

WINTER★SOLDIER



A PUBLICATION OF VIETNAM VETERANS



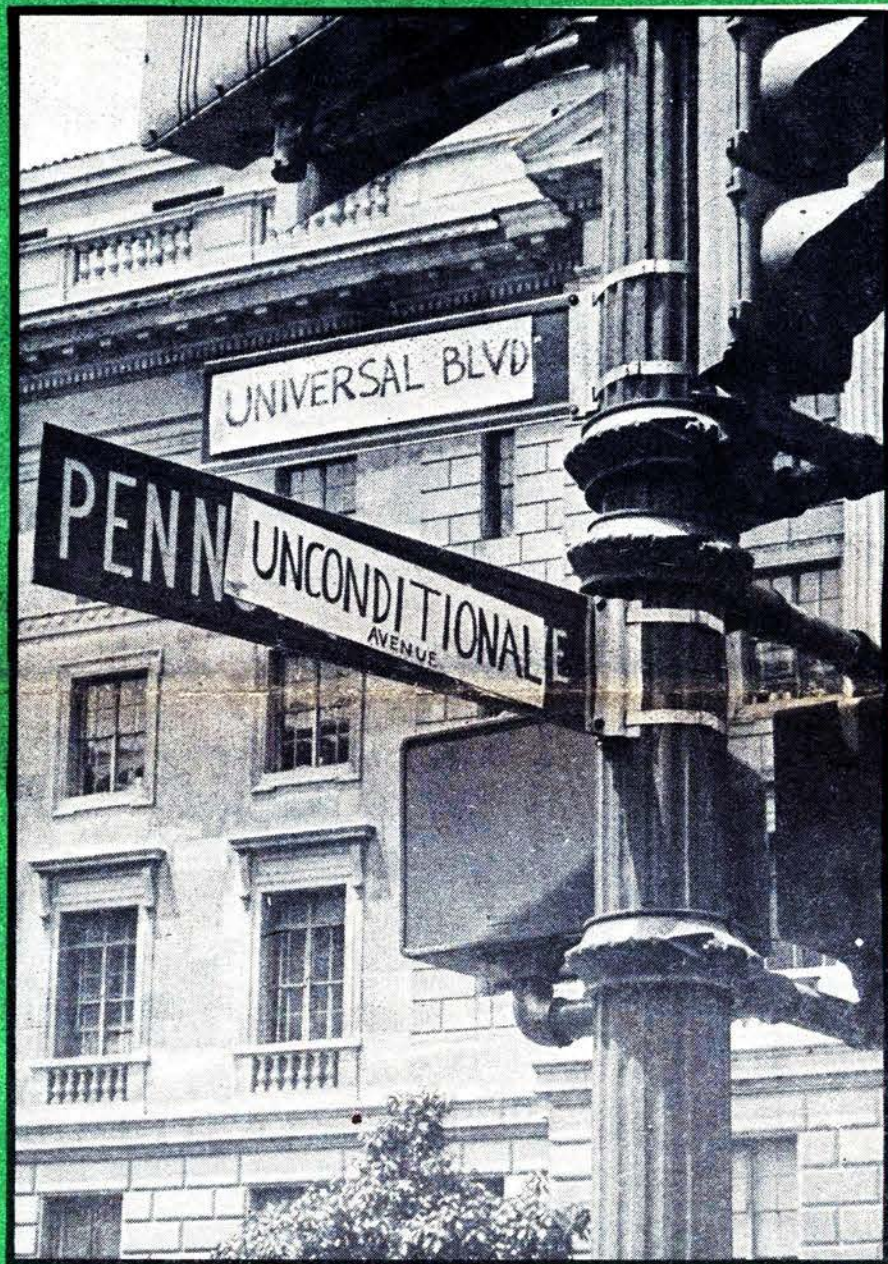
AGAINST THE WAR/WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION

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1974 NOVEMBER

BOYCOTT FORD'S 'AMNESTY' PLAN



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On November 11, 1918, the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. Millions of lives had been lost in what was one of the most savage military conflicts ever. The people of the United States had learned the hard way that this war was not fought for democracy, but was a war of conquest fought to expand the areas of economic exploitation for big business. Europe was re-divided amongst the victors, and American corporations gained a toe-hold on valuable European markets.

Now, several wars later, November 11th is being used as a propaganda tool for U.S. imperialism. Officially called Veterans Day, November 11th is supposed to honor the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. The traditional veterans groups like the American Legion, mobilize their members to march in parades and make speeches praising past glories and future battles. Out come the old uniforms and medals, the banners and flags. Military units and military bands march down main streets playing tunes meant to call our patriotic fervor out in full force.

But mouthings of praise and calls to patriotism cannot cover up the real conditions veterans face today. While the upholders of law in order are marching around singing the praises of old glory, veterans are facing jobless days, poor VA medical care and a lousy GI Bill. Over 500,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges are ignored, stamped for life with a brand that denies jobs and benefits. And the war in Indochina continues behind a smoke screen of deceit.

VVAW/WSO is also taking to the streets on Veterans Day. We will be there not out of patriotism to imperialism, but to expose and point out that veterans are being screwed again, that the war is not over, that universal and unconditional amnesty must be given, and that we do not blindly support the policies and actions of the U.S. military.

The American Legion and the VFW don't represent the real sentiments of American veterans. They are fronts for a system that cares little about the men and women that are forced to serve in wars that are not in their interests. VVAW/WSO will be in the streets demonstrating that many veterans understand that there is a struggle going on, a struggle between the overwhelming majority of the people of this country, and the hand full of "super-rich" at the top -- a struggle to end U.S. imperialism once and for all.

UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY

Cincinnati, Ohio & New York City

Police Attacks (contin'd)

In the continuing attempt by police around the country to repress the people, Cincinnati, Ohio police attacked and arrested seven people (including four members of VVAW/WSO) who were part of a picket-line at the Cincinnati Federal Courthouse on Sept 17th. The pickets and leafletters were there for the James Hardy Defense Committee, a coalition of groups in Cincinnati built to support a Black community activist on trial for an outrageous charge of "intimidating a police officer" (based on a letter supposedly written by James Hardy to the Cincinnati police chief).

A week earlier, the Defense Committee had brought 50 militant demonstrators to a meeting of the city council and forced it to listen to their demands. The picket line was intentionally a small follow-up action, building toward a large demonstration at the beginning of the trial. As the picket line moved around the courthouse, a VVAW/WSO member was stopped by police and asked for her ID; she refused and got back in line. A little later two uniformed policemen approached the one Black member of the picket, Terry Jones, who was leafletting; they asked him for his ID, and he gave them the necessary information (though he did not have the specific ID they wanted). A woman from the picket line went up to Terry and took part of his leaflets; before they could rejoin the line, the police grabbed Terry, saying: "You look like someone who's wanted--you're under arrest for refusing to identify yourself." When the woman interrupted, she was pushed and knocked to the ground.

Another member of the picket got involved, and, by this time, there were 20 uniformed police as well as 12 plainclothesmen on the scene--"It was like they were crawling out of the sewers," according to one participant. Since only two uniformed police were evident during the picket, the others were clearly lurking nearby, waiting to spring their ambush even before the first sign of resistance. Police were now grabbing and beating demonstrators; other protesters used their bodies to prevent more beatings of the people who were fighting back. In all, there were seven people arrested: Terry Jones; four members of VVAW/WSO--Bob Moore, Laurie O'Gara, David Sell, and Beth Zastrow; and two women working with the Peoples' Health Movement (a group working for better healthcare in Cincinnati), Nan Hauck and Debby Sweet. They were charged, variously, with assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct. Jury trial begins on October 30.

This attack is another in a series

of attacks on VVAW/WSO chapters and members; the assault by police in Shea Stadium against members of the New York City chapter is another example. In that case, still awaiting trial, 6 members were originally arrested; charges have now been dropped on all except Danny Friedman whose resistance to the police attack landed one policeman in the hospital. Both there and in Cincinnati, police isolate small groups of people, then provoke an incident to use as justification for their attack.

The reasons behind these attacks are clear. In Cincinnati, a basic cause is racism: the case around James Hardy is racist (he is on trial primarily for being Black), and the incident used to provoke resistance was blatantly racist. But racism does not fall from the skies; what authorities in Cincinnati and around the country see is the growing unity between people struggling together. Unity is something that the US power structure cannot stand. Racism is an age-old device to try to prevent that solidarity from growing, and if no one had come to the support of the Black leafletter, the police would have accomplished their racist, splitting goals.

Repression is another reason: silence dissent--paint demonstrators as an isolated bunch of crazies--divert peoples' attention from the real issues. Time, energy, and money will now be directed toward the battle in the courts. People are forced to focus on working within the system which they know is rotten. Part of the repression is intimidation. The message the police are broadcasting is that militant protest brings reprisals. People in Cincinnati, however, didn't get the message: two weeks later there was a militant demonstration sponsored by VVAW/WSO at the Cincinnati VA Hospital. The threat of physical brutality, fines, and jail still remains; legal fees are high, and people need help. Contributions can be sent to VVAW/WSO, P. O. Box 19302, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

The final reason for the series of police attacks is simple fear. The people who run this country are scared--and with good reason. Imperialism, whether being defeated in Vietnam, or appearing in the form of racism in Cincinnati, or police brutality in New York is on the road to collapse. The imperialists and their tools, such as the local police, will do all they can to stop the growing movement of the people. They are, however, fighting a losing battle as shown by continued demonstrations and other militant actions going on around the country--for, the people united will never be defeated!

EARNED RE-ENTRY IS NOT AMNESTY!

