



# Selected Articles from **GETTING TOGETHER**

Feb., 1978



October 15, 1977 march sponsored by the ABDC stretched for 20 blocks through the streets of San Francisco with contingents from all parts of California.

**SMASH THE BAKKE DECISION!  
DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!  
END NATIONAL OPPRESSION!**



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# Getting Together Editorial:

## Future Direction of the Anti-Bakke Decision Struggle

*November, 1977*

October 15, the National Day of Solidarity Against the Bakke Decision, marked a big step forward for the growing anti-Bakke movement nationwide. The October marches and rallies, culminating many months of intense work by committees around the country, brought thousands upon thousands of people onto the streets, united around the demands: Smash the Bakke Decision! Down with National Oppression!

The October 15 demonstrations were significant in that large numbers of oppressed nationalities and students, and some workers from various industries such as auto, steel, postal, transportation, electronics and others, participated. This reflected the correct orientation over the past months of rooting the anti-Bakke struggle in the workplaces, on the campuses and in the communities, and in this way building the day-to-day struggles of the masses against national oppression and class exploitation.

The marches and demonstrations signalled the growing consciousness among large numbers of people that the anti-Bakke struggle must be linked to the struggle against national oppression and its source — the system of imperialism. Many people carried placards and banners with slogans calling upon the people of all nationalities to unite to defeat the Bakke decision, struggle to end the system of imperialism and national oppression, and unite with working and oppressed peoples of the world against the two main enemies of the world's people, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

### **Brief background of the anti-Bakke movement**

The October mobilizations reaffirmed the perspectives that have united the great majority of students, community organizations and working people involved in the anti-Bakke movement around the country: that of relying on the masses of people to defeat Bakke, uniting people of all nationalities in the struggle, opposing the systematic oppression of Third World people in the U.S., and targeting the Courts, the U.C. Regents, the labor bureaucrats and all other representatives of the monopoly capitalist class in the struggle against the Bakke decision.

In the course of uniting the majority of people around these perspectives, it has been necessary to wage a sharp struggle against the views and strategy being promoted by certain reformist forces in the movement. This struggle focused initially around viewing the U.C. Regents as a "tactical ally," and then as a "secondary target" in the anti-Bakke struggle. This incorrect view failed to expose that the Regents have systematically colluded with the courts to use the Bakke decision to attack Third World programs on the campuses and have tried to create the illusion that the Regents could be relied upon to "defend minority rights" through legal battles in court. This incorrect view leads to only focusing on the court case in a narrow way, and refusing to connect the anti-Bakke struggle to related student struggles such as to defend Ethnic Studies, financial aid and other programs



being attacked by the Regents and administrations.

Recently, these same forces have been promoting the idea that the main problem is that the Supreme Court is a "Nixon court," as if having a "less conservative" or a "Carter court" would solve the problems of the masses! They have been promoting all sorts of "liberal" congressmen, mayors and other capitalist politicians to "lead" the anti-Bakke struggle, and whose aim is to tie down the mass movement into congressional or other legislative battles, seeing these as the solution. They have also been promoting various labor bureaucrats to "lead" workers, opposing the desire of the workers to rely on themselves and build a strong, independent rank and file movement against the Bakke decision and other attacks.

These reformist views must be struggled against and defeated, for if they prevail they are certain to lead the movement to defeat. Instead of organizing mass protest and resistance, and instead of organizing political struggle to *force* the capitalist class to meet our demands, these reformists want to foster a view of passive reliance on the Regents, and various "liberal" representatives of the capitalist class. Instead of striking a blow at imperialism and national oppression, they protect and strengthen the system.

It is important to unite as many forces as we can in the anti-Bakke movement, including not only workers, students and oppressed nationalities, but also professors, lawyers and other social strata. The question, however, which must be clear is who the mass movement must be directed against and what methods are to be used in building it.

We must build mass and militant actions, build a long-term movement that is rooted among the masses, rely on the initiative and strength of the masses in struggle, and link the struggle to the overall struggle of the working

class and the oppressed nationalities against imperialism.

### Future tasks

We should continue along the path which has guided the October 15 mobilizations and deepen even further the mass movement so that it can grow stronger and become more firmly rooted among the masses.

*We should continue to build and expand the strong student base of the anti-Bakke movement*, and continue to link it to building the ongoing progressive student organizations on the campuses and to other day-to-day struggles which are occurring, such as the defense of Ethnic Studies, and against cut-backs in courses and programs.

*We should pay special attention to deepening our work in the multi-national working class*, taking our demand to overturn the Bakke decision and defend and expand affirmative action programs to each and every factory and workplace, to the trade unions, to the rank and file caucuses, and do broad and continuous outreach, including educational leaflets and pamphlets and programs focused to the workers. This work should be aimed at building a strong rank and file movement against the Bakke decision and other instances of national oppression and class exploitation.

Since the Bakke decision is not an isolated instance but part and parcel of the entire system of national oppression and imperialism, *we should link up the anti-Bakke movement to fighting other attacks upon Third World people*, such as the destruction of the oppressed nationality communities; against inequalities in education such as the racist IQ tests and tracking systems; for the unionization of oppressed nationality workers and the equal recognition of their languages in contracts, union proceedings and on the job; against the deportation of immigrants, against police brutality and legal lynchings of Third World people.





2,000 students, workers, community and revolutionary groups joined the statewide MEChA's in protesting the Bakke Decision in Los Angeles on May 7, 1977.

And since the Bakke decision also threatens affirmative action and other related programs for women, *we must link it to the struggle for women's equality*, including demands such as against the forced sterilization of Third World women, for equal hiring and promotions for women, for pregnancy and other benefits for women workers, and day care for working and Third World women.

*The anti-Bakke movement must be built in a way that unites the entire multi-national working class.* A crucial part of our work is to educate workers of all nationalities how it is in their interests to oppose the intensification of national oppression of which the Bakke decision is a part. We should show concretely how each and every blow dealt to the system of national oppression weakens our common enemy, the system of imperialism, which is the common cause of the suffering and impoverishment of all oppressed and working people in the U.S.

