All eyes on Polish workers!

by Charles Denby, Editor
Author of Indignant Heart: A Black Worker's Journal

All eyes are on the Polish workers as they have struck against their Communist regime and demanded changes in their everyday lives. They are trying to gain concessions for the workers and the Polish people as a whole.

One of their demands is for free trade unionism, and it is something that the American workers once had, but through the years have lost. Today American workers are as much in need of it as are the Polish workers.

NEEDED: FREE TRADE UNIONS HERE

In the strikes of 1938, General Motors had a contract all worked out for the workers. In it the company had agreed to maintain a certain number of workers. When the workers walked off the job, they were not accepted anywhere coming from the company. In fact, we looked upon the company as our enemy, and any worker that was too friendly with a foreman was looked at as a company stooge. Today the closer anyone is with the company, the better chance of being a union representative. There are thousands upon thousands of American workers who are laid off and who are still working are forced to work six and seven days a week, nine and ten hours a day. When we had a union that the workers controlled there was no such thing as working overtime when your brothers and sisters were laid off.

Now the leaders of the AFL-CIO are sending the Polish workers some financial help as though they were real friends of the kind of union the Polish workers are creating from below. Even Secretary of State Dulles was for high reasons opposed to their action. In reality these American trade unionists are as much opposed to any action of workers from below in America as management is.

(Continued on Page 10)

The new expanded page News & Letters

With this issue of News & Letters we are expanding on a regular basis to a 12-page paper. We hope this will allow us to present more fully, an analysis of world events as well as theoretical discussion, in addition to what has always been a principle with us—freedom activists speaking for themselves—and to as well publish contributions from our Marxist-Humanist archives.

The decision to expand was made by News & Letters Committees meeting in Convention session over Labor Day weekend in Detroit, Michigan—in this the 50th anniversary year of our founding. From the Perspectives Report (excerpted in this issue of News & Letters) to the sessions on our organization, on the new expanded News & Letters newspaper and finally on our financial responsibility for all the work we project to do, it was a most serious, wide-ranging conference.

Reports were heard from European and Middle Eastern friends. Internationally a British News & Letters pamphlet had been published. Translations of Marxist-Humanist writing were also requested. A Persian and Polish. Special sessions were held at our national meeting on women's liberation and on youth. Reports of these will be found in those two sections of our paper this issue. Black Reality/Black Thought was taken up both in the Perspectives Report and in discussion. All the major reports to the Convention are being prepared for circulation and can be ordered through ads in this issue of our paper.

On the INSIDE

A History of Worldwide Revolutionary Developments: 25 Years of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S. Part I by Raya Dunayevskaya, p. 4
pease the peasants, he has just abandoned the literacy program which according to the Manchester Guardian "had enraged the male chauvinism of the countryside by sliding the womenfolk into a position of independence." But our problem at the end of this decade, is not with the movement from practice, but with the movement from theory, or lack of it. And what makes it so urgent is not just that women's liberation has become in life and not only in theory (where it has been ever since Marx and Engels wrote their 1845-44 Manuscpt) one of the most crucial measures of how deep the uprooting of the old must be.

In short, the point at this point is, it is only "measure"? Or, is woman being disclosed as the new revolutionary force that serious revolutionaries (men and women) must see on the same level that Lenin saw revolutionary nationalism as not mere catalyst, but as a particular, specific movement that could help transform the general universal of socialism into the concrete new society.

REVOLUTIONARY REASON

The two works which we have brought onto the history of the two last generations in women's liberation, "Women as Resistance and Force of Revolution," which Neda reports has now reached Iran and Europe, and the draft chapters of a book called "Marxist Feminism: Philosophy of Revolution", although on very different levels, do represent a theory that has recaptured the movement's trajectory and pushed it past the stage of mere sentiment of thought, but was not yet real then. It was captured only by the theorist Raya Dunayevskaya, who was so rooming in that philosophy that she could recreate a new force when it arose, capture it, and single out the new category for her as a revolutionary reason and theory: revolutionary force.

When you read the new history that we are producing on this 25th anniversary of News and Letters Committees, you will see that this is what took place in the 1970 events and was one of the founders of the Committee for Free Trade Unions.

Or that concerned were the Russian rulers when the dissident feminists called on men not to fight in Afghanisth that they expelled them. And finally, even in Afghanistan--Karmal has been having so much trouble with the sudden nationalism that the Russian invasion has created, that in trying to ap-

WRITE ON!

The Women's Room, Teleley by Carol Sobieski from the novel by Marilyn French, ABCTV

The only grain of truth in either the book or TV version of The Women's Room was the depiction of the banality of 1950s, white, middle-class suburban life—where at one time, themselves began to reject: see The Feminine Mystical.

With this story, we might have glimpsed, if only fleetingly, the essence of 1950s and The reason beginning to question their individuality, the family, sexuality relations with men, children and each other—not to mention their part in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam wars movements.

Instead, the mere consciousness of women's oppression is presented as "men's problem," where she voiced her social

Minnesota

Women Take Back The Night

Minneapolis, Minn. — On Saturday, Aug. 9, more than 8,000 women and men marched downtown to Take Back The Night. During the two hour rally before the march, many spoke about sexual harassment on the job and what women could do about it.

Women of color addressed the problems in the women's liberation movement, which repletes with ads for "feminine products" but totally devoid of any feeling for passion to become free.

Helen Keller: Her Socialist Years, Writings and Speeches, Edited by Philip S. Foner, New York: International Publishers

The disregard for Helen Keller as a socialist seen in the newest biographies published in 1890—the 100th anniversary of her birth is quite to be the same attitude she fought against in her lifetime. This collection (from 1911 to 1929) shows her marking on picket lines in support of trade union and women suffrage, opposing World War I. Yet the world then, as now, onlywanted to make her not only a symbol of women's rights, but the handiports. As she wrote in 1924, "So long as I confine my activities to social service and the blind, they compelled me to see them as objects and not as individuals. This was, I think, the source of all my difficulties."

NEW DISCUSSION BULLETIN!