"What do you think of Ford's earned re-entry program?"

"I think it stinks. It's a sham!"

"I'm not going back. . (unless) we get a universal and unconditional amnesty. I feel very strongly about what I did!"

These and other comments represented the feelings of a wide cross section of the exile population in response to the announcement of Gerald Ford's earned re-entry program. Shortly after this announcement and the pardon of Richard Nixon, exiles from Canada, Sweden, England and France met for a conference in Toronto, Ontario on September 21-22. The conference acted on this program of punitive clemency and resoundingly rejected Ford's deal. The exile organizations announced that the only way to win universal and unconditional amnesty was to boycott Ford's program in order that the American people would understand that resistance to imperialist wars, such as the Indochina war, is correct. The boycott means that the exile organizations are refusing to have any part of the earned re-entry program and in connection with the state-side amnesty movement, will mount a campaign to mobilize mass, popular pressure for a real amnesty. This will involve every possible tactic, including direct challenges of the program by people who need amnesty.

The exile conference also unanimously passed a resolution that the fight for universal and unconditional amnesty must include the demands to end the war in Indochina, a single-type discharge for all veterans and full benefits for all veterans.

The boycott was announced at a press conference following the meeting of the exiles; Fritz Efaw of the London chapter of VVAW/WSO read the statement. He was joined by two coordinators of the National Council for Univer-

sal and Unconditional Amnesty (NCUUA) who announced their full support for the exile resolution. (VVAW/WSO is one of the groups belonging to NCUUA.)

While the unanimity of the exile groups was apparent, the Ford program was floundering. The government's own figures show that there is widespread contempt for the clemency. Most Americans accept the fact that the clemency was designed to win support for the pardoning of Richard Nixon for his crimes against the people of the USA and the people of the world. Americans realize that the punitive, limited clemency was not designed for those who resisted the war in Indochina.

In desperate attempts to inflate the figures and sell the unpopular, punitive plan, the government has resorted to trickery and deceit. On September 22, the Army announced that 75 deserters were turning themselves in 'en masse' under the Ford program. The fact is that these 75 resisters were rounded up before the announcement and did not return voluntarily to accept the clemency.

In another attempt to popularize the program, the administration, through the Department of the Army, ordered those just calling for information on the program to turn themselves in to Fort Benjamin Harrison. The letter from Norman Nelms, commanding officer of the Joint Clemency Processing Center, stated in part, "you are directed to proceed and report to Fort Benjamin Harrison."

Confusion and contradictory statements pervade the clemency program as well. In early October, the Defense Department announced that the so-called 'deserters loophole' would be closed and that AWOLs would be prosecuted under Article 83 of the Uniform Code of Mili-

tary Justice, which reads "if a false statement to obtain discharge is given the military, control can continue under the code." The next day, the DD announced that this provision would not be adhered to and that AWOL resisters would be free to refuse to do alternative service once they received their dishonorable discharge. In any event, when viewing the punitive nature of the clemency program, few military resisters have accepted this loophole.

One result of the entire nature of the program and the general disapproval of it is that Camp Atterbury, Indiana, the site of the processing center for war resisters who accept the plan, has been closed down and all operations have moved to nearby Fort Benjamin Harrison.

While the government continues to confuse, distort and contradict itself around the specifics of the program, one thing that stands out clearly is that the clemency in neither universal nor unconditional. Those people who resisted the imperialist war in Indochina did so for a variety of reasons, but in every case the clear fact that the war was wrong stands out, and that resistance to the war was correct. In light of this correctness exiles, veterans and civilians should not be punished in any way for their deeds.

The war in Indochina continues to rage on. The US-Thieu regime in Vietnam continually suppresses the right of the Vietnamese people to determine their future direction. With relation to the war in Indochina, the only crimes committed are the crimes of the US corporations and their front men in the government and the military who perpetuate the dictatorial regimes of the likes of Thieu and Lon Nol of Cambodia.

While Richard Nixon is given a universal and unconditional amnesty for his role in the war in Indochina and against the American people, the government tries to punish resisters for correctly fighting the imperialist system. Clemency discharges, undesirable discharges, alternative service and jail sentences are an attempt to diffuse the rising fight against imperialism.

The boycott called by the exiles and supported by a majority of people is one way in which we can expose the system that continues to exploit and oppress the people of Indochina and elsewhere around the world, including here in the United States. A full universal and unconditional amnesty would mean that resistance to wars of aggression by the US is correct. Unity in this struggle is necessary; and unity around the boycott is essential.

HONOR THE BOYCOTT



VVAW/WSO builds solidarity with exiles

The struggle of the people of South Korea against the dictatorship of Pak Jung Hi continues to grow. Pak, like other U. S. backed and financed dictators in Asia (Lon Nol in Cambodia, Thieu in South Vietnam) finds his control over the people growing more and more shaky .

Two related elements in the life of South Korea are creating the real bind in which the government now finds itself; the first is Pak's politics of repression and terror, a tactic used by his government since it was first installed by the U. S. Second is the rapid deterioration of the economy caused by the slowdown in foreign aid, investments and trade. Foreign capital flows slowly into South Korea because the people of the world will no longer stand for Pak's repression, and their governments know it. But when Pak tries to improve his image and lighten the repression at home, the Korean people are in the streets, ready to throw out the dictator's dictatorship.

In a recent attempt to make his high-handed rule a little easier to swallow, Pak rescinded 2 "emergency decrees" under which over 200 people have been sentenced to long prison terms since January, simply for criticizing the Pak government. (Shortly afterwards, one of Pak's courts upheld the 3-year prison term for 77-year-old former President Yun Po-Sun, one of the 203 prisoners jailed under these decrees). The changes in the laws, however, do not show that Pak is becoming less repressive, but is the direct result of economic pressure from outside the country.

Since the end of the Korean War, the economy of South Korea has been financed by the U. S. and, in recent years by Japan. In August, a Korean resident of Japan was accused of killing Pak's wife during an assassination attempt on the President. To give the pretense of national unity, Pak inflamed demonstrations against Japan (even paying convicts from \$125-375 to slice off their fingers in protest). He then used these protests to demand that Japan repress Chongryun, the General Association of Koreans in Japan, a group which favors North Korea. Japan refused and threatened economic reprisals (which Pak could not afford); the U. S. made it clear to Pak that, given his public repression of dissent, the U. S. government could not afford to come to his rescue if Japanese aid stopped. Pak backed down.

For all the apparent prosperity in South Korea over the past 10 years, it is clear that foreign economic domination hasn't allowed any real growth. Now, with the aid slowing down, the crumbling economy is rushing toward disaster. The Seoul marketplace, while full of goods, is empty of people because they cannot afford to buy. Consumer prices are up 21% since January and, with an average wage of \$120 per month, the economic crush is on working people. The people are angry; in the shipyard on the southeast coast of Korea,

S. Korea

Pak Dictatorship Shakey

2000 workers demanding better pay and working conditions were met recently by police. The result was 2 days of riots with 40 workers and 30 police injured.

Economic hardship combined with Pak's repression is now bringing people into the streets. In their first unified action in many months, student sit-ins and fasts have demanded release of fellow students and other political prisoners from Pak's jails. A small student demonstration of 150 people was gassed in the streets of Seoul. 15,000 Catholics, gathered for a protest mass, heard a ringing denunciation of Pak's repression; 5,000 of them went from the rally into the streets where they were met by Pak's riot police, equipped with Motorola radios, U. S. Army gas masks, and American pepper-gas sprayers.

Pak has good reason to fear his own people; in 1960, student demonstrations marked the beginning of the end for the corrupt, dictatorial government of Syngman Rhee, another U. S. favorite. The 38,000 U. S. troops now in South Korea are a major source of Pak's continued control, yet his fascist tactics are under heavy criticism from people in the U. S. and around the world. The United Nations, under whose sanction U. S. troops fought the Korean War, is discussing removal of that sanction, thus destroying any semblance of legitimacy to the presence of U. S. troops. And Pak's longstanding technique of blaming all his problems on the communists (as in the case of the assassination attempt) has been consistently shown up for the fraud it always has been; the People's Democratic Republic of Korea continues to work for peaceful reunification of their country and withdrawal of foreign troops. Japan, seeking to improve its economic position, has begun to trade with North Korea -- more evidence of the collapsing structure which Pak has built for himself in the South.

Though the lifting of the decrees was aimed at the U. S., the U. S. government can no longer bail Pak out because with the defeats U. S. imperialism has already suffered in Southeast Asia, and because the American people won't allow it. And, despite the repression, the violent reaction to any dissent, the tactics of terror which Pak has used to stay in power, the people of Korea will continue their struggle to get U. S. troops out of their country and to decide their own future.

FIRST ATTICA TRIAL OVER

On October 9, charges against William Smith, the first of 62 men indicted in connection with the Attica Rebellion, were dismissed as a result of insufficient evidence. He was charged with 2 counts of sodomy and 2 counts of sexual abuse. In the words of one of the defense attorneys, "the prosecution based its case on evidence which is was unable to produce in court--this man never should have been brought to trial."

Despite the victory in this first trial, 61 Attica Brothers still face trial on a variety of charges. The next trials are expected to begin within a month.



BANKS AND MEANS FREED

American Indian Movement (AIM) leaders Dennis Banks and Russell Means had charges, stemming from the occupation at Wounded Knee, dropped at the end of an 8-month trial in St Paul, Minnesota. The judge said that he was ashamed of the way in which the government presented its case.

Thus another attempt at repression through the courts has ended in failure for the government. Tactics of wire-tapping and infiltration were exposed in the courtroom, and the judge declared himself "shocked" by the conduct of FBI agents. Other trials around the Wounded Knee occupation continue in Sioux Fall, S. D., and in Lincoln, Nebraska.

