Tensions Between U.S., China

The Bush ‘Stuff’

Suffice as a check on it...." this stuff and only intense vigilance will prevent these encroachments. "Simply put, the administration is going to keep trying regardless of the one about the meat. As Thomas Oliphant thinks that there is only way to explain: "The only thing that stopped it was the failure to pay several traffic tickets, and simply reached the boiling point...is a long way from reality here." Police denied that the killing of Thomas was racially motivated. "Our police officers are not some band of police brutality and racism that has failed to pay several traffic tickets, and simply reached the boiling point of...is the key to preventing a longer downturn." Who these ‘consumers’ are supposed to be is not clear. If he meant the capitalist class he had better look elsewhere. In April, for example, Cisco Systems of San-Jose, Calif., announced that it was stuck with inventory that it could not sell, despite what it anticipated. According to a report in The New York Times, "Cisco has been caught with big surpluses of its equipment," and "that for accounting purposes...would reduce the value [sic] of inventories by $2.5 billion this quarter, including $600 million in partly completed equipment and $8 billion of raw materials like computer chips."

The same report said that Cisco Systems "loses the market for routers, computers that manage data traffic on a network...." In short, the products that Cisco... (Continued on page 7)

Massive Layoffs

More than 240,000 manufacturing jobs were wiped out between Jan. 1 and April 1, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the total since last June has been in excess of 451,000. Overall unemployment also began to inch up as the number of new jobs created fell behind the number being wiped out. In April, Louis Uchitelle of The New York Times reported that jobs are disappearing at four times the rate that new ones are being created, revealing a pattern that held employment up for months despite the growing number of layoffs in many sectors of the economy. The number of new jobs added averaged $1,000 a month during the first three months of the year compared to a monthly average of $1,000 during the first quarter of last year. Although the official unemployment rate edged up only by three-tenths of a percent to 4.3 percent in March, compared to 4.2 percent in February, it seems increasingly likely that those numbers will start to grow in the months ahead.

Inventories Piling Up

On April 3, the Times reported that Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan "has publicly leaned toward the view that the nation’s economy is in a temporary, inventory-led correction, and that sustaining consumer confidence...is the key to preventing a longer downturn.

One would have to be blind not to see a pattern in Cincinnati’s decades-long history of court-ordered “solutions” to brutal police repression and racism. True, police brutality is not limited to attacks on blacks or other people of color; it menaces all workers. But ongoing evidence of deep-seated, virulent racism among Cincinnati and many of the nation’s other police forces cannot be denied. Nonetheless, and regardless of its motive, Chief Streicher did not miss the mark. Police racism partly reflects racism in society as a whole. Capitalism is, after all, a system that requires divisions among workers in order to maintain the positions of wealth and privilege of the ruling capitalist class. Divided workers make it easier for the political state to curtail workers' basic rights and liberties. But the racism and brutality of the police reflects more than just that. It is largely a byproduct of the social function of the police in capitalist society. The police are the coercive arm of the capitalist-controlled political state (Continued on page 6)

The Economy

Production Workers Hit by More Layoffs

The Bush ‘Stuff’

A recent news service article reported the concern of some African Americans that the Bush administration will spearhead efforts to “torpedo civil rights and gut public education programs.”

The so-called mainstream media has publicized similar concerns that others have about what the man in the White House might do where their own special interests are concerned. Activists of all descriptions are concerned. Activists of all descriptions have also expressed their own concerns in their own words through their own publications and by other means. Environmentalists worry that pristine wilderness areas will be opened to oil drilling despite environmental concerns that appeared to guarantee their preservation. Trade unions are concerned that the new administration will try to undo many gains touching on everything from on-the-job health policy in Bush II, salmonella odd political calculations that are governing food safety regulations across the board to the right to organize and to go on strike. Many similar concerns affecting everything from lowering the constitutional barrier separating church and state to the lowering of standards governing the inspection of meat sold to public schools have found their way into print.

All of these concerns are justified—including the one about the meat. As Thomas Oliphant of the Boston Globe explained: "The only thing that stopped it was the outcry generated by its publication. In the old political calculus that once governed public health policy in Bush II, salmonella in meat preparation for school kids apparently has a higher shock value than higher concentrations of arsenic in drinking water."

Oliphant thinks that there is only way to prevent these encroachments. ‘Simply put, the administration is going to keep trying this stuff and only intense vigilance will prevent these encroachments’...is a long way from reality here.” Police denied that the killing of Thomas was racially motivated. “Our police officers are not some band of police brutality and the shooting deaths of 15 African-American men by Cincinnati police in just six years finally exploded into violence last month following the death of 19-year-old Timothy Thomas. It was the fifth fatal shooting of an African-American man by Cincinnati police since last September. Hundreds were arrested as city mayors and Chief Streicher declared a "state of emergency" and imposed a curfew. But to many the state of emergency in Cincinnati has existed for decades, and simply reached the boiling point with what one local African-American capitalist described as ‘the killing of a person whose only crime were the failure to pay several traffic tickets, and fleeing the police out of fear.’

