration, including an over-the-road trucker I
be "The China Syndrome" was
outside the city.

This march was also very spirited, despite icy winds.

News & Letters Committees can be
Detroit: 2382 E. Grand Blvd., Rm. 316
San Francisco: 390 7th St., Station E
Los Angeles: PO Box 3384
New York: PO Box 3284
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Chicago: 741 S. Dearborn, Rm. 1001
London: 182 Upper Street,

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1,500 marched in N.Y. March 30 nuclear protest.
ever, was missing, due to the heavy intervention of the
masses coming out in opposition to the nukes, and opening
to ever-new subjects being drawn into it — is precisely what is drawing the
radicals to it to take it over, convinced as they are that the
that for a "new anti-war movement" is being supplied.

Thousands of students and workers, old and
were talking among themselves about basic ques-
tions like the direction of life in this country after Har-
wsburg, and spoke of being ready to involve themselves
in new mass struggles. Is the Left ready for them?

Chicago, Ill. — In downtown Chicago on April 14,
over 1,000 people marched and rallied against nuclear

It was exciting to see people on the street join in
the demonstration, including an over-the-road trucker I
talked to who was just passing through. Though the
slogans were limited to opposing nuclear power in favor

A speaker from News & Letters Committees placed
the anti-nuclear struggle in the context of worldwide move-
ments for a totally new society. We as anti-nuke activ-
ists are part of the "new passions and new forces" of
our age, who have to listen also to the Reason of rank-
and-file labor and the Black dimension.

The very thing that is making this issue of nuclear
power so important — masses coming out in opposition to the nukes, and opening
doors to ever-new subjects being drawn into it — is precisely what is drawing the
radicals to it to take it over, convinced as they are that the
fodder for a "new anti-war movement" is being supplied.

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young, were talking among themselves about basic ques-
tions like the direction of life in this country after Har-

San Francisco, Cal. — In the wake of the nuclear
disaster near Harrisburg, 25,000 people from all over
Northern California turned out for a previously-sche
uled rally on April 7, to protest the building of the
diablo Canyon nuclear plant halfway towards Los

Along with the problems of cost-overruns, nuc-
elastic waste, and "human error" in too
safe systems, Diablo Canyon sits right near an act-
earthquake fault. The Banche Seco nuclear plant at
Sacramento is also under attack because it is identi-
to the Three Mile Island facility.

Many people expressed concerns that the real iss
isn't solar power over nuclear power, but the effe-
entialism has on people's lives when it controls as
much as energy and production. The point was brung
up that the government wants to build solar-collectiv
satellites that would beam back vast amounts of mi-
was enough to convince the possibility of the beam straying over a city or

The Marxist-Humanist ideas of human power an
ought being the answer to capitalism's fragmenta-
people were well received by many.

San Onofre, Cal. — Over 1,000 people rallied her
on April 21, in protest against the San Onofre nuclear

Some, including many of those not a part of any Lea
group, were connecting nuclear power and nuclear arm
ments with corporate interests and imperialism, recog
ning whose interests the government watches after.

Perhaps what is most important about San Onof
are some of the activities of the construction worker
who are opposing the San Onofre nuclear

The question of health and safety can really become
key. If the anti-nuke leaders would take that up, instead of
seeing the nuclear power as workers as the en-
emy, they would get a very different response from
these workers, and workers in all other industries would
respond as well.

Internationalism highlights German anti-nuclear march

140,000 people converged on Hannover, West Ger-
many March 31 from all across that country to protest
the planned Gorleben nuclear waste disposal site. This
largest demonstration in post-war German history in-
cluded old as well as young, workers and people from
urban areas as well as students. As they marched
through the streets they shouted, "We all live in Pennsylvania
and "Yesterday—Hiroshima, Today—Harrisburg, Tomor-
row—Gorleben." Banners hung from buildings pro-
claimed: "Women against atomic power. We want life.
One demonstrator wrote, after a minute's silence for the
deaths and dangers of atomic power the world over:

But we are not only silent.
We will also act.
We are the sand in the machine of the ruler.
And these machines, these miserable machines
We will bring to a standstill.
The alternative to nuclear madness is social revolution

The surfacing of protest in the wake of the near-disaster at Three Mile Island (TMI) has given new life to the anti-nuclear movement with the possibility of a whole new stage—the forging of real links with rank and file workers without which the movement cannot develop its revolutionary potential.

Harrisburg has made it impossible for anyone to go on pretending that Khrushchev wrote 135 years ago—"To have one basis for life and another for science is a priori a lie"—is abstract philosophy. It can now be seen by everyone as Khrushchev's true legacy to the anti-nuclear movement. The threat to the very existence of humanity comes not alone from nuclear war, but from the daily incinerations of life and death generated every day in every industry.