BOB HOOD TRIAL POSTPONED

The frame-up trial of Bob Hood (VVAW/WSO member in Oakland, CA) has been postponed until Dec. 2nd. The trial was set to begin on Sept. 30th, but the court realized they were "congested" and stated that the congestion might last until December. Hood was arrested on Feb. 6th, after he was viciously beaten by Officer Ted Burrows of the Oakland Police Dept. The charge brought against Hood was "assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer." The "weapon" was a 3" pocket knife found in Bob's pocket after he had been handcuffed. The defense will use the extra time to pursue their motion of discovery -- the Oakland PD refuses to open the record of Officer Burrows whose file contains at least 11 citizen complaints.

Important U.N. Vote

CAMBODIA



Cambodian liberation forces

Winter Soldier has consistently reported the continued war in Indochina, pointing out that even though there are few U. S. ground troops fighting there, U. S. imperialism has not given up in its efforts to dominate that part of the world. The Indochinese people have been fighting for freedom and independence from colonialism and imperialism for decades and now more than ever, it looks like complete independence will be achieved. The liberation forces are winning major victories while the lies and distortions directed at the American people by Washington (calculated to win support for their war efforts) are exposed.

In Cambodia, the Lon Nol regime is near final collapse. With 90% of the country controlled by the Royal Government of National Union (GRUNC), the dictator and his henchmen are totally isolated in small enclaves and in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Even with the U. S. pumping \$2 million a day in a vain attempt to stop liberation, Lon Nol is losing all control. Phnom Penh is being racked by food riots because the people cannot afford the 300% inflation rate. Troops under the regime have resorted to burglary because they haven't been paid in weeks and there is a flourishing black market where war supplies from the U. S. are openly sold to liberation fighters. Over 85% of the people live in GRUNC territory, pointing out the fact that it is GRUNC that represents the people of Cambodia.

The U. S. government has tried hard to keep other governments and the American people from recognizing that GRUNC is the only legitimate government in Cambodia. Last year, the U. S. used parliamentary maneuvers to block the ouster of the Lon Nol regime from the United Nations. It was only when the supporters of GRUNC were out at another meeting that the U. S. managed

to have the resolution tabled. But defeat of the U. S. on this front is inevitable. The same vote is coming up on the UN agenda and the U. S. is arm-twisting its "allies" to scrounge up votes against GRUNC. However, 62 countries already recognize GRUNC and others are moving to give full recognition.

The U. S. government has consistently tried to cover up the legitimacy of GRUNC, calling the liberation forces "rebels" or "insurgents." The mass media has continually toed the line on this matter, never once questioning this practice. The latest effort of the U. S. focuses on trying to call for a negotiated settlement between GRUNC and Lon Nol. John Gunther Dean, U. S. Ambassador to Cambodia, has recently tried to contact GRUNC officials in the hopes of setting up discussions. However, this can be seen as an admission by the U. S. government that Lon Nol and his regime have had it. For their part, GRUNC has consistently vetoed negotiations, pointing out that they are the legitimate government ousted by a U. S. controlled coup, and that there will be no talks with dictators such as Lon Nol.

U. S. Congressional opinion, reacting to the sentiments of the American people, is also going against continued U. S. presence in Cambodia. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in hearings on foreign aid authorizations, recommended the cutting of aid to Phnom Penh. The committee cited the fact that U. S. aid is being used for luxury items serving the ruling clique. A recent supply ship, having just fought its way up the Mekong River, carried only whiskey! The committee also pointed out the practice of indiscriminate shelling by Phnom Penh forces of liberated zones without regard to whether the target is of military value or not. Finally, they pointed out that things were so bad that much of the U. S. mili-

tary aid was ending up in the hands of GRUNC forces.

In a recent attempt to bolster the Phnom Penh regime, the U. S. sent Lon Nol's brother, Lon Non (who has been living in the U. S.) back to Cambodia. Brig. General Non was removed from Cambodia by the U. S. because of his penchant for total repression against the population, which was making things difficult for the puppet regime in its futile effort to win support from the Cambodian people. His return signals a desperate attempt to shape up the rapidly deteriorating army and possibly to replace the sickly Lon Nol.

The final hole-card for the U. S. is the re-introduction of direct U. S. military forces. For months now, thousands of Marines have been stationed in the Pacific Rim area. Operation Eagle Pull is the code name for over 5,000 Marines and Naval forces stationed off the coast of Cambodia. Related to this is the homeporting of the USS MIDWAY, an attack aircraft carrier, in Japan -- within easy striking distance of Indochina. Deputy Defense Secretary William Clements raised the specter of renewed U. S. involvement in Indochina on October 8th, saying that the U. S. could not rule out the use of U. S. Naval and air power with relation to the situation in Southeast Asia.

The situation in Cambodia is linked to the general situation throughout Indochina, particularly South Vietnam. As reported in the last issue of Winter Soldier, the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam is fighting back against the forced occupation of their territory by the armed forces of Gen. Thieu, the current U. S. -supported dictator. Also, the people living in Saigon-controlled areas are fed up with the corruption and police terror that prevails there. They have staged large demonstrations in Saigon to protest the misery they live under while Thieu's only response has been to beat and jail any dissenters.

The current crisis of U. S. imperialism is in a large part due to the successful fight for freedom that the people of Indochina are waging. Their victories are limiting the areas that U. S. imperialism can exploit, forcing big business and the U. S. government to place the burden of this crisis on the backs of the American people. The interrelatedness of the struggles of the Indochinese people and the American people is a concrete fact. It is in our interest to fight for a complete end to all U. S. intervention in Indochina, while at the same time, we must fight the attempts to have the burden of the imperialists' crisis foisted upon us.

VVAW-WSO ON THE MOVE

VETS DAY

Veterans Day 1974, whether held on the traditional November 11 or on October 28, is the first day of national actions in the VVAW/WSO national program. While the reactionary vets organizations celebrate the imperialist role of the US military, VVAW/WSO actively points out the true nature and use of the military, and the shabby way in which Vietnam-era vets are treated.

Nationally, VVAW/WSO actions on that day focus on four demands: Universal, Unconditional Amnesty; Implement the Agreements/End All Aid to Thieu & Lon Nol; Single-type Discharge for All Vets; and Decent Benefits for All Vets. But Veterans Day actions are not a one-shot deal for VVAW/WSO; two months of day-to-day work and many local actions have gone into building for Vets Day; and Vets Day actions look forward to bigger, more militant actions over the next seven months.

Because of the fake amnesty which Ford concocted, and because of the very real pardon which provided a place for Nixon to slink away and hide from the anger of the American people, our campaign for universal, unconditional amnesty has taken a big step forward. Hundreds of public appearances, speaking gigs, newspaper interviews, radio and TV shows have taken place all around the country. Amnesty forum programs took place in Chicago, and the Buffalo chapter of VVAW/WSO has taken an amnesty forum on the road to educate people about the anti-imperialist nature of amnesty and help build the organization. In addition to this work, local chapters and regions have been in the forefront of organizing people to greet Ford wherever he turns up as he hops around the country.

Demonstrations have taken place in Chicago (where Ford came to announce his bogus amnesty plan); in Columbus, Ohio; in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; in San Francisco, California (where VVAW/WSO members from Northern California were part of 2000 angry demonstrators who protested the presence of Vice-President designate Nelson Rockefeller who was substituting for Ford). In Burlington, Vermont, 2000 demonstrators from a coalition of groups demanded jail for Nixon and universal, unconditional amnesty for war resisters.

In one of Ford's several appearances in Burlington, he was inside partying at \$50-a-drink with party fatcats; outside, the demonstrators were selling apple cider at 5¢ a glass. Later, during a \$50-a-plate dinner, protesters operated a 10¢ per plate breadline outside, underlining the policies of the US government which place the burden of inflation on poor and working people. Before Ford got his dinner, however, he was forced to shove his way through a parking lot full of angry demonstrators.

The demonstration in Burlington concluded the observation of the "International Week of Concern," a week-long



VVAW/WSO greets Ford in Burlington, VT

series of actions pointing to the continuing war in Southeast Asia, and focusing particularly on the 200,000 political prisoners still held in Thieu's prisons and the billions of tax dollars which the US government continues to squander in order to keep Thieu and Lon Nol in power. Working in coalition with other groups, VVAW/WSO chapters used leaflets, dinners, talks, and guerilla theatre to keep the continuing war--and US sponsorship of it--in front of the American people. In New York City VVAW/WSO participated in a demonstration at the United Nations which called for the seating of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as the sole legitimate representative of the Cambodian people, and the removal of the representatives of Cambodian dictator Lon Nol.

In the many appearances by VVAW/WSO members attacking the Ford "clemency," the over 580,000 vets with less-than-honorable discharges are discussed and the demand for a single-type discharge is raised. In Denver, as part of actions building toward Vets Day, the chapter sponsored a picket-line outside the unemployment office (filled, as usual with vets, especially those with bad discharges). As a result of days of prior leafletting and talking to people at the phone company, postoffice, campuses, and factories, there were many new people at the picket.

While all four demands are being put forward at most actions in which VVAW/WSO is involved, often combined with other national or local demands, actions at Veterans Administration (VA) facilities concentrate on the demand for decent benefits for all vets. The anti-imperialist thrust of these VA actions is carried out through the VVAW/WSO refusal to be separated from the rest of the working class--we demand quality healthcare and education for all the people, not just for vets; and through our understanding that our demands will only finally be accomplished when US imperialism is smashed. Demonstrations,

pickets, selling of Winter Soldier, and consistent agitation around VA facilities were all used to build for actions on Vets Day.