Police denied that the killing of Thomas was racially motivated. “Our police officers are not some band of police brutality and racism that has plagued Cincinnati and its police department for decades. Federal and state courts have attempted to correct departmental problems with racism many times since 1981, when courts first intervened. (Continued on page 7)

Law and Order

POLICE RACISM, BRUTALITY

FUEL CINCINNATI VIOLENCE

By Ken Boettcher

Indignation against racial profiling, police brutality and the shooting deaths of 15 African-American men by Cincinnati police in just six years finally exploded into violence last month following the death of 19-year-old Timothy Thomas. It was the fifth fatal shooting of an African-American man by Cincinnati police since last September. Hundreds were arrested as city mayors and Chief Streicher declared a “state of emergency” and imposed a curfew. But to many the state of emergency in Cincinnati has existed for decades, and simply reached the boiling point with what one local African-American capitalist described as “the killing of a person whose only crime were the failure to pay several traffic tickets, and fleeing the police out of fear.” Police denied that the killing of Thomas was racially motivated. “Our police officers are not some band of police brutality and racism that has plagued Cincinnati and its police department for decades. Federal and state courts have attempted to correct departmental problems with racism many times since 1981, when courts first intervened. (Continued on page 7)
IBM Directly Profited From Nazi Use of its technology

By Bernard Bortnick

Thomas J. Watson Sr., the founder of International Business Machines, is a veritable demigod in the pantheon of capitalist "greatness." A recent book review noted on the Internet by Barnes & Noble described him as "one of our century's greatest minds," and some what redundantly as a man "who is revered as one of the 20th century's greatest thinkers...."

In its article on the IBM Corp., the online encyclopedia, Britannica.com, says that Watson "gained complete control of the firm by 1924" and "built the then struggling company into the leading American manufacturer of punch-card tabulating systems used by governments and private businesses." It adds that during World War II, IBM helped construct several high-speed electromechanical calculators that were precursors of electronic computers.

In a biographical sketch, Britannica.com says that Watson "built" IBM and "aggressively pursued international trade in the 1930s and '40s, extending IBM's virtual monopoly of the business-machines industry worldwide." It also says that, "Watson was active in civic affairs and was noted for his efforts on behalf of the arts and world peace."

And there you have it: the ideal bourgeois man bigger than life, first in industry, a man of civic virtue, a patron of the arts, a promoter of peace -- and according to the book referred to, the man who probably did more than any single individual to enable the Nazis to carry out the systematic extermination of millions of Jews, other undesirables in Germany and Austria.

Through its wholly controlled subsidiary, Dehomag, IBM supplied the Nazis with the most advanced calculator of the time -- the 405 Hollerith, which Black describes as an "alphabetizer."

The Nazis were eager to get their hands on the IBM "alphabetizer" because it "could calculate 1.2 million multiplications in just 42 hours" for which "the slightly older 601 would need 600 hours." Five of the machines were in Austria when the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939. However, even though Watson controlled Austria, only Watson controlled IBM.

Watson initially refused to transfer control of the machines to the Nazis.

However, after some Nazi arm-twisting and vague threats he relented. By November 1939, the Nazis were ready to organize their systematic extermination of Polish Jews. With the aid of IBM's 405a, a census of Jews was taken in Upper Silesia, Poland and Czecho- slovakia the week of Dec. 17, 1939, in which every "person over 12 was required to fill out forms in duplicate and be fingerprinted" under threat of execution. IBM New York set up a special subsidiary right across the street from the Warsaw ghetto where 20 million of the "punch cards" needed to operate the 405 Hollerith were printed.

Dehomag's profits soared after the process got under way. A grateful Nazi, H. Rottke, Dehomag's general manager, sent Thomas Watson greetings of the season stating, "As Christmas is approaching, I feel an urgent desire to express my most sincere and best wishes for a joyful Yuletide..." Rottke had good reason to be jubilant, for Dehomag's profit doubled from the previous year.

"The Polish case is just one of the many examples of IBM New York's intense involvement with Germany's murderous activities," Black wrote, and even when

Class Struggle Is Global

Mark's call for the international solidarity of the workers is the answer to capitalism's worldwide exploitation.

internationality a Fact

The railroad strike of Portugal, together with the international sentiment evoked against the same at all the stock exchanges of the world— from Berlin to Chicago, from Paris and London to New York—is one of those "capitalist manifestations," that constitute solid chains of guidance to the practical labor or socialist movement. The particular point in the practical socialist or labor movement, that the international sentiment expressed at the stock exchanges against the said strike throws light upon, is the question of immigration.

The Marxian motto "Proletarians of all countries, unite!" is frequently considered, even by people who favor socialism, as a merely sentimental phrase. These people consider the utterance pretty, but of no practical value; and, when the utterance is sought to be applied to the question of immigration, the issue is labeled "impractical," and the motto, together with all that flows therefrom, is rejected.

Fact is, there is no sentiment whatever in the Marxian motto, nor any in the matter of the liberal immigration. The former, and its consequence, the latter, are not "implying World War II. If IBM, they are broad based on facts, leaving

their opposites sentimentality in the air.

