



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

No. 608

(Vol. 13, No. 6)

June 2, 1991

Editions in English and Spanish published weekly

\$1.00

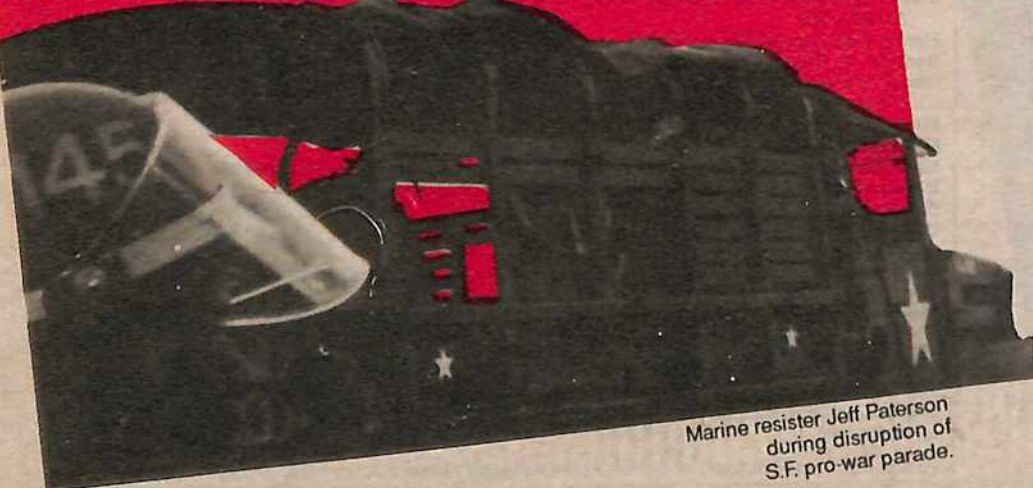
New Supreme Court Outrage vs. Women



See page 3

4

San Francisco: Crashing the War Party



Marine resister Jeff Paterson during disruption of S.F. pro-war parade.

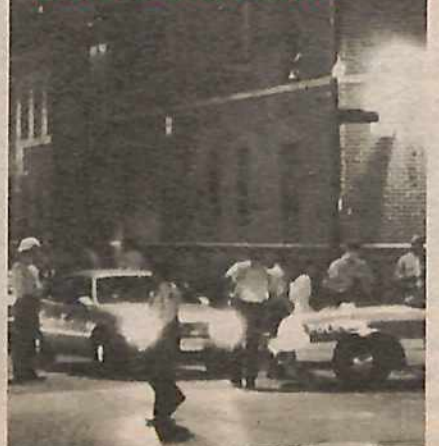
6

L.A.'s Channel Zero: The Christopher Commission



8

Part 2 Rebels of Mt. Pleasant



Statement from the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

This statement was released by the Information Bureau of the RIM:

To the People of Bangladesh

On behalf of the entire Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, we send our heart-felt sympathy to the masses of people in Bangladesh in this hour of untold human suffering.

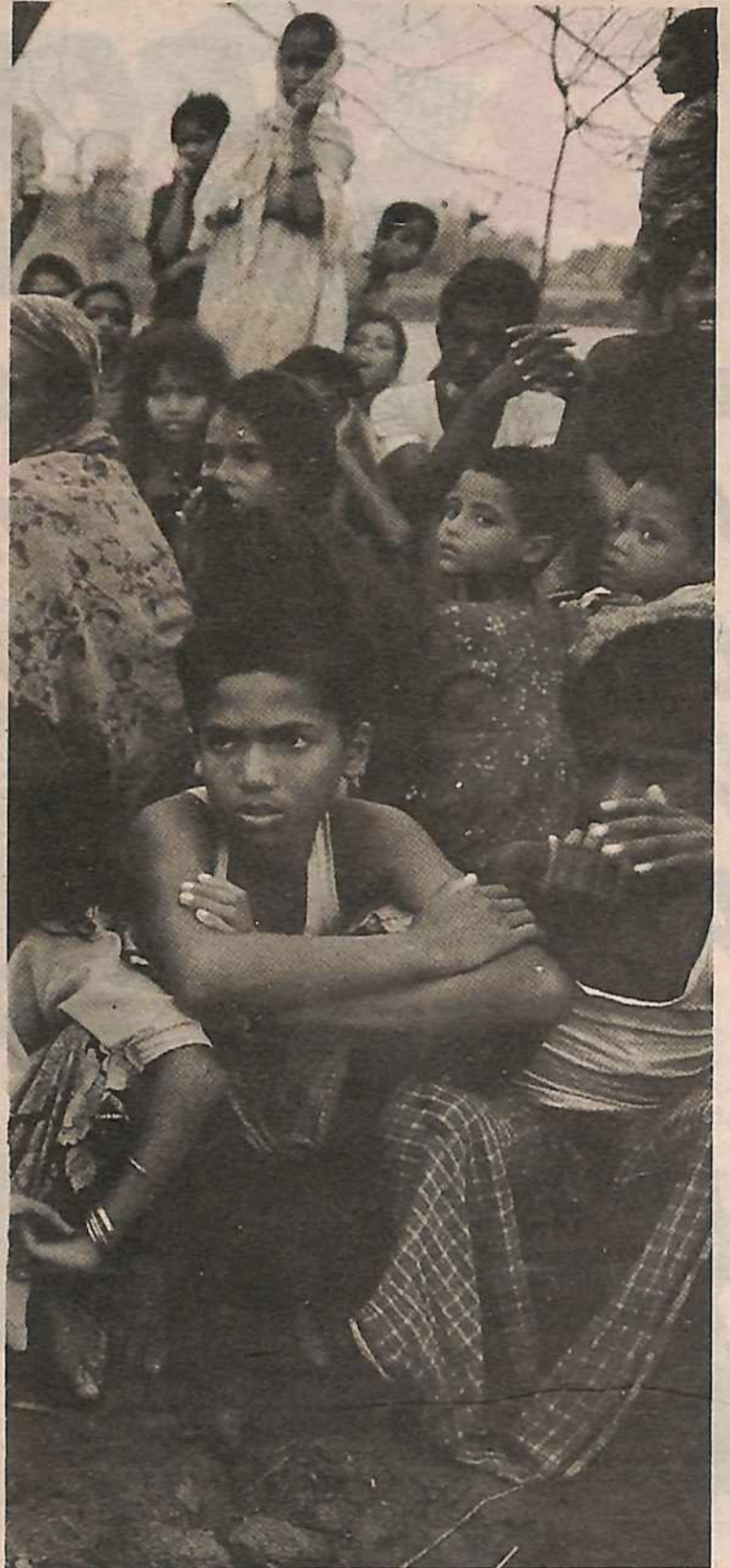
Cyclones are a massive natural force which mankind has not yet been able to harness. But the massive death toll and destruction from this cyclone is not mainly a result of the natural forces but from the fact that a reactionary social system is in place in Bangladesh and that the world is dominated by the ruling classes of a handful of imperialist states.

In the imperialist countries, also, natural disasters strike. But these countries have grown wealthy, largely through squeezing the life out of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the casualties in such disasters are usually low.

First these imperialist powers who were so quick to dispatch hundreds of thousands of soldiers, thousands of airplanes and helicopters and billions of dollars of weaponry to massacre the Iraqi people found their pockets empty in the face of the Bangladeshi disaster. Then the U.S. imperialists decided to divert thousands of troops from the Gulf, blood still dripping from their hands, to Bangladesh. This was done to reinforce their self-proclaimed "right" to intervene anywhere at will and to give a "human face" to their man-eating "new world order." This shows once again that imperialist "aid" is just one more weapon they use against the oppressed peoples, to turn on or off according to cold-blooded imperialist self-interest.

In order for the people to use their collective energy, wisdom and heroism to conquer the power of cyclones and floods, it is first necessary for the people to conquer political power. This was proven in practice when the workers and peasants held power in revolutionary China and, under the leadership of Mao Tsetung and relying on their own efforts, were able to combat natural disasters and tame rivers which earlier had periodically wreaked havoc on the country. The hundred million people of Bangladesh are its greatest treasure, an inexhaustible source of strength that, once unleashed, will vanquish the armies of reactionaries and the imperialists and even the terrible force of cyclones. The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement stands with you, not only in the painful days of today, but in the revolutionary struggle that will surely pave the way for the bright red Bangladesh of tomorrow.

Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.
13th May 1991.



People displaced by flooding in Bangladesh.

Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

Subscribe to the RW

- One year — \$40
- 3 months — \$12
- 1 year, U.S. institution — \$52

Indicate which language edition:

- English
- Spanish

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For office use only: Date rec'd _____ Amt rec'd _____ Expires _____

I want to distribute the *Revolutionary Worker*. Please send me information on bulk rates. I would like to receive _____ copies per week.

Write to: Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654
Send inquiries regarding international rates c/o RCP Publications, to the above address.

Contact the Revolutionary Worker Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654 In your area call or write:

- California:
 - Los Angeles: c/o Libros Revolución, 312 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014 213/488-1303
 - San Francisco: Watch the RW for new location.
 - Berkeley: c/o Revolution Books, 2425C Channing Way, Berkeley CA 94704 415/848-1196
 - District of Columbia: c/o Revolution Books, 1815 Adams Mill Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20009 202/265-1969
- Florida: Revolutionary Worker, P.O. Box 016065, Miami, FL 33101 305/529-7108
- Georgia: c/o Revolution Books Outlet, 483 Moreland Ave., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 404/577-4656
- Hawaii: c/o Revolution Books, 2567 South King St., Honolulu, HI 96828 808/944-3106
(Send mail to: P.O. Box 11228, Honolulu, HI 96828)
- Illinois: c/o Revolution Books Outlet, 3449 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657 312/528-5353
- Maryland: Revolutionary Worker, P.O. Box 1992, Baltimore, MD 21203
- Massachusetts: c/o Revolution Books, 38 JFK St., Cambridge, MA 02138 617/492-5443
- Michigan: c/o Revolution Books Outlet, 4712 Cass Ave., Detroit, MI 48201 313/832-4430
- New York & New Jersey: c/o Revolution Books, 13 East 16th St., NY, NY 10003 212/691-3345
- Ohio: c/o Revolution Books, 2804 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 216/932-2543
- Oregon: P.O. Box 3821, Portland, OR 97208
- Pennsylvania: Revolutionary Worker, P.O. Box 44024, Philadelphia, PA 19144 215/961-1595
- Texas: P.O. Box 230112, Houston, TX 77223 713/684-4701
- Washington State: c/o Revolution Books, 5519A University Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 206/527-8558

The *Revolutionary Worker* (ISSN 0193-3485) is published weekly except for the 4th week of December and the 4th week of July, by RCP Publications, 3449 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657. Second Class postage paid at Chicago, IL. Subscriptions and address changes should be sent to RCP Publications, POB 3486, Chicago, IL 60654. Subscriptions are \$40 a year, \$12 for 3 months in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico (\$52 for institutions).

Postmaster: send all changes of address to Revolutionary Worker, P.O. Box 3486, Chicago, IL 60654.

New Supreme Court Outrage vs. Women

On Thursday, May 23 the U.S. Supreme Court launched a major attack against women's right to abortion. The court upheld federal regulations that prohibit all employees of federally financed family planning clinics from having ANY discussion with their patients about abortion. This vicious move by the government will affect millions of women. It will lead to serious cutbacks at clinics throughout the country that provide low-cost health care. All clinics that receive federal funds for family planning are now being given 30 days to inform the government that they will comply with the new regulations. And if they do not comply their federal funds will be cut off. Clinics that do agree to the new regulations will have to put these anti-abortion rules into effect within the next 30 days.

The 5-4 ruling came down in the New York case, *Rust v. Sullivan*. Planned Parenthood and the City and State of New York had filed lawsuits arguing that these federal regulations violated the free speech rights of clinic employees as well as the constitutional rights of women to choose whether or not they wanted to get an abortion. The law already prohibits clinics from using federal funds for abortions. But these clinics have been allowed to give women counseling and information about abortion. Now these clinics will not even be allowed to mention the "A" word.

What will this mean? And who will be most affected?

In 1970, Congress voted to fund family planning clinics for low-income women through a program known as Title 10 of the Public Health Service Act. The purpose of this was to provide poor women with medical care, as well as information about family planning. Congress later passed legislation that made it illegal for these Title 10 funds to be used to provide abortions. But physicians in federally funded clinics were free to discuss abortion and to refer their patients to abortion providers. These clinics could even offer abortion services, as long as Title 10 funds were not used for this.