*Lastly, we should strive to build a broad, nationwide movement based upon principle that unites as many forces as possible opposed to the Bakke decision.* And in the course of broadening the movement, we should continue

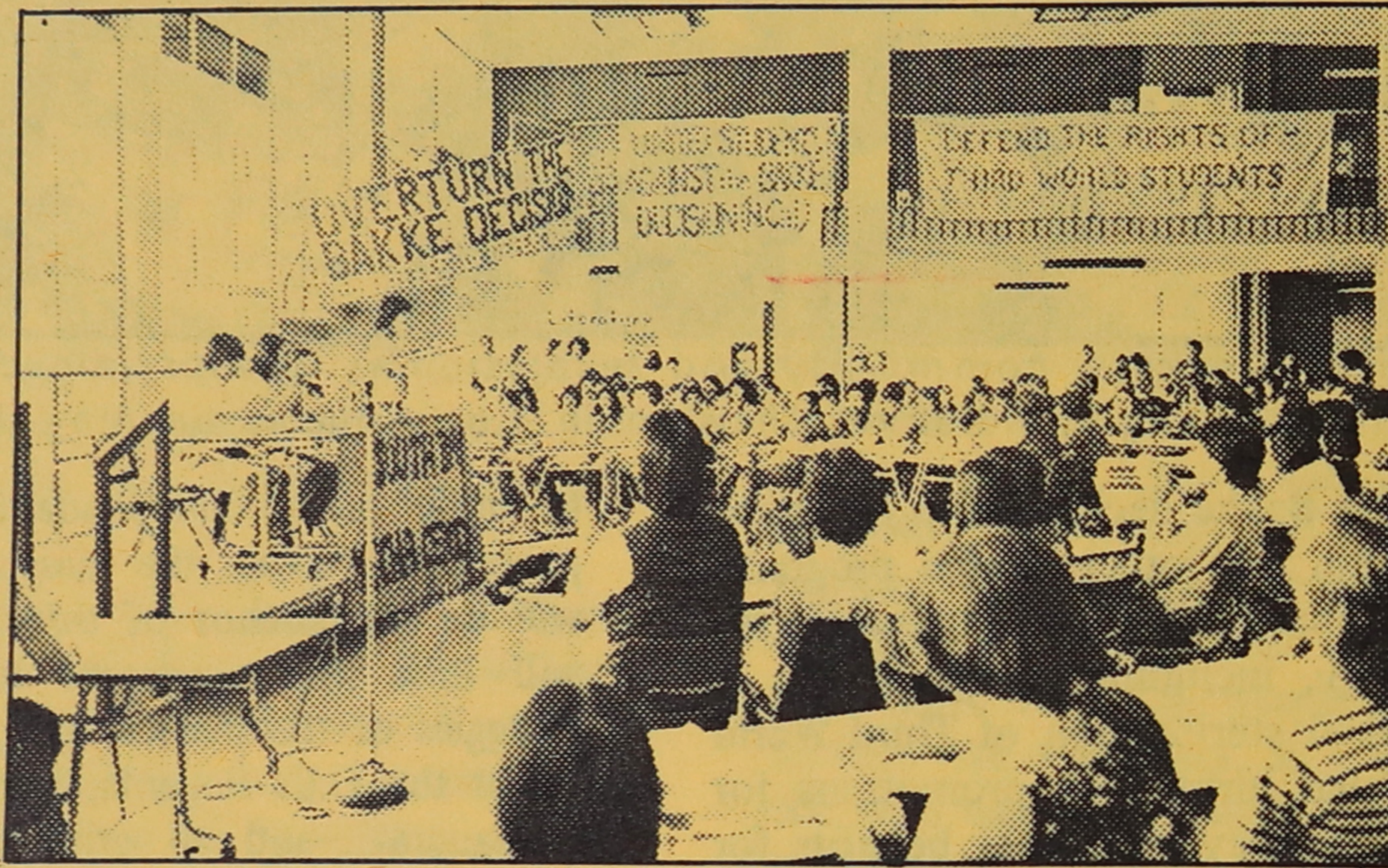
to build on an independent footing and expand even further the mass committees which will be the anchor of this movement, which will link the movement to the day-to-day struggles of the masses, and which will boldly target the U.C. Regents, the courts, the labor bureaucrats, and all other representatives of the capitalist class in the movement to smash the Bakke decision.

As the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hand down its decision on the Bakke case in the coming weeks or months, we should prepare to launch even wider-scale protests in the coming months. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of Allan Bakke, we must meet this blatant attack with a storm of militant and sustained protests throughout the country. And if the Bakke case is overturned, we must also intensify our struggle to defend affirmative action and special admissions and fight each and every attack. The capitalist class will not relent in its attacks, and neither can we relax our efforts to mobilize and unite even greater numbers of people to smash the Bakke decision, and ultimately bring a final end to the system of national oppression and the system of imperialism itself.



Reprinted from ABDC newsletter Jan., 1978

## Brief History of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition (ABDC)



Over 300 individuals and groups from throughout California united to form the ABDC in San Jose on June 26, 1977.

The ABDC has its roots in the grass roots organizing activity that has taken place on campuses, communities, and workplaces in California throughout the year.

\* In February, the Third World Coalition formed at UCB, SFS, and Laney College in Oakland, marking the initial efforts to educate and organize people around the Bakke issue on these campuses. They later joined with other ASU's, BSU's, MEChA's, and TWC's to form the Northern California United Students Against the Bakke Decision, spanning 15 campuses in the area. The USABD organized a militant protest at the May 20th UC Regents meeting in San Francisco. This demonstration exposed the UC Regent's collusion with Bakke and the courts.

\* The Committee to Defeat Bakke in San Jose and the East LA Committee for Democratic Rights actively took up the Bakke struggle, staging demonstrations and programs in various communities and workplaces. Locals of the UAW, USW, International Allied Moulders and others joined in the anti-Bakke movement.

\* On May 7, over 1,500 people participated in a mass demonstration in LA. This action was organized by the Statewide MEChA system, which had been playing an active and leading role in the anti-Bakke struggle the entire year. Following this May 7 demonstration, the MEChA's initiated a call for a Statewide Bakke Conference in order to plan for Fall demonstrations.

\* Responding to MEChA's call, active and



new anti-Bakke groups from all over California came together in San José on June 26th to form the ABDC, a single, united coalition. The ABDC's principles and demands were discussed and developed, and the plans for the October 15th Statewide mobilization and National Day of Solidarity were set. Local organizing committees of the ABDC were set up in S a c r a m e n t o / D a v i s ; S a n Francisco/Oakland/Berkeley; San Jose/South Bay Area; Fresno Valley; Santa Barbara/Ventura/Oxnard; and the Los Angeles area. Continuous outreach and build up activities were developed by ABDC.

