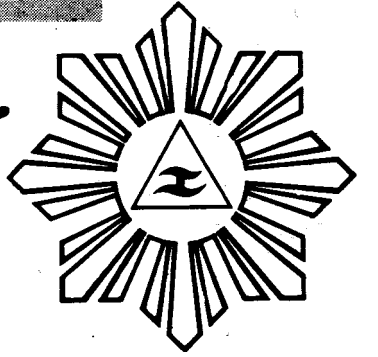


Ang KATIPUNAN

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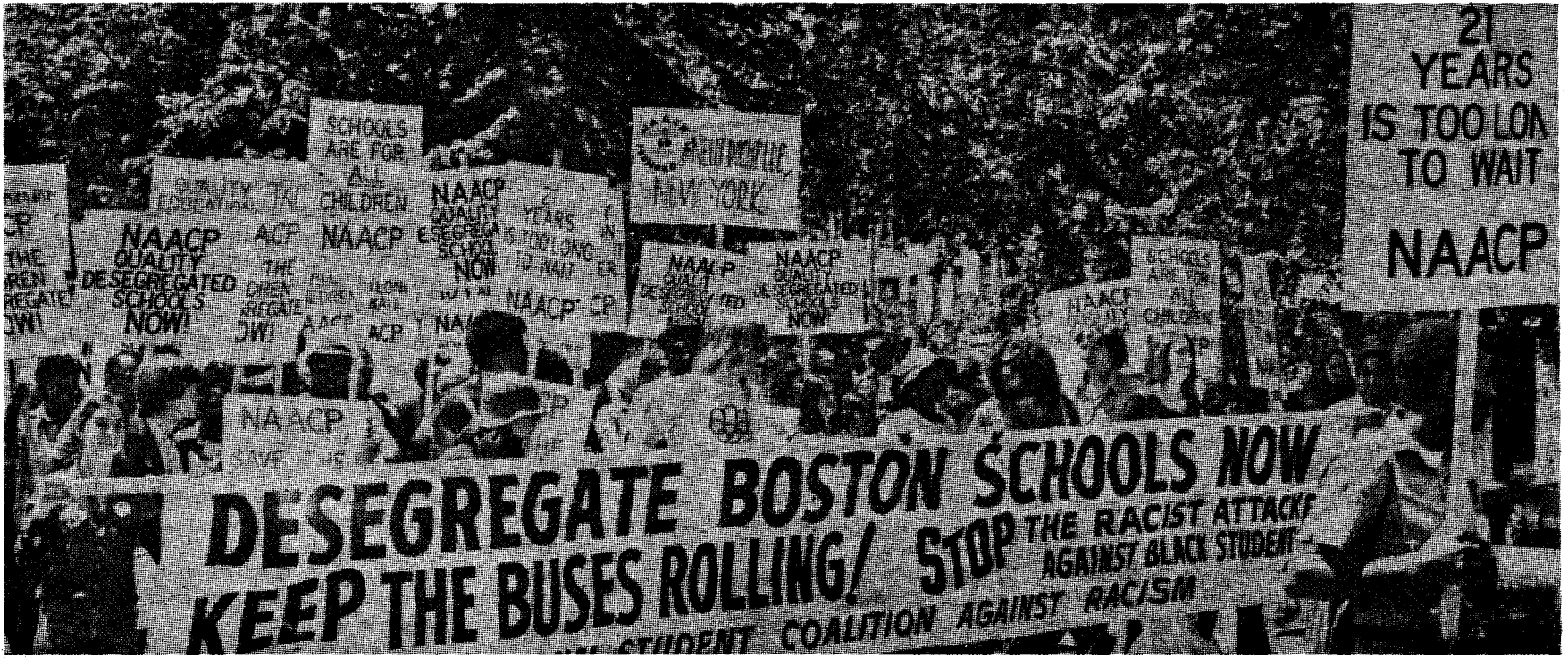
October 1977

National Newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP)



U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR LANDMARK CASE

Bakke Decision Threatens Minority Rights



May 17, 1975 — Thousands march in Boston, chanting: "No to Racism," demanding an end to racist attacks against Blacks.

