

"To Hell With Their National Honor, We Won't Be Used Again!".. VETERANS DAY 1977

See Page



THE VETERAN

Vietnam Veterans Against the War

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Fight the Rich, Not Their Wars

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IN THIS ISSUE

**FREE THE
PENDLETON 14
pg 3**

**VETS IN THE
MINES pg 5**

**KENT STATE
STRUGGLE
centerfold**

**FAKE
UPGRADING
FOR VETS
pg 13**

**V.A. NURSES
RAILROADED
pg 7**

U.S. OUT OF PANAMA! TREATY KEEPS GRIP ON CANAL



"And do you realize that if this treaty is approved, they're gonna take our Panama Canal and move it down to Latin America?"

What is the real story behind the big debate over Carter's proposed Panama Canal treaty? What does this treaty really do?

Tremendous controversy is being stirred up with "conservative" politicians--Ronald Reagan and a host of others--attacking Carter for "selling out" and "giving away the canal." "There is no Panama Canal, only an American Canal in Panama" is their slogan. Hundreds of thousands of form letters are being mailed out by them in an effort to stir up popular sentiment against the treaty. The chiefs of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are even organizing their memberships to take to the streets in petition drives.

But what Carter is proposing and what Reagan's saying are two sides of the same imperialist coin. The big debate in Congress is not whether to keep the Canal, but how to keep it. One says they must negotiate a treaty in the interests of being able to hold on to it, rather than allowing the U.S. to lose face with Latin America and maybe lose the canal. The other side says that the U.S. cannot give in to any two-bit government; that the U.S. can't be pushed around and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

Court Backs Down

VICTORY FOR DETROIT VETERAN



ALI AND SUPPORTERS IN FRONT OF COURTHOUSE AFTER VICTORY.

Over the past few months veterans and others in Detroit and around the country have closed ranks behind Ali Hussin, a disabled Vietnam veteran and an active member of VVAW. Ali has been the victim of disability cuts by the Veterans Administration. For two years he has been involved in a fight against the VA, both around his own case and for decent medical benefits for all veterans. Ali is just one of thousands of veterans around the country faced with cuts in disability benefits, cuts in the GI Bill and cuts in medical care at the VA hospitals. But rather than

lying down and taking this, Ali and a broad number of supporters have been fighting back and winning.

Ali got sick in Vietnam with a rare disease called Sarcoidosis. The disease has no known cure and has already resulted in lung disease, hypertension, constant pain and fatigue. For the last two years he hasn't been able to work. He lost the few part-time jobs he was able to land, because he'd get so sick he'd end up in the VA hospital. And yet, all this time the VA refused him 100% disability. The most he ever received was 60%

or \$298 a month for him, his wife and two year old daughter to live on!

In July of this year, while in the hospital, Ali received a letter from the VA cutting his disability from 60% to 30%. Further they said they would cut it to 10% by March of 1978. The VA was, in effect, driving Ali and his family into the dirt, and Ali was not about to stand by and let that happen.

He went to the Assistant Director of the Regional VA, Gordon W. Clowny, to find out why his

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

VETERANS' NOTES

Who Can Get What(says the V.A.)

DISCHARGES AND VETS BENEFITS

(VETERANS' NOTES, a regular column in The Veteran, tries to cut through some of the bureaucratic, the normal language of the Veterans Administration. The VA tries either to hide their regulations concerning benefits or else just never bothers to tell vets about them. If there are particular areas of vets benefits you want to see explained in this column, let the VVAW National Office know about them.)

Because there have been a number of questions over what kind of discharge is qualified, according to V.A. regulations, for which benefits, VETS NOTES is printing the chart on this page. Almost all of the benefits listed here have other restrictions in addition to type of discharge (for instance, you have to use the GI Bill within 10 years, apply for discharge upgrading within 15 years, etc). There are also some differences depending on where you live--the civil service preference, for

instance, is good for federal jobs, but different states have differences in regulations for state jobs.

For vets with undesirable discharges, most of the benefits are listed as "To be determined" by the regional V.A. As usual, that means a hassle because, so long as the V.A. can operate on one vet at a time, they will almost always try to deny any benefits. Veterans should be aware that their regional office does have some functionary in it who can make these decisions, however, since one tactic of the V.A. is to say that "we have to consult with higher-ups."

VVAW chapters have found, in the past, that the "determination" of benefits can often be simplified by a number of vets working together--what the V.A. will try to do to one vet it will not try when there are 10 vets confronting the official who makes the determination. ■



	HONORABLE	GENERAL	UNDESIRABLE	BAD CONDUCT	DISHONORABLE
1. GI Bill, including apprenticeship programs	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
2. Disability or death compensation when service-connected	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
3. Pension for non-service connected disability	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
4. VA hospital care	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
5. Wearing of military uniform (!)	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
6. Admission to Soldiers or sailors home	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
7. Burial in national cemetery (this benefit varies according to availability of space)	E	E	NE	NE	NE
8. Funeral, burial expenses	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
9. Home, farm loan guarantees	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
10. Review of discharge (up to 15 years after separation, but see article on discharges)	E	E	E	E	E
11. Correction of military records	E	E	E	E	E
12. Disability benefits--vocational rehabilitation, special housing, guide dogs, special vehicles, etc all depend on degree of disability	E	E	TBD	NE	NE
13. Civil Service preference	E	E	NE	NE	NE

E = Eligible

NE = Not Eligible

TBD = To be determined on an individual basis by the V.A.

Founding Convention A Success NATIONAL

WORKERS ORGANIZATION FORMED

On Labor Day weekend in Chicago's Pick Congress Hotel, 1,500 workers gathered for the founding convention of the National United Workers Organization. Veteran workers and young men and women of all nationalities came from every major industry and area in the country--from pineapple fields in Hawaii, from steelmills in New Jersey, from textile sweatshops in El Paso, from coalfields in West Virginia--uniting as brothers and sisters in a common struggle against a common enemy. There were workers present from every major strike line and struggle that has been waged in the US in recent times. This was the first time in several decades that a conference like this has been held.

Throughout the weekend workers exchanged experiences and discussed what kind of organization this will be, what its purposes are and what it will do. Many different workshops were held where auto workers, meat packers, garment workers and others discussed how to advance the struggle in each industry.



MAIN MEETING HALL DURING NATIONAL UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION FOUNDING CONVENTION.

Later workshops were held on major social questions facing the working class such as discrimination, organizing the unorganized and the threat of World War III. What became clear in all the discussion and experiences shared is that at every turn, in every aspect of society, the interests of the working class are

different from, and opposed to, the interests of the class of rich owners, the parasites who do no work, but drive the working class like slaves and take the fruits of their labor.

People had come to this convention because they are fighters and because they see the need to get their battles better

organized. They came to build a political workers organization--one that stands in direct opposition to the lies and attacks of rich bosses that run our society, one dedicated to fighting within the unions to pull them away from the sell-out big labor hacks like George Meany and restore them to the rank and file workers; an organization that--with local chapters in every major city--would unite workers across industry and geographic lines to hit together as one fist at every outrage, crime and injustice that the capitalist class tries to pull off.

Everyone recognized that the numbers of workers gathered to form the NUWO, though significant, were small in comparison to the millions of workers across the land; the task of NUWO members is to reach out to thousands more, concentrating its forces on the most important battles and fanning the sparks of struggle that arise into class-wide battles thereby growing in membership and influence.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Marine Corps Pushes Racist Trials

FREE THE PENDLETON 14

The fight to free the 14 Black Marines at Camp Pendleton, who were jailed for breaking up what they believed was a Ku Klux Klan meeting on the base, is again heating up as the Pendleton brothers and their supporters prepare for the final rounds against the Marine Corps Brass. Not surprisingly, the Court of Military Appeals has denied a motion to take the trials out of the hands of the military where the so-called "Uniform Code of Military Justice" (UCMJ) guarantees convictions with the brass playing all

Around late July the newly appointed Secretary of the Navy came to the San Diego-Orange County areas to "inspect the troops," check on the cruise missile and make some speeches to the local businessmen about "war readiness." Thinking that San Diego is Navy and Marine Corps Brass turf, Claytor figured he'd get showered with love and affection by the large community of GIs and veterans. What he hadn't counted on was the militant demonstration that greeted him when he came to give an arms race

Pendleton 14 by the military and their rich bosses. Surprised by the demonstration the big man had to be brought in through the service entrance, probably the closest the former head of Southern Railroad Co. has ever been to a time clock in his life. Leaflets about the demonstration were received well by GIs and Sailors from Camp Pendleton to the 32nd St. Navy Base.

While leafletting, VVAW also learned of an assault on a Black sailor, Kenneth James by 3 sailors as part of an initiation ritual into the Ku Klux Klan. After being attacked while asleep in his bunk James required many stitches where the attackers had hit him in the head with a pipe. The Brass' response to all this was to press some phony drug charges on James while letting the Klan initiate off easy with only a sixty day restriction, \$100 fine and a general under honorable conditions discharge for one of the attackers. Kenneth James told VVAW after receiving a leaflet that he felt that he was up against the same battle as the Pendleton 14 and that the picket line against the Secretary of the Navy had his support.

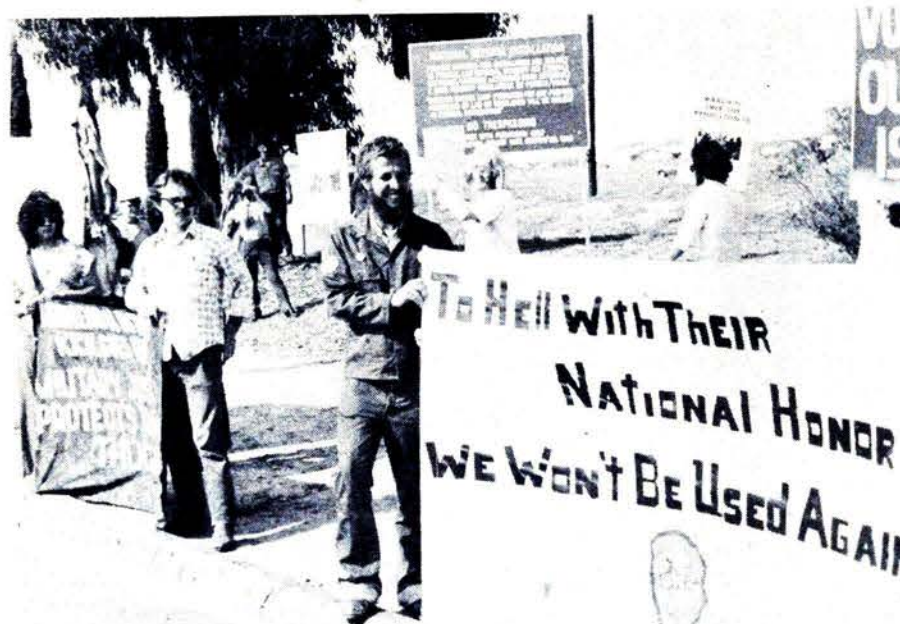
It is exactly this type of cooperation with the Klan by the military that has helped the Klan in dramatically stepping up its scum activities and that was directly responsible for the situation at Pendleton that led to the incident the 14 are being charged for.

