

Bulletin

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

VOLUME TEN NUMBER SEVENTY NINE 415

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 1974

TWENTY CENTS

HOOVER

JUL 29 1976

INSTITUTION

British Election—**DEFEAT FOR HEATH IS A BLOW TO FORD**

BY THE EDITORS

The British election shows the tremendous polarization of class forces and the development of socialist revolution in Britain and throughout Europe.

The reelection of the Labor Party, the collapse of the Liberal Party vote, and the defeat of the Conservatives, for the third time, shows the absolute determination of the British working class to defend its wages, living standards, and basic rights.

The Labor Party was returned to power with a total of 319 seats, a slim majority, while the Tories now have 276, a drop of over 25 seats.

The British working class voted Labor above all to keep the Tories out because they know that this party, the main spokesman for the capitalist class, is set on destroying the trade unions and smashing all the gains that have been won through much struggle.

LEADERS

The Labor Party leaders think that this vote is a mandate to impose the "social contract" on workers which restricts wages and to push ahead with capi-

talist policies of forcing workers to pay for the bankruptcy of industry through speedup, and productivity deals in the plants. Nothing could be further from the truth. This election can only create the conditions for an enormous explosion of struggles and of open confrontation between the workers and the labor leaders.

REJECTION

In the recent struggles of the working class—in the auto strikes, in the rejection by the miners of the government's offer—this "social contract" has already been overwhelmingly rejected.

The Labor Party is assisted by the Stalinists of the Communist Party and the revisionists who say that the "left" talking bureaucrats in the Labor Party and the unions provide an alternative. In fact, their policies are no different than Prime Minister Harold Wilson's and when

they have the opportunity to lead a fight against the right-wing, they capitulate.

During this election, it was only the Workers Revolutionary Party, British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, which told the truth about the disaster facing the working class and fought to build the revolutionary party and the revolutionary leadership in the unions as the only way to resolve this crisis.

This election shows the tremendous political crisis of the capitalist class in every country, faced with the task of trying to impose recession, mass unemployment, and poverty on a powerful and undefeated working class.

The main issue in this election and throughout Europe and the US is whether the working class is going to pay for the bankruptcy of the capitalist system.

The crisis is most sharply expressed in Britain where infla-

tion is now running at an annual rate of 20 percent and is still rising, where stock prices have collapsed, and major industries and banks are going bankrupt.

The fact that the latest figures for the balance of trade deficit reveals another disastrous increase in the national debt shows that this election can solve absolutely nothing.

The economic crisis is propelling the working class in all the European countries on the path of revolution.

In Portugal, the working class forced the Spínola government, placed in power only last April, to resign, as strikes and factory occupations sweep the country.

ITALY

In Italy, another coalition government was split apart by the refusal of the Italian workers to accept a program of massive unemployment, budget cuts, and tax increases.

This economic crisis is

centered on the decay of American capitalism. By removing the gold backing from the dollar in 1971, Nixon opened a period of uncontrolled inflation that has destroyed the basis for trade and production in every country.

Ford's policy has been aimed at imposing as much of the burden of the world capitalist crisis directly on its European rivals while at the same time deepening the attacks on the living standards of the American working class.

The movement of the British working class combined with the growing militancy of the American working class has dealt Ford a sharp setback.

The Ford administration is a regime of the deepest crisis. It has been unable to pursue a consistent policy for the last two months. Having been placed in office to carry out sharp deflationary policies, Ford has already begun to retreat.

The lowering of the interest rates last week, which led immediately to a big rise in the stock market, exposes the weakness of the government. By lowering the interest rates, Ford actually fuels the inflationary crisis and prepares the road for a slump. He has pulled back precisely out of fear of the working class's movement in defense of its jobs and living standards.

For all the summit conferences and pledges to wage war on inflation, Ford cannot resolve the economic crisis. He must confront a powerful working class at a time when his government and virtually every major political figure in the Democratic and Republican parties are discredited. Rockefeller is now implicated in payoffs and libel.

Ford is connected to Watergate through the decision to pardon Nixon.

Wilbur Mills, the architect of financial policies inside the Congress, is picked up with a stripper on his lap in the back seat of a car.

Edward Kennedy must withdraw from presidential politics because of Chappaquiddick.

Rockefeller's Watergate

BY DAVID NORTH

Nelson Rockefeller has been caught in a devastating crossfire of evidence which suggests that large cash gifts to close aides and public officials were criminally motivated and that he was behind the publication of a libelous novel with anti-Semitic overtones used to defeat Arthur Goldberg in the 1970 New York State gubernatorial election.

Rockefeller is now up to his

neck in his own Watergate scandal which could very well cost him the vice-presidency. Congressmen face little choice but to reopen the confirmation hearings and investigate how Rockefeller uses his wealth.

If Rockefeller cannot be confirmed, it will be a devastating political blow to the capitalist class which had counted so heavily on having Rockefeller in the vice-presidency in order to bolster the Ford administration and—if necessary—replace it.

The fact that Rockefeller himself is worried about his chances for confirmation is reflected in his sudden reversal over the weekend of repeated claims that he had nothing to do

with a derogatory biography of Goldberg written in 1970.

LASKY

Entitled *Arthur Goldberg, the New and the Old*, this hatchet-job by the notorious right-wing journalist Victor Lasky was financed with \$60,000 by Laurance Rockefeller, one of Nelson's brothers.

Earlier last week, Nelson Rockefeller denied advance knowledge of the plans to write this book and claimed that Laurance had financed it purely as a business venture in which he had hoped to turn a profit.

In a statement, Rockefeller declared:

"Laurance found himself stuck with a net loss of around

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CIA Intervention In Portugal

BY DAVID NORTH

The CIA played a major role in the attempted fascist coup two weeks ago defeated by the Portuguese working class.

Information obtained by Le Canard Enchaîné, a Parisian weekly, reveals that the CIA has been subsidizing right-wing political organizations and newspapers in Portugal since the summer. As in Chile, large multinational corporations served as a conduit for these funds.

Le Canard suggested that the CIA financed the right-wing newspaper O Tempo.

The CIA also tried to get the ex-chief of state, Antonio de Spínola, to approve a new radio and television station to be financed by Bulhosa, a Portuguese company, two unnamed Brazilian stations, and two unnamed Portuguese stations.

Still more sinister was the week stopover in Portugal by deputy director of the CIA General Vernon Walters—apparently last August—where he undoubtedly laid the plans for a fascist overthrow.

The CIA has refused to confirm or deny whether Walters did stay in Portugal for a period this summer.

KISSINGER

Henry Kissinger has been following developments in Portugal very closely. Le Canard stated that Kissinger told Spínola last May that the "United States was not opposed to independence for Guinea-Bissau, but would not stand for the Portuguese giving up the Cape Verde Islands to the Guineans."

The US ambassador, Stuart N. Scott, and the CIA have had little confidence in the ability of Spínola to remain in power, and considered him "overoptimistic" about his support within both the army and among the people.

Since May, the CIA has made a determined effort to step up its contacts in the military general staff.

Furthermore, the CIA is carefully following the relations between the Communist Party and Socialist Party.

The newsweekly quoted one American source as saying that "logically, we should play the Socialist card, but I don't know if my government will make up its mind to do so."

It is absolutely clear that the military and capitalist enterprises in Portugal are working hand in hand with the CIA to carry out a coup modeled on the Chilean counterrevolution.

But the Communist Party, which has behind it the great power of the working class and peasantry, is defending private property and collaborating with the military.

GOMES

The Stalinists have installed the long-time fascist Gomes to replace Spínola, although the two generals have always seen eye to eye. This can only give the CIA and the blood-thirsty Portuguese ruling class time to prepare another coup.

These preparations are already underway. Earlier this week, Gomes was seen in a restaurant having a cordial lunch with Spínola. The two men were talking amiably and nodding



their heads in agreement with one another's remarks. The Stalinists of the Portuguese Communist Party are not blind to these developments. They know that Gomes is a fascist. But their allegiance to the Soviet bureaucracy and the reactionary fraud of "detente" excludes any program to arm Portuguese workers to destroy the fascists, smash the capitalist state, and take power.

Their program is the exact opposite. CP leader Cunhal's statement earlier this week that NATO will be permitted to retain its Portuguese bases means that the Stalinists are giving a green light to American imperialism and its CIA to continue its plotting against the Portuguese working class.

Strikes Sweep Spain

BY A CORRESPONDENT

Over 3200 workers throughout Spain are out on strike in defiance of the Franco dictatorship.

The revolutionary struggle of workers in neighboring Portugal who mobilized last week to stop a conspiracy to impose a new dictatorship, has been followed closely by Spanish workers.

In Valladolid, 12,400 Renault auto workers fighting for a shorter work week have been locked out since September 30. Thirty-seven strikers have been arrested and 16 are facing trial.

In Spain, trade unions, strikes, and the right to free assembly are illegal. The only unions recognized are controlled from top to bottom by the state.

On the weekend of October 5, police broke up a meeting of factory workers in a church near Madrid and arrested 200. Another raid was carried out on a workers meeting near Bosch.

In Seville, 12 strikers were arrested after a demonstration at the headquarters of the provincial governor.

In Bilbao, 2700 General Electric workers are out on strike, and many of the organizers of the strike have been arrested. The workers are demanding an end to time and motion studies and a wage increase.

With inflation in Spain running at 15 percent a year, the major issue is wages. But workers are also fighting for basic democratic rights. The underground workers commissions have strong support.

Workers at the Lisnave Shipyards demanding the right to strike, no lock-outs, and an end to fascism.

Wheat Deal Cut Exposes Detente

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN

The recent intervention by the Ford administration to hold up a large Soviet grain purchase provides a revealing glimpse into imperialist preparations to use food as an economic and political weapon.

The Soviet Union had contracted to purchase 2.4 million tons of corn and 1 million tons of wheat from two giant grain exporting companies, Cook Industries and the Continental Grain Company. The purchases amounted to \$500 million.

Not only did the government force cancellation of the deal, but immediately instituted a new system of controls under which exporters must obtain approval for any sale exceeding 50,000 tons of corn, wheat, sorghum, soybeans, or soybean meal.

The initial American excuses for the cancellation are pure fiction. Ford claims that the move was made to assure that there would be no domestic shortages and price increases due to large exports.

The largest wheat crop in US history has already been harvested, 1.8 billion tons. It is estimated that this leaves about 1 billion tons available for export. The Soviet purchase amounts to a miniscule share.

While American corn production for 1974 is estimated to be down, there still exists huge stockpiles left over from the 1973 crop.

On Wednesday, The New York Times released information that casts the decision in a different light. According to the Times, the Nixon-Brezhnev agreement committed the Soviet Union to make detailed information available to the US on its crop prospects. The agriculture department is complaining that it still does not have this information.

The Times also reveals that Soviet meat and poultry production has risen significantly through big increases in livestock herds. This would increase the need for grain, particularly corn, to continue the expansion

and avoid slaughtering herds.

What is clear is that the Ford administration is demanding detailed information from the Soviet Union which would place it in an extremely powerful position to exert leverage on Soviet agriculture.

The Ford measures reveal the extremely fragile position of the so-called detente and the perilous position the Soviet bureaucracy is placing their economy in by relying on peaceful coexistence with the US.

Facing the greatest economic crisis in their history, the US capitalists will not hesitate for a moment to use their stranglehold over world food supplies to

wring even greater political concessions from the desperate Soviet bureaucracy.

With the world food crisis now threatening entire nations such as India with mass starvation, the Ford measures must be seen as part of a strategy to withhold food until prices go up even further and then offer it to the highest bidder.

Food is the biggest export product of the US and is expected to earn \$28 billion this year from sales abroad. In the hands of Ford and his big business masters, the lives of countless millions facing starvation are bargaining counters for political blackmail and profit gouging.

In The Heat Of The Night

What was a highly respectable, extremely powerful and conservative 65-year-old Democratic congressman doing with a stripper and two young masseuses in a speeding car last Monday at about 2 am?

This is a question that many voters in Arkansas will be eager to ask Representative Wilbur D. Mills during the next three weeks if they get a chance.

Because Mills, the principal spokesman of the banks and monopolies on taxation policies, was dragged from a flashy Lincoln Continental in the early morning hours of Monday bleeding from the nose, with scratch marks all over his face, and in a drunken stupor to boot.

The car had been stopped by two cops who spotted the vehicle roaring down a Washington street without its headlights on.

One of Mill's companions raced from the car and leaped into the Tidal Basin, a small body of water dividing the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Policemen quickly rescued her, and then she identified herself as Annabella Battistella. The young lady further explained that she takes her clothes off in nightclubs in order to earn a living.

