



# FIGHT BACK NEWS

P.O. Box 41502, Chicago, Ill. 60647

Vol 1, No. 1

Dec. 1977

Feb. 18 In Washington, D.C.

## MARCH FOR JOBS

Over 2,000 unemployed workers swamped Western Electric Corp. in Oklahoma City, responding to an ad for a mere 58 job openings. Several hundred even camped out overnight at the plant gate in below 30 degree weather on the hopes of filling out an application.

Occurrences like these are all too common in America today. Almost every major city has had similar situations.

Some 14 million people walk the streets without jobs. And the situation is getting more desperate, especially for minorities who are being hit with the brunt end of the crisis.

But why is there unemployment and who is to blame for the crisis?

It is the capitalist system that causes unemployment.

In order to maximize profits, the capitalists keep a large number of unemployed workers in reserve. This army increases the competition for jobs, keeping wages low allowing for higher profits.

At the same time, competition among the various capitalists and their drive for profits gluts the market with an overabundance of goods. The workers, who are getting poorer and poorer can't afford to buy the products they have made. So the companies close down or cut production, throwing thousands more into the streets.



*Fight Back! The masses of people in the U.S. are angry and ready to fight for JOBS OR INCOME NOW!*

At the height of the crisis, thousands of auto workers were laid off, while 2 million cars sat in lots in Detroit. Today, there is plenty of work to be done, like building adequate housing, yet unemployment is steadily rising.

The bosses are to blame for the crisis and they should pay for it, not workers and minorities. This is why the National Fight Back Organization (NFBO) is marching in Washington, D.C. to demand JOBS OR INCOME NOW!

Right now, minorities are getting hit with the full force of the capitalist offensive.

For hundreds of years, the bosses have raked in tremendous profits from the brutal exploitation of Black, Latino, Asian and other minority people. In the South, where the bloody oppression of Afro-Americans has meant huge profits, only 12% of the workers are unionized and wages are the lowest. This shows that white workers do not benefit from the bosses discrimination.

Today, by forcing the crisis mainly onto minorities, they stand to make even greater profits. Unemployment among minorities is extremely acute. It recently matched the highest rate since WWII—14.5% Minority unemployment is at least double the national rate.

This double oppression also stands out in stark contrast, when compared to unemployment among whites, which is 6.9% (below the national 7.0% rate).

Many thousands of minority workers have run out of their measly unemployment benefits and will never have a job.

Recent rulings, like the Bakke Decision are attempting to wipe out the gains won during the Civil Rights movement of the 60's. Affirmative action and special minority programs are being eliminated, under the cover of "reverse discrimination" against whites. More and more we see min-

(continued on page 4)

### Why We're Marching

Many people have asked us why we're going to Washington to march for jobs. The National Fight Back Organization would like to answer that question this way:

Millions of people are now unemployed, walking the streets desperate for work. And the situation is getting worse, not better.

That's why we're marching for jobs!

The government keeps cutting back on unemployment benefits—from 65 to 52 to 39 weeks. Yet more people are out of work for longer periods of time than ever before.

That's why we're marching for jobs!

We're tired of waiting for Jimmy Carter and the other politicians to provide jobs. We can't eat their lies and false promises.

That's why we're marching for jobs!

The bosses claim that foreign workers and "illegal aliens" are "stealing American jobs." But no Japanese worker ever laid us off—its U.S. Steel and Zenith that does that. The bosses are the real job stealers.

That's why we're marching for jobs!

Our union leaders haven't lifted a finger to fight layoffs and speedup and it's no wonder, considering the fat bribes most of them get from the companies. Meanwhile, thousands are being thrown out of work each month.

That's why we're marching for jobs!

Blacks and other minorities have twice as much unemployment as whites, and they're the "last hired and first fired." The capitalists use discrimination as a weapon to divide and keep all working people down.

That's why we're marching for jobs!

We the working people—employed and unemployed—have the power to raise a huge storm, a storm the ruling class hasn't seen in years. United together, we can force them to give us jobs, or an income so that we can live.

That's why we're marching for jobs. Join us!

### Crisis Hits Minorities Hard

Unemployment among Black and other minority workers is at its highest levels since WWII. There are currently 1,570,000 minority workers receiving unemployment benefits. This of course doesn't include the millions of unemployed minorities who are unable to collect benefits.

The rate of increase in unemployment from 1974 to 1977 is 46% for minorities—double that of whites, which is 22%.