Includes full texts of:

- Marxist-Feminism—in Theory and in Life
- Iranian Women's Liberation—U.S. & Iran
- Discussion on Marx’s concept of women

Order from: Women's Liberation-News & Letters, 2882 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48211

Operators protest speed-up

Walnut Creek, Cal.—On Sept. 10, one month after the agreement between the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the Bell System reached a group of off-duty directory assistance operators in Walnut Creek, California, the union is now in the midst of pushing to ratify the collective bargaining agreement. The operators say that the 18-month period since the last contract expired has left them feeling neglected and set up an "unauthorized informational picket line, to let other workers know the situation, including the fact that this is the last chance for several supervisors to show their support at the strike."

The union is now in the midst of pushing to ratify this new agreement is a "great step forward." The CWA, claims that their new contract has made real progress on a major bone of contention of the workers—job security. The Diagnostic Remote Incident Monitoring Plan, in which supervisors listen in on operators' calls, has been eliminated. But as the information operators in Walnut Creek have shown, the progress isn't over.
Revolutionary role of labor: Poland and U.S.

New York, N.Y. — What the Gdansk shipyard workers showed was the still critical and revolutionary a labor maintains in state-capitalist society, calling for diminishing wages? In the U.S. auto industry, where they have agreed to a start-up exception of ONE door company-union deals.

The immediate concern is the only thing that Art Steel cares about. They'll hire you, push you to produce like crazy, and then lay you off when they don't need you anymore. Workers know what this drive for production means—and now the game of productivity is starting all over again.

Miami’s Liberty City rebellion showed us a Black woman with a picket sign saying, “The U.S. is a lie.” And over one hundred years ago Karl Marx wrote that to have one basis for science and another for human life is from the start a lie. This lie can be seen all around us.

FROM THE AUTOSHOPS

Chrysler Jefferson

Detroit, Mich.—Everyone has heard tonns of publicity cut Chrysler making the new “K-car” at the Jefferson plant, but has anyone found out what the workers have to say about it? Is it going through to produce it? Ever since we were led back over two months ago, we have been working regular hours—five a day, six a week. Many workers have to work seven days. What happened was that Chrysler in a rush to start production before they were ready. The paint shop, the body shop, the assembly line, especially the 4-door robot, which turns out junk. They set 100 jobs an hour, but the truth is much less, we have to work 125 a minute.

The paint shop workers went to the union, asking how long the overtime can continue like this. When the overtime was over, the loafers were back. Three workers in our shift repeated that “wage theft” was in the contract some years ago. The key in the productive effort is in the productivity of labor. What bothers them is their own workers. Can we be disciplined by layoffs and unimation—disciplined under conditions of speed-up and intensification of labor, for diminishing wages? In the U.S. auto industry, where they have just introduced their new cars, they are breathing heavily and willing the workers will do when the line is up to full capacity.

Joe Green

Solidarity House

Los Angeles, Cal.—I’m from closed-up GM South Gate, and recently tried to visit Solidarity House when in Detroit. An unemployed worker friend said, “I want you to know that I’m proud to have been a worker in Solidarity House.” After lots of questions, checking my union card and GM card he said with suspicion, “I guess what I wanted. After lots of questions, checking my union card and GM card.

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New York, N.Y.—We have to compare the Polish situation to ours here. We have the same problem as Poland: we’re sold out by our union leaders, who are the same as management. We have workers here in transit who come from Poland, and it's the same thing we face here in the U.S.

I can’t see any American union leader who is doing his job today. Most workers are watching the situation in Poland very carefully. We could take over the subway yards in New York, but we'd have to be prepared for how the police would attack us with force.

We have to win the same struggles, conditions as other people have, or should have: bathrooms, a nice lunchroom, etc. Another problem is with the health insurance. Why are repair sanders making $7.75, and now $8.50, when they had agreed to a start-up exception of ONE door company-union deals.

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September 20, 1980

NEWS & LETTERS

Page 3

ONLINE

Workers resist push for productivity

by John Marcotte

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With this issue, Raya Dunayevskaya has asked that the name of her column be changed from "TWO WORLDS" to "THEORY/ PRACTICE"
By the end of 1959, when Eisenhower and Krushchev, "in the spirit of Camp David", were busy talking of peaceful co-existence, China had already emerged as a special pole of attraction for the Third World.

On June 18, 1957, while I was reading the galleys of Marxism and Freedom, Mao Tse-tung had caused a world sensation with his speech, "How to Handle Contradictions Among the People," and I had felt the urgency to include a new footnote(8), which read:

"In one of the remarkable episodes in revolution history, he singlehandedly outlined a program based on the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Gandhi." (10)

To which, I replied:

"I admit that combining Marx, Lenin and Gandhi is quite a feat, but for a pamphleteer like myself, I should add, at considerable expense to myself, I should add, to myself." (9)

"The lowest of all today's sophists is the head of the Chinese Communist Party and State, Mao Tse-tung who . . . has ridden this single track which he calls 'Contra- diction' ever since 1937. At that time he directed his attack against 'dogmatists' who refused to reduce all contradictions in the anti-Japanese struggle and submit to 'the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek' . . . By June 18, 1957, after editing with a heavy hand the speech he delivered on Feb. 27th . . . he reduced the struggle of class against class to a contradiction among 'the people' while he became the champion, at one and the same time, of the philosophy of a hundred flowers blooming and one, and only one Party, the Chinese Communist Party ruling. Outside of the empire, class relations themselves, nothing so clearly exposes the new Chinese ruling class as their threadbare philosophy.

In the same period in which the intellectual abdication of Johnson, the co-founder of the State-Capitalist Tendency, had led him to devise the following enthusiastic apologia for co-existence, Chou En-lai had written the following:

"In one of the remarkable episodes in revolution history, he singlehandedly outlined a program based on the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Gandhi." (10)

(8) In a speech during the summer of 1959, Castro had declared: "Standing between the two political and economic ideologies or positions being debated in the world, we are holding our own positions. We have named it humanism . . . This is a humanistic revolution because it does not deprive man of his essence but holds him as its basic aim. Capitalism sacrifices man; the Communist state, by its very idea of society on two legs, begins-to end with man . . . " See "History Will Be My Judge", published in The New Left Review, Jan.-Feb., 1961.