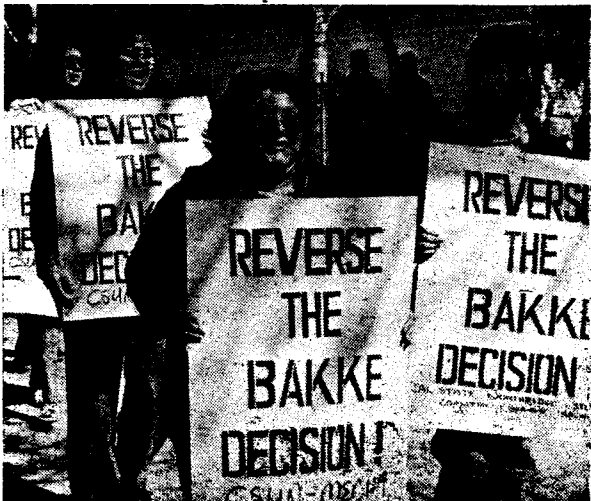
KDP EDITORIAL:

Fight Racism! Overturn the Bakke Decision!

By KDP National Executive Board

Thousands have rallied in recent months to protest the Bakke decision, soon to be heard in the U.S. Supreme Court. While Bakke is at the crest of a rising racist trend in the U.S., the anti-Bakke movement is in the forefront of a nationwide re-emergence of active concern for racial equality. It is time for the Filipino community to also take up its place in this historic movement.

Pro-Bakke forces have supported the claim that the special admissions program at the U.C. Davis medical school violated the rights of Allan Bakke, a white male, as guaranteed him under the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the



Chicano students picket, demanding Bakke ruling be overturned.

Constitution. Their arguments have totally obscured the intention of the special admissions and other affirmative action programs — which was to give special consideration to the integration of minorities to help rectify the effect of past and present discrimination.

The centuries of racism have institutionalized a phenomena in American society where a sector has systematically been denied equal rights in

employment, education, housing, and other opportunities. Affirmative action programs, over most recent years, have only made a very small dent in the process of raising the economic and social conditions of minorities. The gap between the inequalities generally suffered by minorities and the relative "advantages" of whites is still a very big one and the discrimination by private and government institutions has continued almost unabated. For example, at the U.C. Davis medical school and others throughout the country, over 70 per cent to 80 per cent of the students are white males.

The rise of racist attacks across the country as typified by the Bakke decision are clearly linked to the present economic crisis. Third World people continue to be unemployed or receive the lowest wages in the most unstable jobs. At the same time, minorities and immigrants are increasingly scapegoated as the cause for the lack of employment. As a minority in the U.S., this has been the undeniable experience of Filipinos, from their arrival in the 1920's, until today.

As the economic situation worsens, so will the competition for jobs and a living wage. But instead of targetting the capitalists who continue to receive increasing profits at the expense of the working people, racism will perpetuate the blame on minorities, as is the case with Bakke. Without a mass movement of all people in the U.S., determined to fight against Bakke and racial equality every step of the way, racism will continue to be a blight on the democratic aspirations of the American people.

The Filipino people have every basis to participate in developing this mass movement. In the history of the Filipino community, thousands of Filipinos have rallied against instances of racial discrimination. We have fought not only for our rights, but sought to protect the rights of all minorities who are the target of racist activities like Bakke. As racial oppression again rises, the Filipino community must once more take a stand and be counted in the struggle against racism. □

REVERSE DISCRIMINATION?

Racism and the Bakke Decision

The legal showdown on one of the country's most controversial issues is fast approaching as the United States Supreme Court readies to hear oral arguments in California's controversial Bakke case.

At issue is the concept of "reverse racial discrimination," the idea that whites in this country are unfairly discriminated against because of special programs in education and employment for minorities.