\* The MEChA's initiated a 125-mile week-long march against the Bakke decision, popularizing the anti-Bakke movement to communities from San Jose to Sacramento. This culminated in a joint MEChA/ABDC rally of over 400 people at the Sacramento Capitol Building on September 17, just one day after the first anniversary of the California Supreme Court Bakke decision. LA locals organized a protest at the UC Regent meeting, and similar educational and outreach programs were coordinated with other ABDC locals.

\* October 15, the ABDC's Statewide mobilization and National Day of Solidarity. Over

4,000 people of all nationalities unite and converge on the SF Federal Building. The march stretches 20 blocks long, and colorful banners and spirited chants bring out the message, "Smash the Bakke decision!" "End national oppression!" "Full equality for women!" This was the largest of the numerous anti-Bakke demonstrations that took place during the month of October.

\* December programs were coordinated statewide by ABDC locals, focusing on relating the Bakke issue to the increasing attacks on Mexican undocumented workers' by the U.S. government INS and the racist KKK armed vigilante force on the U.S.-Mexican border. They pointed out how both are examples of the mounting discrimination and national oppression directed at Third World people.

\* The Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition has invited all anti-Bakke organizations and individuals to attend a National Anti-Bakke Decision Conference on February 19, 1978, in Los Angeles, California. The ABDC sees this conference as an important means to build the anti-Bakke movement in the U.S., and to concretely plan for national, united demonstrations in the Spring. We are targeting April 29th as the common date for nationwide demonstrations.

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## ABDC Principles of Unity

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1. Rely on the masses of oppressed people to defeat the Bakke Decision.
  2. Oppose both the U.S. Supreme Court and the UC Regents as equal targets.
  3. Oppose the systematic oppression of Third World people.
  4. Defend and expand all Third World programs, affirmative action programs, and all special programs for women and working people.
- \*\*\*\*\*



May 20, 1977 protest at UC Regents meeting

## Masses Protest The Bakke Decision

June, 1977

San Francisco, CA. — On May 20, 1977, 400 people composed mainly of students from over 20 northern California campuses, as well as various community organizations and working people, gathered to protest the Bakke decision at a meeting of the Regents of the University of California in San Francisco.

Initiated by the **United Students Against the Bakke Decision (Northern California) (USABD)**, a coalition of campus committees, numerous Asian, Raza, Black and Native American student organizations, Third World Coalitions, and progressive white students from 15 campuses, the demonstration expressed the growing mass opposition to the Bakke decision and the struggle to defend and maintain Third World programs on college campuses throughout the U.S.

In confronting the UC Regents, the demonstration further exposed the Regents' guise of "defending" Special Admission and Third World programs, and clearly brought out that the Bakke decision is an attack by both the UC Regents and the courts against the masses of oppressed nationality students and people.

### Broad unity at demonstration

On many campuses, USABD has been organizing against the Bakke decision, concretely linking the Bakke struggle with the day-to-day struggles on their campuses to defend Third World programs and have taken the Bakke issue to workplaces and communities. The broad unity at the demonstration reflected this work, and was also an indication of the growing mass movement against national oppression on

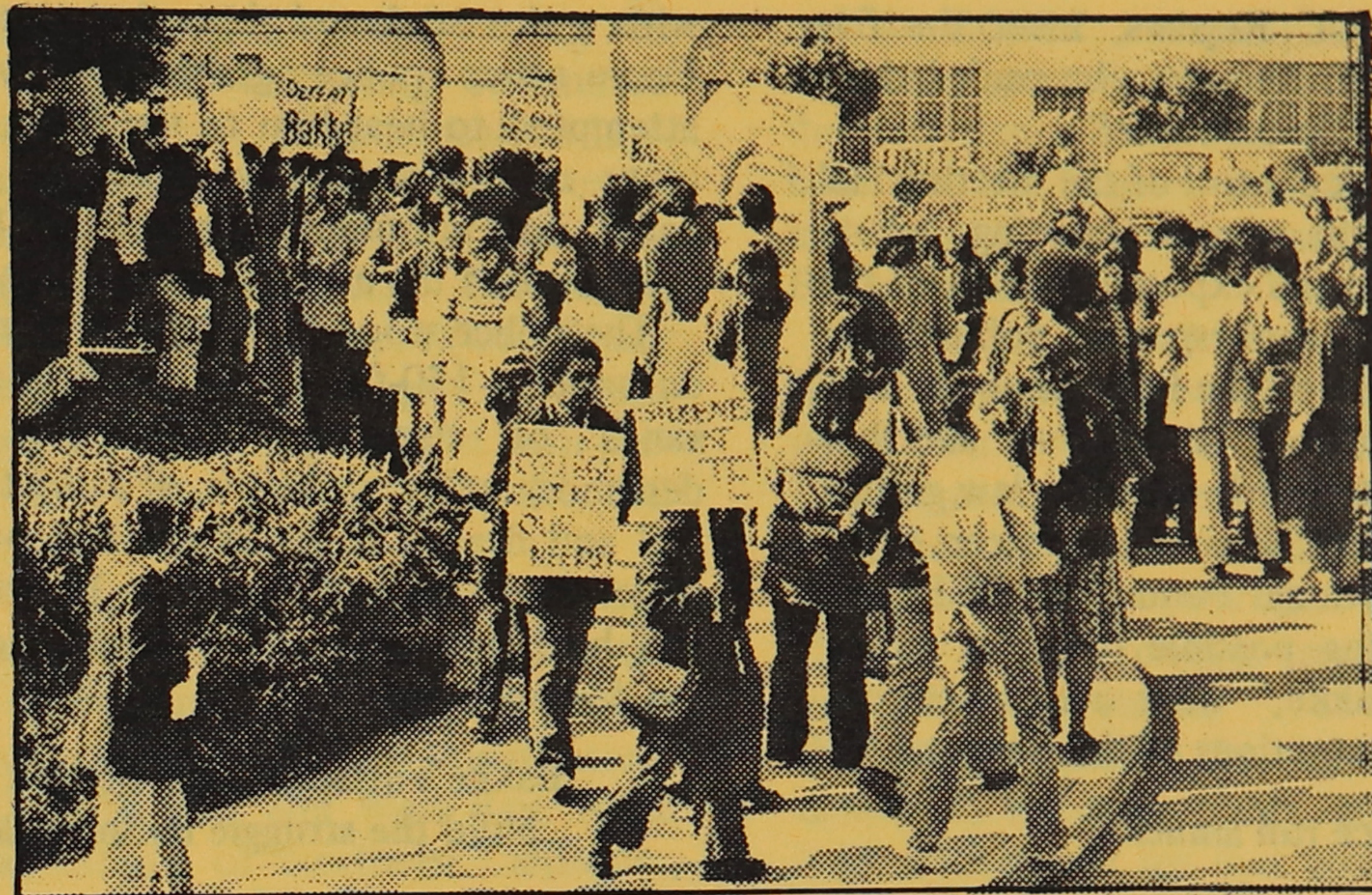
campuses throughout California and the U.S.