Since unemployment benefits are based on the amount earned while working, national oppression shows up in the size of the unemployment check. Black and other

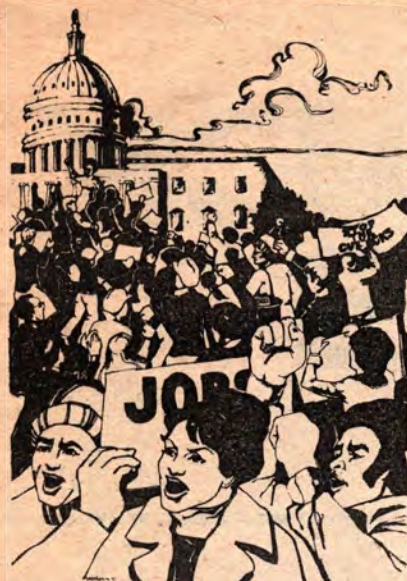
minority workers get lower benefits due to their concentration in lowest paying jobs.

To compensate for these low benefits for minorities, the NFBO demands a liveable income for all unemployed and special jobs programs in minority communities.

The NFBO raises specific demands around the general program of JOBS OR INCOME NOW that fight national oppression. Taking up particular demands against discrimination and national oppression are the key factor in waging a united struggle for JOBS OR INCOME NOW.

NEWSPAPER OF THE  
NATIONAL FIGHT BACK ORGANIZATION





## Jobs March Sponsors List

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## What Is The NFBO ?



1300 people listen to Odis Hyde address the founding Conference of the National Fight Back Organization, Dec., 1975.

The National Fight Back Organization (NFBO) is a coalition of groups and individuals of all nationalities and many different beliefs. We are all united in wanting to fight the attacks by the capitalist system against working class, poor and minority people.

The NFBO's main campaign since it was founded in 1975 by 1,300 delegates in Chicago, has been the fight for Jobs Or Income Now. Why? Because unemployment and a falling standard of living is the most pressing problem facing the masses of people in the U.S. today. And the only way to deal with this problem is to fight the system responsible for it.

Chapters and affiliates of the NFBO work in most major cities. In Boston, we are fighting to open up 500 new jobs at Boston City Hospital. In Atlanta, we are aiding the struggle of Black workers fired by Delta Airlines. Their demand is for immediate rehiring of all fired workers and an end to discrimination. The Southern Conference Educational Fund, an affiliate of the NFBO, is playing a leading role in this Southern battle.

We have also fought for the freedom

of Gary Tyler, a Black youth framed for murder, now sitting in Louisiana's infamous Angola Penitentiary. We have fought everyday against deportations, police terror, the KKK, welfare and unemployment cuts, for the rights of women and minorities and supported those still working in the factories.

Recognizing that the enemy of working people in this country is the same enemy faced by people around the world, we have supported the struggle of the third world for independence and national liberation. We oppose the attempts of the two superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR, to lead us working people into another bloody war.

Our program is based around three main slogans: Jobs Or Income Now, End Discrimination against Minorities and Women and Jobs Not War—End Super-War Preparations.

Who can join the NFBO? Anyone who wants to see an end to injustice, anyone who wants to help build an organization to fight against the capitalist system's attacks. If you want to fight back—JOIN US!

## BRIEFLY ...

### Workers Battle Delta

Atlanta, Ga.—Daily picket lines at the main offices of Delta Airline, the largest in the South, are demanding the rehiring of over 50 Black workers fired within the last year.

Led by the Committee Against Racial Discrimination at Delta (CARDAD), which was initiated by Delta workers and the Southern Conference Educational Fund, the workers are fighting discrimination as an integral part of the campaign to get their jobs back.

Delta is the only major airline that is non-union and has a long history of discrimination and firing workers who are struggling for better working conditions. The bosses create these divisions of workers—by nationality and sex—in order to continue their exploitation of all of us.

The National Fight Back Organization

has laid plans to step up the fight against Delta's discrimination. On Nov. 19 the bosses at Delta will be confronted with militant demonstrations all across the country against their racist policies and in support of the fired workers in Atlanta.

"We're going to show them that the workers in Atlanta don't stand alone," said an NFBO organizer. "They have the support of poor and working people all across the U.S."

