

Bulletin

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MAY 3 1974
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TWICE A
WEEK!

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

VOLUME TEN NUMBER TWENTY FOUR 360

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1974

FIFTEEN CENTS

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BY MELODY FARROW

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While the Nixon administration steadily and deliberately drives down the living standards of the working class, the major corporations are reporting record profits. In the period between 1972 and 1973, corporate profits went up 27 percent.

These massive price increases are just the beginning of a new wave of inflation that will soon hit when the price increases in raw materials and basic industrial commodities reach the retail level.

This is why the trade unions must call an emergency Congress of Labor to launch a fight to force Nixon out of office now, and replace him with a labor

party pledged to carry out socialist measures to combat the economic crisis.

Both the Democratic and Republican Parties are conspiring in this attack. As long as this government remains in power, workers are threatened with a massive destruction of living standards, unequalled in history.

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Not only has fuel and oil gone up 5.3 percent, but nearly one-half of the 1.3 percent rise in February was in goods other than food and fuel.

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American workers are being forced to pay for a massive export drive of US goods abroad that is driving up prices on the domestic market while shortages continue to worsen.

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(Continued On Page 12)

In The Weekend Edition

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•"Long Live The Ethiopian Revolution"—Statement of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

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The evidence against Nixon is now so overwhelming that he is prepared to do anything to prevent more material from coming to light.

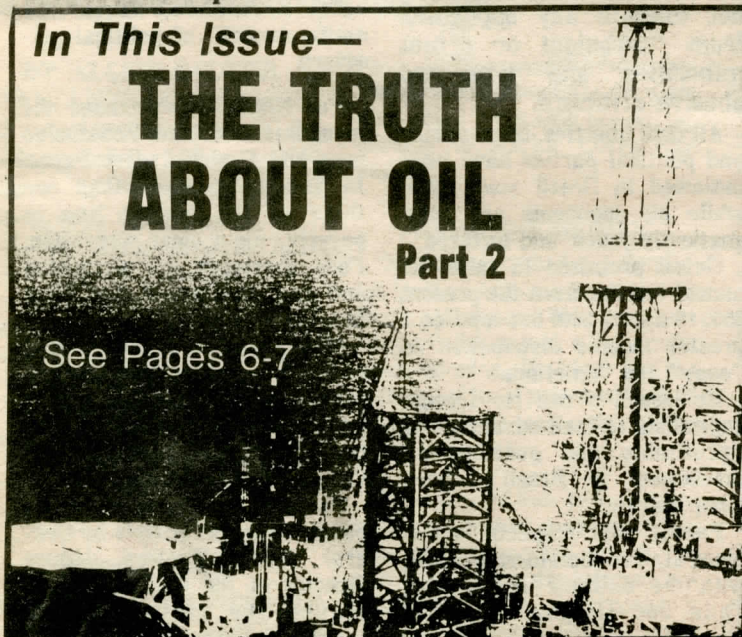
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THE TRUTH ABOUT OIL Part 2

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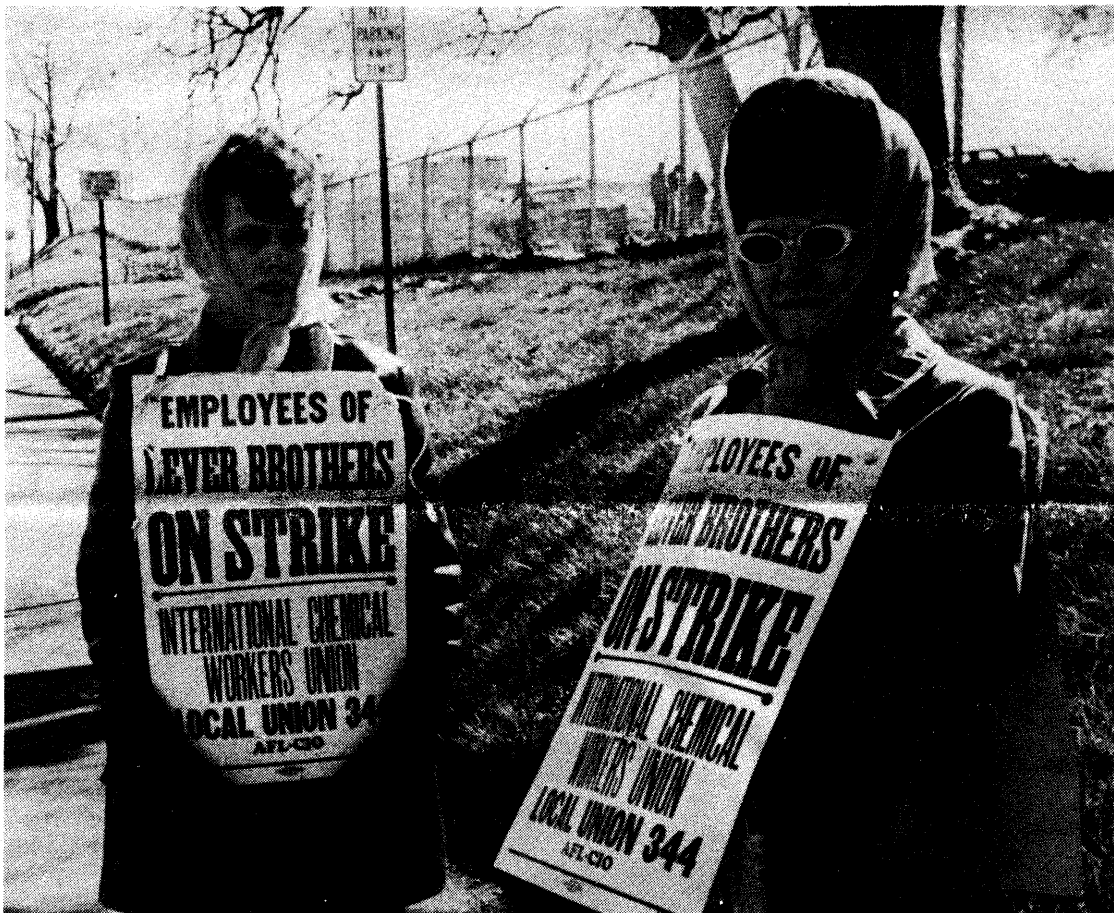
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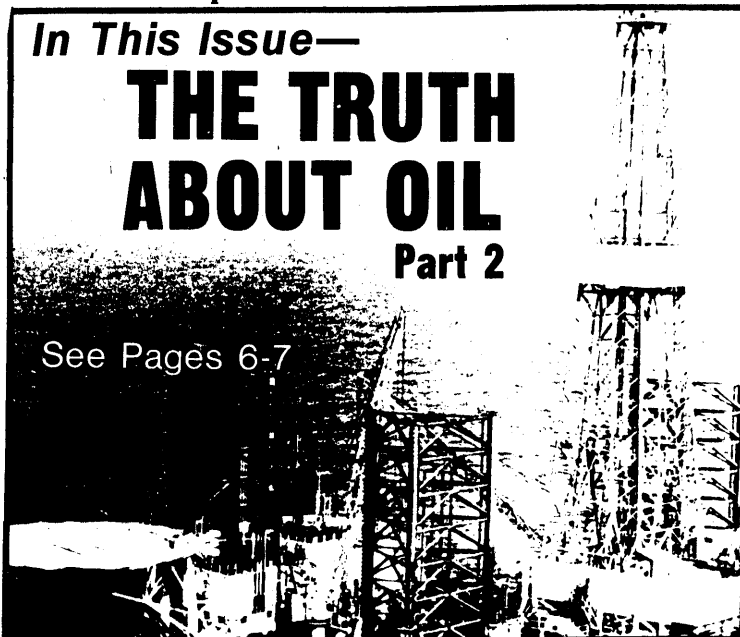
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Dayton Auto Conference—A Critical Step Forward

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, the industrial arm of the Workers League, will be holding its national auto conference in Dayton, Ohio on March 31 at a critical turning point for all auto workers.

Nixon and the big corporations have launched a propaganda campaign to deceive workers into thinking that with the lifting of the Arab oil embargo, the worst of the unemployment is over.

Nixon's economists are churning out daily reports to the press, claiming that production will be back to normal by the end of 1974.

**What
We
Think**

The statement of General Motors Chairman Richard Gerstenberg that 27,000 workers scheduled for layoff this month will be recalled because of an improvement in sales,

is a cynical hoax.

The cancellation of these layoffs is a publicity stunt, designed to cover the real plans of GM and all the auto manufacturers who are now gearing for permanent layoffs on a scale far greater than anything before it.

In fact, the ending of the embargo has only exposed that the oil crisis acted to intensify a far more fundamental economic crisis that is now beginning to hit with full force in every industry, especially auto.

The claims of Ford and GM that they are closing fewer plants than expected is a smokescreen for an actual sharp increase in long term, permanent layoffs.

At the same time, the rate of exploitation, speedup and attacks on working conditions are being brutally stepped up.

It is now clear that the partial layoffs from the beginning were only a small part of a vast plan of cutbacks and reorganization needed by the auto companies to restore their falling profits and compensate for a real decline in production.

Auto workers now face a period of intense struggles to defend their jobs, conditions, and wages in a situation where the Woodcock leadership of the United Auto Workers Union accepted the unemployment and has allowed Nixon to take away every basic right.

We are calling on all auto workers to attend the Dayton TUALP conference which will launch a nationwide fight to build an alternative revolutionary leadership in the UAW that will lead a fight for a nationwide strike against the layoffs and speedup. The unemployment facing auto workers is the result of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system of production, whose drive for profits brings it into collision with the basic needs of the working class. Today every industrial country is conducting a ruthless trade war to increase exports.

What all workers now face is a full-scale recession combined with a rate of inflation that will surpass even the price rises of the past year.

The oil companies are already announcing that the end of the embargo will have no effect on prices and in fact that the price of gas will continue to rise.

The inflation is now reaching the stage where it threatens a complete breakdown in the very process of production itself.

Prices for all basic raw materials such as steel, metals, and paper are skyrocketing. This means that not only will workers see a new surge of price increases in the finished goods but buyers will refuse to pay the high prices, leading to a fall in orders and the collapse and bankruptcy of whole sections of industry, threatening millions of workers with unemployment.

The breakdown in production can be seen not just in auto but in the airlines which recently announced they faced bankruptcy unless drastic cutbacks were instituted, and in the increasing layoffs in steel.

This unemployment will now be used deliberately by the capitalists to divide the working class, and weaken the power of the trade unions.

The bitter struggles in auto, particularly at the Lordstown plant, demonstrate that there is no way forward under the Woodcock leadership and that isolated partial strikes will solve nothing.

The Dayton auto conference of TUALP will be an essential step in constructing the revolutionary party throughout basic industry.