In the Bakke decision, California's Supreme Court upheld the concept of "reverse discrimination." The court ruled a year on Sept. 16 that a special admissions program at the University of California Davis Medical School violated the constitutional rights of Allan Bakke, a white applicant, by admitting "less qualified" minority students.

The case, now on appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court, has the implications of affecting minority programs nationwide. If the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the "reverse discrimination" charge, these programs for minorities stand to be dismantled, and the struggle of minorities for better access to education and jobs will be adversely affected.

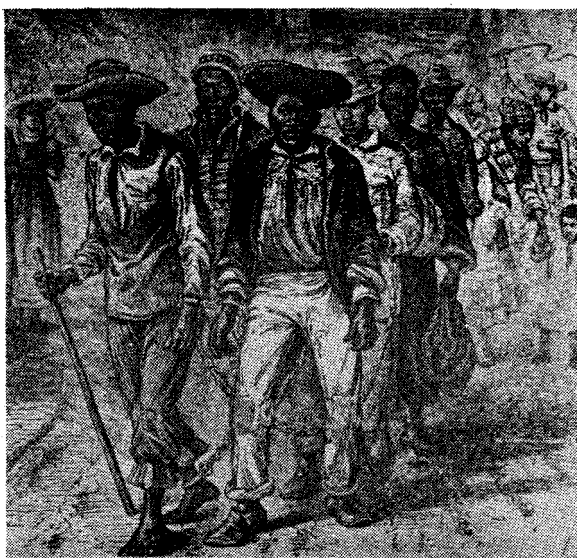
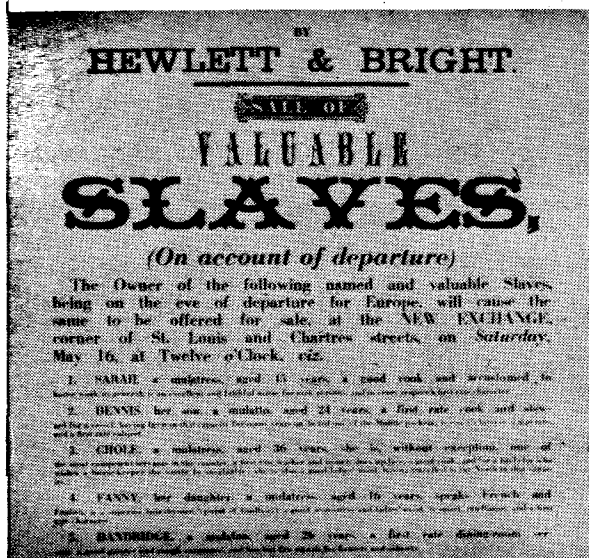
SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNDER ATTACK

Many special programs for the country's minorities, often known as affirmative action programs, were instituted in the wake of the 1960's civil rights movement.

These programs, enacted to counter decades of institutionalized racism in American society, were the product of massive protests nationwide, involving sit-ins at colleges and universities, as well as other acts of civil disobedience. Masses of black people often faced violent attacks by fire hose and police dogs while making peaceful protests against

(continued on page 2)

The Roots of U.S. Racism



Slaves being led through Washington, D.C. Racism has its roots in this period of U.S. history.

The history of the U.S. is one of horrendous crimes perpetrated against the country's non-white people.

The stealing of the Native American's land and the subsequent genocide of the Indian people; the barbaric enslavement of black Africans and their forced servitude here are a damning indictment of an evil system which sees only profit and greed, causing the immiseration of its non-white people.

Born in the days of the first black slaves in this country, racism has come to be one of the most prominent features of American life. In all its most blatant and subtle forms, racism is one of the most pressing problems facing the American people today.

SLAVERY AND RACISM

The beginnings of American racism are rooted in

the early history of America, when the fledgling colonies of Britain were confronted with a vast expanse of virgin lands capable of producing valuable crops for the English Crown, yet lacking the manpower to till the fertile soil.

Especially in the southern colonies, where large plantations were established, a severe labor shortage hampered the economic growth and development of the land.