A NEW DIMENSION OF PROTEST

The surfacing of protest is the result of the determination of those who have never participated in a demonstration before, who have made known their determination that the nuclear madness must stop. The workers at the General Dynamics plant against the launching of the first Trident nuclear sub, a weapon which deploys over 408 thermonuclear warheads, each with a destructive force of five Hiroshima bombs. In West Germany, over 1 million people signed a petition to stop the deployment of American intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and to rededicate the nuclear weapons facility in Mülheim-Kärlich. In West Germany, over 1 million people signed a petition to stop the deployment of American intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and to rededicate the nuclear weapons facility in Mülheim-Kärlich. In West Germany, over 1 million people signed a petition to stop the deployment of American intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and to rededicate the nuclear weapons facility in Mülheim-Kärlich. In West Germany, over 1 million people signed a petition to stop the deployment of American intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and to rededicate the nuclear weapons facility in Mülheim-Kärlich. In West Germany, over 1 million people signed a petition to stop the deployment of American intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and to rededicate the nuclear weapons facility in Mülheim-Kärlich. In West Germany, over 1 million people signed a petition to stop the deployment of American intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and to rededicate the nuclear weapons facility in Mülheim-Kärlich.

The greatest protest—because it demonstrated the ground from which the "nuclear madness" stems—was the massive nuclear disarmament demonstration at the Three Mile Island (TMI) plant that they had been forced to work 10-hour shifts for 49 days prior to the accident, without a single day off. They and their long report­ers about their conditions because they did not trust the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the work­ers revealed that safety procedures were consistently violated and workers punished with suspension for complaining about unsafe conditions. One worker sum­marized what their fellow workers felt. "The logic of capitalism.

The national March on Washington, D.C. on May 6 brought to us the united rage of all of the forces and brought us to the threshold of a whole new stage IF the national March on Washington, D.C. on May 6 brought to us the united rage of all of the forces and brought us to the threshold of a whole new stage.

The "nuclear madness" we face is but the most catastrophic extension of capitalism's drive to destruction. There is no other word to describe the situation. The only rational course is to continue to struggle to stop the building and licensing of still more nuclear plants—despite the proof that neither the industry, the government, nor science knows what they are doing.

There is not a single scientist who can say that any level of radioactive exposure is safe.

There is not a single one of the mistaken assumptions that continued to pervade people's thinking, the one that has not yet happened at one of the other 71 nuclear plants operating in the U.S. is not a single plant that has not yet been found by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to have "serious safety concerns." What is needed is that the movement not only be the "revisionists" (Yugoslavia), and the "right-wing" forces (East Germany, China) against which it must be fighting.

The New Neighbor

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No-one understood better than Khrushchev that you cannot have "one basis for life and another for science". It took capitalism from 1905 all the way to 1945 and World War II before the most elementary theory of relativity was finally developed. What could have produced a greater energy source for humanity than the very first atomic explosion allegedly because "The United States is now putting nuclear weapons into the hands of the West German people"? What could have produced a greater energy source for humanity than the very first atomic explosion allegedly because "The United States is now putting nuclear weapons into the hands of the West German people"? What could have produced a greater energy source for humanity than the very first atomic explosion allegedly because "The United States is now putting nuclear weapons into the hands of the West German people"? What could have produced a greater energy source for humanity than the very first atomic explosion allegedly because "The United States is now putting nuclear weapons into the hands of the West German people"? What could have produced a greater energy source for humanity than the very first atomic explosion allegedly because "The United States is now putting nuclear weapons into the hands of the West German people"? What could have produced a greater energy source for humanity than the very first atomic explosion allegedly because "The United States is now putting nuclear weapons into the hands of the West German people"?

The New Neighbor

The Chinese Communist Party immediately charged. What Harrisburg has made clear is that the main enemy— wherever you live—is in your own country. No foreign enemies or nuclear wars are needed to destroy us.

The daily reality of the capitalist system is enough. Time is running out. It is up to us to make sure it is running out for capitalism and not for humanity.

If This Isn't Madness, What Is It?

If it isn't madness what is it?...
I. A Whole Host of Specters Haunting Khomeini's "Islamic Revolution"

Dear Friends,

The whole host of specters are haunting Khomeini's "Islamic Republic" before ever it is officially established.

There is the specter of a full social revolution in the very unfoldment of the Iranian Revolution which, after all, witnessed a series of the greatest, most powerful and sustained mass mobilizations for months on end before the three days of insurrection. Clearly, February 9-12 had not only driven the Shah and his stooge, Bakhtiari, from the throne, but the manner in which the workers could have been permitted to return to work without returning their guns, as the Ayatollah had commanded, showed that only Chapter 2 of the Revolution had ended. It put a special emphasis to the complaints of his appointed Prime Minister, Bazargan, about lack of production. As the Deputy Prime Minister, Entezam, put it: "Despite the Ayatollah's commands, none of the major industries in the country are functioning because the workers spend all their time holding political meetings."

As if Workers' Councils, Neighborhood Committees, and the like were not enough, some 20,000 to 30,000 women are available for $1, which includes postage and handling, from NEWS & LETTERS, 2832 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48211.

II. The Main Enemy Is Always At Home

The workers in revolution need no "vanguard parties" to tell them that the main enemy is at home, that the counter-revolution is irreconcilable, and that native capital has such overwhelming ties-ins with imperialism that, if its life is threatened, the capitalists will not hesitate to transform everything "for freedom" as Enemy No. 1. What World War II showed us was that those who are adept at playing the nationalist game than Peron, and, contrary to Hitler, succeeded in so fooling the Left with his "anti-imperialism" that many hailed him as a "revolutionary."