Robust is the fact that capital is international; knows no "country," save the world, recognizes no god, save profits; bows to no flag, save that of the $.

The necessities of capital betray the fact at every turn. Periodically announcements are made of stocks sold in England, Germany, France, Holland and of junked there on American railroad, mining and other properties; of Japanese and Argentinean government bonds sold in Berlin and New York; of Russian railroad and oil securities placed in Chicago. It is now discovered that Portuguese railways are likewise owned, not at home, but internationally: hence the difficulty in settling the strike.

The first conclusion from all this cannot be escaped—it is not the capitalistic class of any one country that rides the working class of that country: it is international capital that rides the international proletariat.

The second conclusion makes mincemeat of all charges of "sentimentality" preferred against the socialist posture of liberal immigration. Indeed, the second conclusion turns the tables upon the anti-immigrationists and convicts them of the worst of sentimentality—the sentimentality of superstition.

Do You Belong?

Do you know what the SLP stands for? Do you understand the class struggle and why the SLP calls for an end of capitalism and of its system of wage labor? Do you understand why the SLP does not advocate reforms of capitalism, and why it calls upon workers to organize Socialist Industrial Unions? If you have been reading The People steadily for a year or more, if you have read the literature recommended for beginning Socialists, and if you agree with the SLP's call for the political and economic unity of the working class, you may qualify for membership in the SLP. And if you qualify to be a member you probably should be a member.

For information on what membership entails, and how to apply for it, write to SLP P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218. Ask for the SLP Membership Packet.

Get Subs!

1. Add $2 for a 6-month subscription; $5 for a 1-year sub
2. $11 for a 1-year sub by first-class mail

NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
PHONE

Make check/money order payable to The People. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Receive The Printers Publishing Company

MAY 2001

P.O. Box 218, Mountain View, CA 94042-0218

District of Columbia.

Do you understand the class struggle and what membership in the SLP means? Do you agree with the SLP's call for the political and economic unity of the working class? Do you want to be a member of the SLP? Do you want to support the SLP by subscribing to The People?
T he "power crisis" that began in California, spread elsewhere over the last year and reportedly threatens to grow to national proportions this year, makes clear in whose interests the electric power industry is being "deregulated." But it does more than that. It also underscores a fundamental contradiction of a social system that places in the hands of a few the economic and political power to deliberately create crises affecting society as a whole.

This contradiction of capitalism is not something that the so-called mainstream media has spent much time pursuing. As an example, in the March issue of Local Power News put it, media pundits and industry "experts" are busy trying to sell the idea that the power crisis—and the virtually unannounced "rolling blackouts" and their consequent derailment of public safety—are the result of "market forces." This is an attempt to increase demand, bad weather, random power plant outages, grid problems, and, most importantly, "consumer choice." The real story places the blame squarely on the utility industry and the deregulation that its top executives pushed through with the help of a major component of the advocacy group Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (FTC), noted in a previous column. The California utilities—San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison—used the free market to kick out the bailouts, legislators then imposed a 10 percent "reduction" for four years, financed by bonds. Ratepayers would have to repay for 30 years. This plan was hailed by the utility industry as a model for the nation and, more than 20 states have followed California.

Competition never materialized. The utilities sold off most of their power plants. In San Diego, for example, two out of three power plants were sold to a separate "generating" division of the company. In PG&E's case, some plants were utilities sold off most of their power and, indeed, more than 20 states have used the California model for the nation. The result has been the destabilization of a "large energy delivery system that had functioned reliably for nearly a century," as Local Power News put it. Despite an economy already carrying down the slippery slopes of recession, the power producers have been willing to take whatever the market will throw at them.

The eight power generation companies that served California began using the bolstered and unregulated near-monopoly positions to manipulate the market by keeping some power plants out of service on various pretexts, thereby artificially curving a "shortage" of electricity. As the Local Power News article observed: "California...has more than 45,000 megawatts [of generating capacity], while peak demand during the blackouts this winter hovered below 30,000, according to the state.

The rolling blackouts, many observers contend, amount to blackmail by power generation facilities determined to drive up the market prices for power, and thereby their profits. The result has been the destabilization of "a large energy delivery system that had functioned reliably for nearly a century," as Local Power News put it. Despite an economy already carrying down the slippery slopes of recession, the power producers have been willing to take whatever the market will throw at them. The fake energy shortage has contributed to layoffs and threats to add greatly to other costs in the area that are already resulting in the flight of large companies from the region and, led to the filing of PG&E's power disaster appeal.

As Harvey Rosenfield, president of the advocacy group Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights observes this winter hovered below 30,000, according to the state. "Under the plan, ratepayers were forced to pay higher rates for four years (1999-2001) in order to pay off $3.5 billion in bad debts of the state's three utilities—San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison. The aim was to rid the market of the free market to kick out the bailouts, legislators then imposed a 10 percent "reduction" for four years, financed by bonds. Ratepayers would have to repay for 30 years. This plan was hailed by the utility industry as a model for the nation and, more than 20 states have followed California.

