

THE CALL

RELY ON THE WORKERS

TO BUILD THE FIGHT-BACK

The National Fight-Back Conference is bringing together workers and unemployed from throughout the country to organize the struggle of the people for jobs and justice.

How can this struggle be organized successfully? What are the key tasks of those engaged in the fight-back? On whom shall we rely? These are questions that will be discussed in workshops and on the conference floor. These are questions that everyone in the new Fight-Back Organization must address.

The current crisis, the worst in 40 years, has thrown 11 million workers out of work. It has brought major cities to the brink of bankruptcy and has brought production in many industries to a standstill. Those still working have been forced to speed up their work and often have had wage cuts forced on them. The current economic crisis, however, has affected many more people than the workers. Thousands of small shop owners have been put out of business. Students are facing massive cut-backs in education. The spiraling inflation has made it impossible for many to feed or clothe their families decently. Millions of women have been forced out of work and on to welfare, while the cutbacks in the welfare system have intensified the oppression of women still further.

All this has been coupled with a vicious attack on the minorities. Racism and repression are a component part of the general attempt by the ruling class to make the people pay the cost of the crisis.

We can see that the broad and general character of the crisis has had an effect upon the great majority of the people in this country. Millions have been thrown into

struggle against the capitalist system which is at the root of this crisis. It has created the possibilities of building a broad united front movement based upon militant struggle which aims at winning the things people need, like decent jobs or income for all, and protecting what has been won in past struggles.

But this kind of broad movement can only be built with leadership. Where is this leadership going to come from? The broad character of the movement also has certain built-in weaknesses. For one thing, there is the danger of our forces being dispersed and divided. For another, each class and strata of people comes into the struggle with their own motives and interests and political outlooks. Only when the fight-back is firmly rooted among the working class, only to the degree that the fight-back organization has working class participation and leadership, can it win victories.

The working class and particularly the factory workers are the most powerful force in society. While the mass struggle of the working class has been uneven in its development during the past few years, it is still the class that holds the key to success. The working class is the class of people who are forced to sell their labor power to the capitalists each day. They are brought together at the point of production by the capitalists themselves. Other strata of the people, even some who suffer greater oppression at times, are often dispersed.

Through its own position in production, the working class develops the power to give the most consistent leadership to the fight-back as well as to the revolutionary struggle against capitalism itself.

Through the historic experiences of the working class, its outlook and ideology are in direct opposition to the capitalists'. This revolutionary outlook must be embodied in an organization, the Marxist-Leninist party. While there is no such party at the present time, it is being built and soon will be able to give real leadership to all the struggles and organizations of the people against capitalism. The party can best provide this leadership because it represents the interests of the working class, the most revolutionary class in society. It too must be firmly based in the factories and the trade unions.

Today, the actions of the ruling class and their lackeys in the trade union leadership cause ever heightening competition between those with jobs and the unemployed. The Fight-Back Organization must bring working people and unemployed together in one fighting organization in order to block this divide and rule strategy. It must serve to spark the rank-and-file movement in the trade unions, helping to rid the working class of labor aristocrats who oppose the fight-back with all their power.

Fight-Back committees in each city



should have a policy of bringing a significant number of factory workers to meetings and into positions of leadership along with jobless workers, women, youth and senior citizens. Branches of these committees should be organized in the factories themselves and the fight for jobs and against discrimination brought into the trade unions and rank-and-file organizations.

OFF TO GOOD START

The sponsorship of the conference by several unions and caucuses is a good start; more work, of course, must be done. A statement of policy on the question of working class leadership and factory participation in the Fight-Back Organization should come out of the conference workshops such as "The Fight in the Unions (Rank-and-File Caucuses)," "The Economic Crisis and the Workers Fight-Back," and "Jobs or Income Now."

Another key task for the new organization will be the building of unity between the fight-back struggle in general and the particular struggles of the Black, Latino, Asian, Indian and other minority peoples. The Fight-Back cannot be confined to narrow economic questions, because the attacks are not simply economic ones. The hardest hit by the crisis have been the oppressed minorities. They have historically been the last hired and the first fired as well as the main victims of police repression and racist attacks.

Attacks on the democratic rights of minorities such as the racist anti-busing, segregationist movement are an integral part of the capitalist offensive against the whole working class.

A BIG BREAKTHROUGH

A big breakthrough is being made at the National Fight-Back Conference in the participation of white and minority workers in one single organization. This is the way the common struggle can best be carried out. But multi-national unity has to be fought for, and it's a protracted struggle. Whether it be the organizing drive of the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Assoc., or the Phillip Morris strike in Louisville, the strike of 80,000 West Virginian miners or anti-deportation struggle at Beltline Co. in Los Angeles, the movement has had to come face to face with inequality and national oppression and chauvinism. These dangerous weapons of the ruling class have been the most successful in breaking the back of our struggles.

The fight-back therefore, must take a clear and consistent stand in support of the democratic rights of all those who suffer from discrimination and national oppression.

The most controversial of these struggles are around busing for school desegregation and deportations. Busing is a case where minorities in Boston, Louisville and other cities are continuing their historic struggle for equality and dignity. The anti-busing movement is an anti-working class movement under reactionary and fascist leadership. They demagogically play on the most backward fears of the white workers in order to attack the rights of minorities and undermine working class unity.

Deportations is an issue where the ruling class is trying to blame the workers of other countries for the rising unemployment and divert attention away from the real source of the crisis—the system itself. It is a controversial issue only because of the confusion spread by the capitalists and their agents in the leadership of the unions (who owe their privileged positions to the oppression of these foreign workers). A consistent defense of the rights of foreign-born workers by the National Fight-Back Organization can unite U.S. and foreign-born workers and respond powerfully to the divisive schemes of the bosses.