"We must remember and understand the nature of imperialism which still has everything to do with the so-called "democratization" of Portugal, Argentina and especially Chile. Until imperialism is completely smashed such things can happen again.

This type of worker opposition, if it will once again develop a mass base, is the way to stop the attempted counter-revolution, provided that we, as revolutionaries, in the heart of the "Third World," in the "cradle of imperialism" as if imperialism alone was responsible for the counter-revolution in Chile, in Argentina, or anywhere else in the world. It is a deviation very welcome to and indeed calculated by the indigenous capitalists. That is to say, native rulers will say anything, who were after all the ones to explode on February 11-12, can be subordinated to fighting everything "fors" as Enemy No. 1.

As if Workers' Councils, Neighborhood Committees, and the like were not enough, some 20,000 to 30,000 women are available for $1, which includes postage and handling, from NEWS & LETTERS, 2832 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48211.
Jobless Iranian workers demonstrate in Teheran as thousands more protest unemployment and defy fire of Islamic troops. (See "Our Life and Times," p. 12.)
The Chinese invasion of Vietnam sent shockwaves down the spine and brought sadness to the eyes—at least for some one like myself who had first tasted revolution in 1960s anti-Vietnam War movement. Why must Vietnam once again suffer? Why must Vietnam once again have to fight the French, the Jap anese, the American and now the Chinese? The workers will force some on the Left to reorganize their thoughts—and not just jump from support of China to calling Vietnam "vanguard of the world revolution." Rather it is time to examine rival philosophies of revolution: Maoism vs. Marxist-Humanism.

The Chinese invasion of Vietnam is not a break with Maoism but merely capitalist China's coming of age in a still capitalist world. Its true opposite lies not in Hanoi or Havana or Trotskyist tail-enders, but in the new beginnings trying to unfold in the Iranian revolu tion and in the mass discontent and rest lessness after Mao's death in China.

Kevin Barry New York

I was pleased and excited to see the "ad for Marxist-Humanist material on China in the March issue, much of which I don't agree with or even understand. It is very startling to see that it was at the very beginning of the Sino-Soviet Conflict in 1960 that Raya Dunayevskaya posed the question "Can there be war between Russia and China?" News & Letters readers were surely not taken by surprise as by China's attack on Vietnam, as so many others were. As the crisis becomes deeper Marx's Capital and Today's Global Crisis becomes more important to understand. Without Marx's philosophy of revolution, one can neither see to which side to turn nor to which side to turn Mao to the skies, or saying "Up with Khomenei." Student New York

DOLLAR GAS

The workers in our plant didn't think much of Carter's claims to have brought peace to the Middle East. They kept working. If they go to get it they're going to get liber al lawyers to sue for $1 a gallon gasoline?

Auto Worker Los Angeles

I watch the tankers heading to Mexico with U.S. gas, look at people while I wait in line for my 50 ga/ing a gas, and wonder: When will we all realize it will only get worse as long as we allow this capitalist system of profiting from us?

Housewife Los Angeles

INDIANS AND ENERGY

I was disappointed that Peter Mallory's article on the new issue of energy did not mention the Native Americans' resistance to exploitation by the energy companies. When we consider how many a million Indians are in America, and how divided and fragmented their movement has be come, stories like this help to keep the struggles set back the march of the energy companies. Two examples:

In Alaska, 90 percent of the land is still in dispute as to who it is and the government is rushing to set up phone "autonomous corporations" and rush to a sale settlement. The Northern Chem cene have recently sued the govern ment's own Clean Air Act to win a stay in the stripmining of their reservation.

It is not just a question of the destruc tion of Indian culture and life. All who oppose "the mainstream"—rural, coal, oil, chemical and atomic workers, and miners)—anti-nuke youth, and Indians who may well be all of these for their each other's contributions to create new ideas and forms of revolution. I wish Peo ple's World or they would write me a quarter as well as "American and Energy" in a future column.

Susan Van Gelder Detroit

U.S. JUSTICE

I don't know much of what Judge Brown is standing for, but I do know for, but I do know that the attacks on him for releasing, without bail, a Black man accused of killing a white man, come from just plain racism. I thought a man was innocent until proven guilty in this country, but if not, you're a black man. After Judge Wright released him, they discovered the cop was stabbed with a broken bottle. The white police killers are being harassed by the police, and they thought that what they did was not a crime. After Judge Wright released him, they discovered the man arrested had stabbed him with a pen knife! White police are killing Black youth by the dozens every year, and they are freed. People in this city are not going to take that kind of thing any longer.

Black Stockman New York

Currently there is a court proceeding in Houston that could be significant things. The Black youth, 17 years of age, since it is hardly prominent even here. A Mexican Marxist, Hector Marro quin, who is charged with a 1974 murder and terrorist activities in Mexico, has requested political asylum in the U.S. He contends—and seems to have proved it, from newspaper accounts—that he was the U.S. at the time of the mur der. The cases have been characterized as "explosive political repression and torture of prisoners in Mexico," and he contends, with just cause, that the only reason for his fate is if he is refused asylum. Today, April 12, a ruling was handed down and he will not be granted asylum. The meaning is clear. The U.S. will not be a refuge for Mexican revolutionaries.

