

VETERANS DEMAND JOBS pg.4

WINTER ★ SOLDIER



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AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

25

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MARCH 7 1975

GROWING DANGER OF WAR OVER MIDDLE EAST OIL

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Iranian troops invade Dhofar

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local address:

EDITORIAL

No one needs to be told that the system is in crisis: already, we're out of work, no jobs, disability payments sliced, food priced out of reach while food stamps are cutback--the list goes on and on. The system is going straight to hell, and we're told that the best we can do is to "sacrifice."

Our sacrifice in buying gas at 70¢ (or more!) a gallon isn't going to save the system: we know that, and so do the people who run this system. Sure, they are going to try lying a while longer, talking about the light at the end of the tunnel, and how there will be a lessening of the rate of inflationary increase so that food prices will only go up 13% instead of 15%, and all the rest of the gobbledygook that official Washington spews out. But they know there is only one sure way to preserve their system, at least temporarily--and that is war.

War is good business. The people who make super-profits by exploiting working people here in the US and around the world have a long history in the war business. Whenever their system is in deep crisis, they can manufacture all kinds of reasons why a war is necessary. Maybe it's to prevent "strangulation" by oil-producing countries as Kissinger recently said. Or it's to prevent a "communist" takeover in Southeast Asia, the supposed reason for the Vietnam war. Of course, the exploiters won't be there fighting the war.

Signs are all around us. The most recent is the Vinnell Corporation hiring mercenaries (mostly unemployed vets) to train "internal security" forces in Saudi Arabia. We don't know when they have the next war planned--tomorrow or a year down the road. But we do know that the system of imperialism needs war to survive, and that we want no part of it. Many of us in VVAW/WSO have already been through one imperialist war--we see what it did, and is still doing, in Vietnam, and what it is doing in the US.

Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29th, was designed by the government to glorify that imperialist war. We say that we won't fight their imperialist wars--that we've had enough of their system and the wars it needs to continue to survive. We see its scheme and will fight until that system is smashed.



WINTER SOLDIER

VA PATIENTS TAKE ON HOSPITAL COPS

Following a Dec. 18th demonstration at the Woods VA hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and after consistent daily work, the Milwaukee chapter of VVAW/WSO returned to Woods on the evening of Feb. 20th to hold a presentation and dinner for the patients there.

The Dec. 18th demonstration--called to protest cutbacks of the VA staff, proposed taxes on vets' pensions, an inadequate GI Bill, lack of jobs, and no benefits for thousands of vets with bad discharges--was attacked by the VA police. In the ensuing 25 minute battle, eleven demonstrators were arrested. After the demonstration on Dec. 18th, VVAW/WSO members said they would return to continue their "War on the VA" which had widespread support among the patients at the hospital, including WWII and Korean war vets. Given this support for the work of the VVAW/WSO chapter among the patients and community, the VA was forced to change their tactics and allow the Milwaukee chapter access to the hospital to talk to patients and distribute WINTER SOLDIER.

On Feb. 20th, after the dinner and a few speakers, the chapter proceeded to show the video tape of the Dec. 18th demonstration at the hospital. At this point, several VA police forced their way into the auditorium, attempted to hustle patients out and became involved in a pushing and shoving match with the VVAW/WSO chapter members; in the course of the scuffle, the TV set was pushed over and smashed.

As the room slowly cleared and VVAW/WSO people moved into the hall, one chapter member was jumped by 3 VA cops, who informed the VVAW/WSO member he was under arrest for destruction of government property. Before the chapter members could come to the rescue, thirty hospital patients boldly surrounded the armed cops and jumped them, forcing them to release the prisoner and retreat down the hall. The patients obviously did not want to see VVAW/WSO members arrested.

Not satisfied with freeing the VVAW/WSO member, the enraged VA patients backed the cops down the corridor where they cornered them. One patient deftly administered an extremely solid left-hook to the jaw of the hospital recreation director. In another part of the corridor, several patients cornered another patient who they informed the chapter members was a snitch for the police. They proceeded to firmly smash him in the face with left-over food from the dinner.

The disturbance of the program was another slap in the face to the VA patients who had been continually harassed since the Dec. 18th demonstration by, among other things, having their copies of WINTER SOLDIER forcefully taken from them and VVAW/WSO buttons ripped off their clothes. Their outburst of rage was stoked by the unbearable conditions at the hospital, poor medical treatment, and a continual campaign of threats, intimidation and terror against the patients since VVAW/WSO began working at the Woods hospital on a regular basis last year.

Instead of cooling down the rising movement of vets in the hospital, the government cops have now completely unified the people inside and outside the hospital by their repressive tactics. Milwaukee chapter members have stated that they believe the cops and VA officials will now try to isolate the patients and step up their harassment, which will make it necessary for VVAW/WSO people to be at the hospital on a day-to-day basis fighting beside the patients.

This is just another example of how when the pressure is on, the people fight back, as it is being done around the country by the rising movement of vets and other people to bring down the system that oppresses us all. Unity is the key to victory in the struggle in Milwaukee and around the country. The people united will never be defeated!

WINTER SOLDIER

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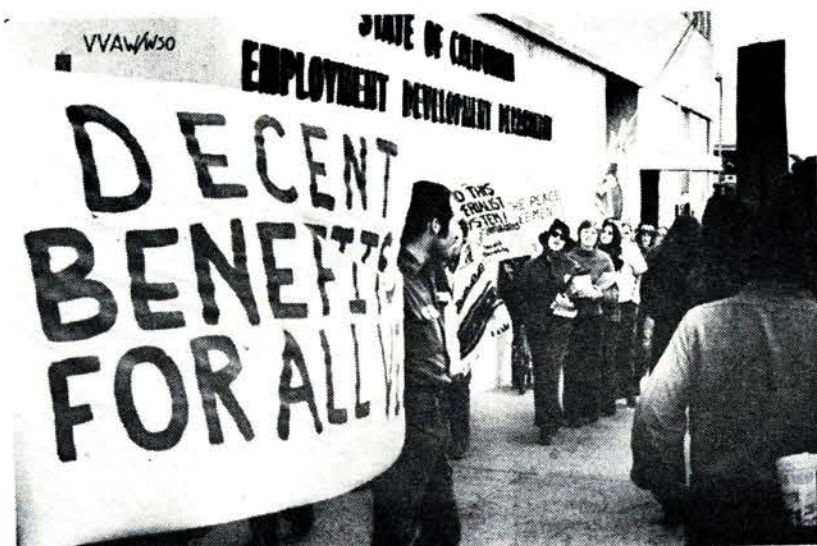
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MARCH

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VVAW-WSO DEMOS DEMAND END TO INDOCHINA WAR



San Diego demo at Unemployment Office



Seattle demo burns "US Imperialism" and its puppet

Two years ago, January 27, 1973, the US was forced to sign the Paris Peace Agreement which led to the removal of most US combat troops from Indochina and supposedly ended the Vietnam war. The signing of the Paris Agreement marked an incredible victory for the Vietnamese people, as well as for peace-loving people all over the world. VVAW/WSO chapters around the country held demonstrations celebrating this victory and, since the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia still rage on, demanded that the US government actually implement the agreement that it has signed. Because the war in Indochina goes on solely due to the massive military and economic aid the US pours into the pockets of its puppet governments in Saigon and Phnom Penh, VVAW/WSO also demanded that the US end all aid to the corrupt Thieu regime in S. Vietnam and the Lon Nol regime in Cambodia.

The January demonstrations varied from place to place in terms of what actions were undertaken, some being solely VVAW/WSO organized and others being coalitional efforts. They were all aimed at mobilizing people to organize and fight back against this lousy system of imperialism we live under--a system that's run by and for the large business interests in this country at the expense of the people in the US and around the world. The massive unemployment, runaway inflation and vicious police repression we face in the US today are every bit as much a result of the same cause as the ongoing war in Indochina: US imperialism. As was pointed out in the chants of many of the demonstrations, it is the "Same Struggle, Same Fight--People of the World Unite!"

No better example of how we must organize ourselves to fight back against the conditions we face in the US can be found than in the determined and heroic struggle of the Indochinese people. It was in this spirit that VVAW/WSO chapters built for the Jan. 27th actions; towards the end of actually organizing people to fight back--not to idly sit by and complain about them.

All totalled, over 15 actions were held, including cities such as Seattle; Portland and Eugene, OR; Mountain Home, ID; San Francisco, San Jose, Riverside and San Diego, CA; Minneapolis, MN; Dayton, OH; Houston, TX; Buffalo, NY; Washington, DC; and Burlington, VT. In the single largest action, a rally was held in San Francisco; after the rally, about 750 people marched to the Saigon Consulate where 13 VVAW/WSO members had seized the office. While the 13 people inside were arrested, the San Francisco tactical squad attacked the demonstrators outside and a major brawl erupted with one elderly man being thrown through a plate glass window. Other demonstrations were smaller in number, with anywhere from 50 to 200 people turning out. But it was in many of these small actions that VVAW/WSO made perhaps the most significant gains -- initiating activity in cities that it hasn't been organizing in and reaching out to many new people who had previously never actively been involved in the fight to end the war in Indochina.