Focusing on the VA and its flounder attempts to co-opt the struggle of vets; and, through a series of demands, tying together the struggles of vets and students; Milwaukee VVAW/WSO spent two days camped at the Milwaukee campus of the University of Wisconsin. The action was aimed in part at the "vet rep" program, a new brainchild of the VA to have their own "friend of the vet" on college campuses to personally hand over GI benefits and to help the vet plow through the swamp of VA bureaucracy. The whole program is another sham by the VA to try to use a cosmetic answer to cover-up the real problem: there is no doubt that the red tape can be cut in individual cases, but the "vet rep" can do nothing about grossly inadequate benefits (whether on time or late), or any of the other problems which come from the VA being unable to meet the real needs of veterans. The Milwaukee camp-in exposed the true nature of the "vet rep" program and presented our four demands; over 250 people came together for a rally on the final day.

Around the country VVAW/WSO is on the move; there is an offensive against Ford and his amnesty, against the VA, against the continuing war in Indochina, against the discharge system and against the repressive and racist conditions in the military. There is a surge in day-to-day, mostly unpublicized work to build to the first day of actions in the national VVAW/WSO program, and from there on to the next day of nationwide actions (on January 27th, the anniversary of the signing of the Peace Agreements) in our continuing war against imperialism.

PART 2: WORLD WAR I PERIOD

VETS MOVEMENT

With World War I, the modern veterans movement got going in earnest. Much like the experience in Indochina some 50 years later, the seeds of the new militancy and commitment to struggle that characterized the returning veterans were well-rooted in the trenches of European battlefields. The suffering and disillusionment the US troops experienced in Europe, well before they were demobilized, was immense. And mindful of the lessons of previous wars, with the recurring struggles of new vets for a better deal from government, the business interests that ran the US were scared stiff. There were well aware of the need for trying to de-fuse this situation before it exploded.

All over the world people were thinking of revolution. In 1917, the successful Bolshevik Revolution in Russia had scared hell out of the ruling class of Europe and the USA. President Wilson actually sent US troops, the 27th and 31st Infantry, to Siberia and Archangel in hopes of defeating the Bolsheviks. While they were supposedly there to protect "supply lines," these troops directly supported the counter-revolutionary efforts of the White Russians to regain control of the country. Suffering heavy casualties and the effects of the cold and snow, discontent among the troops was everywhere. Protest demonstrations and open displays of support for the working people of Russia finally convinced Wilson that he'd better get the troops out before they all turned into Bolsheviks themselves.

And at home in the US, there was a widespread mass movement against US participation in the war, the likes of which has not been seen until the war in Vietnam. Groups like the Anti-Imperialist League protested US involvement in the war until new sedition laws made it a crime to advocate peace. Some 500,000 men claimed CO status, draft dodging was rampant and troops went "over the hill" by the thousands. The war was simply not popular with the American people. It was being fought for the big business interests in the US and the people knew it.

All in all, nearly 4 million men were mobilized for the war; 116,516 were killed and over 300,000 wounded. But when most of them returned, looking for jobs and their rights as US citizens, they found instead deathtrap factories, low wages, unemployment, and repression: it was anything but a good deal that America's "doughboys" encountered once back home. And with the approaching economic crash things were getting worse all the time. But the bosses, long aware of the economic problems that follow a war--and the accompanying rise in the militance of veterans--were determined to keep things

as they were.

For the more than 367,000 Black troops returning from WWI, things were even worse. In addition to the mounting economic problems, they came back to a revived Ku Klux Klan and what was to be the worst series of race riots in US history. In the so-called "Red Summer of 1919, riots provoked by groups like the KKK, and actively encouraged by reactionary politicians everywhere, left hundreds of Blacks murdered, lynched and burned alive. In the first months following the war at least 24 Black GIs were murdered: 14 lynched or burned alive while still in uniform. Riots in Chicago left 38 people dead with similar incidents occurring in Charleston, Knoxville, and Washington, DC. Spokesmen for the Klan and local governments said that the "trouble" had been caused by the French, who had "spoiled" the Black troops, and by the Russian Bolsheviks, who had given them "communist ideas." But everywhere, Black veterans were fighting back. Joel E. Spingarn, an army major and former NAACP chairman, described black anger: "Every colored soldier that I have talked with in France, Germany or America has a grievance. If there should be a development of Bolshevism in this country it is plainly evident where these soldiers would take their stand."

In response to these conditions, the veterans movement grew by leaps and bounds. The response to the movement was to try to destroy it. The official History of the American Legion noted the situation: "morale was shot to pieces. You heard that every day... something had to be done... measures be devised to give outlet... when the men should reach home and be demobilized. If not, almost anything might happen... every 'Bolshevik' movement to date had had its inception among disaffected troops or soldiers newly discharged."

Carefully planning for the future, one such method "devised to give outlet" to vets rising frustrations and anger was the creation of the American Legion itself.

The American Legion was founded on orders from the headquarters of US forces in Europe at a secret meeting of 20 high-ranking officers (including the son of Teddy Roosevelt) on February 15th, 1919, in Paris. Like many other veterans groups begun in this period (the VFW and the DAV), the American Legion has, since its creation, been dedicated, not to the service of vets, but to the service of the corporate business interests that really run this country. The last thing the founders of the Legion had in mind was to fight for the post-war needs of WWI vets. It was a setup job from the start; designed to act as a buffer between the demands of angry rank and file vets on the government for pensions, disability compensation, etc.

In addition to wanting to kill the development of a real fighting veterans movement, the Legion was also trying to utilize vets at home after the war as an ultra-reactionary force. It wasn't by chance that the Legion mobilized its forces as strike breakers on many occasions during the 20's and 30's, whipped up hysteria demanding the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, or that Legionnaires castrated and lynched an IWW organizer in Washington state in 1919. From the beginning, the Legion and groups like it have consistently opposed any form of a mass veterans movement that actually tried to fight for vets demands. Rather their goals were to try and pervert vets organizations into advocates of blind militarism, vicious red-baiting, and the most reactionary form of "red-white-and-blue Americanism." But despite all their foresight and planning, their attempts failed. The havoc caused by WWI and the unprecedented economic crisis that grew out of its ashes gave rise to the strongest and most militant vets movement ever seen in US history. With the crash of 1929, there was no stopping it.

(Next: The Bonus March of 1932)



World War I veterans arriving in Washington, DC, in 1932 to demand their bonus. Sympathetic train crews helped them along the way with free rides.

FIGHTING MILITARY

The history of struggle within the US military is a long and courageous story which dates back to the colonial days of our country. As far back as 1756, a group of American militiamen serving under the British in Canada deserted from Fort Ontario because of intolerable conditions and lack of pay. Since then, there has been continued resistance to oppression within the military to everything from racism to poor conditions, to being used to support US imperialism and foreign dictators. This struggle of GIs, however, remains a little-told story within American society, just as with the story of the veterans movement, because the people who run our country want each act of resistance to appear as an isolated incident by a group of "misfits." It is important to look at the struggle of GIs not as "isolated incidents," but rather as a part of the overall struggle against oppression in our society.

That struggle was reflected in the military even before the founding of our country, but it became even more intense when the US achieved independence from Britain. The wealthy landowners, bankers and businesspeople saw that they were now faced with having to protect their wealth, and they needed a federal standing army to do it. The majority of the people, however, were in favor of keeping the local militias as their defense. They were also in favor of maintaining the principles of the local militias which allowed for election of officers, and required consent to be called up to active duty for more than three months or for service outside their colony. US Presidents from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln tried everything in their power to do away with these ideas and form a federal standing army. By the end of the Civil War, the wealthy people had succeeded in wresting control of the military from the farmers and other working people, and they formed a federal army.

By 1877, the strategy of controlling the military proved to be an important asset for the wealthy people, since it was then that they were faced with their first major

strike - the national railroad workers strike. Local militias proved to be ineffective in breaking this strike, and General Sheridan was recalled from the frontier to fight the strikers. It was during this struggle that it became crystal clear that local militias could not be trusted to kill their neighbors and that a professional army, isolated from the people and disciplined into submission, was a much more effective tool.

The group of people who control the country also had other plans for their standing army. It would also be used to steal the land of the Indians and Mexicans. And as American businesses at the turn of the century began forming monopolies in an effort to accumulate more profit, they also began looking beyond the borders of the US in search of new sources of wealth. It was during this period that US imperialism took form and began using GIs as one of its tools to develop and maintain its resources all over the world. The conquest of the Philippines was the first important example of US imperialism in action in a foreign country.

The interests of the rich have always been in opposition to the interests of the rank and file GIs, whether it means killing peasants in Vietnam or miners in Colorado and consequently there is little interest in seeing that GIs have good living quarters, safe working conditions, democratic rights or unity between Third World GIs and white GIs. All of these problems permeate our society and are just as much a problem for all working people. At the same time that we struggle against this common oppression, however, it is important to understand that while GIs come predominantly from a working class background, the role they are forced to play in the military is in direct opposition to the rest of the working people in America. As pointed out earlier, the federal military was developed for the purpose of serving the wealthy group of people who run our country, and therefore the military must be looked at as a tool of those people.

The war in Indochina brought a new wave of militant resistance within the military which reflected the anti-imperialist consciousness which was rapidly developing within American society as a whole. As thousands of GIs in Indochina were refusing to go into the field, avoiding contact with the liberation forces, deserting, or fragging their officers, there were also important struggles developing on Navy ships on the west coast that were preparing to go to Southeast Asia. There were also many cases of resistance at other bases in the US. Many soldiers signed petitions and marched against the war everywhere from Ft Hood, Texas, to Jacksonville, North Carolina. There were also many cases of rebellions in the stockades such as the one at Ft Dix, New Jersey, and the Presidio in San Francisco.