According to witnesses who gathered at the scene, an elderly man told the cops that they had better mind their own business because he was none other than Wilbur Mills.

The reaction of the cops was quite extraordinary. There were no arrests and the report drawn up by the cops did not list any names. Instead, a sympathetic cop took the staggering Mr. Mills by the arm and said: "Come on, Congressman, you don't need this kind of publicity."

Mills originally denied that he was stopped by the police, but then reversed himself after being identified in photographs taken at the scene.

According to Mr. Mills, the festivities were nothing more than "a small bon voyage party" he had given for the cousin of a close friend.

Roger C. Mears, a leading Democratic Party organizer in Arkansas, said he was stunned by the incident.

"I always thought of him as pretty much of a square," Mears stated. "I thought it was a little out of character for him to be running around that time of night with a go-go dancer and a masseuse. If he was a swinger, I feel like I would have known about it before now."

The incident in the Tidal Basin adds a new facet to Mills's personality, who up until now was known primarily as a clever champion of ruling class privileges and wealth, a strident spokesman of segregation, and a bitter foe of the labor movement.

1199 Delegates Fight Suspension

**BY A REPORTER
NEW YORK, NY—** Delegates of District 1199 at Kingsbrook Medical Center in Brooklyn will meet this week to plan a fight to restore full union rights to Guild delegate Nathan Gershon.

A desperate witch-hunt was launched by 1199 President Leon Davis at the October 10 meeting to prevent Gershon from presenting a resolution of support to the candidates of the Workers Party, Terry Delgado and Helen Halyard.

The attack on Gershon was deliberately planned in advance. The 1199 Executive Council knew that the endorsement of the Workers Party would be discussed and in fact had rejected a request to allow the two candidates to address the delegates.

Instead, Davis had invited Ramsey Clark, Democratic candidate for the US Senate to speak and asked the delegates to endorse the entire Democratic slate, headed by Hugh Carey.

The Workers Party is the only party in the November elections that is fighting for a labor party, for a break with the Democrats and Republicans, and calling on the unions to convene a Congress of Labor to defeat the plans of the Ford government to destroy wages, and all the rights of the unions, and to create mass unemployment.

EVAPORATING

Davis's support among the 1199 membership is rapidly evaporating. The time is passed when this bureaucrat can maintain his position by recalling the past struggles. His demagogic ultimatums, such as his threat to "resign" if Gershon was allowed to speak, cannot stifle the growing opposition to his bureaucratic rule.

Davis has virtually no support in the October 10 meeting. As soon as Gershon was cut off, dozens of delegates rose and shouted out "Let him speak," and "This is just like Watergate."

A delegate from a newly organized hospital told Davis: "The workers are treated as if the bosses were dictators. This is why we voted in 1199. If this is the way things are run, why did we vote for 1199?"

Davis sent some of his goons to try and intimidate Gershon into sitting down, while at least 50 delegates walked out of the meeting in disgust.

It was only after more than one-half of the delegates had left and the meeting was ending, that Davis pushed through a fraudulent motion to bar Gershon from the next three delegates' meetings.

This motion is an act of desperation to squash the growing rebellion by the delegates and to try and prevent the development of an opposition leadership in the union.

Davis has relied on support of a conservative section of delegates, while the militants became demoralized and quit.

Now, the deteriorating conditions in the hospitals are bringing forward a new layer of militant workers who are determined to fight.

Every militant member and delegate in 1199 knows that the struggle of the ranks has won every gain of the union and that Davis has a long record of collaboration with the employers.

Since the 1972 contract, real wages have declined and are lower than five years ago. The powerful hospital strike in November, 1973, for a 7.5 percent wage increase owed by the government was abruptly stopped by Davis and a 6 percent increase accepted. There was a large "no" vote to this betrayal.

Since the 1972 contract, Davis has led no fight to protect wages from skyrocketing inflation or to defend jobs at a time when budget cuts threaten widespread layoffs.

Davis did nothing to defend the 40 workers at the Charles Drew Medical Center who lost their jobs due to cutbacks. At the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Davis agreed to a system of hospital-wide seniority that accepts layoffs in principle and allows workers in one department to bump workers out of another department.

Davis caved in to the courts after the 1973 strike and took out a loan to pay a total of \$723,000 in fines. He now expects the members to increase their dues to pay for this capitulation.

Davis has a long record of support to Democrats and Republicans. He supported Rockefeller twice in the past for governor, and now feebly claims he was "fooled."

ANTIBUSING

Yet now Davis endorses Carey, who has just issued a statement supporting the antibusing campaign in Boston, thus lining up with Ford and the most racist antilabor forces in the country.

Davis has been supported at every point by the Communist Party which has opposed the struggle for a labor party.

A campaign is being launched in 1199 to circulate petitions demanding that the bar on Gershon be immediately lifted.

Support must be won for this throughout the membership in order to overturn this action at the November delegates meeting.



Members of the Textile Workers of America on strike against Eastern Piece Dye Works in Long Island City, NY.

Textile Ranks Strike For Pay Boost

**BY A REPORTER
NEW YORK, NY—** Members of the Textile Workers of America struck 140 shops in this state and New Jersey on Monday.

Their chief demands are substantial wage increases and a cost of living escalator clause.

The present wage rate

averages between \$3.87 to \$4.25 an hour. The union's original demands called for a 15 percent wage increase for each year of a three year contract.

The cost of living escalator clause would apply if inflation went above the percentage of the wage hike.

The Textile Workers Union has modified its wage demands now, calling for yearly wage increases of 11 percent, 10 percent, and 10 percent.

"All I know is if they'd stop the bloody inflation, we wouldn't have to ask for big wage increases," stated one worker on strike against the Eastern Piece Dye Works, located in Long Island City.

The union's contract expired last Saturday after negotiations broke down the preceding Thursday. Nine employers signed an agreement with the Textile Workers and are operating.

CLOSE

Dress goods industries are threatening to close down if the strike continues.

The New Jersey State Mediation Service will hold a bargaining session on October 17.

The union is in the midst of a large organizing drive in the South. This effort was spurred on by the victory at JP Stevens. A new organizing drive has begun at the Cannon Mills in North Carolina where wages are about \$3 an hour.

Cannon insists that any union election include workers from plants outside North Carolina in a play to defeat the Textile Workers.

Beame Demands More Education Cuts

**BY A REPORTER
NEW YORK, NY—** According to the City Planning Commission here, there is a lot of

"unused" school space around.

The commission is demanding that the Board of Education drastically cut

back its budget for constructing new schools.

The board is asking for \$678 million in its new budget. Last year, they asked for \$612-million and got \$220-million.

Funds are not available to cover adequately the extra students or programs. There is bitter opposition from many students and teachers to the agreement.

Marjorie, the parent of a fourth grader at the school and a UFT member, along with two other parents, claimed that Midwood Annex did not have adequate facilities for the students. There is no gym, a tiny cafeteria which would require four lunch shifts, broken pipes, and faulty electric wiring throughout the building.

They further claim that if there is money to bus students to another school, there must be funds available for hiring extra teachers.

The parents are demanding: a new, fully equipped annex, the hiring of extra teachers, a fight along with the UFT to reduce class size, and removal of the PS 139 principal who has consistently opposed the parents' demands.

Death In The Navy Yard

SPECIAL TO THE BULLETIN

NEW YORK, NY—Last Tuesday morning shortly before 8 a.m., a man was killed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Before most of the men had started work, a riggers supervisor fell from the scissor, or catwalk, 65 feet to the bottom of the ship Williamsburg. The scissor has no rails. The area in which the man was working was completely dark, and he was using a flashlight for his only light source.

Another rigger was called to find the body. It was so dark that he had to search for 20 minutes.

Most of the riggers walked out for the rest of the day.

One rigger told the Bulletin: "The scaffolding is just unsafe anyway. We don't have enough lights or ventilation."

"The man could have fallen because he was blinded by the flashlight or he could have gotten dizzy from paint fumes."

Seatrains has been disregarding more and more safety regulations so that nearly every day there are injuries. In order to save money, they have been using these scissors instead of large wooden scaffolds. The scissors are so small they can hold only one person, and are suspended with pulleys.

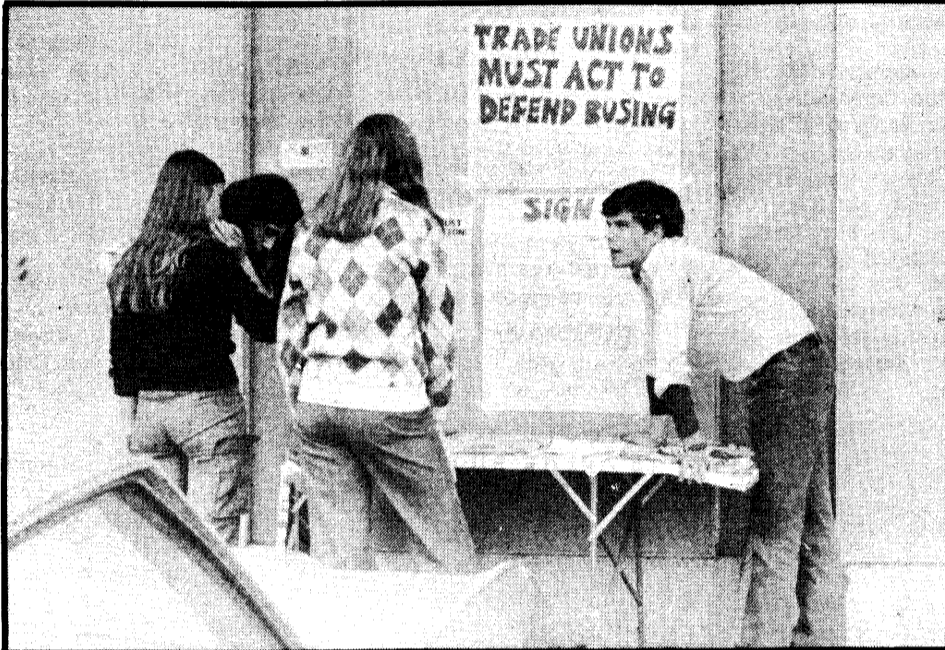
OVERCROWDED

At PS 139 in Brooklyn, parents staged a three day boycott over overcrowded conditions. The building is designed to house 1000 students, and presently has 1400 students.

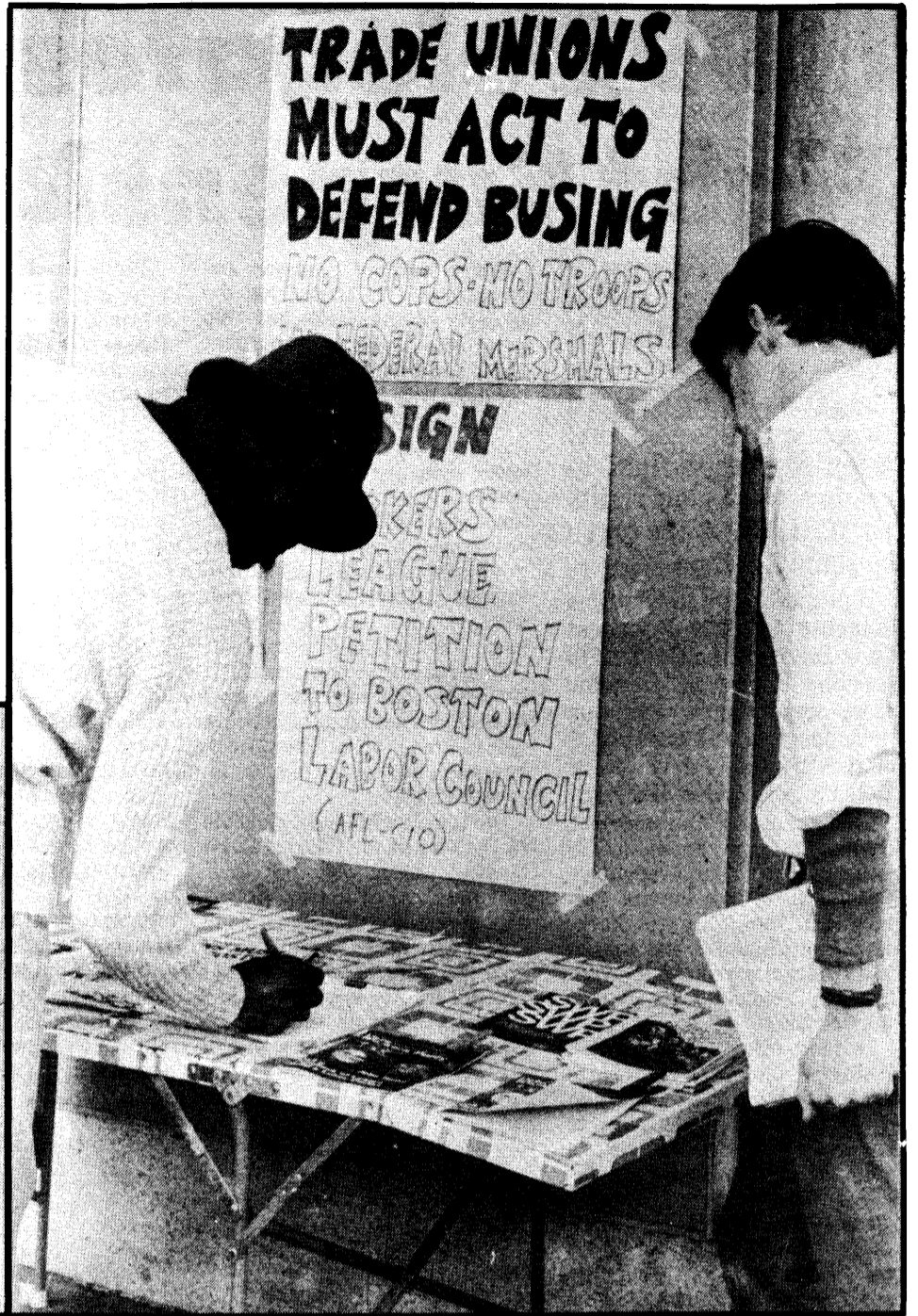
In the Bronx, angry parents pulled their children out of PS 75 because of deteriorating conditions.