In places like Houston, Texas, where comparatively little activity of this nature has gone on in recent years, the demonstration was jointly built by a number of groups: the Iranian Students Association, the African Liberation Support Comm, the Revolutionary Union and a local anti-imperialist worker's paper, the Houston Worker, among them. There, 90 people, including many veterans and GIs from nearby Ft. Hood, marched in a very militant, spirited demonstration through the center of town. Many onlookers along the route of march cheered on the demonstrators with a number joining in the action. In an area where there is "supposedly" little sympathy for such activity, the response the demonstrators received from the people of Houston was overwhelmingly positive. The work that went into building for this action was a significant success in and of itself. The coalition managed to get out thousands of leaflets to the major factories in the area and thus, reached many workers

who couldn't actually attend the demonstration themselves. The reception they got from the workers was typified by one who liked the leaflet so well that he took a handful and passed them out to the rest of the workers in his section.

Elsewhere, as in San Diego, the January 27th actions similarly were successful in drawing many new people in to the struggle and sparking new VVAW/WSO organizing work. The San Diego demonstration, called by VVAW/WSO, drew over 65 veterans and non-vets to demand "Jobs or Income for All" at the state unemployment office. From there, the demonstrators marched to the regional Veterans Administration office raising a demand for "Decent Benefits for All Vets." By tying these demands into the ongoing war in Indochina, showing how the war is directly related to the rising unemployment figures and the many problems vets face from the VA, the action drew a concrete link between the struggle of the Indochinese and the same struggle veterans and all people face in the U. S. The San Diego action was characterized by a lot of militant chanting and a solid fighting spirit. A good two-thirds of the participants in the action were people taking part in a demonstration for the first time -- most having heard about it from the work the chapter had done at the unemployment center.

More than anything else, the Jan. 27th actions point to the increasing militance and number of people who are coming forward to join the struggle and fight back against the ongoing war in Indochina. Our task is to continue to build on these gains and draw in ever larger numbers of new people to fight with us; given the experience of Jan. 27, 1975, that's exactly what's happening. For information on how you can get involved, contact your local chapter or the National Office of VVAW/WSO.

IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT--
END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL!
SEIZE THE TIMES--
UNITE TO FIGHT!

NYC VETS CONFRONT CITY HACKS FOR JOBS

Vietnam-era vets are one group of people particularly hard hit among the millions of unemployed. Vets have not been sitting idly back accepting this situation, but have been taking their dissatisfaction with the economy into the streets and confronting sham employment programs that make promises but can't deliver.

On Jan. 20th, 100 Vietnam-era vets took over a branch office of the Mayor's Office for Vets Action (MOVA) in the Bronx. MOVA is a sham vets program set up by the city of New York to give the appearance that someone is doing something about the problems of vets, when in reality, no "action" occurs at all. MOVA is a front office with no budget of its own and no regular employees. Its personnel, with the exception of Commissioner Milton Williams, are borrowed from other NYC agencies to give the appearance of a functioning program. Mr. Williams, an ex-cop on salary for \$40,000 a year, is a well known figure in New York; he participated in the Attica Massacre whitewash and is suspected of having instigated the attack on VVAW/WSO members at Shea Stadium during the "Honor Vietnam Veterans Day" program, which he organized and directed. Vets in NYC have little doubt about whose interests Williams is really working for -- and it is certainly not for the people.

The vets seized the Bronx office of MOVA because jobs previously promised to them had been withdrawn by the Mayor's Office. While the story given the vets was that a training program with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) had its job allocations frozen, the local MOVA bureaucrats spilled the beans under pressure. It seems that the training program arranged through MOVA by the MTA would have been hiring vets at low pay, while at the same time MTA is laying off hundreds of its regular workers. After the union representing these MTA workers caught wind of this scheme, they told the Mayor's Office "no dice;" MOVA

then moved fast and cancelled the job allocations.

Informed of the reasons why there were no jobs to be had, an overwhelming majority of the vets responded that they wouldn't take jobs as scabs anyway. Faced with an angry crowd of predominately Black and Puerto Rican vets, the MOVA branch officials did a bureaucratic shuffle and tap dance and suggested the vets take their questions to Commissioner Williams' office and ask him why they were going to be used as scabs and why there were now no jobs available. Storming into the Commissioner's office, the vets were once again put off by MOVA officials who assured them that jobs would be available the next morning at the branch office in the Bronx.

The vets returned to the Bronx office the following morning to find that only a few jobs were available. These jobs included doing finger printing, being security guards, janitorial work and a few other jobs that required a number of years experience. The pay scale for these positions averaged around \$2.50 an hour with the jobs expiring in 13 months -- meaning eventual layoffs. To top it off, requirements such as no bad discharges or criminal records went with the jobs. One vet asked the Bronx officials, "What other types of discrimination are requirements?"

At this point, the enraged vets, including many who were forced to accept the "starvation-wage" jobs out of sheer desperation, had had it with the bullshit runaround the Mayor's Office had been giving them. Raising the two demands, "Decent Jobs" and "End Discrimination in Hiring," the militant group once again confronted the Commissioner's office and denounced MOVA for promising what they couldn't deliver and using slimey maneuvers to cover their lies. True to form, the Commissioner's office gave them the old "hang on folks, jobs for everyone are coming" routine which none of the vets swallowed this time.

While the vets left more or less empty handed and in disgust, during the course of the struggle, the New York City chapter of VVAW/WSO joined with the spontaneous vets group. They talked about how the problem of unemployment was one facing millions of American working people, and not just veterans. The VVAW/WSO chapter went on to say that veterans and other working people have to unite to demand jobs or income for all people, because only through this unity can we effectively fight the cutbacks presently confronting us all. They also discussed the role of these sham "vets opportunity" groups, which raise the banner of "vets -vets-vets" but do nothing. At the same time, the chapter talked about how groups such as MOVA attempt to separate the struggles of vets from other working people in this country by placing them on a pedestal rather than showing where their real unity lies. NYC VVAW/WSO is maintaining contact with these vets, and they intend to carry out more actions around unemployment in the future.

The problems these vets in New York are having finding jobs are the same problems facing millions of working people across the country. It is for this reason that VVAW/WSO is working around the crisis of unemployment -- not only as it confronts vets, but as it affects all working people.

DEMONSTRATE ON MARCH 29th VIETNAM VETS DAY!

On March 29th, which is Vietnam Veterans Day, VVAW/WSO chapters around the country will be holding demonstrations.

Vietnam Veterans Day was originally established by the Nixon administration to allegedly "show appreciation for Vietnam-era Vets. In actuality, however, it was designed to whitewash the piss-poor treatment of Vietnam vets and the continuing war in Indochina. VVAW/WSO took to the streets last year to expose this farce.

Now, one year later, VVAW/WSO will once again demonstrate the true feeling of Vietnam-era vets and expose the nature of the system of imperialism -- which oppresses us all -- to the American people. The national demands of the demonstration are:

- * UNIVERSAL, UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY FOR ALL WAR RESISTERS!
- * IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS -- END ALL AID TO THIEU & LON NOL!
- * DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS!
- * SINGLE-TYPE DISCHARGE FOR ALL VETS!
- * JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL!

For further information on how you can join these demonstrations, contact your local chapter of VVAW/WSO or Regional Office as listed in this paper (see p. 15).



"With your experience, I'll certainly keep you in mind if this country is ever invaded!"

PEOPLE BATTLE COPS FREE ANTOWYN!



The Battle of 18th St in Chicago

The struggle to free Antowyn Cauley and to stop police repression was brought to the streets of Chicago on January 25th. About 200 people began a spirited march in the Mexican-Polish community of Pilsen despite cold, snowing weather. Chants of "People Unite, Let's Fight On, Stop Police Repression, Free Antowyn!" rang through the community as the demonstrators marched on a local police station, demanding Antowyn's freedom, stopping police repression and ending deportations of Mexican workers. After a militant picket line at the police station, the demonstration continued through the main street of Pilsen where a raging battle between the police and the demonstrators occurred, culminating in victory for the people and defeat for the cops.

The demonstration was organized by the Coalition to Free Antowyn Cauley. Among the groups in it is VVAW/WSO. The coalition was formed last summer after Antowyn Cauley, a young black man, was shot by police in the Juneway

Terrace community of northern Chicago. What had happened was typical of police terrorism. As cops were hassling a group of community people a crowd had gathered around them. Fearing the crowd, the cops tried to disperse them. Antowyn, who was standing by shouted, "You cops aren't so tough when there's only one of you." As he turned to walk away, several cops jumped him and one, John Wilson, shot him in the side. To cover up this shooting the cops charged him with disorderly conduct, aggravated assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

Police terrorism in Black and Latino communities is especially intense as the crisis of imperialism deepens; resulting in massive unemployment, huge price hikes and soaring inflation. The formation of the coalition and the struggle to free Antowyn is a struggle to end this brutal exploitation of the people. The January 25th demonstration was another part of the overall campaign of the coalition.