A representative of the USABD brought this out clearly in the introduction to the rally when she stated, "The Bakke decision represents a sweeping attack... and is one of the most important issues facing our campuses." She called for the masses of people to organize a broad, mass resistance throughout California and to "carry forward the principles and tradition of the Third World student strikes in the 1960's."

The significance of making both the Regents and the courts the main targets in the Bakke struggle was pointed out by one USABD representative to *Getting Together*: "When the Third World strikes erupted in the 1960's to demand special admissions, Ethnic Studies, Affirmative Action — an end to centuries of discrimination and oppression faced by Third World people — the UC Regents violently opposed our demands. They brought in the police with their riot sticks, tear gas, mass arrests and beating of students, in a futile attempt to squash our struggles. But, through determined and relentless struggle, the Third World strikes were victorious and led to the formation of many important programs." not an end.

Now, in 1977, the Regents are holding hands with the U.S. government courts to attack these same rights and programs by using the Bakke decision and the myth of 'reverse discrimination.' If the Bakke decision is upheld, the only things that will be 'reversed' are the many gains that we fought for and won in the past. The stand of the UC Regents and the courts has always been opposed to the interests and rights of Third World people, and the Bakke decision





Militant chants of "Colluding with the Courts to Attack our rights, UC Regents we plan to fight" rang throughout the picket line sponsored by USABD on May 20, 1977.

is just a continuation of their reactionary stand."

The unity of the demonstration was expressed in colorful banners reading, "Unite the masses to overturn the Bakke decision!" "Defend the rights of Third World students!" "Oppose the systematic oppression of Third World people!" Chants and slogans of "Smash the Bakke decision now!" and "Colluding with the courts to attack our rights, UC Regents we plan to fight!" rang out throughout the demonstration.

#### UC Regents confronted and exposed

The highlight of the demonstration took place following a picketline and brief rally, when the demonstrators marched into the meeting room of the Regents.

William Coblentz, chairman of the Regents, opened the meeting by refusing to meet with the USABD delegation, instead offering to meet "later," "after the Regents meeting was over." This "offer" was rejected by the delegation, which pointed out that this was just an excuse

by the Regents to refuse to deal with the Bakke issue and directly face the masses.

The USABD representatives demanded that the Bakke issue be immediately placed on the agenda, and that the USABD be permitted to present their views and five demands to the meeting: (1) Maintain and expand Special Admissions programs and increase the enrollment of Third World students throughout the UC system; (2) Stop all attacks on Ethnic Studies; take immediate steps to meet student demands for autonomous Third World programs; (3) Grant tenure to progressive Third World faculty; (4) Expand services for Third World students on campus, i.e., EOP and financial aid, and recognize student control of these programs — stop all attacks on Raza recruitment and programs; and (5) Increase hiring of Third World staff on campus and implement affirmative action guidelines.

The USABD demanded that the Regents respond to the demands at an open meeting. Afraid to discuss the issue directly, the Regents hurried out of the meeting hall to hold a "closed session." Instantly, the room resounded



with chants of "UC Regents, meet the five demands!" and "UC Regents, you can't hide — we know you're on Bakke's side!"

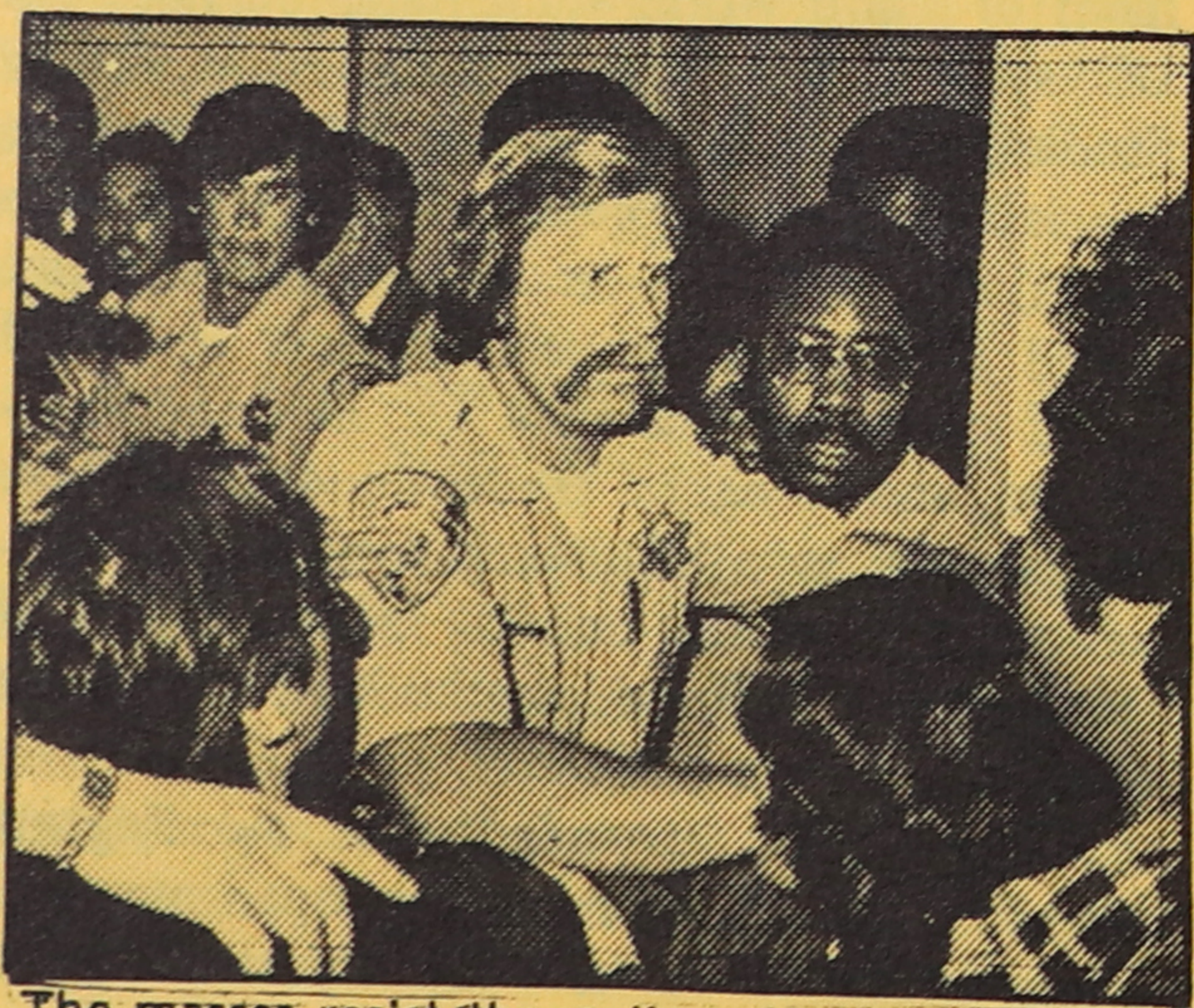
The USABD took control of the meeting hall and proceeded with a mass meeting, where speakers denounced and exposed the role of the Regents. A USABD spokesperson pointed out that despite the talk by the Regents about how they are "on the side of the students" and that they have "consulted with minority law groups like the NAACP and Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and are doing everything possible to put a strong defense against Bakke," their actions expose the real stand and intentions of the Regents.

