

railroad workers laid off because freight shipments have declined 25 per cent from last year. Greyhound and United Airlines cut their workforce this week because of reduced passenger fares.

And in an even more impressive indicator of the collapse of the economy, the previously strong electronics industry is beginning to crumble. This week Texas Instruments laid off 9,000 and Honeywell dismissed 500.

LABOR PARTY ORGANIZES TO STOP "OPERATION EARTHQUAKE"

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 12 (IPS)--The United States Labor Party (USLP) is mobilizing members and workers around it to prevent a simulated disaster, "Operation Earthquake," from taking place here Jan. 28. Sponsored and paid for by the University of California's Moffit Hospital, with the Army's full cooperation, the disaster exercise is aimed at getting the area's population used to the idea of triage--cold-blooded mass murder--and to police rule.

It's no coincidence that triage pioneer, CIA agent William Paddock, is currently teaching at another University of California campus--Santa Barbara.

Labor Party investigations reveal that many city authorities are not aware that this hideous spectacle is on the agenda, raising serious questions as to its legality--the question of its morality being clearly decided already.

Information on "Operation Earthquake" pieced together by Labor Party organizers here over the last few days reveals a scenario that could come only from worm-eaten minds. It involves innocent children, unsuspecting bystanders, duped city workers, and the Red Cross, under the leadership of University of California and Army triage experts "practicing" what Rockefeller and his associates at the Defense Civil Preparedness Administration (DCPA) intend to become normal, everyday routine. Every aspect of it has been shaped to produce maximum psychological disorientation--"soft" brainwashing--explicitly designed to insure that the city's working class will accept triage as a necessary, if unfortunate method.

The Labor Party is urging IPS and New Solidarity readers to get the word out to co-workers and friends: bombard the San Francisco city authorities, the Army, the Red Cross, the DCPA and the University of California's Moffit Hospital to demand that this criminal "Operation Earthquake" be called off at once.

The Scenario

First named "Operation Triage," (the name was changed recently supposedly because, as Moffit Hospital officials explained, earthquakes were the disaster San Franciscans worry about most and triage wasn't such a big part of the operation anyway) the mock disaster is supposed to look like this:

On Jan. 28, Moffit Hospital will receive a phone call saying that an earthquake is taking place. The hospital administration will then activate its emergency plan. Coordinating emergency services here will be Dr. John F. Conte, Jr. director of Moffit's emergency services division.

Triage teams consisting of a physician, a nurse and a clerical staffer will be dispatched to the heart of the disaster. Operating on the insane assumption that in an emergency, the worst-injured must be deprived of medical attention because of a shortage of medical facilities, they will decide which victims will be sent to surgery, which to x-ray, and which directly to the morgue.

Although the Army is offering 200 of its men as "victims," indications are that 25 school children from a nearby public school may be used as victims as well. The school's acting principal admitted that these pupils would be involved in the rehearsal, but did not know what role the children would play or who would supervise them. When asked if he wasn't worried about the emotional effects this would have on his pupils, he giggled nervously.

Unlike earlier emergency rehearsals at the San Francisco airport, "Operation Earthquake" will take place in a busy business and residential area near the university. It will disrupt bus and streetcar lines, creating major traffic jams.

Casualties will include 50 seriously injured persons and 200 with minor injuries. The Army Disaster Corps, specialists in plastic guts and ketchup blood, will supply the make-up. Two hundred bystanders will be involved in the mock disaster.

Pointing up one of the primary reasons for "Operation Earthquake," Dr. Conte Jr. emphasized that in a disaster, not only must medical services be provided, but crowd control must be maintained as well.

A spokesman for Moffit told the Labor Party that "the media will be encouraged to participate straight, that is, not covering it as a rehearsal, but getting involved in it, getting in the way, as in a real disaster."

Someone, however, doesn't want news of "Operation Earthquake" to get out before it happens. The only public notice so far was

a short article in a local paper. Contacted by the Labor Party, Major Holland, chief of planning and operations for the Army in the area, claimed that "Operation Earthquake" was planned and paid for completely by the hospital, and that the Army was only cooperating.

Lou Cambou, medical coordinator of the mayor's office of emergency services, claimed that he'd never heard of "Operation Earthquake," and began to question the Labor Party caller on what he knew about it. As to the legality of the operation, Cambou stated that any legal questions about the exercise were supposed to cross his desk.

Meanwhile, the Labor Party has discovered that rehearsals similar to "Operation Earthquake" will be held every six months, presumably on a larger and larger scale; but the Labor Party intends to close down "Operation Earthquake" before it gets off the ground.

FBI STALLS IN U.S. LABOR PARTY SUIT

DETROIT, Jan. 12 (IPS)--In a Jan. 7 court hearing in court here, the FBI asked Federal District Judge Damon Keith for further time to compile arguments for preventing the U.S. Labor Party from proceeding with its suit against FBI interference in its election campaigns. Keith granted the FBI one week's continuance to allow it to write an additional brief arguing for dismissal of the U.S. Labor Party suit.

If the court rules against the FBI's motion to dismiss, the U.S. Labor Party will be able to proceed to subpoena and take depositions from FBI agents gathering evidence on illegal surveillance, disruption, and sabotage of Labor Party election campaigns, and on illegal search and seizure of materials from the Labor Party office in Detroit. This discovery of evidence will be particularly interesting because of strong indications that the FBI operations in the Detroit area involving infiltrator Vernon Higgins utilized well-known CIA operating procedures. At a time when CIA "self-exposures" are threatening to get out of hand, evidence of joint FBI-CIA operations would be especially significant.

At the Jan. 7 hearings, U.S. Attorney William Ivershoff was unable to refute a Labor Party brief giving legal arguments for the suit. His plea for more time to prepare further arguments suggests that the FBI will fight all the way to the Supreme Court to prevent Labor Party evidence on illegal FBI activities from becoming public.

A background brief on illegal FBI and CIA domestic activities will be prepared and circulated to Congressmen and other interested parties.