The fight with the cops broke out when the cops tried to stop the marchers who had taken the streets to bring the campaign to the people of Pilsen. As the cops began attacking people, the people fought back. One cop was seen hitting the pavement with blood gushing from a gash in his head. Even though the cops succeeded in breaking the march in two, they were totally outfought. Despite police reinforcements, the demonstrators were able to beat them down, enlisting the support of countless community people who were standing alongside cheering the marchers on and shouting down the police. Some of the people joined in the fight. After the 'dust' had cleared 17 demonstrators were arrested and at least 8 cops were in need of immediate medical care.

From there the remainder of the demonstrators and many community people went on to an indoor rally where speakers from the Revolutionary Union, the Iranian Students Association and VVAW/WSO, among others, spoke about police repression and the rising struggles of people to defeat the imperialist system responsible for it. The multi-national rally was spirited and united.

That night about 100 people came to a picket line in support of the 17 people who were arrested. All were free by the next morning and subsequently charges were dropped on all but seven; six of whom were charged with felonies. Four of these people are members of VVAW/WSO.

Since the demonstration, members of the Cauley coalition have been leafletting the Pilsen community and are finding that the community people fully support the demands of the coalition. The coalition has doubled in size and the fight to free Antowyn and stop police repression continues to grow in Chicago.

STUDENTS FIGHT TUITION HIKES

In early December, President Ford vetoed a GI Bill increase of 23%, but Congress overrode that veto. Going one step further, on Feb. 13th, the White House proposed an elimination of the GI Bill for future veterans. Though the GI Bill did go into effect, it is still grossly inadequate when considering the rising rate of inflation and costs of tuition.

Ford's proposal to eliminate the GI Bill is just one more example of the many cut-backs that vets are facing. At the same time, however, all students are finding it increasingly difficult to get an education -- prices are rising all the time, there are cut-backs in the quality of education, and tuition costs are going up. For example, the state of Washington Council on Higher Education recently announced a 32% increase in tuition fees for community colleges and state universities. Ironically, this announcement of the tuition hikes came the day after the GI Bill increase went into ef-

fect (meaning that vets were already 9% behind one day after the GI Bill hike).

Students in Washington are not taking these hikes lying down, but are building a movement to fight back against them. VVAW/WSO chapters in Tacoma and Seattle are working with the Revolutionary Student Brigade to build a campaign to fight these tuition hikes. An example of the dollars and cents of these hikes means that at the Tacoma Community College, tuition costs have jumped from \$83 to \$110. But it is not just the money that matters; tuition increases are an attack on working people everywhere. It is the sons and daughters of working people that are the hardest hit by these increases and who are finding it harder and harder to stay in school for financial reasons. Because of this, VVAW/WSO in Washington sees that the major way to fight these increases is by building a fighting movement of students -- including vets -- to oppose this rip-off.

The campaign to fight the hikes is being waged under two major slogans: "Fight the Tuition Rip-Off" and "Hard Times are Fighting Times." This campaign is being taken to students at campuses in both Tacoma and Seattle. Though many of the students have become demoralized by the tuition increases and don't think there is much that can be done to fight them, many other students are rallying around these slogans and organizing themselves. For example, on Feb. 20th, VVAW/WSO and RSB called a demonstration at the University of Seattle. Over 100 students came out to this very spirited demonstration and showed many other students that through unity, there is a way to fight these kinds of attacks.

Washington is not the only state where tuition increases and cut-backs in education are being made, because these kinds of attacks are confronting students all over the country; and cut-backs in education are just a part of the overall attacks that are coming down on working people throughout the US. But these cut-backs can and are being fought. Hard times definitely are fighting times and the students in Washington are proving this out.

CAMBODIA: TOWARDS FINAL VICTORY

On New Year's Day the Peoples National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (PNLAFC) launched a major offensive that could well be the final, decisive stage of the 5 year-long war there. Since Jan. 1st, the PNLAFC has totally isolated Phnom Penh, cutting off all supply lines and killing or wounding over 10,000 enemy troops out of an estimated total of 50,000 combat troops. The US-run government of Pres. Lon Nol in Phnom Penh is teetering on the brink of total collapse, held up only by the massive US airlift being flown daily into Phnom Penh. With more than 4,000 military 'advisors' illegally in Cambodia, the US has never made much pretense about who ran the show. Now, with the worsening crisis, all decisions are openly made directly from the US embassy there.

Acting under the direction of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC), the PNLAFC has totally cut the strategic Mekong river from Phnom Penh to Vietnam. Normally 80% of all Phnom Penh's supplies come by ship up the Mekong. With the river cut by PNLAFC troops, supplies haven't made it the 60 miles up the river to Phnom Penh for nearly a month. Attempts to run convoys of ships up the river have proved disastrous; between Jan. 1 and Feb. 6 alone, over 220 vessels of various types were put out of action. A feeble attempt to dislodge liberation troops from the river banks with a ground attack in late Feb. led to the destruction of over 3/4ths of the Lon Nol troops involved. More recently, the last single land link to Phnom Penh was cut on Feb. 21st when PNLAFC troops blew up a train near the Cambodian-Thai border.

All supplies must now come by air into Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport now under regular rocket attack. As a rule, the city needs a minimum of 500 tons of ammo and 500 tons of rice and other supplies per-day. The US has tried to meet this requirement with an expensive emergency airlift conducted by the US Air Force under the guise of a thinly camouflaged 'commercial' airlines called Bird Air. Bird Air utilizes USAF C-130 transports with their insignia painted over and USAF pilots recently 'returned' to the area as 'civilians.' Contrary to US statements of 20 flights a day to Phnom Penh, GRUNC estimates that USAF planes are making from 80-120 flights a day. Since these planes only bring in military supplies, rice and fuel is being rationed to the population "under American embassy direction."

The US position in Cambodia is desperate. Sec. of Defense James Schlesinger stated that Cambodia would "absolutely" be 'lost' if Congress does not approve an emergency \$222 million dollar supplemental appropriations bill for the Lon Nol regime made by Pres. Ford on Jan. 28th. But with or without the additional funds, it is clear that it is only a matter of time until Lon Nol is completely smashed. As Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of GRUNC, said on Feb. 5th, "Even if Pres. Ford and Mr. Kissinger of the US obtain billions of dollars from the US Congress... the GRUNC and the PNLAFC and Norodom Sihanouk... never will... give up struggling for total national liberation... the liberty and honour of Cambodia have no price."

The Lon Nol government, forced to draft 12 year-old children and empty the jails of Phnom Penh to fill out his army, has no support whatsoever from the civ-



PNLAFC fighters ready to fire at enemy vessels along the Mekong River

ilian population. As his troops are wiped out, there simply aren't any people to replace them with. Since Jan. 1st, well over 60,000 people have fled Phnom Penh to the liberated areas. Food riots, forced donations of blood to wounded troops, etc. are everyday occurrences.

The alternatives the US has are clear. One is to get out once and for all and allow the Cambodian people to live in peace and the other is to reintroduce massive US bombing and troops. VVAW/WSO urges all people in the US to prepare to meet either of these two alternatives. Should the US

attempt to undertake combat operations in Cambodia all peace loving people should unite together to stop the move through direct mass action. If the US government resigns itself to the inevitable and pulls out of Cambodia once and for all, VVAW/WSO urges the holding of victory celebrations to honor the fall of the Lon Nol regime and the defeat of US imperialism in Cambodia.

A VICTORY FOR ONE IS A VICTORY FOR ALL---FINAL VICTORY FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE!!!!

WHAT IS VVAW-WSO?

Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) is a mass, anti-imperialist organization which focuses its work on the struggles of veterans and GIs. We began as a group of Vietnam veterans actively protesting the war in Indochina. As our protest grew, however, we came to realize that the real problem was not just the war but the system of imperialism. Based on our experiences in Vietnam and our experiences after we returned to the United States, we now see what imperialism is: the system which exploits the poor and working people around the world and here at home in the interests of the corporate profit-makers. Imperialism needs wars like Vietnam in order to survive.

Today, we are fighting against imperialism on two fronts. As we have in the past, we actively support the liberation struggles of the Indochinese people and demand an end to US involvement in Indochina. Since we see that imperialism also exploits people all around the world, we support the many other liberation struggles as people fight for freedom and independence.

But we see that the same system of imperialism which tries to suppress other people is hard at work here in the United States. As a result, we have taken up people's struggles at home. We have declared war on the whole Veterans Administration network which does not and cannot meet the real needs of veterans. We struggle against the racism and repression in the US military. Because of the current economic crisis, we are fighting for jobs or income for all, not just for veterans who are hard hit by unemployment, but for all people who cannot get work under the system of imperialism. We work with political prisoners around the country in support of their struggles. And we are in the forefront of the fight for universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters. All of these struggles are part of the overall struggle against imperialism; they make up our national program for action.