### Police run amuck

The historically reactionary role of the Regents was brought out even more clearly as they resorted to their age-old practice of bringing in the police to squash the demonstration.

The police had attempted to bar approximately one-half of the demonstrators from entering the meeting hall by slamming the door shut, but this was defeated by the masses.

Isolated and frustrated by the staunch unity and militancy of the people, the police began to attack the masses. They choked one student



The masses resist the police attempts to squash the demonstration against the UC Regents.

with a riot stick and threw her to the ground. Four other police grabbed a worker and attempted to beat him to the floor. These and other confrontations provoked by the police could not intimidate the masses, but rather, only aroused the anger of everyone present.

The police stood by helplessly as the USABD unfurled a 150-foot long petition with thousands of signatures supporting the five demands, and stretched it all along the meeting hall and draped it across the Regents' meeting table. The demonstrators then left the building and held a militant rally outside to conclude the demonstration.

**"Bakke's attacks reach far and wide;  
build the struggle nationwide!"**

The far-reaching implications of the Bakke decision for students, oppressed nationality communities, and workers, and the breadth of the growing struggle against it, were reflected by a variety of speakers throughout the day's events.

George Kagiwada, coordinator of Asian American Studies at UC Davis, who waged a successful campaign with students to win his tenure and maintaining the Asian American Studies program, pointed out that the Bakke decision would provide a "legal rationale" for the UC administration's actions against Third World programs.

Numerous oppressed nationality community and working people also spoke expressing their unity with the anti-Bakke decision struggle and its effects on their situations. One worker exposed the attempt by the ruling class to "turn the principle (of where there is oppression, there is resistance) upside down and label our resistance 'reverse discrimination'." He then described how 'reverse discrimination' could be used to smash affirmative action on the job, and give legal justification to further intensify the oppression of oppressed nationality people, especially working people.

Solidarity and unity from the East Coast was



expressed by a Yale student, representing the East Coast Campus Coordinating Committee (now the Intercollegiate Communication-Liaison Committee), a campus network of over 10 East Coast schools. He stated that "The mass movement to defeat the Bakke decision is spreading from coast to coast... (we) firmly resolve to wage a mass campaign to overturn this racist, reactionary ruling that has been promoted by both the courts and the UC Regents."

Speakers from *Getting Together*, the San Jose Committee to Defeat Bakke, the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atzlan (MEChA — mass Chicano student organization) Centrales of South Bay and West Bay, Asian student organizations of Northern California, the Afro-American Student Association of Sacramento City College, the Chinese Progressive Association, the Ethnic Minority Educators, and others also spoke and were well received.

In concluding the May 20 demonstration, representatives stated that the demonstration could touch off another storm of struggle throughout the entire country, one that could unite the masses of people to overturn the Bakke decision and defend the rights of Third World people.

### **Defeat reformism, build the struggle in a revolutionary way**

The campaign against the Bakke decision has grown strong through combatting various incorrect views on how to wage the struggle. A reformist tendency emerged, which incorrectly sees the Supreme Court as the "main" target, while reducing the UC Regents to a "secondary" target, and incorrectly made the focus of its work pressuring the UC Regents to put up a strong legal defense against Bakke.

From coast to coast, however, the great majority of students, including the USABD, the statewide MEChA's, the Student Organizing Conference held in the Midwest in May 1977,

and the ECCCC, and many community organizations and revolutionary groups firmly upheld the importance of directing the struggle against both the UC Regents and the Supreme Court, and relying on the masses to overturn the Bakke decision.

It is clear that the movement against the Bakke decision will be rooted firmly in resolute opposition to both the Supreme Court and the UC Regents. However, certain incorrect ideas still exist and must be combatted.

This reformist view that reduces the UC Regents to a "secondary target" was expressed in a belief that states, "... at this stage, the UC Regents have placed themselves in a position of defending minority rights, and they must be held accountable for that position. It is important to keep UC in this position... not because we think they are honest, but because it prevents them from openly aligning with their friends in the government (the courts)... Certainly our inexperienced movement is *not capable of taking on two such reactionary forces at the same time. After the case, the UC will... return to its familiar position against the people. It is important not to openly battle them now...*" (all emphasis added)

This incorrect view fails to concretely expose the fact that the UC has systematically colluded and aligned itself with the courts to use the Bakke decision to attack Third World programs. By saying that we should "hold them accountable for their promises and positions," these forces have led the masses to believe that it's possible to build an alliance with the Regents to oppose the Supreme Court in the legal court process. This position also promoted the illusion that the Regents actually "defend minority rights" in the Bakke issue, and only "after" the case will they "return" to their stand against the interests of the masses.