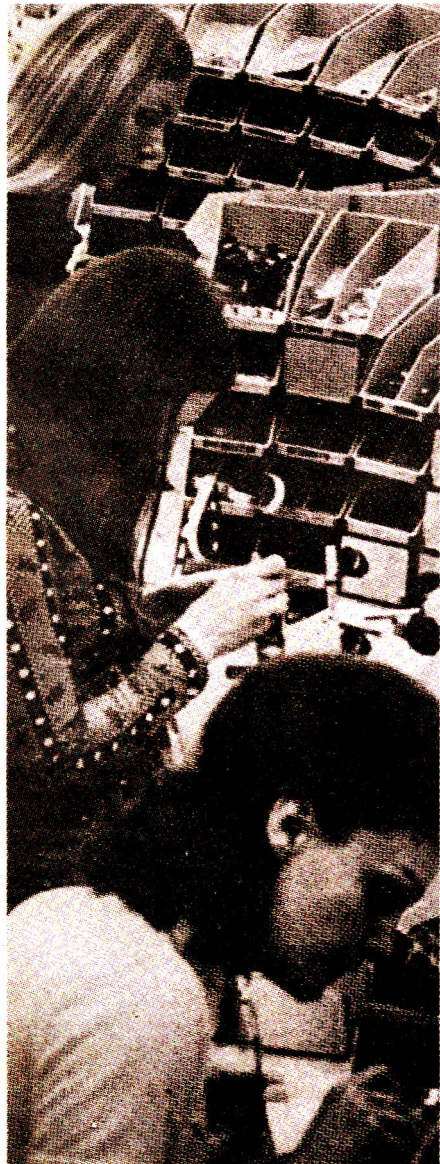
FOR SPECIAL MEASURES

Finally, the fight-back must stand for special measures (compensative measures) in hiring, promotion and union protection to end inequality between the workers of different nationalities and discrimination against women. How can unity be built in the fight for jobs as long as the minority workers are systematically excluded from the skilled trades? How can unity be built in the unions when the seniority system of many unions now has racism and male chauvinism built into it? The answer to these questions rests upon the workers and unemployed together uniting the special demands of the minority workers and women with the demands of all the people.

The demands for "Jobs or Income Now" and "Jobs Not War" have little meaning without the demand: "End All National Oppression and Racial Discrimination."

The founding of the National Fight-Back Organization is a great event in the history of the people's struggle. Under the leadership of the working class, this movement can win historic victories in the struggle against capitalism and its present offensive. While the movement must have the broadest possible character, it needs a solid core based on the unity of workers and unemployed of all colors and nationalities. But this unity will not fall from the skies.

The conference must take a stand on these key questions of policy to ensure that the working class can be the main and leading force in the struggle and that the special demands of the minorities are consistently defended.



Detroit, Mi. — The second national convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), held in Detroit Dec. 6-7, saw some small victories for the progressive forces in the face of a consolidation of the labor bureaucrats' grip on the national organization.

Attendance at the meeting, about 1000 delegates, was less than a third of the founding convention in 1974. The great majority this time were union officials. The number of minority women and of rank-and-file workers was even less than a year ago.

The formal issues before the body dealt with the constitution. But the underlying question was whether CLUW would actively fight for the needs of the masses of working women, or whether the handful of labor bureaucrats at the top would pursue their course of keeping CLUW a stepping stone for their own careers and a paper organization. They sought to make CLUW an organization that would seek to channel the rank-and-file anger and militancy into a dead end of electoral politics.

The bureaucrats, led by Olga Madar, former UAW vice president, used every parliamentary maneuver in the book, and some that weren't, to get a stranglehold over the meeting. An example of the latter kind was that three resolutions passed at the pre-convention National Coordinating Committee — for the Farmworkers Union, against deportations, and for busing — were "left out" of the official information packet. This was nothing but an attack on the National Minority Women's Committee which initiated and drafted all three resolutions.

The bureaucrats worked hand in

BUREAUCRATS SIT ON CLUW MEET



CLUW CONVENTION: Rank and file forces won some victories, but bureaucrats strengthened their hold over the organization. (Call photo).

hand with the revisionist "Communist" Party and the Trotskyists of all types. The revisionists and the Socialist Workers Party Trotskyists united with the bureaucrats down the line. The Revolutionary Socialist League Trotskyists pretended to oppose them, but by continuous sectarian disruption and nit-picking made many people feel sympathy for the bureaucrats. All four united in redbaiting and slandering the progressive rank and file forces, including the October League.

The main victory at the convention was the formation of a group of over 100 rank-and-file women into a pro-

gressive caucus. This caucus put forward a comprehensive program for direct mass action by CLUW rank and filers, proposed structural reforms and ran a slate of candidates.

The caucus won only on one vote, in favor of reducing the number of persons needed to make a chapter. This was a measure to democratize the organization and put more power in rank-and-file hands. It was a small victory but a significant one in showing that there are many who are looking for a way to reach out boldly to women workers and get out from under the domination of Madar and her gang.

As one of the bureaucrats from Chicago said in the plenary session: "CLUW is a place where women can learn parliamentary procedure . . . From there they can go further into electoral politics."

One of the progressive caucus' demands was that the ranks of CLUW be opened to women workers active in union organizing drives and to unemployed women workers. (Only union members now can join.) The caucus resolution said:

"We have seen many recent strikes for union recognition — United Farmworkers, Farah, Oneita, High Tide, Tolteca for example — where the most oppressed workers have taken the lead in pushing forward the cause of the entire working class movement. We believe CLUW would be greatly strengthened by the participation and enthusiasm of active rank-and-file unorganized women who can themselves lead the unionization of unorganized workers."

The bureaucrats defeated this motion with all kinds of demagoguery and thus managed for the time being to keep CLUW's membership narrow. Because of the history of trade union bureaucrats' neglect and discrimination toward women workers, the majority are not unionized. These leaders don't want CLUW to become a militant, rank-and-file organization, that was made perfectly clear.

The fight now moves back into the local chapters, into the shops and local unions where women are getting organized and where the work must be concentrated. Taking the Fight-Back program into the factories and locals is a concrete way of fighting for women's rights as a part of the over-all struggle of the working class.