Today, Title 10 has an annual budget of around \$200 million a year. Some 4,500 clinics around the country receive these funds and provide services for nearly 4 million women a year. This is the single largest source of federal funds for family planning

in the United States. And the women who directly benefit from these funds are many poor women and women of color. One-third of the women who use these family planning services are teenagers. And the communities that Title 10 clinics serve suffer disproportionately high rates of infant mortality, teenage pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Title 10 funding prevents more than three million unwanted pregnancies each year. In many of these communities, the clinics receiving Title 10 funds are the *only* source of family planning services and information, or even of general health care.

The Supreme Court did not use the *Rust v. Sullivan* case to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision which gave women the right to abortion. But in fact, this ruling has in practical terms taken away the right to abortion for millions of poor women who cannot afford a private doctor but rely on federally funded clinics.

The court argued explicitly that these regulations were legal, even though they target poor women. The ruling stated: "The regulations do not violate a woman's Fifth Amendment right to choose whether to terminate her pregnancy... The fact that most Title 10 clients may be effectively precluded by indigency from seeing a health-care provider for abortion-related services does not affect the outcome here since the financial constraints on such a woman's ability to enjoy the full range of constitutionally protected freedom of choice are the product not of governmental restrictions,

but of her indigency." When this statement is broken down what it's saying to women is, "if you're poor, too bad—if you can't pay for it, you can't have the right to choose."

From the White House on down the official line of the government has been against women's right to abortion. All through the '80s and into the '90s there have been stepped-up and consistent political and legal efforts to chip away at the right to abortion. There have been official calls to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. A number of abortion cases have come before the Supreme Court in the last few years and each time the court has used these cases as an opportunity to create broad public opinion against abortion, build political support for the reactionary "Right to Life" movement and further lay the basis to completely outlaw abortion. In 1989 the Supreme Court's ruling in *Webster* upheld new restrictions on abortion. In 1990 the Court ruled in favor of highly restrictive parental consent laws around abortion. And now this 1991 ruling will affect even more women. And it will set even more dangerous precedents by making it illegal to even provide basic information about abortion that women need in order to decide how they want to deal with an unwanted pregnancy.

Furthermore this ruling will force many clinics to choose between going under and implementing the new regulations that they feel are wrong and against their commitment to provide women with good health care and the right to choose. A number of

clinics have already announced that they would rather stop getting federal funds than allow themselves to be gagged by this new regulation. But this may mean that these clinics will be forced to cut back on low-cost services they provide, including prenatal care. The new regulations also require Title 10-funded clinics to separate their Title 10 programs physically as well as financially from any program—funded with non-Title 10 sources—that provides abortion counseling, referral, or services. But many clinics will not be able to afford to establish separate facilities with separate staffs. And so they will be forced to either eliminate programs that offer abortion counseling or lose federal funding altogether.

Amerikkkan Precedents

The court's ruling in *Rust v. Sullivan* is clearly meant to pave the way for even more sweeping attacks on abortion.

First of all, the new federal regulations will do more than just deny women information about abortion as an option. They also instruct clinic employees to *discourage* women from choosing abortion. If a woman asks about abortion the regulations require that the clinic inform her that they "do not consider abortion an appropriate method of family planning." In other words the government is not only dictating that clinic employees cannot mention the "A" word—but they must also counsel *against*

Continued on page 14



Women Must Have the Right to Choose!
No Forced Reproduction! No Forced Sterilization!
Women Are NOT Incubators!
Fetuses Are NOT Children!
Abortion Is NOT Murder!

San Francisco: Crashing the War Party

"This is supposed to be a happy day, and we have people acting unpatriotic," Tom Dempsey, a retired police captain, complained to the *San Francisco Examiner*. "It's sad to think that in a city like San Francisco you have to hide a parade here on the extreme edge of San Francisco. You can't have it right up Market Street." "We're just thankful to have a parade," Dorothy Dempsey added.

"When you look at the condition of African Americans, and you see this parading through the streets like they had some kind of victory—I'm opposed to that. America don't have a conscience...we're here speaking out against this imperialism that's taking place," a young Black man told the RW.

SAN FRANCISCO. Suddenly four people vaulted the barricades and entered the parade carrying a banner: "Stop the U.S. War Machine." As police chased them, a cheer went up from the anti-war crowd. Jeff Paterson—the first Marine resister in the Gulf war—scaled the side of a two-ton army truck. Reaching the top of the truck he ripped off his sweatshirt—revealing a Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network T-shirt. For half a block as the truck rumbled down the street Jeff stood with both fists raised before police were able to climb up to tackle and arrest him. Protesters running along with the truck took up his chant, "Support GI Resisters!" The parade was halted. Flagwavers booed, anti-war protesters were jumping up and down. "Awesome!" said a student, "Jeff stopped the parade. That was awesome!"

San Francisco's big welcome home parade on Armed Forces Day, May 18, turned out to be a bad day for warmongers. Things did not come off at all as the authorities had hoped. Attendance was poor. Even official police estimates put the crowd at 15 to 20,000. The actual number was much lower, probably half that at most. The *Oakland Tribune* called the half-hearted turnout for the parade "dismal." Then, to make matters far worse, there were the protesters.

Newspaper headlines read: "Parade for Military Draws Cheers, Jeers" and "Troops March Home to Mixed Reception." 500-plus very angry demonstrators came to protest. They hung large signs and banners on the barricades at the sides of the parade—"We didn't support your war, we won't support your victory!" "Fuck your victory! Fuck your State!" "New World Order, same old Murder," "Amnesty for All GI Resisters." Red and black ribbons, streamers and black balloons contended with the red, white and blue. American flags were burned along the sides of the parade. Eggs and red paint splattered the parade route and the paraders, including a police commander. The parade was disrupted three separate times. Chants from the anti-victory crowd frequently drowned out the applause from those who came to watch the parade.

The fierce, broad opposition in the Bay Area during the Persian Gulf war had resulted in some very hard problems for the powers-that-be in San Francisco. The city had been declared a sanctuary for war resisters. Despite the mayor's lobbying for a downtown victory celebration to welcome home the troops, the SF supervisors blocked a city-sponsored parade. Instead the army and the Chamber of Commerce organized a short parade which began inside the safety of the Presidio military base and marched briefly down the wealthy Bay front residential street.

Still the powers aimed to use this parade to ram home their summation of the war—that even in San Francisco, the population was united in supporting the U.S. war in the Gulf. In the days before the parade, the government and press hyped the event, saying they were expecting 100,000 to 500,000 people to show up.

In the week before the "victory celebration" the people were also preparing. Thousands of the RCP's "War of

Shame" leaflets had gone out in high schools, colleges, housing projects, and in the Black and immigrant communities. Red and Black ribbons were distributed and worn in the days leading up to the event and two billboards near the parade route were changed to say "We Didn't Support Your War, We Won't Celebrate Your Victory!" Students, especially from UC Berkeley and SF State, mobilized their networks. Religious peace activists, anarchists, artists, radical lesbians, and organizations like the Pledge of Resistance and Queer Nation gathered their forces.

Among the people who had opposed the war, political debate was sharp: what difference did it make to oppose the victory parade with the war over? Didn't everyone go for the yellow ribbon hype? Would going out to oppose the parade accomplish anything or would people be hopelessly outnumbered, attacked and silenced?

The powers did their best to make the parade a success on their terms. California Governor Wilson, a three-star general, and other dignitaries presided over a program inside the Presidio military compound for a seated audience. The welcome home program inside the military base and the parade itself were filled with marching bands from schools and children riding on the floats. The event had a sentimental Nazi flair.

Neither Wilson nor any of the top military brass present for the ceremony dared to venture beyond the gates of the compound. But even inside the military grounds the parade met with opposition as a contingent of United Bay Area Veterans Against War, who had permission to march in the parade, whipped out a banner with an anti-war slogan—"Support the troops, Bring the troops home now. No Blood for Oil. Support GI resistance"—as they passed in front of the reviewing stand. Four of the vets were detained by MPs and not released until the parade was over. Meanwhile, right under the noses of the military brass, VVAW AI leaflets to the troops were distributed, and many found their way into the hands of active-duty soldiers forced to participate in the parade.

As soon as the first paraders emerged from the Presidio onto the parade route they were confronted on both sides by people condemning celebration of this war of shame. Many wore black and carried black balloons and black flags which could be

seen casting a shadow over pockets of red, white and blue. Larger-than-life images of Iraqi people stared down at the uniformed float riders who stared backed with frozen smiles. Black and red streamers were hurled from the sides and landed, draped across jeeps mounted with guns. Banners and signs denouncing the war and this celebration of mass murder lined the sides of the parade for a three-block stretch.

"I'm here because I oppose the celebration of slaughter," a San Francisco man told the *Examiner*. And a protester from Kensington told the *Contra Costa Times*, "You've got to say something. I do not support those troops. I support the ones who resisted."

A Black woman student told the RW: "I am here today because I feel it's very important that people come out and protest this 'victory.' We all know that it was definitely a slaughter. People need to be out here because we need to have a voice. You have the mainstream media putting out this propaganda that the people who support the war are gonna outnumber the war protesters, but you see that there are not a lot of war supporters out here. We all have a voice and we all can make a difference. Even though I have finals, hey, it was important for me to come out here to have my voice in with everybody else's."

A priest active in an organization called the Bay Area Religious Peace Action told the RW about that group's activities to oppose welcome home ceremonies in some churches by going to the services and leafletting the congregations. At the parade, the Bay Area religious peace activists held a silent presence of about 60 people. A participant in the silent vigil later told one of the revolutionaries who had taken part in the action to disrupt the parade—"Your actions spoke for us."

Protesters rattled the barricades. They booed and chanted—"Hey, Hey, USA, How many kids did you kill today?" Stunned paraders walked or rode past the angry youth who gave them the thumbs-down gesture and a sarcastic Nazi salute.

At one point "bloody" dummies flew out onto the path of the parade. Paraders marching under a huge U.S. flag stretched



Special to the RW



Special to the RW



out like a giant patriotic sheet over their heads were forced to trample and trip over the clothed figures symbolizing Iraqi dead. "200,000 dead in Iraq! What do we do, Act up! Fight back!" shouted gay activists.

As barricades were up-ended, blood-red paint splattered against the floats. The cops comically scrambled around, unable to stop or contain the disturbances.

There were many loud arguments and physical clashes between the flagwavers who saw their parade being ruined and those who came to protest it, and these confrontations intensified during the course of the tacky two-hour war spectacle.

Two young women riding their bikes in the area stopped to take in the scene. They had this to say about the protesters and about those who were celebrating:

"We're so glad this protest is happening.

We can't forget that 100,000 or so Iraqi people are killed. How can they be thinking it's a victory? All those people got killed? It makes me sick."

Nine people including Paterson were arrested during the parade, two RW sellers were grabbed in the military base after the parade, and when protesters went to the jail to demand people be set free, police swarmed an RCYBer (8 on 1) and snatched her into the station threatening that they would be back to arrest "more of you" after reviewing their videos.

Clearly the powers and the police were stung by the successful protest and their ruined celebration. They are now trying to exact vengeance by charging at least four of the people arrested with serious felonies including assault and multiple counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

Some of the protesters are summing up that the protest exceeded their expectations but that it could have gone even further than it did. One Latino student talked to the RW about his fears going into the event: "I guess we let ourselves get caught up in the whole thing that the media was trying to put out, that there was going to be 500,000 people there and that we were going to be a very small number there and get killed. Not by the cops but by other people. But it turned out that they were definitely wrong, and we had a strong number, where I think if we had set our minds to actually stop the parade we could have. We had the numbers and we had the people that were willing to do it, but since we went in with that fear, it just goes to show that a moral lesson that we should always be prepared to do the very most...."

One white student summed up some of his thinking about the day and what lies ahead:

"I think it would bespeak an awful ignorance of the American people to celebrate this war under the guise of supporting the troops when it is clearly an unjust war causing the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people.

"We're going to see a lot more opposition as the economic conditions in this country deteriorate. We'll see an increasing number of people protesting against the government, not just against a specific war or for any specific cause but against the government. A lot of people are coming to terms with that there has to be fundamental changes in our society, we can't take a single-issue, reformist approach anymore."