(9) At considerable expense to myself, I should add, since the publisher could see no reason for my insistence on adding yet another "footnote" when the book was already on the presses.


The important gain for Marxist-Humanism, of course, came when Harry McShane—the outstanding revolutionary Scottish fighter and Marxist, who had participated in an international conference of state-capitalist tendencies that opposed both poles of world capital, U.S. and Russia, but who had established an international forum for further dialogue, through publication of Onorato Damen's Flemish(14), printed on a different color of paper to distinguish its independent character. In England I had also established the relations with West African revolutionaries which would lead to my trip there in 1962. And soon after my return from Britain a young group of Londoners actually began writing a special page of "British Labour News" in News & Letters which they distributed as their front page.

The important gain for Marxist-Humanism, of course, came when Harry McShane—the outstanding revolutionary Scottish fighter and Marxist, who had been one of the original founders of the Communist Party when it stood for the Russian Revolution of 1917 but who had broken with the Party in 1939—declared himself a Marxist-Humanist in 1959.

Whether one begins with the new spontaneous revolts in China, and the philosophy of Marx’s Humanism which inspired a great outpouring of new energies, nationally and internationally, one thing was beyond any doubt: we were in the face of a new beginning that would determine the end.
THE POLISH GENERAL STRIKE: A WORLDWIDE IMPACT

The present outcome of the Polish struggle confirms our faith in the
strength of Poland’s working class and its unions. The Polish government
and the big banks have been forced to compromise. The main reason for
this is the Polish workers’ determination to fight for higher wages.

How did this strike come about? What are the factors that led to its
victory? And what can other countries learn from this experience?

What struck me most about the Polish strike was the courage of the
workers. They felt that they had nothing to lose, and they were willing
to take on the biggest capitalist in Europe.

We were especially impressed by the Polish workers’ courage and
their ability to organize. They established strike committees throughout
the Lenin Shipyard and other factories. They also started a radio station
that broadcast news and music to support the workers. This was the
first time that such an open form of communication was used in Poland.

The government was forced to negotiate with the workers, and the
strike ended with a settlement that included higher wages and an
end to the government’s censorship of the media. The strike showed
that the Polish workers were not afraid to challenge the power of
the government and the big banks.

The Polish workers’ strike is a powerful example of the power of
united workers to fight against capitalist exploitation. It is a crucial
demonstration of the need for solidarity between workers around the
world.

Fora full view of revolutionary Black activity and thought:
THE RAYA DUNAYEVSKAYA COLLECTION
Marxist-Humanism: Its Origin and Development in America, 1841 to Today

The March on Washington Movement and the 1943 Black
Rebellions in Harlem and Detroit • Gunnar Myrdal and the Harlem
renaisance • Debates on Marxism and the National Question in America • Black workers and the CIO

Available on microfilm from Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs, Walter P. Reuther Li-
brary, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.


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LONDON: Rising Free Bookshop (Box NL) 182 Upper Street
London, N, England
CARVER, REAGAN AND THE REAL AMERICA

The Republicans didn’t surprise me at all with the coronation of Ronald Reagan, neither did the Democrats. Jimmy Carter, to me, I have already made up my mind not to vote at all this November. In fact, I’m seriously thinking of joining the drive to get people not to vote at all in the upcoming election. I don’t want any of these sanctimonious reformers. I think we can send a message to the government that they are not going to play their silly games any more. The so-called ‘sides of the same capitalist coin’ Freedom from exploitation should be our goal.

Ex-Kent State student
Ohio

Thanks for sending N&L. We always find it interesting to read about the industrial struggles going on, and also the international comment. You certainly are having some fun with the presidential election in the USA. Reagan looks like he would be the all-time reactionary president. However, I get the feeling he won’t make it. I put my money on Carter, to my mind the least obnoxious leader you have had since Roosevelt, and compared to Nixon a positive saint.

Bill Hughes
London, England

I participated in the New York march against the Democratic Convention and for a “People’s Alternative.” What impressed me most was its size, and the representation of Latin American groups, and the good number of Blacks and women’s organizations. There were at least 10,000 marchers, group after group. There were Puerto Rican independence groups, El Salvadoristas, calling for no U.S. intervention; and an organization of immigrant workers for immediate legalization and amnesty for all, and for 1,000 patches of many colors around a star, like a flag of all Latin American/Caribbean countries.

Within all these marchers were welfare rights groups and many women’s banners for abortion, with the coat hanger as the symbol and with handkerchiefs in English and Spanish. It represented me to the real America.

Marcher
New York

While all the presidential candidates are publicists, U.S. capitalism’s need to re-industrialize, now the capital just does not seem to be there to do it. The oil industry, however, is swimming in funds. Sohio, for example, had profits of $1.2 billion in 1978, and its profits were up 2,000 percent in the last decade. But the oil dollars are not getting ‘recycled’ to manufacturing re-industrialization very well.

Karl Marx anticipated such a situation which he called “capitalist communism” (see Vol. III of Capital). Capitalism hates communism so much that even when it is for themselves they don’t know how to work it.

Observer
Boston

Thank you for your articles about the Republican convention (N&L, Aug.-Sept. 1980). They really showed me something I had not understood about Reagan and the New Right. I know how the religious Right had done much to take over the GOP, but I hadn’t realized how much of the way they did it was organizing against Women’s Liberation. There is a particularly odious and frightening mood against women that I sense even in the upper circles of that party. You got it all right, prove it, but Reagan reminds me too much of the path to World War II that I just may vote for Carter.

Professor
Ann Arbor, Mich.

SOUPLINES, PICKET LINES

When Governor Milliken of Michigan announced his proposal to cut welfare off to all “able-bodied recipients without children” to support between the ages of 20 and 45, I couldn’t believe my ears. Michigan has the highest unemployment of any state. Finding a job has become impossible; when one is announced hundreds, sometimes thousands, of applicants line up. I wonder if we are just being told to “hit the road”— and if so, for where? Milliken and his friends are the ones who should hit the road.