Directly on the heels of this new level of resistance has also come a changing world situation, both within the military as well as for US business interests all over the world. Today US imperialism faces a crisis--a crisis that is occurring all over the world--and a crisis that is being increasingly pushed onto the backs of the American working people through inflation and runaway shops. And with the "Vietnam draft" no longer being used to force people into the military, more and more of the armed forces are being filled by the "economic" draft--that is, people looking for a steady income. That of course means the percentage of the military coming from low-income families, especially Third World people and women, continues to increase.

Once in the military, GIs are forced to play a role that is directly in opposition to their families and friends in civilian society, as well as their own interests. Many people in the military have been forced to act as strikebreakers and riot cops; others are forced to defend dictators in other parts of the world.

As a job, the military is, of course, quite different from a civilian job. GIs are not permitted to strike or quit, and to see



Andrea Sternberg after receiving Navy discharge



GIs refuse mission at Firebase Pace, Vietnam 1971



Black GIs after walking off

MILITARY OPPRESSION

that they don't quit or strike, the system of bad discharges was designed to control them. (Since the beginning of the war in Vietnam, the military has given out over 580,000 bad discharges to GIs who were fed up with conditions in the military.) The military also has a separate judicial system set up to keep GIs in line, called Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The only thing that is uniform about the code, however, is its consistent lack of basic democratic rights. One of the commonly used parts of the UCMJ is Article 15, which allows commanders to fine, imprison and reduce in rank any GI who so much as looks cross-eyed at them. The only recourse that a GI has is a court-martial, which could land him or her with an even heavier sentence, including a bad discharge. For Third World GIs and others who fight against repression and racism in the military, Article 15s and bad discharges are so common that they could actually be called a ritual!

GIs are not taking this harassment lying down, though. As the military re-adjusts to the "winding down" of the war in Indochina, and more and more women, Third World and other working people continue to join the military simply out of economic necessity, the level of resistance among GIs is also re-adjusting. More and more women in the military are beginning to fight back, such as Andrea Sternberg (formerly in the Navy), Mary Lou Follett (formerly a Lieutenant in the Army) and Specialist 4th Class Daria Smith (a Black woman in the Army stationed in Germany); more and more Third World GIs are continuing to fight back against racism as evidenced by the walkoff from the aircraft carrier USS MIDWAY in June of this year, and the struggle of Black GIs in the Navy in Norfolk, Virginia; more and more GIs are fighting petty regulations, such as the GIs stationed in Germany fighting hair regulations; more and more GIs are directing their resistance squarely against US military involvement in Third World countries, as shown by the struggle of the five Marines in Iwakuni, Japan, trying to expose the

role of the US in supporting a dictator in South Korea; and more and more GIs are beginning to fight back behind the military prison walls, as shown by the continuing struggle of GIs such as Mosi Chiwanda Imarogbe (Gregory Jackson) inside the US Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

As the crisis of US imperialism continue to deepen, so too does the level of repression and ultimately, the level of struggle directed against it. It is becoming increasingly important in the GI movement, just as with the struggle of workers, to recognize the need for conscious, anti-imperialist leadership and organized resistance. Without developing organized resistance the spontaneous actions of GIs will remain only sparks--sparks that will never turn into a fire. As these spontaneous actions continue to grow in the military, GIs are also learning that their strength lies in themselves, and not in counselors or chaplains. Only through their own organized, fighting strength will GIs be able to change the conditions they face.

The struggles of GIs around working and living conditions, democratic rights, racial oppression and the oppression of women can only be seen as part of the overall struggle against imperialism. These struggles are no less anti-imperialist than the struggle to end the war in Indochina. In fighting oppression in the military, just like any other type of struggle, it is important to avoid making an artificial division between "anti-imperialist" work and "day-to-day" work. Every act of resistance, every type of oppression should be turned into a fight that enables us to see who the real enemy is.

In developing an anti-imperialist movement in the military, GIs also face several barriers in trying to unite. The most important barrier is racism--a barrier that the brass constantly uses to keep GIs separated from each other just as managers use racism to keep workers divided from each other. The only solution to this problem is

through an understanding that the common enemy of both Third World and white GIs has no color at all. US imperialism is the system that we are all struggling against, and it is this common form of oppression that we all share that should be the basis for unity.

Another important barrier to unity, both in the military and in civilian society, is male chauvinism. The military constantly plays on the idea that men are superior to women and that women in the military are there merely to look attractive and pleasant for the men. This attitude among men will have to be constantly combatted in a manner that serves to unite men and women rather than dividing them.

At the same time as the GI movement continues to grow, it is of critical importance to link up the struggles of GIs with the struggles taking place throughout our society, especially those of workers, Third World people, and women. The development of this unity with other struggles in this country and with progressive struggles in other countries is the key to final victory over the system of imperialism. It is only through such unity around our common form of oppression that we will gain the necessary strength to defeat our common enemy: US imperialism.



UNITY-STRUGGLE-VICTORY



USS MIDWAY, Japan 1974

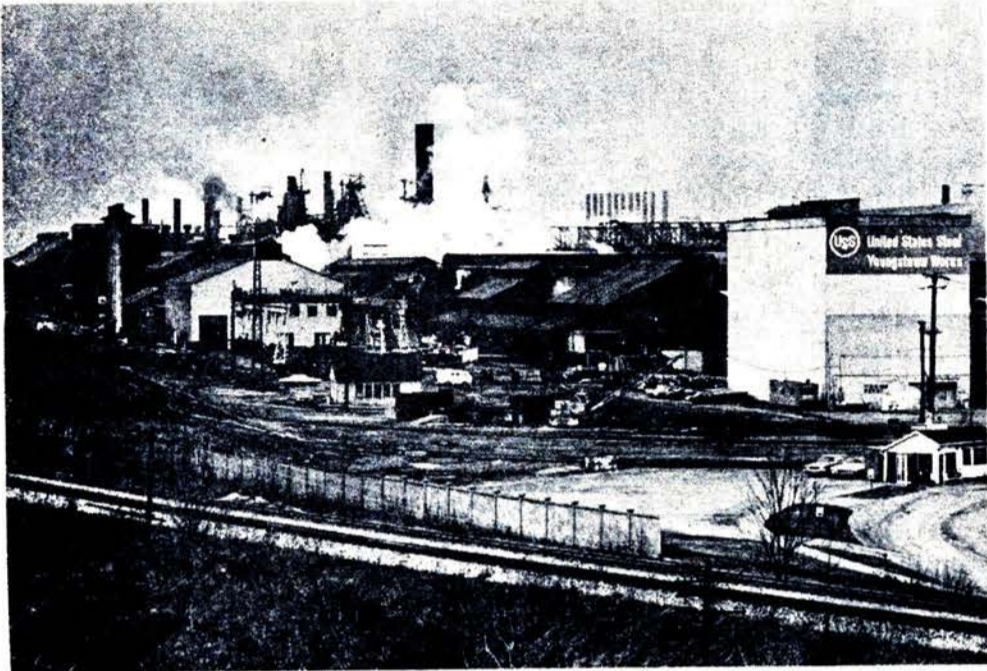


Black GIs support Billy D. Smith at Ft Ord, 1972



US GIs demanding to be sent home after WWII

ENA ATTACKS WORKERS



United States Steel Plant - Youngstown, Ohio

In March, 1973, the "Experimental Negotiating Agreement" (ENA) was signed by United Steel Workers of America (USWA) president, I. W. Abel and R. Heath Larry (executive of U. S. Steel and chief negotiator for the steel companies). This "agreement" is a direct attack on steel workers. It prohibits industry-wide strikes; but beyond this, the ENA also seriously jeopardizes the living and working standards of all working people in the U. S.

The ENA is indeed an experiment. It is not clear why the USWA was singled out for this test, but it may be because the union is less democratic than many other unions. For example, after Abel signed away the workers' right to strike, the ENA was then ratified by a meeting of 300 USWA union officials. The rank and file workers in the USWA were not consulted, just as they are not allowed to vote on union contracts. The ENA is in the process of being tested, and the profit-minded corporations will be watching the steel industry with great interest. Corporations, as well as the leadership of other unions, have hailed the ENA as a "landmark agreement," and you can bet that if the ENA is not met with firm resistance, the right to strike will be ripped away from workers in other industries.

The ENA means that steel workers are prohibited from striking over their national contract until 1980. Local strikes around local issues are allowed but they must first be approved by Abel. In return for the loss of the right to strike, steel workers are to receive a \$150 bonus for 1974 (which was immediately labeled by many workers as a "bribe"), the promise of a 3% wage in-

crease (which won't come close to keeping up with the current rate of inflation) and the continuation of the 1971 cost-of-living agreement. This "cost-of-living" agreement may sound like a good deal, but looking at it more closely, we see that this increase equals 1¢ an hour increase for every .4 increase in the cost-of-living index. This 1¢ an hour increase doesn't even begin to come close to keeping up with the actual cost of living.

The rationale that Abel claimed was his reason for selling-out the unions' right to strike is that strikes are harmful to the workers. He claims that when a company like U. S. Steel knows that contract time is coming up, they import and stock-pile foreign steel in the event of a strike. If there is not a strike, the workers are laid off until the stock-pile is used up. In fact, when contracts approach, the companies step up production by making more workers work harder and longer hours. This is the real way that stock-piles are created. Abel and the companies are using this "Buy American" campaign as a tool to place the blame of work lay-offs on other steel-producing countries, rather than where it belongs -- on the general crisis of the U. S. economy and the hunger for profits by the corporations.