Up Against the Hollywood Hype

The night before the Hollywood Welcome Home Parade, Los Angeles newscasters glumly broadcast that the San Francisco parade had not only flopped but was flagrantly disrupted. TV anchors promised that the Hollywood parade was to be different. They hyped that MILLIONS were going to come out, and Vietnam vets, led by General Westmoreland, would "get the welcome home they never got." Some national press reported "a million people" came out for the parade and other local press reported "hundreds of thousands," but only the crowd near the reviewing stand was shown on TV. And veterans of major demonstrations put the crowd along the parade route at about 100,000.

Even up against the Hollywood hype, outbursts of protest against the war on Iraq broke through. Right at the beginning of the parade three demonstrators from the Catholic Worker organization blocked the start of the parade. One Catholic activist said, "We cannot let fear paralyze us. We have to do the right thing." Along the route of the march police maintained a high profile, intimidating and threatening anyone opposed to the celebration. At one point police grabbed a demonstrator just for wearing a kaffiyeh as a symbol of solidarity with the people of the Middle East. But the cops were surrounded by people chanting, "No War, No KKK, No Fascist USA," and they let the brother go.

On Sunset Boulevard three people were arrested when they blocked a tank. The three—a woman active in Greenpeace, a peace activist, and a supporter of the RCP—took action with the slogans "We Stand With the Iraqi People! We stand with the GI resisters! Stop the U.S. War Machine Before It Kills Again!"



A short way down the parade route, as Westmoreland's car went by, the chant of "Babykiller" rang out from a crowd of youth and Vietnam vets protesting the celebration. There were about 150 protesters in this section. Some were organized

by artists, who formed a group called "Mourn for Peace." Others were anarchists and RCYB members, along with people who had come down looking for protest because they couldn't let this disgusting celebration go down unopposed. As Stealth

bombers made low-altitude passes overhead, the youth mocked them with die-ins. There were reports of other groups of protesters along the way. And in nearby Pasadena, 500 held an opposition teach-in sponsored by the War Resisters League. □

Special to the RW

Special to the RW

L.A.'s Channel Zero: The Christopher Commission



In the highly charged political atmosphere that has shaken Los Angeles since the Rodney King beating, there are lots of official channels being offered. There are investigations, commissions, hearings, court cases and meetings—and the people are being told to put their faith in these channels if they want to deal with police brutality.

There are trials for four of the pigs who nearly killed King—but they aren't even charged with attempted murder. And all their colleagues who helped out aren't charged with *anything* (see last week's *RW*). There is supposed to be a federal investigation of local police brutality, but it is being carried out by the same Department of "Justice" that runs the FBI, Migra (Immigration police), U.S. Marshals, Drug Enforcement Administration and other federal cops—a department that has consistently refused to consider or even respond to numerous legal complaints about the LAPD in the past. There is an investigation by the Police Commission, which has a bunch of new members appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley, promising to get tough with the LAPD after years of public-

ly approving every racist statement Gates has made and every murder his troops carried out. But it promises not to get into matters that others are investigating and it's already being overruled by the City Council. And there are meetings of that City Council, whose members are nearly unanimous in heaping praise on the Chief while nearly everyone in the city speculates that they are afraid of secret information Gates has about them.

But at this point, the number one official channel is the so-called "Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department"—a special "blue-ribbon" commission made up of bigtime lawyers, businessmen and academics appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley after the King beating. The Christopher Commission, so called because its chairman is former Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, is conducting its own investigation into the LAPD—a "top-to-bottom study." It is not going to focus on the King case, but rather look at the whole practice and philosophy of the police, according to Christopher and other city officials. It's promising to study everything—including the role of Gates

and the Police Commission, the way cops are trained, whether or not they are disciplined and for what, how complaints are dealt with, how they are supervised and whether or not the District Attorney has prosecuted cops when he should have. To go over all that stuff, the Christopher Commission is holding secret, closed-door sessions and talking to cops, cop experts, prosecutors and other official types. The people are definitely not invited to these discussions.

But people are being urged to come out to the public hearings the Christopher Commission has held in oppressed communities like South Central and East L.A.—where top-level officials rarely show their faces. The city fathers were so unhappy when only a few people showed up to the Commission's first hearing downtown that they began a big media-hype with regular announcements about times and locations of future public forums in the communities. The staff of the Christopher Commission also made a big show of getting the opinions and expertise of lawyers who file police brutality lawsuits and of inviting activists to testify in the

Coverup Commissions

Warren Christopher cut his political teeth on coverup commissions. He was the vice-chairman of the McCone Commission set up by the California governor after the 1965 Watts Rebellion. Headed by the former director of the CIA and including top businessmen, judges and academics, the McCone Commission was supposed to discover what caused the rebellion and what should be done about it. But while it made some general noises about discrimination, the McCone Commission refused to even criticize any of the major institutions of the society. Even such a moderate group as the California State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights called its report "elementary, superficial, unorganized and unimaginative," adding that it showed "a marked and surprising lack of understanding of the civil rights movement."

Most importantly in light of the current situation, the McCone Commission refused to even mildly criticize LAPD and its Chief at the time, William Parker. Parker, who was Gates's boss and idol and who the cur-

rent Gestapo Chief models himself after, was known to be even more openly racist than Gates, and the LAPD was already recognized as the master of brutality towards Black people. It was also viewed as the model police department for the whole country, carrying out its assaults on the people in the "professional" manner of early-day elite robocops armed with the highest technology. The powers were not going to allow any tampering with this model.

So, despite lots of testimony against the crimes of the police and its chief, which were all well-known to everyone in the Black community, the McCone Commission covered it all up. Its report said it was a problem of *perception*—that Black youth just didn't understand "the true value of the Police Department." The McCone Commission report refused to even acknowledge that there was any truth in people's complaints about the police, just that more needed to be done to convince people that their complaints were being investigated. Shortly after his work on the McCone

Commission, Warren Christopher was promoted to his post as Deputy Attorney General.

Because the memory of the McCone Commission's coverup is still vivid in the minds of many older people in the Black community and elsewhere, Christopher isn't talking much about it these days. Instead, what he and other city powers refer to as the model for the current operation is the Knapp Commission, formed in 1970 to investigate the notorious corruption, bribetaking, graft and theft rampant in the New York Police Department. It was well-known that just about every cop on the force was on the take, but this had been going on for years. It was especially sharp in Harlem, where the pigs were making big bucks from the drug trade and other ways the system has of keeping Black and Puerto Rican people down.

But by 1970, everyone realized that the Watts Rebellion had been only the beginning of a wave of urban rebellions that shook this country to its foundations. The powers needed the police to be able to sup-



Protesters hold pictures of Black men murdered by L.A. cops.

Special to the RW

public hearings about their knowledge of L.A.'s uniformed gangsters.

But for the people, this official channel is really Channel Zero. The *L.A. Times* said the Commission must "restore full confidence in a proud department." But, as many people know, what the department is proud of is racist brutality, repression and outright murder against the oppressed people. That is its mission in a society based on exploitation and inequality. The Christopher Commission is assigned to COVER UP that fact and WHITEwash the very nature of the LAPD at a time when the global spotlight is shining on its crimes.

Yes, the Christopher Commission wants to hear people's complaints about the police so that some will believe it is "cleaning up" the LAPD. The powers want the Christopher Commission to convince some of these people that it is changing things, that the whole matter should be left up to them, that people don't need to step up their struggle against police repression. They want the Christopher Commission to "restore confidence" in the LAPD so that some of those who now fight against police

Continued on page 10



Special to the RW

press the oppressed communities and, to help do that, they funneled in a huge amount of federal money for high-tech weaponry, new specialized riot-control units and other special programs. But while brute force was and is their bottom line, they couldn't rely on this alone. They needed support from sections of the people for their "law and order" cries, and this is where the Knapp Commission came in. The petty corruption of the NYPD—so blatant and so pervasive—was making a widely known mockery of the cries for "law and order." By holding public hearings and making a big show of "cleaning up" the police department, even in the face of police department opposition, the Knapp Commission helped to "restore confidence" (in some circles) in the NYPD. And this made it more possible for the cops to get support for their mission—suppressing the people, especially the Black and Puerto Rican people—under the guise of "law and order." □

Independent?

The regular press praises the Christopher Commission's "independence." What they mean by this is that it's not lined up with the Chief, the Mayor, the City Council, the Police Commission or any of the other ruling factions that are feuding at the moment in L.A. But it is certainly not independent from the powers-that-be.

One way to tell what's going on with the Christopher Commission is to look at who's at the head of it. Warren Christopher is one of the most influential ruling class forces in Los Angeles, and his appointment to head up this group has been widely praised in the mainstream media. A recent *Newsweek* article that was very critical of Mayor Tom Bradley called his appointment of Christopher a "bold stroke," while the *Times* called him "an outstanding choice." He is the chairman of L.A.'s oldest law firm and sits on the board of directors of the Carnegie Corporation, First Interstate Bank, Southern California Edison, the Stanford University board of trustees and others. He is an adviser to Bradley and other leading Democratic Party politicians. No wonder they love him so much, he's one of them.

But more important than his positions is the role that Warren Christopher has played in carrying out U.S. imperialism's suppression of the people. He is most famous for negotiating with Iran when he was a Deputy Secretary of State under Jimmy Carter. His mission was to get the U.S.'s spies and diplomats released after Iranian students had taken them hostage at the U.S. embassy. This was after the Shah of Iran, a brutal U.S.-supported dictator, had been overthrown by the Iranian people and the U.S. embassy was being used to try and engineer a return to power for his followers. Christopher had actively supported that effort, and he had previously been responsible for helping to supply the Shah with the U.S. weapons used against the Iranian people. As Deputy Secretary of State, Christopher had been responsible for deciding that the Shah's "human rights" record was well within the acceptable standards for receiving U.S. military aid.

Christopher has also played a role in suppressing the people within the U.S. He was a Deputy Attorney-General under Lyndon Johnson in the late '60s. Among other things, he recommended that the Michigan National Guard be called up to try and put down the Black people's rebellion in Detroit in the summer of 1967.

While none of the other members of the Commission have Warren Christopher's unique credentials, most of them are reliable servants of the powers-that-be. For example, the vice-chairman is a right-wing former California Supreme Court justice who was chosen by Daryl Gates to head up an LAPD-sponsored Commission, which ended up merging into Christopher's group. Among his many court decisions was one permitting police to set up roadblocks and interrogate drivers any time they wanted under the guise of a search for drunk drivers. Another member used to be Chairman of the Board of Lockheed, a bigtime aerospace corporation. Most of the other members and the investigative staff are lawyers—including a number of former U.S. attorneys and other prosecutors—from the wealthiest and most powerful law firms in Southern California. Under Warren Christopher's leadership, this is a Commission that the powers can rely on to help carry forward their plans. □

Mt.

One of the things the Mount Pleasant rebellion really brought to life is just how fast things can change. Almost overnight Mount Pleasant has gone from an outwardly calm little neighborhood—where thousands of Latino immigrants and other oppressed nationalities lived desperate lives of quiet hell and seething anger—into a stronghold of defiance and struggle against oppression. In many ways Mt. Pleasant and some of the surrounding communities have become enemy territory for the police and other agents of the brutal system they serve.

Despite efforts by the authorities to bury the rebellion, the signs of it are everywhere. The fried chicken outlet that was trashed during the rebellion is boarded up now and the boards have been decorated with the slogan "We Don't Want No Police State At All!" The red brick wall of the local 7-11, a popular hangout for the police and the place where police sought refuge in the face of the rebellion, has been spraypainted with "Fuck the Police!" in foot high letters. Revolutionary graffiti decorates some of the vacant apartment buildings in the neighborhoods—including one building where dozens of immigrant families were evicted by the city shortly after many of them had lost their entire life savings in a sleazy investment scam that took advantage of the shadow existence of undocumented immigrants.

But the clearest signs of the rebellion, and the biggest change in the community, is among the people themselves. The two-day rebellion—sparked when police shot Daniel Gomez after attempting to arrest him for drinking a beer in public—gave the people a taste of their strength and power. And now, three weeks after the rebellion, in words and actions, defiance of the police and the authorities still runs high. The police themselves are scared and horrified. They complain of "unprecedented bystander attacks" on police going to make "routine arrests." They now travel in herds of six instead of pairs when they go to make an arrest. And they complain that they "will be ducking rocks and bottles for some time to come."