Competition never materialized. The utilities sold off most of their power plants. In San Diego, for example, two out of three power plants were sold to a separate "generating" division of the company. In PG&E's case, some plants were utilities sold off most of their power and, indeed, more than 20 states have used the California model for the nation. The result has been the destabilization of a "large energy delivery system that had functioned reliably for nearly a century," as Local Power News put it. Despite an economy already carrying down the slippery slopes of recession, the power producers have been willing to take whatever the market will throw at them. The fake energy shortage has contributed to layoffs and threats to add greatly to other costs in the area that are already resulting in the flight of large companies from the region and, led to the filing of PG&E's power disaster appeal.

As Harvey Rosenfield, president of the advocacy group Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights observes this winter hovered below 30,000, according to the state. "Under the plan, ratepayers were forced to pay higher rates for four years (1999-2001) in order to pay off $3.5 billion in bad debts of the state's three utilities—San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison. The aim was to rid the market of the free market to kick out the bailouts, legislators then imposed a 10 percent "reduction" for four years, financed by bonds. Ratepayers would have to repay for 30 years. This plan was hailed by the utility industry as a model for the nation and, more than 20 states have followed California.

Competition never materialized. The utilities sold off most of their power plants. In San Diego, for example, two out of three power plants were sold to a separate "generating" division of the company. In PG&E's case, some plants were utilities sold off most of their power and, indeed, more than 20 states have used the California model for the nation. The result has been the destabilization of a "large energy delivery system that had functioned reliably for nearly a century," as Local Power News put it. Despite an economy already carrying down the slippery slopes of recession, the power producers have been willing to take whatever the market will throw at them. The fake energy shortage has contributed to layoffs and threats to add greatly to other costs in the area that are already resulting in the flight of large companies from the region and, led to the filing of PG&E's power disaster appeal.

As Harvey Rosenfield, president of the advocacy group Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights observes this winter hovered below 30,000, according to the state. "Under the plan, ratepayers were forced to pay higher rates for four years (1999-2001) in order to pay off $3.5 billion in bad debts of the state's three utilities—San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison. The aim was to rid the market of the free market to kick out the bailouts, legislators then imposed a 10 percent "reduction" for four years, financed by bonds. Ratepayers would have to repay for 30 years. This plan was hailed by the utility industry as a model for the nation and, more than 20 states have followed California.

Competition never materialized. The utilities sold off most of their power plants. In San Diego, for example, two out of three power plants were sold to a separate "generating" division of the company. In PG&E's case, some plants were utilities sold off most of their power and, indeed, more than 20 states have used the California model for the nation. The result has been the destabilization of a "large energy delivery system that had functioned reliably for nearly a century," as Local Power News put it. Despite an economy already carrying down the slippery slopes of recession, the power producers have been willing to take whatever the market will throw at them. The fake energy shortage has contributed to layoffs and threats to add greatly to other costs in the area that are already resulting in the flight of large companies from the region and, led to the filing of PG&E's power disaster appeal.

As Harvey Rosenfield, president of the advocacy group Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights observes this winter hovered below 30,000, according to the state. "Under the plan, ratepayers were forced to pay higher rates for four years (1999-2001) in order to pay off $3.5 billion in bad debts of the state's three utilities—San Diego Gas & Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison. The aim was to rid the market of the free market to kick out the bailouts, legislators then imposed a 10 percent "reduction" for four years, financed by bonds. Ratepayers would have to repay for 30 years. This plan was hailed by the utility industry as a model for the nation and, more than 20 states have followed California.

Competition never materialized. The utilities sold off most of their power plants. In San Diego, for example, two out of three power plants were sold to a separate "generating" division of the company. In PG&E's case, some plants were utilities sold off most of their power and, indeed, more than 20 states have used the California model for the nation. The result has been the destabilization of a "large energy delivery system that had functioned reliably for nearly a century," as Local Power News put it. Despite an economy already carrying down the slippery slopes of recession, the power producers have been willing to take whatever the market will throw at them. The fake energy shortage has contributed to layoffs and threats to add greatly to other costs in the area that are already resulting in the flight of large companies from the region and, led to the filing of PG&E's power disaster appeal. 
The month of March 2001 marked the 90th anniversary of the first significant strike ever waged against a multinational corporation. This strike—the Singer Manufacturing Co.'s “Kilbowie” plant at Clydebank, Scotland. The strike was defeated after a few weeks, but its importance cannot be overemphasized. Indeed, the lessons derived from the struggle are of particular importance in these days of multinational corporations and global capitalism.

What follows is the second and concluding half of a text first issued by the Industrial Workers of the World Great Britain after the Kilbowie strike ended. It was published in July 1911 in The Socialist, an offshoot of the Monthly Review of the Marxist-De Leonist Socialist Labor Party of Great Britain. Although the strike itself was directed by a strike committee of the 12,000 men and women who waged it, the IWWGB and SLPGB both played significant roles.