Faced with the growing strength of the national fight-back movement, the revisionist "Communist" Party (CPUSA) has been trying to promote itself as the champion of the workers' struggles.

A concrete example of the CP's misleadership is put forward in the recent article by CP "theoretician" Daniel Rubin in the October issue of *Political Affairs*. "Where next in the struggle for jobs?" Rubin asks. His answer to this question in the following pages of his article uncovers the treachery of the CP and exposes their role as the main "left" defenders of the imperialist system.

1) They promote the illusion that one of the major features of imperialism—widespread unemployment—can be completely eliminated under the present wage-slave system.

2) They propose that this process can take place primarily through a "mass mobilization" for legal reform and through the election of "more responsive" politicians to government.

Towards these ends, the CP has initiated the National Committee to Fight Inflation and Unemployment (NCFIU) whose main focus is the Hawkins Bill.

"The Hawkins Bill (H.R. 50)," says Rubin, "deserves special discussion. It is the most advanced measure yet introduced in the Congress." This bill has been introduced into the House of Representatives and calls for certain measures by the government to provide jobs. As such, it is supported by many progressive groups and individuals throughout the country. However, Rubin's call for "special discussion" on this bill represents the view of the CP that the entire strategy of the workers' fight-back should be based around petition-signing and letter writing to Congress in favor of the bill.

"The main thing," says Rubin, "is to mobilize mass pressure to convince the monopoly-oriented politicians that they must find the financing or their positions will be endangered."

Rubin is not entirely uncritical of the Hawkins Bill, however. He points out that

"... depending primarily on adjusting monetary and fiscal levers of the monopoly capitalist economy, [the bill] will not be able to assure full employment in the private economy and will not satisfy the growing need for public works . . ."

What is needed to make the bill perfect then, according to the CP revisionists, is additional public works programs—a "New Deal." What he fails to point out is that, even at the height of Roosevelt's public works program during the last big Depression, unemployment continued to exist at an all-time high level, workers still faced wide-spread speed-up, wage-cutting, union-busting, and starvation.

Public works programs, a legitimate demand under the conditions of the present crisis, can never fully alleviate these fundamental features of the capitalist system, as the CP would like us to believe. Nor can the passage of the Hawkins Bill, the Kennedy Health Bill, or any other legislation

bring about a "change in the class orientation" of the ruling class, as the CP claims can be done in Rubin's article.

While advocating reliance on the good graces of the U.S. imperialists to solve the problems of the crisis, the CP program simultaneously urges workers to beg the Soviet social-imperialists for help to end the crisis.

The CP's major slogan is "Detente Means Jobs," and Rubin further asserts that "removal of trade restrictions with the Soviet Union, Cuba, and of all socialist countries would provide many more jobs." These views imply that U.S. support for Soviet social-imperialist expansion and hegemony-seeking can solve the basic problems facing American workers. It is all the more treacherous because the propaganda for "detente" is actually a cover for the growing war preparations of both superpowers, which the working class must oppose.

While the CP's words reveal their pro-imperialist intentions, their deeds are even clearer. They have united wholeheartedly with the do-nothing policies of the top leadership in the AFL-CIO and have viciously attacked the militant, and in many cases communist-led, rank-and-file movements in the unions. At the April 26 March on Washington for Jobs, outraged workers surged onto the field to oppose Hubert Humphrey and the AFL standard-bearers who refused to address the burning questions of massive unemployment. The CP jumped to the support of the reactionary AFL leadership. The CP hurled insults at the rank-and-file demonstrators and said they were CIA-instigated, ultra-"leftists" and "disrupters."

It is obvious that in word, and in the day-to-day struggles of the workers and oppressed peoples, the CP has displayed its total abandonment of the U.S. working class and its revolutionary struggle. Its organizations such as the NCFIU and its lobbying for the Hawkins Bill or presidential candidates can only lead the workers away from the real struggle to fight back against the system.

C.P. Promotes Own Revisionist 'Fightback'

Victory in Denver Unemployment Struggle

Recently, members of the Colorado Workers' Unity Organization marched on the Denver unemployment office. With them was a Mexicano family who had been waiting for an unemployment compensation check since December of 1974.

Claim workers refused to help so the demonstrators stormed upstairs to the offices of the Director of the Division of Employment. Security guards moved in and tried to stop the demonstrators, but they pushed past, demanding to see the Director. Officials called the police, but they were unable to stop the group who forced the Director to issue immediately almost \$1,000 in back checks.

This is but one example of the struggle for unemployment benefits won by workers across the country. Working people have responded to the growing joblessness with strong militant demands

and actions for "Jobs or Income Now". Refusing to allow the burden of the crisis to be put on the workers, they have raised the slogan, "Make the Bosses Pay". They have consistently refused to accept the lie that "the crisis is over" or that "recovery is just around the corner".

The December 6 New York Times reported that 7.75 million people are without jobs, a figure that has remained virtually unchanged over the past six months. Young people from 16 to 24 make up 57% of all the officially unemployed. This figure does not reveal that 40% of all Black youth cannot find jobs, and 60% of all Puerto Rican youth are unemployed. The rate of unemployment for women also rose in October.

Workers lucky enough to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits average only \$68.75 a week. From these facts alone, the prosperity of "recovery"

is far from being realized.

The key to the success of the fight-back against unemployment is the unity of the employed with the unemployed. On November 29 in Chicago, workers, many of whom were Latino, marched on the main Chicago post office demanding jobs. Picketers spoke with post office workers to explain their protest and win their backing. The post office historically has discriminated against Latino workers. This tactic of directly confronting employers with the demand for jobs was an important step in strengthening the struggle of the unemployed.

In steel and auto the demands that the unions take up the fight for jobs is being raised by fight-back caucuses throughout the country. In addition, they are raising the demand that SUB benefits be extended for workers on layoff and also to newly hired workers.