Unemployed
Michigan

After reading the article on the San Francisco hotel strike in last month’s N&L I ran into a cook at the St. Francis hotel who felt that “there’s a white liberal b—— who’s not only a sellout, but they moved so fast because they were afraid after the Aug. 2 massacre that the next one would be even bigger and louder. This town hasn’t seen anything like that for a long time.”

The employer media’s only mention of that march of several thousands was a single paragraph, but the “noise busts” of union officials for “too loud” picket lines really told the tale. A young longshoreman who had been supporting the strike commented, “The owners have arrested over noise if the hotel owners were putting up another high-rise using pile-up line up. What are we supposed to live on now? Or are we just being told to ‘hit the road’— and if so, for where? Milliken and his friends are the ones who should hit the road.

Unemployed
Michigan

BLACK REALITY— AND THOUGHT

I was very impressed by the essay by Lou Turner on “Black Thought/Black Reality,” in the last issue of N&L. He really captured the divisions within both those questions. Today’s crisis in Black reality can be seen in the inner areas of youth every week. At the same time there are many tendencies in Black Thought that are rising to impress the particular odious and frightening mood against women that I sense even in the upper circles of that party. You got it all right, prove it, but Reagan reminds me too much of the path to World War II that I just may vote for Carter.

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BULLETIN! As we go to press we receive the following story of the occupation of Sydenham hospital written just after the police attack depicted in the photo.

New York, N.Y. — Sydenham Hospital, in the center of Harlem, scheduled to be closed by New York City’s Department of Health, determined to force the City to respond to the demands of thousands of community demonstrators who have been outside on a picket-line throughout the past week. The following is “from the barricades.”

The elected officials representing Harlem went in — and the cops hauled them out and all the police officers who were there were ones I recognized. One of them was a black police officer. They hauled them all out over the top of the building, and all the people were just being thrown out. The cops were yelling at them, “Get out of here! — Get the black people out of here!” — and they put them all on a truck, and it was a very frightening scene.

Another guy inside yelled that the men should move to the front of the barricades, because there was going to be a confrontation. Many Black women around me raised their fists and moved toward the front. The cops started swinging their clubs, as the politicians stood next to them and watched. I heard one white cop say, pointing to a white female, “There’s a white liberal b——. Get her!”

There were about 200 cops, only two of them Black. Bottles, mop-handles, and pieces of furniture came tumbling down from the roofs of surrounding apartment houses. One cop flipped out, and they looked like they were going to stop the demonstrators, as they smashed the buildings while still watching the crowd. They viciously beat anyone within reach. One cop pulled a gun and aimed it at a brother running down the street. The only thing that saved him was he turned a corner.

The elected officials representing Harlem went in — and the cops hauled them out and all the police officers who were there were ones I recognized. One of them was a black police officer. They hauled them all out over the top of the building, and all the people were just being thrown out. The cops were yelling at them, “Get out of here! — Get the black people out of here!” — and they put them all on a truck, and it was a very frightening scene.

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When I read Lou Turner’s “Black Thought/Black Reality” essay, what came to mind was the separation of organizations from the masses, and of theory from practice. In the past I had dealt with groups like the SWP, and what stood out was their elitist relationship to the masses. I remember years ago trying to sell their newspapers for 50¢ a copy in the Compton area, where most people didn’t have enough money for food. It was an insult to those Black and poor. This separation of thought from the reality of Black masses is what Lou’s essay showed us that we have to overcome today.

Black youth
Los Angeles

CHINESE DISSIDENTS

The Undercurrent is an international newsletter published by a socialist group in Hong Kong on an irregular basis. The purpose is to relay more timely information on China which is either ignored or misinterpreted by the bourgeois and Chinese state-capitalist pressses, so as to rally more international support for the people’s movement there.

In this first issue (July 1980) there are two essays by Wang Xibe, for a Gestumusur Return to Marxism in China and The Liberalism of Democracy, and an interview with the editorial staff. To carry on with this publication, we need donors and subscribers. The subscription rate is US $6 a year by surface mail, US $10 a year by airmail. Payments should be made to: The Undercurrent, money orders payable to Undercurrent. Send to 30 Queen’s Road West, 1st Floor, Hong Kong.

Hong Kong

BRAZILIAN INDIAN STRUGGLES

The Indians of northern Brazil’s Xingu reservation are now in a veritable war against the constant invasions and search by the capital and the road leading across their land, and have killed eleven invaders who were searching for new farms out of their land. The reservations were supposed to preserve a specific region for the Indians who were under the influence and externalized in Brazil over the years. Since the early 70’s, when a major road was built right across their land, many farms have been built on it.

Shoshana
Recife, Brazil

From Harlem ‘barricades’: eyewitness report of Sydenham Hospital occupation

It’s a matter of life and death. The government wants to turn it into a Drug Rehabilitation Center. We know how those things go. We want a hospital that deals with the needs. People here not only don’t have cars to go somewhere else, they don’t have cars.

I have my eight-year-old son with me. There are other women here with babies in carriages. We didn’t expect anything from the police department like this. But my son wants to get involved. He knows what the struggle is. We can’t isolate our children. They are aware we live in a racist society. And they’re in a Black skin; they never forget who you are. My children are used to demonstrations. I’ve been demonstrating all my life so I ran with him to Sydenham. We need this hospital.

Sydenham demonstrator

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Sydenham demonstrator
Workers need control of production, unions
by Felix Martin, West Coast Editor

While waiting in the unemployment line for hours, I was talking with a Black truck driver. He was telling me how he has been laid off from his job and other truck drivers out in their last contract. He had been reading about what the Polish workers did during negotiations. According to what their representatives and the government were saying—and from now on he wanted to know what his representatives were saying during the negotiation of the contract.

As his contract runs out now, on an Ohio run out of Detroit in the winter time, if they get snow bound for a day, they get paid half. They don't even get paid for a day for what is in the truck, but they only get paid for 8 hours.

