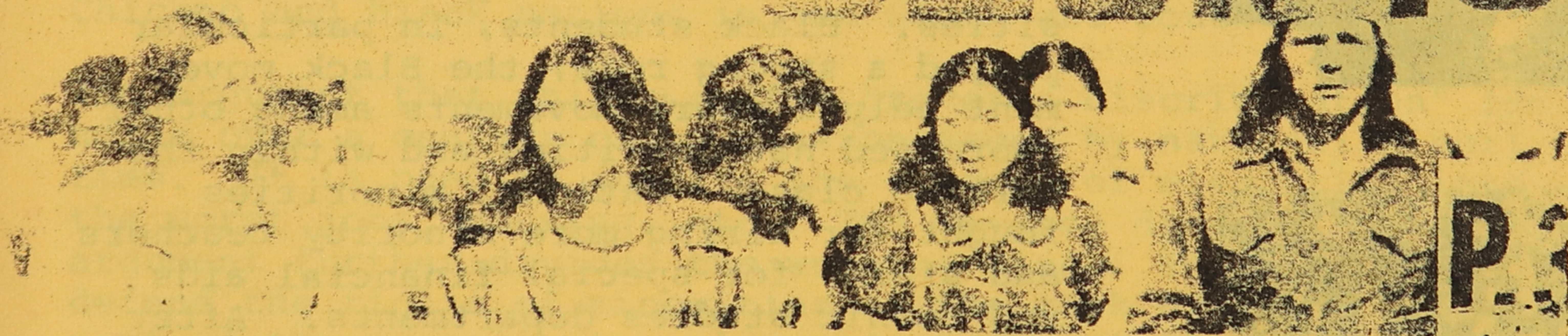


OVERTURN BAKKE

OVERTURN IMPERIALISM

KEY DECISION

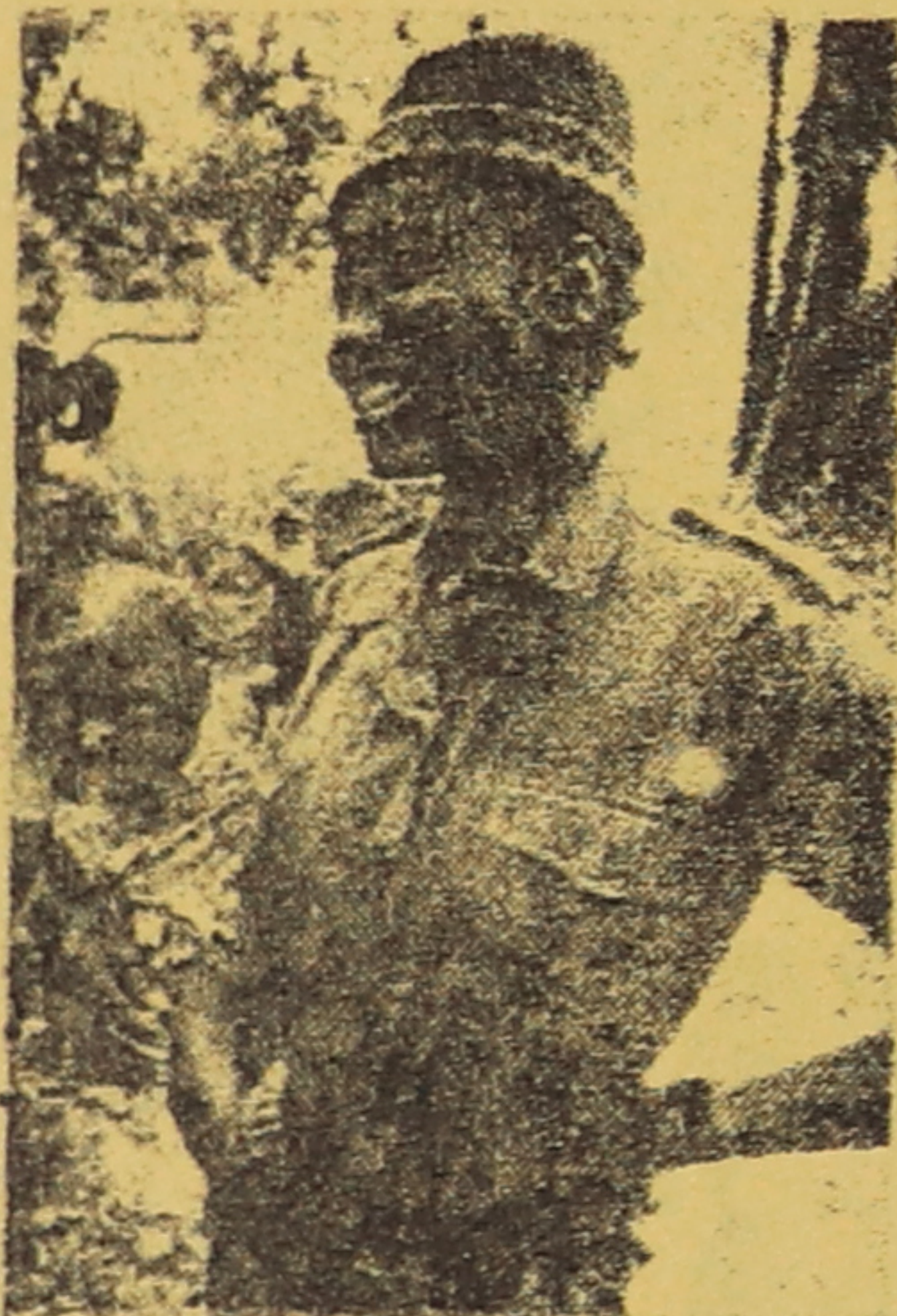


Revolutionary Cause

POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE AUGUST 29th MOVEMENT (MARXIST-LENINIST)



