

WHY S.T.R.E.S.S MUST BE ABOLISHED

The campaign to abolish S.T.R.E.S.S. speaks to two very important realities.

On the one hand we have the facts of ever worsening conditions for black and poor people throughout this country, and certainly in the City of Detroit.

The unemployment figures, particularly for black youth, demonstrate that the economic system under which we live has no capacity for the inclusion of black and poor people as productive participants in the process of answering the basic questions of life, namely how to provide decent shelter, adequate nutritive food, health care based upon need not money, and an educational sys-

of Detroit.

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The failure of the American capitalist system, which puts profits for the owners of the large cor-

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porations ahead of the needs of the majority of the



people, has produced some profoundly disturbing consequences.

The efforts of the people, whose needs go unmet, to organize themselves to determine the conditions of their own lives, are met with an overwhelming military response that in every instance amounts to overkill by the profit-seeking racists.

When workers whose interests are being sold out by unions that are functioning as partners of corporate management try to organize themselves to control their working conditions, they are immediately confronted with the power of the state machinery, particularly the police and the courts, which power is never on the side of the people.

The courts grant injunctions to protect the companies, order workers back to work to break strikes, and interpret the law in such a way as make it dif-

ficult if not impossible for workers to wrest con-

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trol of their labor from the parasitic profit seekers.

If unemployed people, such as A.D.C. mothers, organize to force the ruling class racists, through their agents who administer the programs of social welfare which programs are themselves used to control and regulate the lives of aid recipients, to grant adequate allowances and provide necessary services, they are arrested by police and charged with such "crimes" as trespassing and the like.

When students in the schools and colleges, and indeed junior high and elementary schools, become so nauseated by the irrelevance of the "educational" experience to which they are subjected that they act decisively to change it, the police are called to quell the "disturbance."

If black and poor parents organize the exert control over the administrators of the school systems, they are given pacification programs such as



real power by the people in the communities presents itself. These central authorities know that if they tire of the debate at board meetings or if the parents become an "unruly mob" they have merely to call the police to prevent damage to "their person or property." The damage to the thousands of children who are surrendered to them every morning is of no real concern to them.

When persons who are lodged in "correctional" institutions assert the demand to have their humanity recognized they are brutally assaulted and massacred by the military and para-military police apparatus, for example Attica and San Quentin, not to mention the wholesale deprivation of the human rights of pre-trial detainees who cannot ransom their freedom from county jails and are thus imprisoned for the crime of poverty.

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When members of the various communities attempt to form political organizations to change the nature

of this society, the are ruthlessly murdered, infiltrated, harrassed and destroyed by the combined resources of the Federal, State and local police agencies, who employ the intelligence units of the Army, Navy, C.I.A. and other agencies in keeping under surveillane anyone and everyone who knows that this society as presently structured cannot, and should not endure.

The conclusion that follows from the above is that the role of the State and its police apparatus must be seen for what it is, and we must understand what the struggle against S.T.R.E.S.S. in fact means.

S.T.R.E.S.S. is another step taken by the ruling class racists to obscure the fact of this country's total bankruptcy in dealing with the fact that the needs of people are going unmet, that this is in no way accidental, and that in



continue to do so until we stop it.

S.T.R.E.S.S. is a very clever artifice used to divide people in this community into "pro" and "anti" crime sectors, with the anti-S.T.R.E.S.S. forces being lumped into a category that supposedly favors the mugging of the elderly, women and children, and calls for the law of the jungle to prevail on our streets.

The originators of S.T.R.E.S.S. and their henchmen, Mayor Gribbs and John Nichols, feel free to produce statistics that are designed to convince you that it is "safe" to shop downtown, (if you have any money), and that therefore all is well in the City, despite the fact that the factors that produce the real deterioration in the quality of life in this City have been caused by the very same profit seeking racists who ask you to come down and spend what you have left after trying to feed, clothe and shelter yourself and your family.

S.T.R.E.S.S. does not stop the flow of heroin into our communities, moreover since opium does not grow domestically, and is not refined into heroin domestically, the responsibility for its presence in our communities has to be placed at the feet of those who own the systems of transportation, control the borders of this country, and obviously want our communities lulled into a state of euphoria, induced by drugs, that reduces the level of serious struggle that would, and will, seal their doom.

S.T.R.E.S.S. does not re-order the priorities of an economy in which Chrysler Corporation announces that it's first quarter earnings are triple that of last year, while people by the thousands are denied participation in, and control of, meaningful work.

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S.T.R.E.S.S. does not provide homes to people  
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who have been ruthlessly uprooted by urban renewal



and freeway construction programs that benefit the business interest in our City and the suburbanites who sit in their boxes and talk about the deterioration and crime in the inner-city.

S.T.R.E.S.S. does not make it unnecessary for women in the inner-city to go to Wayne County General Hospital for obstetric and gynecological medical treatment, nor does S.T.R.E.S.S. provide transportation for them or others who don't have cars to ride the freeways or even the city streets on weekends and holidays.

S.T.R.E.S.S. kills people, people who do not have to be killed. The history of police practices in Detroit, such instances as the Algiers Motel, Cobo Hall I & II, Veterans Memorial, New Bethel, Myrtle Street and the Panthers, Charles Calloway, etc., is such that no one in his right mind can pretend to have any "legitimate" law enforcement

function served by unleashing plainclothes decoys in this community to shoot down not only 15 and 16 year old children but even other law enforcement people, and then refer to it as a tragic mistake (The Rochester Massacre) or to say well the "thugs" name the game (Nichols at Common Council October 4, 1971 ).

The forces that have worked against S.T.R.E.S.S. in this community understand that the solution to the problems referred to above are not forth coming from anyone but the people of this community, organizing an independent political movement that uses all means, including the electoral mechanism, to rid this community of public officials whose central function is to divert our attention from the fact that they don't serve the people but in-

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the people can be used as workers, consumers, and



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targets, whenever it is in the interests of the ruling class to do so.

Murder by the State as a public relations tactic will not be permitted in this City, and the machinations of Gribbs, Nichols, and Cahalan do not divert us from the task of building a system of power for powerless people that will consign them and their bosses to the ash can of history.

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