The boycott at PS 139 ended when the Parents Association reached an agreement with the board that provides for the 400 extra students to use the old Annex at Midwood High School, an expanded busing program for the students to the annex, and expanded "enrichment" programs using "available personnel."

NO TROOPS TO BOSTON



Workers and students at the American Legion shopping center in Hyde Park sign petition circulated by the Workers League to demand the trade unions take action in Boston.



BY PAT CONNOLLY

BOSTON, Mass., Oct. 13—The open preparations for an all-out assault on the working class in this city have reached a new stage with the mobilization of state and Metropolitan District Police in riot gear at a staging area in Bayside Mall in Columbia Point.

The government—from Ford who encouraged the anti-busing and racist forces with his statement opposing "forced busing to achieve quality education in Boston" to Mayor White who unleashed the police campaign of provocation and terror—has tried to deepen racial divisions and tensions.

Last week, a Haitian worker was dragged from his car and brutally beaten by a mob in South Boston. The Tactical Patrol Force attacked black students at English High School and the Mission Hill Projects; it shut down the Dudley Station area of Roxbury; it assaulted white workers and youth at the "Rabbit" Tavern in South Boston. Preparations are being made to call in Federal marshals and troops.

Mayor White stated that "The Boston Police can no longer contain the situation in South Boston." The Black Caucus of the state legislature has appealed for Federal troops. Tom Atkins, head of the NAACP, at a rally on Boston Commons Sunday said that the government "should bring in the Sixth Fleet if necessary."

The Rev. Rafe Taylor, in a statement quoted approvingly by *The Militant*, paper of the Socialist Workers Party, said: "We need at least a division of federal troops with tanks, ack-ack guns, machine guns, grenades, and bazookas and everything else—to put down the rock throwing and intimidation."

This is a prescription for terror against the working class—black and white—of this city. The campaign by the city

government, the NAACP, and the black congressional caucus for thousands of troops to be brought into Boston is being spearheaded politically by the Socialist Workers Party.

The SWP telegraphed Ford and Sen. Edward Kennedy demanding federal troops:

"In this atmosphere federal troops must be sent immediately to uphold the desegregation order and to protect the black students who are implementing it. All necessary force must be used to smash the racist offensive and to guarantee the safety and constitutional rights of black people in this city."

The SWP not only starts with but also seeks to maintain the racial divisions in the working class, and in that way to paralyze it in the face of the capitalists' plans for massive unemployment and inflation.

They cover for the inaction of the trade union bureaucracy, which refuses to mobilize the working class in defense of its rights, goes onto Ford's Labor-Management Committee and cooperates in policing the unions. With their call for federal troops, the SWP turns away from the tremendous movement and strength in the working class, and relies on the strength of the ruling class. They are unable and unprepared to fight in the trade unions and among the youth for a policy to defend the working class.

The recent history of the use of troops in Northern Ireland makes absolutely clear what the SWP is advocating—to pin the working class under the weight of troops who are prepared to carry out the repression necessary for capitalism's survival.

The decision by British imperialism to send troops to Ireland was based upon the deepening crisis of British and international capitalism and their determination to deepen the divisions between Catholic and Protestant workers in Ireland. As the British government prepared to send in troops, the International Marxist Group, British co-thinkers of the SWP, refused to fight against the use of imperialist troops in N. Ireland. They based themselves on the divisions in the working class and refused to fight the illusions among many workers that British imperialist troops would protect the Catholic minority.

Only the International Committee and its British section, the Socialist Labor League (now the Workers Revolutionary Party) fought in the labor movement against the sending of troops to Ireland, exposing the imperialist interests those troops would defend against the Catholic and Protestant workers. British troops broke down the no-go areas that had been established in Derry and Belfast, and opened a concerted campaign of terror and conspiracy against the Irish working class. The policy resulted in the internment without trial of Irish workers and militants, the establishment of curfews and search and seizure operations by the troops, the terrorizing and murder of workers by troops, and the establishment of military rule.

All those, like the IMG and the SWP, who would not oppose British troops in N. Ireland bear responsibility for these attacks on the working class. Behind the

reactionary call by the SWP for federal troops in Boston, lies the refusal to learn the lessons of Ireland and to confront the political period which we are in.

This was made clear by the SWP's candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, Donald Gurewitz, speaking Friday night at an emergency meeting held by the SWP on busing:

"The situation is the same as it was in Little Rock and Selma. Troops armed with bayonets protected black school children from mobs of racists. This was brought about by the mass civil rights movement which pressured the government and forced it to act."

The SWP does not start from Marxist principles and the actual situation confronting the working class. The demand for government troops to intervene in the working class sows disorientation and illusion among workers as to the role of the state.

Gurewitz defends the totally wrong appeal for federal troops in Little Rock 16 years ago in order to defend this bankrupt program under conditions of the deeper crisis.

Marxists are compelled to fight for absolute clarity among workers on the role of the state and its military arm. The conception that the army of the most reactionary imperialist government in the world will defend black working class youth is as grotesque a fraud as the conception that federal troops would intervene in next month's miners' strike simply to ensure public safety and the impartial movement of energy resources.

The protest movement which won certain concessions in the civil rights movement was based on the period of boom. That boom is over. With major bank collapses internationally, the capitalist class is desperate to try to drive down the working class.

Boston in 1974 is not Selma or

Montgomery in the early 60s. There is a big movement in the working class against raging inflation and the threat of mass unemployment, which are being used by this government to weaken and impoverish the working class. In the Boston area alone, there have been massive layoffs at General Motors, the closure of the West Lynn plant of General Electric, the layoff of thousands at New England Telephone, Polaroid, Honeywell. The cost of living in Boston is the highest of any city in the continental USA. Schools and housing are suffering from rapid deterioration, and the unemployment rate is among the highest in the country. These are the issues that confront the working class. The issue is not simply busing, or the racial divisions in the working class, but the fight to unify all workers in a common struggle for decent schools, replacement of the delapidated and inadequate housing, the creation of tens of thousands of job opportunities, the fight against layoffs and against rising prices. This means the fight for nationalization of industries, for a shorter work week, for billions to be spent on education, health care, and housing. This means the fight in the trade unions for the construction of a labor party to unite all sections of the working class.

While the revisionists are calling for the army to intervene in Boston, the Workers League is fighting for a program of action by the trade unions to defend all youth. A petition drive has been initiated calling on the trade unions to defend the right of all youth to a decent education, to protect black youth from racist attacks, to demand that the cops get out of the schools and to fight to mobilize all workers politically against the rotten conditions in Boston through the building of a labor party.

C.I.A.

THE ANTICOMMUNIST CRUSADE

BY FRANK MARTIN

Having emerged from the war as the world's banker, the US now found it necessary to become the world's policeman.

In Western Europe, the Stalinists provided vital support to imperialism by heading off the revolutionary upsurge in the working class and handing power back to the bourgeoisie. This gave capitalism a chance to restabilize itself and opened the door to the postwar boom.

The imperialists used the Stalinists at a time when they themselves were too weak to hold back the working class. But they did so, only to prepare, to go on the offensive and witch-hunt the Stalinists themselves out of the labor movement.

The American ruling class had a particular role for its "own" labor bureaucrats. The "good credentials" of American labor were now to be put to use in the drive to make the world safe for imperialism. This was the origin of the anticommunist crusade.

Even before this, the leadership of the craft-based American Federation of Labor began to make important preparations in this direction. (The AFL and the CIO were united in 1955.)

In 1938, David Dubinsky pulled his International Ladies Garment Workers Union out of the CIO and joined the AFL. In 1940, he gave George Meany the necessary backing in the AFL to make him president.

In the early 1940s, Dubinsky joined extreme right-winger Matthew Woll to form the American Labor Conference on International Affairs (ALCIA).

ALCIA was set up for the purpose of giving the AFL a voice in international union affairs. It was funded by the ILGWU and the J.M. Kaplan Fund. The latter was a conduit for funds from the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the CIA.

COMMITTEE

In 1944, Dubinsky and Woll joined Meany in forming the Free Trade Union Committee. On Dubinsky's advice, Jay Lovestone was made secretary of the FTUC and international advisor to Meany.

Using the FTUC as a jump-off point, Meany and Co. began to intervene into the affairs of the trade union movement in Western Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

Starting in 1945, the AFL began to pour money into Latin America and the Caribbean to set up a rival labor federation to the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization, which had been founded with Stalinist support.

Meanwhile, the OSS was transformed by an act of congress into the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947. By 1949, it had received permission from Congress to spend money "without regard to the provisions of the law and regulations to the expenditures of government funds."

It was now in a position to finance covert operations without anyone bothering to check on them. Those committees set up to oversee CIA operations became dominated by CIA personnel.

Havana, 1947: Under Cuban ruler Prio Socarras, the Cuban Federation of Labor sponsored a regional labor conference with



George Meany

Meany's support. Meany sponsored a joint resolution with Eusebia-Mujal, the Cuban representative, declaring that the main task of the trade union movement in Latin America and the Caribbean was the fight against communism. The resolution had been drafted in collaboration with the CIA.

EXPLODED

The conference exploded. The Honduran delegate, along with others refused to back the motion. Only the Puerto Rican delegate supported Meany. At one point, the Cuban delegate pulled out his gun and threatened to shoot the Honduran. Meany reportedly ducked under the table.

The conference finally ended up supporting a compromise resolution calling for opposition to both "right-wing and left-wing" dictatorships. The delegates' expenses were heavily subsidized by the AFL, with CIA backing. Meany was in business.

By the early 1950s, Meany, along with the CIO and the British TUC, succeeded in



Captured Cuban exiles after the Bay of Pigs incident.

splitting the World Federation of Trade Unions and set up the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

WITCH-HUNT

As Meany, Lovestone and Co. built their worldwide network against communism, they stepped up the witch-hunt against left-wing militants inside the US labor movement.

By 1949, the CIO had passed a resolution banning "members or sympathizers of the Communist Party from holding executive positions in the union. The CP delegates actually ended up supporting the resolution in the name of 'labor unity'! The AFL long had such regulations on the books. When the merger came in 1953, the witch-hunt was stepped up. And, of course, alongside this came the increasing involvement in the CIA activities.

By 1953, the CIA had notched up its first successful operation in overthrowing "unfriendly" governments. This was the Mossadegh government in Iran which had planned to nationalize the American-owned oil industries. Mossadegh was replaced by the Shah of Iran who proceeded to break the trade unions, jail left-wingers, and make Iran safe for the oil companies.

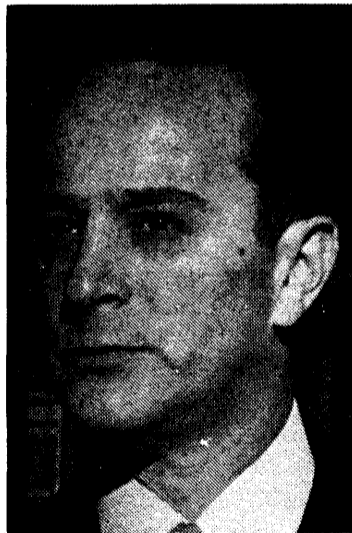
But it was in Latin America that the CIA's "trade union connection" really began to pay off. First, Guatemala, 1954. Meany published an open letter in the AFL journal denouncing the newly installed government of Jacobo Arbenz for attacking American imperialism.