FACES ON THE STAGE



MARY JOYCE JOHNSON

The master of Ceremonies for the Conference is Mary Joyce Johnson. She has practiced law in Atlanta, Georgia for the past four years on behalf of the people. She is now the vice-president of the National Lawyers Guild and a leading member of the National Interim Committee of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF).

Mary Joyce has been involved in many campaigns for the people. She helped organize Atlanta communities in defense of Pamela Dixon, and represented women steelworkers at Atlantic Steel in a discrimination suit. Cheryl Todd and The Fight Back Ten are now represented by her.

"I see increased brutality in prisons, by the police and KKK. There are more attacks on organizing in the factories and communities and increasing attacks on progressive intellectuals," she said concerning today's conditions. "A National Fight-Back Organization with co-ordinated campaigns can contribute to the growth of local movements and help build a massive counter-offensive for the benefit of all the people."



FRED WALTERS

Fred Walters, 60 years old, has been a long time fighter for the rights of woodcutters in the Deep South. He is now the President of the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA).

Mr. Walters recently gave the keynote speech at the Southern Fight-Back Conference. At the Conference he explained the role of Black/white unity in building the GPA, in the heart of Klan territory. He said, "We often discuss the Klan in our meetings and we have decided that if they ever pay anyone around here a visit, we'll visit them right back."

In talking about the National Conference Mr. Walters commented, "I'll be coming to speak at the Conference and take part in it because I can see that a National Fight Back Organization would benefit the struggle of the woodcutters and GPA for a decent living as well as people all over the South and the country."

STARBISHA WEUSI

Starbisha Weusi has been a member of the Congress of Afrikan People (CAP) for eight years, serving on the Women's Commission, Unity and Struggle Editorial Board, and other bodies. She has been active in the many struggles of Newark's people, including the fight against racist police repression. Weusi is also a leading member of the Black Women's United Front. At 29, with two children, she sings with the CAP Anti-Imperialist Singers.

She had this to say about the Conference, "This period is crucial for the struggle of the working class, Black and Third World people who are particularly effected by unemployment and the welfare system. So, national efforts become important. It's one more step in building the working class movement and bringing together the oppressed nationalities and multi-national working class movement to struggle for liberation of the Black nation and socialist revolution."

Starbisha, representing CAP, a co-sponsor of the conference, will speak on the role of women in the crisis and fight-back.



ODIS HYDE

An Afro-American communist recently returned from a workers' trip to China, Odis Hyde at 69 has been fighting for workers and oppressed minorities for over 40 years.

Born in Louisiana, Mr. Hyde came to Chicago in 1918 to find work. During the Great Depression he participated in the fight against evictions. Through this struggle he came into contact with the and later joined the Communist Party. He was also active in the union organizing drive at Republic Steel and was at the Memorial Day Massacre in 1937. In 1942, Mr. Hyde got a job at Proctor and Gamble and worked there for the next 20 years.

He was an organizer for the Communist Party in the Southside of Chicago. But, after the CP abandoned the revolutionary struggle of the Black people, and became revisionist, he quit. Mr. Hyde joined the October League in 1972 and today is on the Central Committee and active in the fight-back movement.

He said this about the Conference, "The politicians don't give a damn, they never did. It takes people out in the streets to get what they want. A conference that organizes people to save their own lives, to gain sanity in the world so fascism won't sweep down over night, is an important conference."

ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

A highlight of the Fight-Back Conference will be a report from the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe in southern Africa.

Tapson Mawere and Sarudzai Churucheminzwa, both Zimbabweans, will be present to tell about the fight against colonialism, imperialism and white supremacy. Churucheminzwa is a soldier in the women's detachment of the Zimbabwe liberation army (ZANLA) led by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). Tapson Mawere is the North American representative of ZANU.

Zimbabwe is often called "Rhodesia," the name given to it by the British colonialists. The country is ruled today by the white-supremacist, fascist regime of Ian Smith, who is supported by the equally reactionary regime in South Africa and by U.S. imperialism. There are 20 Africans in Zimbabwe for every one white settler. Yet the Zimbabwean majority is denied political power.

Tapson Mawere has represented the Zimbabwean people before the United Nations, and has spoken to numerous audiences in the U.S. about the struggle in southern Africa. Sarudzai Churucheminzwa is the author of a short pamphlet titled "Why I Joined ZANLA Women's Detachment."

CINTRON DEFENSE COMMITTEE

A leading representative of the independent Puerto Rican labor movement will deliver an address to the Fight-Back Conference on behalf of Federico Cintrón Fiallo, executive secretary of the United Workers Movement (MOU).

Puerto Rico, an island colony of U.S. imperialism, has been subjected for years to the worst the U.S. labor misleaders had to offer. Being officially counted as "U.S. citizens," Puerto Rican workers were expected to join U.S. imperialist-dominated labor unions.

As part of the movement for national independence, more than 45 independent labor unions organized and led by Puerto Ricans themselves into the United Workers Movement (MOU), now representing over 40,000 workers.

Repression has intensified against the labor movement. Cintrón was arrested by the FBI Aug. 13, 1975, and booked on a phony bank robbery charge. This move was an effort by the U.S. government to smear the Puerto Rican workers' movement, and attack its leadership.

Since August, a movement has developed to free Cintrón and to support the labor movement which he represents as a part of the overall drive for the independence of Puerto Rico.

This keynote address will be an important part of the conference. It is crucial that the U.S. working class make internationalism a cornerstone of its movement. The success of our own struggle against imperialism depends on our building a revolutionary alliance between our fight-back movement and the Puerto Rican workers' and independence movements whose enemies are the same labor bureaucrats and the same imperialist system.