### Protests Hit Klan & Migra

San Ysidro, Cal.—Over 1,000 people angrily rallied at the border here, protesting against Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who helped the Immigration and

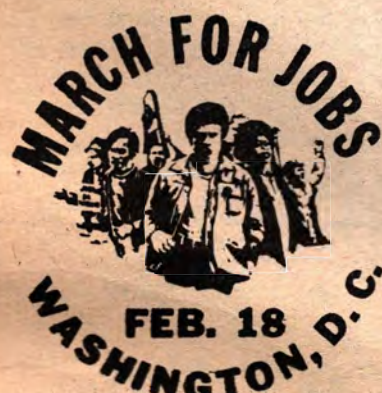
Naturalization Service (INS) in rounding up undocumented workers.

The Klan, which has a long and bloody record of attacks against Black people, has now decided to help the INS carry out its fascist deportations of undocumented workers.

These Klan patrols at the border also served to expose Carter's phony "amnesty plan" for undocumented Mexican workers. While offering citizenship to only 5% of undocumented workers in the U.S., the plan gives the go-ahead to increased deportations of hundreds of thousands each year.

The demonstrators condemned the close working relationship being built between the Klan and the INS—known as the "Migra" to Chicanos and Mexicanos.

"Deportations have never created a single job for U.S. workers," said a Fight Back member. "We will fight all attacks and attempts to blame foreign-born workers for unemployment."



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# POOR AND WORKING WOMEN ASK: WHOSE "RIGHT TO LIFE" ?

When Jimmy Carter recently called for an end to federal funds for abortion, he shed a lot of crocodile tears for the "right to life." But several recent incidents show that Carter and his backers are using the "right to life" slogan to cover-up the continuing oppression of working class and minority women.



"Abortion is a woman's right!"

\*Four women from Texas, denied Medicaid funds, went to a border town for cheap abortions. One of them died and two are seriously ill from complications.

\* Three women at a Bethlehem Steel plant in Indiana were forced to get abortions rather than lose their jobs and hospitalization benefits when they became pregnant.

\* A Native American woman in Pittsburgh discovered she'd been sterilized without her knowledge. "Socio-economic reasons" were listed as grounds for the operation.

Where is the government's concern for the right to life of these women and tens of thousands like them throughout the country?

The fact is the capitalists only concern is their "right" to make huge profits off women as a cheap labor force. In order for women to be available as second-class

workers, they must be second-class citizens in general. So the system steps up its attacks on the democratic rights of women in every sphere, including childbearing.

The right to abortion is a reform won through years of hard struggle by millions of women. The Hyde Amendment, which would cut off funds for abortion to poor women, even in cases of rape, is just the beginning in a drive to make abortion not only expensive, but illegal. As always, the attack comes down first on the poor, and will especially affect minority women.

The hypocrisy of the anti-abortion stand of the government becomes clear when you examine the reasons why most women seek abortions. Soaring unemployment and inflation make it increasingly hard to afford more children. The crisis has forced women to take jobs, yet badly needed child care is being cut back. What minimal pregnancy benefits do exist could

be wiped out by a Supreme Court decision last year which ruled that pregnancy is not a disability.

At the same time that women face attacks on the right to abortion, forced sterilizations are also increasing. Over 25% of all Native American women will never be able to bear children, thanks to the "health programs" of U.S. imperialism. In the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico, over one-third of all women of child-bearing age have been sterilized.

Poor women will continue to be forced to seek abortions—legal or not. Thousands of women died or were seriously injured from backroom operations before abortion was legalized. This makes it all the more important to support the right to safe legal abortions, while fighting to end all forced sterilizations and attacks on pregnancy benefits.

## WAR NO SOLUTION TO CRISIS

Everyday we can hear the politicians and press carrying on and on about "detente" and promising us a "new era of peace." Yet we know full well that war has always been the bosses' "solution" to past economic crises.

While the two superpowers—the U.S. and the USSR—hold their SALT talks and prattle about disarmament, at the same time, they're carrying out wild arms expansion with record "defense" spending every year. This year's arms budget alone is estimated at more than \$120 billion. Around the world, the sharpening contention of the two superpowers is bringing us to the brink of another world war.

Can the mad arms race with the Soviet Union provide jobs for the unemployed? Can it put an end to the economic crisis? Is a new world war the way out?

The answer to all these questions is no! The first two world wars didn't solve these problems. They began as attempts by the big imperialist powers to redivide the world among themselves, using workers and unemployed as their cannon fodder. Only in the sense of destroying the lives of millions of people do these kinds of wars do away with unemployment.