In Dayton we must draw the lessons of these struggles and take it forward in the building of a new leadership based on the policies of the Workers League to unite the working class against Nixon and against the capitalist system.

This leadership will lead the fight for a labor party based on socialist policies to nationalize auto and all industries under workers control and in this struggle expose and throw out the Woodcock bureaucracy.

We urge all auto workers to register now for the TUALP conference this Sunday in Dayton to begin this critical fight.

British Labour Party Defends Wage Laws

BY A REPORTER

The new Labour government in England, after barely two weeks in office has repudiated every election pledge made to British workers.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson, has moved to maintain the two most despised pieces of legislation brought in by the former Tory government, the state pay laws and the Industrial Relations Act.

Employment Secretary, Michael Foot, has announced that wage controls will remain and instructed unions to keep their pay demands within the seven percent limit established by the Tories.

Under the Industrial Relations Act, the government has jailed trade unionists for picketing such as the Shrewsbury building workers, and has levied huge fines against union treasuries.

The leadership of the Trades Unions Congress (British AFL-CIO) has made a secret deal with Foot to keep the pay laws, while inflation is officially soaring over 20 percent a year.

The Labour government has abandoned any mention of fighting inflation or of nationalizing industries. The Labour government is clearly going to carry out the very policies for which the Tories were thrown out of office by British workers. Former Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath dropped a challenge to Wilson in Parliament, after the Labourites announced their support for the pay

laws. The Tory press is now openly supporting the Labour government.

At the same time, Labour Foreign Minister James Callaghan, has announced a foreign policy that will tie Britain closely to the United States. He urged the "fullest and most intimate cooperation" with the

to American intervention in the European economies.

There are already indications that the Labour government will oppose the upcoming meeting between the nine Common Market countries with the Arab nations to discuss joint economic and political deals.

The Labour government has no

Greek Trotskyists Arrested By Junta

The Greek military dictatorship claims to have arrested five leading members of the Workers International League, Greek section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

They also report the arrest of ten leaders of the Communist Youth of Greece and the Anti-Dictatorship Union of Greek Students which played a leading role in the recent student demonstrations.

In all, 42 militants in Salonica and Piraeus were arrested on March 13.

Reuter quoted the regime's Under Secretary of Press and Information, Demetrios Karakostas, as saying, "five leading members of the outlawed Trotskyist organization 'International Labor Association' were arrested in Piraeus."

Karakostas claims that during the last two months the organization had sent the International Committee in London 360,000 drachmas (about \$14,000).

This statement is a lie that reveals that the regime is preparing frameup charges against those arrested. The International Committee has received no such money from any source in Greece.

The Workers League demands the immediate release of all those arrested. We urge all working class organizations to send protests to the Greek embassy.

US, and declared that the defense alliance between Europe and America could not be maintained without agreement on trade, financial, and energy policies.

Aides to Henry Kissinger have visited Labour Party leaders in an attempt to use Britain to break up the growing opposition of the Common Market countries

policy to meet the deepening economic crisis, except to foist the burden of the crisis on the backs of the working class. The Tories intend to use the Labour Party to institute huge slashes in workers living standards and then move to oust Wilson from office.

These policies will bring the Labour government into a rapid collision with millions of workers.

The Workers Revolutionary Party is calling on all trade unionists to demand an Emergency Conference of the Labour Party, to carry forward the struggle for socialist policies and in this way expose the Labour leaders and construct the revolutionary party.



Brazil's population lives in miserable hovels.

A Nixon Welcome To Brazil Dictator

BY MELODY FARROW

The first official statement of Brazil's new military ruler, General Ernesto Geisel, confirms that he will continue the ten-year tradition of brutal repression over the Brazilian people.

Geisel declared he would not tolerate any opposition from "turbulent or errant minorities" and "lying and abusive criticism."

All civil liberties, trade unions and political parties have been outlawed in Brazil since 1964, while all opponents are automatically jailed and tortured.

Geisel promised to raise the annual income from the present \$500 to a bare \$600 but opposed a greater income distribution as "easy" and "emotional."

He issued a call for foreign capitalists to take advantage of "profitable and guaranteed" investment in Brazil's cheap labor market.

Paying their respects to this blood-stained dictatorship, along with the military dictators of Chile and Uruguay was Pat Nixon.

The United States was instrumental in overthrowing the Goulart regime in 1964 and many Brazilian generals, including Geisel were trained in the US at the Army Command and General Staff College.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has just completed a four-year investigation on torture in Brazil and will document at the April meeting of the Organization of American States, "specific cases of torture, abuse and maltreatment" of political prisoners.

Pat Nixon also attended the inauguration of new Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez. In Venezuela, more than one third of the people live in poverty, many near starvation. Food shortages are worsening and one quarter of the work force is unemployed.

More than half of the children under five suffer from malnutrition and the mortality rate is growing every year. Forty percent of the population of Caracas live in hovels.

Pat was accompanied in her South American travels by General Vernon Walters, deputy director of the CIA which has played the major role in propping up these governments.

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Defense Secretary Schlesinger reviewing colors at Pentagon ceremony.

Nixon Warns Europe On Trade Deals

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
President Nixon, speaking in Chicago last week, attacked the European Common Market countries and threatened to cut back on US military support to Europe.

Nixon's speech reveals that the struggle between Europe and America, which has escalated over the Middle East oil crisis, is now approaching an open split.

Nixon declared: "We are not going to be faced with a situation where the nine countries of Europe gang up against the United States—the United States which is their guarantee for security."

Making it very clear what the US expects from its European competitors, Nixon announced, "Whether it's in the field of trade or whether it's in any other field, it is essential that we get what I would say is a fair break for our producers, just as we try to give a fair break to their producers."

Relations with the European nations have now reached such a state of tension that Nixon has cancelled a scheduled April trip to Europe.

US imperialism is demanding that its European competitors make major concessions to

benefit the American trade drive. They seek European agreement to drop restrictions on US goods, as well as a significant European contribution to the US balance of payments by helping to finance US troop presence.

In addition, the United States is insisting on world wide hegemony over oil and demands that the Europeans follow its lead and agree to halt barter arrangements with the Arab states.

Although the February energy conference in Washington resulted in France opposing the United States alone, several weeks later the Common Market unanimously announced that it would seek an economic and political agreement with 20 Arab states.

Following Nixon's threats in Chicago, the Labour government in Britain immediately declared its agreement with Nixon's remarks. This was followed by a proposal from the German government to permit the US to see Common Market documents before decisions are reached.

But despite this apparent retreat, economic and political differences are now too sharp to make any real compromise possible. The US is determined to make Europe bear the brunt of the coming recession.

The US presently stations over 300,000 troops in Europe, and a vast array of nuclear weapons and tactical aircraft. The threat of military withdrawal is meant as a sharp reminder to the European capitalists that the US intends to wheel and deal with the Soviet bureaucracy, at their expense while it prepares for military intervention in the Middle East.

A new stage of bitter struggle between the US and European capitalists is now inevitable.

US Missile Buildup Preparation For War

BY A REPORTER

At a news conference prior to his departure for talks with the Soviet Union in Moscow, Secretary of State Kissinger declared: "We are going there at a more difficult period than at some previous visits."

Kissinger's statement came only a few days after President Nixon accused the Common Market countries of refusing cooperation on trade and acting independently of the US. Nixon threatened his European allies with a reduction in American military support.

Behind the breakup of relations with Europe and the increasing tensions with the Soviet Union, the United States is stepping up its preparations for war.

Congress is now debating the largest military budget in history totalling \$92.6 billion in supplementary appropriations.

Increasingly strident reports are being issued from the Pentagon about a Soviet war threat. "If the Soviet Union insists on moving ahead with a new set of capabilities, we will be forced to match them," Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger stated.

The Pentagon's military plans include a fleet of 10 nuclear submarines, armed with 24 missiles, each carrying 10 to 14 independently targeted warheads, a new bomber fleet to replace the present B-52 force, a maneuverable warhead that can be guided to its target, and two new missiles, one that can be installed in present silos and another that can be launched from a moving platform or an aircraft.

Research is also proceeding on first strike capability, to point missiles at Soviet military targets.

In Congressional hearings on the budget, Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations, asked the legislators to approve a \$37.5 million plan to expand harbor, runway, and fuel storage facilities for a US naval facility on the British owned island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

This island provides the US with easy access to the Middle

East. When questioned about it, Zumwalt declared that it was to deter "interference" with US interests. He listed those interests as access to oil supplies and other imported commodities.

He also declared that the US Navy assures "preservation of regimes friendly to the US through encouraging them by our presence. It's like the policeman on the beat."

A recent interview in US News and World Report with Admiral Noel Gayler, Pacific Naval Commander, makes it clear that the US is building up facilities in Japan, the Philippines, and Micronesia for intervention into Asia.

These military preparations are the true face of US

imperialism. Nixon's detente with the Soviet Union has been only a cover for the plans of American capitalism to defend its interests by force.

The Stalinists have eagerly cooperated with imperialism to hold back revolution while behind the scenes, the imperialists prepare military intervention.

In the Middle East, the Soviet bureaucracy failed to impose a settlement on Syria to pull back its troops on the Golan Heights because of overwhelming opposition by the Arab people. This is why the US has now stepped up war preparations.

This buildup reveals that capitalism in crisis can only resolve its crisis through war, fascism, and barbarism.

Oil Bill Forces Europe On Austerity Budget

BY A REPORTER

The skyrocketing inflation which is destroying the value of paper money internationally, is most sharply expressed in the quadrupled price of crude oil.

The recent decision of the Organization of Petroleum exporting nations to freeze oil prices at their present astronomical levels, means staggering balance of payments deficits for all the major industrial countries.

Every capitalist country must now resort to cutthroat trade measures and savage attacks on the living standards of the working class.

It is estimated that an additional \$62 billion will flow into the treasuries of the oil producing countries in 1974.

The French government recently announced a series of deflationary measures, aimed at cutting back on consumption and holding back imports. Prime Minister Messmer announced that "six years of austerity" would be required.

The French cabinet approved measures to cut back on the money supply, limit loans, and order early payment of income taxes to reduce spending. Workers were ordered to pay 43 per-

cent of their taxes by February 15, and another 43 percent in May.

The Italian government has moved to force interest rates up to 14 and 15 percent and cut back on imports as well.

The governments of Japan, France, Italy and Britain are all seeking to borrow huge amounts from the International Monetary Fund and the European banks to finance their trade deficits.

In every case the bankers are insisting on measures to increase unemployment, cut back on imports of basic food products and hold down wages, to force the working class to pay for these loans.