There was an attempt to use white indentured servants as farm laborers, but this was met with only limited success. Most of these indentures eventually served their time and were then able to establish their own farms or work as free men in the northern colonies.

There were also attempts to enslave the indigenous Indian populations. But these attempts

(continued on page 4)

BAKKE DECISION

(continued from front page)
racist oppression.

It wasn't until the massive and often violent uprisings in the nation's urban ghettos, especially after the assassination of the black clergyman Rev. Martin Luther King, that a broader effort to desegregate the nation's institutions was begun.

Increased financial aid, scholarships and grants were part of affirmative action programs meant to help increase the enrollment of minority students in the nation's colleges and universities. In the employment arena, businesses were required to hire more minorities. Even some trade unions, which had histories of barring blacks and other non-whites from membership, adopted programs to counter past racist practices.

The general effect of these programs was to further the democratic rights of the nation's minorities by opening up opportunities in education and employment that were formerly closed because of racism.

These small advancements, always limited by the general lack of jobs and schooling inherent in American society, have been further weakened by the economic crisis faced by the U.S. in the early '70's.

With the recession of the early 1970's, when millions of workers were thrown out of work and competition for entry to schools and jobs increased, a resurgence of racism has occurred, and the nation's minorities are increasingly being scapegoated for the problems of unemployment, crime, and general deterioration of living standards.

Allan Bakke's suit is a part of this resurgence of racism, one of many legal suits now before the courts which charge that whites are being unfairly discriminated against due to special programs for blacks and other minorities.

RACIST CHARACTER OF SUIT

The racist character of the Bakke decision has been obscured somewhat since the suit challenges the use of quotas and alleges the misuse of "objective" testing criteria to the unfair advantage of racial minorities.

While the use of racial quotas has not always been desirable in the fight against racism, quotas have ensured that minorities are admitted into previously segregated institutions. In the Bakke suit all

quotas are challenged as being "unfair" since "more qualified" whites are passed over for admission to schools or jobs.

Bakke contends that he was "more qualified" to enter the U.C. medical school based on his Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores which were higher than those of the minorities admitted under the special admissions program. Based on these "objective" tests, Bakke argues that his constitutional right were violated since he did not receive equal treatment as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment.

However, MCAT and similar tests for professional schools have been shown to be racially and class biased, with whites from upper income levels scoring higher than other races and income groups.

Besides these biases, which hardly make them "objective," the MCAT scores have not been able to determine whether or not a person would perform well in medical school. There are also other factors, such as commitment to the field of study and social need (such as the need for more black doctors) which are or can be considerations for en-



Racists attack black man during Boston anti-busing controversy, 1975.

trance to medical school.

Minority persons admitted into institutions of higher learning through special programs does not mean they were "less qualified," only that to qualify they met certain criteria which took into account their race as well as their economic backgrounds. These programs, which benefit the poor and non-white, actually need to be expanded instead of being cut back.

What is the Bakke Case?

In the fall of 1972, Allan Bakke, a white 36 year old engineer, applied for admission to 11 medical schools, one of them being at U.C. Davis. All of his applications were subsequently rejected, with U.C. Davis twice refusing Bakke admission in 1973 and 1974.

On the advice of Peter Storandt, a U.C. officer whose job was to counsel rejected applicants, Bakke contacted lawyer Reynold H. Colvin and brought suit against the University, charging the U.C. Regents with "reverse racial discrimination."

The target of Bakke's suit was a U.C. Davis special admissions program which designated 16 out of 100 admission slots for "disadvantaged" students. Bakke claimed that the admissions program violated his constitutional rights since "less qualified" minorities were given "preferential treatment." As proof that he was "more qualified," Bakke claimed that his Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores were higher than some of the students admitted under the special admissions program.

The California courts subsequently agreed with Bakke's contention, saying that the U.C. program "discriminates in favor of minority racial groups and against the white race in violation of the Constitution." Ironically, the courts cited the program as a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment, which was originally passed to protect the rights of Blacks and other racial minorities.