The bosses' aggressive war in Indochina did nothing to solve the problems of the American people. In fact, while causing horrible destruction in Vietnam, they were at the same time throwing millions of U.S. workers onto the streets without jobs; depriving minorities of their basic rights and spiraling the cost of living to new heights. Millions of workers, students and women eventually joined with the heroic Vietnamese people demanding an end to the vicious aggression in that unjust war.

Upon their return from Vietnam, thousands of GIs found themselves with no work. Many were maimed and crippled. Thousands did not return at all. Now the same bosses who led us into Vietnam are preparing for a new world war. But they will be met with even greater resistance from the people than they saw during the

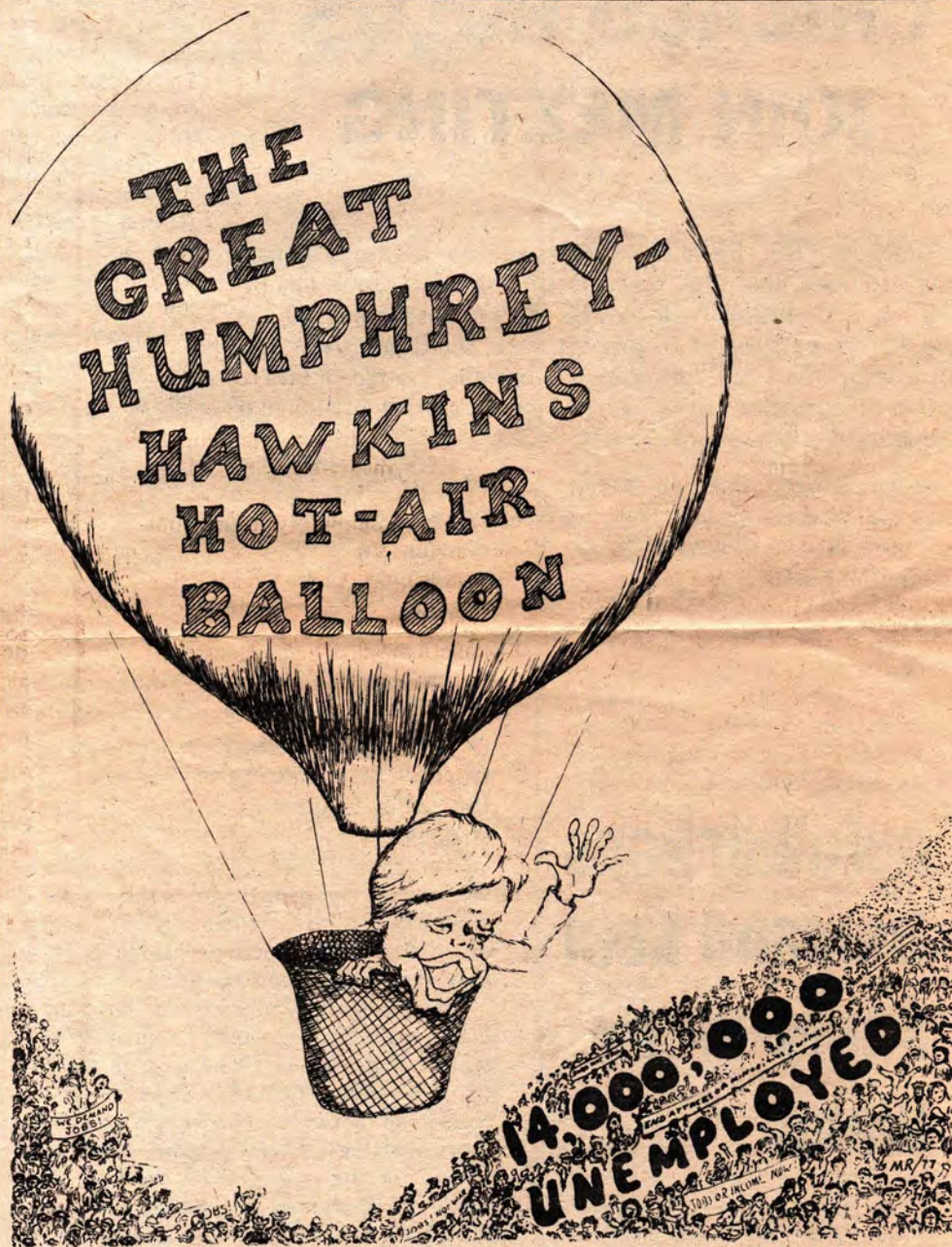
Vietnam era.