CONFERENCE ENDORSERS

- Boston Workers United to Fight Back
- United Workers Committee/Comite de Obreros Unidos, N.Y.
- Comite de Defense des Droits des Travailleurs Haitiens, N.Y.
- Association des Travailleurs Haitiens, NY
- Baltimore Fight Back Committee
- Mountain Workers Unity Org., Ky.-W.Va.
- Atlanta Workers Committee to Fight Back
- Perry Homes Defense Committee, Atlanta
- Mrs. Dorothy Cutts
- Ron Carter, Chmn. Atlanta WCTFB
- Tampa Workers Committee
- Student Anti-Imperialist League, Tallahassee
- New Orleans Workers Fight Back Cte.
- Southern Conference Educational Fund
- Bob Zellner, Exec. Dir., SCEF
- Houston Fight Back Committee
- Workers United for Jobs and Justice, Cincinnati
- Motor City Fight Back, Detroit
- Chicago Workers Solidarity Committee
- James Jackson-Defense Committee
- James Jackson, Political Prisoner
- Mrs. Ethel Jackson
- Black Pride Collective, Marion Fed. Prison
- Steeled in Struggle Caucus, Youngstown Steel Corp., Indiana
- West Englewood Fight Back Cte., Chicago
- People's Union to Fight the Crisis, Milw.
- La Casa del Barrio, Denver
- Coalition of Labor Union Women, Denver
- Colorado Workers Unity Organization
- Los Angeles Labor Unity Organization
- Fight Don't Starve Committee, S.F./Oak.
- Concerned Workers Caucus, URW 984 Bost.
- Troubleshooters Caucus UAW 248 Milw.
- Black Women's United Front, National Harlem Fight Back, N.Y.
- Pro/Law, Inc., Menard Prison, Illinois
- Mother Jones Caucus, Chicago Coalition of Labor Union Women
- Unity Caucus, O.C.A.W. Local 490 Alameda, Ca.
- Cambridgeport Homeowners and Tenants Association
- Save The People, Wash.D.C.
- Alliance for Labor and Community Action, Wash, D.C.
- People United for Justice for Prisoners, Dallas
- La Raza Unida Party, La Puente Chap.
- East Lake Meadows United Senior Citizens and Recreation Club, Atlanta
- Edgewood Action Group, Atlanta
- Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association
- Fred Walters, President, Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association
- Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee, S.F.
- Durham Organizing Committee
- Harry Haywood
- Communist Youth Organization
- October League (Marxist-Leninist)
- Congress of Afrikan People
- Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization
- Connecticut Street Storefront Association, Buffalo, N.Y.
- Seattle Fight Back
- Alaskan Cannery and Fishery Workers Association, Seattle
- Haitian Patriotic Committee, Boston
- Dorchester People United
- Enlisted People's Organizing Committee Wash., D.C.
- East Boston People's Rights Movement of Haitian Marxist-Leninists
- May 18 Revolutionary Movement, N.Y.
- New York Coalition Against Repression
- Mexican American Political Association, San Gabriel Valley Chapter

FIGHT-BACK AGENDA

Saturday, Dec. 27:

10:15 ... WELCOME by Master of Ceremonies

10:30... KEYNOTE SPEECHES: Fred Walters, Starbisha Weusi, Odis Hyde

1:30 ... WORKSHOPS, including: Tenants Struggles, Busing and School Desegregation, Jobs or Income Now, Welfare Rights, the S-1 Bill, World Situation Today, Crisis and Workers' Fight-Back, Fight in the Unions, Role of Youth, Role of Women, Repression and Resistance, Organizing the Unorganized, Working in Military and with Veterans, Special Oppression of Nationalities, Education. SPANISH WORKSHOPS: Deportations, World Situation, Fight-Back in Unions, Repression and Resistance.

4:00 ... Free time, Informal Workshops, including: Auto, Steel, Rubber, CLUW, China, Black Women, Social Workers, Health Care, others.

7:00 ... CULTURAL NIGHT, including: Ann Romaine, Betty Fykes, CAP Anti-Imperialist Singers, La Casa del Barrio Teatro, Jeremy Snitkin, Haitian Art Display. 9:00... DANCE

Sunday, Dec. 28:

9:30 ... INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS: Representative from Committee to Defend Cintron Fiallo; Sarudzai Churucheminzwa from Zimbabwe.

10:30 ... GENERAL MEETING—Forming the National Organization. (1) Discussion and votes on Resolutions. (2) Discussion and vote on forming the National Organization. (3) Election of leadership. (4) Solidarity Statements.

BILINGUAL CONFERENCE

The Fight-Back Conference is bringing together people from across the country, of many different nationalities and speaking several different languages.

Millions of workers and oppressed people in the U.S. speak Spanish. The Spanish-speaking fighters at the conference will be participating as fully as resources allow in all sessions and workshops.

Simultaneous translation into Spanish will be provided during the general meetings. Those who wish to follow the speeches in Spanish will be seated in a section of the main hall equipped with a separate P.A. system. Spanish-speaking people will be able to speak from the floor in Spanish.

There will also be workshops in the Spanish language, on the main topics of the general fight-back movement, from the international situation to work in the trade unions and the anti-deportation struggle.

The right to use and to develop the minority languages is a basic democratic right. By making every effort to uphold this right in practice, the National Fight-Back Conference is striking a blow in favor of multinational unity.



PEOPLE UNITE, U

Autoworker Reports on Trip

THERE'S RESPECT FOR WORKERS IN CHINA

"There's respect for the workers in China," exclaimed Tom McHugh, a Chicago auto worker, after a four-week tour of the People's Republic of China this past summer.

McHugh was part of a delegation organized by the October League of a dozen U.S. workers from different parts of the country who toured Chinese factories and homes to see firsthand what life is like in socialist China.

The most impressive difference between the U.S. and China, McHugh reported, is the different situation of the workers. The system in China is called a proletarian dictatorship, he said. That means that the workers run the country.

"You can see it in the way the workers make the decisions that affect their lives. Not only outside work but at the workplace, where the workers have the say in how much to produce, about the safety conditions, about how the work is done."

McHugh found that the idea of a dictatorship imposed by party leaders over the workers just doesn't fit the facts in China. The workers have "freedom to criticize the leadership of the party or the revolutionary committee" that runs the factory. The committee is elected by the workers. The Party members are workers, too.