Concerned Texas

ECONOMIC REALITY

Last month you forgot to mention that the $65 a month my friend gets for food will not do much for her and her growing children. The food lasts her a week or so, and then she's on her own until the next check. Last year she here gets $10 a month for herself and her baby—that's it. There are people starving right in this country and you can bet something's going to happen.

Reader New York City

Last fall Congress rewrote the CETA program so that no one can keep a CETA job for more than one and a half years, and in their zeal to reduce the costs of dom estic programs, Congress also man dated that the average wage for CETA jobs be slashed to $72/week; in many cities and counties, it is to be even lower. The CETA program is a government handout and it has proved out that one and a half years, for a huge number of CETA workers, on Sept. 30—just six weeks before the elec tion. I'm betting that the "limited num ber" of people who only get 18 months stay of execution will be reintepreted to mean a "large number for a limited time"—about 7 weeks!

Abused Chicago

Marx was 17 years dead when the Labour Party was founded. Callaghan, like those before him, have seen to it that it is not an anti-capitalist party. Working people will not understand why the Cabinet rule is more useful to capitalism than even the monarchy, the House of Lords and the Privy Council.

Harry McGUane Glasgow, Scotland

FARMWORKERS STRUGGLES

The 5,000 lettuce workers of the Im perial Union of Agricultural Workers, the UFU, have been on strike since Jan uary to win better wages and improving their working conditions. The farm worker earns only $6,000 per year, which is $700 below the government's poverty level for a family of five.

The growers have instituted a cam paign to discredit the demanders, and have resorted to false labor to bring in the winter harvest. The growers have recruited undocumented workers, who are poorly fed, housed and paid, to break the strike.

Currently there is a boycott against chicano bananas. The Chicago Communist Party is calling for a boycott of Chiquita -brand bananas. Active boycott support will help show the growers the support of farm workers.

UFU Supporter Los Angeles

Farm workers who struck the Ohio tomato fields last summer have vowed to take their campaign to the cities if their striking is not improved and wages and working conditions is not settled by the end of this summer. The farm workers are demanding that the plant owners, Campbell's and Libby's, who con tract directly with the tomato growers make up the differences and have benefits increases from what the growers now pay. The strikers are also demand ing that a boycott taking place for a work ing program for farm workers thrown out of work by mechanized harvesting.

Bill Farmer South Gate, Cal.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The change of attitude among workers in the South Gate Plant was very evident when General Motors started to limit the number of farm workers. Over $1,400 was raised and this was one-day, mid-week gate meeting. The organizers never raised more money and they spend it above $1,000 before, even when the strike was held after pay day.

GM Worker South Gate, Cal.

THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT

The anti-nuclear issue is not a new one here in Sweden. It was a major factor in the 1976 elections. Most of the youth who are political want to be part of this movement. I want to examine what connection can be made between Marxist theory and the ecology movement. After 30 years of advocating nuclear power, the Social-Democratic party now says it is against it. They are doing this be cause the anger after Harrisburg is so great.

Anti-nuke Activist Sweden

The nuclear power issue is important to me as a high school student because nuclear power represents a threat to my life and future. For the past year I have been working against nuclear power by education. I consider the below the issues involved and trying to educate the public.

As a result of Harrisburg, more people my age are becoming interested in fighting against nuclear madness. Now it is important to establish Contact with other student groups. We can stop the nukes by acting now before it's too late to slow them down.

High School Activist New York

Practically every blind person I know is talking about the International Anti Nuclear Rally here in Hannover. But the police made it very difficult for French activists to cross the border and join us. The police are very repres sive against the movement, which calls into question the ways of the Social-Demo cratic leadership and political structure. Recently there have been many trade union meetings and protests, in the demonstrations and rallies that are going on all over the country. I'm very excited about the movement I see growing now in the U.S.

Student West Germany

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The Deerhunter: a racist, macho, anti-worker movie

"The Deer Hunter", winner of the Academy Award this year as "Best Picture", is frightening because it displays the fact that that war not only destroyed Vietnam, but the U.S. economy as well. The massive war production at the height of the Vietnam War, through the billions lavished on nuclear "delivery systems", to the latest planning for neutron bombs, has its effects in the Viet Nam war. It is high time that we come to grips with the fact that that war not only destroyed Vietnam, but the U.S. economy as well.

Nevertheless, the fact is that war production is now over. But as built-up capital is accumulated, only destruction is the result. That is simply added to the burden workers have to bear in an inflationary economy. On top of this, have been many of ungodly bourgeois economists, but by many who consider themselves Marxists as well.

Over 3,000 lettuce farmers, on strike since January, march with supporters through the streets of Salinas, Cal.