He called on Arbenz to purge the unions of "communists." He denounced Arbenz for considering the nationalization of the US United Fruit Co. and land reform proposals.

COUP

Three months later, a joint operation by US paratroops and an internal military coup overthrew Arbenz. The new military government of Castillo-Armas

was praised in the AFL journal, the Federationist, as a "liberator" with the people "solidly" behind him. The reporter was Serafino Ramualdi—Lovestone's man in Latin America. Somehow, Ramualdi did not notice the 8000 trade unionists who had been jailed by the "liberators" or the fact that the trade unions had been dissolved.



Jacobo Arbenz

British Guyana, 1963: On Thursday, October 8, British warships rushed to Guyana. The British government declared: "Her Majesty's government is not willing to allow a communist state to be organized within the British Commonwealth."

JAGAN

The next day the reformist People's Progressive Party led by Cheddi Jagan resigned from the government after having been in power for 133 days.

The events leading up to Jagan's ouster are a case study in how the CIA operates. Jagan had aroused fears with some of his reformist proposals. In a column published eight years after the fact, Drew Pearson revealed that then President Kennedy was worried that Guyana might go the way of Cuba. He made a special visit to England in April, 1963 to seek

Prime Minister Macmillan's cooperation in getting rid of Jagan.

Suddenly, Guyana was flooded with American labor officials. In the 18 months leading up to the ouster, labor officials made more visits to Guyana than they had in the previous 18 years.

Of those that came, the most notable were William McCabe, InterAmerican representative, AFL-CIO; Ben Segal, education director, IUE; G. O'Keefe, director of the Retail Clerks (RCIA); Rene Lioeanjie, NMU coordinator for Latin America; and Pat Terill of the USWA. O'Keefe, incidentally, was to have a hand in the later events in Chile.

TENSION

The role of these union officials was to exploit certain tensions which already existed between the black workers in the towns and the more rural based Indian workers. They got their men in key positions inside the Guyanese Trades Union Congress. When the Guyanese TUC decided to call a general strike in mid-1963, riots broke out in Georgetown. Over 170 people were killed and hundreds more wounded. The strikers found themselves in the unique position of being supported by the employers' federation. This was the signal for the British warships to move in.

There could be much more said along the same lines in country after country in Latin America and the Caribbean: The installation of the fascist Stroessner in Paraguay; the rise of Duvalier in Haiti; the coup against Goulart in Brazil; the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; the Bordaberry regime in Uruguay.

In every case, the CIA was directly involved and in every case, money handed in as union dues by American workers was transformed into backing for military dictators and the smashing of the labor movement in Latin America.

"...we had been operating a damned Murder, Inc. in the Caribbean." (Lyndon Johnson in the last interview before his death as recounted by Ovid Demaris in Dirty Business, p. 147).

The Fight Against Speedup

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This was the policy statement of the 5/55 branch at Cowley at the start of the Tory three-day week. They called for occupations to meet closures or redundancies and alerted the labor force to a new offensive by the company.

The warning was certainly timely. Top management at British Leyland had already constructed a policy of speedup and a cut in the labor force. It would involve at Cowley the smashing of one of the most important agreements ever signed in the car industry and the victimization of the shop steward who drew it up, Alan Thornett.

Since they forced in measured-day work in January 1971 management at Cowley had been unable to extract the output they required from the labor force. This was primarily due to the resistance of the 5/55 branch and the shop stewards.

The branch has a unique record of struggle against MDW. As early as 1965 they warned that the employers were considering the introduction of the new system. In 1967 the British Motor Corporation (who ran Cowley before the 1968 merger with Leyland) brought out a 19-page booklet on job evaluation and MDW. The 5/55 branch leaders exposed it and successfully campaigned for a rejection of job evaluation in the plant.

In 1970 British Leyland invited shop stewards to a sea-side town to "learn" about MDW. This was firmly rejected by the branch which conducted their own investigation. Visits to Ford's and Chrysler's were arranged and the experiences written up in the 5/55 Branch News.

The articles showed how successive groups of car workers had been lured into abandoning piecework with the promise of high wages only to find that within a few years they had fallen to the bottom of the car industry wages league.

The branch also warned against the role of the national officials. When they began talks on MDW at Cowley the move was denounced—"the consequences of this sell-out could lead to disaster," said the Branch News of September 1970.

In December, Branch News was devoted to a detailed analysis of the company MDW proposals and in January it warned:

"Victimization at Cowley" was recently published as a pamphlet by the Workers Revolutionary Party of England.

The struggle against the victimization of shop steward Alan Thornett by the management of British-Leyland in Cowley tested in practice all tendencies in the workers' movement, and demonstrated on the very battlefield of the class struggle that only those forces trained as Marxists inside the trade unions—represented in Britain by the Workers Revolutionary Party and the All Trades Unions Alliance—can lead the working class in defense of its organizations and basic rights.

"There is every indication that the fight against job evaluation and measured-day work will shortly be upon us. Principled action will be decisive if we are to maintain our piecework structure, the principle of mutuality and a high wage level...if we stand together we will win through."

Days later the company forced the first Cowley workers to accept MDW without agreement of the branch or the stewards in the plant. But the fight to prevent speedup continued.

Leyland were unable to get the increased output on the Marina lines they had expected. Frustrated communications were sent out to the work force like this one on March 30, 1971 from W. Kennedy, the South works production management:

"It is vitally important that the production of the ADO 28 is rapidly increased if we are to capitalize on the favorable initial reaction to the model. Failure to meet public demand for the car at this crucial early stage could have a disastrous effect on its future prospects. In the interests of all concerned the company cannot allow this to happen. Plans for increasing production therefore must be implemented."

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"So far they have failed because you the members have resisted. You have demanded proper procedures and safeguards. But this resistance may now result in victimization."

The battle against speedup and for a mutuality agreement lasted many months. There were strikes and heated negotiations. In December 1971 a deal was signed (see appendix 1).

5/55 Branch reported to its members:

"The essence of the agreement is this. Resulting from a study there must either be mutual agreement or an agreed temporary arrangement. If the shop steward in the section uses his veto on a proposition the company then has the right to try and negotiate a temporary arrangement so that the job can run.

"If after a genuine attempt to get agreement on this basis no agreement is reached, the change cannot be implemented." But they also warned: "Let us

make one more point as far as our position is concerned. The best possible situation would be to keep out Industrial Engineers altogether, because they are not there for our benefit—they will cut us to pieces if they get half the chance.

"We opposed MDW as everyone knows with every ounce of our energy—because in the long term it will cut wages; this remains firmly our conviction. But MDW is a fact of life at this point of time and it is our job to do all in our power to protect our members against the Company's speedup plans, and in this respect mutuality before implementation is the best possible terms under the circumstances." (Branch News, December, 1971.)

On paper the agreement marked a major concession by the company. They had conceded the principle of mutuality. This meant that changes in work effort could only be introduced after prior agreement with the shop stewards.

The capitalist press said the deal was a big climb-down by Leyland. But the stewards were not complacent. They insisted that mutuality did not cancel out the dangers of measured-day work. In effect they were warning their members "this agreement is not a cast iron barrier against speedup, but a temporary advantage won from the company because of the great resistance and unity of the membership—prepare for the future struggle."

This estimation proved absolutely correct. The fact that stewards like Thornett, Fryer, the TGWU convenor and Hobbes, the AUEW convenor, made it, is proof of the experienced and principled leadership they represent.

As the branch committee statement had hinted, Leylands had no intention of dropping the speedup drive, mutuality or no mutuality. As one executive was to tell John Elliot of the Financial Times:

"It's not the mutuality wording in the agreement that matters but the atmosphere on the shop floor."

Leyland began to wait for the "atmosphere" to change in their favor. They had at least learnt one vital lesson from the first stage of the measured-day work offensive—speedup and redundancy was not possible without destroying the 5/55 branch and the shop stewards' leadership.

Leyland made their decision to act in the New Year of 1974.

The crisis they faced was extreme. The three-day week was draining away their remaining cash reserves. The new ADO 71 model, a six cylinder petrol guzzler, would have to be built on more credit from the banks. Meanwhile prospects were extremely poor—sales were already down 30 percent due to the rising price of fuel and the clamp-down on HP.

In these conditions the Cowley management were desperate for speedup. In August 1973 they had already warned during a strike that "even if it means turning Oxford into a depressed area this factory will not open unless these techniques are introduced."

The company decided to launch the offensive during the three-day week. On February 5 it told foremen that production would be cut and the "model mix" changed on the Marina lines. Mutual agreement on the changes would not be observed; instead re-manning for the lines would work to new schedules according to man-assignment sheets based on work study. This was an open challenge to the mutuality agreement. The changes called for a 30 percent increase in effort.

The dispute started in the QT block in South Side assembly when management attempted to impose the assignment sheets without prior agreement with the unions. In a decisive statement published in the Branch News of March 14 Alan Thornett explained the issues at stake to the Cowley work force:

"The company is challenging the Industrial Engineering Agreement. As one of those primarily responsible for negotiating this agreement I feel very strongly that this very important agreement should be defended, and the protection it provides for our members in terms of mutuality should continue. It is with this in mind I make the following points:

He went on to explain that the company were calling for a 14 percent drop in program from 35 to 30 cars an hour but at the same time were insisting on de-manning by 17 percent and increasing the amount of cars built within the 30 per hour program for the North American market. These vehicles require considerably more work to meet the US safety regulations.

"In order to carry this speedup through," explained Thornett, "the company has made it clear in writing to the trade unions that they intend to pursue a course of action which breaks the terms of the Agreement for the Application of Industrial Engineers. This is the agreement which provides for mutual agreement on effort."

Thornett's exposure of company strategy enraged the Cowley management. They were determined to deal with him when the time was ripe. (For the full text of Thornett's statement see appendix II).

The QT strike escalated into a full-scale stoppage and by April production came to a halt.

In the trim shop women sewing-machine operators on the Maxi track also struck over the company's attempt to break the mutuality agreement. This dispute was handled by Alan Thornett and John Underwood, deputy convenors of the two unions—the TGWU and the AUEW.

This confrontation in QT and trim had been deliberately provoked by the company. They had disregarded the mutuality agreement with the full knowledge that this meant a strike. Management had calculated that the effects of the three-day week and the illusion thrown up by the election of the Labor government would lead to a retreat on mutuality in the QT.

The extreme tension within the ranks was expressed at a mass meeting on April 5. The shop stewards had to take four votes before it became clear that there was still a narrow majority for the strike.

In the trim shop however, an important victory had been won. After a week's sit-in by the women the company had agreed to withdraw their work-study engineers and bargain the effort in the traditional way.

In QT the firm grasped their chance to drive the men back to work. The plant director John Symonds sent them a bullying letter. He demanded they work the Marina under the new man assignments without union agreement. He ended with this threat:

"...report for work, tell your foreman you will give your assignments a fair effort at a line-speed of 30 per hour. To those who refuse, I must ask the question—Do you wish to remain in our employment? If you won't work we must assume you wish to leave us and we will respond accordingly."

Three days later the QT assembly workers voted to go back on the company's



Management had full support from the bourgeois press in their witch-hunt against Thornett and the Cowley workers.

VICTIMIZATION AT COWLEY

Part Five

by stephen johns



terms by a large majority. The mutuality principle had been breached.

British Leyland were now ready for stage two of the offensive. In the Cowley complex Alan Thornett was recognized as the main obstacle to the speedup strategy and the principle defender of the mutuality agreement.

He had been a shop steward to the Cowley transport section for 12 years, but his dedication and principled leadership had won him many important positions.

He was chairman of the shop stewards' committee, deputy convenor, chairman of the 5/55 branch, automotive delegate on the TGWU No. 5 Regional Committee which represents 330,000 TGWU members in the Midlands, delegate to the TGWU-biennial delegate conference over the last four years and a member of the TGWU district committee and automotive group committee.

Leyland wanted to strip Thornett of all his power in order to deliver the first powerful blow to trade unionism in Cowley.

The pretext they used was a strike by workers in Thornett's transport section. In the course of trampling on the mutuality agreement during the QT strike Leyland had also broken a layoff agreement with this section of workers.

This laid down that no internal driver could be laid off if any track in the plant was running. But in the course of the QT strike the company had sent drivers home while production continued on the north side of the plant.

The drivers began their strike on April 5 and they met again on April 9—a day after the end of the QT strike. The vote was to stay out for another week—the Cowley plant therefore remained closed.