This program is carried out by our members who work in chapters throughout the US and overseas in Japan and England. Chapters also work on local programs and campaigns. Our members are veterans and non-veterans, GIs and civilians who struggle to end imperialism, understand the importance of building a fighting veterans and GI movement, and are making that movement grow. We are doing our part to fight a system which oppresses us all; if you want to join in that fight, or to get more information about our national or local programs, contact the local VVAW/WSO chapter, the regional office, or the VVAW/WSO National Office, 827 W. Newport, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (phone: 312-935-2129).

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DAY



NYC Demo, International Womens Day 1974

On March 8th, people around the world will be celebrating International Women's Day -- a holiday for honoring working women everywhere. IWD originated in memory of two all-women strikes which took place in New York City. In 1857 and 1908, women garment workers marched to demand better working conditions, equal rights and an end to sweatshops and child labor. At both times when these thousands of women came together to raise their voices for a decent living standard, police used violence to break their ranks. In 1910, March 8th was proclaimed International Women's Day and has since been set aside for celebrations honoring women the world over.

Women have a proud and heroic history of fighting against oppression, both in this country and around the world. Women from Vietnam to Guinea-Bissau have played major roles in the liberation struggles of their countries against colonial rule and foreign aggression. Here in the US, the struggles of women go all the way back to the slave rebellions of the 1800s, and have continued through the thousands of strikes and mass struggles that the American people have since been waging.

Today, in these times of growing economic crisis, the role of women in the struggle against oppression continues to become ever more proud and courageous. At Farah plants in the Southwest, and at Oneita plants in South Carolina, women went out on strike -- and they stayed there until they won the right to unionize. Women, such as the wives of the miners in the coal fields of Kentucky, stayed long hours on picket lines, demanding better working conditions and safety regulations, while having to physically battle scabs. With unemployment soaring, women (and particularly minority women) are in the forefront of the fight against a crumbling

economy.

By looking at some of the reasons behind the high rate of unemployment for women, we can see where the oppression of women is really coming from. Women are oppressed by the system of imperialism -- a system wherein the owners of the corporations steal their profits from the work and sweat of the people. This means that it is the workers who produce all the wealth, yet it is the owners of the factories and mines who own and control everything. In order to continue their rule, these owners and bosses must foster disunity among people, figuring that by doing so, men and women will not be able to identify their real enemy and unite to defeat it. So, just as the imperialists pit whites against Black and other minority people, they also try to divide men and women. This is done by encouraging chauvinist ideas such as "women's place is in the home" and "women are dependent." With these ideas, people are supposed to believe that all women can do is keep house and raise children, and heaven help the woman who just might decide that the struggles being waged by working men also belong to women and vice versa!

Workers are paid wages based on what amount of money is "necessary" to keep that worker and his family alive so that the worker can continue producing wealth for the corporate owners. But in the vast majority of cases, the worker's wages fall far short of what is actually needed to stay alive. It is for this reason that many women entered the labor force. Today, over 45% of all women hold jobs -- mainly because it became clear that there was no other way to survive -- the income of the family had to be increased if food was to be kept on the table. Approximately 43% of working women are the sole means of support of

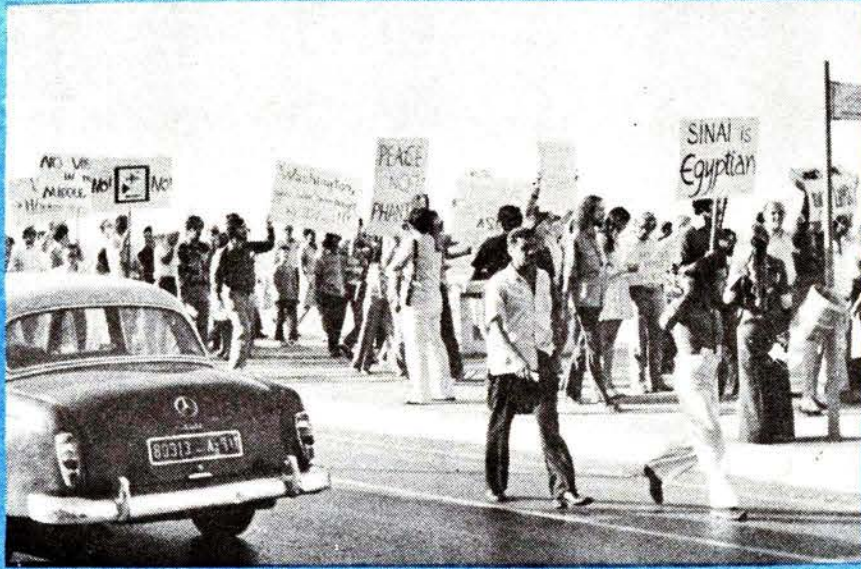
their families. Yet, in many cases, corporations are able to hire women and pay considerably less than men would receive for the same work. In other cases, women are forced into some of the most menial and least fulfilling jobs. This is done with the rationale that since women aren't "responsible" for supporting a family and are only working because they "want" to, women don't need more money. Try telling that to the working women in the US! By paying minimal wages to women, the bosses are using a cheap source of labor, and at the same time, they are able to threaten men workers (hoping to keep them submissive) by claiming that if they don't want to work for a certain wage, they can always find a woman to do the job; thus, the price of all workers wages are driven down.

During times of economic crisis (which are becoming increasingly frequent and severe) the imperialists decide that some women should return to the home. This is because the profits of the corporations are falling, and if profits are to rise again, lay-offs are a "necessity," i. e. companies can no longer afford to pay all of their workers. Since business operates on the theory that workers only need enough money to be able to stay alive, cut-backs will first be made against people who they claim don't really have to work. (This whole idea ignores the fact that people are underpaid in the first place and in most cases, more than one person in a family needs employment for survival). Because of this, women are among the first to be laid off and they are then forced into the ranks of the unemployed. If the corporate owners later decide to build up their work force, they have a ready-made labor pool from which workers can be drawn.

Women are not accepting this severe form of oppression but are organizing and fighting back against it. During the strike wave which recently hit the US, women played leading roles in the struggles to unionize and improve their living and working conditions. On other fronts, women are deeply involved in the struggle against U. S. aggression abroad. Women played key roles in forcing the US to sign the Paris Peace Agreement and are continuing to oppose US involvement in Indochina. Women are involved in the struggles going on in our communities against police attacks and repression. Women are in the front lines of fighting the oppression of third world people in the US, as well as organizing to fight the rising rate of inflation, rampant unemployment, and the general attacks on the living standards of all people.

International Women's Day is a tribute to working and struggling women everywhere. It is a holiday which signals the rising of the women of the world who are uniting with other women and with men for the purpose of achieving liberation for themselves and for society as a whole. As people around the world come together to celebrate International Women's Day, let us here in the US also continue to build unity between men and women by celebrating the role women have played in the struggle to defeat imperialism the world over.

WE WILL NOT FIGHT AND



"War is what we need to get out of the recession." With these words, Elliot Janeway, a leading corporate economist, laid the cards on the table. The news is full of war preparations. US troops in Georgia have been getting desert warfare training and contingency plans have been revealed by the Pentagon for the possible invasion of the Persian Gulf, the most oil-rich area of the world. US corporations are hiring mercenaries to go to the Middle East to train the armies of reactionary governments that "lean" towards the United States. The Northrop Corporation has been sending helicopter pilots to the area and training the local military, an operation similar to what is being done (and has been going on for years) in Vietnam. The Vinnell Corporation, a California firm, has put ads in newspapers for Vietnam veterans to go to Saudi Arabia to train their National Guard.

All this is taking place when the system is in deep crisis. The United States, as well as most industrial countries, faces high unemployment, inflation and general collapse of production. All the contradictions of a system based on maximizing profits are sharpening, and the solutions of the masters of this system are all meant to throw the greatest burden of the crisis onto the backs of poor and working people. Preparations for war and economic crisis-- these are two sides of the same coin, the coin of an imperialist system. War is precisely the solution that our corporate masters are planning because it is the only solution that will temporarily "save" their system. Profits demand markets and resources and the only markets and resources that are up for "grabs" belong to the peoples of the Third World.

There's the rub. The peoples of the Third World are fighting back, no longer willing to let foreign powers dominate and control their resources and lives. The people of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau are leading examples of how the Third World is fighting for national liberation and forcing the system of imperialism to look elsewhere for its profits and domination. At the very heart of this worldwide struggle are the Arab and Persian Gulf region peo-

ples. On the one side is the conflict of the Palestinian people fighting to regain their lost homeland seized from them by force, a homeland now controlled by the state of Israel. On the other side are the desperate maneuvers of the imperialist powers to retain control of the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

War threatens from many sides. The Arab countries will not allow Israel to continue occupying the territories seized from them in the 1967 war. The Palestinian people will not stop fighting until they regain their rightful land. At the same time, the growing independence of the Persian Gulf countries and the rise of national liberation struggles in this area are pushing the imperialist countries to the wall. The stakes are high. At the bottom of all this turmoil stands the key question of who will control the oil of the Middle East. When war comes, and it cannot be avoided as long as the profit system exists, the fundamental issue will be who controls the oil of the Middle East, and even more importantly, who controls the oil of the Persian Gulf, the largest oil-producing area of the world.