The following extracts from the Kilbowie strike, also taken from The Socialist, were reprinted in our issues of February and March. The first half of the manifesto reproduced here was printed in our April issue.

(Continued from last issue)

Let us summarise the condition of affairs at this juncture. Out of over 12,000 workers in Kilbowie Works, about 11,500 were members of the I.W.G.B.—most of them members of only a few weeks' standing. Furthermore, this membership was confined to the works where it could be found in almost every part of the world; was mainly centred in four departments. The General Committee, therefore, accepting the statement of organisation, except the few tradesmen who belonged to their respective unions. The other three departments were:

The workers in the Buffing Department have their grievances settled; the men in No. 10 Department sent a deputation to Kilbowie Works, and got what they wanted. No. 16 Department have stopped the bullying and victimisation by a 'policeman.' Can we not all go back to our homes and tell our wives what the General Committee promised both departments when, on the Saturday following the Monday 37 out of 41 departments were represented. Thus, before long, the Industrial Unions were in a minority in the Strike Committee, and consequently the I.W.G.B. cannot, as an organisation, claim whatever of credit which it possessed, were in very truth a minority in the Strike Committee, and the I.W.G.B. cannot, as an organisation, claim whatever of credit whatever it possessed, were in the Strike Committee, and tearfully apologized to their officials for their stand. This was a little bit too strong for the General Council to come out, and the management, encouraged by their treachery to their fellow-workers, called upon them to return to work, and, by way of forcing the men to do their feeding of the workmen that they found. This was a little bit too strong for even trade union stomachs. They refused, and the management told them that in that case, as there was no work for them to do, they had better go fishing; and out they went, or rather they were pushed. Their Executive Council forthwith intervened, and, incredible as it may seem, ordered them to do the work of the strikers, i.e., to act as scabs, until such time as they, the officials, got the chance to take the place of the feeding of the workmen. In other words, the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF A TRADE UNION PROPOSED TO ACT AS A SCAB RECRUITING AGENCY FOR SINGER'S LIMITED.

Admirable as the conduct of the strikers, was unorganised value cannot prevail against the organised forces of plutocracy. And it was precisely this lack of organisation which the management selected as a means of striking the workers in their weakest places. First rumours were spread that the works would be closed down. Next, post cards were sent by the General Manager to every one of the employees, and in great many more, with a reply post card attached.

This post card promised that, on the expiration of the 60 days, all grievances would be investigating, and any injustice rectified. It also, while releasing Collective Bargaining, granted to the workers the right to strike. The strikers, however, had had their fill of the management if any dispute arose, provided the deputation was composed of the Strike Committee. On the reply post card was a statement, with a blank space for the signature of the addressee, pledging the signatures to return to work when all grievances would be investigated, and any injustice rectified.

In strong contrast with the fine spirit of loyalty displayed by the unorganised and "unskilled" strikers is the pitiful part played by those aristocrats of labour, the "skilled" trade unionists. While some, such as the Sheehan Metal Workers, organised in the Scottish Tinplate and Sheet Metal Workers' Society, earned an honourable distinction by coming out in support of the girls of the Cabinet Polishing Department, with whom the strike originated, and sent their delegates to the Strike Committee, the great majority of them either stayed at home, or only came out, either because there was no work for them to do owing to the general cessation, or because they were shunned into it by the well merited stigma of "scab" which was hurled at them by the unskilled strikers. It was under these circumstances that the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers came out. They had been preceded, by the way, by the unorganised engineers, who had no pure and simple union to stifle their class instinct.) The A.S.E. men came out, cursing the strikers as "mobs," ignored the Strike Committee, and tearfully apologised to their officials for their action, explaining that they did not come out on account of sympathy with the strikers, but because their sentiment of self-respect (!) was hurt by the odious

The Singer Works, Clydebank. (Circa 1910)

The all the workers were upset except the foremen, clerks, and a few tradesmen. This development had not been foreseen by the I.W.G.B., but, when it took place, they were quick to face the situation. It was seen that an I.W.G.B. Committee could not effectively or honestly act as representatives of a body of strikers of whom only a fraction was Industrial Unions. Accordingly, it was arranged that each department as it came out should appoint five delegates to act as its representatives on the Strike Committee. This was done until the following Monday 37 out of 41 departments were represented. Thus, before long, the Industrial Unions were in a minority in the Strike Committee, and consequently the I.W.G.B. cannot, as an organisation, claim whatever of credit whatever it possessed, were in very truth a minority in the Strike Committee, and tearfully apologized to their officials for their stand. This was a little bit too strong for the General Council to come out, and the management, encouraged by their treachery to their fellow-workers, called upon them to return to work, and, by way of forcing the men to do their feeding of the workmen that they found. This was a little bit too strong for even trade union stomachs. They refused, and the management told them that in that case, as there was no work for them to do, they had better go fishing; and out they went, or rather they were pushed. Their Executive Council forthwith intervened, and, incredible as it may seem, ordered them to do the work of the strikers, i.e., to act as scabs, until such time as they, the officials, got the chance to take the place of the feeding of the workmen. In other words, the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF A TRADE UNION PROPOSED TO ACT AS A SCAB RECRUITING AGENCY FOR SINGER'S LIMITED.