U.C. COLLUSION IN CASE

Besides the U.C. official who proved to be a prime motivator and supporter of Bakke's suit, the U.C. Regents provided an extremely poor defense before the California courts. The California Supreme Court was allowed to render its decision based on a "defense" submitted in the form of a few briefs and a deposition of only one U.C. admissions officer.

The U.C. Regents also failed to provide any statistical evidence of past U.C. discrimination, despite the fact that in the two years prior to the program only one Black and two Chicanos were admitted to the Davis school.

Despite its weak handling of the case, the U.C. Regents decided to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. This move was highly criticized since the Regents raised the question of the constitutionality of affirmative action programs generally, rather than confining the case to California.

Given the University's blatant collusion in the case, a wide array of civil rights and legal groups filed briefs to oppose the Bakke decision. Thus far over 40 "friend of the court" briefs have been filed on U.C.'s side, and even the U.S. Justice Department has filed a brief opposing the Bakke decision because of the mass opposition to the California case. □

MINORITIES UNDER ATTACK

Despite the implementation of a wide variety of programs for minorities, non-white persons have continued to suffer the worst effects of racial discrimination. These effects are recorded in national statistics which show lower life expectancy rates and general hardship among America's non-white people.

(continued on page 3)

The Filipino Experience in America Confronting Racism and Discrimination



In the face of racist discrimination and exploitation as workers (right), Filipinos formed fraternal organi-

zations and trade unions. Above, May 1 march by Filipino members of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union.

"Look at those half-naked savages from the Philippines, Roger! Haven't they any idea of decency?" The man said something, but they had already turned and the wind carried it away. I was to hear that girl's voice in many ways afterward in the United States. It became no longer her voice, but an angry chorus shouting:

"Why don't they ship those monkeys back where they came from?"

—from *America is in the Heart*, by Carlos Bulosan

Since the arrival of the first Filipino workers at America's shores, the Filipino experience in the U.S. has been a confrontation with racism and national discrimination.

Filipino men, first brought to Hawaii and then to the U.S. in the 1920's, toiled in the sugar plantations and lettuce fields as agricultural workers, filling the growers' insatiable demand for cheap, unorganized labor.

Drawn to this country with promises of good working conditions and high pay, Filipino workers instead found squalid farm labor camps, long hours of arduous labor and pay checks that were quickly spent on the high cost of food and housing.

Added to this exploitation was the overt racism suffered by the Filipino worker. Ostracized by American society, Filipinos became the target of racist attacks by white vigilante groups as well as racist legislation which barred marriages between whites and Filipinos.

The history of Filipinos in America, however, is also one of organizing and fighting against all forms of exploitation and discrimination. In the agricultural fields of California and the canneries of Alaska, Filipinos took up the fight to unionize, often uniting with workers of different colors and nationalities.

And against the tyranny of grower and vigilante attacks, Filipinos often organized themselves and took up arms to fight racist terror.

THE WATSONVILLE RIOTS

Most well-known of the anti-Filipino incidents in U.S. history were the Watsonville riots which started on Jan. 23, 1930.

It was the time of the Great Depression in America, when a sense of panic filled the country, especially for the poverty-stricken in the farm valleys of California. Thousands of poor whites from Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas were pouring into California, seeking a new life, as their farms had been ruined in the great drought that swept the Midwest.

In the midst of mass unemployment that pitted working people against one another, the Filipinos soon found themselves the target of white vigilante groups.

In early January, vigilante groups comprised of

zations and trade unions. Above, May 1 march by Filipino members of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union.

white, mainly unemployed youth, began assaulting Filipinos in the streets. Filipinos were beaten up, tied to the backs of cars and dragged through the main streets of town.

In the evenings, carloads of racists shot into Filipino bunkhouses, hoping to drive Filipino farmworkers out of the area. The whole situation quickly escalated when shots fired into the bunkhouse at John Murphy's ranch killed Fermin Tobera, 20 years old and in America only a few weeks.