Block Party

"I don't know what you call this—a police state or what. Nothing they do will resolve anything. The curfew and everything they do just makes it worse for the people. Nothing they do will end our suffering. Only the people can settle things for ourselves. And we'll do it our way. It's a rough road but the other road is goddamn sure rougher. Let them come back—make no difference if it's tonight, tomorrow or next month—let them come back and see what we do."

To emphasize his point the Black man, in his mid-thirties, kicked a rock over towards the curb. We were standing in an intersection covered with broken glass. A police helicopter with a high-power searchlight hovered over the neighborhood. A group of Latino youth stood to one side giving the finger to the helicopter and shouting, "This is for the future, motherfucker!"

Earlier the street was jammed with cop cars and two dozen cops. The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade had just held a brief, spontaneous rally as part of a march through the neighborhood calling on

people to join in on Columbia Road for a People's Block Party. The theme of the night was Justice for Daniel Gomez, Justice for Frankie Murphy (a deaf Black man choked to death by the police), and Revolution is the Hope of the Hopeless.

Red flags appeared on the corner as a speaker from the Brigade addressed the people on the block. At a large apartment building housing mainly Latino immigrants, a small group of Latinos stood in front of the building and dozens of others leaned out their windows listening. Some in the building began shouting "Viva la Revolución!"

According to people at the scene, a cop car pulled up to the corner and two police came out and tried to break up the rally. People from the apartment building began shouting at the police. As the cops moved in to arrest the Brigade speaker, suddenly it began to rain bottles and cans. Police beat a hasty retreat to the shelter of their car and called for back-up. One cop drew his gun and with trembling hands took aim on the Latinos hanging out in front of the apartment building. More police arrived on the scene.

Six cops jumped the Brigade speaker and pinned him to the ground, kneeling on his neck in the same way that they had killed Frankie Murphy a week earlier. Some people who had gathered further down the block to check out what was going on began chanting "Rodney King! Rodney King!"

The police rushed the front door of the apartment building demanding that the Latino people in the lobby open the doors and let them in. But the people only jeered at the pigs, responding to their demands by giving them the finger and laughing at them. The police tried to break the door down but they were unsuccessful. Finally they drove out of the neighborhood—lights flashing and sirens wailing.

Two revolutionaries were arrested—the Brigade speaker and an RW seller. They were charged with felony "inciting to riot" and held in jail over the weekend. By Monday evening the authorities had made a political decision to reduce the charges to "disorderly conduct" in hopes of keeping the whole scene quiet.

At the apartment building where cops had tried to break down the door, people were smiling and reliving the scene. Some acted it out, mocking the oppressors with hilarious portrayals. In the middle of all this one older Latino man said his piece. "It doesn't matter where you are, the police are always the same, always fucking with the people. They come here saying they are Number One Boss. They push people, they beat people, they arrest people and they shoot at us. Tonight we showed them that they are only Number One Pig!"

Plenty

Manuel sat on a curb outside of one of the buildings trashed in the rebellion. He was reading a letter from home and killing time before he had to leave for work. He was a little hesitant to talk at first and explained that an Immigration agent had stopped him on the street a few days earlier and tried to trick him into doing something wrong. After paging through *Obrero Revolucionario* he agreed to tell his story.

"I come from the city in El Salvador, San Salvador, the capital of my country. My father has a little market in my country. But then my father said for us to come here. He don't want us to live in San Salvador because of the army and the guerrillas.

"I had trouble with the police and the government in my country. Everybody has this trouble, not only me. I had trouble because of the army. The army was coming for me to join them but I don't want to work in the army. You work in the army and then maybe after one month, two month, the other people, the guerrillas, they come and kill you and you don't have no more life. I



Photo: Patsy Lynch

Rebels of Pleasant

Part 2

by Michael Slate



Police attack RCYB rally in Mount Pleasant.

thought that in here, in this country, I can make money for me, my wife, my family—this was the way I think before I come here.

“In my country we always think that we should come here because there is plenty. We think there is plenty fruit, plenty meat and you can get what you need.

“When I first tried to come here I had to work in Guatemala so that I could pay the coyote \$2,000 to get me to America. I got caught that first time. So the second time I went to Mexico near to the border and paid the coyote \$350. And when I got here I had no money so I had to work so quick. I started working as a dishwasher and then after some time I work as cook’s assistant. Now I am a cook. Much of the money I make I have to send to help my father and mother and all my family back in San Salvador. I work five days, 12 hours a day. Sometimes when there is no work I can only work 30 hours a week. I also must send money to my wife in Guatemala. She lives in Guatemala and sometimes I can go to see her—I went two years ago for four months.

“I don’t like what happens here. It is too difficult, too hard. When I was in my country one time I worked on a building for the army. All of the time we see these soldiers walking with their guns and they come to push us around and threaten us. They say they can kill us and sometimes they just do that. I come here and I see the same thing with the police. They say they shot that guy for drinking a beer. Why? I think they could just tell him to pour the beer out but instead they shoot him. That is why I left Salvador to come here. And here I find the same. I see what happen to Rodney King. They tell us that if you drive too fast the police arrest you and give you a pink ticket. If you get a second then no more driving. But with Rodney King they just throw him on the ground and beat him with big sticks. It makes me think of my country—it’s the same thing and the same people.”

“I Do Not Come To Be in Jail”

Jorge stood joking with his friends about twenty yards from where Daniel Gomez was shot. It was hot and his friends were having some beer in the late afternoon sun. They didn’t want to talk. Jorge explained that they were worried about attracting attention but that he would move away from them and tell his story. “I don’t know if you see the movie *El Norte*. I come from Guatemala and if you see this movie you know the problems in my country. We try to go out from my country to make things better for us and for our families. So many of us try to do that, but we cannot because we don’t have papers and there is too much discrimination to the Hispanic people.

They have white people discriminate Hispanic and Black people. And then, they try to have the Black people discriminate to the Hispanic people. Example, the boss is a white man and he put four Black people on a job and tell them do it in one day. That is hard. But then they might put two Hispanic people on the same job and say to do it in four hours, five hours. I see the white people, the boss, he don’t think too much of the Black people. But the white boss, he think less about the Hispanic people. We work hard but they just push more. I don’t know what they think. I know they discriminate Black people too, I see this all the time.

“My job is remover of asbestos. I know that it is a hard and dangerous job. But in this country we must do something. In this country we don’t have house and not even one apartment because it is too expensive. I must look for another job now because the money I make is not too much. I must get another job for the nighttime. Sometimes if I pay the rent then sometimes I don’t have the food.

“You know my boss, he push too hard. He always yell and push at me. I fight with him all the time. I tell him I not come to jail. I come to work and work hard but I not come to be in jail.

“When I come for this country I cross to Mexico. First thing, some guys with guns come to me and take me to a truck and tell me to give them my money. I say to them that I don’t have money but they say to me

to give them my money or I go to the jail. So I give them my money and they left me in the middle of Mexico with so little. For two days and one half I eat only hot water. But I think that when I come to this country it will be beautiful. In my country when I see one movie about America I see the beautiful house, the white people, the cars. But when I come to this country I see only the Hispanic people and how bad we have to live. I see the truth. I cross under the fence to come to the beautiful place I see in movies like ‘Miami Vice,’ but then I see what this country is.”

24-Hour Maids

The main bus stop in Mt. Pleasant was crowded with people. Buses left every five minutes or so and they were always full. It was the evening rush hour, but these buses were taking people downtown, not bringing them home from a day’s work. And the vast majority of the passengers on the buses were Latino women. Many of them were on their way to work, washing dishes in the hotels or doing janitorial work in office buildings. For many of these women it was a trip to their second job, having already put in a long day as babysitters, housekeepers, hotel maids or store clerks. Many of the women had come home between jobs so that they could take care of their own families and their own homes. Days and nights of domestic servitude.

Maria, a 34-year-old Guatemalan woman with two young children, stopped on her way home from grocery shopping and began to talk. “I am from Guatemala and in my country I worked in an airport, I took care of a shop in an airport. It was hard in my country, but here it is a little more hard. Life is more complicated here. In this country I work more than I did at home. At home I could grow some food and a little bit of vegetables to help myself, but here everything is money. Here I have to work much harder for everything in my life. I am a housekeeper here and I work for a family in the suburbs. This is my daughter here and I also have a son. She is three years old and my son is five. My son goes to school and I am lucky because my employer al-

lows me to take my daughter to work with me.

“I came to this country to improve my life a little bit. I hoped I could get money to help my family in Guatemala and maybe my children can get an education in this country. I was also lucky because I have permission to come here. Many of the people in this area didn’t have permission and so it is very hard for them.”

As her daughter pulled on her skirt and began to play with the bags of groceries, Maria talked about the police and the rebellion in Mount Pleasant. “There is so much abuse of the Hispanic peoples here in this area. The police are very bad. They hurt the people. Sometimes there is violence in the home, fights between the husband and the wife, but the police will never come when they hear it is a Latino family that they should come to. They will not even come to check what is going on. Sometimes when people decide to sit outside and have a drink the police are always there to harass them. And a lot of times some little thing will happen and the police are always ready to just come and take the people away. And many times they beat the people here for no reason at all. This happens often. Yeah, it is similar in Guatemala. Many of the abuses are the same and the foundation is the same. But there is one difference. In Guatemala if you give the police a little bit of money they will forget about it and look the other way sometimes. But here everything is so much more organized and the abuse is always there.

“Many of the people here thought that the rebellion was right. There are too many abuses. I think the rebellion was good. Maybe in some things they say that the people went too far, but I think it was good, it was good that it happened.”

As Maria gathered up her daughter and picked up her grocery bags to head home, I showed her the *Obrero Revolucionario* and asked what she thought of revolution. Her face lit up and she laughed, “I hope that it will happen. I hope that it will come. We all work and we are all treated bad. And we as Hispanics are treated very bad. That is wrong and unfair. A revolution would change that. I hope that it will happen.” □



Wreckage of police vehicles after May 6th Rebellion.

Pig Stress Management

Los Angeles. In the hearing room, a 17-year veteran LAPD officer was being questioned about the South Central gas station attendant he had shot, causing him to be paralyzed for life. According to a recent article in the *L.A. Times*, the cop's abrupt answer was: "I shot him. That's the way it is." He was asked further questions about the six others he had shot, and about the woman he was accused of raping on duty. Finally a judgment was rendered. The cop was awarded \$20,000 a year, tax free—a "stress" pension. Cops who face disciplinary proceedings, including those involved in some of the notorious cases of police brutality and murder, are often given pensions of \$2,000 to 3,000 a month. They claim "stress" from the investigations,

in 1983. Neighbors had told the cop there was a five-year-old home alone. The pig justified the killing, saying the kid was holding a water pistol.

Four of the cops who were present at the Rodney King beating are already claiming physical symptoms that could later be used as evidence of "stress." Participants in the infamous "Dalton street raid," when dozens of cops destroyed four apartments and their contents with sledgehammers and beat and wrongfully arrested 30 Black people—these cops are expected by pension board authorities to be filing for pensions soon. The general manager of the L.A. pension board said straight up, "If there's a strong discipline case against an officer, then there's a strong chance the guy's going to come over here for a disability pension."