In the past six weeks VVAW, the Pendleton Brothers and other groups have been fighting and exposing what the Marine Brass are trying to do to the Pendleton 14. Through door to door leafletting, programs at churches and schools the VVAW as well as the Revolutionary Student Brigade have taken the issues of this case out to thousands in southern Calif. and made this not only a struggle to free the 14, but part of the broader fight against the bosses war plans, and their use of our bodies to fight their wars. Some of the defendants themselves have become very active in bringing these questions out to people and becoming organizers on their own behalf. Refusing to give in to the threats of both the military's defense and prosecution lawyers some of the brothers have used every opportunity to speak out on radio and in public about their experience fighting back against the Klan and the military Brass.

Naturally the Brass have retaliated against this, and have tried to silence the most militant of the defendants, restricting them to base and using the military's defense lawyers to run down plea-bargaining offers "you can't refuse." Some of the lawyers, both military and civilian have insisted all along that the case had to be fought exclusively in the military courtroom and not by building support among the masses of working people and GIs. The majority of these lawyers have browbeat their defendants with the idea that if the Pendleton 14 just cool it the Brass will be more lenient with them. But nothing could be further from the truth. While the Klan steps out and continues to use the military as a recruiting ground, the Brass is handing out convictions of the Pendleton 14 right and left in an effort to make an example of them and try to derail the growing support for 14.

One of the defendants, Don Hunter has been held 6 months past his enlistment. During this time the Brass have piled up a lot of petty charges against him and are pressing to have a second court-martial. Eddie Page, has been sentenced to 2 years in Leavenworth. A third, Herman Fletcher will serve 6 months and be given a Bad Conduct Discharge.

Trials for other members of the 14 are progressing: Bill Spencer and Tony Matthew on October 17th and Billy Bishop on November 1st. Rather than no outside support, as the lawyers suggest, members of VVAW and other organizations are holding picket lines and marches through downtown San Diego. The Brass would like nothing better than a quiet trial and a defeat for the Black GIs and all the other GIs who stand with the Pendleton Brothers. Now is a critical time for all of us to stand together with the Brothers. ■



MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS OF VVAW OUTSIDE THE CAMP PENDLETON GATES DURING PICKET LINE IN SUPPORT OF THE PENDLETON 14.

the roles--judge, jury, prosecution and defense lawyers, and, of course, hangman. This is the system that gives the Brass its 97% rate of convictions over enlisted people. Because the appeal to move the trials to civilian courts have been denied the trials are being run through as fast as the Brass can get them to go. This has demanded an equally swift response on the part of the movement to Free the 14.

speech to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and the Navy League at the El Cortez Hotel. The San Diego chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War had got wind of his visit and along with vets from Los Angeles, Organizing Committee for a National Workers Organization, Youth in Action and other organizations they staged a demonstration against Sec. Claytor and the legal railroad being run down on the

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[312] 651-1583

VETERANS DAY

To Hell With Their National Honor We Won't Be Used Again

- ★ **Fight the Rich, Not Their Wars**
- ★ **U.S. Out of Panama**
- ★ **Jobs or Income Now**
- ★ **Decent Benefits for All Vets**

Like others of our national holidays, Veterans Day has not been neglected by the class of people who run this country. Along with days like Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, and the Fourth of July, it's a time for them to carry on about the glory of fighting for "our" country, to wave the flag for national honor, and to try to raise some enthusiasm for another war.

One thing is clear--they sure aren't holding Veterans Day for vets. If that was their interest, they would give vets some of the things we need, like an adequate GI Bill with checks on time, decent care in VA hospitals, union jobs at union wages. Instead, on Veterans Day they give us some speeches by tired political hacks, some more speeches by decaying leaders of the American Legion and VFW all decked out in their beanies, an off-key rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" by a member of the Legion Auxilliary, and, if we're especially lucky, maybe a parade! None of these do a damn thing to pay the landlord or help feed our families; instead, they're designed to get us ready to go fight for the rich once again.

Veterans Day grew out of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles at 11 in the morning on the 11th of November in 1918, bringing to an end the first World War. Then, like now, a government willing to "honor" the vet by talking about his great contribution to keeping the world safe for democracy, was not willing to give a promised bonus (which led to the Bonus March in 1932 where 25,000 vets and their families moved into Washington, DC until they were finally driven out at the bayonet points of the U.S. military).

But the empty "honor" is not the only similarity between then and now. World War I was fought because a bunch of greedy capitalist countries were trying to redivide the world. Germany, a rapidly rising capitalist power, had missed out on the earlier feast where the imperialist powers like Britain and France had gobbled up countries

around the world to set up their colonial empires. When Germany tried to grab its piece of the world pie, war quickly followed.

Today the names have changed but the need for capitalist thugs to grab more and more remains the same. The U.S. and the Soviet Union stand face to face in country after country around the world--in Africa, in the Middle East, in Europe. Both countries are driven by the need for more markets, more cheap resources, more cheap labor--more and more profits--and the political control which makes all these things possible. When one of the superpowers slips, the other is ready to leap in. And so while the leaders of the two countries talk about detente, hold arms control talks and declare their intentions only to go to war if attacked, at the same time they build new weapons, spend huge amounts of money on their military forces, and try to prepare their people to go off to fight and die for the profits of the country's rulers.

That's what Veterans Day is all about. Pushed closer and closer to the brink of war, the U.S. bosses know they have to build a spirit of nationalism and pride in order to get the people behind them for the next war. They can remember 5 years back in the closing days of the Indochina War when their military was in a state of near collapse, officers were being shot, orders refused; on the streets at home millions turned out to say Get Out of Vietnam; and in Indochina small, politically determined countries beat back all the technological marvels the U.S. government could throw at them. And the bosses know that when they have to go to war again, they're going to have to make people forget all this resistance to build support for their venture. It's for sure that they aren't going to go out and fight the war themselves, and they're going to try like hell to keep their sons out of it. So, once again, they have to huff and puff up some kind of war enthusiasm among the millions of work-

ing people who will actually have to do their dirty work for them.

Veterans Day gives them a chance to drum up this enthusiasm. Many people listen when veterans speak, and the leaders of groups like the Legion and VFW, owned body and soul by the ruling class, do all they can to make war sound good to the American people.

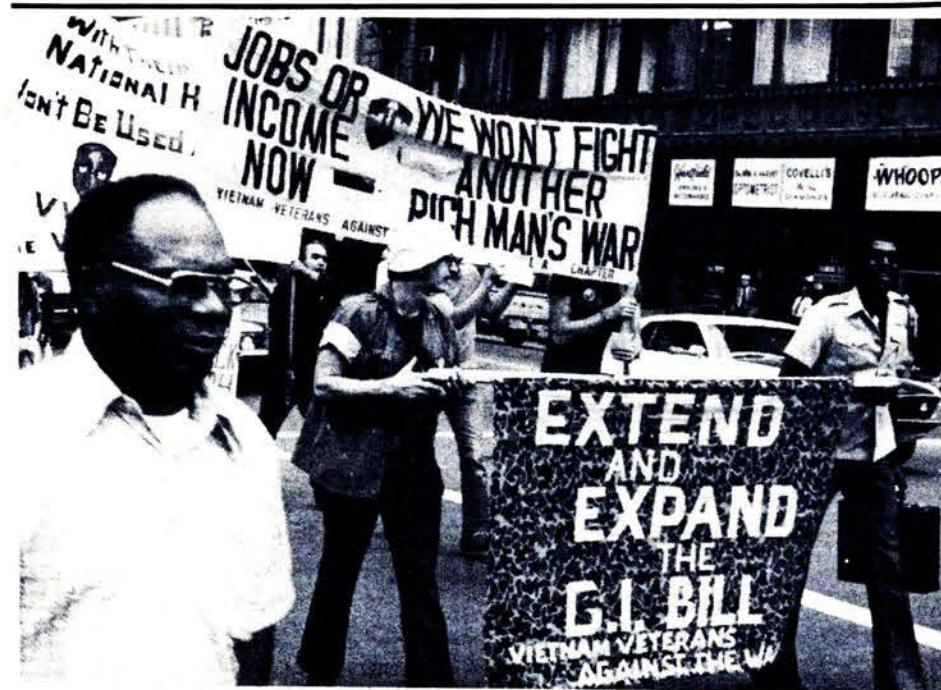
VVAW's experience over the past several years in going out to Veterans Day parades or ceremonies across the country is that there are hundreds of thousands of people who will not buy the lies which are put out on Vets Day. To underline our experiences and point to the real cause of the next war, we carry banners which say FIGHT THE RICH, NOT THEIR WARS! And in response to the attempt of the country's rulers to have

Canal" statements of the VFW with U.S. OUT OF PANAMA--not in the year 2000 like Carter's treaty seems to call for, but RIGHT NOW!

Among the things not talked about on Veterans Day are things that vets actually need--what we don't need is empty honor, costly parades, ceremonies serving only the purpose of the rich who sent us off to fight their wars and then threw us away. So, on Veterans Day, VVAW chapters point to some of the needs of vets. We demand JOBS OR INCOME NOW!

We demand DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS! We need a larger and longer GI Bill for those who are going to school, no more cuts in disability payments, adequate care in VA hospitals instead of the butcher-shops which many VA hospitals have become.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA, CONTACT THE CHAPTER LISTED ON THE FRONT OF THE PAPER; VVAW CHAPTERS TAKE ON THE RICH WHEREVER THEY LAY OUT THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW WAR--CONTACT THE LOCAL CHAPTER OR THE VVAW NATIONAL OFFICE, P.O. BOX 20184, CHICAGO, IL 60620 (312) 651-1583



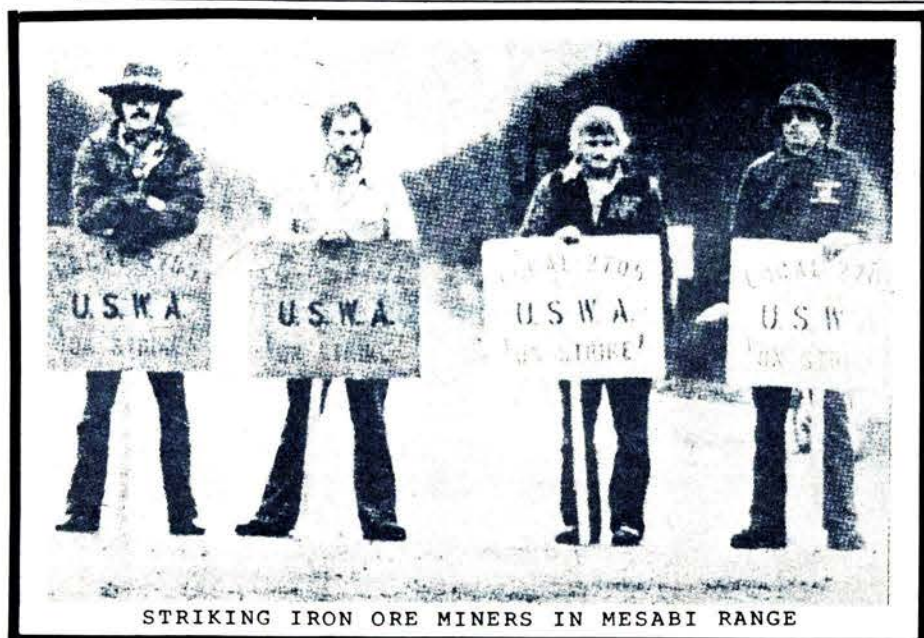
VVAW MARCHES FOR VETERANS DAY IN LOS ANGELES, 1976.

us forget what happened in Indochina, we say WE WON'T FORGIVE, WE WON'T FORGET!