The circumstances of the dispute are most revealing. At first the Cowley management denied the existence of the drivers' layoff agreement. But eventually

Symonds published a supervisory brief which confirmed its existence. The company then changed their argument. They claimed the drivers' agreement has been superseded by the general layoff agreement, signed five years ago which applies to the whole plant. This agreement determines the conditions applying to workers once they are laid off, unlike the transport drivers' agreement which protects them against layoff.

The company were obviously seeking ways of prolonging what normally would have been a minor dispute. They wanted Cowley to remain closed to whip up hatred against Thornett. This is confirmed by John Fryer who wrote up his experiences at Cowley in the Sunday Times of April 21. He found that management did:

"...Not regard the layoff issue as a matter of high principle. One executive reckons it would be sorted out after an hour's bargaining. But they see it as the last straw in a long series of actions...they single out Thornett who is chairman of the shop stewards committee, as a major influence in the disruption."

(The drivers' agreement was sorted out. After the witch-hunt it took the company a matter of hours to restore fully their rights under the original eight-year-old agreement.)

The company immediately took advantage of the situation they had created. As soon as the drivers decided to continue the strike, management sent their foremen down the lines where workers were waiting anxiously to hear whether production could start. The foremen told the men that Thornett had invented a non-existent agreement and deliberately caused the strike to keep the plant closed because he had lost the vote in QT the day before.

This caused precisely the effect the company wanted. A near-riot situation developed. This highly-charged atmosphere

was ideal for the witch-hunt.

Leyland were engaged in a calculated disruption. They have driven a tank through almost every agreement at Cowley. They were keeping the plant closed in order to isolate the militants by using every red-baiting, witch-hunting tactic known to the British employers.

The next day, April 10, the axe fell. The Cowley personnel chief G. Whalen called in the Oxford TGWU district organizer Bill Thompson, Thornett and the senior shop steward Bob Fryer. He informed them that the company was refusing to recognize Alan Thornett's credentials as a shop steward.

Thornett's "crimes" were either complete fabrications by the company or actions completely in accordance with established trade union practice.

He was accused of holding a series of unauthorized trade union meetings on the plant. Two investigations, one by Bill Thompson and one by the 5/55 branch secretary Tony Bradley proved this allegation to be totally without foundation. (See appendix III).

Two other charges concerned Thornett's fight for the rights of his members. British Leyland said that his March 14 article exposing the action of the company over mutuality proved his "nonability" to promote "harmony" between the workers and management. They said that the article had been entirely responsible for the strikes that had taken place against speedup. They accused him of "failing to discourage" the transport drivers from striking in defense of their agreement.

In other words, Thornett was guilty of acting like a shop steward and not a management lackey. To Leyland this was a crime. But the transport section took another view. They met and decided not to end their dispute until Thornett was

recognized as their steward once more.

"He's the best bloody steward we have ever had," one worker told Workers Press. "If he goes every union representative and shop steward in this plant can follow him if Leyland chooses."

For the 5/55 branch, secretary Tony Bradley made the issue quite clear. "This is not a situation where compromise can be reached," he said, "it is a question of the fundamental right of a trade union to elect its representatives in a democratic manner." After a unanimous vote in the branch he applied to make the strike official.

By now the company had violated an impressive list of agreements. They had broken almost every clause in the mutuality deal. They had refused to honor the drivers' lay-off agreement. In victimizing Thornett they had thrown out the status-quo principle embodied in the March 1971 national procedure agreement and for good measure they were attempting to suppress the unwritten but cherished basic right of workers to elect their own representatives without interference from the employer.

By tearing up the agreements Leyland were launching a fundamental attack on trades unionism at Cowley. The agreements were more than pieces of paper, they represented the strength of the working class in the plant. They had been achieved after years of struggle. The company wanted to reverse all these gains, to transform the situation to one where each worker faced the offensive as an individual, not a member of a united body of workers. In short, they wanted to eradicate trade unionism. The capitalist Press were already on their way to Oxford to lend a hand. Their witch-hunting talents were needed to obscure this basic class issue.

TO BE CONTINUED

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The battle against speedup and for a mutuality agreement lasted many months. There were strikes and heated negotiations. In December 1971 a deal was signed (see appendix 1).

5/55 Branch reported to its members:

"The essence of the agreement is this. Resulting from a study there must either be mutual agreement or an agreed temporary arrangement. If the shop steward in the section uses his veto on a proposition the company then has the right to try and negotiate a temporary arrangement so that the job can run.

"If after a genuine attempt to get agreement on this basis no agreement is reached, the change cannot be implemented." But they also warned: "Let us

make one more point as far as our position is concerned. The best possible situation /could be to keep out Industrial Engineers altogether, because they are not there for our benefit—they will cut us to pieces if they get half the chance.

"We opposed MDW as everyone knows with every ounce of our energy—because in the long term it will cut wages; this remains firmly our conviction. But MDW is a fact of life at this point of time and it is our job to do all in our power to protect our members against the Company's speedup plans, and in this respect mutuality before implementation is the best possible terms under the circumstances." (Branch News, December, 1971.)

On paper the agreement marked a major concession by the company. They had conceded the principle of mutuality. This meant that changes in work effort could only be introduced after prior agreement with the shop stewards.

The capitalist press said the deal was a big climb-down by Leyland. But the stewards were not complacent. They insisted that mutuality did not cancel out the dangers of measured-day work. In effect they were warning their members "this agreement is not a cast iron barrier against speedup, but a temporary advantage won from the company because of the great resistance and unity of the membership—prepare for the future struggle."

This estimation proved absolutely correct. The fact that stewards like Thornett, Fryer, the TGWU convenor and Hobbes, the AUEW convenor, made it, is proof of the experienced and principled leadership they represent.

As the branch committee statement had hinted, Leylands had no intention of dropping the speedup drive, mutuality or no mutuality. As one executive was to tell John Elliot of the Financial Times:

"It's not the mutuality wording in the agreement that matters but the atmosphere on the shop floor."

Leyland began to wait for the "atmosphere" to change in their favor. They had at least learnt one vital lesson from the first stage of the measured-day work offensive—speedup and redundancy was not possible without destroying the 5/55 branch and the shop stewards' leadership.

Leyland made their decision to act in the New Year of 1974.

The crisis they faced was extreme. The three-day week was draining away their remaining cash reserves. The new ADO 71 model, a six cylinder petrol guzzler, would have to be built on more credit from the banks. Meanwhile prospects were extremely poor—sales were already down 30 percent due to the rising price of fuel and the clamp-down on HP.

In these conditions the Cowley management were desperate for speedup. In August 1973 they had already warned during a strike that "even if it means turning Oxford into a depressed area this factory will not open unless these techniques are introduced."

The company decided to launch the offensive during the three-day week. On February 5 it told foremen that production would be cut and the "model mix" changed on the Marina lines. Mutual agreement on the changes would not be observed; instead re-manning for the lines would work to new schedules according to man-assignment sheets based on work study. This was an open challenge to the mutuality agreement. The changes called for a 30 percent increase in effort.

The dispute started in the QT block in South Side assembly when management attempted to impose the assignment sheets without prior agreement with the unions. In a decisive statement published in the Branch News of March 14 Alan Thornett explained the issues at stake to the Cowley work force:

"The company is challenging the Industrial Engineering Agreement. As one of those primarily responsible for negotiating this agreement I feel very strongly that this very important agreement should be defended, and the protection it provides for our members in terms of mutuality should continue. It is with this in mind I make the following points:

He went on to explain that the company were calling for a 14 percent drop in program from 35 to 30 cars an hour but at the same time were insisting on de-manning by 17 percent and increasing the amount of cars built within the 30 per hour program for the North American market. These vehicles require considerably more work to meet the US safety regulations.

"In order to carry this speedup through," explained Thornett, "the company has made it clear in writing to the trade unions that they intend to pursue a course of action which breaks the terms of the Agreement for the Application of Industrial Engineers. This is the agreement which provides for mutual agreement on effort."

Thornett's exposure of company strategy enraged the Cowley management. They were determined to deal with him when the time was ripe. (For the full text of Thornett's statement see appendix II).

The QT strike escalated into a full-scale stoppage and by April production came to a halt.

In the trim shop women sewing-machine operators on the Maxi track also struck over the company's attempt to break the mutuality agreement. This dispute was handled by Alan Thornett and John Underwood, deputy convenors of the two unions—the TGWU and the AUEW.

This confrontation in QT and trim had been deliberately provoked by the company. They had disregarded the mutuality agreement with the full knowledge that this meant a strike. Management had calculated that the effects of the three-day week and the illusion thrown up by the election of the Labor government would lead to a retreat on mutuality in the QT.

The extreme tension within the ranks was expressed at a mass meeting on April 5. The shop stewards had to take four votes before it became clear that there was still a narrow majority for the strike.

In the trim shop however, an important victory had been won. After a week's sit-in by the women the company had agreed to withdraw their work-study engineers and bargain the effort in the traditional way.

In QT the firm grasped their chance to drive the men back to work. The plant director John Symonds sent them a bullying letter. He demanded they work the Marina under the new man assignments without union agreement. He ended with this threat:

"...report for work, tell your foreman you will give your assignments a fair effort at a line-speed of 30 per hour. To those who refuse, I must ask the question—Do you wish to remain in our employment? If you won't work we must assume you wish to leave us and we will respond accordingly." Three days later the QT assembly workers voted to go back on the company's

VICTIMIZATION AT COWLEY

Part Five

by stephen johns



terms by a large majority. The mutuality principle had been breached.

British Leyland were now ready for stage two of the offensive. In the Cowley complex Alan Thornett was recognized as the main obstacle to the speedup strategy and the principle defender of the mutuality agreement.

He had been a shop steward to the Cowley transport section for 12 years, but his dedication and principled leadership had won him many important positions. He was chairman of the shop stewards' committee, deputy convenor, chairman of the 5/55 branch, automotive delegate on the TGWU No. 5 Regional Committee which represents 330,000 TGWU members in the Midlands, delegate to the TGWU-biennial delegate conference over the last four years and a member of the TGWU district committee and automotive group committee.

Leyland wanted to strip Thornett of all his power in order to deliver the first powerful blow to trade unionism in Cowley.

The pretext they used was a strike by workers in Thornett's transport section. In the course of trampling on the mutuality agreement during the QT strike Leyland had also broken a layoff agreement with this section of workers.

This laid down that no internal driver could be laid off if any track in the plant was running. But in the course of the QT strike the company had sent drivers home while production continued on the north side of the plant.

The drivers began their strike on April 5 and they met again on April 9—a day after the end of the QT strike. The vote was to stay out for another week—the Cowley plant therefore remained closed.

The circumstances of the dispute are most revealing. At first the Cowley management denied the existence of the drivers' layoff agreement. But eventually

Symonds published a supervisory brief which confirmed its existence. The company then changed their argument. They claimed the drivers' agreement has been superseded by the general layoff agreement, signed five years ago which applies to the whole plant. This agreement determines the conditions applying to workers once they are laid off, unlike the transport drivers' agreement which protects them against layoff.

The company were obviously seeking ways of prolonging what normally would have been a minor dispute. They wanted Cowley to remain closed to whip up hatred against Thornett. This is confirmed by John Fryer who wrote up his experiences at Cowley in the Sunday Times of April 21. He found that management did:

"...Not regard the layoff issue as a matter of high principle. One executive reckons it would be sorted out after an hour's bargaining. But they see it as the last straw in a long series of actions...they single out Thornett who is chairman of the shop stewards committee, as a major influence in the disruption."

(The drivers' agreement was sorted out. After the witch-hunt it took the company a matter of hours to restore fully their rights under the original eight-year-old agreement.)

The company immediately took advantage of the situation they had created. As soon as the drivers decided to continue the strike, management sent their foremen down the lines where workers were waiting anxiously to hear whether production could start. The foremen told the men that Thornett had invented a non-existent agreement and deliberately caused the strike to keep the plant closed because he had lost the vote in QT the day before.

This caused precisely the effect the company wanted. A near-riot situation developed. This highly-charged atmosphere

was ideal for the witch-hunt.

Leyland were engaged in a calculated disruption. They have driven a tank through almost every agreement at Cowley. They were keeping the plant closed in order to isolate the militants by using every red-baiting, witch-hunting tactic known to the British employers.

The next day, April 10, the axe fell. The Cowley personnel chief G. Whalen called in the Oxford TGWU district organizer Bill Thompson, Thornett and the senior shop steward Bob Fryer. He informed them that the company was refusing to recognize Alan Thornett's credentials as a shop steward.

Thornett's "crimes" were either complete fabrications by the company or actions completely in accordance with established trade union practice.

He was accused of holding a series of unauthorized trade union meetings on the plant. Two investigations, one by Bill Thompson and one by the 5/55 branch secretary Tony Bradley proved this allegation to be totally without foundation. (See appendix III).