The position that we cannot take on "two such reactionary forces at the same time" and that we should "not openly battle the UC



now," would render the entire struggle against the Bakke decision powerless and meaningless. Concretely, it would hold back and prevent the students from taking up the day-to-day struggles to defend their rights and programs against the UC's continuous attacks on Ethnic Studies, affirmative action, recruitment center, etc., and leave us defenseless in the face of these attacks.

### Reformists promote reliance on Regents

The view that relegates the Regents to a "secondary target" also carries with it equally incorrect tactics. This viewpoint, stated, "*Although the main pressure point at this stage is the Supreme Court, we must also generate pressure on the UC to make sure they put up a strong defense against Bakke.*" (emphasis added). Their main focus of activity was to develop a petition that "will be directed towards our representatives in Congress to publicly take stands and call public hearings on the Bakke decision;" to "put pressure on the UC Regents

to hold public hearings so that minority lawyers could review their court case;" and "to rely on amicus curiae briefs (friends of the court) to get direct legal impact on the court."

This view could misdirect the mass movement, and confine it to strictly narrow legal court processes. Instead of relying on the masses of students, oppressed nationality communities, and the working class to defeat the Bakke decision, the reformists foster a view of passive reliance on the Regents to put up a strong court case. Pressuring the Regents to do this is not the answer! It is a program doomed to failure. It has been clear from the very outset that the Regents have taken the Bakke case to court, with the firm intent to lose it!

Rather, it will be by organizing a storm of mass protest and resistance among the masses of people, by organizing political struggle, that will force the courts and the Regents to meet the demands of the masses to overturn the Bakke decision.

**Overturn the Bakke Decision!  
End National Oppression!**

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## 125 miles from San Jose to Sacramento Week-long March Against the Bakke Decision

October, 1977

"What are we marching for?" "TO DEFEAT BAKKE!" "When do we want it defeated?" "NOW!"

This chant resounded all over northern California the week of September 11-17 during a 125 miles long march from San Jose to Sacramento. This historic march against the Bakke decision was organized by the South Bay and Sacramento MEChA Centrales (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, a mass Chicano student organization.)

Its aims were to strengthen the MEChA's as

an ongoing student organization, to dramatize the first anniversary of the reactionary California Supreme Court Bakke decision, and to broaden the education and mobilization for the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition's (ABDC) statewide mobilization against the Bakke decision on October 15.

The MEChA march was made up of students, community people and workers. As one marcher said, "We want to bring the issue of Bakke into the communities, to the people who will be directly affected by the Bakke decision."





Militant march by the ABDC and MEChA's through the Black, Chicano and Asian communities of Sacramento on Sept. 17, 1977.

The marchers leafletted the communities, held rallies, organized presentations, and did extensive outreach along the march route, which extended through Fremont, Niles, Livermore, Stockton, Lodi and Sacramento.

As one participant commented, the marchers made up symbols and signs representing the struggles of various oppressed nationalities so that the people who saw the march would see right away what they were struggling for. He said, "That's what the Bakke decision means. It affects all nationalities, and that's what we want to bring out."

In summing up the march, people felt that its success could be seen and felt through the broad unity and support received from people along the way.

On the morning of September 17, a spirited march took place through the Sacramento Black, Asian and Chicano communities, fol-

lowed by a rally at the Sacramento Capitol Building. This was jointly organized by the MEChA's and the ABDC, as part of the building of activities for the statewide mobilization in San Francisco on the October 15 National Day of Solidarity Against the Bakke Decision.

Demonstrators called out chants such as "Abajo con Bakke! (Down with Bakke!)," "Dare to struggle, dare to win, UC and the Courts will give in!" and "Mass support is the key, we will fight till victory!"

The program was highlighted with a lively skit which brought out UC Regents' collusion with the courts and the impact of the Bakke decision on the campuses, communities and workplaces. A special solidarity statement was read from the Atlanta Committee Against the Bakke Decision, which reflected the growing nationwide movement to defeat the Bakke decision.



**October 15, 1977 Demonstrations**

## **Thousands Mobilize Nationwide to Smash the Bakke Decision**

*November, 1977*

Thousands of people marched and demonstrated in every region of the country to greet the October 12th hearings of the U.S. Supreme Court on the Bakke case. During 1977, the Bakke issue emerged as a nationwide issue, as shown by the mobilizations that took place from Boston to New York, from Washington, D.C. to the Midwest, and from Atlanta, Georgia to California, under the slogans of **Smash the Bakke decision – Down with national oppression! Full equality for women!**

The largest mobilization took place in California, organized by the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition. The demonstration culminated months of consistent outreach, education and organizing activity through which dozens of gatherings took place in numerous workplaces, communities and on over 10 campuses the week directly leading up to the event. The ABDC's statewide demonstration rallied over 4,000 people from all over California. It took place on October 15th as part of a National Day of Solidarity Against the Bakke Decision.

The day began with a militant march starting from the Latino community in the San Francisco Mission District. The march stretched nearly 20 blocks long, and chants of **"Smash the Bakke decision now!"** and **"Courts and Regents you can't hide, we know you're on Bakke's side!"** and **"End national oppression!"** thundered amidst the streets of San Francisco.

Colorful banners in English, Spanish,

Chinese and Japanese highlighted the march, representing the United Steelworkers and United Auto Workers Union locals, the Post Office Mailhandlers Union, the Chinese Progressive Association of San Francisco, the Los Angeles Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, the San Francisco Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction, the MEChA's (mass Chicano student organizations) and Asian Student Unions throughout California, and hundreds of other organizations who had actively mobilized for the statewide demonstration. The march reflected the wide sections of workers, students, community people and progressive professionals which the ABDC united in the course of its work.

The spirit throughout the march was high. At one point, a section of the march began a "snake dance" that weaved through the streets and converged on the San Francisco Federal Building where the mass rally took place. As each contingent entered the Federal Building plaza, they were met with deafening applause and cheers. The plaza was bursting with the enthusiasm and energy of the masses – a concrete expression of the militant solidarity and unity of the anti-Bakke forces from throughout the state.

