

CLASS STRUGGLE ALIVE IN LATIN AMERICA

Dear Socialist Worker,

On January 16, approximately 90% of the public transport system in Rio de Janeiro went out on strike until their wage demands are met and until their work day is shortened. This is just one small example of the constant economic struggles being

waged by workers all over Latin America. Latin America is experiencing a severe economic crisis. Workers' standard of living is being cut drastically.

The workers are so angered by their situation that they will stand up in public protest even when they face brutal mili-

tary governments. We've heard of the militant strikes by workers in Argentina and Chile. Also, in Peru this fall, students took to the streets of Lima to protest sharp rises in the basic necessities. They closed down their schools and marched day after day. At least one student was

killed and many injured.

Also last fall, the Guatemalan government okayed a 100% bus fare increase in the capital. This touched off more than a week of street fighting in which workers manned barricades so the busses could not pass. Fifty people were killed and many more wounded. A

national strike was called. Finally the government rescinded the increase.

Class struggle is alive and well in Latin America.

E.H.
Cincinnati, Ohio

THE CLASH TO THE RESCUE

Dear Socialist Worker:

I thought Socialist Worker readers would be interested in knowing about Larry McIntyre. In 1968, Larry went to Vietnam. The next year he stepped on a land mine and came home to Cleveland without any legs.

After months of medical treatment and rehabilitation, he began to put his life back together. It took a great deal of effort just to find an apartment complex that physically accommodate a person in a wheelchair. On the advice of his doctor, he began swimming regularly in the building's pool for exercise.

Unfortunately, Larry's recovery was blocked when other tenants complained about his swimming in the building's pool. They could not stand seeing his disfigurement. The apartment's management lined up with the tenants and prohibited him from using the pool.

Larry sued, but found the courts are as biased against disabled people as the tenants and management. The judge ruled that handicapped people are not entitled to a jury and then proceeded to throw the case out of the court.

Currently, Larry is appealing the ruling and is beginning to receive support. Lawyers Avery Friedman and Jeff Friedman have donated their services. A benefit concert is scheduled for February 13 at the Agora. Heading the bill will be the revolutionary punk rock band, The Clash, from Britain. Rock and roller Bo Diddley and local star Alex Bevan will also appear. A Cleveland radio station, WMMS, and the newspaper, Scene, are promoting the event. Everyone involved has donated their talent and all funds will go to Larry's legal defense fund.

Larry deserves your support and the benefit concert could be the beginning of the kind of support he will need to win his case.

Ben Blake
Cleveland, OH

Letters

How can Cyprus be free?

Dear Comrades,

The views and feelings expressed by the Cyprus Solidarity Committee of Boston in their letter (SW #19) are admirable and of course, no socialist would disagree with them. The letter, however, lacked substance: what can revolutionaries, especially in Cyprus, do? What sort of perspectives do we hold?

The CSC of Boston emphasize, quite correctly, the role played by the US, the CIA and NATO in the course of events in Cyprus. While it is important to do this, especially for a Western audience, this approach tends to attribute all evils to external factors and ignores what is most important, i.e. the class struggle in Cyprus.

Much as we deplore and disapprove of it, we have to face the fact that Cyprus is now, for all practical purposes partitioned. This of course serves the interests of Western capital (divide and rule) but it also serves the interests of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot ruling classes. Nationalism and chauvinism are propaganda weapons used consciously on a massive scale by both these classes against the working class.

Once workers are convinced that there is a "common enemy" across the border, that worker and boss are "on the same boat", that "national unity" comes before better wages and conditions, then the capitalists have it made. The best example of this is the Industrial Relations Act signed by the Greek Cypriot unions, which practically bans unofficial strikes and freezes wages. The signing of the act was accompanied by intense "bosses and workers united against the national enemy" propaganda. Profits have

since rocketed. Wages have stagnated.

A divided working class is a capitalist's dream. The fight must clearly be for working class unity. It is, however, easy to yell for a "humane and democratic Cyprus." This ignores another serious problem. We have to recognize from the beginning that prior to 1974, the Turkish Cypriots were an oppressed minority, economically and otherwise they were the underdogs.

We also have to recognize that right wing and fascist groups on both sides succeeded, in the period leading up to 1974, in making the two communities scared and suspicious of each other. When a village is terrorized by fascists a peasant does not think "fascists", he thinks "Turks" (or "Greeks"). These two facts, unfortunate as they are, were the reason why Turkish Cypriots initially welcomed the invading Turkish armies as 'liberators'.