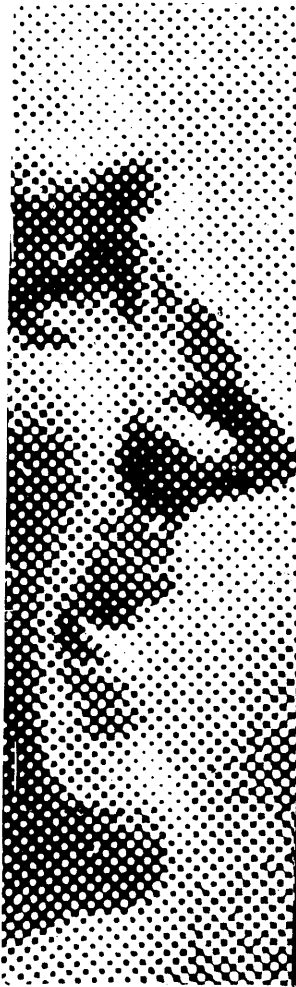
These loans and deficits can only be met by major increases in exports and the US is now moving to fight any export drive by its competitors.

Major support from big business is developing for trade war legislation directed against Europe and Japan.

In recent Senate hearings on Nixon's trade bill which would allow the administration to retaliate against any competitor, Senator Abraham Ribicoff warned that European countries will seek to pay for their fuel costs by "raiding the American market."

The desperate scramble for credit by the Japanese and European capitalists combined with US pressure to block them from

gaining markets, will create an explosion of struggles by the working class to defend its conditions against the new austerity measures.



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Bulletin Pamphlet Series **7**

Big Airlines Threaten Bankruptcy

BY A REPORTER

Pan American World Airways, the largest international passenger carrier in the United States, declared last week that it faces "massive losses" due to the tremendous rise in the cost of fuel.

The company asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for emergency authorization to begin talks with Trans World Airlines on the possibility of merging services for a number of European destinations.

Pan Am's announcement sent shock waves through the business community, because the airline's predicament is certainly shared by a large number of important firms which are being driven to the wall by inflation.

FUEL COSTS

Spokesmen for Pan Am stated that fuel costs this year were up to \$338.4 million, an increase of more than \$160 million from last year's cost of \$171.4 million.

"Without bold, new steps by Pan Am and TWA to restructure and consolidate their transatlantic services," declared a Pan American official, "both airlines will incur massive losses so large as to undercut their basic financial position and force discontinuance of vital international services."

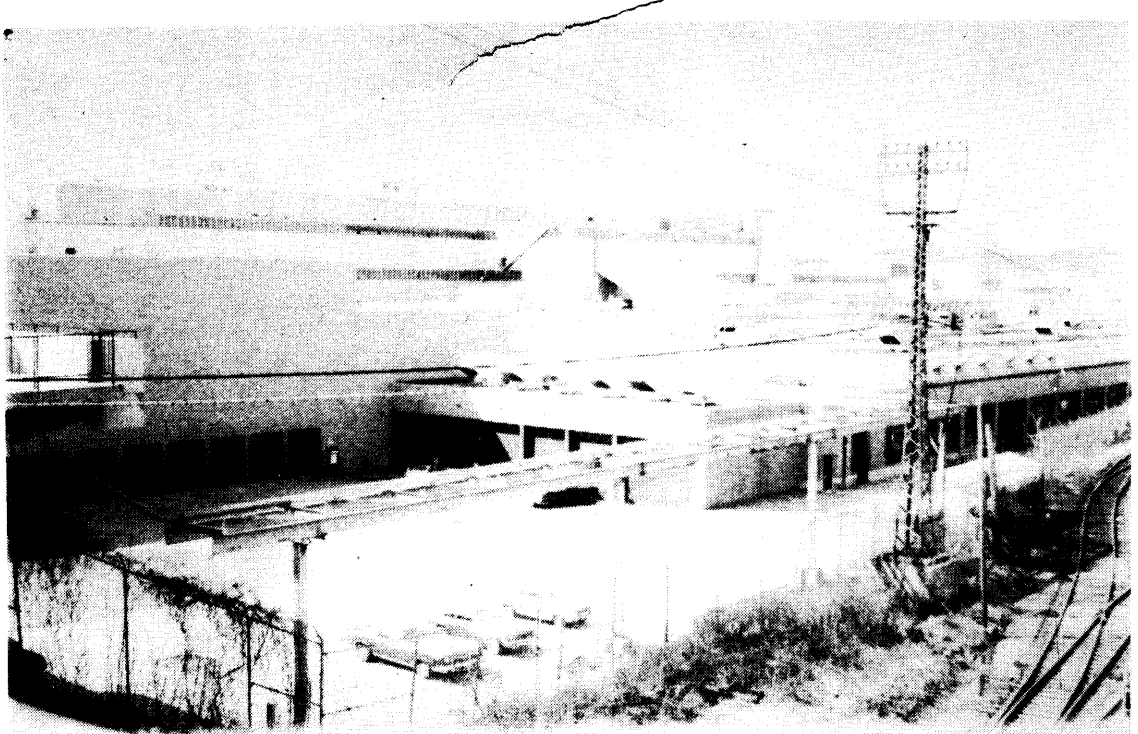
It appears that TWA is willing to enter into talks with Pan Am. One of its spokesmen stated that something has to be done to "relieve the terrible potential loss in international operations."

DRASTIC

Whatever the outcome of negotiations between Pan Am and TWA, the airlines are planning drastic cutbacks in services that will cost the jobs of thousands of workers.

The government is demanding a reduction of services, stating that it will not offer subsidies to Pan Am before the airline makes moves to slash expenditures.

CAB Chairman Robert D. Timm stated that: "It is my belief that the United States side of the international commercial aviation system should pay its own way as a self-sustaining business enterprise."



GM plant at Tarrytown, NY, where some layoffs have been cancelled. See page 12.

Transit Workers Demand Cost Of Living Increase

BY MITCH PATTERSON

NEW YORK, NY—Members of the Transport Workers Union voted overwhelmingly on Sunday to strike all public transportation if contract negotiations with the Transit Authority are not settled by March 31.

The union is demanding a 21.4 percent wage increase, a cost-of-living escalator clause, and a thirty hour

week. The present contract expires on March 31.

Many of the transport workers are prepared to strike if the cost-of-living clause is not included in their new contract.

International union President Matthew Guinan, and president of the largest TWU local Ellis Van Riper, are completely opposed to a strike. Riper stated, "To strike a wage figure now would be stupid."

The Bulletin spoke to several subway workers about the contract talks and the conditions under which they work. Willy, a member of the TWU for 17 years, said: "We have never and

we will never work without a contract. If we are not settled with the Transit Authority by the 31st, we will strike, and that is definite.

"We have never had a cost-of-living but we are going to get one this time. That is the important thing not the 21 percent wage increase. That would be gone with inflation in a few months.

"The facilities down here for the workers are the lousiest you can find. That is what we are mad about. There is not even hot water in our washrooms. I work in the tower and direct the trains. It is a skilled job. In the tower I freeze in the winter and burn in the summer.

'BLA' Leader Found Innocent

BY A REPORTER

The verdict of not guilty was delivered on March 21 by a New York State Supreme Court jury in the eight-week trial of Henry Brown, accused of murdering two policemen in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in 1972.

FRAMEUP

The trail was a frameup, from beginning to end. The prosecution, the police, and newspapers throughout the country aided the campaign to put Brown in jail for life by creating a hysteria over the Black Liberation Army. They claimed that Brown was a leader of the BLA which was allegedly established to murder policemen.

The events that took place at the trial expose how the government, through the courts, has sought to railroad militant youth

off to jail under the pretext of their membership in the "BLA."

"WITNESSES"

The prosecution's case depended on two witnesses who claimed that they were eyewitnesses to the murder of policemen Foster and Laurie. They declared under oath that they saw Henry Brown step up to the policemen and shoot them from point blank range.

The defense attorneys Sanford Katz and Gerald Lefcourt, proved that these two witnesses were working on a tomato farm in the southern part of Florida at the time of the killings, and that the prosecution had paid them to present false testimony to convict Brown.

Katz told the Bulletin "The prosecution used every opportunity they could to bring up the Black Liberation Army as a way

to convince the jury that Henry was guilty. They discussed things that were completely unrelated to the case to show that he was less than the most foul human being. As I said before the trial began, and as we proved during the trial, Henry Brown is an innocent man. He was in St. Louis at the time of the shootings."

BLA

Countless numbers of minority youth have been locked up in jails or gunned down in shoot-outs throughout the country because they were allegedly members of the BLA.

Brown was indicted last January 12, on charges of robbing a federal bank, and faces another trial for this in the near future.

He is currently serving a 25 year jail term after being convicted of shooting police officers in St. Louis, Missouri in 1972.



Henry Brown

Philadelphia Strike Enters Fourth Week

BY A REPORTER

PHILADELPHIA—A twenty day strike continues by trash collectors and haulers of Teamster Local 513 after rejection of an offer of \$1.10 an hour over three years.

A union official reported that the main objection to the contract is the inclusion of "flexible work schedules," which would make Saturday work at regular pay mandatory, and eliminate some overtime.

The haulers collect about 3 million tons of rubbish each day

from hospitals, plants, restaurants, and stores in the city. City Health Commissioner Louis D. Polk claims that the situation "is a serious, concerning nuisance but not yet a public health situation."

Albert Woodard, President of Teamster Local 513, said that no bargaining sessions were scheduled at Motor Transport Labor Relations, which negotiates for 13 private firms affected by the strike.

Woodard stated, "They know what we want. All they have to do is pick up the phone and we will sit down again."

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"Nixon can forget his 5.5 percent wage freeze. This time we will get what we want."

"As far as I am concerned" declared Leroy, a subway conductor, "we have to get the cost-of-living. The price of anything that you can buy is going up a few cents every day. I was not here in 1966 when the TWU went out on strike, but I know that the men felt like they do now. They feel that there is not much difference between the union leaders and the company.

"The union leaders recently raised our dues, so we better see some action on this contract. The conditions here are very bad. We work with faulty equipment. We write it up on the defect sheet, it goes into the barn, but it never gets fixed. It creates a lot of dangers for the men.