In the last few months the Bakke case has stirred controversy all over the US. Leadership of the American Federation of Teachers rammed through a resolution at the union convention supporting Alan Bakke and opposing special admissions. A Federal Court in Calif. in late September upheld admission of a white student to UC Davis Medical School because she had suffered "reverse discrimination". Mass pressure forced the US Justice Department to file a legal brief on the Bakke case in which they claimed to support affirmative action.



All these statements and maneuverings among the capitalists and their labor bureaucrats are aimed at one thing: continuing imperialism's oppression of minorities in the most effective way possible.



In the 1960's thousands of Black, Latin, Native American and students across the US fought militantly for preferential admissions to the colleges and universities. Black students, in particular played a strong role; the Black movement helped spark movements among other oppressed nationalities and within the working class. National minorities fought for hiring more minority teachers and staff, for special financial aids and ethnic studies departments. After sit-ins, strikes and occupying buildings local governments and administrators were forced to grant these programs. At factories and workplaces around the US., many workers took up similar struggles and won affirmative action programs for hiring and training of national minorities.

But with the imperialist economic crisis of the 1970's, the ruling class is attempting to take away these gains. People around the world are rising up against US domination. The US is increasing its rivalry with the USSR for control of the world's markets and resources. The two superpowers are preparing for a new world war. To make up for lost profits the imperialists intensify the exploitation of working people and national minorities at home. To prepare the "home front" for war, they must divide and weaken the working class. The Bakke decision is part of the wider political and economic attack on national minorities. Today the ruling class is united on the need to take away the gains of the 1960's -- they differ on how much and how fast.

The Bakke case is more than an attack on affirmative action programs--it sets the basis for the intensification of national oppression throughout society. Blacks, Latins, Native Americans and Asians have faced over a century of oppression in the US. Whether stolen from their native Africa, and brought here as slaves, or forced to immigrate from Latin America, national minorities in the US face a common pattern of discrimination and national oppression. National minorities are forced into the lowest paying jobs, forced into the worst schools and receive the worst health care. Imperialism directly profits from the lower wages paid to minorities. Imperialism particularly attacks the oppressed peoples of the Chicano and black nations in the South and Southwest.

The argument that whites suffer "reverse discrimination" ignores over a century of oppression faced by national minorities. It is used to justify the forcing of minorities into the worst jobs, housing, etc. The reverse discrimination argument further divides the working class. The struggle to defend the rights of minorities is the task of all workers--part of the overall struggle against imperialism.

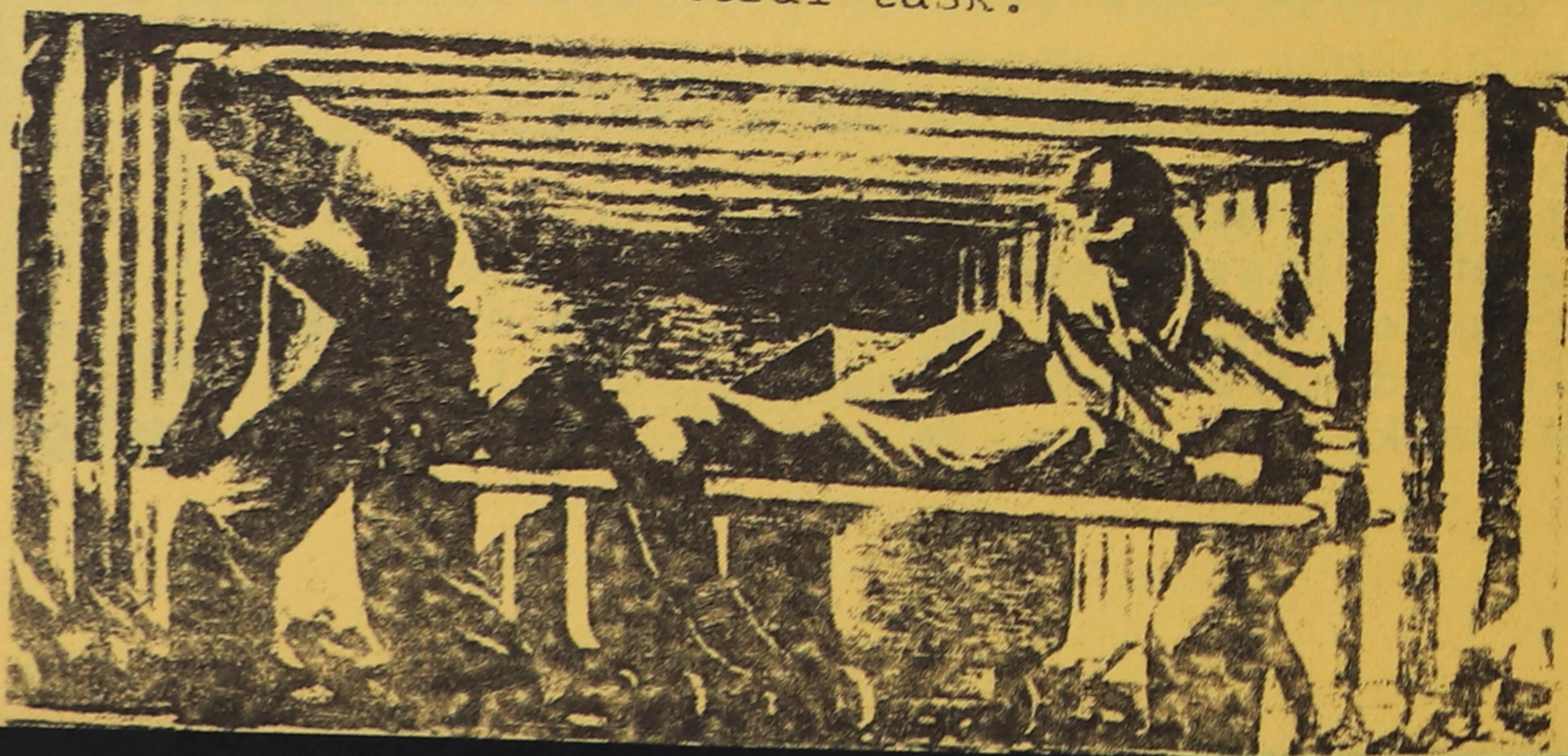
A COMMUNIST VIEW OF THE ANTI-BAKKE MOVEMENT