As outrageous as the practice of stress pensions is, most cases of police brutality and murder never get to the point where a cop is fired and has to take a pension. According to a study by the *L.A. Daily News*, (May 5, 1991) of LAPD Internal Affairs complaints during a recent four-and-a-half-year period, 1,448 brutality complaints were filed and only 106 were "sustained"—that is, about 7 percent. And even this figure is padded by a number of cases in which the police used the "swarm technique" to beat someone, and so the victim could not identify which officer had kicked him and which had clubbed him. In

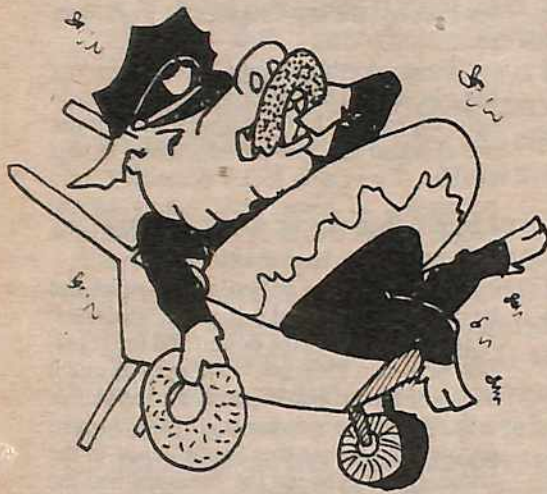


who shoot and kill. Since 1985, 387 people have been shot by the LAPD, 153 of them fatally. The cops themselves thought 35 of these were "unnecessary." But only two cops were fired, and only three got more than three weeks suspension. None has been prosecuted. (Source: *Los Angeles Daily News*)

Fourteen hundred complaints in four and a half years is absurdly low. The Police Misconduct Lawyers Referral Service told the RW that they report about 200 complaints a month. Other complaints go straight to private attorneys. And many people don't even bother to report anything because they're intimidated, they know if they speak out people will take revenge on them, and they know they won't get any justice anyway. Given the results through internal affairs, it's no surprise that there are so few complaints: people can figure out it's bullshit.

these cases the department admitted that the beating took place, but they couldn't discipline anyone. In all those cases, only ten cops were suspended for more than 22 days. One, for example, received 22 days off for shooting a motorist in the head, execution-style, after a car chase. Another got five days off for killing a Latino youth who hadn't committed any crime but was running from the police. These suspensions contrast with 33 days off for a cop who kissed his girlfriend while on duty.

The huge gap between the crime and "punishment" is most striking for cops



notoriety and actual or possible suspensions—not from remorse at having injured or killed a human being. They claim symptoms like insomnia, depression, headaches. Some cops have even claimed sudden weight gain from eating doughnuts and burgers! One cop complained he had gained 30 to 40 pounds from eating donuts and burgers and still could not stay away from them. And this was admitted as evidence of "stress."

An LAPD officer shot and seriously wounded an older Black man who was standing on his porch with a shotgun. The man successfully sued police when it turned out he had been using the shotgun to threaten supposed drug dealers. The cop that shot him got over \$2,500 a month. The two Long Beach cops who were videotaped shoving Don Jackson's head through a window received stress pensions. So did the Stanton (Orange County, south of L.A.) cop who shot a toddler to death in his apartment



Lawyers who represent claimants in police brutality cases—L.A. pays out \$9 million a year in claims—say it's rare to have a case where the cops were disciplined for what they did. One told the *Daily News*: "This is policy. They are expected to go out and kick ass; that's why they have these ridiculously petty penalties. They are doing exactly what the supervisors want them to do." □

L.A.'s Channel Zero: The Christopher Commission

Continued from page 7

brutality will cooperate with the police in cracking down on the people on the bottom of society, and many others will feel isolated, alone and unable to fight against them. They want the Christopher Commission to convince some people to help them carry out their plans against the oppressed, while others look the other way or feel there's nothing they can do. In the midst of the outrage felt by millions over the Rodney King beating and all the crimes of the police, the role of the Christopher Commission and its investigation is to help the powers get over with their police-state program.

Operation Police-State

In L.A., that police-state program is focusing on a fascist plan that is a big step in the creation of Nazi-style ghettos in the neighborhoods of the oppressed. It calls for separating off and isolating these neighborhoods behind permanent barricades. The plans will allow the police to decide who comes and goes, keep files and up-to-date information on the lives of everyone who lives there and put the police in total control of all aspects of life behind the walls in these neighborhoods. And it is designed to get at least some of the people to collaborate with their own lockdown and be

part of a snitch network. It is officially called Operation Cul-de-Sac but a more appropriate term would be Operation Police State (see RW's #600 and #601).

Is the Christopher Commission going to challenge Operation Police-State in any way? Just the opposite. Christopher has already let it be known that a big part of his Commission's report will be recommending that there be more "community policing" in L.A. And, as *Newsweek* wrote last year in commenting on the initial, temporary version of the LAPD's Nazi-style ghetto plan, "While few municipalities have gone as far as Los Angeles, Operation Cul-de-Sac is a variation on the community policing efforts now underway in other blighted inner cities."

"Community policing" is a scheme that the U.S.'s top police theoreticians, some of who are advisers to the Christopher Commission, have come up with to help police departments enforce a total clampdown on communities of the oppressed, and get some of the residents to help them in doing it. It calls for taking some cops out of patrol cars and putting them on the street to walk a beat, get to know everyone in the area, play Officer Friendly with the "good law-abiding citizens" and get them to cooperate with the oppressors.

Community policing experts say the cops will help improve the "quality of life"

in the community. Does this mean that they're going to find people jobs? Does it mean that there will be homes for the homeless? Does community policing have anything to do with getting sick people medical care? Will it turn the schools into a place where kids learn something besides how to be a prisoner? No, of course not—the system doesn't have the means to do that.

No, when community policing experts talk about "quality of life" they aren't talking about any of those things. Instead, they are referring to "loud radios, graffiti and aggressive panhandling" (*Time* magazine). Or, as one of the Christopher Commission expert advisers wrote in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1989, "(L)aw-abiding citizens who are afraid to go out onto streets filled with graffiti, winos and loitering youths yield control of these streets to people who are not frightened by these signs of urban decay....(W)hen disorderly behavior—say, rude remarks by loitering youths—is left unchallenged, the signal given is that no one cares. The disorder escalates, possibly to serious crime."

What the system does have the means to do is make war on the oppressed people, especially the youth, under the guise of the "war on drugs and crime." Community policing is the latest nationwide plan for carrying that war even further. And it is a

major effort to get some sections of the people to support that war out of fear.

Now, since the Rodney King beating focused attention on police crimes against the people, the Christopher Commission and other police experts are even putting forward community policing as a way of solving the problem of police brutality. Somehow, the fact that the cops know everyone in the community is supposed to make them less likely to brutalize the people. Does the fact that a guard knows everyone in the concentration camp make him treat the prisoners better?

But why would the powers need the Christopher Commission to push for community policing to change the LAPD?

A major problem for them is that the LAPD is too well-known for its brutality against all sections of the people, including some that the powers need to support the lockdown. For example, even wealthy Black celebrities have been harassed and messed with by L.A. pigs. And Gestapo Chief Gates—with racist, chauvinist and threatening statements pouring out of his mouth nearly every day—does not inspire cooperation on the part of people who might themselves be mistaken for "the enemy" at any moment. The LAPD is so exposed on this lately that a highly promoted "community policing" program to get supervising cops to walk a beat in the

New Lockdowns Hit Chicago Projects

We received this letter about new lockdowns in the Chicago projects.

Dear RW:

Here at Henry Horner Homes in Chicago's West Side, the powers-that-be just finished locking down the 50th Chicago Housing Authority highrise. Now tens of thousands of poor Black people are locked up like caged animals in their own homes. They keep telling us these lockdowns are good for us. "It's to protect you!" But this is bullshit! They're eliminating hospitals and schools in our community, they're getting set to cut out General Assistance, and they give up nothin for our youth—no hope and no jobs, except a hustle that puts many of them in jail. And they say they're trying to protect us! Yes, this is bullshit. These lockdowns are part of their new world order. They're moving to clamp down on basic people here in the U.S. because they know that we're a pot getting ready to boil over.

They were so concerned about "protecting" us that they waited until right before the Chicago Bulls playoff games to lock down the two buildings at Henry Horner Homes. (Horner Homes is across the street from the Chicago Stadium where the Bulls play.) Whenever they have their hockey or basketball games at the Chicago Stadium the pigs are out in droves like they're at war with our youth. Now they've announced plans to build a new stadium in our community. With the playoffs all these fans from mayonnaiseland will be pouring into the stadium, and they want to be sure all the "criminals" are locked up in their rat cages. We don't earn enough money to go to the playoffs anyway.

In April they pulled the same shit at Stateway Gardens, across the expressway from White Sox (Comiskey) Park. They locked down three buildings a couple of days before opening day at their new baseball stadium. Hundreds of poor Black people were driven out of their homes to make way for this new Comiskey Park, which now has the highest priced baseball



Child has to go through metal detector to go home at CHA project.

tickets in the country. The powers tried to justify their police-state sweeps at Stateway Gardens with stories in the Chicago papers about snipers shooting into the new stadium. They find a couple of bullet holes, and they paint all the Black people within range as "criminals," bust into their homes, search them for weapons and put ID tags around their

necks! (We heard an angry joke recently: Why did they find bullet holes in the White Sox scoreboard? Because the people didn't have bazookas!)

The powers-that-be have convinced some of our people that these lockdowns are for "their own good." They got some people believing that this is the best we can do under this foul setup. We got other

ideas. The only way we're gonna deal with the problems this system creates—the crime, the drugs and violence—is to start fighting *against* this system and pulling ourselves together in the process. The punk has overstepped his boundary. We refuse to be his "boy." We're getting ready to be his gravedigger.

Two Comrades from Chicago's West Side

general area where Rodney King was beaten ended up being described in the mainstream press as a "public relations" move.

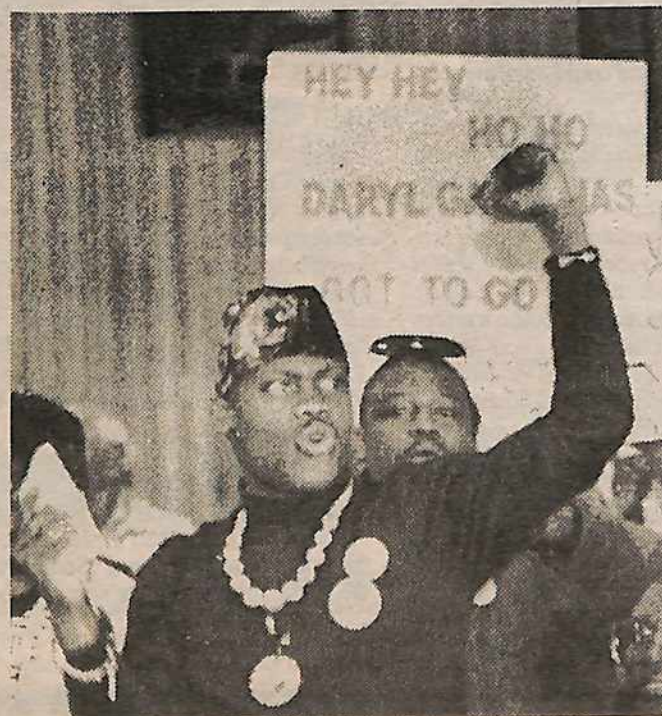
The fact that the LAPD is so exposed has not in any way prevented the pigs from continuing to carry out extreme brutality against the people (such as the assault on revolutionaries in Pico-Union on May 1, for example). Nor has it stopped them from moving ahead to put Operation Cul-de-Sac into full operation. Recently, a local radio station announced that the barricades would be going up by June 1.

But the powers do need something like the Christopher Commission—some seemingly "independent" body—to at least give the appearance that some changes are being made in the LAPD. And they may even decide to have the Christopher Commission recommend *major* changes, like retiring Gates, if they feel that is what is needed to really have their police-state program get over.

But what the people need is something

very different. As a soon-to-be-published fact sheet, put out by the L.A. Branch of the RCP says, "What time is it? Right now is the time to bring the police-state plans out into the open and go straight up against them. It's the time to organize everyone you know and a lot of people you don't know yet to challenge the police and the politicians and their Nazi-style program and let them know that the people won't go out like that. It's time to Fight the Powers and DEFEAT THE POWER, and all their fascist plans."

ENOUGH! BASTA YA! NO MORE RACIST POLICE BRUTALITY! MURDERERS, MURDERERS NO MORE! THROW THE GESTAPO CHIEF OUT! TAKE DOWN THE BARRICADES AND THE WHOLE POLICE-STATE PROGRAM! THE "WAR ON DRUGS AND CRIME" IS A WAR ON BLACK, LATINO AND ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE! REVOLUTION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION!





Palestinians rounded up by Kuwaiti troops for internment.

Kuwait Court Railroads Palestinians

On May 19 a young Palestinian man named Adnan Abed Ali was brought into a martial law court in Kuwait. He was one of a dozen defendants in court that day accused of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation forces. Ali and others did not have lawyers and were given no chance to challenge witnesses or evidence. The case against Ali was that he had worn a T-shirt with a picture of Saddam Hussein. With this as the only "evidence," the court convicted Ali and sentenced him to 15 years in prison, after which he will be deported out of the country! Also convicted were two brothers who were given 12-year prison terms. The only evidence presented against them was that they had made chains with bullets as ornaments.