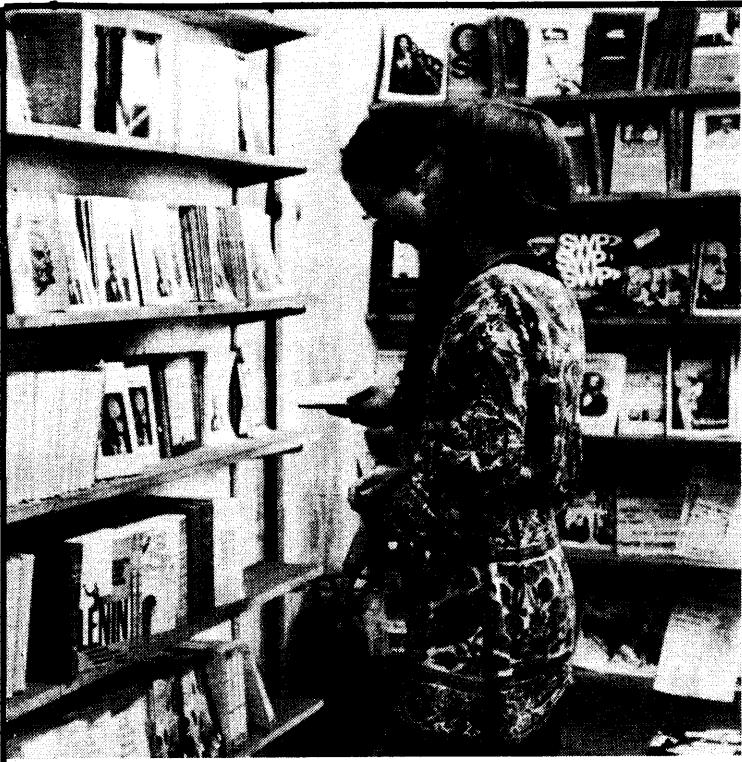
"Did you know that the Transit Authority pulled out the heat fuses in our cabins in order to save energy? The problem starts with Nixon though, not with the Transit Authority.

"Getting a raise in wages will not mean anything unless we win the 100 percent escalator. You must realize that I make \$240 a week but only take home \$160.

Also, who has worked for the Transit Authority for 31 years angrily stated, "I think that the negotiations have already been settled between the union leaders and the TA. They have done it before. They have been playing footsy with the TA for years. We want 100 percent cost-of-living. You notice how they tell us that they are asking for a "cost-of-living" but they do not say how much. It has to be 100 percent.

"We would all support a strike. We do not want it but we might have to do it. I know that I will vote for a strike on Sunday."

Marxist Literature And The Revolutionary Party



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BY DAVID NORTH
Labor Book Center, located at 135 West 14th Street, has assembled a wide selection of books in both English and Spanish to make available all the essential works of Marxism as well as a broad collection of historical and philosophical works. A branch of Labor Book Center in San Francisco carries the same selection.

As we enter a period of revolutionary struggles, the study of Marxism is critical in preparing a leadership of the working class. Open to all workers, youth and students, Labor Book Center will play an important role in encouraging a turn among these forces to a study of Marxism.

The importance of Labor Book Center can be better understood when we examine the role of Marxist literature historically in the United States.

The Trotskyist movement was founded when James P. Cannon and Maurice Spector smuggled out of Russia a single type-written copy of part of Trotsky's book *Third International After Lenin*. In the first weeks of their activity as a Trotskyist fraction within the American Communist Party they passed this copy around to individuals who read and returned it.

Cannon travelled to Philadelphia and elsewhere to recruit his early forces one by one. Within the first year of the movement, with less than 100 members, the American Trotskyists managed to publish this work as a book in a very limited edition.

During the 1930s, a period of terrible defeats of the working class in Europe, Trotsky's writings were an invaluable contribution to the training of revolutionary forces in the lessons of Stalin's betrayals.

With the Trotskyist cadres driven underground in Europe and the Soviet Union by the repression of fascism and Stalinism, the Socialist Workers Party

had a special responsibility for the publication of Trotsky's writings. The ability of the SWP to carry forward the struggle against Stalinism and develop forces in that period was based on the theoretical foundations of Trotsky's work.

So vital was the publicizing of Trotsky's works to the construction of the Marxist movement in that period that his articles and books were translated almost simultaneously from Russian into English.

In the period after the war there was a sharp decline in the amount of Marxist literature available. In the 1950s there existed in the United States only two works of Trotsky still in print, *The Revolution Betrayed* and *In Defense of Marxism*. Lenin's *Collected Works* had yet to be printed and a 10 volume, red-covered set of selected works was available only through used book stores.

Little of Marx was available. Only Volume One of *Capital* was in print. Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution* cost more than \$20 in a used book store if it could be found.

If we grasp Trotsky's struggle against Stalinism in the 1930s as the preparation for the revolutionary tasks posed to the working class today, it becomes all the more decisive for us to return to a study of these works as well as the new wealth of material available for the first time in English.

The greatest development of Marxist theory now becomes possible as we posit all the experiences of our daily struggle in the working class against all the past development of knowledge expressed in the literature of the Marxist movement.

The series of Trotsky's *Writings* from 1932 to 1940, which have been published by Pathfinder and are featured in Labor Book Center, constitute a vitally important contribution to Marxism. These articles include Trotsky's continuous assessment of the development of Stalinism—its role within the Soviet Union and internationally—and document his struggle to construct an international revolutionary leadership.

Particularly vital for today are those articles contained in

the volumes of *Writings* which deal with the problem of centrism within the workers movement. In the fight to build the Fourth International, Trotsky had to struggle against those who mouthed leftist phrases while refusing to break politically and theoretically with Stalinism and reformism. These forces opposed the construction of the Fourth International, and sought to hold back the development of a Marxist leadership in the working class.

We have also obtained from England an entirely new edition of Trotsky's *Revolution Betrayed*, the most fundamental analysis of the nature of the Soviet State and the Stalinist bureaucracy.

Both *The New Course* and *Lessons of October*, written by Trotsky in 1923 and 1924 respectively, are especially important. In these works, Trotsky fought against the conservative tendencies revealed in the bureaucratic strata of the Bolshevik Party in order to prepare the Russian party as part of the International for the next stage of the revolutionary movement of the European and world working class.

We must turn to these works as the working class enters a period of new Octobers, and draw the lessons of these works in the struggle to construct the revolutionary party.

Our collection of essential works of the Left Opposition includes the never before published *From N.E.P. to Socialism* by E. A. Preobrazhensky, a book which casts new light on the theoretical life of the Bolshevik Party. Written even before Stalin advanced the revisionist doctrine of "socialism in one country," Preobrazhensky's work examined the problems of building the planned economy of the Soviet Union within the framework of the country's backwardness and isolation and the struggle for revolution in the advanced industrial countries.

Labor Book Center will soon obtain the most fundamental work of the struggle to reform the Russian Communist Party before the expulsion of Trotsky, the *Joint Platform of the Left Opposition 1927*.

We will also obtain from England the *History of the Bolshevik Party*, a classic work by Zinoviev never before available in English and suppressed in the USSR for 40 years.

In addition to carrying all the basic works of Marx, Labor Book Center is also featuring the *Grundrisse*, in which the economic writings of Marx can be studied from the standpoint of the dialectical method which he so carefully developed as he prepared the foundations of *Capital*. Also available are the three volumes of Marx's *Theories of Surplus Value*.

In seeking to understand how the American working class will develop politically in this period, it is important that we study this particular development of the working class historically in this country as part of the international working class. This is why we have sought to assemble a wide range of titles on American labor history. In addition to standard works like Foner's *History of American Labor*, we are featuring splendid autobiographies like that of Mother Jones, the tireless champion of the coal miners who led strikes after her ninetieth birthday. We also carry the autobiography of the leader of the IWW, Big Bill Haywood.

At the same time, we are preparing our own volume of American labor history based on material which has appeared in the *Bulletin*.

Labor Book Center has also developed one of the most extensive collections of Marxist literature in Spanish available anywhere in the United States. We feel this is particularly important as thousands of American workers whose native tongue is Spanish turn toward Marxism in the course of their struggles against this government.

A large number of works by Marx may be obtained in Spanish at popular prices even though some of these titles are not yet available in English.

The full line of pamphlets published by the Workers League are sold in Labor Book Center. All these pamphlets are the product of the theoretical and political struggles of our movement internationally and within the United States. The *Perspectives for the American Revolu-*

tion, just released, is an important step forward in the fight to transform the League into a mass party. It represents the continuous struggle by the League for an understanding of the present crisis and to base all work to construct our movement on this understanding.

We have also just published *Britain Today—America Tomorrow* which includes the election manifesto of the Workers Revolutionary Party and a Workers League Political Committee statement on the situation in Britain. We consider this pamphlet so critical because American workers must draw lessons from the revolutionary struggles now developing in Britain in order to prepare for the same struggles here which will soon break out.

The fight for the sale of Marxist literature is an indispensable element in the struggle to build the revolutionary party. Any turn away from theory poses the greatest dangers to the Workers League at the very point when large forces can be brought forward from the working class.

Labor Book Center has made great strides in the recent period, reflecting the interest in theoretical questions among workers and youth entering political activities under conditions of great crisis.

The Sunday classes held in the Book Center have led to a tremendous leap in sales. During the classes on the books *What Is To Be Done?* by Lenin, *The New Course* and the current series on *The Revolution Betrayed*, about \$100 in literature has been sold after each class.

We urge all our readers to send away for our Catalog of Labor Publications, which lists and describes the full line of titles published by Labor Publications in the US and by New Park Publications in England.

Also available is our supplementary catalog which lists the full line of titles of Marxist literature, philosophy and labor history which may be obtained at Labor Book Center.

A third catalog lists the complete line of literature in Spanish which we are carrying.

We welcome all workers, students and youth to visit Labor Book Center.

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The oil industry and the capitalist press have attempted to place a major share of the blame for the oil crisis on the policies of the Arab oil producers.

They claim that the origin of the crisis lies with the increase in oil prices and the oil embargo imposed by the Arab oil producing countries.

This is a lie behind which they cover their own preparations for new wars of aggression to dominate the resources of the Middle East.

In fact no sooner has a temporary halt been called in the embargo than these same oil companies rush to declare that this will mean continued shortages and even higher prices.

It is the severance of the dollar from gold which is the real basis for the wild inflation that now reveals the billions of paper dollars and credit to be worthless, leading in turn to a collapse in production.

The ruling classes in the Arab countries, for all their weakness and subservience to imperialism, have been placed in the impossible situation of being forced to accept payment in dollars for their oil resources.

The Arab ruling classes, faced with the prospect of absorbing tremendous financial losses, were forced to retaliate to defend their own existence as capitalists.

This has combined with the massive movement of the Arab workers and peasants against imperialism and in support of the Palestinian people.

Every measure taken by the Arab rulers to defend itself now intensifies the crisis of the entire capitalist system.

At the same time, every blow the Arab rulers have been forced to strike against imperialist domination has meant a massive increase in confidence and determination among the Arab masses to carry through the fight.

This threatens the very ability of the weak and desperate Arab rulers to remain in power. At each point they attempt to pull back from the logic of their own policies, to hold back and defeat the movement of the masses.