Oil is the lifeblood of the industrial world, the lifeblood of the imperialist system. With its more than 90 derivatives, oil constitutes one of the most important commodities linking the different parts of the world economic system into a continuous chain, and without it, the whole system is not more than a heap of scrap. It is with this in mind that the Persian Gulf, and in general the Middle East area, has become the central region of turmoil and contention between the various industrial countries and particularly between the two world superpowers -- the United States and the Soviet Union.

What are the stakes? Out of the total of 631.8 billion barrels of known oil reserves in 1971, more than 360 billion barrels, or approximately 57% of all the reserves of the world, were situated in the Persian Gulf region. Western Europe alone relies on the Gulf area for 75% of its oil imports, and Japan gets 95% of its oil from there. Israel, Pakistan and India import 70% of their oil from the Gulf also. So, the stakes are the virtual control of

European and Japanese oil needs, as well as the needs of many other countries. (The United States gets only 10% of its oil from the Gulf, destroying the lie that America must "protect" its well-being from Arab "bad-guys").

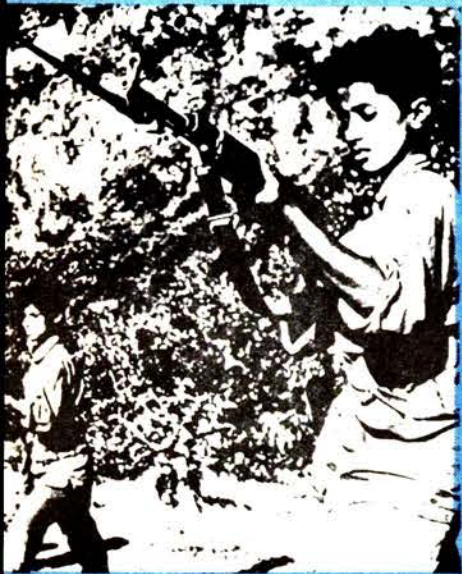
The governments of the Soviet Union and the US know this only too well and because of this are only too willing to go to war, even if it means fighting each other. It is with this understanding that we must view US presence in the area, what US goals are, and what are the current policies of the two superpowers in the Gulf region.

After World War II, because its productive capacity had been left relatively untouched, the US had seized control of the Gulf area from Britain, the previous "protector" in the region. The US took over old British military installations and began pumping money into the various governments that existed. US troops were stationed throughout the Middle East and the US maintained wide influence, virtually unchallenged by other western powers. But the situation began to change, especially in the early 1960's. National liberation struggles broke out and many countries that had previously been easily kept in line with US interests began nationalizing resources and taking independent actions. It became necessary for the US to change its foreign "policy."

This change was to introduce the "infamous" Nixon-Kissinger doctrine. This doctrine was the response of US imperialism to a crumbling empire, crumbling from the blows of national liberation such as the Vietnamese people are waging. Briefly, this policy was to reduce US troop presence while at the same time increasing the ability for quick mobilization and intervention when a crisis develops; an increase in the reliance on the Air Force and the Navy to back up "client" regimes such as the Shah of Iran; and the development of "client" state militaries, trained and equipped by the US to effectively suppress any liberation movements in the area, or so-called "policing" operations.

As ex-President Nixon explained to

ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR



Congress about his "New Strategy for Peace" in 1970, "Its central thesis is that the United States will participate in the defense and development of allies and friends, but that America cannot, and will not, conceive all the plans, design all the programs, execute all the decisions and undertake all the defense of the free nations of the world. We will help where it makes a difference and is considered in our interests."

To US imperialism, the Gulf happens to be one of those areas which, in Nixon's words, "makes a difference" and is "considered in our interests." Since all major industrial countries are severely dependent on oil for their very existence, US control of oil becomes a question of paramount importance; with control of oil comes control of Europe. Moreover, since the US has had complete dominance in the area, any change in the status quo would mean the weakening of US imperialism not only in the Middle East, but on the global scale as well.

In its quest to preserve the status quo, the US began to look for an obedient "client" to carry out the necessary tasks of aggression needed to defend US interests. The US picked Iran as its main "client" in the area, because it has the necessary characteristics, large population, economic and military strength and the best geographic position -- along the northern edge of the Persian Gulf. After conniving in the overthrow of the elected government of Iran and the installment of a dictator -- the Shah -- in the 1950's, the US began increasing military aid to the current tune of \$4 billion dollars, almost all in the form of military hardware. In addition, the Shah was sent over 19,000 military advisors (remember Vietnam?).

To complete the picture and the subservience of Iran, the Shah has virtually turned over or sold the majority interest of Iran's resources to US corporations. The US received a 40% share of Iran's oil rights, Britain got 40%, 14% went to Royal-Dutch/Shell and the last 6% went to other European interests. Even with the supposed "nationalization" of oil by the Shah in the early 1970's, Iran's oil is still in the

hands of foreign powers. EXXON was so "disturbed" with the nationalization, they put ads in the Iran newspapers thanking the Shah and applauding his program.

Iran was not the only country picked for "client" status. Saudi Arabia was also included in the US plans for the Gulf. By arming the Saudis to the teeth, the US built up a second line of defense by incorporating this oil rich country into the overall plan. Just recently, the US announced a \$3/4 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia, bringing the total to more than \$2.5 billion dollars in military hardware for 1974.

On the other side of the coin is the Soviet Union, displaying similar policies and intentions. The Soviets have been building up Iraq, a country bordering Iran. They have built up Iraq's Air Force until it is now larger than Iran's and the Soviets have been using Iraq's Navy to gain a presence in the Persian Gulf waters, a vital artery in transporting oil. The USSR has 3,000 military advisors in Iraq and is now seeking a naval base in the area. They control Afghanistan and are wooing Kuwait and other important sheikdoms with military and economic aid (strings attached).

The big stumbling block in the plans of both superpowers is the people of the Gulf. They have been fighting to free their lands from this kind of big power domination. Already, an independent country has been won -- the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen. The people of Yemen, after winning their independence, have been constantly under attack because they represent a clear threat to the designs of US domination. In Oman, a key country situated at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, peasants with barely any arms have succeeded in liberating most of their country from the rule of its feudal sheik.

The rise of these national liberation struggles has the US in a panic. Already the US is funding an armed expedition by Iran who has sent in 15,000 of its crack US-trained troops to put down the liberation struggle in Oman. But as in Vietnam, the people of Oman have been putting these invaders on the run. In Iran itself, the people have been fighting the dictatorship

of the Shah, even though all opposition organizations are outlawed and "subversives" shot. The people of the Middle East do not want war and they are struggling to end the threat of war by throwing off foreign domination and overthrowing the despotic regimes, like the Shah of Iran.

Increasing solidarity between Third World countries has imperialism backed into a corner. The recent Arab oil boycott demonstrated to the world only too well what that solidarity can mean. This growing independence coupled with the increasingly successful struggles for liberation of the people of the world is a direct blow to the attempts of the superpowers to foster war. With the imperialist system in crisis and control of oil threatened, poor and working people in the US are again being called on to sacrifice their lives for the rich. As in Vietnam, it will be a rich man's war, and the potential for a Middle East war to turn into a world war looms larger than ever. The two superpowers want control for themselves and no amount of "detente" will stop them from fighting each other to get it.

As we have pointed out many times in WINTER SOLDIER, the system that is trying to exploit the people and resources of the Middle East is the same system that is attacking poor and working people here at home with unemployment, high prices and repression -- the system of imperialism. It wants war -- it needs war. But the people don't. Their war is a war of profits, a war to increase domination, and they are preparing us to fight for them. We won't do it! Our interest is with the freedom and independence of all people. Our interest is in ending this wretched system once and for all!

U.S. HANDS OFF THE MIDDLE EAST

G.I.s FIGHT BACK!

WAC FIGHTS ARMY RACISM

(Landstuhl, West Germany) Babette Peyton, like other black women, joined the US Army seeking an education. What followed is yet another example of military recruitment promises turned into a nightmare.

Babette's problems with the Army began on July 26, 1973 when she was assigned to the Child Psychiatric Clinic for on-the-job training as a social worker specialist. But, after two weeks at the clinic, she was asked to fill in as a receptionist. Fifteen months later she was still a receptionist. When asking her supervisors why she was not being trained as a social worker, she got evasive answers and a contradictory performance evaluation. On the one hand the job performance evaluation termed her performance as superb; on the other hand the part that is recorded on the computer would have rated her below average as compared to other E-4s.

After September 4, 1974, when she filed an official complaint on her contradictory performance evaluation, the harassment began. She was threatened with an Article 15 for her hair which she had been wearing in cornrows since she enlisted, and was harassed for wearing civilian clothes when not on duty. The reaction of the brass to her beginning to fight back against their discrim-

ination was to crack down on her individual rights and self expression.