For almost a year Marxist-Leninist groups such as ATM (M-L), I Wor Kuen, and others have helped build the movement against the Bakke decision. We have helped organize mass marches, rallies, demonstrations and build multi-national unity against the Bakke decision. We see the Bakke case as a com-

ponent part of world-wide struggle, a struggle of all workers and oppressed people against imperialism and Soviet Social-imperialism. As long as imperialism exists, national oppression and racial discrimination will continue.

While we believe that the Bakke decision can be defeated, the entire system of imperialism will never be defeated except through socialist revolution. Only under socialism will national minorities and all workers gain full democratic rights. A socialist education system will enrich minority culture; a socialist economic system will encourage the development of national minority communities. Socialism guarantees the true right of self-determination to all oppressed nations, including the right to form a separate state. Under the dictatorship of the proletariat all forms of discrimination are outlawed. Because there are no capitalists to profit from the exploitation of national minorities and workers, there is no material base for continued discrimination. The struggle to eliminate racist ideas will continue for some time even after a revolution, but only a socialist revolution can lay the basis for eliminating racism.

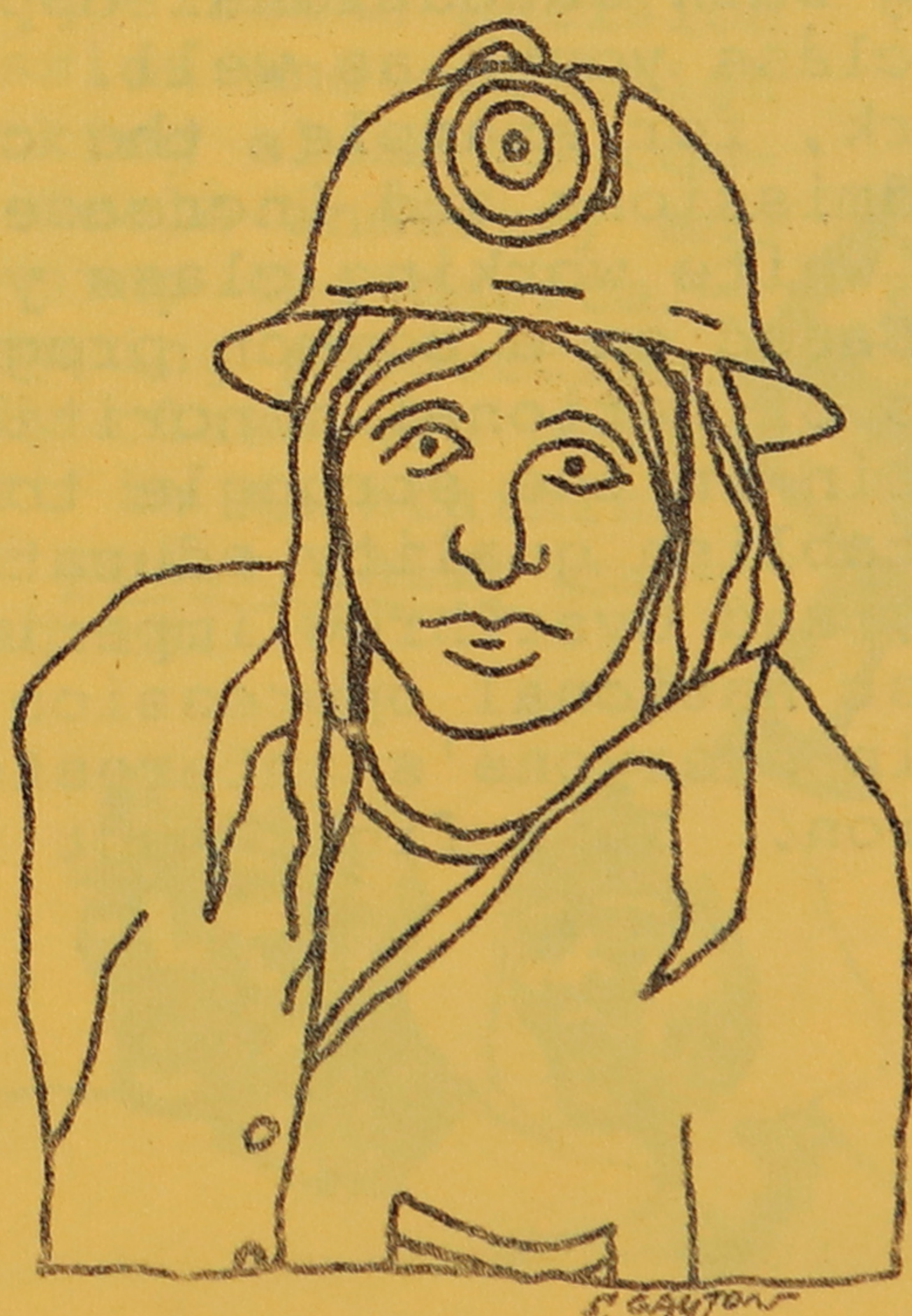
For any socialist revolution to be successful, it must be led by a single, unified communist party. Such a party will represent the interests of workers throughout the US. Unlike the scattered Marxist-Leninist groups that exist today, a unified vanguard party will be able to mobilize various classes and strata to build a united front to defeat imperialism. This new communist party will be built in the heat of class struggle, in the heat of theoretical struggle and in giving revolutionary leadership to practical struggles like the anti-Bakke movement. Every successful revolution has been led by such a party; that's why ATM (M-L) sees this as our central task.