The Filipinos then began to arm themselves and organize their own self-defense. Filipino newspapers throughout the West Coast strongly protested the murder of Tobera, resulting in hundreds of Filipinos from different parts of California traveling to Watsonville to assist their besieged brothers.



Watsonville riots in January 1930, were the most blatant attacks against Filipinos.

As the racial tensions subsided, Filipinos in America took up collections from their meager wages to send the body of Fermin Tobera back to the Philippines for burial. Thousands of Filipinos lined the docks of San Francisco and Honolulu in tribute to Tobera as his body passed through these ports.

While the murder of Tobera was perpetrated by the "dog-eat-dog" competition for work in the midst of economic depression, other anti-Filipino attacks occurred, often initiated by the growers. As Carlos Bulosan related in his book *America is in the Heart*,

joblessness among black youth of almost 40 per cent. For blacks and other non-whites there has been little change in the rule that minorities are usually the "last hired and first fired."

INCREASED RACIST VIOLENCE

The Supreme Court will be hearing the Bakke case as open racist attacks against blacks and other minorities are on the rise. These attacks, sometimes as openly blatant as the stoning of a school bus carrying black children in Boston, cannot be separated from increasing legal attacks against the country's minorities which tend to justify continued racist practices.

Recent decisions from the Supreme Court have

Union.

"... Years before, in the town of Toppenish, two Filipino apple pickers had been found murdered on the road to Sunnyside. At that time, there was ruthless persecution of the Filipinos throughout the Pacific Coast, instigated by orchardists who feared the unity of white and Filipino workers."

It was through the unity of Filipino workers, often-times with Japanese, Mexican, and white workers, that agricultural unions were organized to fight grower exploitation. And in the fight for unions, an accompanying struggle against racism was waged, forging better unity of Filipino and other workers.

RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION CONTINUE

The fight of Filipinos against racism and discrimination has continued, often against the more insidious forms of racism than the open vigilante attacks as in the days of Watsonville.

For many years, Filipinos were not allowed to marry whites due to racist anti-miscegenation laws. In California, these laws remained on the books until 1948 and it was not until 1967 that they were banned altogether by the U.S. Supreme Court. At that time, sixteen states still prohibited white interracial marriage.

Racist anti-Filipino sentiment, part of a general anti-Asiatic hysteria, resulted in the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934, which barred further Filipino immigration. Not until after World War II and again in 1965 were immigration quotas eased, allowing more Filipinos into the U.S.

One of the tragic results of the racist immigration practices was the stranding of thousands of Filipino men in this country with little chance of starting their own families. Since few Filipinas immigrated to the U.S. before the 1934 immigration act, the ratio of Filipino women to Filipino men remained unbalanced for years. Today among Filipinos 65 years old and over, there are 4.5 times more males than females.

To the subsequent waves of Filipino immigration, the racism experienced in this country often meant having to take low paying jobs, being able to find work only as domestics or in hotels and restaurants. Because of racist discrimination, qualified Filipino professionals often find themselves relegated to clerical work or to menial hospital labor.

The bitter experiences of many Filipinos in racist America was best expressed by Bulosan when he wrote:

"The terrible truth in America shatters the Filipinos' dream of fraternity. I was completely disillusioned when I came to know this American attitude. If I had not . . . grown up with honest people and studied about American institutions and racial equality in the Philippines I should never have minded so much the horrible impact of white chauvinism." □

BAKKE DECISION

(continued from page 2)

Over the past twenty years, the median income of minorities has remained at 60 per cent that of whites. Infant mortality rates for non-whites runs at twice the national average, reflecting the poor health care suffered by minorities as well as a general impoverishment which adversely affects the health of minorities.

Perhaps the best indication that racism continues virtually unabated is the fact that unemployment among blacks runs at twice the national average. This depression level unemployment rate means a

increasingly come from a more conservative posture—restoring the death penalty, ruling against women's rights and the nation's poor. Despite this trend in the high court, a nationwide movement has grown to oppose the Bakke decision and to pressure the Supreme Court to overturn the California ruling.