Admirable as the conduct of the strikers, was unorganised value cannot prevail against the organised forces of plutocracy. And it was precisely this lack of organisation which the management selected as a means of striking the workers in their weakest places. First rumours were spread that the works would be closed down. Next, post cards were sent by the General Manager to every one of the employees, and in great many more, with a reply post card attached.

This post card promised that, on the expiration of the 60 days, all grievances would be investigating, and any injustice rectified. It also, while releasing Collective Bargaining, granted to the workers the right to strike. The strikers, however, had had their fill of the management if any dispute arose, provided the deputation was composed of the Strike Committee. On the reply post card was a statement, with a blank space for the signature of the addressee, pledging the signatures to return to work when all grievances would be investigated, and any injustice rectified.

In strong contrast with the fine spirit of loyalty displayed by the unorganised and "unskilled" strikers is the pitiful part played by those aristocrats of labour, the "skilled" trade unionists. While some, such as the Sheehan Metal Workers, organised in the Scottish Tinplate and Sheet Metal Workers' Society, earned an honourable distinction by coming out in support of the girls of the Cabinet Polishing Department, with whom the strike originated, and sent their delegates to the Strike Committee, the great majority of them either stayed at home, or only came out, either because there was no work for them to do owing to the general cessation, or because they were shunned into it by the well merited stigma of "scab" which was hurled at them by the unskilled strikers. It was under these circumstances that the members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers came out. They had been preceded, by the way, by the unorganised engineers, who had no pure and simple union to stifle their class instinct.) The A.S.E. men came out, cursing the strikers as "mobs," ignored the Strike Committee, and tearfully apologised to their officials for their action, explaining that they did not come out on account of sympathy with the strikers, but because their sentiment of self-respect (!) was hurt by the odious
had none except those of the small minority organised in the I.W.G.B. The cards reached the workers individually in their homes and they learned, as they put it, the confidence which the society of their fellow-workers inspired. Further, being spread over a wide area, no one knew how others felt. The days when they worked 24 hours were given in which to make the reply, so that the Strike Committee had to collect them from all parts of the country, especially in the outlying districts, adequate time to consult the Strike Committee. Another point to be noted is that the men against whom no cards were sent.

The firm has created an artifice which prevented them from putting this pledge into effect. The firm has spread the statement to the workers, especially in the outlying towns, and foremen and agents were sent by the firm to dispose of the goods. Had the importation of American goods would have been stopped there. We have been defeated by the Strike Committee recom- mended a resumption of work. Depart- ments, adequate time to consult the workers, especially in the outlying districts, have been employed against anot- her. To prevent the indefinite recurrence of this tragedy, we must get into touch with the workers in all branches of the firm, in America, in Russia, and in Germany, and organise on international lines. This is no chimerical dream, but an obvious de- duction from the necessities of the situa- tion, which is being soberly discussed by the workers of all lands. We must not be behind the others in stretching out the hand of brotherhood towards our fellow- workers beyond the seas, and in joining forces, we shall prepare the way for our victory.

Capital and Labour are engaged in a life and death struggle, and the vanquished need expect little quarter. Capital has neither mercy, faith, honour, nor magnanimity. We need expect nothing from it but what we can compel it to yield. It will keep no promises to us except those which we have the power to enforce. The primary lesson that we have to learn is to arm ourselves with the power which comes from knowledge and organi- nation and give a wide berth to the specious substitutes for these essentials which are being offered in certain quarters.

Capital and Labour have been dismissed from the I.W.G.B., and every known Industrial Union is your only hope. We appeal to the workers of all lands. We must not be perceptibly into the next, tender organi- zations into which the work is reduc- ed. We make our appeal not only to the Singer's Workers, but to the whole work- ers of Great Britain. The Homestead strike are lessons for them too. Through- out all branches of industry, machinery and agents, in every department and branch, the workers of all lands. We must not be behind the others in stretching out the hand of brotherhood towards our fellow- workers beyond the seas, and in joining forces, we shall prepare the way for our victory.

Finally, Industrial Unionism offers the only model upon which such a concern as the Singer machine could be conducted during the strike by the trade unionists employed at Kilbowie, has rendered this form of unionism deservedly odious to the workers. We appeal to the whole of the workers of Great Britain to close up their ranks once more. Do not let the splendid sacrifices, the mag- nificent courage and endurance which characterised the Homestead strike, be wasted and fall to the ground. From defeat accept the lessons which, if carried into practice, will lead to final victory. The Industrial Union is your only hope.

We make our appeal not only to the Singer's Workers, but to the whole work- ers of Great Britain. The Homestead strike are lessons for them too. Through- out all branches of industry, machinery and agents, form of unionism deservedly odious to the workers. We appeal to the whole of the workers of Great Britain to close up their ranks once more. Do not let the splendid sacrifices, the mag- nificent courage and endurance which characterised the Homestead strike, be wasted and fall to the ground. From defeat accept the lessons which, if carried into practice, will lead to final victory. The Industrial Union is your only hope.