UNION TAKES COMPANY SIDE

The reason is that the company reps have taken the ground of the corporation, saying that the company has got to make a profit. None of these reps are saying in the capital counties, who produce nothing, "To hell with you and your profits, I represent the workers."

Youth organizer commented, "As long as working people let the salary class do the thinking while the wage class does the work, producers will always have the upper hand."

I couldn't agree more, we have to become the thinkers as well as doers if there will ever be freedom on this earth. As it is, we laborers earn just enough to keep us alive, if we are lucky enough to have work, and the capitalists don't do anything with the money we work for except the next day. But when don't need us, we are quickly laid off. And then they want to push us off of unemployment rolls and lock us out of the welfare, when there are no jobs to go to.

HAZARDS ON THE JOB

If its bad off the job, being on the job is none too healthy. Last year Michigan had 90 workers killed on the job. But that didn't include another 265 workers who were injured on the job as a result of accidents, or auto accidents on the job. And what about all the workers who are dying years after exposure to cancer-causing or poisonous substances.

Meanwhile employers who fail to protect workers from serious job hazards face only the most minimal fine. But since the employer doesn't care how those bureaucratic parasites were taking care of our business? They are taking care of business alright, their own.

A young iron worker in the unemployment line put this way, "We now in large industry are laid off. All we have to do is show up and take over the plants, mines and mills where we work. We don't need these corporate, nor union bureaucrats. We produce everything and we can do it without them. Now is the time and we can do it without them. Now is the time.

Thousands apply for 70 jobs in Baltimore

From a U.S. shipyard worker

(Reader's note: The following story was told by an American shipyard worker at our national convention.)

Now as you know, the way to launch a ship is not someone standing up on the bow and breaking a champagne bottle. What we do is on the yard that is particular yard, the method we used in a ship launching was that they handed out 800 sledges hammers and we each were given four wedges apiece.

We all went under the ship (now this is a 1,000 foot ship) and the idea was to raise it off its block one-half inch which takes a lot of pounding with those hammers. And the supervisors were there with bullhorns and loudspeakers so they could coordinate the raising. And when they had raised it a half inch, they'd eat it and it was launched. Of course, watching all this was a standing dignitaries, photographers.

We got done with that at 11:20 in the morning, a half hour before lunch. So they told us that we could have the extra half hour that day for lunch.

And in the meantime they had quite a spread set out for themselves in that yard. Well what happened was that most of the workers walked out—they left right then.

And so the management had to revise their order. They said people could leave if they wanted to. But, they said, we wouldn't be getting the extra half hour. Well, they had to revise that too—that they had to pay us that half hour.

In any work, you see the power of labor and it's quite a power. It's a force—and that's the force of proletarian reason. And we see that in Poland today. When workers do begin to move and their movement really has a chance to flower, there is something new created in the world. And what is happening in Poland has the same power on a different scale. No longer will the workers walk out—if not the same in Poland or in Eastern Europe and labor will not be the same in the United States after that.

S. Africa workers fight cops

Johannesburg, South Africa — Just after Detroit city workers had battled Mayor Young's administration for three months, Detroit's Municipal Workers' Unions (BMWU) in South Africa carried out the most massive strike ever staged against the Johannesburg city government. From July 24 to Aug. 1, over 10,000 city workers walked off the job in protest of the city council's decision to send out 800 cops to battle the strikers for control of the streets.

Rejecting the strikers' demands for their legitimate union contract, Mayor Young's administration sent out the cops to break the strike and stop the city workers from spreading their struggle to other areas of the city. The police to ruthlessly break the strike with the most brutal "strong arm" methods. Over 12,000 strikers were arrested, including 3,000 on the picket line.

As part of their strategy to break the strike and destroy the BMWU, police arrested and detained Joseph Mavi and Hope Mamabolo, prominent leaders of the BMWU. The offices of the Union were searched and destroyed.

The struggle for the release of these arrested leaders and for the total scrapping of the apartheid system is part and parcel of the international struggle of all workers to end exploitative production relations and to be accorded recognition as full citizens and human beings.

Messes of solidarity should be sent to: The Secretary-General, Black Municipal Workers Union, P.O. Box 9753, Johannesburg, 2000, South Africa.

LABOR

Unemployed face hard times

Los Angeles, Cal. — I’m an unemployed auto worker who’s been laid off for the past 13 months, and jobs are so hard to find that I’ve been forced to try for casual labor jobs at my local unemployment office — jobs that pay a third of what I used to make.

The casual labor program at the unemployment office is supposed to help the desperately unemployed, but it’s really geared to help employers who need cheap labor for a day or two.

I recently went down there when my benefits ran out, and by 6 o’clock in the morning 14 men were standing in line outside the door. The office had been camped out there since 2 a.m. Only two were sent out to work that day while the rest of us had waited 4 hours or more for nothing. And this was for $3 an hour job!

It used to be that if you were 25th in line, you’d be sure to get work. Now you might be the second one there and get no work at all. All the unemployment offices in the city are now this way.

I remember how happy we were when laid off in July of last year — the long hours on a half-salary line takes its toll on your health and sanity. We looked forward to our “extended vacation.” At first we were getting unemployment and Social Security at 50% of our base pay. Then after 6 months unemployment ran out. They now say you can apply for a 13 week unemployment insurance extension, but the catch is that unemployment insurance is for people who lose their jobs. Meanwhile, they also said you wouldn’t get it if you did!

So now with unemployment insurance gone and SIB expired, you are supposed to work at $3 an hour — you can’t even get the casual labor these days.

I started out making $9 an hour as an auto worker, then went to making 90 percent of my pay in SIB, and now by I’m down to $3 an hour jobs. This is how capitalism forces down the living standards of the workers, through the destruction of the corporatization and unionization, which will lay of more workers in turn. How much longer can they expect workers to take this?