It is this powerful movement of millions of Arab people against imperialism and the impossibility of resolving the capitalist crisis, which makes compromise and settlement of the Middle East crisis absolutely impossible.

It is this contradiction which has split the Arab rulers and forced every conference called to end the oil embargo, to break down.

American policy has guaranteed the bitter explosion of Arab nationalism and the hatred for American imperialism and Zionism throughout the Middle East.

Throughout the entire postwar economic boom, these countries were literally looted. Vast profits were taken out of the region while the Arab rulers remained totally dependent on their oil for all foreign exchange.

Despite all the wealth they provided the imperialists, economic development in the Arab countries stagnated and declined.

For the mass of people on the land, conditions were no better than during the time of Mohammed. The Arab rulers could do nothing to develop the economies of their countries.

Instead they remained totally dependent on the imperialists for all finished goods and food which were paid for at an inflated price based on the American price plus transportation, duties, transportation to the cities, import charges, wholesaling and retailing.

US "aid" to these countries amounted to little more than support to the military and to projects whose main purpose was to facilitate the production of oil such as roads, pipelines, and port development.

In addition the US moved to protect its investments by supporting reactionary feudal regimes and establishing Israel as an armed policeman in the Middle East.

But the present crisis is smashing all the old relationships, threatening the existence of the Arab bourgeois regimes, destroying Israeli dominance and endangering US oil control.

The capitalist crisis is now so deep that even the fantastic increase in oil revenues leaves the Arab rulers incapable of developing their own economies. In fact, precisely the opposite is the case.

Just as in the imperialist countries the Arab capitalist will only invest in what is profitable. The deterioration of the world monetary system has left the Arab rulers with massive currency reserves, which have no fixed value.

Just as the capitalists in the advanced countries who refused to develop oil production through long term investments, they are forced to join in the massive speculation in commodities and gold, intensifying the crisis of world capitalism.

In addition the very measures they are forced to take to defend their own incomes now rebound in the form of catastrophic increases in the prices of all finished goods.

We are only at the first stage of this crisis. Virtually everything produced requires the expenditure of energy. The massive increase in energy costs must ultimately reach the consumer as a wave of energy related price increases rolls through every sector of the capitalist economies. This threatens a collapse of purchases and a breakdown in production, provoking bankruptcies and mass unemployment.

The Arab rulers remain at the mercy of the oil monopolies. The "seven sisters" not only control 81 percent of the world's oil production, but about half of world tanker tonnage, refineries, and marketing facilities. Exxon alone controls 10 percent of the world market and operates the world's largest shipping fleet with 150 tankers.

Their policy, with the assistance of the Nixon administration, has been to pass on the price increases to the consumer, rake in record profits and maintain their stranglehold over world oil through their monopoly over every phase of its production and distribution.

At this stage, the oil companies are moving to take every advantage of the crisis. Not only do they record massive profits but the increases in Middle Eastern oil prices means bankruptcy for US competitors in Europe and Japan. The US is less dependent than its rivals on oil imports. The higher prices paid by its competitors for imported oil intensifies their balance of payments problems and threatens to price their goods out of the world market. Oil is now a devastating trade war weapon in the hands of American imperialism.

With such profits and such a weapon at stake, there will be no withdrawal of US imperialism from the Middle East.

The continued negotiations in the Middle East are a smokescreen behind which American capitalism prepares for new wars, in order to assert its total hegemony over world oil supplies.

The US Marine Corps is already receiving training in desert warfare in preparation for possible Middle Eastern intervention.

The declaration of a worldwide military alert by the US during the Arab Israeli conflict demonstrates that imperialism is willing to risk even a nuclear war to maintain this stranglehold.

Again it must be emphasized that the Arab countries are the victims of this crisis, not its cause. Behind it is the breakdown of the capitalist system of production itself.

Just as the American working class is now forced to battle the government to defend its basic rights, the Arab workers and peasants have been forced into a fight for survival.

The latest attempts to lift the oil embargo will be met with the bitter resistance of the Arab masses creating an even more perilous situation for the Arab rulers.

At the same time the lifting of the embargo will do nothing to resolve the economic crisis. Inflation can no longer be controlled and it is the entire system of capitalist production which is threatened with collapse by this crisis.

Every retreat of the Arab bourgeoisie will only intensify the US government's resolve to prepare Israel for a new round of war, and possibly its own intervention as well.

American workers have nothing to gain from this. The heroic resistance of the Arab workers and peasants has been directed at the same Nixon government which threatens the American labor movement with inflation and mass unemployment.

Solidarity with Arab workers and peasants is directly a matter of the political fight here to defeat the Nixon government.

Part Two

THE TRUTH ABOUT OIL



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by Jeff Sebastian

Why are the oil companies able to operate completely out of the control of millions of workers?

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Yet the president of Exxon when questioned about this, declared in front of a Senate investigating committee, "I am not embarrassed."

The oil industry is an integral part of American capitalism. The oil companies operate exclusively for the benefit of the handful of stockholders that control them, producing only for a profit rather than for the needs of the masses of people.

The top eight US oil companies are among the largest sixteen industrial corporations in the country.

The oil monopolies are the exclusive province of a tiny group of families, above all the Rockefellers who control Exxon and the Standard companies while the Mellons control Gulf.

This control is exercised through their domination of the largest banks, insurance companies, foundations, and trust funds which control at least a third of the stock.

And there is no question but that they have known what to do with the profits that have been pouring in.

Thus they have been rapidly diversifying into the coal, gas and uranium fields, creating a situation in which they compete with themselves for energy profits.

Exxon now owns the largest coal resources in the country. Occidental controls Island Creek Coal, and Atlantic Richfield holds 43 million coal acres of federal leases. Gulf Oil has grabbed up Pittsburgh and Midway Coal Company and Continental now owns Consolidation, the largest coal producer.

In uranium the oil companies have 40 percent of the milling capacity and 45 percent of the reserves. ARCO and Kerr-McGee dominate refining of the ore, Exxon and Gulf have begun investing and Gulf and Shell are partners in producing nuclear reactors.

Over 70 percent of the country's natural gas reserves are now in the hands of the oil companies. They are even looking into controlling geothermal steam and are now seeking to acquire the oil rich shale deposits of the Green River Valley in the Rockies.

The capitalist state exists solely to defend the interests of these banks, oil companies, and giant corporations.

Since the time of John D. Rockefeller, who built his empire on illegal rebates from the railroads and the corruption of the Congress and entire state legislatures, these corporations have carried on in this tradition.

The Nixon administration received at least \$5 million in political contributions from the oil monopolies. At least a third of the present Congressmen are virtually on the payroll of the oil giants.

Every department of the government bureaucracy is staffed with their representatives. The State Department often operates as an overseas branch of the oil companies. The Interior and Commerce Departments spend a considerable portion of their budgets providing for the production and transport of oil.

Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House from Texas, once gave the game away by declaring that the oil depletion allowance "has been in effect for 34 years and the Democrats have been in power 28 of those. Do you suppose if we'd wanted to do something about it we wouldn't have done it by now?"

The oil depletion allowances alone are estimated to have saved the oil monopolies \$150 billion in taxes since 1919. Through gimmicks and loopholes, the five largest US oil companies paid \$1 billion in taxes on profits of \$21 billion from 1963 to 1967.

The crisis of the oil industry today is the

crisis of the entire capitalist system. Oil because of its dominant position in providing energy and the basic material for the most modern petrochemical industries affects all industry.

But the capitalist state can no more act against the oil industry with its connection to every aspect of capitalist production than it can act to destroy capitalist ownership.

It is the drive for profit which determines the economic and political policies of the government.

Today it is this drive which dictates trade war, preparations for a new war and a brutal onslaught on the wages, jobs and democratic rights of the working class.

It is the uncontrollable crisis of the capitalist system which has forced these monopolies to decide that they must prepare for slump, business failures and the destruction of millions of workers.

What can the working class do to fight back?

The oil companies are completely outside the control of the working people. They maintain total domination over the energy resources and the techniques necessary to utilize them.

As long as it is the profit of a few capitalists and not the basic needs of workers that determines what will be done with these vast resources, their potential can never be developed.

The soaring prices, shortages, dislocation of industry, unemployment, and preparations for war are the sharpest warning of the anarchy and chaos this system has in store for millions.

Proposals for a few reforms such as higher taxes or hearings on anti-trust violations, can do nothing to curb the vast power of these corporations.

Already the trade union movement has begun to raise proposals for nationalization of the oil industry. A number of unions have taken official positions on this and the AFL-CIO has threatened to call an emergency congress to map out a program for nationalization.

This is essentially a political question. The fight for the nationalization of oil requires a fight for a government that can run and plan the industry in the interest of the majority of working people. The defense of every basic right—the right to a job, decent housing, schools, wages, and democratic rights poses precisely this question.

The labor movement can only answer this crisis by mobilizing for a general strike to force this government out, and by convening a Congress of Labor to launch its own labor party, committed to socialist policies.

This means the nationalization of all basic industries and the banks under the control of the working class which will plan its operation and development.

The labor bureaucrats refuse to mobilize the unions for this political fight.

The Workers League and the Young Socialists participate in all of these struggles to expose the labor leaders and to train a revolutionary leadership for the working class to take power.

The resources, skills, and technique are all here to do this. With industry in the hands of the working class there is virtually no limit on the development of man's energy needs.

A workers government can mobilize the resources to develop the enormous energy potential of nuclear fission and fusion.

Vast potential exists for tapping unlimited stores of energy through superheated steam created by pressure, and heat from the earth's core.

Scientists already know that great stores of energy can be obtained from the wind, tides and sun. The technology necessary for its development has been held back by the oil companies who are opposed to such cheap and abundant sources of energy.

Even coal could potentially be gasified while still in the ground and converted to natural gas or even synthetic oil or gasoline.

The great technical conquests of the industrial nations can provide the underdeveloped countries with the means for the rapid development of their great resources.

Capitalist anarchy threatens to throw man back to barbarism and war. The building of the revolutionary party to go forward to socialism is now a life and death question.

CONCLUDED

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The Nixon administration received at least \$5 million in political contributions from the oil monopolies. At least a third of the present Congressmen are virtually on the payroll of the oil giants.

Every department of the government bureaucracy is staffed with their representatives. The State Department often operates as an overseas branch of the oil companies. The Interior and Commerce Departments spend a considerable portion of their budgets providing for the production and transport of oil.

Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House from Texas, once gave the game away by declaring that the oil depletion allowance "has been in effect for 34 years and the Democrats have been in power 28 of those. Do you suppose if we'd wanted to do something about it we wouldn't have done it by now?"