Two other charges concerned Thornett's fight for the rights of his members. British Leyland said that his March 14 article exposing the action of the company over mutuality proved his "nonability" to promote "harmony" between the workers and management. They said that the article had been entirely responsible for the strikes that had taken place against speedup. They accused him of "failing to discourage" the transport drivers from striking in defense of their agreement.

In other words, Thornett was guilty of acting like a shop steward and not a management lackey. To Leyland this was a crime. But the transport section took another view. They met and decided not to end their dispute until Thornett was

recognized as their steward once more.

"He's the best bloody steward we have ever had," one worker told Workers Press. "If he goes every union representative and shop steward in this plant can follow him if Leyland chooses."

For the 5/55 branch, secretary Tony Bradley made the issue quite clear. "This is not a situation where compromise can be reached," he said, "it is a question of the fundamental right of a trade union to elect its representatives in a democratic manner." After a unanimous vote in the branch he applied to make the strike official.

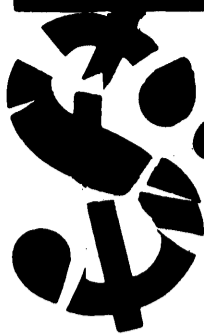
By now the company had violated an impressive list of agreements. They had broken almost every clause in the mutuality deal. They had refused to honor the drivers' lay-off agreement. In victimizing Thornett they had thrown out the status-quo principle embodied in the March 1971 national procedure agreement and for good measure they were attempting to suppress the unwritten but cherished basic right of workers to elect their own representatives without interference from the employer.

By tearing up the agreements Leyland were launching a fundamental attack on trades unionism at Cowley. The agreements were more than pieces of paper, they represented the strength of the working class in the plant. They had been achieved after years of struggle. The company wanted to reverse all these gains, to transform the situation to one where each worker faced the offensive as an individual, not a member of a united body of workers. In short, they wanted to eradicate trade unionism. The capitalist Press were already on their way to Oxford to lend a hand. Their witch-hunting talents were needed to obscure this basic class issue.

TO BE CONTINUED



Management had full support from the bourgeois press in their witch-hunt against Thornett and the Cowley workers.



economy today

by Jeff Sebastian

Outlook For Credit

An article in the October 7 **Journal of Commerce** reporting a speech by the newspaper's economist J. Roger Wallace makes a number of extremely important points about the approaching collapse of the inflationary credit boom.

Since Nixon's August 15, 1971 measures which removed the gold backing from the dollar, the value of paper money has been indeterminate. This has expressed itself in wild speculation in commodities and increases in the cost of living as capitalists have attempted to protect themselves from the depreciating value of paper money.

While oil has quadrupled in price, other commodities such as sugar, copper, tin, coffee, and bananas have increased in price by as much as 600 percent.

These increases have been passed along into the costs of consumer goods to the point where double digit inflation (above 10 percent) is now the norm throughout the capitalist world.

What Wallace points out, quite correctly, is that the credit-inflation boom is now rapidly passing over into deflation. This will mean the collapse of huge sections of capital, and the destruction of large stores of value.

Wallace declared: "Much of the strength in postwar business activity both here and abroad has stemmed from continued inflationary expectations.

"The belief has spread both among businessmen and consumers that the smart thing is to buy or build now, borrowing the money necessary to do so with the expectation of being able to repay debts in currencies of steadily declining value.

"Invariably worldwide business recessions have been accompanied by a considerable amount of price deflation. In the past, the combination of worldwide recession and of worldwide price deflation has resulted in serious business contractions with recession aggravating deflation and deflation aggravating recession."

Wallace explained that because of the hoarding of commodities, numerous companies are now holding three to six times their normal inventory of materials and components.

Business activity has not fallen more rapidly almost entirely because the building of inventories has sustained production.

Forty percent of second quarter profits, after taxes, are accounted for by inventory profits, that is, by inventories purchased in an earlier period whose value has now been marked up through inflation.

This situation can continue only so long as the capitalists feel that they have a reasonable possibility of unloading their inventories at a profit.

With inflation now raging at nearly 12 percent and real wages of workers declining, this process is rapidly approaching its limit.

The October 12 issue of **Business Week** indicates that signs of this are already developing. Companies are beginning to cut back or stretch out their spending plans. At mid-year, the unspent capital appropriations of manufacturing companies were 50 percent higher than in mid-1973.

This sets the stage for a panic. Once commodity holders begin to doubt that their commodities can be sold or can be sold at a profit, the rush will be on to unload inventories.

But if every dealer is rushing to sell and nobody wishes to buy, all of these commodities become unsaleable. Overnight, the scarcity of commodities created by the inventory hoarding can be converted to a vast surplus of commodities with a resulting plunge in prices.

We have already seen this develop in the stock market. The conviction that the profit possibilities of industry are zero has led to a wave of panic selling that has wiped out over \$300 billion dollars.

This is how the capitalist economy readjusts itself. Through credit and inflation, capitalist production is expanded far beyond the ability of the capitalists to realize sufficient profits on their investments.

The readjustment is not some gradual change to a more moderate rate of inflation, as President Ford would have it, but a violent panic and collapse in which whole sections of this inflated capital are wiped out.

They can do this only by attacking the working class and imposing dictatorial rule. The threat of this crisis is an urgent warning to the working class of the need to take political power through the construction of a labor party committed to socialist policies.



Central Labor Council Isolates Trailways Men

BY RAOUL RIZIK
WASHINGTON, DC—
"The solidarity of our members has been fantastic.

"It has to be recognized. Only eleven percent of our members have defected back to the employer."

John Lantz, General Chairman of Local 1699 of the United Transportation Union, was speaking about one of the longest and most heroic strikes in the history of the labor movement, the two and one-half year strike against Safeway Trails.

Safeway is a subsidiary of Trailways Continental bus company which is owned by the Holiday Inn of America.

This small local of 300 men has withstood two and one-half years of betrayals by their International and the Central Labor Council of Washington DC; police violence; long, drawn out litigations in court and before the National Labor Relations Board; and continuous harassment by the FBI.

The struggle has reached a new stage with the latest company demand that it be allowed to keep all the scabs it has hired before it will sign the contract. In other words, the workers would be signing a contract that would put them out of a job as soon as the ink was dry.

The strikers have given that offer a resounding "no." If anything, they are more determined than ever to fight to defend their jobs and their original demands. Few strikers have any faith in the NLRB to rule in their favor.

Trailways has refused to deal directly with Lantz, a former driver who was elected General Chairman, just before the strike began. Lantz spoke to a **Bulletin** reporter at the local headquarters just two blocks from the bus terminal where picketing is continuing.

HOLIDAYS

"The company provides no paid holidays; no funded pension; no overtime provisions because the federal law exempts all interstate commerce from having to pay time and a half for overtime; a terrible hospitalization plan which provides only \$120 for maternity services and for which the workers have to pay 5 percent of its costs with hardly any say.

"The company could dismiss anybody without having to give any reasons and the only way to defend that worker would be to go on strike. It rules with an iron hand, dictating even what one should do and not do even outside the job.

"No sideburns. No long hair, no white socks. It was even trying to run your morals when off the job.

"Workers can't even wear the company uniform they bought with their own money when they are not working."

As far as wage demands, they



General chairman of Local 1699, John Lantz.

were included in the benefits package and amounted to only 5.5 percent, which would have cost the company only \$200,000 a year. So far, the company has lost probably three times that amount in its efforts to bust the union.

Although the picketing has been relatively peaceful, there has been some violence. At one point, the police attacked the picketers in Washington by beating them and spraying them with mace.

More than 100 members of the union have been questioned by FBI agents since the strike began in April, 1972. The FBI has even accosted relatives, friends, and neighbors of the picketers throughout Annapolis, Baltimore, Camden, Washington, and New York. It has even subpoenaed the internal records of the union.

Ernest Smith, secretary-treasurer of the union, says he has been visited by the FBI at least eight times. Assistant US Attorney William Brodsky who is heading the investigation in Washington, refuses to comment.

There has been a virtual con-

spiracy by the Central Labor Council in Washington, by the UTU International leaders, and by the AFL-CIO to ignore this strike and sabotage it by refusing their support.

Local member John Dooley said: "The Washington Central Labor Council isn't worth anything. John Lantz had to go to the national headquarters 30 times before they would even see him.

"He had to plead and beg for help. And did you know that it was two years before they gave us some leaflets to pass around? And then they stopped. Sorry, out of funds, they said.

"Did you know that we had been there two years before they came out to take our picture for the union newspaper?"

Another worker, spoke about the Los Angeles bus strike, where the drivers are in the same International as Local 1699. "I thought this strike was over. If it wasn't for the **Bulletin** I wouldn't know about this strike.

"Let me tell you, it's the first paper in three or four weeks that's had anything about this strike. It's a good article.

NEWSPAPER

"We have been in the UTU newspaper only three times in the past two and one-half years, and only once in the AFL-CIO paper. We should be in those headlines, even if it's just one line.

"Am I for a labor party? Of course. Republicans and Democrats. They're all the same. That's what that guy in Los Angeles, Mayor Bradley, shows.

John Lantz said: "What does your paper have to offer us? What is your program?"

"How do you make sure that a new leadership will not sell us out?"

"I know you are socialists and revolutionary and I'm open to all kinds of suggestions. How do we go forward?"

Every member of the United Transportation Union throughout the country must take up a fight in the locals against the criminal isolation of this strike and demand the UTU International provide full strike benefits and organize mass pickets to close Trailways down.

Every trade unionist in Washington DC must demand their leadership support the Local 1699 men and call on the Central Labor Council to take action to win this strike.

Miners Ready For Showdown

BY A BULLETIN REPORTING TEAM POWHATAN POINT, Ohio—For decades, miners and their families have lived a day-to-day existence here literally under the shadow of a mountain of slag.

Many remember bitterly the battles of the 1930s, the times when the company stores owned the valley, and when union men's homes were bombed by the companies.

There is a tense preparedness for battle everywhere today in Powhatan Point as the United Mine Workers November 12 contract expiration nears.

One older miner said: "What happened in the past year in Harlan County, Kentucky, I saw before as a kid. When a young miner was killed over there, who had a 16-year-old wife and a baby, I think of the terror the companies made here before."

Both the companies and the miners realize that everything is at stake in this contract battle. Arnold Miller, the president of the United Mine Workers, called for negotiations in January, but the companies only sat down to talk in August.

Meanwhile, over twenty government agencies have set to work with contingency plans preparing to break the strike. These plans, directed by the Federal Energy Administration, call for fuel rationing, industrywide lockouts, and invoking legal union-busting measures, especially the Taft-Hartley Law.

The major demands are for a cost of living clause—there is now none; the right to strike over grievances and violations of contract; union inspection of the mines; sick benefits and insurance; pension benefits for widows; and a firm seniority system.

A worker for the North American Consolidated Coal Company said: "I have lived day to day in the mines for 28 years and my father before me for 48 years.

"Once a miner gets it in his mind to fight he fights, because he suffers the most. In 1944, 66 men died in No. 1 shaft due to a fire where I worked. I would have been in there if I hadn't been at the war. I could talk all day about the unsafe conditions in the mines.

"The companies will fight safety as much as they can. They will schedule repairs, but not right away, on the weekends.

"Then they assign priorities to repairs. If big coal mining equipment breaks down, they'll repair it long before they'll repair something that could save a man's life."

His wife spoke up on wages: "It's coming to the point where you'll have money, but you won't be able to afford to buy. Like where they talk about going to the store with the wheelbarrow of money and getting one small package. Ford says he wants the UMW to stop asking for wage in-

creases, but how can you live?"

Wilma Densmore told the Bulletin: "My husband died at age 58 with black lung. We had to fight the company all the way.

"Why doesn't Miller give us a pension—or one-half of it, or a welfare card. He promised all that, but he didn't do it."

Her friend said: "The miners have to strike or the government has got to change. In two weeks, sugar prices have gone from \$1.69 to \$2.25.

"I'm afraid of another depression. My daughter works at a bank and she asked the president if it might go under like in the 1930s. But the younger generation won't take it."

Wilma added: "There will be civil war in this country. I don't care for Miller because he isn't doing what he said he would do. The leadership is trying to sit in the middle and you can't do that."

Wilma's friend said: "I didn't want my son to go into the mines. We sent him to college, but there's no money or jobs anywhere so he went to the mines.

"About 95 percent of the miners get black lung disease. It chokes you to death, you are coughing continuously.

"The family sits up all night, and you prop pillows all around the man. It also gets to his heart. All the older men get it from breathing the coal dust all their lives.

"One man I knew got it when he was 35 years old, after 18 years in the mines. But people have to go in, there's nothing else around here but the mines."