African workers fight cops

S.Africa workers fight cops

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Racism at Jacobi

Bronx, N.Y.—Since I’ve worked at Jacobi Hospital there has been race discrimination. But before it was hidden. In the past year, I’ve had to keep an eye on what I say because of the new CUNY system of classification for five years. When you are supposed to be moved up to provisional status, the police don’t want to give you any security, because the old workers get bad habits. In this woman’s case she has a very good record, but the police won’t give her the "race or grade" next year. The reason is that the police have been discrimination — "idiot" and "moneymongers." I’ve worked with the union and tried to do something. But all the channels you have to go through are exhausting and frustrating. I am not giving up. I intend to fight this in new ways.

Pages 8 NEWS & LETTERS October, 1980

Concerned Jacobi worker
buses carrying their school's band across town to Lou­
Cardinal — intent on making racist America hear
rison. After reports of the Iran-Iraq war, followed
I-10 war — and its youth oppo­
October, 1980
organization, under Lenin's banner: The main enemy is
Biko have appeared in the dissident press.
always at home.
London, and he also related the Miami rebellion here
Internationalist Marxist-Humanist Youth Committee met
"Shah," and the formation of an autonomous youth
Finally, a young Polish Marxist-Humanist living in
were translated into her own language.
Fame.
but in addition to the amount of work that school demanded.
neighbohood you see the problems that each
she had undergone tremendous pressure to in­
that have been beaten and conducted in Farsi or Polish!
by衍on on Iranian students who were on trial for dis­
neligious policies globally. Yet he stressed within
revolting revolutionary enthusiasm, the Fedayeen, by
the Free Speech Movement and its discovery of
the film gave a concrete example of capital­
the Free Speech Movement, and her desire to
the usual bureaucratic excuses. As a result, new student assistants made re­
student job grievances
these treaties have been violated.
from over 40 nations, including many indigenous
The continuity with Marx's humanism and Marxist-­
their survival. Activists from over 40 nations, including many indigenous
"little shorties" participating in the Miami rebellion this
on payday in early September. The usual bureaucratic
their traditional values of living in harmony with nature, new
It was just such a stress on revolutionary journalism
YOUTH
by Jim Mills
Scenes flashing across the TV screen on Sept. 23 showed
that for any typing at all. But the department chairman
and spread
than "little shorties" participating in the Miami rebellion this
afternoon in Rafsanjan, Khorasan Province, 13 miles south of Tehran, the college
as well as hundreds of people who are motivated to
offering to sell them. She was not limited to the strike. An office student assistant
newspapers. They wouldn't allow circulation of
the Free Speech Movement and the Negro Revolution in 1964; and
the Black, because of the racist attitude of
ians State where arch-reactionary Ronald Reagan was
The most outstanding feature of the conference was
We will contribute to the new expanded News & Letters next issue.
preparing their own report. Following the re-
many are not asked for their ideas but to do tedious
"Little shorties," the small Black, Latino, Jewish, or gay student had in interfering with
their ideas. The usual bureaucratic excuses. As a result, new student assistants made re­
the students' and m.edical workers' struggle. Many of the partici­
It is only through constant struggle that the educational system can be
The Free Speech Movement, and its discovery of
In the atmosphere of a high school in a poor New
presssed, and the formation of a autonomous youth
I-Mark, and the formation of an autonomous youth
the Black, because of the racist attitude of
the usual bureaucratic excuses. As a result, new student assistants made re­
tensions in the seventies, captured in Fraser Faino, Soweto and Amer­
Finally, a young Polish Marxist-Humanist living in
After the picketing was over, the police arrested 18 people, which
sequently, the students started to prepare their own reports. After
Algerian revolutionaries in the FLN. The students of the Latin American State were
In the atmosphere of a high school in a poor New
his family, and having to carry the burden of family responsibility. The pressure: the Black, because of the racist attitude of
The most outstanding feature of the conference was
the continuity with Marx's humanism and Marxist-­
organization, under Lenin's banner: The main enemy is
But the opposition to administration management
various programs for the poor and unemployed children of "guest workers" from the Middle
and had shown their real problems. In this movie the empha­
At the end of the summer, clerical workers threat­
the group's consciousness of its own internationalism in the
the rest of the students' and medical workers' struggle. Many of the partici­
attacking their family's old ideas and values. The family is a small group that has its own reality.
the Latin American State. .
the students' and medical workers' struggle. Many of the partici­
the Students' and Medical Workers' Struggle. Many of the participants in the riot are the
Additionally, values of living in harmony with nature, new
			THE INTERNATIONALIST MARXIST-

Internationalist Marxist-Humanist youth meeting

That is why local Internationalist Marxist-Humanist
Commission on Energy Developing
nals presented testimony on multinational corporations currently exploiting the minerals, resources of the
Newspaper published from Detroit News & Letters

by R. K.

For refusing to turn over incriminating photos, the education minister was sentenced to seven years' hard

Youth in Revolt

For refusing to turn over incriminating photos, the education minister was sentenced to seven years' hard

Detroit, Mich. — Newly-hired Wayne State Uni­

Youth Committees will sponsor Raya Dunayevskaya in

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Against militarized science and religious reaction...

(Continued from Page 1)

RELIGION IN GENERAL, JERUSALEM IN PARTICULAR — IN THIS STATE-CAPITALIST AGE

Israel has been moving so steadily to the Right that no reactionary action should surprise anyone. Nevertheless, the world — and this includes President Carter — is still pretending that the so-called Peace Treaty presently being negotiated between Egypt and Israel will bring real peace to the whole of the Middle East — was shocked by the terrorist actions from the Knesset that Jerusalem, East and West (that is, Arab as well as Jewish), was "one," was "indivisible" capital of Israel, indeed, was "eternal," as if really its own extension of the land of time.

If however, we take a second, objective look at that phrase, "nothing else," we will see that it is precisely the Knesset that Jerusalem, East and West (that is, Arab as well as Jewish), was "one," was "indivisible." It would be taking 1,000 acres of mostly Arab-owned land. It was the first such major expropriation in a decade, and the second largest since the victorious 1967 war. Indeed, by the mid-1970s, Israeli Knesset 30 percent of the land without the Arabs would be anything but what it was.