4,000 people strong! Busloads from San Diego and Los Angeles, car caravans from Santa Barbara/Ventura/Oxnard, contingents from the Fresno Valley, Chico, and the Sacramento/Davis area. Thousands of people from San Francisco, Oakland and the South Bay area. People of all nationalities and from





4,000 people demand "Smash the Bakke Decision" and "End National Oppression" at the San Francisco Federal Building on October 15, 1977.

all walks of life, uniting together to bring forth their demands. Each had come to San Francisco with a clear determination to smash the racist Bakke decision and build the struggle against each and every instance of national oppression.

#### **Militant program highlights demonstration**

The program at the Federal Building began with a performance by the San Francisco Chinatown Lion Dance Association, a group of youths who have grown up in the San Francisco Chinese community. At one point, a lion dancer leaped on another's shoulders and unfurled a 12-foot banner proclaiming "**Defeat Bakke,**" which ignited the masses and brought everyone to their feet.

The ABDC keynote speaker emphasized the importance of building a multi-national movement to smash the Bakke decision and against national oppression. She stated that the Bakke decision was part of the history of oppression of Third World people which included forcing

"Native Americans to become strangers in their own lands, and placing them into concentration camps called 'reservations'." She added that the "venom of national oppression is spreading" throughout the country today, as represented by the "exploitation of undocumented workers who fatten the pockets of the corporations and growers, the evictions of the I-Hotel tenants... and the attacks on the San Francisco Black community" where students are being classified as "mentally retarded" by means of a racist and culturally biased IQ test.

In summing up the developments of the anti-Bakke struggle, she emphasized the importance of rooting the movement among the masses of workers, students and community people, and that through relying on "our own strength and unity, we can bounce off the bullets that they (the U.S. ruling class) are firing at us," to "chain our unity to overcome the daily occurrences of repressive tactics" that "seek to suck and drain the blood of our communities and our people!"



She brought home the point that our struggle must deepen and intensify. "If the Bakke decision is upheld, we will not take it sitting down..." And she declared that, "the 1960's will be mild compared to what will be in store when we take to the streets to demand our rights! OVERTURNING THE BAKKE DECISION IS A MUST, OVERCOMING AND FIGHTING NATIONAL OPPRESSION IS IMPERATIVE!"

This was followed by a rousing speech by UC Berkeley Professor Harry Edwards. He exposed the role of the UC Regents and the U.S. Supreme Court in the Bakke case, which "reveals the clearly fraudulent character of the U.S. judicial atrocity. First of all, Bakke resulted from a collusion. We're in a situation where both the defendant and the plaintiff are foxes... We had the UC who was in the defendant's pew; determined not to put up any defense. We were in a situation where both the defendant and the plaintiff were foxes. From the very beginning, there was a situation of collusion!"

Edwards pointed out that the Bakke case is a direct attack against Third World people. "They (the courts, government and Regents) act like racist discrimination doesn't exist anymore. Affirmative action is not just to correct the past, it is to deal with racial discrimination that continues to exist today!" He tied this to the intensifying inequalities and oppression faced by Third World people, citing that "the only place we get special admissions is when it comes to dying, ain't nobody complained when we were getting carted off to fight in the Vietnam War. We get 'special admissions' when it comes time to go to jail — when you go there, all you find is 'just us', ain't no justice, just us! This is the kind of special admissions that Third World people really get!"

Other speakers included community activist Carlos Montes from Los Angeles, an industrial worker from the Santa Barbara area,

and a representative from the Native American movement. There was also a skit on the Bakke issue by Teatro Contra Bakke, and a joint Marxist-Leninist statement presented by I Wor Kuen, the August 29th Movement, and other individual Marxist-Leninists in the ABDC.

Throughout, the slogans, actions and demands of the October 15th statewide mobilization of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition directed its fire against national oppression and the entire system of imperialism, and represented a significant and historic advance for the anti-Bakke struggle.

**Bakke's attacks reach  
far and wide,  
Build the struggle  
nationwide!**

Numerous other events took place on October 15th. The Atlanta Committee Against the Bakke Decision organized a demonstration at the Georgia State Capitol Building. This played a key role in bringing the anti-Bakke struggle to the heart of the South, the homeland of the Afro-American people, and the center of many historical and current struggles against national oppression.

The Committee Against the Bakke Decision in Boston also organized a citywide march and rally. It involved many people from the surrounding campuses, communities and workplaces.

Prior to these events, the Princeton Affirmative Action Committee and students at Harvard University organized campus programs which included speakers, workshops, and a slide show prepared by the ABDC. A similar campus program was organized by the Concerned Asian Students of the City College of New York. Emphasis was placed on connecting the Bakke issue to the day-to-day ongoing struggles to defend and expand Third World campus programs, and were part of the coordinated efforts of the Intercollegiate Communication-Liaison Committee.





Atlanta Committee Against the Bakke Decision rally at Georgia state capitol on October 15, 1977.

Earlier in the month, the Black American Law Students Association organized nationwide demonstrations against the Bakke

decision on October 3rd. The largest of these took place in Washington, D.C., where over 2,000 people demonstrated at the capitol building. Similar demonstrations took place in other cities across the U.S. Other demonstrations also took place on October 8th and October 12th.

Throughout the month of October, there was a continuous wave of protest that spread across the U.S. These demonstrated the growing mass movement to smash the racist Bakke decision. Coalitions such as the ABDC have been deepening and intensifying their work on the campuses, communities, and workplaces to actively organize against the Bakke decision and its attacks against Third World people. **Dare to struggle, dare to win!**

## Why We are Demonstrating Against the Bakke Decision

*November, 1977*

**A Puerto Rican Harvard student at the Boston demonstration:**

“Over this whole Bakke thing, people tried to give the impression that there were always objective criteria until you had minority applicants. I know for a fact that... for years they were judging people on athletic ability, geographic distribution, people with alumni parents. Then they have a special category called, ‘for alumni children who can’t meet any of the other characteristics but whose parents are very important.’” A few years ago, they called us ‘niggers’ and ‘spics’ and ‘keeping the scum out.’ Now they say, ‘reverse discrimination’ and how everyone must be treated ‘equally.’”