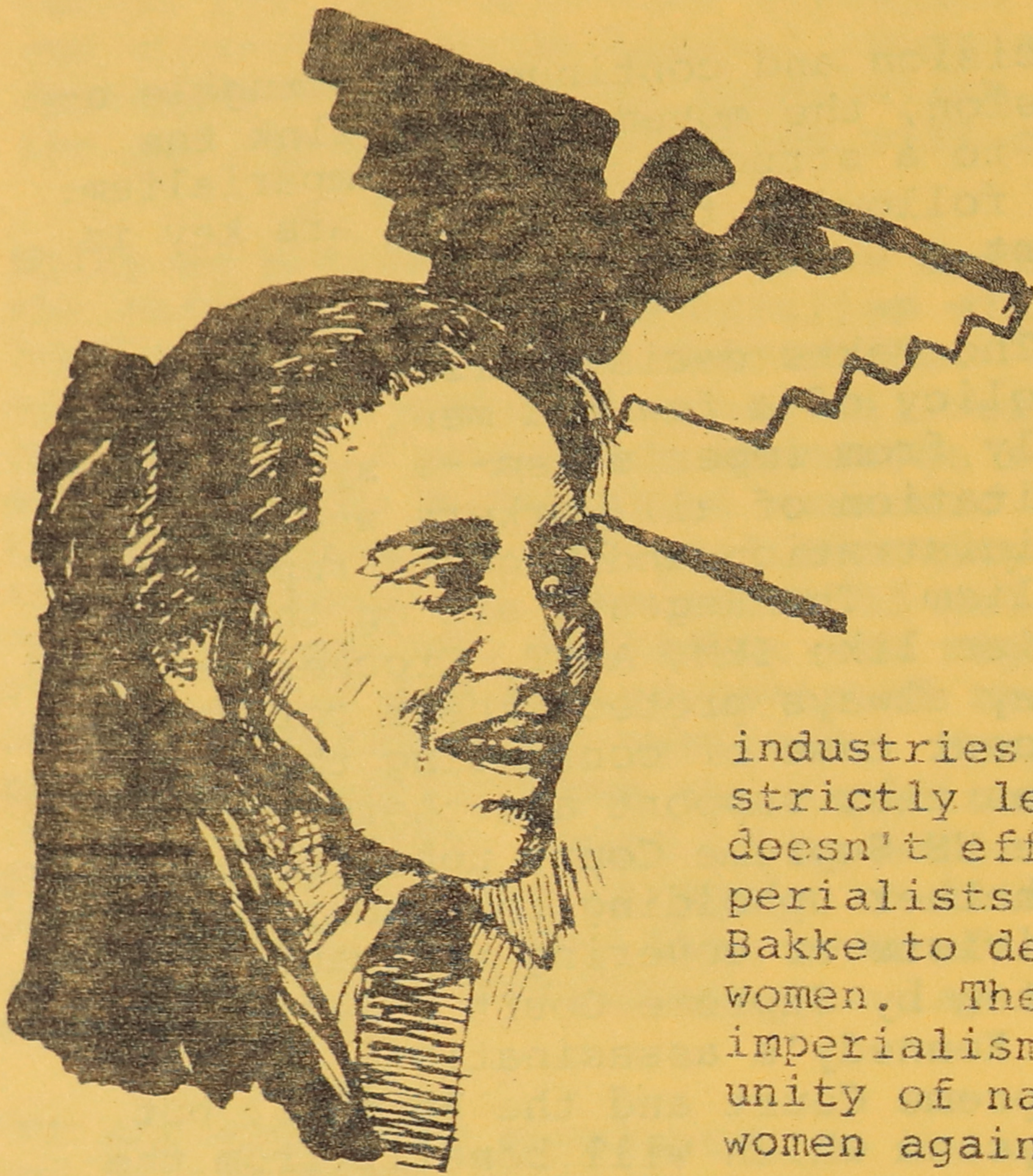
Fletcher Martin

To defeat the Bakke decision and continue the struggle against national oppression, the movement must link the struggle against Bakke to a struggle against imperialism. ATM (M-L) believes the following three points are key in developing that movement.

TARGET IMPERIALISM -- The Bakke decision is not coincidence, nor is it the policy of a few bad men. The Bakke decision flows logically from imperialism--a system which profits from the exploitation of all workers and oppressed people. The UC administration and Regents represent this system of imperialism. The Regents sit on the Boards of Directors of companies like IBM, AT&T, Crocker Bank and Pacific Telephone. They always protect their corporate interests as in the recent case of continuing their investments with companies that support apartheid in South Africa. Similarly, the US Supreme Court upholds the policies of imperialism--whether upholding the phony convictions of political activists or covering up scandals like the famous report written by Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren after John Kennedy's assassination. We must target not only the Supreme Court and the Regents, but the whole capitalist system which will benefit from the Bakke decision



S. GAYTON