That the neo-fascist religious fanatics called Gush Emunim have no intention whatever of stopping was evident from the provocative timing, which is the logical conclusion to the extremist imperialist moves ever since Menachem Begin came to power in 1977. It has gone on and expanded ever since. It is necessary, however, to limit ourselves just to the Knesset that Jerusalem, indeed, was "eternal," as if really its own extension of the land of time.

In March, 1980, the government of Israel announced it would be taking 1,000 acres of mostly Arab-owned land. It was the first such major expropriation in a decade, and the second largest since the victorious 1967 war. Indeed, by the mid-1970s, Israeli Knesset 30 percent of the land without the Arabs would be anything but what it was.

Worse still was Menachem Begin's stonewalling the investigative committee of the Washington Star, David Haley, asked: how did it happen that the Shin Bet (Israeli FBI-CIA combined), that has an 85 percent success rate in probing terrorist acts, also failed to produce even a suspect? And wasn't it true that the head of that secret police organization resigned because Menachem Begin fired him? Was it true that giving him a free hand?

What is new — and it is by no means limited to Zionism — is the new politicized forms of religion. Nor is it a question of whether you buy the "electoral victory of the Left" in the New Testament; or follow the Koran and invite Muhammad, who is supposed to have said: "Whoever goes on a pilgrimage to the Jerusalem sanctuary shall be forgiven all sins."

The point, rather, is why this rush to power? One need not go abroad to see it is so. All one has to do is look right here at New Right, the Christian Religious Right. We saw what they did at the Reagan convention; and it is clear that, though now they are settling for Reagan, they, no more than the KKK and the Nazis, will not stop there, any more than Solzhenitsyn stopped when he got religion and returned to the Great Russian Orthodox Church.

The real point is that the totality of the crises, especially since 1973-74 (which by no means signifies the正版 war), is one in which the economic that resulted from the oil embargo has shown that the undercurrent of revolt may — and in some cases, did — lead to the "sudden" fiat from the timing, if nothing else, of the "sudden" fiat from the "elections." It is this, especially as it is felt in the last years, which has led the capitalist rulers to flirt with Nazism and occultism all over again. Occultism has ever been the escape from reality and since it doesn't have quite as ominous an odor as Nazism, non-taxable dollars are spent on that electronic miracle to bring the message to the people.

In any case, the New Religious Right, as in Begin's Israel or in Khoneh'me's Iran, or the Christian Right here, even when it gets votes, is so convincing in its meanness that if it signifies what the masses want, and what the leaders are striving for — power — has the same motivation.

Thus, Karl Marx said quite a sharp distinction between the religion of the oppressed and that of the oppressor. The whole theory of alienation started there. Politics is an "economic" theory of Marx's goal: "To unmask human self- alienation in its secular form... that it has been unmasked in its sacred form..."

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the sentiment of a heartless world, and the soul of souls conditions. It is the opium of the people..."

"Religion is indeed man's self-consciousness and self-awareness so long as he has not found himself or has lost himself again. But man is not an abstract being, squatting outside the world. Man is the human world, state, society..." (See Marx's Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Law, Introduction, 1844.)

"... religion was only religion that Marx called "the opium of the people.""

The same was true of science. A full 130 years before even the atom was split, and out of which came, not the most constructive new energy force, but the most destructive atomic bomb, Marx wrote: "To have one basis for life and another for science is a priori a lie."

We have been living this lie altogether too long. Stalin's Russia has rechristianized both Religion and occultism as moves away from real human needs and new human relations. The turning of the clock backward must be stopped and will be stopped when we stop separating the philosophy of revolution from social revolution.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO GDANSK AND...

The most exciting new form of freedom in the world today is the rebellion in Poland. It brings news of unprecedented acts of rebellion by the Polish workers. What started out as the occupation of the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk and became 17,000 strikers in three other cities, soon snowballed and had no less than 50,000 other workers join them, and 200 factories on strike.

What seemed at one place to be just opposition to high meat prices and at another place just a strike in opposition to the firing of Mrs. Anna Walentynowicz who had been an active community leader. Every who was fired a few months short of being entitled to receive a pension, so broadened and widened the participation that ultimately reached as many as 50,000 others in 100 other industrial units from aircraft and textile plants, to city garbage collectors and bus drivers. What started out as demands for a raise and for respect and for jobs, and at the same time a demand for free trade unions as well as free speech, free press, free communications.

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from Poland to Miami: masses as reason

(Continued from Page 10)

Indeed, what worries the Communist rulers more than anything else is the growing disaffection of a small but growing discontent group of mainly intellectuals called the Workers' Self-Defense Committees (KOR), which was established in the mid-1970s as a strike support group and was imprisoned, whose spokesman is Jacek Kuron, has expressed more than solidarity with these workers by establishing a liaison with Solidarity. Although, at the same time, tells workers of strikes in other regions and tells the Western press the actual situation in confrontation with government chicanery.

As Kuron, who was once again imprisoned, put it: "It is a solidarity strike, and has a political character. It is a step toward a free Poland. It is an important step. These committees create an absolutely new situation."

Marx on Poland

...Only after Poland has won its independence again, of course, it is able to govern itself again as a free people, only then can its inner development begin again and can it cooperate as an independent force with the international proletariat.

The main reason for the sympathy felt by the working class for Poland is, however, this: Poland is not only a country of the East, but Poland is fighting as a cosmpolitan soldier of the revolution. Poland split its blood in the American War of Independence, and there was a French Commissary of the First French republic; with its revolution of 1830 it presented the invasion of France, which had been so willingly accepted. Poland, in 1846 in Cracow it was the first to plant the banner of revolution in Europe; in 1863 in St. Petersburg it was in the conscious struggles in Hungary, Germany and Italy; finally, in 1871 it provided the model to the Workers' Social Self-Defense Committees of the best generals and the most heroic soldiers.

In the brief moments when the popular masses in Poland are dominated, even they have remembered what it is to govern Poland...