The major consequence of these facts is this: While they now by and large resent the presence of the Turkish army, Turkish Cypriots will not agree to any solution which constitutes a return to pre-1974 conditions. It will thus take more than words and good will to unite the two communities once again.

If we agree that a divided working class can never win, then what is needed in Cyprus is clearly a revolutionary working class party which unites in its ranks Greeks and Turkish Cypriot workers. The Communist Party of Cyprus (AKEL) does not fulfill this role, as to a very great extent it gives in to the nationalism of the Greek Cypriot ruling class. (In this connection is must

also be mentioned that AKEL's implicit support up until recently for fusion with Greece, and its reluctance to work seriously among Turkish Cypriots much facilitated the work of those aiming to divide the island. This is also why AKEL could not aim to be a party of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, even if it intended to.)

A united working class party will not be built overnight, no simply by propaganda. Unity must be achieved in action. Unity that reestablishes trust between the two communities, that proves to workers on both

sides their common interests. Only when, for example, Greek Cypriot workers go on strike in solidarity with their fellow workers in the north will Turkish Cypriot workers believe in and fight for unity. This calls for a revolutionary party organized on both sides, showing, in action, that a united working class is the only way forward.

As Cypriot socialists, our first priority must be the creation of such a party.

Fraternally yours,
Ali Saffet
Cypriot Worker Group
SWP of Britain



Ben Chavis

Dear Socialist Worker,
Jimmy Carter has shown again that his idea of human rights is completely one-sided. He has let Patty Hearst out of prison, but continues to ignore civil rights activist Ben Chavis, one of the

Wilmington 10, who still sits in a North Carolina prison despite the fact that Carter's own Justice Department thinks Chavis was framed.

Ann Ross
Los Angeles

You were wrong on the Rideout case

Dear Socialist Worker,

You were wrong to play up the Rideout case. It was a media event from the start, not a movement issue.

The press tried to tie Greta Rideout to the Women's Liberation Movement, but Greta herself showed no interest. I'm not surprised

that she and her husband reconciled, judging by the stories they told of their own lives.

The tragedy is that this has

belittled the importance of the issues themselves—rape and assault in marriage. Women will be less likely to bring their husbands up on

charges—and feminist lawyers will be less likely to defend them.

F.T.
New York

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

THE WEEK THE WORKERS RAN SEATTLE

see pages 8 & 9

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\$12 BILLION IN HEALTH AND WELFARE CUTS CARTER ATTACKS POOR AND AGED

HOW TO FIGHT LOW PAY



London nurses, above. Right, trucker pickets.

The British truck drivers have won a fantastic victory. They have smashed the 5% wage guidelines—and put the labor government in a panic—winning nearly all of their wage claim of 20%

They did it by ignoring the government—ignoring their own union leaders—and fighting for what they deserved. It was a rank and file strike, won by the massive use of pickets, in the ports, at the factories, on the highways.

The truckers' victory has given the lower paid workers new drive. One and a half million workers in public services—water workers, sewage workers, janitors, school cooks, grave diggers, garbage men, ambulance drivers—stopped work on January 22 in the biggest protest ever against low pay. Tens of thousands marched through the streets of London to protest at Parliament. Britain is now in the midst of its biggest wave of hospital strikes ever! □

Jimmy Carter as candidate for president promised the poor and elderly ever increasing aid and benefits. He promised a reduction in expenditures for arms.

Now Jimmy Carter, president, proposes to increase the military budget by \$10.8 billion, and the elimination of massive benefits to the elderly and poor.

Jimmy Carter's "state of the union" budget calls for cuts of \$12 billion in health, welfare, jobs and education.

JOBS

This includes a cut of \$1.5 billion in the CETA jobs program. 150,000 permanent jobs will be lost. 250,000 youth summer jobs will be cut. It is estimated that in Detroit 10% of all city jobs will be eliminated.

\$630 million will be cut from social security benefits in 1980—more in 1981. \$2 billion will be cut from Medicare and Medicaid. The \$255 lump sum death benefit will be abolished.

\$1.7 billion will be cut from HUD's low income subsidized housing program. More will be cut from aid to dependant children, environmental programs...

It is a budget for business—to say the least. It goes along with wage guidelines, tight money, productivity drives in industry—probably a recession this year.

It is a program of austerity for the working people and the poor—and a boon to business—and the arms industry.

It's time to say 'No' to Jimmy Carter. If there is sacrifice to be done, let the rich try some austerity.

For the working people and the poor, it's time to stand up and fight back. □

by JOHN ANDERSON

FIGHTING THE KLAN
see page 5