The Bakke decision has the potential of setting a legal landmark, such as the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision, which affected the political and social life of the country for over two decades. In this case, however, it may be a landmark in the opposite direction, setting the legal ground for increased racism and racist attacks on the nation's minorities. □

Prominent Feature of American Life

U.S. HISTORY AND RACISM

(continued from page 2)

failed as the Indians were able to successfully resist enslavement by escape in their well-known native territories.

It soon fell to the black African, whom the Portuguese and Spanish had been trading as slaves since the 1400's, to be the "saviors" of the southern colonies and eventually the backbone of an emerging American capitalism.

The African slaves had many "benefits" for the southern planters. Besides being physically able to do the arduous plantation work, the African's color easily identified him as a slave, and his lack of knowledge of the new land effectively hampered his escape.

Once the enslavement of the African began in earnest, not only did the southern planter reap tremendous profits from the work of his slaves, but English capitalism received a tremendous boost as millions of dollars were generated from the slave trade.

Moral and "scientific" justification of this horrendous system was not hard to come by for the planters and slavers. The black Africans were quickly defined racially—placed in an inferior category and given sub-human status. Enslavement of the African was seen as a "natural" state of affairs and even the various churches gave their moral blessings to the enslavement of black people.

With a constant barrage of pseudo-scientific propaganda fostering the ideas of white superiority and Negro inferiority, all forms of barbaric outrages against the Africans were justified. In a very short period of time, racist social attitudes came to prevail and acceptance of this inhuman condition became widespread.

LAWS CODIFY RACISM

It is within this context of developing racism that laws were established to codify the "inferior" status of the black people. While at first some colonies treated African slaves like indentured servants able to gain freedom after a specified time, laws were eventually passed differentiating the status of blacks from white indentured servants, making the former slaves for life.

The debasement and brutality of racist laws legalizing slavery accelerated to the point where Negroes were put in the same category as "working beasts, animals of any kind, stock, furniture, plate, books and so forth."

Children of mixed parentage were also classified as being Negro, condemned to a life of servitude. The development of racist thought finally saw passage of the infamous "one-eighth" law, which stated that if one's grandparent happened to be Negro, then that person was also classified as being Negro.



Demonstrators peacefully protesting segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, attacked by police dogs, 1963.

This law actually codified the prevailing thought at the time which considered anyone even looking black as being Negro. Racist logic held that any percentage of Negro blood, no matter how small, "tainted" the white race.

RACISM AND U.S. HISTORY

While the foundations of racism were laid before the emergence of the United States as a nation, the plight of America's black people fared little better after the 1776 American Revolution.

Despite many pronouncements about the equality of men and the inalienable rights of man to certain freedoms, the U.S. Constitution tacitly acknowledged and sanctioned slavery.

In apportioning the vote for Congressional



Recession and resulting cutbacks hit minorities especially hard. Above, anti-cutback rally in New York City, March 26, 1976.

representation, slaves were counted as "three-fifths" that of "free persons." In addition, the Constitution allowed the continuation of the slave trade until 1820, and slavery itself was not questioned as an institution.

These moves were only part of many maneuvers made by the new Federal government instituted to appease the powerful planter interests. The new government, which tried to strike a political balance between the northern merchants and southern planters, had no intention of abolishing chattel slavery.

However there were profound economic and social forces which threw the country into two generations of political strife and then four years of civil war. Northern merchants and manufacturers began to clash economically with the Southern planter class, especially over questions of trade. Debates raged over the implementation of tariffs and a sharp battle over control of the Federal government arose, a political fight that finally broke out as the Civil War.

In addition, there existed a powerful democratic sentiment in the northern states, a sentiment spurred by the 1776 revolution, which stood opposed to chattel slavery. White and black abolitionists exerted a tremendous effort to stop the evil and inhuman system of slavery, and in the northern states slavery was legally abolished.

Key to the death of chattel slavery however was the revolt and rebellion of black slaves against their oppression. Besides the numerous slave uprisings recorded from the first efforts to enslave black people, the role of the black people in the U.S. Civil War was instrumental in the defeat of the Southern slavocracy and the abolishment of slavery.