This is the kind of injustice that is going on in what the United States declares is "liberated Kuwait."

Hundreds of people, mostly Palestinians, are being held in Kuwaiti jails for supposedly collaborating with the Iraqi forces after Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait. Adnan Abed Ali and others brought into court on May 19 were the first to be put on trial. They are held without bail and unable to talk to lawyers. Some could be sentenced to death by hanging.

According to Amnesty International, many Palestinians have been tortured and unknown numbers killed by Kuwaiti security forces and so-called "resistance groups," which are paramilitary groups acting as vigilantes. A recent Amnesty report documents in detail the use of electric shocks, cigarette burns, and other tortures by the Kuwaitis. One case cited in the report was that of a 24-year-old Palestinian: "He said uniformed personnel identifying themselves as members of Kuwait's military intelligence had beaten him for hours, stomped on his body, thrown acid over him, and subjected him to electric shock torture. Severe injuries covered most of his back and shoulders, parts of his thighs were raw with skin peeling off, con-

sistent with the application of sulfuric acid, though some could also have been caused by electric current."

Louise Cainkar, director of the Palestine Human Rights Information Center in Chicago, recently talked to some Palestinians from Kuwait who are now in Jordan. These Palestinians had been victims of torture in Kuwait after the war. She told Dennis Bernstein of Pacifica News Service: "They basically all spoke of similar treatment. They were blindfolded. They were brought to rooms at schools in Kuwait, which are now being used as detention centers. All of them reported similar types of beating, and of course I saw the evidence of these on their bodies—primarily cigarette burns. They had cigarette burns from their necks to their toes and on every part of the skin in between. One of them had severely swollen eyes and a severely swollen hand from beatings. Apparently the beatings were done either physically or with metal pipes. One of the Palestinians had a big split in his head from being bashed with a metal pipe. They also reported that their captors would often walk on them and stick their shoes in their mouths."

There are indications that U.S. personnel are directly involved in the persecution of Palestinians in Kuwait. According to Louise Cainkar, the Palestinians she talked to all said that there was U.S. military personnel present on the premises when they were being tortured by the Kuwaitis. And there have been news reports that U.S. special forces soldiers accompanied Kuwaiti "resistance groups" who hunted down Palestinians after the war.

In the media U.S. government officials were described as being "embarrassed" and "concerned" by the torture and railroading of Palestinians in Kuwait. A day after the May 19 trial George Bush said that "it would be in Kuwait's interests to extend the fair trial to everyone." Some articles in the press suggested that what happened in

the Kuwaiti court had to do with the fact that Kuwait's judicial system is based on the French Napoleonic system rather than the system developed in Britain and the United States.

The "concern" by Bush and others is just a hypocritical front. The U.S. government knows very well what kind of repressive setup it is helping to put back in place in Kuwait. In fact, as the *RW* has reported, it was the U.S. military which drew up the plans for Kuwait after the war, including martial law. (See "U.S. Military Plans for Kuwait: Apartheid on the Gulf" in *RW* #600.) The plan was drawn up between November of last year and January by the 352nd Civil Affairs Command working out of Saudi Arabia in consultation with the exiled Emir of Kuwait. The plan says in part: "Because Kuwaiti courts will not be operational immediately upon assumption by the GOK of the control of governmental functions, and provisional arrangements for administration of justice will be required. Martial law will be imposed by the GOK using emergency legislation for a period of up to a year." (GOK is the U.S. military's term for the government of Kuwait, meaning the al-Sabah family that fled when Iraq invaded.)

The only real "concern" of Bush and others is that the trials in Kuwait are such blatant railroads that they will outrage many people. The Kuwaiti regime apparently got the message from the White House. In the next session of the court two days later, a few fig leaves were added to dress up the trial—the defendants, accused of working on an Iraqi newspaper during the occupation, were given a lawyer and some chance to speak. But these trials are still nothing but political head-hunting aimed at those considered a "threat" by the Kuwaiti rulers.

The persecution of Palestinians in Kuwait is taking place under the martial law "justice" planned by the U.S. military. Bush and the U.S. government may try to

distance themselves from what is going on in Kuwait, but they are the real powers behind the regime of the Kuwaiti Emir.

The U.S. government claims they have "liberated" Kuwait and "restored the legitimate government" of Kuwait. But what the U.S. did in the Gulf had *nothing* to do with liberation. Before the war two million people lived in Kuwait. But only a minority were considered "citizens"—a privileged elite that grew tremendously wealthy off the labor of others. The Emir, who heads the ruling al-Sabah family, is the absolute ruler. The majority of the people in Kuwait, 60 percent, were not allowed to become "citizens" even if they have lived in the country for many years or even decades. They were immigrants from Palestine, Egypt, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and elsewhere around the world who did the work that the rich Kuwaitis wouldn't touch. These "guest workers" had no political rights—they could not publish newspapers, participate in the government, hold demonstrations, or organize themselves. Many were Palestinians. Kuwait, in short, was an apartheid country on the Gulf.

If the U.S. was really out to "liberate" the people of Kuwait, they would have gotten rid of the al-Sabah regime and given power to the those on the bottom. But all that the U.S. guns did was to bring the al-Sabah family back to power and restore the oppressive regime that existed before the Iraqi invasion.

Many Palestinians have been arrested or killed by the Kuwaitis or kicked out of the country. But other "guest workers" are being brought in once again to replace them. Apartheid is returning to Kuwait, backed by U.S. troops. □

Hole Blown in Gandhi Dynasty

An assassin's bomb blew up India's former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi last week—and his death has left a big hole in the political setup of the ruling class in India. Big-time politicians in the world's capitals reacted in dismay. Rajiv Gandhi was one of their kind. But this top representative of the oppressors in India deserves no tears from the people in India and around the world.

Gandhi was killed in the middle of a national election. Gandhi headed the Congress Party, which has been the main representative of the big bourgeoisie in India. He was making a political comeback and was expected to become the prime minister once again. It seemed that the Gandhi "dynasty" might take power again. Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, was India's first prime minister from the country's formal independence from England after World War 2 until 1964. His mother, Indira Gandhi, was prime minister from 1966 to 1984. And Rajiv Gandhi himself had the top government position from 1984-89.

In a bizarre move immediately after the assassination, the Congress Party leaders picked Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia, an Italian with little experience in Indian politics, as the successor to the dead candidate. She declined to take the position, but there is talk that Gandhi's son, daughter or cousin might fill in his shoes. These desperate attempts to continue the "dynasty" point to a crisis among the Indian rulers who have no strong and credible "leader" they can put up in the hopes of containing the people's anger at the rotten system.

Government leaders around the world described the assassination as a "tragedy" for India. George Bush praised Gandhi for his "contributions to international order." Bush added, "I just don't know what the world is coming to.... When people resort in a democratic country—or anywhere—to violence, it's just appalling." This is the commander-in-chief of the U.S. military which just devastated Iraq with massive bombing and killed many tens of thousands of Iraqis. For mass murderers like Bush, the kind of violence they used against the people of Iraq is perfectly "just," but the assassination of someone like Gandhi is "appalling."

The U.S. and other world powers are worried that Gandhi's explosive death will intensify the crisis that is already violently shaking India. They fear that India is on the road to breaking up as a single country. India is home to over 800 million people—one out of six human beings on this planet. Big upheavals—and revolution—in India would send shockwaves throughout the region and the whole imperialist "order."

India—An Imperialist Feeding Ground

India has been a feeding ground for all imperialist beasts—East and West. In large areas of the countryside countless millions of peasants continue to suffer from feudal exploitation and suffocation. Those who work the land are virtual slaves of those who own it. A rigid caste system keeps those on the bottom "in their place." Historically, colonialism and imperialism has allied with feudalism to prop up such backward forms of production.

But especially since the 1960s the imperialists have introduced important elements of capitalist production into the rural areas and the country overall. The result of these changes is similar to what has happened in many of the oppressed nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America. While landless peasants and agricultural workers continue to live in extreme poverty, the large cities of India have become swollen with huge numbers of former peasants unable to squeeze out a living in the countryside.

Imperialist domination has brought some "development" in Indian agriculture and industry, and Rajiv Gandhi pushed for opening India up even further to such changes. But this "development" has been severely distorted. It serves the needs of the foreign powers who squeeze superprofits out of the Indian people. One sign of this is that India owes tens of billions of dollars in debt to foreign banks and international financial institutions.

There is increasing political and social ferment among the people at the very bottom of Indian society. Some of the bourgeois rivals of the Congress Party have tried to use this discontent for their own ends while also trying to channel people's anger into reformist ends. Other parties are championing the "rights" of the Hindu majority—in some ways like those in the U.S., from the KKKers to the Republican Party, who appeal to whites who want to preserve their privilege.

Doomed Unity of India

India is a complex intermingling of different nations and peoples, different languages, religions and cultures whose historical diversity is greater than that of Europe. They have little in common historically other than to have been the "Crown Jewel" of the British Empire yesterday and to be dominated and oppressed by all the world powers today. Although India itself is dominated by foreign powers, there are many nations within the state borders of this country who are victims of national oppression at the hands of the central government and the all-India ruling class. The map of India was created by the British imperialists, and the so-called "unity" of the country is based on the subjugation of many peoples and nations under a repressive central authority.

Today, the national question is very much at the heart of the crisis in India. The imperialist powers and the Indian rulers have long tried to use antagonisms between different nations and religions within India to keep people divided and safeguard their rule. The central government has been responsible for many bloody atrocities against various nations and people. This has led to increasing opposition to the rule of the central government.

It's a measure of how hated the central authorities are by the people that several



different "candidates" for the identity of Rajiv Gandhi's assassin are being raised. One speculation is that he was killed by Sikhs in revenge for what his mother did. In 1984 Indira Gandhi sent troops to invade the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest shrine for the Sikh people. The troops killed and forced out Sikh guerrillas and militants who had taken over the temple. Several months later Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards in retaliation for the Golden Temple invasion. Another speculation being raised is that Rajiv Gandhi was killed by Tamil separatists. When Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister he sent troops to help the government of Sri Lanka, a country to the southwest of India, put down an insurgency among the Tamil people. Gandhi was in the Tamil area of southern India when he was killed.

The rise in militancy of the different national movements are giving the world powers nightmares about the "disintegration of India." But the people have no interest in preserving the forced and unequal "unity" of India. And this "unity" appears doomed one way or another.

The Reality Behind India's "Democracy" and "Socialism"

The Western powers praise India for being a "democracy"—sometimes it's called "the world's largest democracy." They like the fact that India's political system is modeled after the West—from the parliamentary farce to the vicious national oppression and exploitation of the poor under a "democratic" cover.

But the West also criticizes India for what they call aspects of "socialism" that exist in the country. What they are referring to is the large "public sector" of the Indian

economy—government owned or controlled industries and businesses. Especially during the 1960s to the early '80s the revisionist rulers of the Soviet Union built a strong position in this "public sector" through large loans and preferential trade agreements. The Soviets called this "non-capitalist development" or even a "step toward socialism." But in reality it was nothing more than typical imperialist penetration and "development" in a Third World country.

The U.S. and other Western imperialists have always dominated the "private sector" of the Indian economy. Now, they want to take advantage of the Soviet Union's economic difficulties and shifts in foreign policy to dig their claws deeper into India. This is the real motive behind their calls for India to "move away from socialism."

"Too Many People"?

Whenever the imperialists talk about India, they say that one of the main problems with the country is that there are "too many people." They praise a few leaders like Rajiv Gandhi, while they have nothing but contempt for masses of people. In their view, the intense poverty and suffering is the fault of the people themselves, and that is just the "way things are" and the way things will stay.