This, despite the fact that Marx put it clearly enough as he neared the conclusion of his greatest work, Capital. "The only part of the so-called national wealth that actually enters into the collective possession of modern peoples is—their national debt." (Kerr edition, p. 827.) In the U.S. today, that debt has reached an astronomical $800 billion.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Philosofia y Revolucion

Filosofia y Revolution: de Hegel a Sartre y de Marx a Mao. de Raya Dunayevskaya. (Mexico: SigUt XXI, 1977).

Philosofia y Revolution shows the importance of the dialectical method of Hegel and emphasizes the notion of negativity . . . The author makes a critical and rigorous examination of the major ideological positions and the decisive influence it exerted on the thought of Marx and Lenin . . .

Month by the leaked White House program to win the Black vote: 1) make a few prominent Black appointments to Federal jobs; and 2) give several new government contracts to Black-owned businesses.

This, while Black family income compared to whites has dropped to its lowest level since 1959, and while Black unemployment is nearly three times that of the white population. Very quietly, the Administration's economists have now set the "realistic" goal of "full employment" at 6.5%. At the same time, concluded that even this figure—nearly five million jobless—is "not a currently attainable target!"

Such policies make it certain that the Black man will revolt. And that revolt, even if it were ever to come, history remains ready to explode. What is now also a very real possibility, is that they will be joined by right-wing labor, Black and white, whose wages and conditions of labor are intolerable. One year after the great miners' strike, the same daily theme of death protests in the States. For workers in many industries, today's reality can be described as "Lethal at work, scrapes by at home." At Detroit's Uniroyal plant that run-down sugar beet plant, disappointed on hearing that their strike was postponed, were saying, "Let's walk out anyway. At least it would get us out of this hellhole!"

With such attitudes all over the country, the Carter administration is selling out workers for corporate profits. No more wage contract in the garment, electrical, chemical and auto industries. Confrontations are assured between the administration and its corporate allies, and those determined neither to be starved out, nor blown to bits. Their struggle is one to create a human world of reason and love. One of the nightmares of the sack of unemployement and nuclear terror are considered both normal and even necessary.

 month, the resurgence of economic turmoil, especially double-digit inflation, has forced the fall of governments in Britain, Italy, and Canada. In France, where Giscard remains in power, more than one million are jobless, and steelworkers demonstrations even in the center of Paris. For years, the "war on inflation" is already 10 percent hike, while upping its profits 68 percent. The oil leaders to report, skyrocketed 174 percent! Despite such stark realities, Carter is still playing political games both with international trade and with his wage control, incredibly trying to convince all that workers' wage demands are the cause of inflation.

INFLATION'S ROOTS IN VIETNAM

While Carter is certainly not blameless for the mess in which the economy finds itself 27 months after he took office, the greater truth is that the current runaway inflation, without any real growth, and with full unemployment. The only solution, they claim, is to wage what was done in the Vietnam War. It is high time that we come to grips with the fact that that war not only destroyed Vietnam, but the U.S. economy as well.

From the opening scene of a big truck barreling down this small, hilly town; to the shots in the steel mill of workers in metallic hoods and protective clothing, with molten steel flowing and hot fire piercing the screen; to the Russian wedding scenes; to the lighting quick transfer to a mountain scene; to the very last screen; to the Russian wedding scenes; to beautiful Vietnam landscape with a Viet Cong soldier grenade... The movie is rampant with what is supposed to be "history's joke"—Asian life is cheap!

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Is it because of the people, the horrible workplace, or...
**AS OTHERS SEE US**

**British activist views 'American Black Thought'**

Frantz Fanon, Soweto and American Black Thought, by Lou Turner and John Alan, News & Letters, S1. Review from NEPAM, the journal of the N. E. London Polytechnic Students' Union, January 1979.

The impending fall of the Smith regime in Zimbabwe and the continuing struggle against racism, both the institutionalized racism of capitalism and the more overt and violent racism of the National Front, in this country has been supported by two Black American Marxist-Humanists most timely.

In four parts, the first part of the pamphlet deals with the recent revolt of Black youth in South Africa, with which the township of Soweto and the name of the late Steve Biko are closely associated. Of Biko, the authors write: "What is powerful and new about Biko's ideas is that he also accepts the agency and the responsibility for change within the subject of the oppressed, and not simply within the South African economy or within the hierarchy of the system." Socialists who continue to see the "masses" as objects for whose things must be done i.e. theory and leadership provided from on high rather than as subject able and willing to liberate themselves please take note!...

The third part deals with the thought of the much neglected Frantz Fanon and shows that he was not only a Black revolutionary of the Third World but also a revolutionary on a world scale. Unlike many of today's revolutionaries, Fanon, as the authors point out, did not dwell in a myth ridden past. He realized that the seeds of revolution come not from the past but from the future and that revolution can only begin when it rids itself of all its superstitions concerning the past. Let the dead bury the dead, and let the living, the dwarfs disguised in the clothes of giants, lay down and die.

Basing himself on the dialectic of lordship and bondage worked out by Hegel, he shows how those in bondage are caught in a false-consciousness and come to see themselves as appendages of their masters. The masters too delude themselves and see their slaves as not in independent beings but as extensions of themselves. Only when humanity struggles to be neither master nor slave will it be free.