One of the schemes of the rich to build national pride is speeches about "our canal" in Panama (see article on page 1). Many members of VVAW have already seen what it means when U.S. troops, commanded by U.S. business interests, occupy another country--that's what we were doing in Vietnam. And so we counter the "Keep Our

For sure what vets don't need is another war; we have no interest at all in seeing our sons or brothers go off to protect the profits of the rich. And so we go head-to-head with the Legion leaders and the rich they're fronting for, and say: TO HELL WITH THEIR NATIONAL HONOR; WE WON'T BE USED AGAIN!

From Battlefield to Battlefield LESSONS FROM WAR PUT TO USE IN THE MINES



STRIKING IRON ORE MINERS IN MESABI RANGE

Throughout the pages of THE VETERAN there are stories about veterans and unemployment, veterans whose disabilities are being cut, problems with the GI Bill--all the many ways in which the U.S. government and its rich bosses try to toss its veterans--particularly Vietnam veterans--on the garbage heap. But the vast majority of veterans, like the vast majority of men and women in this country, are out putting in their 8 (or, with speed-ups, 10 or 12) hours a day trying to scrape out a living and provide as best they can a decent life for themselves and their families.

For many of those veterans, however, the experience of fighting a rich man's war has not been forgotten, and some of the lessons learned in the rice paddies of Vietnam are now being transferred to their postwar lives and actions, all in a way far different from the much-publicized crazed and psychotic vets portrayed on TV.

A New York Times article about the "new breed" of coal miners in the West Virginia coal fields talks at length about the number of miners, often involved deeply in the work of the union, who are Vietnam veterans. "Miners of the new generation are bolder and wiser not only because of the need for their labor but also because thousands of them were in combat in Vietnam and have had some college education." The average age of union local presidents is 35, the article continues, and one third of the working miners in the union are in their 20's. The article quotes a 30-year old union vice-president, a Vietnam combat infantryman, as saying, "I think about half the guys my

age ended up in Vietnam--their daddies were poor and had no influence to keep them out."

The article was written at a time in early September when this "new breed" was in the front of the fighting around healthcare benefits (which the union was trying to cut back), staging wildcats throughout the coalfields in support of the demand to restore full healthcare, and battling against the sell-out leadership of Arnold Miller and his cronies in the United Mine Workers Union.

At the same time, miners in the iron ore ranges of northern Minnesota and Michigan were on strike over wages and working conditions. There, too it was Vietnam vets who were deeply involved in the fight. One of the miners laid out what the experience of Vietnam meant to the miners: "They used the hell out of the youth of this country in that stinking Vietnam War. U.S. Steel and a lot of other companies made big money on it. Now we're going to make them give us what we deserve." The experience of Vietnam helped a lot of vets to see who the real enemy is.

The miner, Miles Surla, 24, was on the picket line at the time, wearing a fatigue jacket with the slogan, "I'm sure I'll go to heaven because I've served my time in hell. Vietnam '71-72."

A shop electrician also on the picket line laid out his feelings--"If Vietnam had not happened, I would not see things like I do now." This Vietnam vet served with the Army in 'Nam in '68 and '69.

The company, needless to say, saw things different. An anonymous management spokes-

man said, "The trouble with these younger guys is that they want everything in two weeks--a house, boat, cabin in the woods." To which one of the vets responded, "People are waking up. What's the point of buying a boat if each Sunday you are so tired from work and harassment that you cannot enjoy it?"

The strikers talked about wages and about working conditions. Tired of being treated like dirt--what they called the condescending paternalism of foremen and supervisors--the miners hit the picket line with a whole package of demands. While almost any veteran can talk about the treatment in the military, about the way the brass deals with the enlisted ranks, many Vietnam vets were also a part of the experience of resistance inside the military. The experience of fighting against the Vietnam war led, in turn, to resisting all kinds of military Mickey-Mouse harassment (hundreds of thousands of combat vets can recall the experience of coming in after weeks in the boonies and having some sparkling clean officer sound off about dirty boots or long hair). Often jumping off the perceptions that the reasons behind being sent to Vietnam were lies (we were not defending democracy or "helping" a loyal and dedicated ally--anyone who saw the ARVN perform knew better than that), GIs not only began to question why we were there but also to question and finally unite against much of the discipline of the U.S. military. And both the questioning and the fighting are being carried over into civilian occupations.

The lessons of having been a part of the U.S. military in Vietnam go deeper, however. Thousands of veterans came back from Indochina with the sense that they had been used. And when we looked around to see who had used us, it was clear that it went far beyond just the military brass. Instead, it was a government which lied to us and, even more important, a class which stood behind that government. That was the group making profits off the war, profits even off the tremendous expenditures (and equally tremendous waste) of supplies in Indochina, a group which didn't much care if a piece of equipment was used, blown-up, or captured,

just so long as they could make a profit selling the military another item.

This class, of course, had deeper interests than just profit from war materials--the oil off the coast of Vietnam was oft-talked about as were the tin deposits. Almost any GI could see the way in which the Vietnamese were used at miserably low wages (women filling sandbags for the 1st Air Cav Division for 10 hours a day were paid \$1 per day, yet because of the poverty of the country were still clammering for jobs). To continue to exploit the peasants and workers of Vietnam, the U.S. ruling class also had to maintain their political control over the country (which meant keeping it from being united into one country with its northern half) and that was the primary task of the U.S. military.

These were experiences, made real by the discomfort of rice paddies, the fear of mortar rounds, the grief at the death of friends which are impossible to forget. For many veterans--as illustrated by the statements from the miners--these perceptions carry over, since the same class that sent us off to die for their profits in Indochina is now fully ready to have us die for them in their mines and mills. Just as in Vietnam, as many of us began to learn there and continue to learn in our workplaces, we have nothing in common with the bosses except to share the battlefield where we will fight them.

The wildcat strikes in the coalfields ended after ten weeks with the miners, though not winning all their demands gaining some real victories both against the companies and the attempts by union leadership to sell them out. In the Mesabi Range in Minnesota, the strike goes on with the miners vowing to stay out until they win. Because of the overwhelming support among the miners themselves, the union (United Steelworkers) was forced to authorize the strike. And, as the striking workers' anger becomes more organized and directed, their strength will grow.■

Detroit Vet Wins Victory (cont'd)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

disability was being cut. Clowny told him, "We know who you are. And we thought this out carefully because we knew you'd cause trouble if we cut you off." These words, along with years of built up anger at what was going on provoked Ali into a fist fight with Clowny; Ali the winner. After what they had done to him, the VA had the gall to press charges of assault against Ali.

What is Ali's "big crime" and what did Clowny mean when he said, "We know who you are?" Two years ago Ali helped organize a committee of hospital patients at the Allen Park VA demanding decent healthcare. Some of the vets were lying in their own waste and there weren't clean towels or soap in some of the wards. They held a picket line outside the hospital and patients came in their wheelchairs and with intravenous bottles in their arms. It shook the foundations of the hospital and forced some improvements--not because of some nice VA bureaucrat, but because the vets stood up determined to change things.

In retaliation the hospital Chief of Staff ordered a big red card put in Ali's file saying, "Do not admit this veteran without permission from the Chief of Staff." In March, 1977 when doctors in the clinic admitted him to the hospital saying he was too sick to be on the street, the Chief of Staff came down to his room and said he was a "trouble maker" and had him thrown out of the hospital. Rather than charging Ali, this animal should be charged with attempted murder!

The case the VA built up against Ali, culminating in the slashing of his disability to 10% is nothing but pure revenge against a veteran who stood up to fight for decent benefits for all vets. It represents a clear case of the "use once and throwaway" attitude that the ruling class of this country has towards vets. When the time came to send Ali and other vets to Vietnam to fight and possibly die for the ruling rich there were no cutbacks, only promises of a good life afterwards. But the "good life" turned into a nightmare of decaying hospitals and a rotting sys-



ALI HUSSIN (IMMEDIATELY TO THE RIGHT OF THE BUREAUCRAT), HIS FAMILY, VVAW, AND OTHER SUPPORTERS CONFRONT V.A. OFFICIAL IN HIS OFFICE IN DETROIT.

tem, with no jobs and cuts in benefits. It was this situation that made people in Detroit and elsewhere take up the case of Ali-- to fight for his 100% and to get the charges against him dropped.

On August 21, the campaign kicked off with a fund-raising dinner attended by 150 people: veterans, workers and many people from the Arab community of which Ali is a member. The dinner was highlighted by a "people's trial" putting the top VA officials and Uncle Sam on trial for murder, robbery and conspiracy. Veterans testified to the crimes of the VA. One vet testified about how he was used in Vietnam and how he is now being cut of his GI Bill benefits, along with many other vets at Wayne State University. A woman sent a message testifying how her brother died in a VA hospital due directly to VA negligence. When it came time for the people to give their verdict the unanimous decision was GUILTY on all charges.

Telegrams of support for Ali were sent from the national staffs of VVAW, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee and the National United Workers Organization. A member of the Narciso-Perez Defense Committee (see article on page 7) explained about their frame-up. The dinner was a great success and gave further spirit for the demonstration the next day.

On Monday, 50 angry people picketed outside the Regional VA building demanding "100% Disability for Ali Hussin" and "Drop the Charges." Many veterans who passed by expressed support for him and signed petitions. A number told how they were down there because they received letters from the VA cutting their disabilities. After awhile the 50 marched into the offices of the big-shots, taking them by surprise and leaving them babbling incoherent. One flunkie said he didn't even know who Ali was, which was an out and out lie because he was there during the Hussin-Clowny match. The big-

gest surprise they got was that Ali was not alone, but had 50 supporters including his mother, grandmother and wife. His grandmother accused the VA of trying to kill him and said they had better give him his disability. The bureaucrats said they didn't know what was going on and played dumb (not too hard for them.) The next day a victory was won when Ali received a letter from the VA saying that he could appeal their decision. This after the VA said there was nothing that could be done. It showed the power that comes when people unite and fight back. A partial victory but a big step in winning his 100% disability.



A PORTION OF THE PICKET LINE OUTSIDE THE V.A. AFTER THE VICTORY IN THE COURT.

But the charges against Ali were still pending and the next phase of the campaign was to get them dropped. On September 7th the day of the trial about 45 people showed up at the courthouse. Immediately the guards came running out saying, "No pickets." But due to the numbers and the strength, the chief judge of the courthouse came out and relented, saying it was okay. Leaflets were handed out to all who entered the building and chants in support of Ali rang through the street. It was clear that we were creating a lot of worry for the courts and the VA officials who were pressing the charges. To underscore this point Ali's lawyer related afterwards that because of the many supporters, the chief judge came to him with the idea of disposing of the charges. When the judge entered the courtroom he was faced by a roomful of Ali's supporters, bad-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



Support for Ali Hussin spread across the country. The Bay Area Chapter of VVAW (pictured above) confronted Assistant Regional VA Director Bradley in San Francisco on September 8th, demanding 100% disability for Ali. He told him to call Detroit and tell Clowny that the vets in the Bay Area support Ali's fight. Bradley called and the vets could feel Clowny squirm in Detroit at the news that Ali's support was far and wide. In Los Angeles the chapter went to the District VA Office demanding to see the Director. When they got to him, they told him that "Ali Hussin represents what most vets face and the anger that vets feel." The Director also called Detroit. In Chicago, VVAW leafleted outside the VA and four veterans called expressing their interest in going to demonstrate in Detroit. A similar demonstration was held in Cincinnati. Other chapters sent telegrams to Clowny and to Ali. A vet from San Francisco wrote, "One thing that came out clearly by our jamming the VA nationally is they know that VVAW has teeth and can bite back. In the future, the VA and the rich will have to watch their step more closely and cover their rears before they move, because every day they're getting more and more exposed. Vets, unite for still greater victories."