That's a big contrast to the capitalist system, McHugh noted. Here in the U.S., for example, "if you're a worker, they (the company owners) think you've got no mind, no feelings, no family to support. As long as you can produce for the boss you are needed. If not, you're absolutely useless." There's no unemployment in China, he said. No inflation, either.

The socialist system in China dates back to 1949. Before that, there was a long struggle against the rich landlords and imperialists. "It'll take a long struggle in the U.S., too, to get revolutionary changes," he added. A good place to start is with the Fight-Back organization, which McHugh supports enthusiastically. Tom is co-chairman of the Chicago Workers' Solidarity Committee.

"In China they say that the masses of the people are the makers of history. So in the U.S. we have to unite and organize all the masses of people in a common struggle. That's what the Fight-Back organization is for.

"Wherever people are in struggle the Fight-Back organization should be, too," McHugh says. "That way the Fight-Back organization can direct its fight against the whole system."

In China, McHugh explained, the Communist Party is loved and respected by the

people. This is "because it was only under Communist leadership that the oppressed peoples won their liberation. The Chinese communists saw that their place was at the side of the masses fighting for every just demand.

"But besides fighting for people's rights," McHugh stresses, "the communists were the only ones who showed people that it was necessary to go forward to revolution and socialism in order really to get freedom from all unjust wars, unemployment and oppression."



NATIONAL PLANNING MEETINGS, such as the one pictured above in Chicago, were part of the process of building for the National Fight-Back Conference. One of the activists present at the Chicago meeting was Tom McHugh (center) who had just returned from a worker's trip to China. McHugh's experiences in China are discussed in article above. (Call photo).

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Choru
People
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Well, I
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Steel Fight-Back Hits at No-Strike Pact, Consent De

Just a few miles from the site of the National Fight-Back Conference stands Republic Steel, the scene of the infamous Memorial Day Massacre of 1937, where 10 steelworkers were killed and many others wounded in the battle for union rights.

Today with industry-wide layoffs hitting 30%, and with minority and women workers especially hard hit, the steel industry is once again becoming the arena of intense struggle.

Two main weapons in the current assault on the steelworkers are the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), also known as the No-Strike Deal, and the "Consent Decree."

The ENA was worked out between the steel giants and the Abel leadership of the United Steel Workers of America (USWA). While robbing steelworkers of the right to strike, the ENA was praised by the corporations, the government, and Abel, president of the USWA, who claimed it "guaranteed" job security and industry stability.

Thousands of laid-off steelworkers can testify to the emptiness of the promises of job security. The ENA, then and now, is aimed at crippling the fighting capacity

of the USWA and at serving as a "model" to deny workers in other industries the right to strike.

Despite these attacks, the rank and file has continued to organize and fight back. At Sparrows Point, a wildcat of coke oven workers in early 1974 involved hundreds of steelworkers and nearly closed down the entire 25,000-worker mill. At the Bethlehem Lackawanna Works, with nearly half the work force laid off, increased discrimination and systematic violation of grievance procedures, workers are seriously discussing a strike as we go to press.

The present crisis also exposed the racist character of the "Consent Decree." The decree was ordered by the courts to "solve" the history of discrimination in the industry by giving a few dollars to some minority workers in return for their promise to give up the struggle against discrimination. The affirmative action hiring programs promised by the decree have been effectively wiped out by the massive layoffs. The seniority system still embodies the "last hired, first fired" principle. The lack of genuine mill-wide seniority or special measures to reverse past discrimination still means that Black and other minority

workers are imprisoned in the worst jobs of basic steel production or else are out on the street.

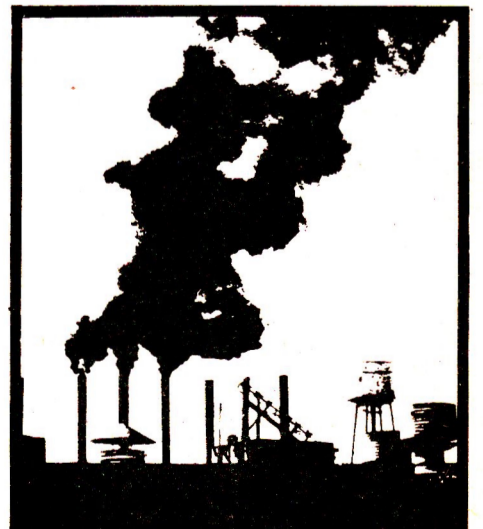
An example of this discrimination is in the coke ovens where workers are 85% Black. Recent congressional hearings have exposed the fact that conditions in the coke ovens produce cancer at a rate 15 times higher than anywhere else in the mills. Life expectancy of steelworkers in the blast furnaces and coke ovens is many years lower than elsewhere in the mill. NLRB investigations have shown that the wage rate is also considerably lower for minority workers in the mills.

Steelworkers at the Fairfield Works and the Sparrows Point Works have continued their struggle against discrimination, however.

Recently in Birmingham, Alabama, workers at U.S. Steel Fairfield Works won a Fifth Circuit Court ruling barring the "Consent Decree" on the basis that it stripped minorities of their democratic rights. In Birmingham, the fight against discrimination has been concentrated on several mills, particularly strong at American Cast Iron and Pipe Co. (ACIPO), an unorganized mill.

The struggle at ACIPO is led by a large and active organization of Black workers which came together out of the civil rights struggles of the '60's. Unity is developing between the unorganized workers at ACIPO and the organized USWA members at U.S. Steel Fairfield.

In other locals where rank and filers have exposed union corruption, Abel has implemented receiverships under which the



PEOPLE UNITE, UNITE TO FIGHT

on Trip

RESPECT FOR IN CHINA

of people. This is "because it was only under Communist leadership that the oppressed peoples won their liberation. The Chinese communists saw that their place was at the side of the masses fighting for every just demand.