Because of the harassment, Babette went to the Equal Opportunity Office, a sham Army "civil rights" set-up, to see if they could help her. During one of the meetings, on October 1, 1974, arranged by the Equal Opportunity Office to resolve the situation, she was called a chronic schizophrenic by her supervisor, who took advantage of his position as an expert psychiatrist.

Three weeks later, she was ordered to a psychiatric evaluation in Landstuhl hospital by the commander in charge who had previously assured her he would rectify the situation. When she asked for an investigation to be carried out, she was told repeatedly that she had to go to the psychiatric evaluation first, even though it was based on her supervisor's mere allegation. Since she had worked in the child psychiatry clinic for 15 months and visited the hospital, she was familiar with the methods used there. Babette stated, "I know that if you're not crazy when you go there, you're crazy when you get out." It is a well known fact, too, that in black and poor communities, mental institutions are used as a threat and a means to control people. Being fully



Babette Peyton

aware of the sexist and racist nature of the US military and having tried all legal means possible, she took the only course of action she saw as possible--she went AWOL.

With the firm conviction she was right in her struggle against sexism and racism in the military, and with the support of GIs and civilians in the area, Babette decided to fight the Army on its own ground. Supporting Babette, Fight Back, the local GI organization, helped build support for her trial by mobilizing GIs and civilians to show the military that people were willing to fight back against military repression. Given the people's determination to fight, the Army dropped the phoney charges of "insubordination" against Babette Peyton.

6 ARRESTED AT FT. MEADE GIs SUPPORT BERLIN RESISTERS

(Ft. Meade) Six members of VVAW/WSO, including one GI were arrested in front of the Ft. Meade PX on Jan. 11th while distributing copies of a GI news paper, HIGHWAY 13; they were arrested for circulating petitions addressed to the House and Senate Armed Forces Committees, calling for the conviction of the Berlin haircut resisters to be overturned. Of the six arrested, all members of the Highway 13 GI organizing project, 5 had their charges dropped. The other person, Dan Herzog, an active-duty GI, received an immediate discharge -- honorable.

The petition is being distributed in support of Bob Nuchow, a GI formerly stationed in Germany (now in the Ft. Riley, Kansas stockade) who, along with a large number of GIs in Berlin, waged a struggle with the military over the issue of haircuts.

Over a period of months, the Berlin GIs came to see their struggle to include many other issues besides just haircuts--issues such as working and

living conditions, democratic rights, and racism. Following a petition campaign which enlisted the support of over half the GIs in Berlin, as well as a large group of Dutch GIs, 17 GIs of the Berlin brigade, C Battery, 94th Artillery at Ft. McNair, went on strike to attain their demands. They realized that all other avenues of protest were futile and they needed to take direct action to push their demands.

Of their several demands, the struggle against racism had been taken up as a result of the Brass' threat to prosecute and transfer a Black GI who refused to shave his beard. They realized the Brass was trying to divide them along racial lines by transferring the Black GI. The Berlin brothers realized that the Brass' actions required them to stick together if their struggle was to be successful.

As a result of the long struggle and strike, the GIs in Berlin learned a lot about how to stick together and confront the Brass with unified action. All but

two of the strikers were given quick discharges but the Brass felt compelled to make examples of the strikers so they court-martialed two GIs, one of whom was Bob Nuchow. He was sentenced to five months at hard labor, \$1125 fine and a bust to E-1.

The group at Ft. Meade is building support for Bob Nuchow and for the whole haircut resisters' struggle. The Brass was afraid to have people talk about that struggle and support it since it hits at the heart of military oppression. The Brass doesn't want people to learn from that struggle either -- the same conditions exist everywhere in the military and the most successful way that GIs can fight back is by building the kind of militancy and unity that was shown by the GIs in Berlin. The GIs and civilians at Ft. Meade are not going to be intimidated by the Brass and the distribution of the petitions will continue while the people fight the Berlin brothers arrests.

"BLOODY THURSDAY" ARMY ATTACKS

On July 28, 1932, President Hoover sent in the US Army to drive the members of the Veterans Bonus Army out of Washington, DC. "Bloody Thursday" marked the last resort of a government grown desperate because of the relentless demands of its own veterans.

25,000 vets and their families were camped around the city of Washington, demanding that their Bonus be paid. By late July, the administration was running scared. The government saw the revolutionary potential in the thousands of angry vets, and further saw that the reformist and reactionary leadership of the Bonus Expeditionary Force (BEF) could not contain the vets' anger much longer. Hoover passed down an ultimatum: all vets out of DC by August 4th. He didn't wait, however; on the morning of July 28th the attack began.

The first assault came from the DC Police. Under the command of Glassford, self-proclaimed friend of vets and an early BEF leader, they moved into the area along the South side of Pennsylvania Ave near 3rd St where vets had occupied abandoned government buildings. At first there was little resistance, as vets scrambled to collect their families and the few belongings they had accumulated. But, as the police moved through the second building, vets fought back; rocks and bricks were hurled at the police. Policemen drew their guns and fired; one vet, William Hushka, an unemployed Chicago butcher who had served in Europe as a PFC at \$1 per day, was dead; Eric Carlson, an Oakland vet who had been gassed in the trenches of France, was shot and died later. President Hoover order in the second line of attack--the Army.

This was the order that Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, had been waiting for (the order came earlier than expected, so the attack had to wait while his immaculate uniform was brought to him); with his aide, Major Dwight Eisenhower at his side, he sallied forth to take personal command. Down Pennsylvania Ave came the moun-

ted Third Cavalry, under Major George Patton, brandishing their drawn sabers. They were followed by a machine-gun detachment, infantry units, and six tanks. The troops had been specially imported into the DC area to make certain that none of them had fraternized with the vets, a reaction to the Marine Company which had earlier refused to go against the Bonus marchers. The line of troops was faced by a line of vets, separated by the troopers bayonets; though they resisted at each step, the vets had to retreat in front of the saber-waving mounted soldiers, and a barrage of gas.

The vets were pushed back across the 11th Street Bridge toward the main encampment at Anacostia. Infuriated spectators as well as the vets picked up tear gas bombs (3000 of them had been brought to Ft Myers earlier in preparation for the attack) and threw them back at the soldiers. At the Anacostia camp, soldiers stormed through the makeshift city, setting fire to the tents and shacks the marchers had built, often destroying everything vets and their families possessed. Two babies would later die as a result of the teargas. The first Bonus March was over--the Bonus Army was dispersed out of the capital.

It was the dogged determination of the Bonus marchers which had forced the government's hand. MacArthur, trying to justify his military overkill, saw the potential of the vets more clearly than many of the marchers: "Had the President waited another week," MacArthur said, "I believe the institutions of our government would have been severely threatened." The Bonus Marchers were only a small part of the 17 million unemployed in 1932; their refusal to be tricked or co-opted by sell-out leadership, or to be bribed out of the capital, or to give in to the wretched conditions they were forced to live in--all of this was a message to working and unemployed people around the country. The government could not af-

ford to give in to the vets' demands; terrified, the government tried intimidation. But the vets movement wasn't stopped, and other people around the country weren't intimidated--there was a wave of militant strikes, of marches, of demonstrations which drew strength from the Bonus Army.

The Bonus marchers made some real mistakes. Their demands were aimed at Congress, part of the system which could never meet the needs of the people. Many of the vets saw their Bonus demands in isolation from other working peoples' needs. And, because the march was spontaneous, there was no clear organization or leadership--that is what allowed the government to slide its dupes in as leaders. Only the WESL (the Workers Ex-Serviceman's League) saw the need for organization and for unity--and they were only a small part of the Bonus Army. But, when the vets were dispersed, the rank-and-file caucus, organized by WESL, stayed in DC to prepare for a Second Bonus march.

The marchers were scattered around the country; many of those with homes to go to went home; thousands ended up in a brief encampment in Johnstown, Pa, where the mayor and local businessmen turned them into a tourist attraction. Some ended up in virtual concentration camps, supervised by the secret service, in the midst of large cities. Some went into the CCC work-camps used by Roosevelt to corral the army of the unemployed. The attempt of W. W. Waters, one of the early BEF leaders, to organize the "Khaki Shirts," an open copy of the Nazi brownshirts, failed, despite the backing of the "Key Men," a group of business tycoons who wanted their own fascist military.

The Second Bonus March, organized by the rank-and-file caucus, elected a permanent Liaison Committee to stay in Washington; future actions would have a real organization. This committee composed a three-point program-- Immediate payment of the Bonus; No cuts in disability allowances (Hoover, and later Roosevelt, both tried to slash the payments to disabled vets); and Immediate relief for the unemployed and farmers. The final demand, the major long-range victory of the Bonus March, would be passed later as unemployment insurance.