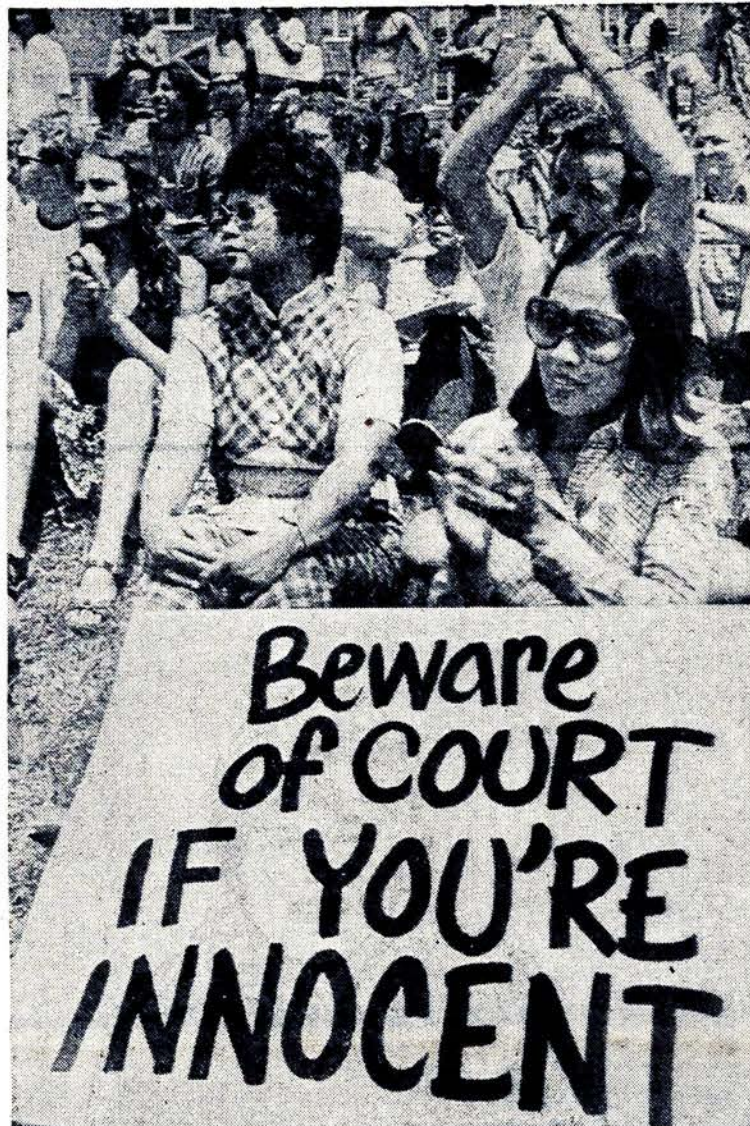
Scapegoats for V.A. Negligence

FRAME-UP OF V.A. NURSES

A lot of us went off to the service not knowing what to expect. In places like Korea and Vietnam we began to learn that we were being used to shed our blood and maybe die--only for the rich in this country. But, being a veteran in this country offered lots of opportunity. Right? Wrong! In dozens of ways we found that being a veteran was a curse. One of the worst was for those of us who had to use the VA hospitals.

The year is 1975. The VA hospital system, which already has the worst employee to patient ratio is cutting back more to save money. At the Hines VA outside of Chicago, an ex-marine in a wheelchair is "lost" in an elevator for 27 hours. He dies a few days later. At a VA hospital in Los Angeles a patient holds three hostages at gunpoint because a doctor won't see him. At Chicago's Westside VA a veteran barricades himself in a room and sets a fire because he can't get a doctor to see him. In Detroit, VVAW leads a walkout and protest against rotten conditions at the Allen Park VA hospital. Patients are seen in picket lines, some in wheelchairs and some carrying their IV tubes still in their arms. Then at the Ann Arbor VA hospital, in a period of a little over a month, 35 patients have one or more mysterious breathing failures. Eleven die. The breathing failures are attributed to a muscle relaxant drug called Pavulon.

The VA administrators and government officials were in a crisis. Their ass was ever more exposed. It's not so much that they looked bad, but who wants to go off and fight their profit seeking wars and come back knowing they won't have decent medical care. And worse yet, the lousy care at the VA is an indication of where medical care for veterans and working families is headed in this country. So they need a scapegoat.



ACCUSED NURSES (FILIPINA NARCISO ON LEFT, LEONORA PEREZ ON RIGHT) DURING ONE OF THE RALLIES SUPPORTING THEIR FREEDOM. HUNDREDS OF V.A. WORKERS TURNED OUT IN SUPPORT OF THEM.

The FBI was called in. Chief of Staff of the Ann Arbor VA hospital, Dr. S. Martin Lindenauer instructs the FBI to concentrate the investigation on the nursing staff. The FBI zeroed in on two nurses, Leonora Perez and Filipina Narciso. They were perfect. They worked in intensive care and who the hell would care if two brown-skinned, foreign born (Filipina) nurses got burned.

Does the government really use scapegoats? They sure do. Anytime public opinion becomes outraged over some injustice they'll find one. Better that than have their rotten system exposed. Lt. Calley, while guilty as hell, was the only one "responsible" for My Lai. Every one of his superiors was found innocent of any wrongdoing.

In the Ann Arbor case, the FBI had its targets and went after them with a vengeance. They took over a hospital wing and instituted a reign of terror on nurses and health workers. Any leads away from Perez and Narciso were discarded. They

called in a hypnotist at \$1,500 a day to try to get witnesses to "unblock their subconscious" to remember anything that would incriminate Perez and Narciso. One nurse was told that she would get the promotion she was seeking if she would testify before the grand jury. In the end, Narciso and Perez were indicted and after a 41 day trial and 14 days of jury deliberation they were convicted this July 20 on circumstantial evidence. The case is being appealed.

Are they guilty? Hell No! There was no motive proven. The best the prosecutor could come up with was that maybe it was an act of protest against lousy VA hospital care. Dig that. Weapons? None. Witnesses to them administering the Pavulon? None. Witnesses hearing them plan to do it? None. The head nurse in the unit committed suicide and left a note claiming responsibility for the deaths. The jury wasn't allowed to hear that evidence. The possibility of negligence or malpractice was never

looked into. For instance, the drug could have been administered by mistake because Pavulon was found lying around in unlabelled syringes. Also, the breathing failures can occur when Pavulon is given to a patient in combination with other commonly used drugs. That possibility was never investigated.

Perez and Narciso are not alone like the FBI thought they would be. In August, hundreds demonstrated in Ypsilanti, Michigan and 900 in Detroit demanding a new trial and their release. Among their supporters are Bill Loesch, one of the surviving poison victims, Kathleen Robinson, an alternate juror at the first trial, the Michigan Nurses Association and VVAW.

Perez and Narciso are not guilty. Eleven vets died of breathing failure in the Ann Arbor VA hospital, and there is a guilty party. For testimony ask any vet who has lain in a VA hospital ward for 4 or 5 days without soap or pajamas or even a fresh drinking cup. Ask the vets who wait three, four or eight hours to be admitted to a VA hospital no matter how sick they are. Ask a vet who has been in a hospital bed with a call light on for an hour because there aren't enough nurses to handle all the patients. The VA is guilty. Guilty of gross negligence--guilty of 11 murders in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

By the testimony of patients and fellow workers, Perez and Narciso were good and compassionate nurses. Most nurses in the VA are good, but there aren't enough of them just as there aren't enough doctors, therapists and other staff. With this kind of understaffing it is no wonder that veterans suffer and die of neglect in VA hospitals. After fighting wars for the rich we've outlived our usefulness so this is the kind of hospital care they give us. But we'll fight back until we get DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS and as part of that fight we demand FREE NARCISO AND PEREZ. ■

DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS!

**FREE THE NURSES
FREE NARCISO
& PEREZ**

LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF K

3000 Demonstrate At Kent State

Since last May, Kent State University has been rocked by demonstrations, picket lines, rallies, court injunctions, massive arrests and a 62 day occupation of the site of the murders of 4 KSU students on May 4, 1970. Thousands of students at Kent and around the country have put the KSU administration on notice that their efforts to wipe out the memory of May 4 by building a gym on the site will not be tolerated.

The protests against the 1970 invasion of Cambodia and the murders at Kent and Jackson State College in Mississippi have come to symbolize a spirit of resistance to U.S. imperialism. At Kent each new class of students has been educated about the history and background of May 4 through annual commemorations.

When Kent opened this semester a demonstration of several hundred introduced the new students to the issue and put the new school president, Brage Golding, on notice that if he went ahead with the project, "what goes up must come down." The May 4th Coalition called for a national rally on September 24 to demand relocation of the gym.

The KSU Administration responded with a massive intimidation campaign to try and neutralize the widespread and growing "Move the Gym" sentiment on campus. The school trustees had imported Golding hoping his experience could help crush the resistance to the gym site. During the 60s, he had been in Brazil working for the Aid for International Development (a notorious CIA front) helping the dictatorship there set up a police apparatus. Later at San Diego State, he took charge of wiping

out the ethnic studies courses and arming the campus cops. Golding rushed construction crews onto the site and began construction under the protection of scores of riot-equipped cops. As a "compromise" Golding proposed naming the gym after all the "victims" of May 4, 1970--including not only the 4 students but the National Guardsmen who shot them and Governor Rhodes who ordered them onto the campus!

At the same time it was announced that anyone violating the court injunction permitting construction would be immediately suspended for one year, and arrest and grand jury warrants were sworn out against May 4th Coalition leaders. They also declared that the September 24 demonstration would not be permitted.

They might as well have issued edicts to the winds. On September 24, students from Kent State and campuses all over the country gathered at Kent to oppose construction of the gym in the most significant student demonstration in years.

The "forbidden demonstration" began with a rally of 3,000. Bolstered by this powerful show of outside support, a thousand Kent students defied the administration's intimidation campaign to take part. Al Canfora, one of the students shot by guardsmen in 1970, traced the history of the battle at Kent and said that the demonstration was the highest level of this struggle in 7 years, because of its size, because of its nationwide character and because the face of the ruling class was more clearly exposed than ever.

In May, 1970, when the students were shot, a lot of vet-



A PORTION OF THE 3000 DEMONSTRATORS AT KENT STATE ON SEPT 24; STUDENTS WEAR MASKS BECAUSE OF THREATS OF EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL.

erans were under fire ourselves in Vietnam. Some of us were back in the states, beating the streets, looking for jobs that weren't there. Most of us realized then, or have come to realize since then, that what the students were saying was right--Vietnam was nothing but a rich man's war, and we were only cannon fodder --to be used once, and then thrown away.

It is because the students were speaking the truth--and because people like us were starting to listen and agree--that they were gunned down. These and other protesters--like the Black students killed the same week at Jackson State--were making it as hard as hell for the rulers to carry out their war, though the rich made a determined effort to crush the anti-war movement.

They failed. The struggle of the Vietnamese people, combined with the struggle of the American people--students, vets, GIs, and others--forced the U.S. out of Vietnam.

But the capitalist rulers of this country continue to roam the world in search of profits. In recent years, they have run head on with their fellow bloodsuckers in the Soviet Union--who also want to rule and rob the whole

world--in Angola, the Middle East, and elsewhere. The danger of war as a result of these clashes is growing everyday, and in this situation, the ruling class wants a free hand to mobilize the American people to fight--for them.