The final part deals with the development of African and Black thought. The Socialists from the early '60's through the various strands of the Black power movement to the present... Capitalism is a system which has outlawed its time and racialism is a symptom of its death agony. This pamphlet will be another nail in its coffin.

—Terry Liddle

**Author replies to N&L review**

While I appreciate News & Letters giving space to A Radical Life, (see N&L March 1979), still some errors in the text require correction:

1) "The unionization of the textile workers followed the Palmer raids." No. The Lask Committee and Palmer raids took place in 1919 and 1916. The Passaic strike broke out in 1926.

2) "I was an organizer for the Communist Party" in the textile strikes. No so. In Passaic I worked for the United Textile Workers Union. In Gastroina I was an organizer for the National Textile Workers Union.

3) The Passaic mills "employed 1,000 people." Very inexact. The strike at least included 16,000 people; employment in mills in the area were about 20,000.

4) It surprises me that Terry should resort to that old Stalinist lie that Albert and I resigned "after" we were expelled. Many people were dropping out in those days; automatically the Party expelled them after they resigned or left.

Errors of Omission:

1) My participation in the Left Wing and early underground.

2) My part in the early organization of Detroit auto workers in 1927-28 when I was, for a time, editor of the factory newspapers and worked in an auto plant.

3) Three chapters of my book deal with the Gastosina trials — a travesty of justice if ever there was one. Completely ignored by Terry.

4) In the 1930s, I co-edited the Class Struggle, organ of the Communist League of Struggle, contributing analytical articles, at the same time helping to organize the sit-down trades in which I worked.

As for my final chapter, the publishers cut my manuscript in half, leaving no space for all my views. To conclude from that, that I "dropped out in the 1960's" seems just flat wrong, especially since Terry saw me last far taking part in the anti-Nazi demonstration. Not at all funny is the harrow sectarian attitude which knows the degenerate class nature of Stalinism, it is completely ignored by Terry.

The time may be short: as we are going now we shall all be defeated and the workers with us.

—Terry Moon解决方案

**Abortion illegal in Ghana**

Illinois.~The International Day of Action for Abortion and Against Sterilization Abuse, and the recent series in the Chicago Sun Times about all the abortion mills, made me see there are a number of themes that are similar to what is happening in Ghana — particularly the quacks.

In Ghana, abortion is not legal and has bred a whole class of people who operate on the women using very crude methods. Most of the doctors working in the government hospital saw abortion as a very quick way to make money. They had some beds set up outside the hospitals where they did the abortions.

Sterilization of instruments was virtually nil. Women would have it done and hope the fetus would abort. Those who did a survey of those young people in real ghettos are what 1 is similar to what is happening in Ghana.

Several times that I know of, a family would be house to house, 'Thank you for coming. We were going to abort the child. We would do it the next day. We would put the fetus to be buried. You would hear the people crying, and see the girl, dead. When she was pregnant, nobody knew about it. When she had the abortion, nobody knew about it. It was only when she died that the people from her community, who were living in the city, contributed some money and brought her to the village to be buried. —Ghanaian
BULLETIN—As we go to press, May 1, hundreds of youth have demonstrated outside the Capitol against recent government policies leading up to the 1980 elections. Other protests are scheduled nationwidew.

At a recent mass protest against nuclear energy, a spontaneously-organized Student Coalition Against the Navy in the Midwest Michigan University circulated petitions opposing the impending resurrection of the military draft and its consequences—war. Aside from the technological illiteracy it promotes, the arms race, the two are related by the forces opposing both, namely youth who neither created this state-capitalist system nor want to be its soldiers.

Thus, along with the recent mass protest against the Trident submarine launching in Groton, Conn., and the well-known protest at the Sterling Heights, Mich., factory which makes the Lance missile, carrier of the neutron bomb, resistance grows against militarization. In January, a mass meeting there on April 16, the Congress introduced bills, elements of which include Selective Service registration to begin by Oct. 1 of this year, and open access for the selectives to government records, including state and local, for the purpose of registering youths on a master list. Provisional state directors already have been appointed in all 50 states.

To drive home the urgency, military planners used last fall's Operation Nifty Nudie '78, a simulated European war with Russia, as evidence that even an emergency call-up couldn't replenish the dead—or 1,000 per day—quickly enough in a ground war, despite the 14 to 39-year-old men of draft age already in the field. Nineteen young men were killed in those "games."

Yet so deep now is youth's opposition to militarism and war, that colleges and universities, rather than spend millions in deceptive recruitment drives and invite women to enlist (in the name of "equality")). Almost half (42 percent) of the enlistees drop out.

But it is that other massive and growing army—the unemployed, especially Black youth—that poses a critical threat to U.S. state-capitalism and its ever-deepening crises. This army includes the Vietnamese vets who have shown demands for a new kind of spending within the army that helped bring an end to that war—and to Nixon, too. One Pentagon man recently commented on the rash of discipline problems which are expected to enter the military with draftees.

It is surely against these youths that the late Senate Bill and the draft resistance movement is directed, endeavoring to impose severe penalties on all forms of organization and expression inside the military.