With stockpiles very low due to the 10-day memorial strike and repeated wildcats, the miners are in a very strong position.

John Resecker said: "The miners want \$75 a day. They should get that, but it's going to be a hard fight.

"There are a lot of scab mines west of here. They're talking about bringing Western Coal in here. We'll have to have some high-powered rifles if they do that.

"Already, they've had several wildcats around here.

"We do need a labor party, because all those politicians are with the companies.

"Miller shouldn't be talking with Ford, though. You can talk with Ford all you want, it won't help any. He's Nixon's hand-picked man. I'm afraid that Miller is going to give up everything now."

Miners must fight for a program that will win the upcoming strike:

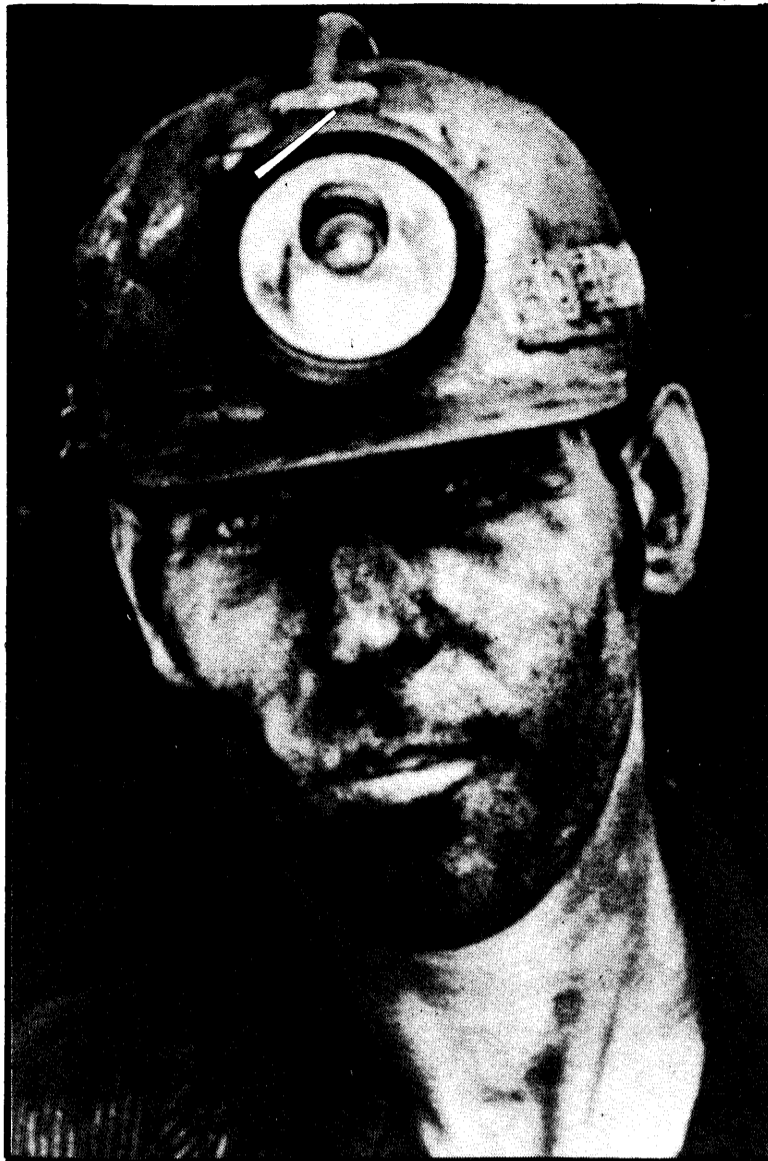
- Full shutdown on November 12. No contract-no work.

- Miller must break with Ford. No UMW representative on the Labor-Management Committee.

- The UMW must launch an investigation of the FEA union-busting plans and expose the government's criminal role.

- A minimum wage increase of 20 percent and a 100 percent cost of living together with the other demands.

- The UMW must call for a Congress of Labor to organize a labor party.



UMW: 'Strike Is Inevitable'

BY DAVID NORTH WASHINGTON, DC—United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller denounced the "inflexible position" of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association and declared that its refusal to make concessions "all but ensures a strike."

Warning that "time is running out," Miller told reporters on Thursday that negotiations were so badly stalled that economic issues had not yet been discussed.

So far, negotiations have centered on issues pertaining to work rules, safety, and management prerogatives.

The operators, according to the UMW, have offered nothing new in the area of noneconomic issues. Their position was described as a matter of rephrasing sections of the old contract.

Miller's attack on the BCOA came just a month before the November 12 expiration date of the contract. Recently, he has been criticized by staff members for making concessions to the BCOA without consulting other union officials.

For all the importance of the issues pertaining to safety in the mines, Miller's silence on all matters relating to wages and other major economic questions is a dangerous sign.

With Miller having joined the Labor-Management Committee, there are great dangers that he is planning to betray the wage struggle of miners in the name of improved—but illusory—safety guarantees.

We say "illusory" because the mines cannot be safe as long as they are run by capitalists interested only in making a profit. Furthermore, the mines cannot be made any less dangerous than they are now at a time when the coal operators

and the government are seeking to implement new productivity measures.

If Miller wants the mines to be safe, he must launch a campaign for the nationalization of the mines under workers control. This requires a break with the Democrats and the creation of a labor party based on the trade unions. Only a workers party would be able to take the mines out of the hands of private owners.

STRIKEBREAKING

As the negotiations continue, Ford goes ahead with the government's strikebreaking plans. It has been learned that contingency plans for a November 12 strike include a government embargo on all coal exports, calls for cutbacks in electricity consumption, and an excise tax on electricity.

The last measure is aimed at swinging the middle class against the miners.

The UMW must prepare for this struggle. It must rally the entire labor movement against the Ford-Rockefeller government by calling on all trade unions to participate in a Congress of Labor to hammer out policies to meet the crisis and construct a labor party.

Chicago U Strike Is Called Off

BY A REPORTER CHICAGO, Ill.—Members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 321 voted to end their strike against the University of Chicago by a narrow margin of 124 to 104.

The union dropped the original demand of a 14 percent increase for the wage reopener clause, and settled for only an 8.5 percent increase this year. The university changed the rules and added a clause that the contract would be extended to two years with next year's increase at 7 percent.

THREAT

This betrayal poses a threat to the wage struggles facing every worker at universities throughout the Chicago area and to the other locals at the U. of C.

The leadership of the AFSCME local at Billings Hospital on the campus, where the strike was centered, never called their members out in support of the SEIU, even though their contract is up in a few months. The AFSCME workers will face even more vicious attacks than the SEIU and the skilled tradesmen who went out with them.

The strike was held under conditions of constant police harassment, arrests and an injunction limiting pickets to two at each door.

The refusal of the different unions at the University to unite now jeopardizes the struggle of the clerical workers, the lowest paid in the country, to organize into the Distributive Workers of America.

UNCERTAINTY

Since the firing of the eight organizers of the DWA last summer, there is a feeling of uncertainty by every trade unionist and worker at the University that whoever stands and fights, may be fired.

The SEIU leaders refused to fight for every local and all the unorganized workers on campus to go out and to force the International to provide a strike fund.

The vote reflects the lack of confidence in the International and also in the local leadership because of the refusal of Coffey and Brandon to fight.

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Mechanics Vote End To Transit Shutdown

BY SHEILA BREHM
LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Rapid Transit Division bus drivers and mechanics have voted to accept contracts ending their two month old strike.

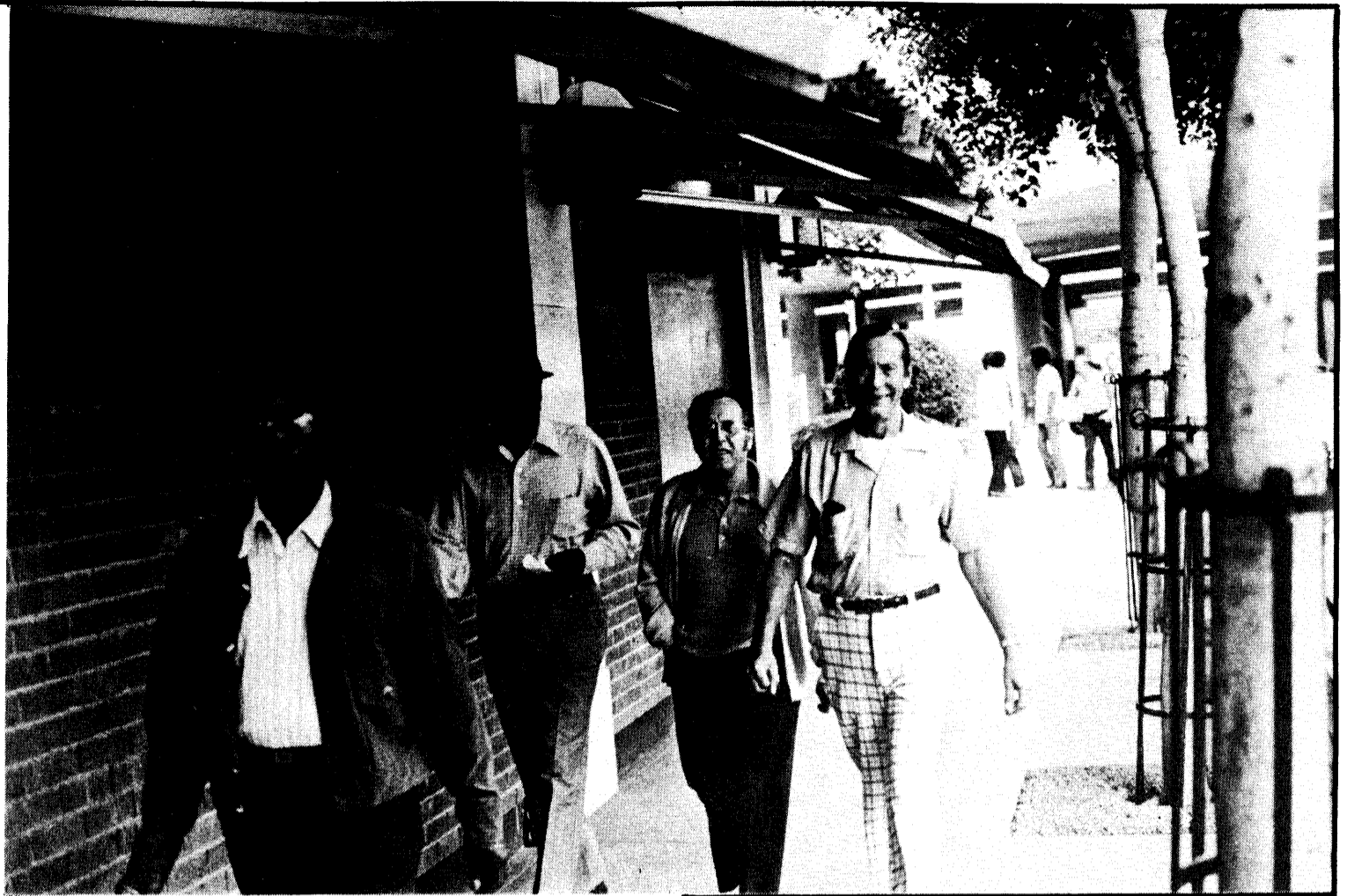
The mechanics won a two-year wage increase of 16 percent combined with a cost of living escalator clause. The RTD had tried to eliminate the COL and this had been one of the main reasons for the strike.

Bus drivers reached a settlement that would allow a 24 percent increase over two years. The union bureaucracy had divided the mechanics and drivers, settling first with the former and then leaving the drivers no choice but to settle.

Mayor Bradley had been met with bitter opposition when he tried to force union members back to work without a contract.

Although the mechanics voted 464 to 37 to accept the contract, many told the Bulletin that although they felt the cost of living clause was a victory, the wage increase is not up to par with the rate of inflation.

A mechanic who voted to reject the contract said: "It stinks. Before the strike, RTD offered 7.5 percent the first year. And after nine weeks, we're going back for 8 percent.



Rapid Transit district bus mechanics entering ratification meeting after 9-week strike.

"I guess the majority felt we were being starved out, and that we couldn't win any more than this."

Ted Powell said: "Actually, the increase, plus the overtime we get, will put many mechanics into the \$15,000 a year income bracket.

"If Ford's proposed five percent surtax goes into effect, we just had our wages cut again. That means we just got a three percent increase.

"Jerry Long (Amalgamated Transit Union president) didn't even bring this up.

"I can see how the fight for wages is a political fight. To begin with, we had Bradley, Reagan, and the state legisla-

tors trying to make this strike illegal, and now we face the government maybe trying to get back what we just won."