For this reason they are doing everything in their power to bury every memory of the anti-war movement, and especially of the events at Kent State, which is a symbol of the heroic spirit of resistance to an unjust war. We must not allow them to get away with this.

We learned that we were used in Vietnam. We'll never forget that and we'll never forgive the U.S. ruling class for it or for killing the students at both Kent and Jackson State. This is the message the students are putting forward at Kent. The powerful, important struggle there is our struggle too. As one vet in VVAW said, "I was part of the invasion into Cambodia. When I found out that students were killed demonstrating against it, I vowed to get home and fight 'til my dying breath against their murderers--the rulers of this country, who killed the students at Kent and Jackson and my thousands of buddies in Vietnam." ■



NATIONAL GUARD MURDERS STUDENTS, MAY 4, 1970



STUDENTS RIP DOWN FENCE AROUND CONSTRUCTION SITE

KENT AND JACKSON STATE

During an International Conference in Rome in February, 1973, a spokesman for the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the predecessor of the present government of that country, made the following statement about the students at Kent and Jackson State:

"WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED IN OUR COUNTRY, AMERICANS DIED FOR OUR CAUSE; THE STUDENTS AT KENT AND JACKSON STATES. THIS IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF SOLIDARITY, WHEN PEOPLE GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE STRUGGLES OF OTHERS. WE THANK YOU."

Cambodia: Progress not Bloodbath

The discovery of the name of Pol Pot, leader of Cambodia, made while he was visiting the Peoples' Republic of China, has provided the American media with another peg on which to hang their attacks on the country of Cambodia. The list of charges leveled at that country makes Cambodia appear to be an example of the lowest depths to which it is possible for a government to sink. For instance,

*One tenth of the people have perished in "a holocaust which makes Hitler look like a piker."

*When Khymer Rouge troops entered Phnom Penh, they began shooting and beating to death hospital patients who had just come out of surgery.

*There was a "brutal evacuation of the city"--400,000 are believed to have died.

*"Through 're-education' (concentration) camps, constant indiscriminate killings, and warnings that with so many people dead, the living must work twice as long and hard, the Khymer Rouge rule Cambodia." (These quotes and slanders are taken from a column by Nick Thimmesch, quoting in turn from a book Murder of a Gentle Land by two editors of Readers Digest.)

These lurid tales of bloodshed and inhumanity come from refugees, the people who fled Cambodia to the safety of nearby Thailand. Cambodians who understand and support the work that their government is doing, naturally enough, stay in Cambodia which does not want to be bothered with newsmen, from Readers Digest or elsewhere since there is too much to do at home. A man who used to make his living pimping off American

aid or ripping off his countrymen through the black market during the final days of the liberation of Cambodia, is not likely to be enthusiastic about being told he will now have to work for a living, that his free ride is over. And he will also feel the need to ingratiate himself with the anti-communist government of Thailand. In short, his tale of bloody woe needs to be looked at with some skepticism.

Even more important than seeing where the media's "sources" are coming from is to understand what is in fact going on inside the country of Cambodia, and the reasons behind some of the moves that the government has made.

The capital city of Phnom Penh was evacuated shortly after the National United Front of Cambodia liberated the city. Reasons, however, go back through the period of U.S. occupation of Cambodia. Through 1969 the Cambodian government under Prince Sihanouk recognized and, as best it could, supported the liberation struggle in South Vietnam. The Cambodian right wing hated Sihanouk's nationalization of foreign trade and refusal to take U.S. aid; the U.S. government needed a base to attack the N.L.F. in South Vietnam. Together, they staged the coup that brought General Lol Nol to power. In the next five years, as much as 95.1% of the economic support of the Cambodian government came from the United States; there is no doubt who was pulling the strings.

As part of its support for Lol Nol's dictatorship, the U.S. military devastated the country. Bombing and ground fighting destroyed vast fertile areas. Fifteen percent of the productive rural population was killed or injured. By 1975, in Phnom Penh which had grown from 600,000 to 3 million as people fled the war in the countryside, as many as 250 people were starving to death daily, according to the medical director for Catholic Relief work. Cambodians were unconsciously having to decide to let their weaker children starve



MOVING THROUGH THE CAMBODIAN COUNTRYSIDE

so there would be food for the others in hopes of keeping them alive. Meanwhile, up to half of the aid being given to the Lol Nol government went into the well-lined pockets of generals and other officials.

In April 1975 when the United Front was victorious and Lol Nol's government was thrown out, there was enough food in Phnom Penh to last for only a couple of days. In fact, the U.S. government was apparently counting on the fact that without sufficient food, there would be the basis for a counter revolution within months of the fall of Phnom Penh. Moreover, lack of clean water and wretched overcrowded living conditions brought about the beginning of a cholera epidemic.

Epidemic, no food, the height of harvest in the countryside--the government moved the people out. Not with "death marches" reported in the U.S. media (older people were moved in confiscated vehicles, and one witness talked about 3 or 4 rest stops every mile for the bulk of the population). Nor did Phnom Penh become a "ghost town"--soldiers cleaned the place up and by the end of the summer 100,000 people had moved back into the city.

Hospitals--because the Lol Nol government had spent a vir-

tually unnoticeable amount of funds on healthcare, the hospitals were desperately bad. One of them, the only barely adequate hospital in Phnom Penh, was kept open and, as one of the French doctors evacuated in April said, "is to be functioning normally."

What was the result of this massive dislocation? First, there was not starvation; in fact, by early 1976 Cambodia was able to send rice to nearby Laos. Epidemic in Phnom Penh was stopped. And, as an added advantage, saboteurs in the city, hoping to hide in the swollen population, were either uncovered or isolated. Rice production is around 700 pounds per person per year; irrigation projects are moving forward. For every 100 families, there are 20 hospital beds. 80-90% of the rampant illiteracy have been wiped out. The Cambodia revolution is progressing well.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



REBUILDING INDUSTRY



INSPECTING RUBBER PLANTS

LETTERS TO VVAW

Dear Pete,

I got your letter of August 10 and want to thank you and everyone for all the support. It is good to know that men who were there stand with me (covering my ass). I need all the cover I can get. I am counting on all of you to help me any which way you can. I stand along with you in your fight and hope to be heard.

My fight with the Klan is now nine years old. I owe my life to a black Marine who had been with me since boot camp. We came back to the states where he could not go places with me and finally said to hell with it and went back to fight for his country. He did not have to go. He was a sole-surviving son of his family. He went anyway for his country. He was killed on that trip and I swore I would do all I could do to fight racism and give freedom to his people. That is where my hate comes from, he is free now but it is now up to us to free the rest of the Black Americans against the terrorist actions of the Klan. I have studied the Klan and their actions and have 200 years of scum to fight. I can not do it alone and need all the help I can get. The people in Georgia are 50-50, but I am only one who risks his life and the lives of my family.

Pete what ever you can do will add firepower to my cause and help protect my family. The paper I have not gotten for some reason or the other, but would like to see a copy. Send it to (my lawyer) in Atlanta, and he

will get it to me. The bond is now \$50,000 and the Defense Fund is doing all they can. My wife deserves a medal for her action and she is holding out like a true hero. We have two children and she has her hands full. She stands behind me all the way. She is exposed to more flack out there now and needs all the cover she can get.

Thanks Pete for all you are doing and hope to meet you. I got the best lawyers on my side I have ever seen. Everyone is doing all they can. My wife will type this for me and sign it because I am unable to get a typewriter and they screen my mail anyway. Will write again in answer to the paper after I read it.

A Veteran who needs cover,
Buddy Cochran

Dear Pete,

I was glad to hear from you all. Thank you for supporting my husband. We have a defense fund where if anyone would like to donate any money to help out, we would appreciate it very much. Please let me and my husband hear from you. You probably know by now Buddy is still locked up and I have not got any money coming in so if you can send any thing it would help.

You can send it to my address on the envelope or to this address: Buddy Cochran Defense Fund, PO Box 90064, East Point, GA 30364

Thank you again,
Mrs. Buddy Cochran
(Mary Sue)

FREE BUDDY COCHRAN



BUDDY COCHRAN SPEAKING AT THE FOUNDING CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL UNITED WORKERS ORGANIZATION; THE NUWO VOTED TO TAKE UP HIS DEFENSE.

Buddy Cochran is the Vietnam veteran who drove his car into the middle of a Ku Klux Klan rally in Plains, Georgia on July 2nd. The letter above is in response to one written by VVAW offering to do what we

could to support the campaign to FREE BUDDY COCHRAN and to continue his campaign against scum like the KKK.

Since the time the letter was written, the Buddy Cochran Defense Committee and the Atlanta Georgia chapter of the NUWO have been battling to get his case in front of the people. Already the first judge assigned to the case has been removed because of blatant partiality; bond has been reduced and contributions raised so that Buddy could speak in his own defense.

As this is being written, work is in progress to get rid of a second racist judge before the trial, now scheduled to begin on October 17, gets started.

Friends,

Enclosed please find payment for the July VETERANS. Thanks, the issue was real good. We enjoyed and found very useful the article on the Arms Race ...it would be good for all of us



GI'S UNITED IN HAWAII NOT ONLY WORK AGAINST THE WAYS REPRESSION COMES DOWN INSIDE THE MILITARY BUT ALSO USE THEIR EXPERIENCE, AS IN THIS PHOTO, TO TELL POTENTIAL ENLISTEES SOME OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MILITARY.

to stay on top of the rapid changes in the international situation.

Congratulations on ten years of struggle. We have always been impressed at the good work you do and hope that work continues to grow as fast as it has in the past ten years. With the growing slide towards war it would seem that veterans have a special job ahead of them explaining why these wars "they" cook up for us just aren't for us. In any case, our best wishes and solidarity.

Could you send us a complete listing of VVAW chapters and contacts. We have many GIs who by natural course become vets...we would like to be able to steer them to you folks.

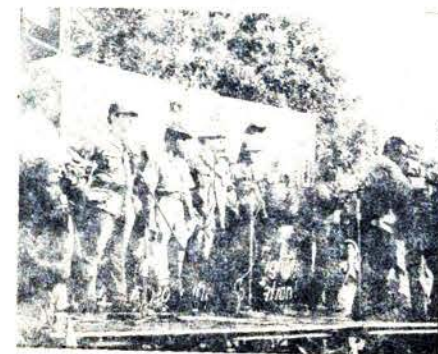
Thanks,
GIs United
Waipahu, Hawaii

Dear VVAW,

Thank you very much for the copies of the VETERAN. I am certainly taking them along with me to Africa for our forces to read and also to see for themselves your commitment to the struggle in Azania (South Africa-ed.) as well as in Southern Africa as a whole.

I received the parcel from the Brothers in Oakland, California and I am taking them (fatigues-ed.) along with me. Thank them for us please. We will appreciate any material help from you, including boots as they are definitely durable for the climate in Africa. Keep up your good fight against the Krugerrand. Your struggle is one with that of the Azanian people.

Greet all the comrades,
Yours for a Free Azania
E. Sibeko
Pan-Africanist Congress
of Azania



VVAW MEMBERS DONATE MILITARY FATIGUES TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PAN-AFRICANIST CONGRESS AS PART OF AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON, DC.