**Black woman workers, previously involved in the Atlanta Anti-Repression Coalition:**

“The Bakke decision is very particular for people in the south. The oppression is extremely extensive here in the South, because of the historical make-up, the whole thing of slavery in the South. The oppression is everywhere, of course, but in the South they don’t want to change old ways, and they look at the Black man as supposed to do what he is told, especially in relation to labor.”

**A Chinese senior citizen in his late 70’s, at the San Francisco statewide demonstraton:**

“I’m from CPA (Chinese Progressive Association). We’ve discussed in detail about opposing the Bakke decision. Yes, I heard of it before on TV, but didn’t know too much. Many of our older members live in China-



town, they don't speak much English, they knew next to nothing before our discussion.

After we figured out what this Bakke decision is all about, we were quite moved. We all felt that the issue is very important and decided that CPA should work on it in full, to promote the movement and help make known the issue. There are people who volunteered to make and write banners, do leaflets and all sorts of work. I also did a share. After we summed up the history of the Bakke decision, many members stood up to relate their own experiences on equal opportunity and special admissions and how it affects them personally.

It is not that far to walk here (to the Federal Building) from Dolores Park. Though I'm in my 70's, I can go even further. Only because there were so many people today, you can't go very fast, and that makes me a little tired. The coalition speech awhile ago said it right, and expressed what's in my heart; that's why I'm here. The Black speaker really speaks well. The march was well organized. We even took care of drinks and food and didn't let those big companies get a share of it. It would be good if we could make our own drinks in the future and not have to buy the bottled ones."

**A Black student from Los Angeles City College:**

"I am from LACC. This is my first semester. When I got in, I didn't know anything about the Bakke decision until it was raised to me. I just got out of the Army. I realized that the Bakke decision was based on 'reverse discrimination,' which is a statement that should never have come about. Minorities have undergone discrimination for a long, long time. It really shouldn't be like that, but we have to demonstrate against the policies that go against us.

I was really surprised that we had a lot of response the way we did, coming from LA to a demonstration in San Francisco. It was my

first demonstration, and what can I say — it was alright!

When the people come together, you know, we could have a completely changed order in the government. Right now, we are a small force, but we are growing. We still have a long way to go, though. Without the people, the government is not that strong. When people realize that they can overthrow the government and organize a better system for all people regardless of race or color, they'll be pushing towards that better day, they'll be getting themselves together."

**A Black woman student at Atlanta Jr. College, at the Atlanta Committee Against the Bakke Decision demonstration:**

"I oppose the Bakke Decision because the concept of 'reverse discrimination' is an unreal concept. It's unreal to say that Third World people denied entrance to Bakke to UC Davis. The whole history of Blacks and Third World people is that they've never been treated equally in this society. It's only been through consistent struggle that we've been able to get access to institutions, and even this access is very limited. If anyone has been denied access, it's Third World people!

*Getting Together* gave a direct analysis of how to struggle for reforms. It clearly exposes the Regents, Carter and other politicians who will sell us down the river... It put out that the Bakke decision is clearly an attack on Third World people and that we have to unite the masses to overturn it."

**A white day care worker, Boston:**

"...In the mid-60's, affirmative action programs really started to come through, and this decision would seem to destroy that totally, just to put everything back at zero base and say 'everyone's going to be given an equal shot.' But then you know that's not going to work because that's the way it's never worked... As far as what would happen with



the decision in education, . . . what the educational system is set up to do is to keep the class system the way it is. If you have a lot of money to pay the schools they say come in. If I as a white person went somewhere and didn't get into a program, I shouldn't feel that it was because of minorities. Minorities should not be viewed as a threat. Where Bakke's coming from is a very wrong place."

**A Black student at Atlanta Jr. College, at the Atlanta demonstration:**

"In order to overturn the Bakke decision, there will have to be a total input from the masses. Lawyers and politicians can only have a small impact on the court decision. If the people as a whole unite, it will have a greater impact on overturning the Bakke decision."

**A white electronics worker from Palo Alto, at the San Francisco statewide demonstration:**

"I had already read about the issue, but a co-worker first told me about the demonstration. She invited me to a barbeque with a number of other workers. At the barbeque we saw a slide show about Third World people, and there was a small discussion group about the Bakke issue. Some people there had never heard of the Bakke issue before. I think a lot of people made up their minds at the barbeque to come to the demonstration. I saw some of them here today."

**Asian student from East Los Angeles College:**

"We didn't really have an ASU (Asian Student Union) on our campus until we started working on the Bakke issue. It's what brought us together. . . I think if they don't overturn this thing, it's going to mess a lot of stuff up. There really won't be anything for Third World people."

**A Chicano MEChA student from Santa Clara University, at the San Francisco statewide**

**demonstration:**

"Today, we had our day, October 15, our day we've been looking forward to for a long time. We had thousands of people there showing their concern and voicing their opinion around the Bakke decision, but even more than that, I believe the real issue the people were dealing with today is the systematic oppression of Third World people. It's something that's been in this country since the founding, and has continued to this very day. Bakke is a form of that oppression of Third World people in this country. That's the perspective that I'm coming from.

We are continuing to struggle so we can one day reach that point where discrimination will be a thing of the past, not only on paper as the government has it now, but also in practice, in day-to-day life.

My school has traditionally been and continues to be a very conservative school. The local ranchers around the area and the valley send their sons and daughters there, but notwithstanding that, there has been more and more students that have come out and taken a positive stand on this Bakke decision in support of the rights of Third World people. People have come to a better understanding that we are not alone, facing big obstacles from the school newspaper to the administration's policies and so forth.

We have a MEChA (mass Chicano student organization) at Santa Clara, a member of the South Bay MEChA Centrale, which is a coalition of MEChA's in the region. This is very important, because there was never a Centrale in the South Bay area before. What has developed with MEChA's is about 15 Centrales in the state. We are developing programs directed toward Chicano students as MEChA's, not just one MEChA.

If the present is any indication of what's going to happen tomorrow, the future looks really good!"



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## SUPPORT ABDC's WORK

*Getting Together* has been active in the work of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition (ABDC). We encourage all those who oppose the Bakke Decision to join and work with the ABDC in the ongoing local work, as well as build for united spring demonstrations.

For more information, you can contact the ABDC at:

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