RECONSTRUCTION AND REACTION
For a brief period following the Civil War, there existed a political climate where the newly freed slaves enjoyed a broadening of political and democratic rights. The political power of the defeated planter class was limited by an alliance of poor whites and the former slaves, aided by the support of Northern progressives which established the reconstruction governments. This period of reconstruction saw the implementation of free public education, the guarantee of voting rights, and in some cases, even land reform.

The period of democratic reform, however, was short lived, as the Southern planters instituted a reign of terror against the newly-freed blacks. Appealing to racist sentiments to divide poor whites from their alliance with blacks, the terrorist Ku Klux Klan was organized to reverse all democratic reforms, intimidating black and white from struggling for equality.

Regaining control of local and state governments by disenfranchising the black people, Southern racists instituted a hated system of segregation. Known as "Jim Crow" laws, blacks were segregated from whites in all forms of public life. Black people were even restricted in their freedom of movement by strict vagrancy laws and curfew laws, and in most cases blacks ended up working the same plantations as they had as slaves, only now under the title of "sharecropper."

At the turn of the century, as U.S. capitalism developed into monopoly capitalism, reaction against the black people continued to be particularly ruthless. The periodic depressions of the U.S. economy saw the scapegoating of the nation's problems on non-white people with increased viciousness.

Between 1900 and 1914, a period of economic de-

York City, March 26, 1976.

pression, there were recorded no less than 1,079 murders of blacks, most by armed mobs and lynch gangs. Often the slightest pretext or alleged offense against a white was enough to set the lynch mob in action.

Other non-white people, such as immigrants from China, Japan, the Philippines, and Mexico, also became victims of a general racist hysteria. Brought to the U.S. to fill particular labor needs, such as the building of the railroads and the working of agricultural fields in the west, these immigrant workers were often attacked by racist mobs and they also became victims of racist legislation restricting many democratic rights.

BLACKS FIGHT TYRANNY

Against a general system of racist tyranny, black people formed many organizations to fight the lynch gang and Jim Crow laws. Black farmer's groups were organized, as well as groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the National Urban League.

Throughout the depression of the 1930's and World War II, when blacks migrated in greater numbers out of the South to the northern industrial cities, black people continued to confront a general system of racism which segregated them from jobs and schools, relegating them to the lower rungs of society.

It was not until the 1950's and 60's that a general challenge was raised nationally against all the traditional strongholds and institutions of racism. Originating in the South as a challenge to hated Jim Crow laws, the civil rights movement rallied hundreds of thousands to fight all forms of racial discrimination.

The movement, often involving peaceful protests and marches, was repeatedly attacked by racist police and sheriff units. Thousands of people braved racist mobs to desegregate schools, buses, lunch counters, and other public facilities. Many people in the struggle died, victims of terrorist bombs or cowardly ambushes. Yet the movement sparked the mobilization of millions to oppose racism, and many gains were won in the course of the anti-racist struggle.

No longer could public facilities display "Whites Only" signs. Segregation of public schools was outlawed. Voting rights of blacks were restored by banning such racist practices as the poll tax. Discrimination in housing was made illegal.

Most important was the general politicizing effect the movement had on hundreds of thousands, as many came to understand the economic, political and social roots of racism.

While many of the most blatant forms of racism have been removed, such as racist laws and overtly racist practices, the fight for racial equality is far from over. Institutionalized racism continues to oppress blacks and other non-whites, as witnessed by high unemployment figures, generally poorer living conditions and lack of quality education.

Yet a backlash against the gains of the civil rights movement has been growing over the past decade. Fed by the latest economic crisis and given greater impetus by increased competition for jobs and education, the backlash blames blacks and other non-whites for the nation's social problems.

Racism is again on the rise, rallying under the charge of "reverse discrimination." If successful, not only will the nation's non-white people suffer, but the general struggle of the American people for democratic rights and against reaction will be set back. □