

comically conflicting interpretations. Reporting from Moscow, the New York Times babbled that Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi, visiting Brezhnev in the Soviet Union at the time of the cancellation, boarded the plane to return to Cairo "offering no clues" as to why Brezhnev changed his plans. The same day, in an article datelined Cairo, the Times stated that Fahmi attributed Brezhnev's cancellation to "ill health." This line, leaked the Washington Post, is receiving "little credence" in Washington, while the Financial Times mused, "The whole affair is something of a mystery."

What is so confusing to the press is that the "predictable Soviets"--what one U.S.-based think-tank agent calls the Kremlin policy-makers--have moved in a totally unpredictable manner. A flurry of interpretations is being offered in a desperate attempt to gloss over the actual implications of the Brezhnev cancellation. One such insight is that the Soviets prefer to give up their interests in the Middle East rather than put detente at stake. Instead of risking a Middle East confrontation, the Washington Post and Die Welt wishfully write, the Soviet Union would rather give U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger free reign to negotiate an Arab-Israeli solution, thereby giving credit to the Soviets for preventing the outbreak of a fifth Middle East war.

The irony is that the Soviets, via Brezhnev's cancellation, may indeed obstruct another war--due not to their "opening the way" for Kissinger but to their resisting working with him and his cronies, namely Sadat.

The only note of truth making its way down the CIA press conduits is that if Kissinger fails to negotiate a peace settlement--which is quite likely considering the Soviets' hardening position--Sadat will be in trouble, and, as the Daily Telegraph neatly puts it, "the whole Egyptian regime could be in jeopardy."

#### UAW ORGANIZES MOCK SOUPLINE TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR ITS FASCIST POLICIES

FLINT, Mich., Jan. 2 (IPS)--United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 659 held an anti-Depression rally here last week, Leonard Woodcock-style. Billed by the union leadership as a device to dramatize the plight of laid-off auto workers, the rally was a rerun of a Depression scene, complete with soup lines and apple sellers. It was actually aimed at marshalling the rage of the union membership against soaring layoffs, speedup, and the imminent loss of SUB benefits--in support of the UAW's social fascist solutions to the current economic collapse.

Local 659's misleadership was already notorious. The Local cooperates with the Buick Flint plant management in brainwashing workers through an in-plant alcoholism program.

Three weeks ago, the Local's newspaper, Searchlight, carried an article demanding a public works program and similar fascist measures. In an effort to offset Labor Party influence among its ranks, it also included a demand for a "limited" debt moratorium. Another article in the same issue favorably covered the UAW's \$30 million suit against the Labor Party and blusteringly threatened violence by its members against Labor Party organizers.

Not surprisingly, the Depression rally itself was a degrading spectacle. Workers who had been persuaded to show up were herded into bean-soup lines, while others were set up in appleselling stalls. Loudspeakers blared union songs, and the workers were treated to variations of Rockefeller's solutions to their predicament from several speakers.

The Local's president David Benjamin issued a national economic proposal, reiterating Searchlight's demands for slave-labor jobs for unemployed workers. Featured speaker at the rally was economist Eliot Janeway, who, according to local media accounts, was flown to the rally from his New York townhouse at union expense. Janeway told the crowd that the United States was falling into a depression which could be avoided only if the United States "returns to hard bargaining with the countries that are doing this to us." Giving the straight Rockefeller line, Janeway named the guilty parties as the oil-producing countries and the Soviet Union.

Janeway's act was followed by that of Rep. Donald Riegle, Jr. Riegle, a Democrat from Flint, is a wholehearted supporter of the NERA relocation-brainwashing bill and voted for Nelson Rockefeller's confirmation. Acknowledging that Congress is now under Fang's control, Riegle boasted: "The new Congress that's coming in January is different from the one that's leaving....We're going to have economic justice in this country."