Imperialism is the enemy of all working and oppresses people—regardless of nationality. The capitalists will use the precedent of Bakke to attack affirmative action for women. Struggles of working and oppressed women have forced the capitalists to provide special women's studies programs at universities and forced certain

industries to hire women. In a strictly legal sense, the Bakke case doesn't effect women. But the imperialists will use the logic of Bakke to deny affirmative action for women. The common struggle against imperialism calls for the closest unity of national minorities and women against a common enemy.

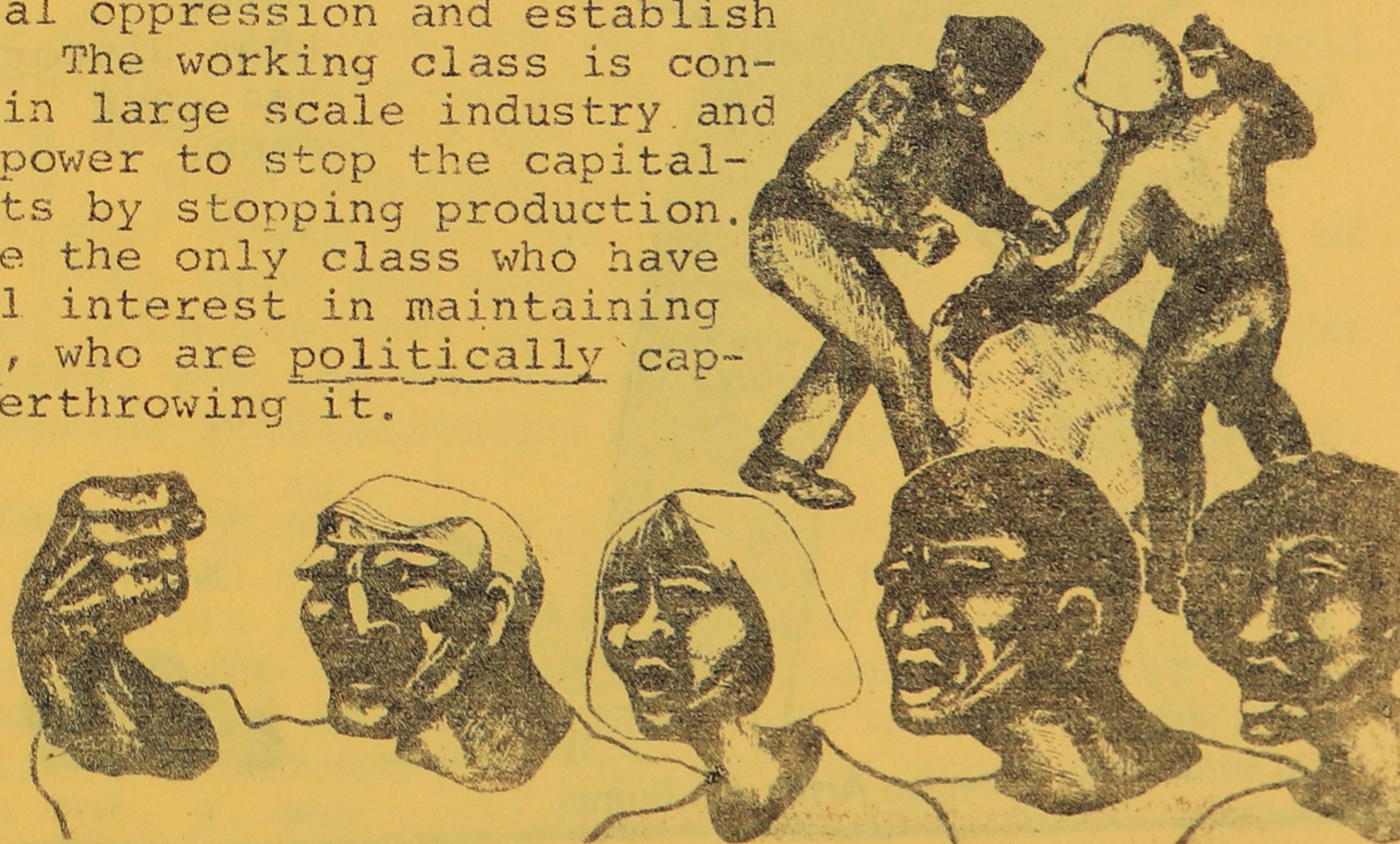
While the Bakke case is a special attack on national minorities, it comes at a time when the government is cutting back educational opportunities for white working class youth as well. At City University of New York, for example, the capitalists cut out the open admissions and increased tuition which prevented many white working class youth from attending college. Based on a common program of support for the demands of national minorities, all nationalities must join in the struggle to defeat the Bakke case, establish quality education for all working people, and overthrow imperialism. The struggle against national oppression weakens imperialism—it is in everyone's interests to fight national oppression. This fight must include