To push this "Buy American" campaign, Abel stated that the main thing steel workers should do is unite with management to "increase productivity." A "productivity" clause was introduced into the workers' contract, and since that time, steel workers have lost 40,000 jobs and there has been a 25% jump in their injury rate. With the introduction of the ENA, workers have

been unable to effectively fight this increased "productivity" which has undermined their working and living conditions.

The battle against the ENA is crucial as a defense of the interests of all working people in this country. Rank and file steel workers, uniting with workers of other industries, are fighting back and saying, "The right to strike is not for sale!" Shortly after the ENA was ratified, many locals throughout the country passed resolutions condemning the fact that their right to strike had been sold by the union leadership and the steel companies. Since then, steel workers around the country have set up committees to organize against this no-strike deal. Petition campaigns against the ENA have been conducted in steel mills; demonstrations to demand an end to the ENA have been aimed at Abel and at meetings of USWA bureaucrats; walk-out strikes have been carried out. All of this shows that steel workers are not going to take the ENA lying down, but they are building a movement for fighting back against these attacks on their basic rights.

The fight against the ENA does not only belong to steel workers because the ENA is an attack on the rights of all working people. The right to strike has long been paid for in the blood of hundreds of workers who have been killed, and the thousands more who have been wounded and jailed in mass struggles for better working and living conditions. The strike is one of the few weapons that working people have to defend their standard of living, and this right will not be taken away by the signing of a simple piece of paper. It will be necessary for workers in all industries to join with the steel workers to see that the ENA is smashed -- both for steel workers and before similar "agreements" are made in other areas of industry. It is clear that Abel and his buddies will not get rid of the ENA on their own because they are the ones who tried to shove it down the workers' throats in the first place. It will take the united, militant action of rank and file workers themselves to force an end to this no-strike deal.



Demonstrating against ENA - Chicago

INFLATION



Unless you're rich, you can't ignore it. You can't hide from it. In some way, it effects everyone in the country and is rampant throughout the "free world." It's name is INFLATION and it has people scared stiff. Simply, it means that your dollar buys less, and right now, in the U.S., the rate of inflation is 12% per year.

The economists who work out the economic theories which the U.S. government uses, expect a little inflation. They say that a healthy, expanding economy with many buyers waiting to purchase goods and services should have a little inflation. But there's a joker in the situation today -- the economy isn't growing. The total amount of goods and services, the Gross National Product, is falling, not rising. And when this happens, we have recession; when it keeps on happening, we have a depression. Recession and inflation, according to these theories, can't happen at the same time.

However, the economists ought to talk to the GM worker who has recently been laid off, and who is trying to get by on his unemployment checks. He sees that there is a recession -- GM cut back and laid him off, he can't find other jobs because no one is hiring; and he knows there is inflation -- his check just doesn't buy as much food for his family as it would have bought a year ago. And he is just one of hundreds of thousands of American workers facing the same situation. If he tries to get a bank loan to get him through, he finds

interest rates so high that even if the bank would loan him the money (which it won't because he's unemployed) he couldn't afford to pay it back.

What has happened to all the theories which have worked in the past? Big business always operates on one basic principle: maximize profits. For years, the government has assisted in this project by pumping money into the system (the government has a number of methods of adding money to the economy, the easiest of which is simply to crank up the government printing presses). That worked fine -- so long as inflation was kept at a low level, and so long as corporations could turn to the developing countries for cheap labor, cheap raw materials, and markets for finished products. But two things happened: first, was the War in Vietnam. The U.S. government couldn't increase taxes to pay for the war -- the American people were already opposed to the war, and increased war taxes would have been the final straw -- so it had to increase the amount of money it pumped into the system. Secondly, people around the world have been winning in their fight against the exploitation of U.S. business, making it much more difficult to continue to rip off the people and material overseas.

Now, the government is in a bind. It has two choices: it can continue to pump in funds. This will increase inflation, make the value of the dollar fall still further. The American people have already begun to show that they will stand for only a little more of this kind of bloated economy. Or, the government can let the recession (which has already got a good start) keep going; it can let unemployment continue to grow, it can ask the American people to sacrifice. The danger to the government is that a recession won't stop -- a full scale depression will develop, and the people will not stand for that solution, either.

Both inflation and recession hurt the same people -- people whose incomes cannot keep pace with rising prices; and people -- particularly third world people -- who will be the first to lose their jobs if the recession continues to creep along. Always keeping the highest possible profits in mind, the owners of the corporations try to put the burden on the worker -- speed-ups, no strike agreements, threats of run-

away shops. Inflation or recession makes no real difference to the corporate executive -- he doesn't have to worry about losing his job or finding enough money to buy gas to get to work. So long as the profits keep coming in, he is satisfied -- and if there is a 10% unemployment rate, or a 15% inflation rate, he won't be bothered. That is, until the people unite and say "Stop, we won't go on this way."

How does all this theory-gone-mad affect the worker laid-off by GM? When he tried to buy food for his family he pays 50¢ a loaf for bread which cost him 35¢ a year ago. What happened? The reason, as usual, is corporate profit. In 1971, Nixon devalued the dollar. Foreign companies, also looking for profit, were cutting into the U.S. markets with their products. Because the U.S. needed those sales overseas, the value of the dollar was dropped; this made U.S. products relatively cheaper overseas, and thus made for greater profits here at home. But there was another factor: since the dollar was worth less, that also meant that U.S. wheat was cheaper. So foreign countries began to buy. This, added to the huge wheat deal with the Soviet Union, meant that the supply of wheat was less at home. And, since agriculture has become agri-business, often owned by the large corporations, and since they too wanted to maximize profits, the price of wheat began to climb, and a loaf of bread got more expensive.

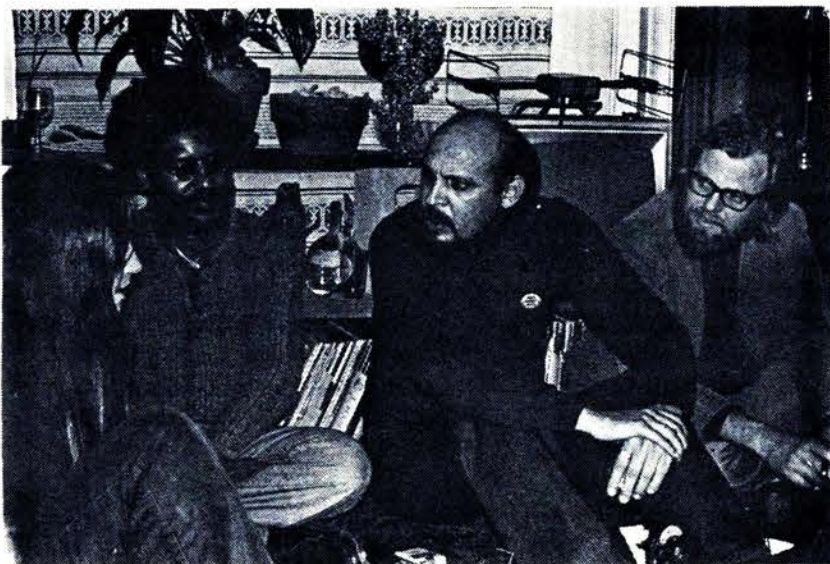
For as long as it is possible, the corporate powers will continue to shift the burden of economic hardship onto the workers and to the poor who can least afford it. The present system is perfectly designed to help the "haves" get more, and to see that the "have-nots" get less. But that economic system is under attack from all directions -- from the workers who strike for wages which can keep up with the rising cost of living, from workers who refuse to go along with no-strike agreements, from unemployed workers who organize for better benefits, and from people around the world who refuse to be exploited any further. Whichever way the government turns to try to find a way out of its crisis, it will meet people fighting back, refusing to continue to let the corporations of this country exploit them for increased profit.



"Before we demand that Congress protect our industry against cheap foreign imports manufactured at slave-labor wages, I'd like to remind you, sir, that we own 67% of those foreign factories!"

GARDNER CHARGES DROPPED!

LAWTON STILL FACES TRIAL



Gary Lawton and friends

Recent developments in Riverside, California have given the trial of Gary Lawton and Zurebu Gardner a completely new character. Murder charges against Zurebu Gardner -- he and Gary were charged with the April, 1971, ambush killing of two Riverside policemen -- were dropped on Oct. 3rd by the trial judge. The reason given by Judge Estudillo was "lack of sufficient evidence." The third trial of Gary Lawton, the last remaining defendant in this frame-up, is tentatively scheduled to begin on October 22nd in Riverside.

After 3-1/2 years, two lengthy trials, over a year in prison, and constant harassment from police and Riverside authorities, Zurebu Gardner is released from these charges. The dropping of these charges is a real victory for the defense. It is no small matter that the publicity surrounding the case of these two brothers has made it difficult for the prosecution to continue to get by with their phoney excuse for evidence.

The most significant aspect of the charges being dropped is that it clearly proves what the defense has maintained throughout this 3-year ordeal -- that Lawton and Gardner are not guilty of the trumped-up charges brought against them. The blatantly racist aims of the prosecution and Riverside authorities are now crystal clear. They are out to convict and stop the work of Gary Lawton, a black man who is highly respected in Riverside as a community leader. Lawton, a VVAW/WSO member, has been an all-too-effective spokesperson against the racism and repression coming down on the Riverside community, and the Riverside "powers that be" are threatened by Lawton's organizing. The District Attorney's office has consistently presented false evidence and highly conflicting testimony throughout the

two previous trials in an attempt to get a conviction on Gary. Thus far, their efforts have proved futile and the first two trials of this brother have ended with hung juries -- with the majority of jurors voting for acquittal.