The oil depletion allowances alone are estimated to have saved the oil monopolies \$150 billion in taxes since 1919. Through gimmicks and loopholes, the five largest US oil companies paid \$1 billion in taxes on profits of \$21 billion from 1963 to 1967.

The crisis of the oil industry today is the

crisis of the entire capitalist system. Oil because of its dominant position in providing energy and the basic material for the most modern petrochemical industries affects all industry.

But the capitalist state can no more act against the oil industry with its connection to every aspect of capitalist production than it can act to destroy capitalist ownership.

It is the drive for profit which determines the economic and political policies of the government.

Today it is this drive which dictates trade war, preparations for a new war and a brutal onslaught on the wages, jobs and democratic rights of the working class.

It is the uncontrollable crisis of the capitalist system which has forced these monopolies to decide that they must prepare for slump, business failures and the destruction of millions of workers.

What can the working class do to fight back?

The oil companies are completely outside the control of the working people. They maintain total domination over the energy resources and the techniques necessary to utilize them.

As long as it is the profit of a few capitalists and not the basic needs of workers that determines what will be done with these vast resources, their potential can never be developed.

The soaring prices, shortages, dislocation of industry, unemployment, and preparations for war are the sharpest warning of the anarchy and chaos this system has in store for millions.

Proposals for a few reforms such as higher taxes or hearings on anti-trust violations, can do nothing to curb the vast power of these corporations.

Already the trade union movement has begun to raise proposals for nationalization of the oil industry. A number of unions have taken official positions on this and the AFL-CIO has threatened to call an emergency congress to map out a program for nationalization.

This is essentially a political question. The fight for the nationalization of oil requires a fight for a government that can run and plan the industry in the interest of the majority of working people. The defense of every basic right—the right to a job, decent housing, schools, wages, and democratic rights poses precisely this question.

The labor movement can only answer this crisis by mobilizing for a general strike to force this government out, and by convening a Congress of Labor to launch its own labor party, committed to socialist policies.

This means the nationalization of all basic industries and the banks under the control of the working class which will plan its operation and development.

The labor bureaucrats refuse to mobilize the unions for this political fight.

The Workers League and the Young Socialists participate in all of these struggles to expose the labor leaders and to train a revolutionary leadership for the working class to take power.

The resources, skills, and technique are all here to do this. With industry in the hands of the working class there is virtually no limit on the development of man's energy needs.

A workers government can mobilize the resources to develop the enormous energy potential of nuclear fission and fusion.

Vast potential exists for tapping unlimited stores of energy through superheated steam created by pressure, and heat from the earth's core.

Scientists already know that great stores of energy can be obtained from the wind, tides and sun. The technology necessary for its development has been held back by the oil companies who are opposed to such cheap and abundant sources of energy.

Even coal could potentially be gasified while still in the ground and converted to natural gas or even synthetic oil or gasoline.

The great technical conquests of the industrial nations can provide the underdeveloped countries with the means for the rapid development of their great resources.

Capitalist anarchy threatens to throw man back to barbarism and war. The building of the revolutionary party to go forward to socialism is now a life and death question.

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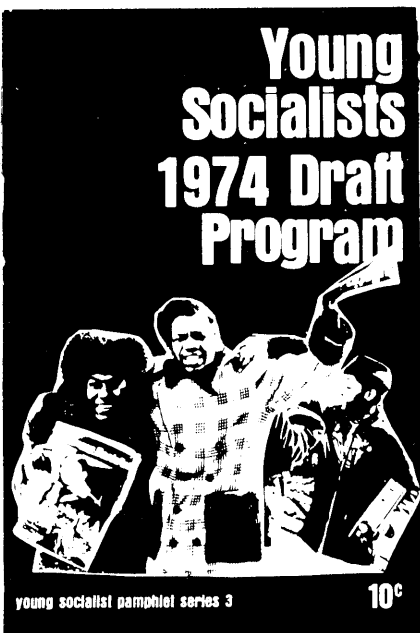
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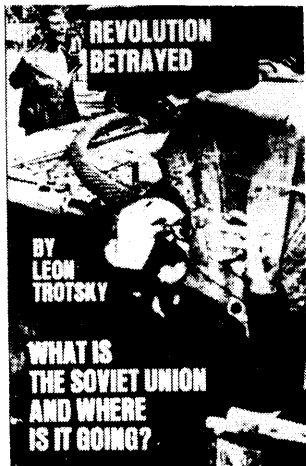
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Brook Park Ford:

'One Man Does The Job Of Three'

The following is an interview with Robert A. Gunn, an auto worker at the Brook Park plant of Ford Motors in Ohio, and a member of Local 1250 of the United Auto Workers Union.

"There has been a problem of speedup in the plant. They laid off some men and slowed down the line. Now we are doing the same job that the other men used to do. Each man does the job three men used to do.

"In Engine plant No. 1, we are on a one-week layoff again this month. April and May will probably be the same. I get unemployment and SUB benefits (Supplementary Unemployment

Truck Rams Lever Picket

BY JOHN DUNN

ST. LOUIS—About 400 members of Local 344 of the International Chemical Workers Union have been on strike since last Saturday against Lever Brothers Co.

"The fight is over a general contract with Lever Bros. They gave us a final offer and said take it or leave it. The company won't talk and the matter is in arbitration now. We rejected the contract they offered by 80 percent," a worker reported.

Before the strike, Lever Brothers laid off over 150 people due to lack of supplies. Liquid soap and detergent is manufactured at the plant. The ICWU has shut down four plants across the country, in St. Louis, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and Edgewater, N.J.

A striker told the *Bulletin*, "They have gotten at least six trucks through our picket lines. One truck almost killed a man on the line, he hurt his back. They were non-union truckers." The company has been trying to get supplies through the back entrance."

Benefits) for that week, but 40 percent of them don't and the women they just hired don't either.

"You also have the problem of overcrowding. We make the small B8, the 302 Econoline, and the six cylinder engine. They closed Engine plant No. 2 last month, laid off a lot of them and brought the rest into our plant.

"The conditions in the plant are dangerous. With the line speedup, there is a chance you will slip in the oil on the floor. Safety shoes don't do you any good. If you are sick, the foreman won't send you to the dispensary. Old men come in sick and pass out on the line. If you were to die, they wouldn't stop the line, they'd just move you aside.

"They put old men on a strenuous job, something a young man should be doing just to get them to quit so Ford won't have to pay them a pension."

"Seniority grievances are piling up. They take a new man and move him out of his classification into a job with overtime and the union lets the foreman do it. We do need a stronger union.

"You can't get paid. They hassle you if they can't find your check. They won't go looking for it like they used to. What are they afraid of? They are afraid we might have a national strike.

Auto Stockpile Soars

BY A REPORTER

CHICAGO—Thousands of workers reported as usual to GM plants in Willow Springs, Illinois, Janesville, Wisconsin, and the Chrysler plant in Belvedere as layoffs were cancelled at the last minute.

Company officials said the layoffs were averted because sales were expected to rise with the lifting of the Arab oil embargo.

At the same time, the existence of massive stockpiling of cars in the Chicago area was revealed. This means that the layoffs cancelled this week will go ahead in the near future, since sales have fallen an average of 25.9 percent during the first two months of this year.

Over 2000 full-size Buicks, Oldsmobiles, and Pontiacs are

"What auto workers want is to get this situation ironed out with the prices going up and the layoffs. The men know Nixon fits into this. You take the fuel shortage. When I was in the service I saw them shipping thousands of gallons to Vietnam. They're just doing it to get the price up.

"They are shipping raw materials overseas like steel and grain, while people are starving right here.

"Nixon offered the whole Congress a raise, but they're afraid to take it just before the election and they hold down wages to 5.5 percent.

"It is the rich that own Nixon and they are making more profit off this than ever. It is ruining peoples lives. I know people with 20 to 25 years seniority who have been laid off. The fuel shortage is covering up something that is happening that we don't know about.

"I believe Nixon will be out soon but it is up to the UAW to bring him down if Congress won't do it. We produce the trucks and cars and without that Nixon can't go very far.

"People have to put pressure on the union leadership to defend our jobs and if they won't fight, throw them out. If you are going to Dayton to build a leadership that will fight, I am for it."

being held in an overflow storage area set up on the runways of the former Sky harbor in Northbrook, near Chicago. An unreleased number of cars are also being held in the regular facilities of the Lake Cook Motor Handling Corporation.

Officials admit that at least twice the normal number of cars are stored. This includes orders that were cancelled too late to halt the production and shipping. "I've known of dealers so scared over the energy situation they were cancelling 500 orders at a time," an official admitted.

All auto workers should attend the auto conference of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party in Dayton, Ohio on March 31, in order to prepare a new leadership nationwide that will fight for strike action against the layoffs and the mobilization of labor to force Nixon out.

National Auto Conference

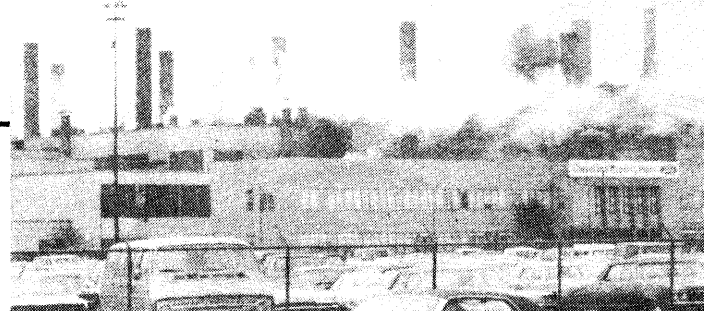
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"That the UAW International follow the lead of truckers in the fight against inflation and unemployment by calling together the representatives of the trade union movement for the purpose of forcing Nixon out through national strike action and the building of a labor party as an alternative to Nixon."

This motion, put forward by the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, passed in Local 1112. Lordstown.

midwest news

Lordstown Votes New Walkout

BY DAVID NORTH
LORDSTOWN, Ohio—Members of United Auto Workers Local 1714 voted nearly unanimously to strike the Fisher Body Fabricating Plant, three weeks after Lordstown workers ended their last strike.

After the 1451-19 strike vote, the workers are still awaiting authorization from the international union.

Tom Weekly, Local 1714 shop steward, said the strike vote was taken because negotiations on the local contract—which should have expired six months ago—are “totally deadlocked.”

Weekly declared that the next strike would not be a mini-strike but a “battle to the finish.”

GRIEVANCES

Behind the vote is the constant accumulation of grievances and a steady deterioration of working conditions. Discipline is becoming so severe that General Motors is firing workers for such minor infractions as leaving the line five minutes before the end of the day.

At the same time, GM is making plans to reduce the work

force in the fabricating plant. Approximately 400 jobs, involving skilled production workers, are to be re-located away from the Lordstown complex. Skilled workers would be moved to production and production workers would be laid off.