upholding the right of self-determination for the Black and Chicano nations. No one can be free so long as imperialism forcibly occupies those oppressed nations.

The Bakke case directly threatens the jobs of thousands of teachers, administrators and other professionals who currently work in special minorities programs. The Bakke case is also a direct attack on the interest of minority workers and students. Corporations and universities around the country will eliminate their affirmative action programs if the Bakke decision is upheld. The demands for more minority professionals and continued affirmative action are legitimate demands that all progressive people must support.

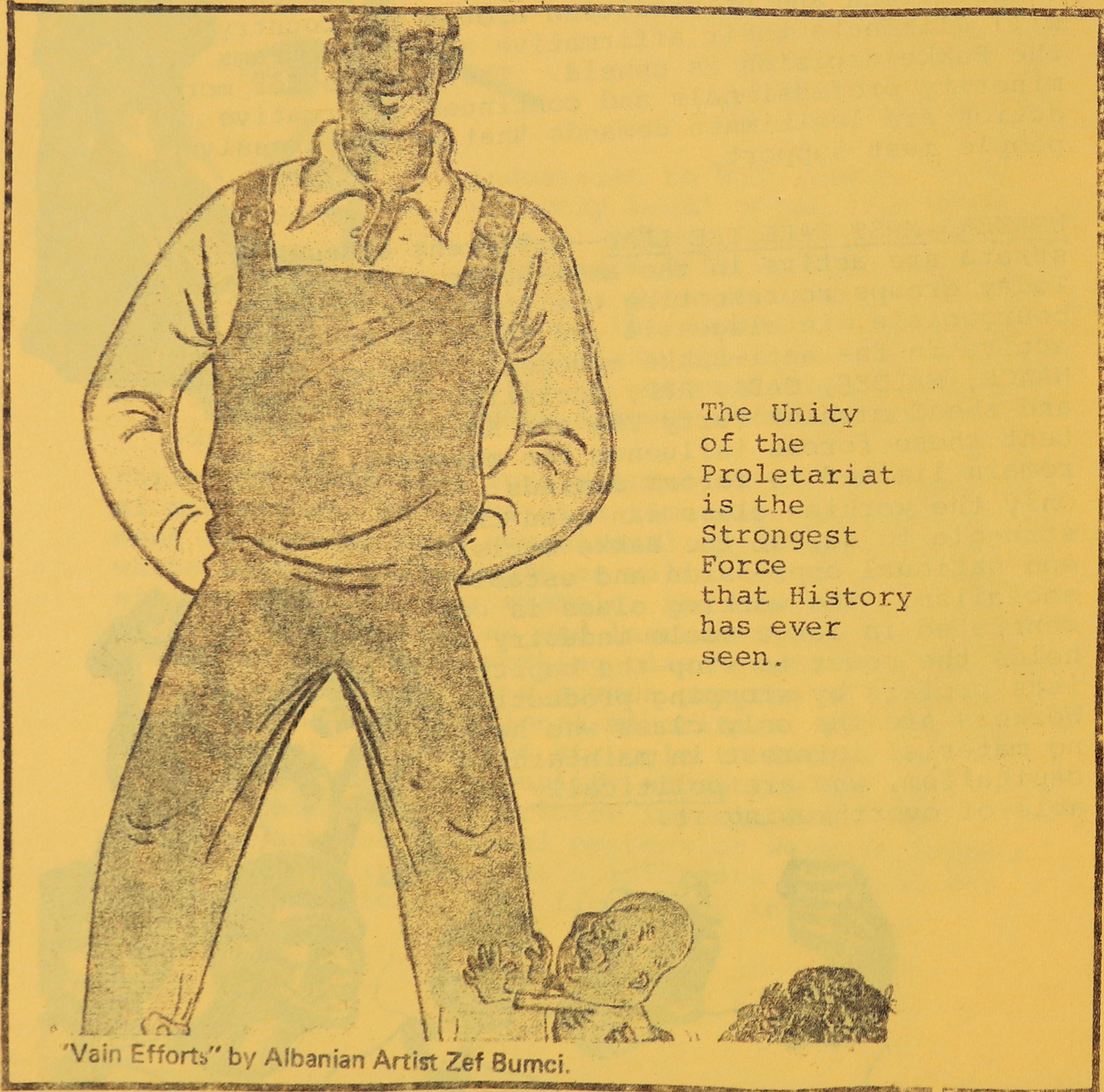
WORKERS MUST TAKE THE LEAD--Different classes and strata are active in the anti-Bakke movement support. Today groups representing the interests of the petty bourgeoisie, intelengensia and labor aristocracy are active in the anti-Bakke movement. Groups like the NAACP, MALDEF, CASA, KDP, Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party USA are active. To the extent these forces influence the movement, it will remain limited to reform demands.