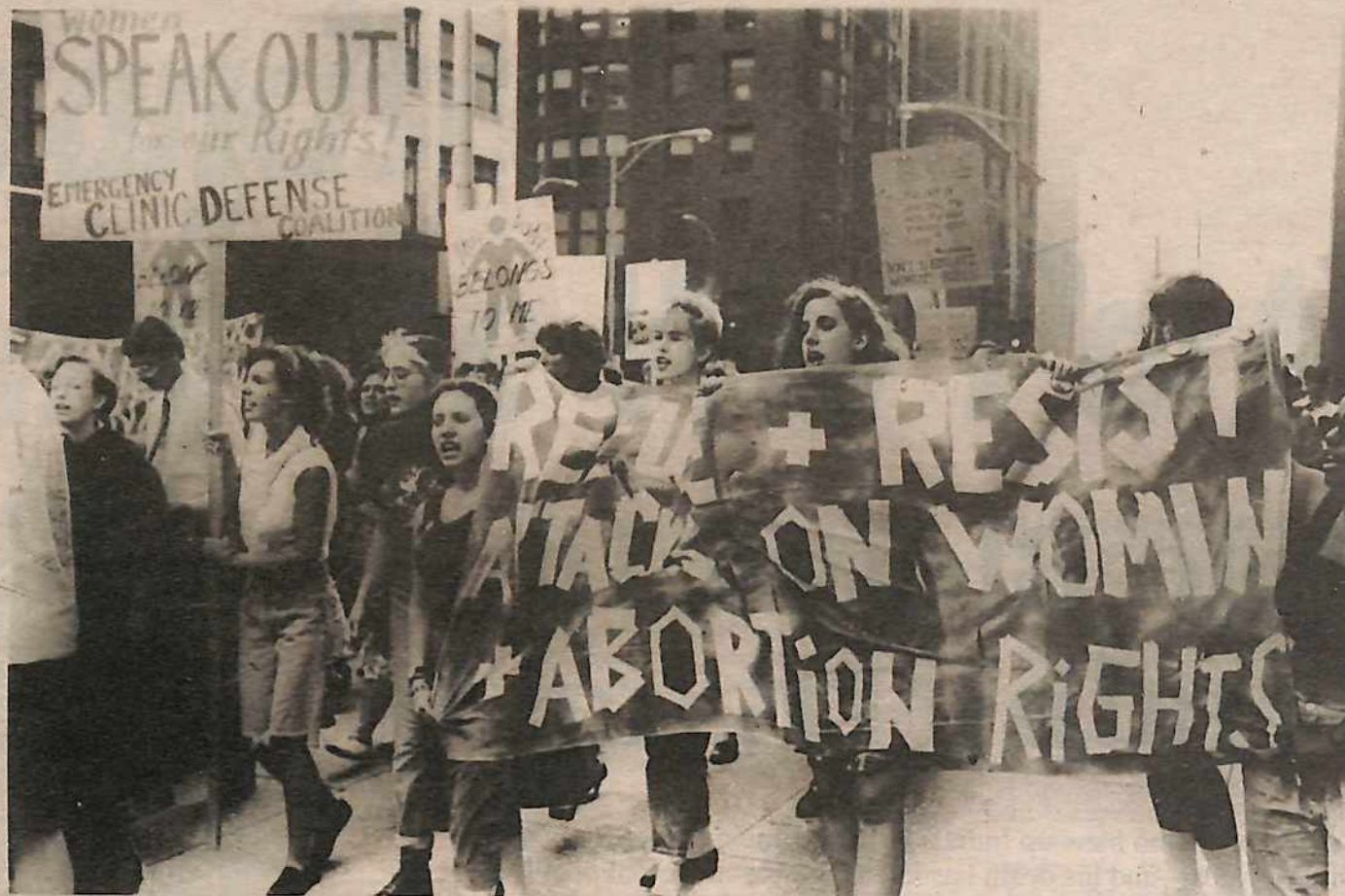
But there is a deep anger building up among the people in India which is breaking to the surface. The "way things are" will surely go through tremendous upheaval. And out of this could arise a revolutionary storm that would really turn things upside down and overthrow the old system of exploitation and oppression. When the hundreds of millions in India rise up, it will shake the whole world. □

New Supreme Court Outrage vs. Women

Continued from page 3
 abortion. Employees in federally funded clinics must now respond in this way to a woman's questions about abortion—even if the patient is 14 years old, and even if the patient has a condition such as AIDS, heart disease, or diabetes, which would be aggravated by a continued pregnancy.

A fact sheet issued last year by the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood pointed out that "By deliberately misleading women into thinking that abortion is unsafe, unobtainable, or illegal, the new regulations prevent women from making a decision based on knowledge of all the options—information that doctors are ethically required to provide. The regulations seek to foster ignorance about abortion, and thereby coerce women into choosing childbirth over abortion."

Secondly, it is significant that the court ruling explicitly refers to fetuses as "unborn children." The decision argues that the new regulations are "justified by client experience under the prior policy, and in accord with a shift in attitude against the 'elimination of unborn children by abortion.'" Also the new regulations stipulate that if a pregnant patient in a Title 10 clinic asks for an abortion referral, the clinic personnel must decline—and instead, they must provide the woman with a list of facilities that promote the health of the woman and the "unborn child." The list may include facilities that perform abortions, but may not include clinics whose



Chicago, July 1989.

principal service is abortion. And the list may not exclude providers of prenatal care that do not perform or refer for abortion.

The term "unborn child" is used by the anti-abortion movement to promote the lie that abortion is the murder of a human being. But there is no such thing as an *unborn child*. To become a child, one must be born, one must have a separate existence from the mother. Before that, a fetus exists that is a potential child but not yet a human being. This term "unborn children" is used

to play on people's emotions because it implies that a woman who has an abortion kills a "baby." In addition, using it in the decision has the effect of legitimizing the notion that a human being exists from the moment of conception and has equal rights with the mother or any other person. This is the pretext behind attempts to ban abortion entirely and reduce women to the status of incubators.

But fetuses are NOT children and abortion is NOT murder! And a woman should never be apologetic about choosing an abortion for *whatever* reasons she may have. The heart of the matter here is women's liberation and a woman's right to reproductive control. The anti-abortionists are not concerned about "human life"—what they are all about is tightening the chains of women's oppression by controlling women's reproduction.

A Broader Implication

As many opponents of these new regulations have pointed out, this Supreme Court ruling sets a very fascist-like precedent. The highest court in the land has now ruled that the government has the right to regulate the very *speech* of people—just because they are employees of a federally funded agency or organization. All kinds of services and businesses are federally funded in this country. The *Rust v. Sullivan* precedent could now be used in a court of law to argue that all kinds of federally funded services and businesses must restrict the activity, censor the speech of employees, and even require that they advocate certain political policies of the government that they may disagree with.

Women's Lives Come First! Beat Back the Court's Attack!

This latest ruling by the Supreme Court is part of an ongoing campaign, led by the highest offices of government, to take away women's right to abortion. The day before this ruling came down the House of Representatives narrowly voted to allow abor-

tions to be performed at U.S. military hospitals overseas. And immediately, Bush promised he would veto this decision.

There is outrage and anger at the court's decision. And there have been immediate responses of defiance from the clinics that are affected by the new regulations. Planned Parenthood clinics in this country receive \$37 million of the \$200 million annual Title 10 funds. If it does not comply with the new federally mandated regulations it will not receive these funds. Officials at the New York City health clinic which filed the lawsuit against the government regulations have announced it will not withhold information about abortion. Planned Parenthood in Chicago has already announced that it would give up the \$400,000 it receives in federal funds before it would stop making abortion referrals. And many other health facilities around the country have also said they will continue to provide women with abortion information even though this will mean they'll lose all Federal funds.

The anger, outrage and defiance must also find expression in the streets. We have seen what this system has to offer women—the daily terror of rape, the humiliation of wife beating and the stifling, mind-numbing degradation of being treated as sexual plaything, maid or incubator. We can't rely on ANY part of this system to fight the oppression of women—not the courts, and not any part of their so-called "democratic" process. The Supreme Court and the White House are the supreme leaders in this charge against abortion—leading reactionary anti-abortion movements like "Operation Rescue" and leading state courts and legislatures throughout this country that have already passed or are in the process of passing anti-abortion laws. The masses of women—and all those who hate oppression—need to take all this on. But we can't do this by lobbying, begging or voting. A mass, militant political battle must be waged that relies on massive resistance and the strength and determination of the people to break all the chains of women's oppression. □

"A woman who is forced to bear a child against her will is assaulted and degraded in both body and spirit. On the other hand, a woman who can control her own reproduction and decide whether and when to have children will be stronger, more independent and better able to deal with the world at large, outside the confines of the family. She will be better able to lift her head, better able to dream and visualize the way the world COULD BE. And she will be better able to act to realize these dreams. Stronger women make stronger fighters, for themselves, for their children, for all the women, men, and children everywhere who have known conditions of oppression."

From *Women Are Not Incubators!*, an RW Special Magazine Section



New York, July 1989.

Special to the RW

New World Order Has Spoken Again

The day after the *Rust v. Sullivan* Supreme Court decision a speakout was held in New York city to protest this new attack on women's right to abortion. About 50 to 75 participated, including people from NOW-NYC, NARAL, WHAM (Women's Health Action and Mobilization), Refuse & Resist!, ACT UP, and the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East.

The following excerpts are from a statement given at this speakout by Mary Lou Greenberg, spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party, NY Branch, and reproductive rights activist who was arrested in the first civil disobedience action protesting the 1989 anti-abortion Supreme Court Webster decision.

The "new world order" has spoken again. Soon to join the 100,000 Iraqis slaughtered from on high will be thousands of women, mostly poor, many women of color. They, too, will be slaughtered from on high—but instead of missiles launched from planes it will be a decision by the highest court in the land that kills them.

The Supreme Court has ruled that federally funded women's health clinics cannot discuss or counsel women on abortion—cannot even say the word "abortion" or distribute a piece of paper that has this banned word. And why? Are they concerned about life, these men who speak for a system that coldly calculates—and then tries to cover up—"collateral damage" from bombing runs? It was George Bush himself who declared January 22 "Sanctity of Human Life Day"—the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*—only days after he ordered the launching of the massive air attacks on Iraq.

These lives mean nothing to the powers. Just as the lives of women mean nothing to them. Make no mistake, women will die from this decision. Women who can't get counseling on abortion will take their own

counsel—or a friend's—and they will find a way to try to control their childbearing. Just like 17-year-old Becky Bell tried to do when she couldn't get a legal abortion because of parental consent laws where she lived in Indiana. And just like Becky Bell, they will die of illegal abortions—and many more will be maimed for life, physically and psychologically.

This is a profoundly racist decision, as well. Some five million low-income women depend on 4,000 Title 10-funded clinics nationwide. Many of them are Black, Puerto Rican, Native American, and other nationalities. These are the same women who suffer most from lack of prenatal care, and decent medical facilities and hospitals for themselves and their existing children. This decision means many of the Title 10 clinics may have to close because of losing federal funds—or, go along with the ban on the "A" word. Either way, women lose.

Abortion has become a banned word not because the rulers of this country love life but because they must control women as an essential part of their new world order—which is only a high-tech version of the same old imperialist oppression, repression and suppression of people all over the world. And which will never let up until this system is overthrown.

We cannot let these assaults on our and our sisters' lives continue. I know women's anger is great. But anger isn't enough. This decision shows that it is deadly to think that abortion rights can be defended state by state or by appealing to Congress. We must build massive resistance to their assaults on reproductive freedom. There must be an outpouring of women's rage in the streets. And we must seize the opportunity of the upcoming parade of shame in New York to mobilize massive numbers of women to protest everything their new world order represents. There must be an end to attacks on women and oppressed people around the world. We must stop this new world order!