We make our appeal not only to the Singer's Workers, but to the whole work- ers of Great Britain. The Homestead strike are lessons for them too. Through- out all branches of industry, machinery and agents, form of unionism deservedly odious to the workers. We appeal to the whole of the workers of Great Britain to close up their ranks once more. Do not let the splendid sacrifices, the mag- nificent courage and endurance which characterised the Homestead strike, be wasted and fall to the ground. From defeat accept the lessons which, if carried into practice, will lead to final victory. The Industrial Union is your only hope.

We make our appeal not only to the Singer's Workers, but to the whole work- ers of Great Britain. The Homestead strike are lessons for them too. Through- out all branches of industry, machinery and agents, form of unionism deservedly odious to the workers. We appeal to the whole of the workers of Great Britain to close up their ranks once more. Do not let the splendid sacrifices, the mag- nificent courage and endurance which characterised the Homestead strike, be wasted and fall to the ground. From defeat accept the lessons which, if carried into practice, will lead to final victory. The Industrial Union is your only hope.
INS Detainees Face Nightmarish Conditions

By B.B.

Thousands of undocumented immigrants enter the country every year. According to The Dallas Morning News, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) may hold as many as 20,000 in detention on any given day. Most are held in temporary lockups in the countries from which they fled. However, a considerable number are held in jails, prisons and similar institutions for prolonged periods of time—often for weeks or months only, but often for years.

Jane Kochman, a former INS official, has written an article summarizing an investigation she started in 1998 under the Freedom of Information Act. Staff members and interns of the Washington D.C. Daily News compiled the findings as follows: “The News’ three-year inquiry into the INS’ long-term imprisonment of foreigners found contradictions and errors in the data the agency provided. The agency said in 1999 that its ‘model’ had held 284 prisoners for more than three years. Records released a year later, however, show nearly three times that number—851 foreign-ers, half of whom have been held for more than five years.” The INS told the News that 60 percent of those held for long periods were convicted of felony crimes. However, INS records offer no such explanation for the remaining 40 percent—361 individuals—are being held for more than five years.

The News has immigrants from 65 to 70 countries in detention. INS Assistant Commissioner James O’Malley defended the government agency. He disputed Ms. Kochman’s conclusions by claiming that “we are the model for these other nations.” The hill of 89 people from Southeast Asia alone have been held for extended periods of time. Another 171 people have been detained for three years or longer and are from 65 other countries. Meanwhile, the refugees often end up in some of the toughest prisons, jails and private lockups in the country.

An example of one of the detained is Tharvarajan, a former Sri Lanka. Tharvarajan is Tamil and from that part of Sri Lanka where Tamil rebels are seeking to establish a breakaway independent state. Tharvarajan himself was not part of the decades old insurgency. Nevertheless, he is imprisoned and tortured by the Tamil Liberation Army after his release he fled to join family in Canada. However, when his plane touched down in New York he was immediately arrested. He has been detained for over three years at a privately operated center that does not permit inmates to be outdoors. Seattle attorney Llewelyn G. Pritchard, presiding over an American Bar Association commit-tee on imprisoned foreigners, stat-ed lately that “the numbers are unaccountable” and “are much bigger than we’ve been told.” Unaccoun-tably as well as the INS refusal to provide information on why each person is being held.

So much to say, most detainees are of the working class. Most fled from nightmarish conditions in their homelands for what they hoped would be a better life. However, their marketable skills are considered marginal or worthless and their low value as wage work-ers militates against them. It also exposes assertions of freedom, de-mocracy and the rights of the indi-vidual as hyperbole. As Francis Avisi from the Ivory Coast who has been fingerprinting in detention for more than five years wryly ob-serves: “This is a country where every-one can cite their opinion and has the right to liberty and freedom, but it hasn’t worked out for me.”

Barons of industry.

Bush has a habit of publicly chastising his political opponents who, he says, are pitting the poor against the rich and forgetting “class warfare.” It is actually Bush and his cronies who are the true experts at class warfare. Bush’s “compassion,” so far from being applied to the downtrodden and comforting the working class is actually directed at bolster-ing the hands rather than the have-nots and at comforting the comfortable. What better example is there of class warfare?
The Tragedy of Willie McGee

(Weekly World, May 19, 1951)

In terms of political losses to its arch-imperialist rival, American capitalism is paying a heavy price for its racist practices. A few years ago an American state that was bent on preserving “white supremacy” by means of racial terror could legallylyngeNegroesaccusedofrapewithoutcausingmorethanaripple intension beyond its own borders. Now,however,allisthischanged. WhentheStateofMissouriexecutedWil- lie McGee for alleged rape shortly after 2 a.m., May 8, the news that “American justice” had claimed another Negro victim was instant-lyflashedaroundtheworld.