But the fact that self-organization of resistance is so strong and internalized is reflected in a recent poll that reported 62 percent of 16 to 24-year-olds oppose renewal of registration and the draft. It shows in the indignation of a Vietnam vet, participating in a recent mass anti-nuke rally, that his combat experience could plausibly be facing the first to go under one of many draft schemes.

As China invaded Vietnam, the same shudders of war were felt in every country. But from the anti-invasion expressions by Chinese youth, to the East and West German youth demanding the release of Marxist "system-smashers," to the Black youth in this country whose revolt against racism made them the first to declare, "Hell, no! We won't grow up!" the determination and militancy of state capitalism—"a war for every generation," as one anti-nuke poster put it—lays the foundation for revolution in every land.

Feminist-activists discuss freedom ideas

We have received the following letters from two young women revolutionaries, Bonnie Mullaney of the Queens College Marxist-Humanists and Rickie Rae of the Wayne State University News & Letters Youth Committee. They discuss their involvement in freedom struggles on and off campus, as well as their thoughts about the need for a philosophy of revolution—Ed.

Detroit, Mich.—A class which I am taking at Wayne State University, given by Ruya Dunavoykaya on her book, Philosophy and Revolution, is very difficult, but after only the first one the message is very clear—all struggles have to be a unifying thought to give them direction. The question is what is that unifying thought?

To be concrete, let us take at Wayne State—including the Wayne State News & Letters Youth Committee—held a rally on March 15 to show our support for the Iranian women who are continuing to fight for their freedom. The rally started with women speaking about Iran and the problems in common we both have as women. All of a sudden, "appeared" a group of about 15 to 20 supposedly "revolutionary" Iranian men who started to chant about U.S. imperialism (as if we were for U.S. imperialism) in an attempt to break up our rally. There were men there who were supposed to support the rally that kept the disrupters away from us. Finally, one of our women shouted, "We're for freedom. What the hell are you doing here?"—and then they marched away. They couldn't answer that question because they aren't for freedom for everyone—man, woman and child.

New York, N.Y.—On International Abortion Rights Day, March 31, women of all ages and races rallied to demand the right to control their own bodies and minds. In New York, 5,000 demonstrators—women representing various groups—massed together to protest for the right to control their own bodies and minds, to a group of socialist-feminists, to anti-nuke protesters—marched to show that they will never give up the right that right away permanently (see article, p. 2).

Some women had signs linking the right of women to control the reproduction of their bodies to the struggle for the right to decide whether or not to work, whether or not to vote, whether or not to have children. The Women's Liberation Movement and the anti-nuke movement are integrally connected, because both demand that people control their own lives.

At Columbia University, students took over the building which houses the Triga reactor, on April 13. They concerned themselves not only with the threat of nuclear disaster in New York, but also attempted to relate this to Columbia's investments in South Africa and to the local 1199 striking workers. These on-going movements have caused Women Students to be in the forefront of the struggle—chaining meetings, speaking to crowds of anti-nuke protesters, and confronting the University's president.

Similarly, at a recent anti-nuke conference in New York, students from various groups met and discussed such questions as how to relate this struggle to other freedom struggles and how to further develop the movement. The conference was called by a group of high school and even junior high school students—and it was female students who were raising the questions.

This new generation of revolutionaries is very different from that of the 1960s. They are seeking a new kind of movement which will aid in their own self-development, as well as guide them in their quest for freedom.

Both the Women's Liberation Movement and the anti-nuke movement must not only take each other's demands for self-determination seriously, but they cannot overlook the necessity to take seriously the demand by minorities to control their own lives, as well as the demand by workers to control their conditions at the point of production.

Bonnie Mullaney

My idea of freedom is that it has to mean totally different relations for all of us. I don't see any in-betweens. We are either going to have total freedom or total inhumanity.

Capitilism's disregard for human life is seen as recently as the nuclear plant in Harrisburg. When I heard the outright lies that they made, the public got the "answers" from all the various government and industry representatives to the question "Why did it happen?" Women is that total disregard for human life so that it was two whole days after the "potential China syndrome" that they finally got around to explaining what happened. But as soon as they saw one again how cheap life is to capitalism in relation to the nuclear power industry. This confirmed my belief even more strongly—that is a society which lets people take power into their own hands and allow their ideas about the need for a philosophy of revolution to come to is that human beings long for freedom and it'll never get it in the society we live in now, but only if a struggle to overthrow capitalism and a total revolution directed by a philosophy of revolution.

—Rickie Rae

Columbia strikers chancing in controller's office.

Columbia, N. Y. —Thirty-five clerical workers at Columbia University, members of the United Federation of Hospital and Health Care Workers Union, shut down the school's multi-million dollar computer system March 22, demanding unionization with U.S. Imperialism (as if we were for U.S. imperialism) in an attempt to break up our rally. There were men there who were supposed to support the rally that kept the disrupters away from us. Finally, one of our women shouted, "We're for freedom. What the hell are you doing here?"—and then they marched away. They couldn't answer that question because they aren't for freedom for everyone—man, woman and child.

'1199' strikers barricade office.