Only the working class can lead the struggle to defeat the Bakke Decision, end national oppression and establish socialism. The working class is concentrated in large scale industry and holds the power to stop the capitalists profits by stopping production. Workers are the only class who have no material interest in maintaining capitalism, who are politically capable of overthrowing it.



In recent years, workers have taken up political demands by participating in movements to end the Vietnam war, end police brutality, and by opposing racism in South Africa and Rhodesia.

Sections of the petty bourgeoisie and intelligentsia are oppressed by imperialism as well. They are allies of the working class and can be a powerful force for mass struggle. So far many hundreds of revolutionary intellectuals have demonstrated against the Bakke case and have played a most ac-



The Unity
of the
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Strongest
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has ever
seen.

"Vain Efforts" by Albanian Artist Zef Bumci.

tive role. The working class must begin to see cases like Bakke as part of their own struggle. In particular, workers must begin to play a leading role in the anti-Bakke movement. To date, the ABDC has had some success in reaching out to workers. The most recent Santa Barbara California advisory committee meeting involved a number of workers from local plants who are integrating the anti-Bakke struggle into their work. Two of the keynote speakers were workers. A number of unions have passed resolutions opposing the Bakke decision, including the United Electrical Workers, United Steelworkers #1981 and United Auto Workers #1364. Forums in East LA and the Bay Area attracted workers. But there is still much to be done. The anti-Bakke movement and advanced workers must take agitational and propaganda materials to the basic industries and to the unions. Union locals and caucuses must be mobilized to participate in demonstrations and rallies against the Bakke decision. Workers must become actively involved in leading the ABDC and other anti-Bakke groups.

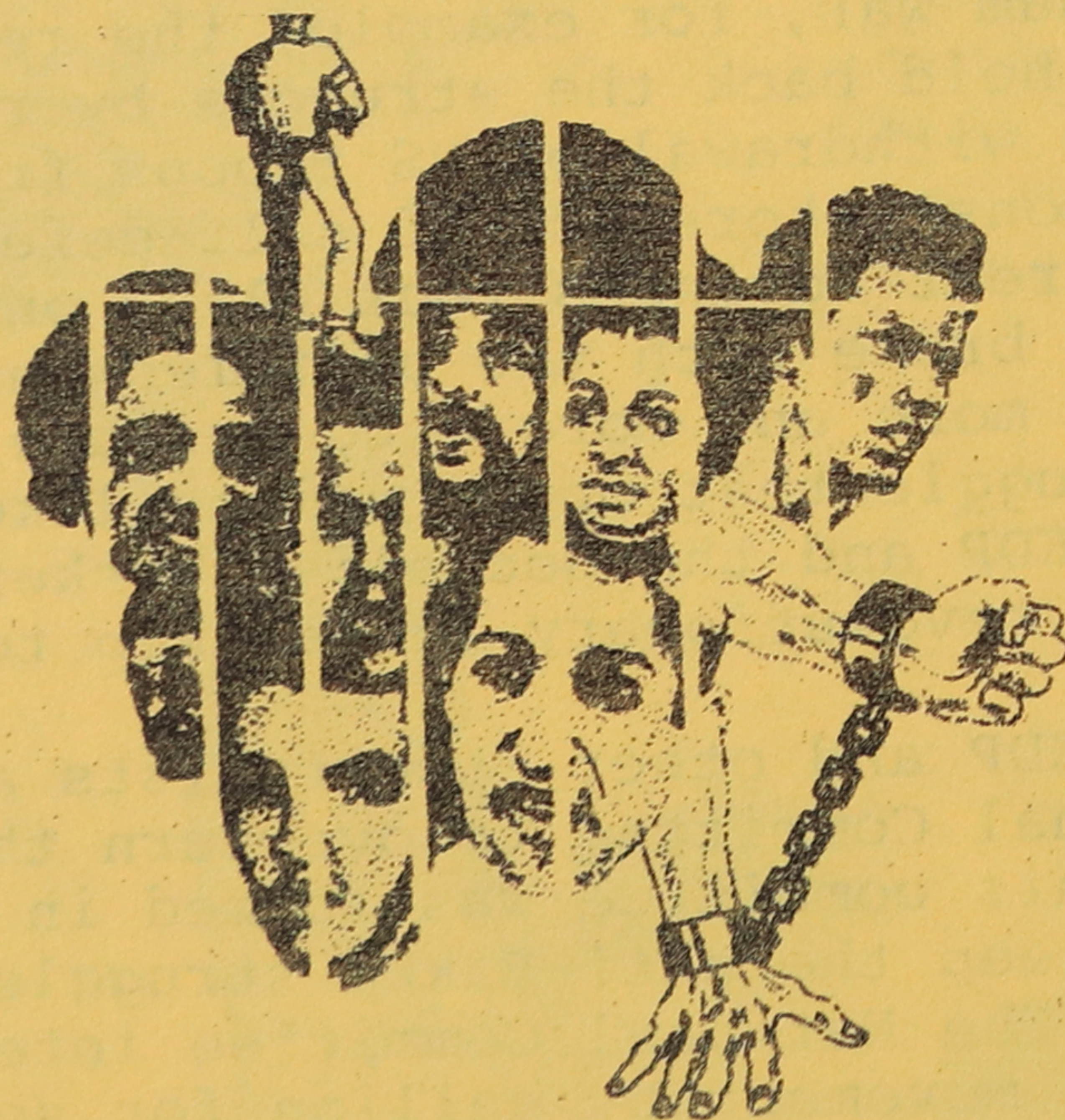
EXPOSE THE OPPORTUNISTS--As in any mass movement, a number of opportunist groups are participating in the anti-Bakke work. Everyone wants the greatest possible unity to defeat the Bakke case. But no movement can succeed in overturning the Bakke decision, let alone in defeating imperialism, if the leadership puts their own reformist interests ahead of the masses. During the early years in the movement against the Vietnam war, for example, the revisionist Communist Party USA held back the struggle by refusing to call for the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam and by denouncing demonstrators use of self-defense against police attack. Great advances took place only after the anti-war movement broke with the policies and leadership of the CPUSA. Today more and more students are realizing in the course of struggle that opportunists like the Communist Party USA, CASA, KDP and the Socialist Workers Party are unable to provide revolutionary leadership to the movement.