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FIGHT-BACK SONG

Chorus:

People unite, unite to fight back (3 times)
People unite - Fight-Back!

Well, I don't know but I've been told
It's a pack of lies we've all been sold.
The pigs got the world in a sorry state
And it's up to the people to liberate!

Now I've never been to heaven but I can tell
If you're workin' in a factory you've been to hell.
The road to heaven the bosses pave
By workin' us to an early grave.

Now if I could I surely would
Fight for freedom and brotherhood.
It ain't a question of if or whether
Workin' people of the world are gonna get it all together.

From Vietnam to Mozambique,
The people of the world have begun to speak.
You can hear their voices loud and strong
Sayin' liberation ain't gonna be long.

Now brothers and sisters, lend a hand
To this mighty wave sweeping over the land.
In the mines, in the mills, in your community--
People of the world have got to be free!

By Jeremy Snitkin

Hits at No-Strike Pact, Consent Decree

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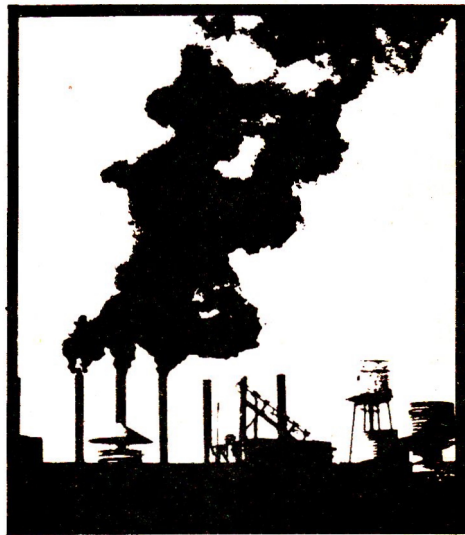
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International union takes over total control of the local. In Local 1011, Youngstown Sheet and Tube in East Chicago, the USWA machine has used outright thuggery to attack support for the blast furnace workers and for James Jackson, a Black steelworker imprisoned for killing a racist foreman. The administrator has removed progressive grievors (shop stewards) and local officers from their positions in attempts to crush the insurgent movement.

In 1974, organizations like the Dist. 31 Right to Strike Committee, Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Steel Workers, Steelworkers for Equality, the Rank and File Team as well as many other progressive and revolutionary steelworkers from across the country held a series of conferences to unite around a broad program as part of the steelworkers' fight-back.

While the initial organization of this new rank and file movement met temporary setbacks, the fight-back conference in Chicago will enable many of these honest forces to reunite and begin mapping out plans for continuing the national fight-back in the steel industry and the USWA on a sounder basis with broader support of the angry rank and file.

Why do fightback organizations across the country raise the slogan "Jobs Not War"? What is the thinking behind it?

The main idea put forward in the "Jobs Not War" slogan is that there is a threat of another world war, and this threat is growing despite all the talk about "detente."

Everyone would prefer if "detente" were real. But this wishing cannot change the real situation in the world today. All over the world, the U.S. government and the government of the USSR are in conflict with each other, struggling to gain control over one or another strategic and/or richly endowed territory, such as Angola, the Mideast, or Europe.

Today, underneath the "detente" propaganda, both superpowers are engaging in a frantic armaments race. They are preparing for a war, which they will inevitably fight sooner or later.

The people must become conscious of this fact, and get prepared for it, rather than allowing themselves to be lulled to sleep in the false belief in "detente." This is the first point which the "Jobs Not War" slogan makes.

NOT A JUST CAUSE

A second point made by the slogan is that the coming war, in all probability, will not be a war for a just cause. (Another article in this issue of *The Call* explains the question of war in more detail. See p. 10) Neither the U.S. government nor the USSR government, the chief antagonists in the conflict, are aiming at goals in the interests of the working class and national minority people of either country. Both are imperialist superpower governments, fighting to make the rich people who run both countries even richer. This is why the slogan says "no" to this war, just as we expect the staunchest workers and minorities in the USSR to say "no" on their side.

This is the opposite of saying "yes" to the war, as George Meany and his fellow bought-off labor aristocrats say to the U.S. government's side of the war. It is also the opposite of the treacherous revisionist "Communist" Party USA, which spreads pacifism when oppressed peoples stand up to fight for liberation, but always says "yes" whenever the USSR invades or interferes in another country. The slogan "Jobs Not War"—by contrast—says that the working people of either side should not be killing each other off for the greater glory of the capitalists, but should maintain a fighting solidarity with each other.

MISERY ECONOMIC

The Administration's "recovery" airplane continued flying upside down last month, as the government's key economic barometer pointed to deeper recession.

Foremost among the signs of the times was a further decline in the Commerce Department's index of "leading economic indicators." The features of this index had undergone plastic surgery last spring to give it a more cheerful look. But it wasn't enough, as September's slip in the chart was followed by a sizeable decline in October. The government economists, reported the Wall Street Journal, hadn't expected this.

The index is considered by most economists as a predictor of the economic weather.

The unemployment rate meanwhile continued practically unchanged at an official 8.3% in November. Labor Department officials admitted that the decline of 0.3% from October's rate was due mainly to workers who became discouraged and stop-

UNITE TO FIGHT BACK



FIGHT-BACK SONG

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is up to the people to liberate!

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k in' us to an early grave.

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By Jeremy Snitkin

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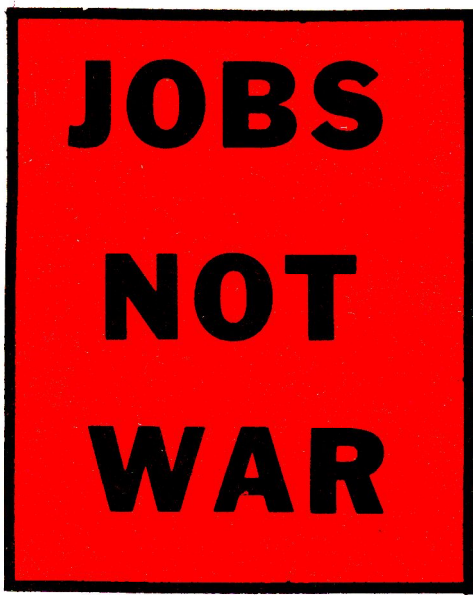
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Third, the slogan "Jobs Not War" expresses the protest of the working class and minority people at the deep economic crisis which has condemned many millions of able-bodied people to joblessness. This is the same basic message as is expressed in the demand for "Jobs or Income Now," and the slogan "Make the Bosses Pay," as well as in the demand to "End Discrimination Against Minorities and Women."

