

Angela Davis at U of T

Racism is used as economic safety valve

By AGNES KRUCHIO

"Racism is the most important weapon of the ruling class," Angela Davis announced in a speech at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall last Friday night.

Speaking as the guest of the Students' Administrative Council, Davis said that "racism is used to divert the attention of white workers from what is happening in the U.S."

Davis addressed a capacity crowd of over 1,500, in the midst of tight security resulting from rumours that her life was in danger.

On the topic of American politics, she condemned U.S. president Gerald Ford as "really Nixon wearing another mask".

"Nixon has proven himself the number one terrorist. Nixon chose Ford; now, the first thing Ford does is to pardon Nixon.

"And the ruling class has decided they want the real McCoy in the White House. So they chose the man who has an interest in IBM, Anaconda Copper, CBS, Pan Am and some 60 other international conglomerates. The man who was responsible for the torture and suffering of millions of South

Americans. The man who has spent some \$20 million in the last 10 years to get the Republicans into power.

"That man is Rockefeller." And then, she said, Ford had the audacity to introduce him as "the man who came from a family responsible for the building of America".

She moved to the topic of America's financial picture, mentioning that the U.S. currently has a 14 per cent inflation rate.

"You hear white folks today complaining about the price of sugar, or beans, or that it is too expensive to eat meat. Up till now it was only the blacks who were complaining. It must be really getting bad for the white folks to feel the pinch.

"The people at the centre of power are succeeding less and less at what they like doing most — making profits. 'Something's gotta give.'

She stressed that racism and repression "go hand in hand", a theory supported by the fact that some \$28 million in extra profits

each year are made in the States of exploiting Chicanos, Indians and blacks.

"The worse the economic situation becomes," she told the expectant and enthusiastic audience, "the more racism is used as a safety valve.

"You see, Ford understands that as long as those poor white workers are out there throwing stones and screaming at the blacks, they will make no objections to the real problems of the world."

She cited the current violence in Boston where white parents are fighting the busing of black children to white neighbourhood schools, and warned that "the situation can and will spread if allowed to".

Referring to a recent case where a policeman who killed a young black boy — after spotting "activity" in a basement — was not even charged for manslaughter, she claimed "the police are doing this sort of thing every day."

"It is part of racism, and things are rapidly moving in the direction of fascism. You may not be directly under attack, but if you wait for them to strike home, you will end up where they are.

"First they came for the communists," she quoted, "but I wasn't a communist, so I did not protest. Then they came for the Catholics, but I wasn't a Catholic, so I did not protest. Then they came for the Jews, but I wasn't a Jew, so I did not protest.

"At last they came for me, and there was no-one left to protest."

In Toronto to promote her group, the U.S. National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, she urged the crowd to participate in

Canada. She mentioned Roosevelt Douglas, a black student imprisoned for his part in the Sir George Williams sit-in, as an example of a political prisoner.

Douglas, now free, spent five years in prison and could be deported at any moment; his political activities are restricted, and he is not allowed to travel outside a 30-mile radius of Toronto.

"Canadian white people look to the U.S. for racism," she concluded. "But you should talk to your own native peoples to see just what prejudice is."

Tories 'permit pollution'

By KEITH NICKSON

Last Friday, Eli Martel, NDP MPP for Sudbury-East, delivered a scathing attack on the Conservative government of Ontario — specifically, in relation to pollution problems in Sudbury arising from the operations of two nickel companies, International Nickel and Falconbridge Nickel.

Martel mentioned that the Elliot Lake district had an incidence of cancer three times higher than the provincial average, and stated that the ministry of health and the department of mines were completely ignoring this phenomenon. Martel himself investigated and, with the help of a doctor, proved that a local smelter was issuing waste products that were carcinogenic. Only then was action taken by the provincial government.

Another incident concerned an investigation by ministry of mines into the causes of high sulfur dioxide levels in the city of Sudbury. International Nickel (INCO) sent the ministry a letter stating why, in their opinion, SO₂ levels were so high on occasion (they simply said 'it couldn't be helped').

When the ministry's own report was finally published, it contained

within it two key paragraphs quoted exactly from Inco's letter. Martel suggested the Ministry carried out little or no investigation at all, and chose to believe what INCO told them.

Disenchantment and a pay raise

An expression of disenchantment with the advertising service of the Canadian University Press, and a salary raise for the business manager of Excalibur Publications were the two main results of last Wednesday's meeting of York's Board of Publications.

Jurgen Lindhorst, business manager of Excalibur Publications, was directed by the board to inform Youthstream, the national advertising service of the Canadian University Press, that Excalibur's contract with the service will be terminated as of April 30, 1975. A new contract has recently been proposed by Youthstream, several clauses of which the board feels are intolerable.

Among the "unacceptable" provisions is a stipulation that Youthstream shall have right of first refusal on the sale of all stationary and equipment to newspapers under

contract.

During the meeting, the board also granted Lindhorst a raise of over \$50 a month. According to Kruchio, the increase was justified since Lindhorst has recently taken on added responsibilities due to the resignation of the assistant advertising salesman.

The financial terms of the agreement between the board and Excalibur's editor, Warren Clements, were also accepted by the Board. Clements receives a salary of \$600 a month for the term from August 15, 1974, to April 15, 1975.

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