The CPUSA, CASA, KDP and other opportunists are participating in the National Committee to overturn the Bakke decision. (NCOBD) This committee was formed in opposition to ABDC in order to keep the anti-Bakke struggle limited to partial reforms. The National Committee intentionally decided to split the movement by calling for separate demonstrations on Oct. 8, one week before the ABDC demonstrations.

Although honest individuals are participating in the National Committee, its political line and actions--particularly those of its leading organizations--will never defeat the Bakke case.

The National Committee limits the struggle against Bakke to a struggle for "racial equality." The NCOBD has struggled against linking the anti-Bakke movement to the fight against imperialism and national oppression. In their major brochure, "Fight Racism--Overturn the Bakke Decision!" for example, the NCOBD doesn't mention imperialism once. Indeed the CPUSA and CASA see "racism" as only a bad set of ideas that can be legislated away with militant reforms. They liquidate the national question as part of the revolutionary overthrow of imperialism.

The leadership of NCOBD essentially represents the political interests of the petty bourgeoisie and labor aristocracy who are anxious to "move up" as doctors, lawyers and school administrators. The NCOBD has completely failed to actively involve workers in their campaigns, preferring instead to get endorsements from bourgeois politicians like Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson. The position of the NCOBD guarantees that the Bakke struggle will deadend into harmless legal challenges and an alliance with the bourgeoisie. In the course of the struggle, students and workers must expose the phony support of these opportunists and drive them from the anti-Bakke movement.



CONCLUSION

In this brief pamphlet ATM (M-L) has laid out our perspective on how to defeat the Bakke decision and link it to the wider struggle against imperialism. In the months ahead the struggle to defeat the Bakke decision and the fight against national oppression will intensify. All workers and students must actively take up this fight. With the active participation of communists, workers and students will come to understand that true equality for national minorities will come about only with the destruction of capitalism and the establishment of socialism. ATM (M-L) dedicates itself to defeating the Bakke decision and fighting for the complete equality of all workers.

UNITE ALL NATIONALITIES TO DEFEAT BAKKE

EDUCATION AND JOBS ARE A RIGHT, NOT A PRIVILEGE

FULL EQUALITY FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES AND WOMEN THROUGH
SOCIALIST REVOLUTION



ATM (M-L) DEMANDS

1. Overturn the Bakke Decision.
2. Open Admissions with No Tuition--guarantee a minimum of proportional admissions for minorities. Students and workers must fight for free, quality higher education for everyone. Open admissions means that anyone who desires to attend college should be able to do so. Until recently, New York public colleges had this system and thousands of working class and minority youth received a college education. The demand for open admissions is not a substitute for the legitimate demands of minorities for preferential admissions to colleges. Because of the history of national oppression in the US, minority students must be guaranteed admission in no lesser numbers than their percentage of the population.
3. End cutbacks, expand social services and the hiring of minorities and working class women. The Bakke decision will effect not only students, but workers as well. The struggle against Bakke is part of the struggle against the imperialist economic crisis which is cutting back health, educational and other services to working people. Therefore we must demand the increase in social service programs and affirmative action programs for women and minorities at workplaces and universities.