Dear Brothers,

I am another veteran which spent two years in Vietnam out of a four year "sentence" in the Marine Corps. I spent this time in the bush with the First Recon outside of DaNang in 1967-68. I finally discharged and came back to the States in 1970. I have heard quite a bit about VVAW and now I feel I should definitely become a part of it.

After several years in prison for a drug charge, I have met some brothers that feel the same way about society out there. It is screwed! I am a prisoner in the Texas Dept. of Corrections and we have access to a college program. It took me almost a year, and my parents had to make several nasty phone calls to the VA Regional Office in Houston before they would finally get up off my educational benefits. Even though I got only a partial payment thus far, I feel I owe it to an organization like VVAW, so that the money may help other veterans as myself fight these bureaucratic bastards.

I want to be put on your rolls as a member of VVAW. My \$ belongs to you because I believe in what you are doing. I will help fight now and also upon my release.

Sincerely,
Name Withheld

PANAMA CANAL



CARIBBEAN WORKERS WHO DIED AT THE RATE OF 500 PER MILE TO BUILD THE PANAMA CANAL.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that they're not going to give up any of their land anywhere. Neither of these views are in our interests. Both policies represent different thinking on the part of the ruling class. But deeper than just Panama, these views represent two trains of thought on how the U.S. must conduct its foreign policy in the context of the contention between itself and the Soviet Union; embroiled in desperate needs to extend (or keep) their "spheres of influence" around the world. And more importantly they want to win the American people over, saying that it's in our interests to line up behind them; that we're all in this together and that our national honor is at stake.

An examination of key points in Carter's plan clearly show he's not giving away the canal. Under his plan, the U.S. would give back some of the land around the Canal at once and up its rent from \$2.3 million to \$50 million a year, in addition to an initial lump sum to be paid to Panama. While the treaty supposedly recognizes Panamanian sovereignty over the Canal, allowing them to fly their flag, it creates a 10 man commission of 5 Americans and 4 Panamanians with an American chief "negotiator" to run it. It allows the U.S. to continue to control all land areas "directly involved in Canal operations and defense" until the year 2000, which means the U.S. will maintain its 14 military bases and 10,000 troops there until then. And furthermore the U.S. would always have the right to intervene militarily to "defend" that right against anyone including Panama. Recently Carter said he'd send in 100,000 troops there if necessary.

In effect, the treaty gives a few token economic concessions plus a few political ones, such as allowing the Panamanians to share in a decision making capacity. For all practical

purposes it continues U.S. control over the canal and puts off giving back the canal for another 20-25 years. This stalling for time factor is important because the U.S. imperialists expect to go to war within those 20 years with their rivals in the USSR. If the U.S. imperialists win, they figure they will be in a strong enough position to restore the old treaty.

This bit of "hallowed ground" was acquired in 1903. The monopolists who first launched the U.S. as an imperialist power at the turn of the century wanted a canal connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific so that they could grab a bigger share of world trade. After the Colombian government turned down a U.S. offer for \$10 million for the proposed site, the U.S. engineered a rebellion, set up the country of Panama, backing the play with warships and U.S. Marines. Sound familiar?



BILLBOARD USED TO RECRUIT FOR ONE OF THE RULING CLASS POSITIONS ON THE CANAL!

Workers from all over the Caribbean were brought in to dig out the mud and blast the rock. For 10¢ an hour in pay, they died at the rate of 500 a mile due to disease, the killing pace of the work and blasting procedures designed to meet deadlines and save money regardless of human life. In all, 25,000 died to build the Canal. Naturally it was the American financiers and Teddy Roosevelt who claimed credit for building it.

Ever since then the U.S. has maintained absolute control over the Canal, and held the Panamanian people, descendants of those whose labor built the Canal at gunpoint. It is this history that reactionaries like California Senator Hayakawa gloated over when he said, "It's our canal, we stole it fair and square."

Since 1951 when the Panama Canal Company was created, \$119 million in net profits have been raked in. The Canal is also of strategic importance to commercial shipping. And Panama is known as the "Switzerland of South America", a tax refuge for multinational corporations. The Canal dominates the econo-

mic life of Panama. More than a third of the country's jobs are linked to the Canal. Partly because of the Canal, and with the protection of the American troops there, American companies own much of the country's agriculture and industry. The U.S. ruling class hardly intends to give all this up.

The fact that the U.S. was forced to negotiate with Panama and to make any concessions at all is because of the growing fight of the Panamanian people against U.S. domination. The movement in Panama to force the U.S. to give back the Canal has been so militant and powerful that one U.S. diplomat called it the potential beginning of "another Vietnam." The U.S. is afraid that if it doesn't give in a little, then the Panamanian people might just take back what's theirs by force--and no few thousand U.S. troops could stop them.

Further, the USSR would surely try to take advantage of the situation to stick its snout in, not to help Panama, but to further their own rivalry with the U.S.

Whether it's Carter's treaty or the ravings of Ronald Reagan, it amounts to the same thing. It's true, as Carter says, that the U.S. has no alternative but to make concessions. And it's true, as Reagan and his forces say, that these concessions will only set the terms for new battles against the U.S. in the future. But the reason why both statements are true is because people won't allow themselves to be ground down and oppressed peacefully, or settle for half-way solutions.

The great majority of Americans have no common interest with these high and mighty thieves in hanging on to the Canal. Our interests lie with the Panamanian people in this struggle. The Canal is in their country, not ours. The people of Latin America gave up their lives building it, not Teddy Roosevelt. The American capitalists exploit the people of both the U.S. and Panama. So why the hell should we line up behind either version of the U.S. ruling class position?

Before the Vietnam War got in full gear, the same arguments were put forward--Bomb Hanoi, send in a million troops, or "we won't allow any Americans to die 10,000 miles away." But what happened? The "peace" candidate did the exact things the "hawk" candidate wanted. The results were that the U.S. got embroiled in a decade long war that was eventually won by the Vietnamese--and rightfully so. The soundings around Panama are similar. Just as we learned that our interests were not with the ruling class regarding Vietnam, so we see that our interests do not lie with them now around the Panama Canal. ■

At its National Convention the American Legion took the position that:

"Surrender of the U.S. Canal Zone would be tantamount to a major military defeat with enormous consequences for evil.

The VFW, speaking about the resistance of the Panamanian people says it is "A bitter and sustained campaign fueled in large part by Cuban and Soviet communists...The U.S. operation, control and defense of the Canal are non-negotiable."

A Panama Vet Says

I was stationed there in the Canal Zone for 18 months from 1967-68 before I went on a tour to Vietnam. In both places I saw incredible poverty of the common people. In both places the hatred and anger of the people for having to live like animals while the rich ate high off the hog was held in check only by armed force. Many a night after a long session in the bars of Panama City, I would waltz over the hill to Balboa in the Canal Zone, along streets lined with mansions, only a few hundred yards above one of the worst slums seen in either country. Every GI felt the tension among the Panamanian people and stories were still being repeated about the 1964 flare-up when Panamanian students carrying their flag marched into the Canal Zone and were attacked by American MP's. A pitched battle followed; it was finally put down with U.S. tanks, with loss of life on both sides. Whenever elections were held in Panama we were all given riot training. Through time it became apparent to me and to others in my unit that we were being used to enforce the rule of those whose mansions we saw. After Vietnam, all I had left was anger at the rich scum who would chain a whole people into poverty and get hundreds of thousands of people killed all for the almighty dollar. ■

Cincy Vet Beats Police Attack

(The following article was written by the Cincinnati chapter of VVAW which led the struggle to free Sonny Williams.)

Sonny Williams, a member of VVAW, went to trial on October 4 on charges of "receiving stolen property." Sonny is innocent and was framed up on these charges. The ridiculous charge was that Sonny had received several stuffed animals. Stuffed animals??? For this charge the prosecuting attorney was threatening to put Sonny in jail from 1 to 5 years.

When Sonny went to trial on October 4 the case was dismissed. It was a big victory for us. But why was Sonny framed in the first place? And how did it come about that the charges were dismissed?

Sonny is from a neighborhood of working people with a high unemployment rate. Fairmount, the area of Cincinnati where he lives, is a neighborhood where the police have a strong presence. They are there to keep the lid on the growing resistance to the oppression of the system: bad housing, no recreation for youth, and other typical injustices of this system. Sonny was framed because he lives in this neighborhood and because as a member of VVAW he stood up to fight the system and was leading fights against the oppression of youth in the neighborhood. The ruling class and their flunkies, the police, try to beat down all forms of resistance and that's what they tried to do to Sonny. They attacked him because he was organizing to fight oppression of veterans and working people.

The police and the prosecuting attorney fabricated a case against Sonny and were determined to push it through. But the Cincinnati chapter of VVAW stood by our brother and decided to fight back. We went out to Fairmount and leafletted the gas station where the stuffed animals were stolen from, and also because the manager of the station was the main prosecution witness. The police had intimidated him into lying about the case.

We leafletted the community and put up posters there over a period of a couple of months. We also leafletted at the unemployment offices, and VVAW members and supporters had a picket line outside the courthouse on the morning of the trial.

When Sonny was first arrested it looked like there was no way he was going to get off. But the more we persevered in

BENEFIT CUTS SPUR UNEMPLOYMENT BATTLES

In recent years lines of unemployed have reappeared on the American scene. Any Monday morning will find a couple hundred people standing in line at an unemployment office in Chicago, and the picture varies only in terms of the day and the method of the state in dealing with the unemployed in other places around the country. Any time a rumor floats around that a place is hiring, there will be hundreds or even thousands outside the employment office door. With the unemployment rate for younger vets at 18%, many vets have come straight from the chow lines into the unemployment lines. No jobs mean no money and no money means--well, it means getting pushed into the dirt one more time.

The big shots in this country are no help. Hell, it's the rich owners of these companies who lay us off in the first place, and it doesn't make any difference whether they're challenged by foreign imports or whether they export everything. And their politicians are no better. All they come up with are things like the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill and Carter's workforce program. These are nothing but ways they're attempting to reduce wages.

Under the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, a worker making, say \$6 per hour, gets laid off and some unemployed worker might get his job at \$3.25 an hour. Under the workfare program, if you make \$6 an hour, get laid off and then refuse to accept a job at \$2.65 an hour, you would lose your unemployment benefits and end up with nothing. Besides that, they've already reduced the number of weeks that benefits can be collected from 65 to 39 or 26 (depending on what state you live in).

taking out his case, the more support he won. By exposing the frame-up, our position got even stronger.

Finally, at the trial, the main prosecution witness didn't show up. People in the neighborhood said it was because of the picket line at the gas station. As a result, the prosecution's case fell apart and the judge was forced to dismiss the case.

But before he dismissed it,

the judge told the people in the courtroom that VVAW shouldn't think that they had any influence on the case and that instead of picketting the courthouse, we should go out and do something "constructive." What he meant was that we shouldn't fight back. And we know we did something "constructive" by fighting the system and winning a big victory in freeing Sonny from this frameup. ■



A HIGH TIDE IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE UNEMPLOYED WAS REACHED DURING THE 1930's WHEN MASSIVE MARCHES (SUCH AS THE HUNGER MARCH ABOVE DEMANDING WORK OR WAGES) WON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE; A NEW WAVE, LED BY UWOC, IS PICTURED BELOW--A MARCH OF OVER 1000 UNEMPLOYED IN WASHINGTON, DC.



Unemployment compensation didn't fall out of the sky. Back in the thirties, hundreds of thousands of workers took to the streets and fought and demonstrated to win compensation. And now that the rich are trying to steal it back, the unemployed are again rising up. Led by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) and joined by the newly formed National United Workers Organiza-

tion, there will be a huge demonstration in Washington, DC when Carter gives his "State of the Union" address in January. Workers, both employed and unemployed will be demanding:

UNION JOBS AT UNION WAGES!
STOP ATTACKS ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE!