Around the country, growing rank-and-file vets groups joined with other people to fight for the 3-point program. In May, 1934, a Veterans Congress brought 1429 representatives from 45 states to Washington; 270 were Black; overall, they averaged 3 years unemployed. They refused to be used as a force for reaction and refused to be separated from workers; as the Congress said, "Only one thing can defeat fascism and prevent war. That is unity and mass action... Our stand must be with our fellow workers."

(Next issue: the Vet's Movement before and after World War II.)



Bonus Marchers Battle DC Police

WAR RESISTER RETURNS TO CONFRONT 'CLEMENCY'

"I have no intention of being part of what amounts to a continuing cover-up of the nature of the war and war resistance. I am refusing the 'earned re-entry' program and demanding total amnesty for all war resisters and real peace in Indochina." So stated Gerry Condon, a military war resister who came to the United States from Canada to talk about the government's clemency program.

Gerry Condon refused orders to go to Vietnam in 1968 while serving in the Green Berets, the special forces unit of the US Army. His refusal came about from talking to many Vietnam veterans who returned back from the war and who were sickened by the killing they had done of unarmed civilians. From this he came to see that these war crimes were a conscious part of the US military strategy in Vietnam.

He announced his intentions of refusing to participate in the Vietnam war in San Francisco. Consequently he was arrested by the military, court-martialed and sentenced in absentia, to ten years of hard labor and a dishonorable discharge, (later reduced to two years at hard labor and a bad conduct discharge.) After the first day of the court-martial Gerry realized that he would be sent to jail for resisting the war and he decided to move to Canada instead. He stayed in Canada for awhile, then went to Sweden where he lived for 2 1/2 years. He was impressed with the large anti-war movement there, and he began to work with the American Deserters Committee in Stockholm. It was in Sweden that he came to understand the war in Indochina politically.

Recently at an amnesty gathering in Washington DC, Gerry stated, "The war has been pursued in the interests of the ... Americans who own or control big business. To them domination of Indochina means immense potential profits. The vast majority of Americans ... never stood to get a very big share of those profits. And even if they had, they would not be willing to do so at the expense of another nation's life and liberty."

After actively working in Sweden, he decided to return to Canada so that he could be more in touch with the anti-war movement in the US, which had grown considerably while he was in Stockholm. He went to Vancouver, British Columbia and worked with the Vancouver American Exiles Association organizing war resisters in the struggle to end the war in Indochina and for a universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters; including draft and military resisters, veterans with bad discharges and civilians convicted for resisting the war.

During the summer of 1974, Gerry moved to Toronto where he presently

works as an editor of AMEX Magazine, and is an active member of the newly formed organization, Toronto American Exiles Association.

After President Ford announced the 'earned re-entry' program for war resisters, the exile community held a conference in Toronto and called for a boycott of the program. This boycott is supported by most American organizations that are working for an unconditional amnesty, including VVAW/WSO. As part of the continuing campaign to spread the word of the boycott, Gerry decided to come to the US to travel around the country to denounce the Ford plan. While he risks arrest and imprisonment, he feels that it is important to continue to talk about the need for a real amnesty and an end to the war in Indochina.

Gerry says that "raising the issue of amnesty is opposing the war in Indochina." He feels that the campaign for total amnesty is a campaign that unites all war resisters. As a military resister, Gerry feels strongly about the need for veterans with bad discharges to be included in the list of those in need of total amnesty. He says that many deserters and vets experienced the war first hand and as a result, a strong bond has been built between them.

"We've often been asked a question by the media, 'Even if there was an un-
Fight For Total Amnesty

BOYCOTT SHAM

In desperate attempts to inflate the number of war resisters enlisting in the government's 'earned re-entry' program, President Ford announced a one-month extension of the 'clemency' program. The program was to have ended on January 31st, but now continues through March 1st. People and organizations fighting for a universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters have called for a continuation of a boycott of the program.

The government has been using every tool at its fingertips to promote the plan. In late January, members of the Clemency Board began travelling all over the country to 'hype' the plan, recording radio and TV spots encouraging resisters to take the plan, and using newspapers and magazines to help sell the plan. They have failed miserably in these attempts! To date less than 10,000 of the estimated 137,000 resisters have made applications. All of their promotion can't change the basic fact that the clemency program is bankrupt.

Those who resisted the war in Indochina or the racism and repression of the military number closer to one mil-



Gerry Condon (l) and Sandy Rutherford, his wife
conditional amnesty wouldn't you be afraid to go back to the US with all those people who served honorably over there? We're always happy to be able to tell them that our main support in the US comes from the veterans, many of whom were in Vietnam, and that's extremely important."

lion, rather than the low figures put out by the government. Over half of the resisters are veterans who received less-than-honorable discharges; approximately 580,000.

Millions of Americans demonstrated against the war. People did so because the war was not in the interests of the American people and worked against the interests of the Indochinese people. Those who resisted were correct, whether they were arrested, fled the draft or the military or received a bad discharge. The continuing war in Indochina, or any wars of imperialist aggression, should continue to be resisted and fought against by the people.

Until there is a universal and unconditional amnesty for all war resisters, the 'clemency' program will fail. The fight for total amnesty is a fight against the system that exploits and oppresses us all.

CONTINUE THE BOYCOTT!

LAWTON FRAME-UP CONTINUES

JURY TAMPERING



Evidence of jury tampering was revealed in early February during jury selection proceedings in the trial of Gary Lawton. Gary, an activist in the Black community of Riverside, California and a member of VVAW/WSO, is being tried for the third time on frame-up charges of murdering two white Riverside policemen. Both previous trials ended with hung juries with the majority of jurors voting for acquittal.

In the first two trials, the prosecution resorted to just about every vicious tactic in the book trying to railroad Gary into prison: phoned up "jailhouse" testimony from heroin addicts, sexual deviants and other police stooges were all used in this context. At one point, the prosecution's goons physically attacked members of the defense committee inside the courthouse itself in hopes of "proving" what violent people they are. Now, as the third trial gets under way, the racism and repression department of the Riverside DA's office is at it again.

The latest incident occurred when a prospective juror admitted under examination that she was afraid to sit on the jury because "the Lawton defense committee had threatened the lives of the families of the previous jurors unless they voted for acquittal!" This led to a special hearing where it was revealed that numerous members of the panel of jurors had heard this rumor and had been passing it around among themselves for a number of days; naturally, the en-

tire panel was thereby biased against Gary as a result.

While pretending to be "very upset" with such a clear-cut case of jury tampering, the DA was quick to refuse to do anything about it. The last thing the DA wanted to bring to light was the original source of the rumor. As was shown in the first two trials, the DA's office has made it clear they will try to get a conviction no matter how much evidence they have to manufacture or how many juries they have to rig; this latest incident is a stark case in point.

Overall, the racism that has surrounded the jury selection procedures in this latest trial has been absolutely gross. The jury system itself insures that poor and third world people are excluded from jury duty by a number of bureaucratic tactics and the simple economic hardship of serving on a jury and not being able to work. All of the panels of prospective jurors in the Lawton case have had only a handful of third world people on them: out of a total of 219 prospective jurors in this third trial, only 4 have been Black. Those that did manage to make it into the jury box were then kicked off, one by one, by the DA in preemptory challenges. In the latest jury panel, there were only 3 Black people to make it into the jury box. The DA then tried to frighten one of these prospective Black jurors into disqualifying herself by implying that her son had been involved in the murder Gary is

charged with and that a shotgun her husband owns was the murder weapon. When this failed, the DA kicked off her and the only other 2 Blacks on the panel on preemptory challenges.

As it stands now, jury selection is expected to last through March before the actual presentation of evidence begins.

LAWTON DEFENSE WORK

VVAW/WSO has been working on the defense of Gary Lawton for over 3 years with the understanding that the court system can never be relied on to set him free: the people are the only ones that are going to do that. Through this work, VVAW/WSO has learned the necessity of tying in the defense work around Lawton with the ongoing work it is doing in the community and with the struggles of other political prisoners. Until recently, a failure to concretely understand this led to a number of errors in VVAW/WSO's work around the case that prevented building as much mass support as should have been built. Now, as VVAW/WSO is trying to put an end to this hit-or-miss approach, the result has been a slow but steady increase in its effectiveness.

The key to this progress is in bringing the issue of Gary's trial into the ongoing day-to-day work in the community. Gary's case does not stand in isolation from the innumerable other political prisoners. Rather, it is a perfect example of how the system of political repression works in the US: an example that can be linked up with support work around other political prisoners. Thus, in Buffalo, VVAW/WSO's work around Lawton is organized in conjunction with the struggles to free the Attica Brothers and Martin Sostre, while in Chicago, the chapter has been able to bring Gary's case to the work it is doing around Antowyn Cauley (see p. 5).

In addition, some VVAW/WSO chapters are trying to bring the Lawton case to other areas of their work with vets and GIs; setting up speaking tours in their areas, organizing letter writing campaigns, holding picket lines at regional federal buildings, and initiating petition campaigns at the VA, on college campuses or with active-duty GIs. In Milwaukee, the chapter will be conducting a door-to-door campaign against police repression and around the Gary Lawton struggle.