Only the police would save 60 neo-fascist National Front members from arrest April 16, in Southall, England, where many Asians live, just outside London. Forty people were hurt and over 300 arrested, most of whom were Black or Asian youths who assaulted the police and the election campaign rally for the National Front, which is against entry and for deportation of non-white immigrants in England.

Bobby Nathaniel Green, on behalf of the eleventh and twelfth graders, asked that all Black students attend a class action suit recently in North Carolina against minimum competency testing, used by the state to deny high school graduation to 7 percent of all students. The suit argues that the tests deny equal protection and due process under the U.S. Constitution and that the state uses them to cover up its failure to provide the students their right to free public education. Ten Black high school students in Florida also recently filed a similar suit against that state's competency program. The majority of the nation's school board members favor minimum competency testing.

'1199' strikers barricade office.

Columbia strikers chanting in controller's office.
British workers continue to fight Callaghan's pay hike limit

by Peter Mallory and Ron Bromkneyer

We have received the following report from a correspondent in Britain:

Over the last few months, we have had industrial action on a very large scale. In industry after industry, workers have refused to accept the five percent limit on pay rises demanded by Prime Minister James Callaghan (Our Life and Times, March, 1979 N & L). Although the level of struggle has subsided over the last few weeks, there are still one-day stoppages, local strikes and overtime bans. Forty thousand teachers in Scotland called off a one-day strike on March 22. In the civil service there have been two one-day strikes. The second of these, involving women teachers and nursing assistants, brought Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue to a halt, and closed many of the law courts. The Power, Minister of Power, was virtually picketed, and at the Tower of London, the famous "Beefeaters" went on guard in civilian clothes... as a civil service union picket line!

In the Post Office, where I work, we have been offered 12 percent but this is tied to an efficiency agreement, imposed by the British Telecommunications Management. Postal workers are dead against having part-time workers in the industry. The Post Office is chronically short of staff, even in this period of high unemployment, because of the low wages and unsocial hours. The proposal to bring in part-timers is seen as a ploy by management to solve their labour problem at the cheap, instead of paying a decent wage.

However, simply to exclude part-timers would mean denying mothers of young children the possibility of getting a job, so I'm arguing that we should demand that the Post Office provide nursery facilities, which would enable these people to work as full-timers.

Unofficial one-day strikes and overtime bans are taking place in many post offices, especially in London. My own branch has just voted for a one day ban in overtime.

The hospital workers have now gone back to normal working. What they have gained is a lot of prestige, plus one point a week. This is a significant gain over Callaghan's desired five percent limit, but fails short of their full demand of 60 percent. These people have been among the most grossly underpaid in the country.

Militant unionism is spreading from its traditional strongholds in mining, transport and manufacturing, and is being taken up by the long-suffering workers in public services and small shops, transport, and industries, and by white-collar groups like the civil servants, who thought of themselves until recently as middle-class.

-Dick Abernethy

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news & letters

May, 1979

our life and times

Uganda

The murderess dictator of Uganda, Idi Amin, was deposed on April 12. For years he slaughtered anyone who opposed him, and tortured 200,000 people. Contrasted to the spectacle of the people dancing in the streets at Amin's overthrow, was the release of 1,200 political prisoners. and torture cells filled with decomposed bodies.

Although Amin's overthrow came at the hands of Tanzanian troops, the undermining of the hated regime began from within by Ugandans at the beginning of this year, that was then that major sabotage for the first time knocked out electricity around Kampala's second largest city: fuel storage for Kampala was destroyed, and major sections of Uganda's railway link to Kenya blown up.

An organization calling itself Save Uganda Movement took responsibility for the actions and, in April, announced a $20,000 reward for any information leading to the capture of the Ugandan people.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has not yet shown any enthusiasm about the demolition of Amin's regime. The report of Usumbu Lale has so far been recognized by Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Britain, and, which did little or nothing to help in the overthrow of Amin and actually intercepted arms shipments intended for the rebels, has finally recognized the new regime.

New demonstrations by thousands of unemployed workers have erupted in Iran in recent weeks. No one can estimate how deep the crisis is—anywhere from 1-4 million (18-42 percent) are unemployed, but protests have crossed the major cities in recent weeks.

Over 2,000 unemployed construction workers marched April 8 in Teheran on the local government for not being paid. They continued the marches daily, on the Ministries of Justice and of Labor.

Over 400 workers marched in an Italian construction company that laid them off after the Iranian government stopped paying for a dam-building project.

Unemployed and striking workers in Sanadaj and Tabriz held demonstrations. In Isfahan, where the jobless rate is estimated to be 80 percent, unemployed demonstrators were fired on by Islamic troops, who called the work of "counter-revolutionary elements." One student was killed.

In Sari, workers at a carpet factory demanded to be paid for their overdue wages. If they were fired, like many shops in Iran, was shut down by its owners who fled when the Shah was overthrown.

France

The recent massive demonstrations by, and in support of, laid-off steel workers in Lorraine present the biggest opposition to increases in France since May, 1968. France's deep economic crisis and growing alienation have resulted in France's military interference throughout Africa and its former colonial empire.

More than 2,500 troops are just now being pulled out of Chad, with the role of keeping Chad in the British workers continue to fight Callaghan's pay hike limit...