VVAW urges vets to join in with the veterans contingent--On To Washington! ■



SONNY WILLIAMS (CENTER) MARCHES IN CLEVELAND

Politicians No Friends to Vets

BAD DISCHARGE FOR SENATOR



L.A. VVAW PRESENTS DISCHARGE FOR CRANSTON TO ONE OF HIS LOS ANGELES AIDES.

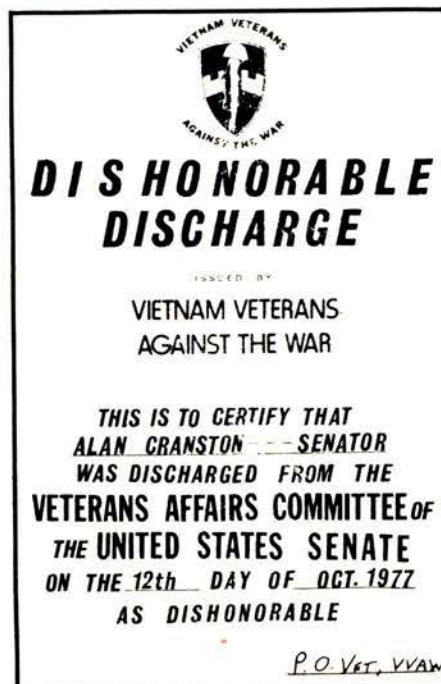
Using the "authority vested in them" by Vietnam veterans, the Los Angeles Chapter of VVAW issued a dishonorable discharge to Senator Allen Cranston, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. Cranston, along with Reserve Major General Strom Thurmond, sponsored the bill to deny veterans benefits to vets who got their discharges upgraded through the Special Discharge Review Program (see article on this page).

In response to this latest attack on veterans, the VVAW chapter picketed outside the L.A. office of the Senator. After 15 minutes they went in and announced to the Senator's aide that they were dishonorably discharging the Senator from the committee for dereliction of duty, cowardice, and desertion under fire. Cranston sits in his fancy office, they said, while in reality he is slashing vets benefits all to hell.

The Senator's aide responded by saying this was a "contemptible and insulting action." He would not stand, he said, for VVAW insulting the Senator who had fought for vets for the last 8 years. VVAW was wrong about the bill--the organization just didn't have the facts. Angry vets called him a liar, and when VVAW members pulled out a copy of the bill and said that they suffered the results of bills like this one everyday, the aide changed his tune. Instead, he came up with the

point that the Senator only supported this bill to avoid a worse one (this for a bill that he in fact sponsored)!

What's the difference between one pile of garbage and another--garbage is garbage, said VVAW. But, the aide stammered, the bill was passed 87-2. VVAW responded--that "just shows we were right to dishonorably discharge him--they're all crooks up there. Cranston, his flunkies, and their wealthy backers will even lie to cover themselves."



With that, VVAW left the office, determined to keep building the fight for decent benefits for all vets, regardless of discharge.

More and more, veterans are learning that we have to be aware of politicians (particularly those looking for votes) who smile sweetly and swear everlasting friendship and support for vets. The latest sneak attack, engineered by some of these so-called friends, is the bill, sponsored by Senator Cranston of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, and signed by President Carter, which denies vets benefits to the 16,000 vets who used the Special Discharge Review Program to get their discharges upgraded. These new "honorable" discharges have been changed to "kind of honorable but not honorable enough to get benefits."

As of October 5, the Special Program is over. If a vet did not hear about it, or couldn't get his paperwork in time, screw him--or, of course, he can go through the normal process for discharge upgrading and maybe get some action in four or five years. The program, Carter's concession to the amnesty movement, was designed as one more move to "heal the wounds of Vietnam," hoping that the American people would forget that war in preparation for the next one.

The scorecard on the program is this: 11,364 Vietnam-era veterans had undesirable discharges upgraded to general; 1,682 undesirable discharges were upgraded to honorable; 3,181 general discharges were upgraded to honorable, and 784 deserters returned to military control and were given undesirable discharges.

But, for most of these veterans, the heart was cut out of the program when Carter signed the Cranston Bill. Often, the primary reason for going through the upgrading procedure at all was the possibility of making use of some of the benefits

which vets have fought for and won over the years.

According to "friend of veterans" Jimmy Carter, "Nothing in this bill (the one he just signed) detracts from the impact of the Presidential pardon or the Special Discharge Review Program in helping to wipe the records of these veterans clean." And for anyone willing to swallow that pile of crap, Carter has gone on to say that the new bill "accomplishes many positive benefits for veterans."

In fact, the bill sets up another review procedure for vets with upgraded discharges so they can try to get veterans benefits. It automatically denies any benefits to individuals who are absent without leave for over 180 days. Apparently, it sets up a year's "grace" period during which veterans--including those who have been out more than 15 years, the time limit set for discharge upgrading--could apply, bringing shrieks from the Pentagon and VA about how they would be overworked, since there are around 1 million bad discharges beyond the 15 year time limit. These crocodile tears mean nothing given the 10% of eligible vets who even inquired about the Carter program (2.6% actually made use of it).

But don't give up hope--vets still have a "friend" despite this latest round of vicious attacks. Veterans Administration head Max Cleland has said he will apply all these new restrictions "very liberally." Vets who are ready to believe this smiling "I love vets" friend might as well turn around and bend over, because they're about to get screwed again!

Vets' friends are the vets themselves; VVAW will continue to organize and carry on the fight for a single-type discharge for all veterans!

CAMBODIA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

So why the slanders and propaganda from the U.S. media? The U.S. was soundly defeated in Cambodia, in part because of the massive protests here at home; the government and the ruling class hope to tar and feather those who supported the struggle of the Cambodian people with their charges of "bloodbath." Unlike Vietnam where there is always the issue of the MIAs to fall back on, the U.S. doesn't want to talk about MIAs in Cambodia partially because they have never wanted to admit the

role U.S. troops played in that country. Perhaps in part because of the very self-reliance that the country of Cambodia has displayed, it remains an especially pointed thorn in the side of the U.S. rulers.

(Information in this article was taken, in part, from the book Cambodia: Starvation & Revolution, by George C. Hildebrand and Gareth Porter. Other information was taken from a speech by Pol Pot, Prime Minister of Cambodia.)

IN SOUTH AFRICA

Freedom Fighter Murdered

Steve Biko was a founder of the South African Students Organization and a leader of what was known as the "black consciousness movement." He had played an important role in giving direction to the rebellions in Soweto. He was murdered in prison by South African police on Sept. 12.

Police announced that he had died as the result of an 8 day hunger strike. South African Justice Minister Kruger told a snickering audience at the Congress of the white ruling National Party that "Biko's death leaves me cold." According to press reports the crowd tittered with laughter when Kruger said that "it was his democratic right to starve himself to death if he wanted."

This story of how Steve Biko died is a lie. The Johannesburg Sunday Express reported that his skull was bashed in and mourners at his funeral could see a big lump on his temple, and the back of his head was concealed with velvet because it was so badly damaged. Because of mass protest, Kruger has changed his tune, now saying that "heads will roll" if there is any evidence of police wrong-doing. He had better sharpen his blades.



WIFE AND SONS OF STEVE BIKO VOW TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

These murderers have little to fear from a government investigation. Steve Biko was the 20th political prisoner to be murdered in South African jails in the last

18 months. There have been close to 50 known and documented cases of prison murders in the last 15 years. These arrogant South African racists simply deny them, attributing the deaths to suicide, claims that victims leaped from windows, hanged themselves in their cells or died by slipping on a bar of soap, falling down stairs or choking on food.

But the South African ruling class and their fascist storm troopers have much to fear from the masses of Azanian people, the 18 million blacks who are forced into virtual slavery by the white ruling class of the country.

Biko's murder has unleashed new outrage and organized struggle against the bloody South African regime, both within that country and throughout the world. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Soweto, attacking police and burned government buildings. Giant memorials were held for Biko. The Vorster government tried to crush this massive protest with more repression. In Soweto and other black areas, police fired into crowds coming from memorial services. Thousands of students were arrested and jailed. At least four more blacks have been murdered in the wake of Steve Biko's death.

In a move of disgusting hypocrisy and opportunism, the U.S. government sent its official representative in South Africa to Biko's funeral and Andy Young and other spokesmen for the Carter administration have mourned his death. But if it were not for economic and political support from the United States and other imperialist countries, the racist Apartheid regime in South Africa would not be able to continue its reign of repression and terror. The South African military is armed with Western weapons, it receives direct aid from Israel, which is nothing more than indirect U.S. aid. U.S. corporations have billions of dollars of investment, from gold mines to auto plants. The thrust of the "new" U.S. policy in southern Africa has been to try to buy time for the white minority rule in South Africa by maneuvering for "acceptable" black rule in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Namibia (Southwest Africa.)

Farcical protests and praising Steve Biko do not erase the fact that the U.S. ruling class stands as guilty as its clients of the racist South African regime for Steve Biko's murder and countless other crimes against the people of Azania.



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NUWO FOUNDED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

To unite and concentrate the power of working people today, the convention united around two major campaigns--"Union jobs at union wages--No cuts in unemployment benefits" and "Building broad support for the miners in their upcoming contract fight." Other resolutions included fighting shutdowns and layoffs in steel, opposing union busting attempts in the meat packing industry, and building for a national African Liberation Day march next Spring.

An important high point of the weekend was when the delegates marched out of the hotel 1,500 strong in a militant demonstration against ruling class divide and conquer schemes and the threats of racist attacks against Black children being bused to less crowded white schools in Chicago. Buddy Cochran, the man who drove his car through the KKK rally in Plains, Georgia, and Tom Welch, indicted for "kicking the sheets out of the KKK" in Columbus, Ohio were both given

tremendous applause when they spoke. Also given an enthusiastic reception was the solidarity message given by Al Canfora who had been a student at Kent State during the uprising against the Cambodia invasion and had been wounded by national guard bullets.

This two day convention forged a powerful working class weapon. If you would like to become a member of NUWO contact the National Office at 343 S. Dearborn, Rm. 1405, Chicago IL 60604 --telephone (312) 663-4310.



MEMBERS OF IRANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ISA) PROTEST VISIT BY WIFE OF THE SHAH OF IRAN, WEARING MASKS TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES IN IRAN FROM RETALIATION. THE SHAH VISITS THE U.S. IN EARLY NOVEMBER DRAWING ANGRY REACTION FROM MANY WHO KNOW ABOUT HIS FASCIST REGIME. VVAW JOINS IN PROTESTING HIS VISIT AS GUEST OF CARTER.



Benefits fading away **STEADY ATTACKS ON G.I. BILL**

The GI Bill is under attack. The attack is hard to pinpoint for what it is - an attempt to completely undermine the GI Bill and the VA system. The form the attack takes is small attacks, here and there, chipping away at dollars and services for vets. The final result will be millions of vets screwed out of their benefits - if we stand by and let it happen. We won't!

When we were GIs we longed for the day we got out of the military, out of the claws of lifers and officers. We knew things couldn't be as miserable as the service. We looked forward to decent jobs, an education, and all those bennies promised by the VA and the GI Bill. Now a lot of us have had that bubble burst. We're disgusted by the way we have to live, and the conditions we face sure isn't what we expected then.