By linking up these struggles and showing how they are all the result of the same system of exploitation and repression, the work is able to take on a broader, more significant character. There is a long way to go towards improving the work of building a people's movement that will free Gary Lawton and all political prisoners. But by constantly tying the Lawton work in with the struggles of other political prisoners and with the overall people's movement, ever larger numbers of people can be united against the common enemy to do just that.

Join VVAW/WSO

For more information or the address of the nearest chapter, call or write to us at:
827 W. Newport
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(312) 935-2129

Name _____
Street Address _____
City State Zip _____



MONEY!

THE LAWTON DEFENSE DESPERATELY NEEDS MONEY! The expense of running a solid political defense is staggering and the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee (RPPDC) is flat broke. Any contributions you can send to help them continue their work are desperately needed. Send contributions to the RPPDC, P.O. Box 244, Riverside, California 92502.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 1, 150 people marched to demand Jobs or Income for All. The demonstration, called by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), had a veterans' contingent organized by the Cincinnati chapter of VVAW/WSO; it was the largest contingent in the march.

Like all working people, vets are hard hit by the current economic crisis. But, because of seniority time lost while serving in the military, vets are especially clobbered by the lay-offs. There's at least a 10% unemployment rate among Vietnam-era vets--and 20% for Black vets. The 600,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges are lucky if they can get any work at all. These are the same vets who, in return for years in the military, were paid back with a lot of promises about great benefits and job opportunities. Yet, vets find unemployment, a sorry excuse for a GI Bill, inadequate training programs, miserable VA hospital care.

Despite these special problems, however, veterans in Cincinnati and around the country will not be separated from other working people--employed or unemployed. This is why VVAW/WSO joined with UWOC in the action which built both the struggle for jobs or income now and the VVAW/WSO chapter. The demands for the demonstration were: 1. Jobs! 2. Income--enough to cover the rising cost of living for as long as we are out of work! 3. Benefits--for all strikers and people who won't scab; the bosses can't use the unemployed as strikebreakers! and 4. Stop the extra high unemployment rate among Black people!

At a rally before the march, a VVAW/WSO speaker expressed the organization's solidarity with all these demands. The same economic conditions which forced poor and working people into the military to fight in Vietnam are now responsible for the epidemic of unemployment, he said. He quoted one vet who was standing in the long lines at the unemployment office: "We go from chow lines in the army to unemployment lines here; in the Army we got crummy food, now we're getting crumbs."

The militant march wound through the downtown section of Cincinnati to a park in a poor neighborhood populated by working people; community people joined in a second rally to hear speakers tell about different cases of exploitation and oppression--lay-offs, job discrimination, police attacks, especially in the Black community. All the speakers called for unity to fight back against these attacks.

VVAW/WSO helped build the march and the vets contingent with leaflets explaining why they supported the march; these were distributed at the VA Hospital and the unemployment office. To the people of Cincinnati, and to the owners of Cincinnati corporations, the message was that the people--vets and non-vets, employed and unemployed--will

DEMAND JOBS OR INCOME FOR ALL!



Cincinnati UWOC Demonstration

not quietly accept the crumbs from the system until the government decides to cut off benefits. Instead, the people will join together, putting the good of

all ahead of the good of any one segment of the people, and demand Jobs or Income for All. And that the people will fight until these demands are met.

THROWN ON BACKS OF WORKERS

CRISIS DEEPENS

At least something in the economy keeps on going up--unemployment. While President Ford has found a full-time job jetting around the country to "sell his economic program," he suggests another occupation to the American worker--standing in the unemployment lines.

Allen Greenspan, the President's economic advisor who says the government ought to be giving more money to the rich because that will help the economy, gives us the cheerful word about unemployment peaking at 8.5% later in the year; however, the government figures say we reached 8.2% unemployment by the end of January--and "later in the year" is a long ways off when you've got a family to feed. That's particularly true when the average unemployment check is \$61 per week (that is the national average). The figure of 8.2% unemployed translates into 7.5 million working people, and besides that, there's a big difference between the government's statistical people and the real people who want to work, but can't find jobs--3.8 million people want full-time work and can only find part-time work. Millions are just entering the job market (and are not counted) or have given up the search (also not counted).

With less and less money to spend working people are faced with having to pay more and more in order to survive; a report from the Congress Joint Economic Committee notes that food prices for a family on a low-cost diet rose 12.7% in 1974 (foods consumed in greater quantities by poor families rose most in price in 1974).

Any way you cut it, the economy is in a mess, and the struggle just to stay alive is getting fiercer by the day.

Even labor lord George Meany, living comfortably in Bal Harbour, Florida, is compelled to say that unemployment will reach 10% and foresee that Ford won't get re-elected if the figures don't start dropping soon. Meany's solution is a Democrat in the White House.

The peoples' solution is something different; we know that Democrats and Republicans both operate to keep life comfortable for the profit-makers. And that the constant search for profits is what caused the problem of inflation, recession, and unemployment in the first place. The quest for profits meant that the corporations produced and produced at the same time, the owners of these factories tried to push wages down as low as they could. The result was a whole lot of products, and little money to buy the products with. So, in the typical fashion of capitalists--who care about their profits and don't give a damn about the workers--they started laying people off.

As long as all the factories, mines and plants are owned by the few, as long as the profit makers decide what is going to be produced based only on what will bring them the greatest profits, rising unemployment, soaring inflation, and deepening recession will continue. As long as the factories can lay off a couple of people--or even hundreds of people--at a time, they can keep pushing the crisis on to working people.

But people are fighting layoffs and fighting unemployment--demanding that the government provide jobs or income now. The key is unity, and unity leads to mass action. All the machines in the factories are no good without the workers who run them; and all the capitalists who own those factories are no good at all!

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UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

PEOPLE DEMANDING RUCHELL'S FREEDOM!



San Jose Demo to support Ruchell Magee

On Feb. 8th, a demonstration was held outside the gates of San Quentin Prison in California. 150 people demonstrated in response to a call by the February 8th Coalition, including VVAW/WSO, the Revolutionary Union, Revolutionary Student Brigade, Sedition newspaper, May 1st Workers Movement and Wei Min She (an Asian-American community organization). The action was called in support of Ruchell Magee who is now serving a life sentence on kidnap charges resulting from the heroic Marin County courthouse escape attempt in 1970.

Ruchell received this life sentence on Jan. 23rd in a San Jose courtroom. The court, afraid of the mass support that has been building to demand Ruchell's

freedom, set the time of the sentencing for 7:30 am and gave less than 15 hours notice. Despite attempts of the courts and police to prevent it, 50 people came out to form a militant picket line to protest the sentencing. After the sentencing was over, police charged and surrounded the demonstrators, arresting 30 people on charges of "demonstrating near a courthouse." Most of those arrested were members of the organizations in the February 8th Coalition, including 2 people from VVAW/WSO.

Ruchell's struggle goes back to 1963 when he was falsely convicted of robbing \$10 after an argument and given an indeterminate sentence. Ruchell has been fighting ever since to win his freedom but has been consistently sabotaged by court-appointed lawyers and denied his most basic rights. Following years of brutality, Ruchell appeared in the Marin County courthouse in Aug. 1970, to testify on behalf of fellow prisoners. On this day, the prisoners made their bid for freedom and attempted to escape in a van, taking with them the court's presiding judge. Police opened fire on the van and indiscriminately murdered Jonathan Jackson, Judge Harold Haley and other prisoners. Following this, Ruchell was charged with murder and kidnaping. He was tried in 1972 on these charges, but the trial ended with a hung jury. Later, murder charges against Magee were dropped.

A real people's movement has been building around Ruchell's defense during the past several months. This is in contrast to Ruchell's denunciation of his former co-defendant, Angela Davis (a leading member of the Communist Party, USA and National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression). Following his sentencing, Ruchell proudly rose in court and called Angela "a pig, a rat, a snitch--a dirty snitching rat." Davis was freed by the mass support mobilized throughout the country in her defense, and has since done little to aid the fight to free Ruchell.

In his defense, Ruchell has consistently asked on question, "Does a slave have the right to rebel?" The demonstration outside San Quentin and another demonstration outside the Supreme Court in Washington, DC (also sponsored by VVAW/WSO, RSB and RU) answered that question with a definite "YES!" Chants of "Free Ruchell, It's Right to Rebel" rang through the crowds. The demonstration in Washington also focused much of its attention on the struggle of Gary Lawton (see p. 13) and chants of "Brother Lawton, Brother Magee, People's Struggle Will Set You Free" were also heard.

Ruchell Magee is a relentless fighter against oppression and an inspiration to all oppressed people. The people who rule this country think they have finally disposed of Magee; but we say to them: The people will set Ruchell free!

(The San Jose 30--arrested at the sentencing--are now awaiting trial and have formed a defense committee. They desperately need funds to cover legal costs. Please send any donations to: San Jose 30 Defense Committee, 185 N. 12th St., San Jose, CA 95112).

CELEBRATE!
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8th