“Part of this is to break up the militancy of Lordstown workers,” auto worker Lawson Henry told the Bulletin. “The problem we face is this, that GM has so many plants, that when there is a dispute they ship the work to another plant.”

This threat of layoffs comes at a time when the wild inflation in the price of iron and scrap steel—the basic steel making raw materials—is undermining the entire industrial base of Youngstown. With both steel makers and steel consumers cost and price schedules upset, the scrap price inflation is forcing steel cutbacks and layoffs.

Woodcock’s mini-strike strategy is completely discredited. The last mini-strike ended March 11 without any issues being resolved.

Lordstown workers must demand the international UAW back up any strike here with a national shutdown of auto. A national strike would rally the working class against Nixon’s policies of unemployment and inflation.

As Lordstown workers prepare to shut down again, it becomes critical to build a new leadership against Woodcock to fight for this program. We urge all workers in UAW Locals 1112 and 1714 to attend the national auto conference organized by the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party this Sunday in Dayton, Ohio.

Leyer Brothers employees in St. Louis on strike.

Western Electric Slashes Pay To Help Executives

BY L. MARTIN
COLUMBUS, Ohio—A total of 194,000 workers at Western Electric Company plants throughout the country are threatened with five percent wage cuts starting on July 1 of this year.

Western Electric announced that it would increase the salary of its 13,000 “professional and management” staff on the same date.

The company’s parent, American Telephone and Telegraph, stated that future pay scales for all workers “were being reduced to offset the added outlays of the cost-of-living raises.”

These “cost-of-living” raises will be awarded to people who

are already in the \$50,000 a year income bracket, at the expense of the almost 200,000 trade unionists working for Western Electric.

DECLARED

AT&T declared that it was already giving its workers in the New York offices a raise, because of the rise in the cost of living. Out of the 5039 workers employed there, all in management, only 700 received the raise.

Robert Kraay, vice-president of personnel for AT&T stated, “The cost of living raises for some does not mean that other people will be forced to take pay cuts. We are cutting a little off everyone’s expectations to pay for this.”

Western Electric also declared that up to 1000 workers would be permanently laid off at the Columbus, Ohio facility by the end of 1974. Other plants are expected to begin laying off in

the near future.

Western Electric manufactures telephone equipment for Bell Systems, as well as other independent telephone companies. A spokesman for the company stated that Western is “working down” to a smaller number of workers, through what he termed “natural attrition.”

ATTRITION

This attrition will affect over 2000 workers in Oklahoma City alone. The company cited a decreased demand for telephone products as the reason for the layoffs.

The Columbus, Ohio plant has already laid off 46 workers, and 36 men have received notices for job termination. According to Western, this plant has an attrition rate of 15 men per week.

Delco Shuts Half Of Plant

DAYTON, Ohio—Delco-Moraine workers were hit with another wave of indefinite layoffs, combined with the shutdown of half the plant.

These workers are being laid off regardless of seniority on a departmental basis.

As one of the 48 department workers put it, “This place is going to hell. I’ve got 20 years in seniority and now I’m out on the street.”

These new temporary layoffs are being handled on a departmental basis so scheduled production will not be disrupted by assigning new workers who are unfamiliar with the machinery.

With half the plant shut down from March 18-25, there are future plans to shut down any department where parts are not needed.

Dayton Teachers Negotiate

BY A REPORTER
DAYTON—Teachers here expect to be forced to strike by the refusal of the Dayton Board of Education to make any offer in the present negotiations.

The contract is due to expire in May. The Board has stalled on negotiations and claims that it is not bound to honor the Master Agreement by state law.

Teachers are asking for a 10 percent raise, while the Board

has offered only 4 percent.

A major issue is class size. Last year, the Board eliminated 400 teachers, increasing the class size another 10 students in each class, and cutting out special teachers in the primary grades.

AIDES

Teacher aides were eliminated in most of the schools. While the Dayton Classroom Teachers Association demanded a reduction in class size, the Board countered with a pro-

posal that would increase class sizes and eliminate all special teachers in the elementary grades.

The Board wants teachers to submit to an examination by a school physician to qualify for sick pay.

A teacher told the Bulletin: “They are making it impossible to teach with the increase in class size and elimination of teacher aides. Now they want to do away with all privacy and demand to know the “cause” of any illness.”

Jail Guards On Strike

BY LOUIS MILLER
CHILLICOTHE, Ohio—Members of Local 1809, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) at Chillicothe Correctional Institute struck the state prison facility here on March 21.

The strikers are primarily guards at CCI. Workers cited the

administration’s failure to post job vacancies as their primary grievance. R.P. Woods, Local 1809 president, said the administration is using men in relief positions to replace guards to keep from posting new vacancies.

A spokesman for the state department of correction, Joe Ashley, told the local newspaper no bargaining sessions had been scheduled as of Friday.



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TV by Collette Windsor

Oil: The Policy Crisis



Oil executives testify before a Senate investigating committee.

The greatest manifestation of an economic system in collapse is the breakdown of production of basic necessities.

The shortage of such a basic necessity, oil, and an attempt to explain the reasons for it, were the subject of a one-hour documentary presented by ABC-TV, on March 20, called "Oil: The Policy Crisis."

The narrator opened the show by stating that the nature of the oil crisis is economic. The entire show was directed towards explaining the various economic loopholes offered to oil companies.

For instance, the Oil Depletion Allowance, which allows a 22 percent tax deduction on the yearly production of each well, was set up to allegedly encourage domestic discoveries, by partially repaying the oil companies for the oil extracted.

In the 1950s, however, the oil companies went to the Middle East where oil could be had for a song.

The program specifically showed that the drive for higher profits is what motivates every action of the oil companies. In the Middle East, cheap labor, miniscule royalties, and virtually no-risk drilling was a boon to oil company profits. The depletion allowance was applied to foreign wells as well, without a protest from the US government.

In an interview with Nixon's former Domestic Affairs advisor John Ehrlichman, he discusses the importance of the oil interests politically in terms of the oil producing states in the south, where votes are decisive in a national election.

Mystery

It is no mystery why the US government allowed the oil depletion allowance and all other loopholes to be carried over into foreign investments and production. Certainly, there are powerful oil lobbies and payoffs but the oil companies' comes from the fact that they and other large corporations formulate the policies that the government implements.

An interesting side light in the program, which consisted mainly of shots of working wells

and interviews with various economists, government officials, and oil company managers, was a series of historical photos and old newsreels on the period of the "horseless carriage" which made gasoline an indispensable product and of the oil boom of the 1930s in Texas and Oklahoma.

Old pen and ink drawings of the poor farmers, hard-hit by the depression, setting up encampments of tents and to prospect for oil gave the program its only life. These farmers flooded the open market with so much oil that the price went down to 10 cents a barrel.

The big companies, later to become Texaco and Gulf, threatened with bankruptcy at the glutting of the market, called in the Oklahoma National Guard to close down the small prospectors' camps, leaving the market once again in the hands of the monopolies.

Liberalism

"The Policy Crisis" was cloaked in liberalism from start to finish, criticizing the government and the oil companies but blaming neither.

ABC offers no solutions and certainly no concrete explanations. The Arab embargo is mentioned only in passing, Nixon is left out completely, and there are absolutely no proposals or even predictions. The show concludes with a pious declaration that "never again must government policy get so out of hand that it serves private corporations instead of the public interest."

The hour spent on long discussions of tax benefits and government policy is a complete subterfuge, whose purpose is to propagate but not explain the confusion and air of mystery surrounding the workings of the oil companies.

The oil crisis is only the beginning, but a symptom of an entire economic and social system that has reached the point of being unable to expand production and must now seek to maintain its profits at the expense of the living standards of the working class.

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Brotherhood Leader Divides Fremont Ranks

BY BARRY GREY
SAN FRANCISCO—
An amalgam of Brotherhood Caucus members and the Revolutionary Union's unemployed-employed committee picketed in front of the General Motors Fremont plant for an hour.

The pickets screamed at the cars driving past "We want our jobs too," but were unable to stop any cars from going into the plant or to attract any support for their bankrupt policies.

The picket line is the latest

attempt by Earlier Mays, shop chairman of Local 1364 and head of the Brotherhood Caucus, to cover his refusal to fight the mass layoffs at the Fremont plant.

LAI D OFF

Last Friday, 1400 men were indefinitely laid off as the second shift is being eliminated. Meanwhile it appears that the SUB benefits will run out late in April or May.

Both Mays and Vernon Diaz, the local president, have criticized GM for not converting to small car production and the International UAW leadership for going along with the 5.5 percent guidelines.

Since the layoffs in auto began,

Mays and Diaz have put forward policies to divide the union, pitting high seniority members against low seniority members. Leaflets passed out on the picket line by the Maoist "Concerned Rank-and-File" and the official union "Committee to Fight Layoffs," pointed out that those hardest hit are women and members of minority groups who have no seniority.

Meanwhile, the anger of the men over the layoffs has been reflected in the increase in repair work necessary on the lines. A repairman in the plant told the Bulletin: "Every line is having an avalanche of work. They have nine repairmen for a line of 43 men."



SF city and hospital workers demonstrate during recent strike.

editorial

Where We Go From Here

The San Francisco Central Labor Council last week voted to endorse Mayor Alioto for the governorship in the elections. This vote came just days after Labor Council leaders Jack Crowley and Tim Twomey conspired with Mayor Alioto to break the general strike movement in San Francisco and impose a sell-out.

City workers who struck for \$80 a month to keep pace with inflation, have been forced to confront the central crisis facing the working class today—the crisis of leadership. Their strike which had the support of thousands of trade unionists, paralyzed the city, but this strength could not be taken forward under the present leadership. They deliberately opposed the mobilization of the labor movement to win the demands of the strike, because this meant the shattering of their alliance with the capitalist politicians of the Democratic Party.

The union bureaucrats are now hailing Alioto as a great mediator because he did not carry out a court order to arrest all of the pickets. But Crowley, Tim Twomey of the Service Employees International Union and the rest of the bureaucrats deliberately falsify the record, in order to save Alioto's image as a "friend of labor."

Alioto used the threat of police action as blackmail against the union leadership. He held off using the police because he knew it would provoke an all-out general strike in San Francisco, but had the city workers rejected his deal, and spread the strike to the docks and other key areas, Alioto would have sent in the police to break the strike.

Alioto did not have to use the police because the union leadership caved in at every critical point and refused to bring out the full force of the labor movement.

When Alioto and the Board of Supervisors demanded that the strikers remove pickets from the sewage plants and the emergency entrance of the General Hospital, the union leadership acquiesced.

Despite pledges by the longshoremen and the Southern Pacific workers to strike in support of the city workers, the union leaders never set up pickets to actually shut down these facilities.