—Speech of March, 1975

By now (New York Times, 8/28/60) the shipyard workers of Gdansk have truly established a "world apart," right within a totalitarian land at that, with the occupation, not just strike. They are not only fanning out across the whole country, having international representatives of labor from France, Norway, Austria. They established their own system of internal broadcasting over loudspeakers so that every word of negotiating sessions with government representatives went out to workers listening to the grass or clustered in discussions! Eight-hundred delegates from other factories are in the conference hall and they tape-record sessions for workers in their districts.

Exhalation of producing their own newspaper — Solidarity — and the workers' view that the whole rebellion is catching on with even some government journalists there. The Western TV camera man who concentrate on pictures of the Pope on the shipyard gate, should note that dissident spokesmen criticized Cardinal Wyszynski's "Germ City." The little shorties" refers to some of the most militant intellectuals as "the absolute movement of becoming.

The most serious lesson to learn from the Miami uprising which few are even listening to is the complaint that the most difficult and the most fundamental, as they laid ground, philosophically, politically, organizationally for the existence of Marxist-Humanism on U.S. soil. First and foremost is that which divided us from our birth. We, at one and the same time, listened to new voices from below and singled out new revolutionaries from the movement from previous forms, in a form of theory, as well as taking on the responsibility of filling the theoretic void in the movement since Lenin's death, and transcending it, that is to say, re-thinking it as living history. Where we stress that listening to the new voices does not free the intellectuals from their responsibility of what Hegel called Absolute Myth — but thinking this idea, it is also manifest that the idea cannot itself think without human beings thinking it.

We claimed to dig deep for American roots, not only when we first started, but as a constant characteristic, so that in the mid-1970s, it was also produced, first, America's first Marxist-Theological journal then first (1877) General Strike in the U.S.; then and New, and most recently, "American Black Thought and Black Reality" you'll be discussing under Organizational Report on this page. The point is, as relevant for history as for method, i.e., dialectics of analysis of current events, which now that we are transforming the paper needs to become a regular feature. For this, we need a whole nucleus of "philosophers," or political analysts, if you insist...

It was not accidental to be related to the objective situation of Carter's drive for war; that we posed the question of expansion of News & Letters. The more fundamental reason was the imperativeness of philosophy as action and the need, therefore, of a philosophical nucleus, whether that be every Marxist-Humanist a philosopher, or as sort of thought-experimenting nucleus, it goes without saying that it's needed most if we are fully to comprehend why the Rosa Luxembourg book has been so popular.

Nor do I mean that the three parts—Rosa Luxemburg, Women's Liberation, and Marx's Philosophy of Revolution—are "the relationship as the absolute movement of becoming.

I mean also that it could not have been presented in full, because we did not have all of his works until recently, and our "the relationship as the absolute movement of becoming." It was no accident (nor only related to the object situation of Carter's drive for war) that we posed the question of expansion of News & Letters. The more fundamental reason was the imperativeness of philosophy as action and the need, therefore, of a philosophical nucleus, whether that be every Marxist-Humanist a philosopher, or as sort of thought-experimenting nucleus, it goes without saying that it's needed most if we are fully to comprehend why the Rosa Luxembourg book has been so popular.

It is there, i.e. in the Ethnological Notebooks, where Marx returns to the question he first posed in 1844 — the relationship of philosophy and the counter-revolution and its strength. Marx, who was once again imprisoned, put it: "The Relationship of Philosophy and Revolution to Women's Liberation: Marx's and Engels' Studies Contrasted." That is to say, just as the question of Women's Liberation could not fully be understood as a Marxist as thinking that Marx and Engels were one, so Marx's total philosophy of revolution could not be as fully work out as it will be in this book because we do finally have nearly the whole of Marx's writings.

It is there, i.e. in the Ethnological Notebooks, where Marx returns to the question he first posed in 1844 — the relationship of philosophy and revolution to the whole human relationships — and in the Grundrisse, where the relationship is the absolute movement of becoming.

The relationship of theory to practice is the easiest aspect of the relationship of thought to every historical period in every historical culture, with every different country, and above all, in the relationship of thought to the movement which was Marx and the counter-revolution and its strength. Not to mention the whole world context.

The overturning question is this: since it is only now 100 years from the last writing of Marx (and through the Ethnological Notebooks, also with new eyes that 1881 Preface to the Russian edition of the Communist Manifesto) — that we can grasp nearly all the writings of this founder of a whole new continent of thought, this presents a new challenge to the whole Marxist tradition and the need to face not only the relationship of philosophy and revolution but also philosophy of revolution...
Day 500 of the Iranian revolution: Khomeini’s Islamic regime in turmoil

(We received the following report from Andolsar, an Iran correspondent.)

In day 500 of the Iranian revolution, the new was that the Shah is dead; and in fact it is the best thing that could possibly happen for Iran. The Shah’s regime has finally taken its place with a list of tyrants over whom it is impossible to distinguish one from another. The Shah’s regime is in a state of impending and monstrous corruption and rule. Today, Khomeini’s regime appears to have gained an upper hand over the revolutionary movement, and has been bringing everything under Islamic laws. Nothing has been saved from these revolutionary decrees.

The economic effects of this Islamic capitalism has been incredible. The government has removed half of the Iranian work force. Prices of those necessary items such as food and medicine have risen 100 percent and more. Inflation has risen to 500 percent in less than one year.

Almost daily this September, the bodies of dead and often mutilated men and women are being found in the streets of the cities and the ditches in the countryside.

The U.S. government which had proclaimed itself for “human rights” in the mid-1970s, had a change of heart when it came to Central America in July, 1979. Indeed, they-out-do the “Gang of Four” in vilifying road on “Mao’s Thought.”

Japanese and Koreans demonstrate outside Tokyo’s Foreign Ministry against the death penalty, and as a sign of solidarity.

Turkeys

Generals in Turkey overthrew Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel on Sept. 12, rounded up political leaders and others expressing any political dissent, ordered 60,000 back to work, and declared themselves in authority.

The new government, under Prime Minister Bulent Ulusu, promises to end this bloodbath, they are trying to accomplish it by imposing nationwide martial law, suspending all political activity, and detaining all “political extremists”—with more than 2,000 already under arrest.

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