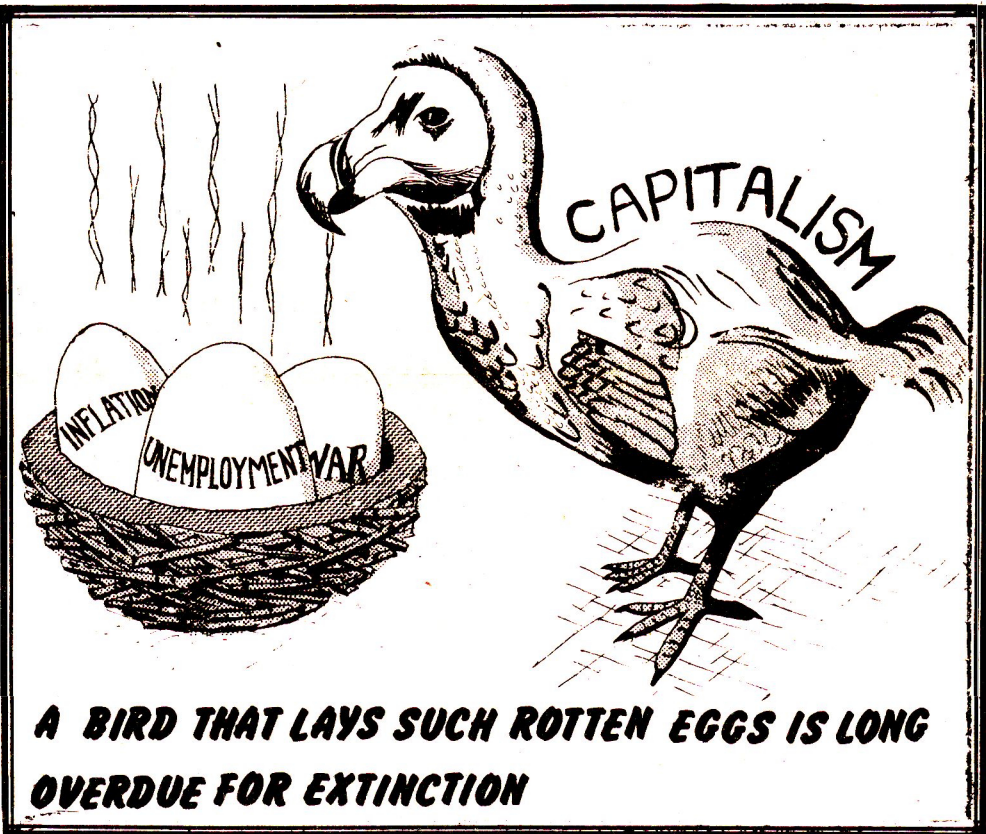
The capitalist system has economic crisis built into it, and it has war built into it also. The one leads to the other, as the cap-

italists attempt to get out of a crisis by conquering a larger share of the world for themselves through war. Each time there is a depression, the financiers move toward war. Their slogan is "War Means Jobs." In this way, they try to stir up war-fever among the unemployed and other poor working class people.

While war production can create jobs in the armaments and related industries, it by no means "solves" the miserable conditions of the people. From 1969-71 there was a recession even though the war in Indochina was still going on. That whole long war certainly did not lead to an improvement in the living conditions of the masses of people. It only made the situation worse.

Even if it were true that "war means jobs," it would only mean that the older brother has to get killed for the capitalists so that the younger brother can work for the capitalists. It means that the husband must go die trying to conquer some other country so that the wife can get a job here at home.

The slogan "Jobs Not War" rejects this kind of unjust and ineffective "solution" to the economic crisis—the imperialists' solution. It expresses the people's protest against the capitalists, saying to them that if you cannot find a more reasonable solution, then we millions of workers of all nationalities will make war on *you* and find a solution ourselves!



MISERY INDEX RISES AS ECONOMIC PICTURE WORSENS

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ped looking, and thus were no longer counted. The number of workers out of work 27 weeks or longer reached a new high, the Department said.

What are the unemployment figures really worth? The official count only reflects about half the problem, said the executive director of the National Urban League in an address last month. Confirming the research findings of organized labor over a number of years, the official estimated that the real unemployment rate is consistently twice as high as the official figure. He also estimated that 1.5 million people will have exhausted their unemployment benefits by Dec. 31, 1975.

Another sensitive indicator of the economy, the number of new building projects started, showed a slide in November. The situation in most major industries continued basically unchanged at a slow to very slow pace.

The administration's "misery index"—the unemployment percentage plus the in-

flation percentage—stood close to the all-time high recorded at the end of 1974. (The figure has been computed only since 1960.)

Not everyone is suffering, however. Dealers report that sales of mink coats and other high priced furs are booming. While the working class people, especially minorities, are having trouble making ends meet, the rich are buying more ermine and sable than in any year since World War II.

In other economic news, Secretary of State Kissinger at a Paris conference repeated once again the old saw about the oil exporting countries, particularly the Arab states, supposedly being the cause of the recession. The same issue of the *Wall Street Journal* (Dec. 17) which carried this hackneyed fallacy also reported a survey by economist Kenneth Greenburg, of the Oppenheimer & Co., showing that the OPEC countries' purchases of U.S. plant and equipment are actually helping to cushion the effects of the recession in the U.S.