Mary Lou Greenberg, left, at 1989 demonstration outside St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**Now Available!
Special Magazine
Section of the
Revolutionary
Worker**

**GET THIS MAGAZINE
TODAY!**

**For Your Friends!
For Your School!
Women's Groups!
Revolutionary Study
Groups! RCYB Chapters!**

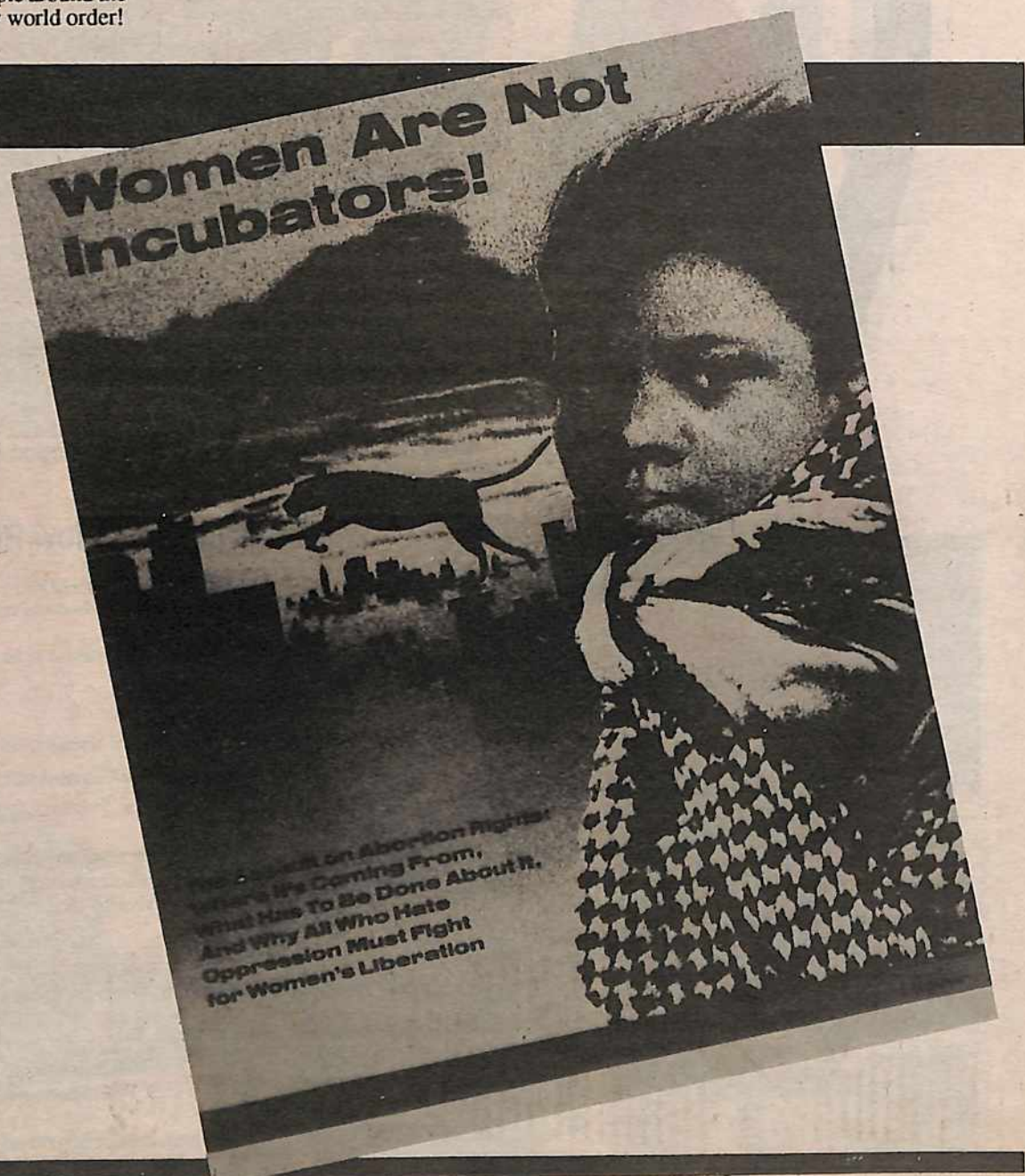
For copies write:
RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486,
Merchandise Mart,
Chicago, IL 60654

SINGLE COPIES: \$1.00
—plus 50 cents postage

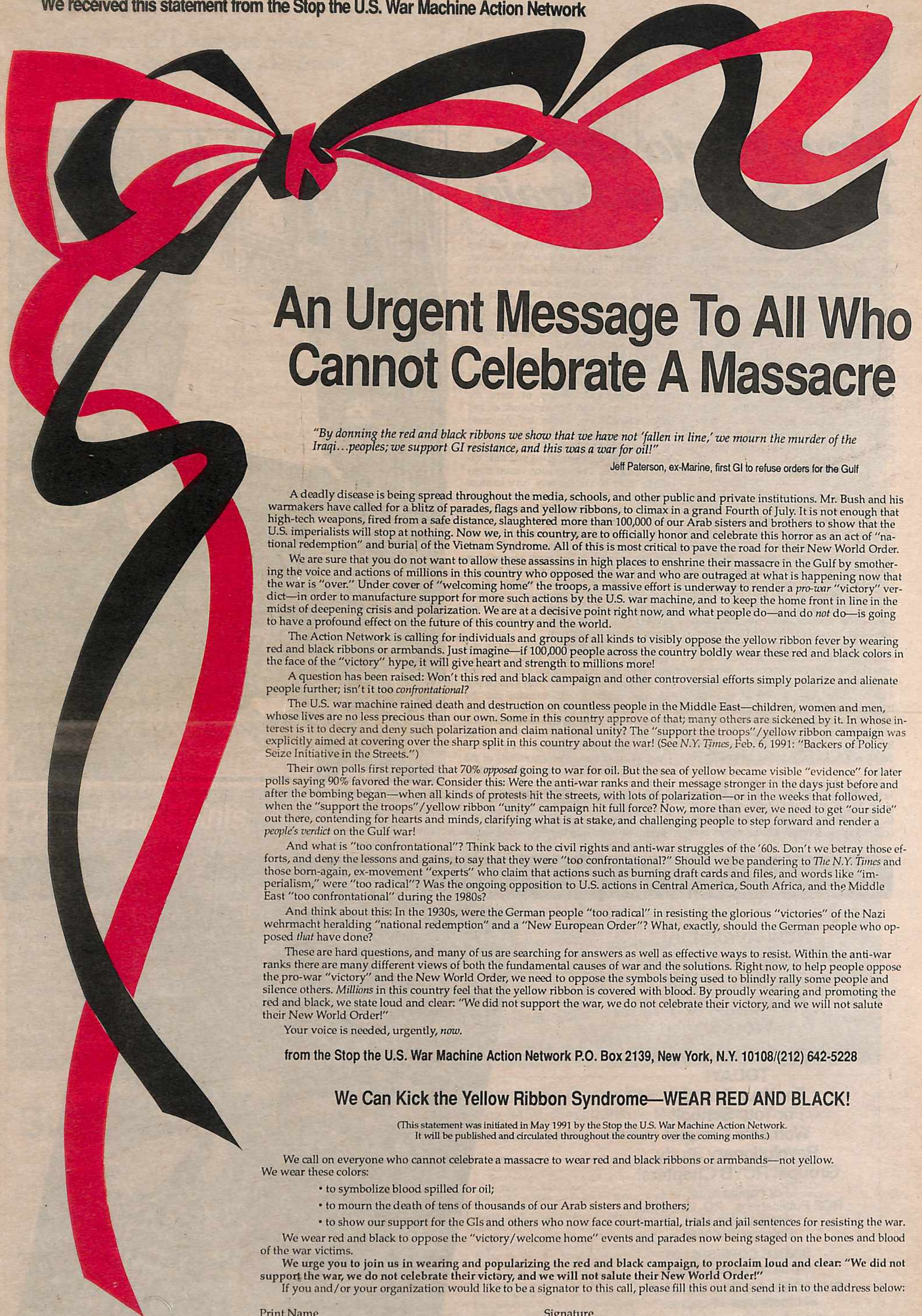
BULK ORDERS: 20% discount on
all orders over 10 copies.

Send check or money order
up front. Free shipping.

Check out REVOLUTION BOOKS
in your area or contact your local
REVOLUTIONARY WORKER
distributor!



We received this statement from the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network



An Urgent Message To All Who Cannot Celebrate A Massacre

"By donning the red and black ribbons we show that we have not 'fallen in line,' we mourn the murder of the Iraqi...peoples; we support GI resistance, and this was a war for oil!"

Jeff Paterson, ex-Marine, first GI to refuse orders for the Gulf

A deadly disease is being spread throughout the media, schools, and other public and private institutions. Mr. Bush and his warmakers have called for a blitz of parades, flags and yellow ribbons, to climax in a grand Fourth of July. It is not enough that high-tech weapons, fired from a safe distance, slaughtered more than 100,000 of our Arab sisters and brothers to show that the U.S. imperialists will stop at nothing. Now we, in this country, are to officially honor and celebrate this horror as an act of "national redemption" and burial of the Vietnam Syndrome. All of this is most critical to pave the road for their New World Order.

We are sure that you do not want to allow these assassins in high places to enshrine their massacre in the Gulf by smothering the voice and actions of millions in this country who opposed the war and who are outraged at what is happening now that the war is "over." Under cover of "welcoming home" the troops, a massive effort is underway to render a *pro-war* "victory" verdict—in order to manufacture support for more such actions by the U.S. war machine, and to keep the home front in line in the midst of deepening crisis and polarization. We are at a decisive point right now, and what people do—and do *not* do—is going to have a profound effect on the future of this country and the world.

The Action Network is calling for individuals and groups of all kinds to visibly oppose the yellow ribbon fever by wearing red and black ribbons or armbands. Just imagine—if 100,000 people across the country boldly wear these red and black colors in the face of the "victory" hype, it will give heart and strength to millions more!

A question has been raised: Won't this red and black campaign and other controversial efforts simply polarize and alienate people further; isn't it too *confrontational*?

The U.S. war machine rained death and destruction on countless people in the Middle East—children, women and men, whose lives are no less precious than our own. Some in this country approve of that; many others are sickened by it. In whose interest is it to decry and deny such polarization and claim national unity? The "support the troops"/yellow ribbon campaign was explicitly aimed at covering over the sharp split in this country about the war! (See *N.Y. Times*, Feb. 6, 1991: "Backers of Policy Seize Initiative in the Streets.")

Their own polls first reported that 70% *opposed* going to war for oil. But the sea of yellow became visible "evidence" for later polls saying 90% favored the war. Consider this: Were the anti-war ranks and their message stronger in the days just before and after the bombing began—when all kinds of protests hit the streets, with lots of polarization—or in the weeks that followed, when the "support the troops"/yellow ribbon "unity" campaign hit full force? Now, more than ever, we need to get "our side" out there, contending for hearts and minds, clarifying what is at stake, and challenging people to step forward and render a *people's verdict* on the Gulf war!

And what is "too confrontational"? Think back to the civil rights and anti-war struggles of the '60s. Don't we betray those efforts, and deny the lessons and gains, to say that they were "too confrontational"? Should we be pandering to *The N.Y. Times* and those born-again, ex-movement "experts" who claim that actions such as burning draft cards and files, and words like "imperialism," were "too radical"? Was the ongoing opposition to U.S. actions in Central America, South Africa, and the Middle East "too confrontational" during the 1980s?

And think about this: In the 1930s, were the German people "too radical" in resisting the glorious "victories" of the Nazi wehrmacht heralding "national redemption" and a "New European Order"? What, exactly, should the German people who opposed *that* have done?

These are hard questions, and many of us are searching for answers as well as effective ways to resist. Within the anti-war ranks there are many different views of both the fundamental causes of war and the solutions. Right now, to help people oppose the pro-war "victory" and the New World Order, we need to oppose the symbols being used to blindly rally some people and silence others. *Millions* in this country feel that the yellow ribbon is covered with blood. By proudly wearing and promoting the red and black, we state loud and clear: "We did not support the war, we do not celebrate their victory, and we will not salute their New World Order!"

Your voice is needed, urgently, *now*.

from the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network P.O. Box 2139, New York, N.Y. 10108/(212) 642-5228

We Can Kick the Yellow Ribbon Syndrome—WEAR RED AND BLACK!

(This statement was initiated in May 1991 by the Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network. It will be published and circulated throughout the country over the coming months.)

We call on everyone who cannot celebrate a massacre to wear red and black ribbons or armbands—not yellow. We wear these colors:

- to symbolize blood spilled for oil;
- to mourn the death of tens of thousands of our Arab sisters and brothers;
- to show our support for the GIs and others who now face court-martial, trials and jail sentences for resisting the war.

We wear red and black to oppose the "victory/welcome home" events and parades now being staged on the bones and blood of the war victims.

We urge you to join us in wearing and popularizing the red and black campaign, to proclaim loud and clear: "We did not support the war, we do not celebrate their victory, and we will not salute their New World Order!"

If you and/or your organization would like to be a signator to this call, please fill this out and send it in to the address below:

Print Name _____ Signature _____
Organization/Affiliation (for identification purposes only) _____
Address _____ Phone _____

Please reproduce and distribute this statement.

Send signed copies to: Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network, P.O. Box 2139, New York, NY 10108 / Tel. (212) 642-5228

To help this red and black campaign, send contributions (checks payable to "Action Network"). Thank you.