The rich shipped us off to their war in Vietnam, and when they needed us to protect their business interests there, they ran a good rap and promised us the sky. They never delivered. Sure, some of us got benefits, often having to fight to get them, but it's a hell of a situation when they give us some loose change and then try to pick our pockets before we get out the door. The economy is going down the drain, and they

would like to flush us down too and pocket the buck at our expense.

The GI Bill was never something the government gave us out of the goodness of their heart. It started after World War II when the rich had Congress hand it out before millions of World War II vets tore the hell out of the country. Then they only delivered out of fear for their wealth. Then and now, they will only cough up what they owe us when we stick the big fist of a powerful veterans movement in their face.

That World War II GI Bill was the beginning, and from there it went downhill. Congress continually "restructured and reformed" the various GI Bills up to today. Along the way they axed off sections, benefits, eligibility time and bucks. Some times the attacks were right out in the open on a national scale. For instance, in 1976, they cut 3.7 million vets (those who received discharges between 1954 and 1966) off the bill with no warning. Or the recent refusal to give benefits to the vets who got their discharges upgraded under Carter's phoney program.

We all know about the big attacks, but they're socking it to us every day with the "little" ones too: Late checks that drive us out of school, saving

them millions of bucks annually; roll calls in classes that intimidate us like grade school kids; spot checks on grade averages that result in us being "advised" on what we should study or we're out on our ass.

These small attacks vary in intensity and type from school to school, but they are aimed at the same thing - drive thousands of vets off the Bill every year. One current attack is going on at Kent State University. The school claims that due to the high fuel costs of last winter and the expected costs this year, the school is closing for 36 days to cut costs. Seizing on this opportunity, the VA announced that because vets won't be in school for a period of over 30 days, they won't be getting their Christmas GI Bill checks. For a vet with a family of 3 this means the loss of \$400 during the month when all of us have higher expenses because of the holidays. Added to this is the fact that since school is closed for only 36 days, most of the 1,800 vets effected will not be able to find work to make up their losses.

This attack at Kent hasn't and will not go unanswered.

Meetings to plan their fight have drawn up to 250 vets. Then on Oct. 7th over 50 vets from Kent went to the VA regional office in Cleveland to confront the regional director. Setting up a picket line out front, a delegation went into his office for some answers, but found he was continually "out." His flunkies said, "Anyway, there isn't anything that can be done." The vets at Kent didn't swallow this crap and have since regrouped to plan their strategy.

Vets at Kent State and across the country, all of us, have a fight on our hands. The GI Bill belongs to us, but the way the VA hands it out, you would think it was theirs.

We aren't going to these rats at the VA, in Congress or their rich bosses to beg for our money. When someone steals from you, you don't crawl to them and say, "Please Mr. Thief, give us back what is rightfully ours." Hell no! You march in and unhinge that mother! We aren't begging for anything, but we'll fight like hell for what's ours. ■

KLAN ROUTED FROM BORDER

Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon, David Duke, and a handful of his cronies offered their services to the U.S. Border Patrol in San Diego on October 16. The news media made a big splash--the Klan was going to keep Mexican "illegals" out of the country. But what happened instead was that Duke and others discovered, once again, the wrath of the people as they were confronted by about 30 people, including members of VVAW.

The Dragon and the lizards arrived at the border between San Diego and Tijuana in a helicopter and found they had landed in a "hot LZ" as they were met with a barrage of eggs and rocks. The Klan turned sheet white and after a brief "mad minute" they made a tactical withdrawal to their waiting limosine. But the workers, students and vets chased them and one vet ripped the jacket off of Duke. As the Klan hurried to the car they were spit on so much so that one veteran said "they got pretty soggy."

Panicked, one klansman tried to escape in his car, almost running over three people. The cops, standing by, let him go. At the same time, the cops arrested one Chicano veteran and charged him with assault with a deadly weapon and put him on \$3,000 bail. Witnesses didn't see anything in his hand.

While all this was going on, leaflets were handed out at the border. Most people, both Mexican and American opposed the Klan's activity. One Black sailor stationed in San Diego joined in the picket line.

The Mexican people who come over the border into the U.S. are looking for jobs that they can't find in Mexico, which has an incredibly high unemployment rate. The ruling class in this country tries to stir up people's anger by saying that Mexicans and other foreign born workers are the cause of unemployment. The Klan and other such organizations aid them in pitting workers against workers. The fact is that unemployment, whether in this country or Mexico is caused by the inner workings of capitalism. The capitalists, among other things, prop up their profit margin by laying off workers and speeding up the rest, and by running off overseas where they pay pennies in hourly wages. People want to, and have to, work to survive. The point is not to attack people looking for work, but instead to go after the cause of unemployment, and unite all working people--native and foreign born--to demand more jobs, fight against runaway shops, unemployment benefit cutoffs and the U.S. economic and political domination of foreign countrys, which keeps them underdeveloped. ■

Detroit Victory

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

ly outnumbering the shaking VA hacks. After several minutes the judge dropped the charges saying that Ali couldn't go to the VA to cause "trouble." A burst of applause filled the courtroom. A major victory had been won!

As soon as a short rally was held on the steps of the courthouse everyone went to the Regional VA and held another picket line demanding "100% Disability for Ali" Many passersby knew about Ali's case and were glad that the charges were dropped. A delegation of three vets went up to Clowny's office in spite of the fact that the VA had imported a squad of guards from Chicago, dressed like paratroopers, to keep us out. Clowny paled at the sight of the vets, being trailed by guards, one of them still mumbling, "what are they doing here?" Clowny and the VA were put on notice that they hadn't heard the last of Ali--that they wanted the 100%.

Ali's appeal case comes up

in November and they are planning to be heard from again at the hearing.

Thousands of veterans came back from Vietnam, angry about being used to fight the rich man's war. And the anger continues over the way the VA is chopping up veterans benefits. What is happening to Ali is happening to countless veterans. The VA would like nothing better than for vets to lie back and take all these cuts without a word. But that's not the way things happen in the real world. The only way to stop from being ground down is to stand up and fight. This is as clear as a bell in the case of Ali. What's involved in his case is such a clear example of how the VA screws over vets that it has won the support of people everywhere. Winning the disability for him will be a victory for all veterans, especially those who are being cut. It's an example of how when veterans unite, victories will be won. ■

RELOCATION

Recollections From Vietnam

Plodding down the landing strip of an abandoned American base came a strange assortment of ox-carts piled high with household belongings, chicken cages, children; between the carts were dusty 2 and 1/2 ton U.S. Army trucks. It was moving day.

The people of the small Montanyard village had ancestral roots stretching back at least 900 years in the same place near the Cambodian border of South Vietnam. That was until the U.S. Army, in its wisdom, decided that the village must be "relocated." The new location was along side L.Z. Joe, once a U.S. landing zone but now mostly abandoned except for a Special Forces "A" camp nearby. The jungle growth in between the rows of rubber trees had already begun to reclaim the area.

As brigade information officer I had the job of telling the press how this relocation of the Montanyards would provide them with medical care (in fact no Vietnamese hospital would ever treat a Montanyard in that area) how they would be protected with the Special Forces camp nearby, and how the U.S. Army would provide them with all the help they needed to settle into their new "home." There was no mention of how they were supposed to survive since they certainly would not be permitted to cut down rubber trees (the U.S. military paid \$600 for every hurt tree) in order to have room to grow food.



Privately, the S-2 (intelligence officer) of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade told me that "We're moving the gooks because they're 90% VC or VC symps, and now we can keep an eye on them."

With all the decisions made, on a steamy morning in July, 1969, Engineers from the 1st Cav arrived by helicopter and began setting up surplus Army tents. Meanwhile, the trucks and ox carts snaked out of the jungle, across the deserted strip, and the villagers began to unload. Not knowing what their new life would be, they wisely brought along everything they had including old boards to make pens next to the tents for the family pig. Around the area, 1st Cav Security forces napped in the jungle, not realizing how nervous were some of the American troops who were not used to being quite so close to the war.

By noon most of the villagers were moved in--it didn't take long to unload and arrange their few belongings. Cooking fires

sprung up in front of the tents--as I walked by one tent I saw a brown snake, held on forked sticks, cooking in front of a fire.

Less than an hour later, an old man, mostly toothless and gesturing excitedly, came up to me to invite me to participate in their special meal--broiled snake, rice wine, and a plant--like watercress--they had picked in the area. As an honored guest, I was urged, with many smiles, to eat well.

But that was only the first invitation to eat. Presiding over the relocation was the district chief, elegantly dressed in immaculate, starched fatigues, sun glasses, and carrying a polaroid camera bought at some PX; while American soldiers helped the villagers as best they could, the chief and his bevy of aides looked on, smoked cigarettes, and took pictures. In between, he retired to his tent (the first one put up), though he had no intention of staying around. In his tent the menu was somewhat different--smoked

salmon, French "chartruese" liquor, dainty crackers. He talked, through an interpreter, of his great concern for "his" people.

The big event of the day, however, took place in mid-afternoon; it was planned to demonstrate how the U.S. Army would in fact do all it could to help in relocating a village. A Chinook landed next to the new villages bringing the 1st Air Cav division band! In a small clearing between tents they put on a concert for the villagers--a somewhat nervous concert since members of the band usually played in more secure areas. Wide-eyed Montanyards watched the shiny instruments, listening to what they could hardly know was a medley of tunes from "My Fair Lady."

Well before dark, the band left; so did the district chief, driving off in his well-kept U.S. jeep with driver. And so, finally, did the rest of us, leaving behind the small village in U.S. Army tents beside the empty landing strip.



Milwaukee Vets Confront Governor

Wisconsin's veterans benefits programs are under attack. Former Governor Lucey and present Governor Schreiber have been conducting a systematic campaign to slash vets benefits. One of the biggest state programs under attack is a vets home loan program, offering mortgages at lower rates than the banks. Richard Carbonneau, a member of the state's Board of Veterans Affairs is a supporter of this cut. He is also an official of the First Federal Savings and Loan, the biggest savings and loan in the state. First Federal would obviously like the 17,000 Wisconsin veterans who have gotten state loans at 6% to be forced to get mortgages from them at 9%.

Schreiber's new head of the state's veterans programs, Mike

Early, was the state legislator who was the floor leader on all major pieces of Lucey's supported legislation to cut back vets benefits--hardly a fighter for veterans.

In light of these cuts, veterans from different organizations including VVAW demonstrated outside a dinner attended by Governor Schreiber. Two members of VVAW obtained passes to the dinner. When Schreiber was introduced to speak one vet stood up and denounced him for his cuts. The dinner security quickly hustled him out, but the other vet stood up and continued to expose the governor. He too was removed, but the point was made--the State of Wisconsin is on notice that veterans will not sit back while the government cuts away at their benefits.

SEND YOUR "WAR STORIES" TO VVAW

The episode printed here is only one example of the kinds of experiences that vets had in Vietnam. Vietnam Veterans Against the War hopes to print a book of such recollections, whether from Vietnam, from basic training, from being stationed in Korea or anywhere else around the world--actual happenings as remembered by the vets who saw them or lived them. Given the flood of publications and movies about the Indochina War, we see the need to have material which goes beyond the idea that the war was a "terrible mistake." We invite veterans to think back over their collection of "war stories," write them down, and send them in. The exact nature of the final book will depend on the contri-

butions we get; but we believe it can be a powerful statement of some of the experiences which helped us come to realize why we should "Fight the Rich, Not Their Wars."

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