The Stalinists exploited the Wil- lie McGee case so skillfully that many non-Stalinists and anti-Stal- ins, here and abroad, joined the chorus of protest. Indicative of the widespread feeling was the action of the French Assembly, an official legislative body, which observed a minute of silence in memory of Willie McGee a few hours after the news of the execution reached Paris.

Willie McGee was preeminent- ly a victim of capitalism, and the racist behavior capitalism engen- dered. But he was ultimately doomed by the intercession of the Stalinists, who exploited the case for all that it was worth both among American Negroes and abroad. Obviously the victim of a typical Southern “raping” charge, he might have escaped the penalty but for the success of the Stalinists in identifying themselves with his defense. American capitalism had gone too far to back down without giving the Stalinists the opportu-nity to boast that they had saved McGee from American justice. So the State of Missouri was allowed to go through with the legal lynching, thereby handing the Stalinists fresh evidence of American barbarism.

Austere members of the ruling class have long known that race riots are an effective means to keep the class contradictions in the background of public opinion. The rise of fascism, therefore, is not a sign that the working class is disinteg-rating and losing class consciousness, but it is a new, desperate attempt at making way for new forms of exploitation. If the working class does not take a stand against the Stalinist prevarication, it will slide into chaos and become alienated from the petit bourgeoisie in its own ranks. The Stalinists, on the other hand, will be able to gain more ground in the working class and the petit bourgeoisie with their colonialist policies...
Virtual Slavery in U.S. Samoan Garment Industry Sweatshop

The garment industry “sweatshop” has been around for more than 100 years. Despite numerous and often highly publicized efforts to eradicate the practice, activist groups and all levels of government continue to flourish. A recent example comes from the U.S.-controlled Pacific Island of Saipan, where for more than a year 250 female workers were held in virtual slavery by a company that had been investigated and fined several times by the federal government.

The owner of the Korean-owned company was finally arrested in March and taken to Hawaii where he awaits trial because of violations of federal antislavery laws. The company itself has been placed in receivership and another firm is looking to take over its production plant.

Some of the workers also were flown to Hawaii to testify against Kil-Hoo Lee, the owner of the store, and his company, Daewoo-Samuus Ltd. Others were granted temporary asylum on the mainland and a few have returned to Vietnam, where most of them were originally from. The workers are paid less than $4,000, and often are not allowed to leave the compound. The monthly salary of $400 never materialized. When workers were paid, they got only $200. More often, the paychecks were simply not handed out.

In March, 1999, after nearly two months without pay, four of the women organized a work stoppage. The company retaliated by withholding food. “A few days later, one of the women...climbed a fence and walked to a nearby village to beg for food and told Christian missionaries about the conditions at the plant.”

That triggered a series of strikes, lawsuits by workers, and investigations by the Labor Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration into conditions at the plant, which is regulated according to U.S. law. Over the next year, the company was fined $250,000 and ordered to pay more than $500,000 in back wages.

“Last November, tensions at the plant boiled over when company guards began beating a female worker. A melee ensued when male workers tried to protect her. Eleven workers were injured; the female employee later lost an eye.”

After the federal investigation at the plant—one investigator described some workers as “walking skeletons.”

As suggested by the Inquirer, none of this was a secret from the federal government, and according to the activist group, Sweatshop Watch, the Department of Labor (DOL) “facilitated Daewoo’s garments, under the ‘hot goods’ provision of the FHA [Fair Labor Standards Act]” last December. Nonetheless, the firm was permitted to continue operations while the DOL and U.S. Justice Department “investigated” further.

J.C. Penney and Sears, among other beneficiaries of Daewoo’s slave labor practices, have sold Daewoo-made garments with “Made in the USA” labels sewn into them. According to Sweatshop Watch, however, “None of the corporations are known to have taken any action to guarantee the workers their unpaid wages.”

When the Justice Department finally decided to act on March 24 by arresting Lee and shutting down his operation, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft took the opportunity to grandstand for reporters in a transparent effort to save his image as a “right-wing reactionary” who may not be trustworthy as the country’s top law enforcement official.

“One of my last acts as a U.S. senator was to vote for a law which would curtail this kind of activity. That law was signed on Oct. 28 of the year 2000. This law increases the terms of incarceration for those involved in human trafficking and broadens the definition of ‘trafficking offenses’ to reach the subtle means of coercion, the techniques of holding workers in against their will.”

As his conclusion, Ashcroft added: “It’s hard to believe that these crimes exist in the United States of America, but they do.” Indeed they do. And they will continue to exist as long as there is profit to be made from the exploitation of human labor.

Dane Sceor contributed to this article.

The ‘Constant’ Revolution

By Robert Bills

• Technology & Labor • Constant Revolution

• Exploitation of Labor • Fruits of Capitalism

What Socialism is in the service of.

13 pages $1 postpaid

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218
Mt. View, CA 94042-0218

The History Behind the Holocaust

This booklet from the Socialist Studies series clarifies the economic and political developments that made fascism possible in 1930s Germany.

20 pages $1 postpaid

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS
P.O. Box 218
Mt. View, CA 94042-0218