The union leadership from the beginning sought to compromise the demands they had pledged to fight for. This cowardice poses the greatest danger to the labor movement. Governor Reagan was preparing to send in the National Guard to break the strike. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce obtained a court order, banning the strike as illegal and demanding that the police arrest all pickets.

They are presently suing the SEIU leadership for contempt of court and are threatening to put a proposal on the ballot to take away the wage increase of \$45 a month.

These brutal police measures are being prepared by the Nixon government for the entire labor movement. The confrontation between the unions and the capitalist state cannot be avoided, because it flows from the deepening crisis of the capitalist system itself.

The reformist leadership of the unions seeks to break the movement of the working class and prevent the working class from using its power politically to force Nixon out.

The decisive question is the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the city workers union and throughout the labor movement today to prepare for the next stage of the struggle. This leadership must fight for the political independence of the working class in the construction of a labor party, and launch a fight to force Nixon to resign.

The city workers strike was part of a massive offensive developing throughout the country against Nixon's policies of mass unemployment and inflation.

In the course of these battles, the Workers League fights to expose the treacherous union leadership in the struggle for a labor party to win workers and youth over to the revolutionary party.

CTA Votes To Strike With AFT

BY ANN LORE
SAN FRANCISCO—Nearly 2000 teachers voted overwhelmingly for a united teachers strike at a packed meeting in Lincoln High School Auditorium, on March 22.

Local 61, said "The District offered us 6 percent, provided they can cut out educational and instructional programs. Every teacher's organization has rejected that."

STOP PRESS
The executive board of the California Teachers Association officially voted to shut down the schools this Monday, joining the strike of the American Federation of Teachers.

American Federation of Teachers Local 61 has been on strike for two weeks. The meeting was called by the Classroom Teachers Association, to consider the latest Board of Education offer.

The Board offer of a six and a half percent was greeted with boos, cat calls, and cries of "sell-out."

Teachers were stunned when CTA President Gerald De Ryan, who earlier had called a six and a half percent increase "totally inadequate," announced that the CTA Executive Board was recommending acceptance.

De Ryan then fled the auditorium while all microphones were cut off to prevent any discussion. Joan Shelley, an AFT member at Lowell High School, addressed the meeting through a bull horn and called for a united AFT-CTA strike saying "we have received an absolutely contemptible offer, delivered in an absolutely contemptuous manner."

Norm Rubinfeld, a member of the CTA, said "until we are dealt with fairly and honestly, we have to shut it down."

The motion for a united strike was carried by a standing, cheering voice vote.

James Ballard, head of AFT

The teachers are demanding a 15 percent pay raise, smaller classes, equity for substitutes, job security for paraprofessionals, and other educational improvements such as more reading and bilingual classes.

Attendance at the schools is increasing mainly because Ballard removed pickets from the school bus yards. Just when a joint strike is possible, Ballard has begun retreating. He has already demonstrated he has no intention of making an all-out fight for the 15 percent.

A dangerous development in the strike is the intervention by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. They are still suing the city workers for contempt of court and they are requesting that school board president, Eugene Hopp, seek court action to halt the teachers strike.

It was the Chamber of Commerce which during the recent San Francisco city workers' strike got a court injunction, ordering the city workers back to work and then demanded the police and National Guard enforce it. The new suit claims the teachers strike is illegal and that picketing teachers are interfering with public schools.

Cannery Move Axes 1400 Jobs

BY SHEILA BREHM
SAN DIEGO—Van Camp Seafood Company will move its cannery operation from Terminal Island in San Pedro to San Diego.

Richard C. Martinson, executive vice-president for the company, said, "It is our present feeling that the facility will not be closed down entirely." However, the 1400 cannery workers here feel that they will most likely be thrown out of work.

Van Camp was granted approval for the move by the California Coastal Commission and other environmental agencies. Steve Edney from the United Cannery and Industrial Workers Union said, "It's a conspiracy between this billion dollar corporation, the Harbor Commission and the city of San Diego."

The wages at the cannery are the lowest on the waterfront and the work is difficult. The majority of the workers are young and speak only Spanish.

One worker from British Honduras told the Bulletin, "I was a seaman for six years, but it was difficult on my family because sometimes I was gone for as long as six months. I've

been at this cannery for two years, and when they shut down I don't know where I will go."

Van Camp is owned by the Ralston Purina Company, and the tuna is sold under the brand name of "Chicken of the Sea." The multi-million dollar corporation also has cannery facilities in Puerto Rico and

Somoa, in the South Pacific.

Most workers feel that the move will enable the company to hire cheap labor. "As though our wages aren't low enough!" said one worker. "They want to be closer to the Mexican border. Why else would they close this, and build a \$20 million cannery in San Diego?"

Mediators In Sears Talks

BY MARTY MORAN
SAN FRANCISCO—Negotiations in the thirty-one week Sears strike have been moved to Las Vegas and for the first time Sears national management and federal mediators are directly involved. Department store Local 1100 president Walter Johnson who represents the Sears clerks, said no progress had been made.

Sears workers greeted the San Francisco city workers strike with tremendous enthusiasm. When the city was virtually shut down, one striker told the Bulletin, "We should have done this six months ago."

Now that the city strike has been ended, the labor leadership is trying to isolate the strikers once again. Johnson's proposal

for a one-day general work stoppage in support of Sears workers, city workers, and teachers, which was referred by the Labor Council to its executive board, is still on the shelf. According to Labor Council secretary-treasurer John Crowley, the strategy committee which was to plan the action "has not yet had time to meet."

There must be an immediate campaign, not just for a one-day protest, but an indefinite strike to defend both the Sears workers and the teachers.

Rosemary, a striker from the Mission Street store, said, "Maybe something like this would help. They're going about it the wrong way. At the meetings now, I get disgusted because they don't say anything."



Tuna boat at harbor in San Pedro. Van Camp Seafood Co. will move cannery to San Diego, laying off thousands.

Chavez Vows To Strike The Fields

BY BARRY GREY
SAN FRANCISCO—

In a speech here last week, Cesar Chavez said the United Farm Workers "are going to kick the Teamsters out of the fields" this year, and not give up strike action.

Last summer, Chavez called off the strikes against the growers and Teamsters just as they were spreading throughout California. Instead he sent farm workers into the cities to boycott Gallo wines.

In his speech before the National Federation of Priests' Councils at the Jack Tar Hotel, Chavez said: "But we're not going to give up the pickets this year."

CONFRONTATION

Chavez cannot hold back a confrontation this summer between his union and the growers, Teamsters, and the government. Farm workers are bitter over the loss of almost all the contracts they fought to win and over Chavez's decision to

stop the strike last summer in favor of protests and boycotts.

ESCALATE

The Teamster leadership has indicated they will escalate their union busting tactics. In response to a prediction by AFL-CIO President George Meany of more violence in the fields, William Grami, director of the Teamsters scabbing operation in the fields, said: "Responsibility for violence will have to be assumed by Cesar Chavez."

Chavez warned that the Teamsters "are going to recruit more goons like last year."

ABANDON

While Chavez is being forced to abandon his strategy of boycotts, which have achieved absolutely nothing, and call strike action, he has not altered the reactionary cornerstone of his policy, which is reliance on the middle class, the Church and the Federal government.

Chavez told the priests he was asking the Department of Justice to send "monitors" into California this summer when the UFW pickets the fields where sweetheart Teamster contracts exist.

Farm workers must demand

that Chavez organize all-out strike action throughout California. Any attempt by Chavez to bring Nixon's agents into the fields must be opposed. Last summer Chavez refused to mobilize the tremendous power of the labor movement in mass strike action to defend the union. Any attempt by the police or courts to arrest or terrorize farm workers must be met with massive picket lines from every union.

BREAK

Chavez will not conduct an all-out fight because this requires a break from the liberals and Democrats and a struggle against Nixon. A new leadership must be built now in the UFW to carry through this fight, demanding that the AFL-CIO build a labor party to smash Nixon's union-busting policies.

cate AWOL's and stolen cars. The system has been in the planning stage for a long period, according to Marine Corps officials.

TRAINING PROGRAM

Over a year ago Camp Pendleton began a training program for local policemen. This program included the use of a full-scale, mock-up of a city block for the training of local police with M-16 machine guns and other automatic weapons.

A number of San Jose tactical squad policemen participated in this program, after which the San Jose police department announced it was purchasing a number of M-16s from the army.

Cops Link Up To Military

BY ALLEN SALTER
SAN JOSE—A close working relationship between the military and civilian police forces, is being developed throughout California.

Marine Corps officials have announced the establishment of an inter-department teletype computer, linking the provost marshal at Camp Pendleton to every federal, state, and local police agency throughout California. The system also includes a direct link to the National Crimes Computer Systems in Washington, D.C.

NEW SYSTEM

The Marine Corps claims the new system will be used to lo-

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Nuestra posición es clara, defendemos al Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño en contra de estos ataques terroristas. El ataque en contra de Gonzalez y Vega como el fuego en contra de sus talleres de imprenta y sus oficinas generales son parte de los ataques de la clase capitalista frente al movimiento de la clase obrera.

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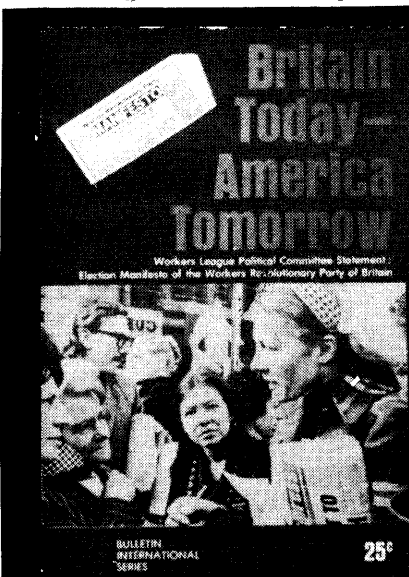
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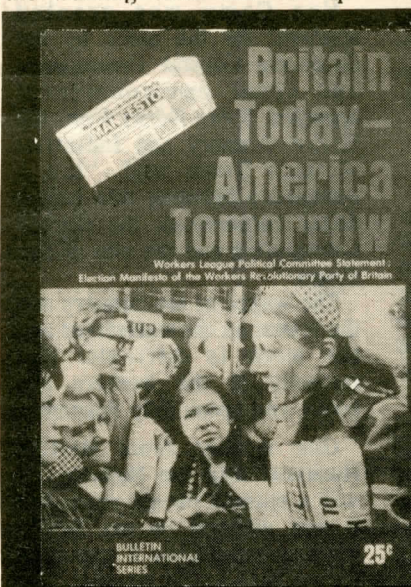
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