Now Lawton will stand this third trial alone to face charges of a murder which eyewitnesses state was committed by four people. To make this multiple killing of Riverside policemen more credible to the court, the District Attorney dragged two other defendants into the case along with Gary -- Nehemiah Jackson (whose charges were dropped after the first trial) and Zurebu Gardner. Now the prosecution has given up all semblance of credibility with this latest dropping of charges, and we may now assume that since Lawton is the only defendant, the Riverside authorities will be going after him with full force and all the trumped-up evidence they can muster.

Further problems between the Judge and prosecution have surfaced to frustrate government strategy in this third trial. The battle apparently ensued following Judge Estudillo's dismissal of the charges against Gardner, at which time, the District Attorney's office charged that the Judge couldn't conduct a fair trial on the basis that he had made up his mind about some of the witnesses the state was planning to call. At this point, the DA's office asked the Judge to remove himself from the case. Estudillo responded by saying that another judge will have to hold a hearing to decide if he should be removed. Because of this hearing, the trial was again postponed until Oct. 22nd. Based on information received from the Riverside Political Prisoners Defense Committee (RPPDC), the Judicial Council of Riverside County is backing Judge Estudillo's refusal to remove himself from the trial. These judges are not

about to let the prosecutor throw the case off onto them.

In spite of the charges of murder being dropped against Gardner, he and two other members of the RPPDC, Chukia Lawton and Rusty Bronaugh, are facing charges stemming from a Riverside police attack which occurred last March. At the time of this attack, defense committee members were at the courthouse to show support for another defense worker, William Palmer, who was on trial for an alleged assault on a policeman with a "rusty hubcap." Palmer was convicted and is now serving a ten year sentence in California's Chino prison.

Though Gardner and Chukia Lawton were seriously injured at this courthouse attack, Gardner was charged with felonious assault on a police officer and he is expected to go to trial at the end of November. Chukia was charged with a misdemeanor assault and resisting arrest, and Rusty Bronaugh was charged with interfering with a police officer in the performance of his duties. Their trial is scheduled to begin, for the second time, on November 4th. The first trial of Chukia and Rusty ended in a hung jury and they are to be retried -- a familiar pattern in Riverside. The obvious attack on the RPPDC has very clear-cut goals -- first, to intimidate, isolate and destroy the credibility of the support of Gary Lawton, while simultaneously undermining the defense capabilities of Gary. These blatantly repressive tactics have been, and will continue to be, used when strong community leaders of oppressed Third World communities rise to confront the system of imperialism which oppresses us all.

It is important that people push even harder to see that the charges against Gary Lawton, as well as those brought against RPPDC members, are dropped. The defense committee is asking that people immediately telegram or write the following people, demanding that the charges against Gary Lawton be dismissed: Presiding Judge Richard Marsh, Riverside Superior Court, P.O. Box 1748, Indio, CA 92201; Byron Morton, District Attorney, 3535 10th St., Riverside, CA 92501; and Norton Younglove, Riverside Board of Supervisors, 4050 Main St., Riverside, CA 92501. It is important that immediate public pressure be put on Riverside authorities to end this outrageous frame-up. For more information on this case, contact: RPPDC, P.O. Box 244, Riverside CA 92502, or the VVAW/WSO National Office in Chicago.

On Sept. 24th, after 5 days of deliberation, an all-white jury in Wichita, Ks. returned a verdict of guilty in the trial of 4 black Leavenworth Brothers. Odell Bennett, Jessie Lee Evans, Alf Hill and Alfred Jasper were convicted of inciting to riot, and all but Bennett were found guilty of assaults on prison guards. The verdict came after 8 weeks of a trial which was characterized by the blatant racism of the judge and prosecution; and the repression of the courtroom scene in which Federal Marshalls felt it necessary to "restrain" the brothers time and time again through beatings, shackles and leg irons.

The charges against these brothers stem from the rebellion which occurred in Leavenworth Federal Prison on July 31, 1973, as prisoners lashed out at their oppression. Leavenworth inmates had peacefully attempted to better their living conditions and make changes in the prison's repressive policies, such as the lack of proper medical care, institutional racism, the slave wages given to those employed in the prison industries, etc. Their attempts failed, and following the death of a prisoner due to improper medical treatment, Leavenworth prison exploded. As a result of the rebellion, 7 brothers were indicted. Four of them have just been convicted, and two Chicano brothers -- Jesse Lopez and Armando Miramon -- will begin trial in late October on charges of kidnapping. The 7th brother, William (Whitey) Hurst, was found dead in Wyandotte County Jail in March, following warnings to friends that he was in fear for his life.

Throughout this first trial, the prosecution tried to establish that the 4 defendants knew about, planned, and once it started, encouraged the rebellion. The defense exposed conflicts and inconsistencies in prosecution testimony and other defense testimony placed the de-

First Trial Ends

LEAVENWORTH

fendants at other locations during the course of the rebellion. But despite the lack of concrete evidence against the brothers, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty following the prosecution's statement of, "Who would you be most likely to believe -- correctional officers or prisoners?"

A week after the verdict, the brothers were brought, one at a time, to hear their sentences; they appeared in shackles before the court. Evans was sentenced to 20 years each for 3 counts of assault with intent to kill and 10 years for inciting to riot; these sentences are to run concurrently. Bennett was given 10 years for inciting to riot. Hill was sentenced to 20 years for assault with intent to kill and 10 years for riot; sentences to run concurrently. Jasper received 10 years for riot and 5 years for assault with a dangerous weapon; sentence to run consecutively. Following the sentencing, the brothers were shipped out to various federal prisons, and a minor victory of the entire trial procedure is that none of them will have to return to Leavenworth.

The first of the Leavenworth trials is over, and the trial of Lopez and Miramon is soon to begin. Four of the brothers have been found guilty, but we must examine what, in fact, they were convicted for. There was not enough

concrete evidence to convict the brothers of assault or inciting to riot, but with the way the "justice" system works in this country -- with "justice" for the rich and powerful, with pardons for presidents who have committed heinous crimes against the people of this country and of the world, and with convictions for the poor and oppressed -- there was enough judicial sentiment to send them back to prison with longer sentences. In reality, these Leavenworth brothers have been found guilty of being black in a society permeated with racism; they are guilty of being prisoners in a society that refuses to recognize that prisoners are human beings and not animals; and they are guilty of fighting back against the repression coming down on their daily lives in a society which must wipe out all forms of resistance if it is to maintain its control over the American people. This is what these Leavenworth Brothers have been convicted of! And it is this conviction that we must protest!

Though one trial is over, Lopez and Miramon will need the support of the people of this country throughout their trial. Money is desperately needed for this second trial. For further information about the trials and for the needed contributions, contact: Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee, 106 E. Lincoln, Wichita, KS 67211.

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Trial End IWAKUNI FIVE

The trial of the Iwakuni Five, members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization, ended in September. The Five had been charged with distributing "unauthorized literature" that called for an end to US support of the South Korean dictator Pak Chung Hee. One of the Five was acquitted during a jury trial and charges against two others were dropped. However, stiff sentences were handed down to Frank Huff and Hugh Dalton. Huff will spend two months at hard labor and pay a \$400 fine. Dalton will be given a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Frank Huff talks about his reasons for handing out literature about the Korean situation:

"The primary reason for my interest in the Korean situation is obvious - wherever people are oppressed, it cannot help but appall anyone dedicated to freedom and democracy. But in my case, there is a further reason for taking direct action in support of the Korean people. I am in the position of being a world cop. In the Korean situation, I am Pak's enforcer, and I don't like what I'm enforcing.

"The US Military Industrial Complex know that Pak is a fascist dictator. They further know that the people will put up with Pak only so long and then they'll throw him out on his ear. But the capitalist class in America has financial interests in South Korea. It is also a strategic point to control the Asian economy. If there ever became

the 'danger' of the Korean people nationalizing industries and controlling their own destinies, we will be called in to suppress the people and their righteous movement. The same thing is happening all over the world.

"The only way to insure that the US military represents the interests of the people of America is for the common people of the military (me and other low ranking personnel) to understand the issues and decide for themselves what causes are just. If only the power elite in the military (high ranking officers) make all the decisions and



Korean poet Kim Chi Ha
sentenced to life in prison.

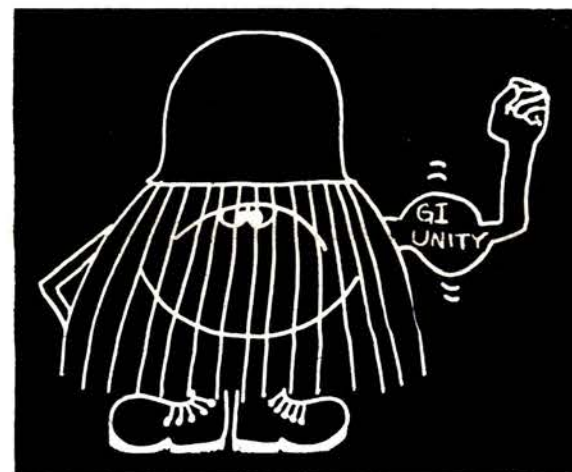
keep us in the dark, then we will be used only for the interest of the privileged class in America."