The February 18 march in Washington is also a March to let Carter and company know that we oppose the growing war danger and refuse to accept it as a solution to our problems. Our fight is here at home for an end to this system of war and oppression. The National Fight Back Organization is saying clearly, WE WANT JOBS, NOT WAR!

We oppose the massive superpower war preparations being carried out under the rhetoric of "detente"!

We want jobs for all, including war veterans and the unconditional upgrading of bad discharges that resulted from the mass protest of the war!

Join us in our struggle for peace, economic security and justice for oppressed peoples here and around the world.



### Milwaukee Fight Back Says:

## KILL "PAY FOR WORK" PROGRAM

**Milwaukee, Wis.**—Over 250 people jammed a recent Milwaukee County Budget hearing, demanding a halt to the Pay for Work forced-work program.

Pay for Work was introduced two years ago requiring all "able bodied" workers on general assistance to apply for work. People are then forced to work for \$2.00 an hour with no benefits. If any refuse the jobs, they are cut from all benefits.

The choice is simple—work for slave wages or starve.

When the program first started, it didn't

seem that bad. People signed up for work but never got jobs because the County and welfare department couldn't find any.

But in the last year they have been able to find jobs by laying off union workers and replacing them with Pay for Work participants. In the last year 550 union jobs have been replaced by workers who make \$2.00 an hour with no benefits.

Now the County is planning to expand Pay for Work by cutting all general assistance funds. They claim they have no money.

But a speaker from the Milwaukee Fight Back exposed the County's lack-of-money

lie. Facts from past budgets show that it has never been a question of not having the money, but who gets it.

"While the County has laid off workers, cut social service programs and forced the unemployed into slave labor jobs," he pointed out, "they have been spending money left and right on programs and projects that benefit themselves and their rich friends."

Several County supervisors spent \$7,500 in Las Vegas "studying recreation." This year they propose to spend \$208,000 to remodel their offices and \$50,000 to study why absenteeism is so high in some jobs.

The profits that stand to be made from the forced work programs and the contracts the government gives to private industry are huge. These union-busting and slave-labor programs show once again that the increase in wealth for the rich is directly related to the rise in poverty and misery for the workers.

But in the scramble for higher profits, they force the oppressed to take the only real course of action to stop these attacks—organize and fight to demand decent paying jobs or a liveable income. And the people of Milwaukee are doing just that!





## CHICAGO HOLDS JOIN MEETING

Chicago—Over 80 people representing many organizations attended the first meeting of the local Jobs Or Income Now Coalition here Nov. 6. Participants included the June 4th Committee of Humboldt Park; the Community Action Committee from New Albany, Indiana; Lettre Overte, a Haitian organization; the Chicago Fight Back Committee and representatives of welfare groups.

Mary Smith, pictured above, gave the opening speech from the Chicago Fight Back Committee. She called on all the oppressed of Chicago "to go all out in building for the Washington March."

# From Soweto To Washington Fight Back Grows Louder

The words "fight back" are not uncommon in another country, South Africa (Azania). There more than 20 million Africans and mixed nationality people have been waging a heroic struggle against the small racist ruling clique and its apartheid policies.

This 500 year old fight has intensified recently in the face of the most brutal repression and terror aimed at the entire Black population. The cold-blooded murder of Black activist leader Steven Biko brought the nazi-like terror of the white minority regime even more clearly into view. This brutal repression recently received the condemnation of the entire United Nations General Assembly.

For hundreds of years, the Azanian people have mined the gold and other precious metals out of the ground of their resource-rich country, only to have it grabbed away by the foreign monopolies, especially the U.S. corporations. In exchange for these giant superprofits, the U.S. especially has gladly propped up the racist regime, economically, politically and militarily.

The very same banks and giant monopolies who stand behind racism and oppression of

minorities here in the U.S. have helped to bolster it in Azania. The very same corporations who have thrown millions of working people out of their jobs here are investing hundreds of millions into South Africa's slave-like enterprises.

This has remained unchanged despite UN sanctions against South Africa and despite all the talk about "human rights" being spouted by the likes of Jimmy Carter and Andrew Young.

Without U.S. backing, military aid and investments, the small white racist ruling clique in South Africa couldn't last a week.