Format Change

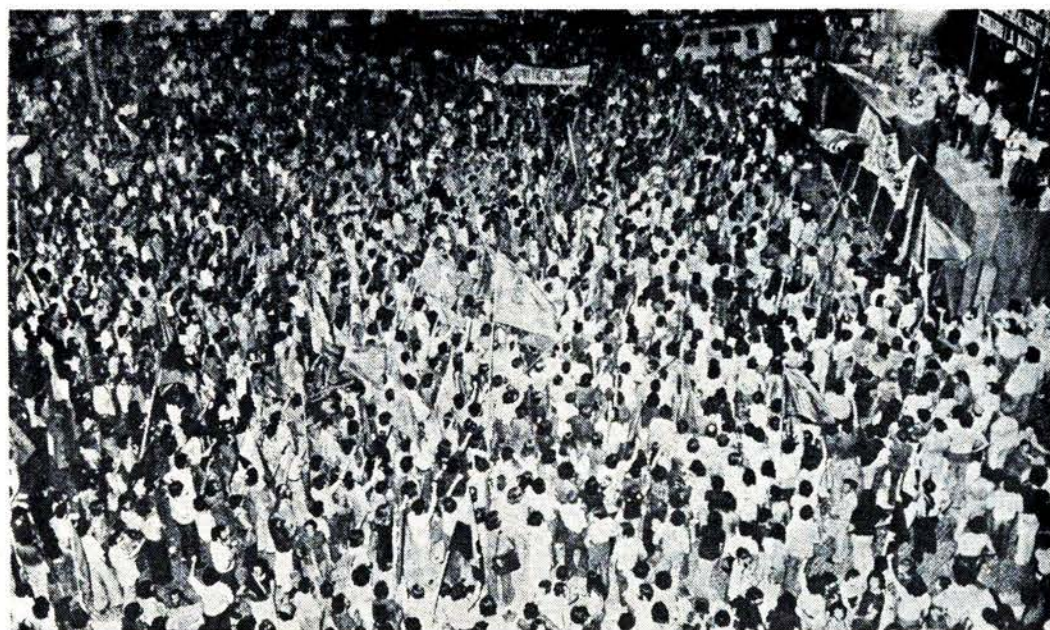
G.I. NEWS

Beginning with this issue, WINTER SOLDIER will only be carrying one page of news about the struggles in the military. At the same time, however, we have changed the format of our monthly newsletter GI NEWS. GI NEWS is now an 8-page newspaper which is printed two weeks after WINTER SOLDIER each month. We encourage readers of WINTER SOLDIER who are interested in the struggles taking place in the military to subscribe to GI NEWS (\$3.00 yearly). The next issue of GI NEWS will have coverage of the recent conference of GIs and GI organizers held in Chicago.

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Italian Soldiers Join Mass Demos



Rome - September 14th Rally

Several hundred thousand people demonstrated and marched in the streets of cities all over Italy during four days of activity, Sept. 11-14, to support the resistance movement in Chile and calling for Italy to drop out of NATO. September 14th was the highpoint when 80,000 people turned out in Rome and 50,000 in Milan to march from one end of the city to the other. Three hundred soldiers in uniform marched in Rome, despite the threat of reprisals from their officers. During the march the soldiers chanted slogans which said "Soldiers organized for the right to struggle, the workers will know who they can count on," and "Soldiers and workers united, there will never be a coup in Italy." The soldiers were received by great warm applause and by another slogan, "Soldiers and comrades, you are no longer isolated." In Rome as well as in Milan, two soldiers in uniform spoke on the podium. They were both members of the soldiers organization Proletariat In Uniform. (see the July GI NEWS for more on Proletariat In Uniform.) Also speaking in Rome were representatives of Chilean resistance organizations, including MAPU, Chilean Socialist Party, and MIR (Revolutionary Left Movement). The demonstrations were organized by Italian revolutionary organizations, including Lotta Continua, Avanguardia Operaia and the new Partito di Unità proletaria per il comunismo.



Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Winter Soldier Organization

Objectives



1. To struggle for an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, advisors, planes, and military and economic aid from Southeast Asia. We support as a basis for the cessation of these hostilities the various peace proposals of the people of Southeast Asia based upon their right of self-determination and actual control of their own destinies.

2. To struggle for the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the people of the world. This includes the creation and maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination and the theft of the natural resources of this and other countries.

3. To struggle for the goal that all military people (Active-duty, Reserve and National Guard) be afforded their constitutional rights which are denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We condemn the use of the National Guard, Reserves and Active-duty personnel as strikebreakers, and we support the efforts of servicepeople in the struggles against military repression. We oppose the use of the military as an oppressive and policy-making force domestically and overseas.

4. To struggle for universal unconditional amnesty. This will include a single-type retroactive discharge for all vets, and amnesty for all persons in prison, underground, or in exile as a result of their resistance to the imperialist war machine as well as the clearing of all their resulting civil and criminal records.

5. To struggle for decent benefits, full medical care (including the recognition of Post Vietnam Syndrome as a service-connected disability), and productive employment for all veterans with parity for all war resisters. We demand an end to discriminatory corporate hiring practices based on Vietnam-era service or Special Processing Numbers or descriptions, and the exploitation of veterans as a tool to divide the working class.

6. To struggle against racism which is historically used as a tool of U. S. imperialism to prevent and destroy unity among the people and justify the oppression and exploitation of third world people at home and abroad. We

must fight this dehumanizing tactic which divides us, and strive to build unity between all people.

7. Resolved to fight sexism, to show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into unfulfilling, lower paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization and within ourselves.

8. To struggle for the right of all workers to organize and strike to protect their income and safeguard their employment. We support progressive struggles aimed at improving working conditions.

9. To struggle against the use of the criminal justice system (police, courts, prisons, grand juries) as a tool of political repression, recognizing that this system now serves the interests of the rich and powerful while suppressing the majority of poor and working people. We will fight for the freeing of all political prisoners.

10. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW/WSO is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.

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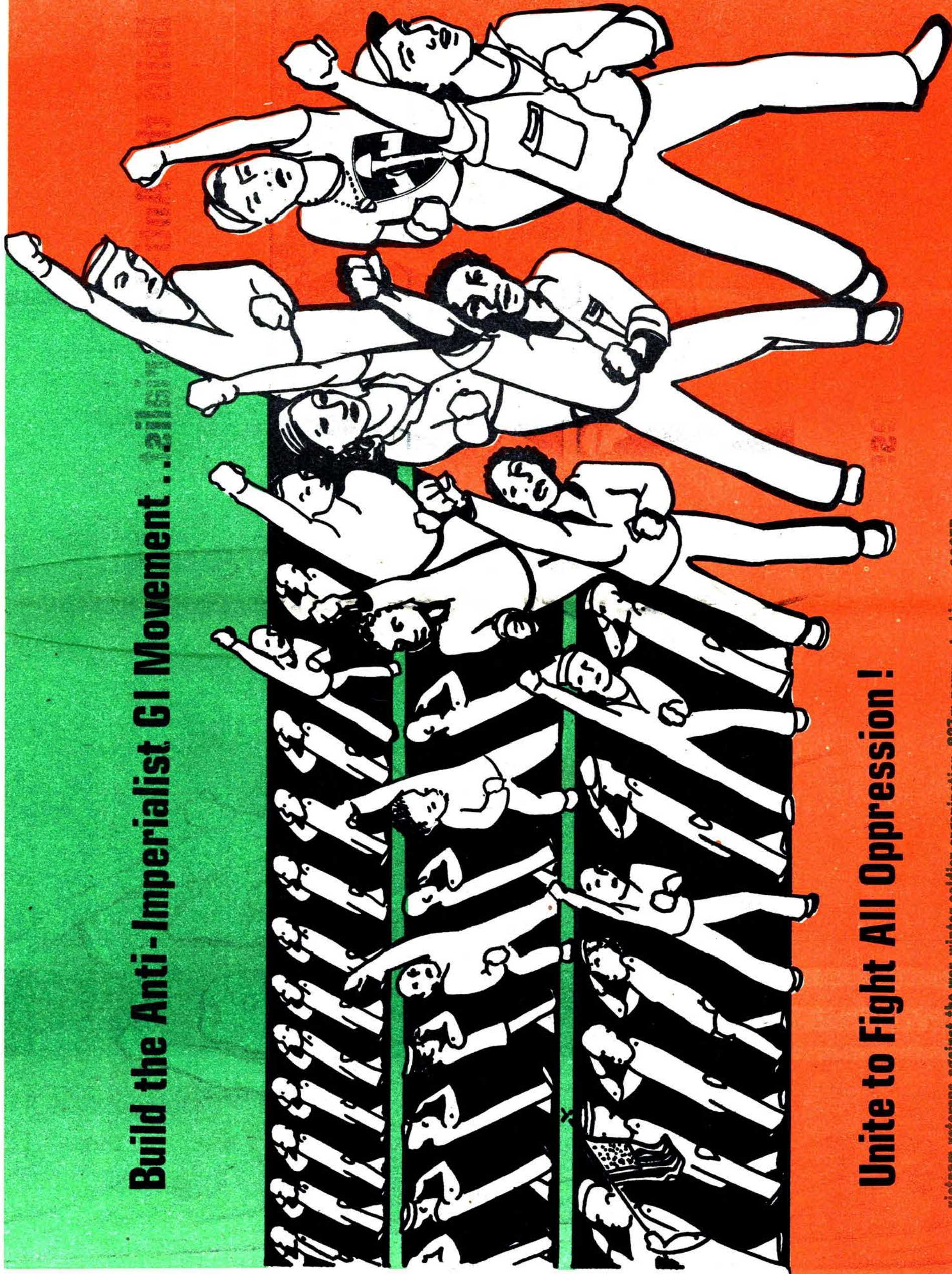
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