The recent wave of verbal U.S. criticism has only come after the Azanian people's struggles and especially the armed revolutionary movement of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) and other freedom fighters have begun to shake the very foundations of racist rule. From the student demonstrations in Soweto to the guerrilla war in the bush country, the Azanian people's struggle is winning victories every day. No matter how much the regime resorts to fascist terror, from the 1960 massacre at Sharpesville to



Azanian protesters carry casket of Steven Biko, in defiance of the white racist government.

the recent arrest of thousands, it cannot save itself.

So when we say "fight back" in the streets of Washington D.C. we will not only be pushing forward the struggle for our rights, but voicing our solidarity for our brothers and sisters in Azania on the front lines of the struggle against our common enemy.

VICTORY TO THE  
AZANIAN PEOPLE!  
DOWN WITH THE RACIST  
VORSTER REGIME!

## Autoworkers Demand Real Short Work Week

Detroit—The fight for a genuine short work week with no cut in pay is picking up steam among auto workers here, despite the schemes of the UAW leadership to cool out the struggle.

In these times of economic crisis, workers see the demand for a short work week as a way to fight not only the speed-up in the plants, but the growing unemployment in the streets as well.

For every hour of work reduced in the plants, new workers would be hired on to replace them—workers who used to be in the unemployment lines. Since no one would get a pay cut under the genuine short work week plan, the bosses would be paying for the new jobs. No worker currently on the job would suffer from this plan.

Last month, rank-and-file auto work-

ers got a chance to see first hand what UAW President Doug Fraser's heralded "short work week plan" really meant. What they saw, they didn't like. Fraser's plan was only a trick designed to make auto workers give up their demand for a genuine short work week.

The plan consisted of "giving" every worker 12 additional days off for the remaining two years of the contract. This means that on any given day, there would be 20,000 vacancies on the shop floor.

"Thousands of additional workers will be put on the payroll," Fraser claimed. But the truth was an entirely different matter.

So far, not a single new worker has been hired to fill any of the 20,000 vacancies. The Big Three auto makers in Detroit have openly admitted this. Some have also admitted laying off even more workers.

What do auto workers, therefore, gain by the UAW misleaders so-called "short work week" scheme? More speedup, not less. More job combinations, not less. And the same or even more back breaking overtime.

Rank-and-file workers on the shop floor have met these attacks with slowdowns on the line. In one Chrysler plant, workers on a feeding line slowed down production from 10 jobs per hour to just three or four.

Whatever happens with Fraser's plan, it hasn't been able to squash the struggle for a genuine short work week with no cut in pay.

In fact, support is growing for the shorter work week and will be one of the main demands of the Feb. 18 March for Jobs in Washington.

## ... JOBS

ority workers being laid off in huge numbers from industries it took years of struggle to get into.

Racist hirings and promotion practices, growth in the KKK and segregationist movement, along with the total denial of even the basic political rights are all part and parcel of the special oppression of minorities.

The NFBO opposes the oppression of national minorities. We demand AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS IN HIRING, PROMOTION AND ANY PROGRAMS THAT CREAT JOBS and SMASH THE BAKKE DECISION. We call on all workers to unite not only against unemployment, but also against attacks on minority people.

### FIGHT BACK

To the millions of workers and minorities hit by this crisis we say there is a way to make the bosses pay—fight like hell for jobs or a liveable income.

The capitalists have never given us a thing. The only way workers and minorities ever won even the few crumbs the rich have conceded us was by fighting tooth and nail.

In the 1930's a fight back movement swept the country. Millions strong, it backed the bosses against the wall forcing the government to establish unemployment compensation, social security and jobs.

Today, all the promises and programs



Philadelphia Fight Back demands improved mass transportation.

of the capitalists and their politicians like Carter and Humphrey and the trade union bureaucrats such as George Meany are a sham. Just look at the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, which they all support.

This bill, while claiming to lead to "full employment by 1983," doesn't create one single job. In fact, it considers "full employment" to be actually 4% unemployment. It doesn't appropriate a single red cent to begin providing jobs and claims that inflation, not unemployment, is the number one problem today.

This is not the kind of "program" the masses of starving people need.

If you want to fight for jobs, against discrimination and national oppression; if you know that the only answer of the workers lies in a massive fight back against the capitalist system, JOIN US. If you know it's either Fight or Starve, JOIN US!

MARCH IN WASHINGTON D.C., Feb. 18, when thousands of workers and minorities will be demanding JOBS OR INCOME NOW—MAKE THE BOSSES PAY!