The RTD Board of Directors has just threatened that unless the drivers settle in the next 24 hours, they will take immediate steps to make sure the state legislators "move the buses."

LA Cops Search KPFK

ON THE SPOT REPORT

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Twelve plain clothes police officers have entered the KPFK radio station and presented station manager Will Lewis with a search warrant signed by Bonnie Lee Martin.

The warrant gives them authority to search the facilities for a tape, telegram, or letter, from the "New World Revolutionary Front Unit Two."

The station received a communique from the group claiming responsibility for the recent weekend bombing of the ITT owned Sheraton Hotel.

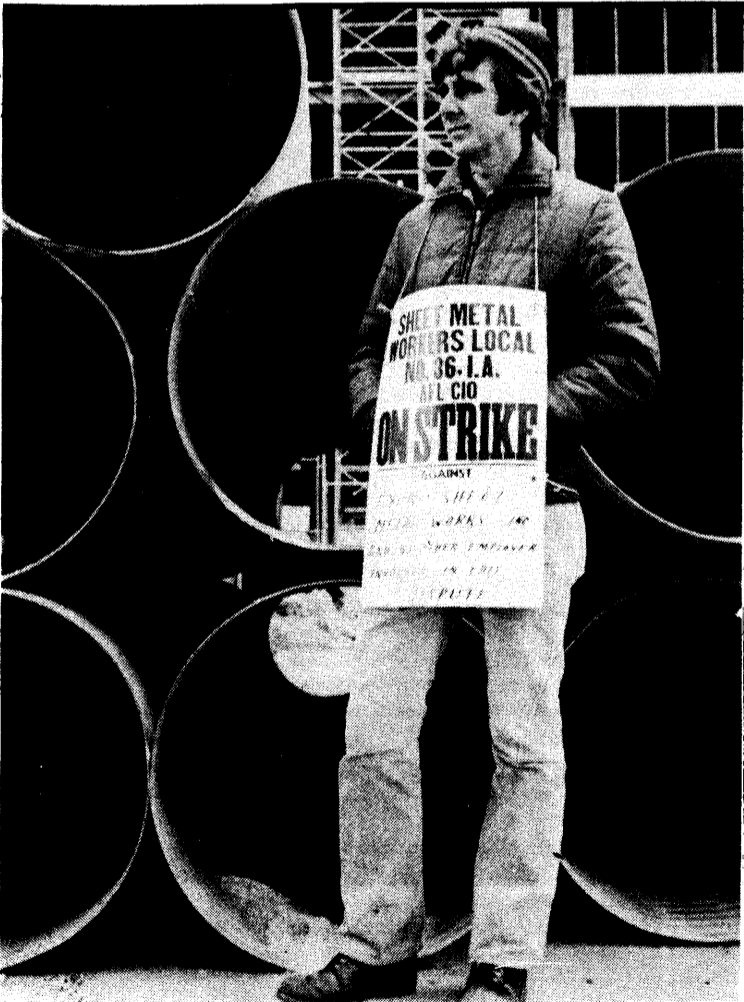
Personal belongings of the station's reporters and all their material is being searched, including desks, drawers, tape archives, notes, address and phone books.

Lieutenant Dan Cooke of LAPD has admitted that this raid is the first such raid in the history of US. He said: "It is our reaction to the response we got in the courts."

Recently, the police and FBI used the courts to try to force Lewis to hand over tapes received from SLA to be used as evidence for fingerprints.

Lewis refused on the grounds of freedom of the press and the right of newsmen to protect news sources. The court eventually ruled in Lewis's favor.

According to a KPFK reporter: "The police say they are not on a fishing expedition, but then why are they searching our personal effects. This type of communique would not be lying around here anyway. This is definite harassment."



Sheet metal workers in St. Louis, Missouri, posted pickets at construction sites as negotiations in the nine-week strike ground to a halt. Local 36 had not picketed before to allow other crafts to work.

The unions are demanding a Stabilization Agreement for the Sheet Metal Industry which would guarantee that three percent of gross wages be set aside to aid workers who cannot find work during the slack period. Contractors have refused.

Construction in St. Louis is at a minimum and unemployment is running high. There have been almost no new housing starts and major construction in the downtown area is almost nonexistent.

As one construction worker said: "They just want to break the union. We have had to fight for every gain we've made.

"There is a lot of unemployment in this industry. If the working class doesn't fight back, the government will own all the housing."

Carpenters Plan State Action

OAKLAND, Calif.—Dry Wall carpenters have struck the California Dry Wall Association all over California.

The association is trying to use the piece work system to break down union wages and conditions. The carpenters accepted piece work in the past because they could earn more.

In northern California, the old contract said piece work was acceptable as long as carpenters were making more than union scale. This clause is now under attack.

Carpenters could take a job for 4.5 cents a foot of sheet rock (dry wall) and make more than \$8.50 an hour, the rate paid construction carpenters.

This past summer, construction carpenters won an increase to \$9.75. The Dry Wall Association now wants to be free to pay 4¢ a foot, the rate all over the state.

The union had accepted a 60-day extension in the old contract, but they failed to reach any agreement.

The union is now calling men off selected construction sites, but there is no picketing.

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Workers Party Launches Canvass

BY A REPORTER
NEW YORK, NY—Supporters of the Workers Party mobilized in Brooklyn last Saturday for a door to door canvass in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick to sign up voters for candidates Helen Halyard and Terry Delgado.

There was a tremendous support from workers and housewives in both neighborhoods and many signed up and pledged to help build the campaign. In the afternoon, the canvassing teams held a street rally at Menahan Street in Bushwick.

"This is a new level of the campaign," said Esther Tanzman, election campaign manager. "We have laid the basis for support in these communities through outdoor rallies and the petition drive to get on the ballot."

"Now we are asking workers to become involved and to commit themselves to vote for the Workers Party and to join in canvassing with us."

"We are discussing the concrete program and the socialist policies that we are fighting for, why we call for nationalization under workers' control of basic industries to provide jobs and halt inflation."

"At the same time, we are asking every one who plans to vote for our candidates to join the Workers League and build the revolutionary party."

"The Workers Party is the only party that is fighting for a break by the unions with the Democrats and Republicans and for building a labor party that must fight for these policies."

FEDDERS

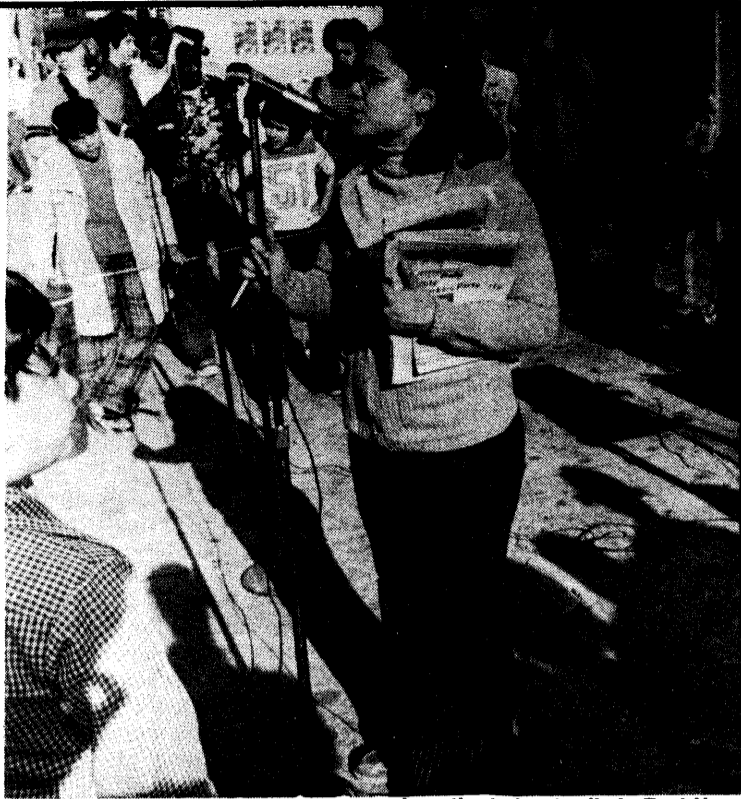
A group of workers from Fedders Air Conditioning told the team that they had been on strike for seven months last year.

"Three weeks ago 50 men were laid off. We got nothing in that strike. We were sold out by the union leaders."

At the end of the discussion, the workers asked the canvassers to come sell the Bulletin outside their plant. They pledged to support the election campaign and fight for their union local (International Union of Electrical workers) to endorse the candidates.

In Bedford-Stuyvesant, a young Hi-Lo operator who is a member of the Teamsters pledged his support to the campaign: "I really don't know much about politics, but one thing I do know—something's got to be done about this situation and no one is doing it. The Democrats and Republicans are the same. They have no policies for the working man. I want to be part of this campaign."

In Bushwick, the team



Terry Delgado, addressing workers and youth at street rally in East New York, Brooklyn.

discussed the campaign with many Puerto Rican workers in the neighborhood. One younger housewife said: "I used to read Claridad, but I didn't believe things were really as bad in Puerto Rico as they said."

"Then, I went to live there for two years and worked for the government. I thought you could live with the government. But then they had the general strike and the governor called in the National Guard against the strikers. From then on, I knew it was impossible to live with such a government."

The questions of community control and of policies to unite the working class were raised concretely in the two election meetings held in Queens and in Manhattan's Lower East Side at the end of last week.

At the Lower East Side

meeting, candidate Delgado discussed the struggle in District 1 and the role of Luis Fuentes: "The right to an education was a right won by the working class. It can only be defended, just as the right to a job or the right to a decent standard of living, by a political struggle of the entire working class against this government."

"We oppose Shanker's attacks on education rights and language rights of minorities."

"But we say that Fuentes offers no alternative. He accepts capitalism and tries to direct the anger of parents and students against teachers instead of the government."

As the campaign enters the critical final weeks, there are plans to expand the campaign and to open a storefront headquarters for the two candidates.

Stop BUG Victimization

BY A LOCAL 101 MEMBER

NEW YORK, NY—The Rank and File Caucus of Transport Workers Union Local 101 has issued a leaflet to employees of Brooklyn Union Gas setting forward a program to defend the workers against harassment and victimization, aimed at destroying all union rights.

The Rank and File Caucus, a section of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, has called on all BUG workers to organize now against the policies of Eilliam Kirrane, Local 101 President, who has red-baited caucus members while allowing BUG to impose fierce speedup by planting spies and victimizing militant workers. A meeting is being planned to bring new members into the caucus and launch this fight.

We reprint below the Rank and File Caucus leaflet:

The drive for productivity by BUG is undermining all the past gains of the union. Recently, workers have faced:

OUTRIGHT VICTIMIZATION.

It has been unofficially reported that two CSD workers were picked up in Greenpoint and fired for tampering with company equipment, discovered by undercover agents.

Workers are fired and denied promotion on the basis of their past difficulties with the law or because they are involved with "narcotics rehabilitation."

Meter readers are openly and consciously framed up by foremen and suspended as part of the drive to cut down the work force and get rid of militant workers in the union.

CDS and meter readers have been fired on grounds of their "after work" activities.

NEW WORK SCHEDULES TO SPEEDUP WORKERS.

Collectors with over 20 years in the plant have to put up with working alongside the foremen on a daily basis to insure productivity.

PLANTING OF UNDERCOVER INFORMERS.

In Meter Repair, seniority is openly discarded in promotion and undercover spying becomes a way of life.

THE REFUSAL OF MANAGEMENT TO DISCUSS GRIEVANCES WITH STEWARDS.

The depth of the economic crisis and the inevitability of the ongoing recession lie at the roots of these changes. The oil crisis is related to BUG's new measures. Our right to work and the working conditions in the plants are directly affected by the collapse of the economy and the failure of the government to resolve the problem of inflation. We cannot be made to pay for the crisis.

Kirrane's attitude is in line with Ford's policy of destroying the gains of the working class as a whole through his policy of

UAW Officials Divide Alcoa Men

BY FRANK DENISON
CLEVELAND, Ohio—The strike of the United Auto Workers Local 808 against Alcoa's Vernon, California plant is entering its sixteenth week.

Workers at the sister plant here face speedup, disciplinary layoffs, and the introduction of the hated rotating shift.

POINT

The point system, along with speedup has been introduced into Cleveland. This had led to the strike in Vernon when the local contract expired last July.

In a move to break the resistance of Local 808, Alcoa has been shipping out to the Cleveland plant.

Last week, members of the Vernon local sent pickets to the Cleveland plant in an effort to shut it down and to work out a united fight by both locals. This was defeated by Cleveland UAW officials.

The Local 1050 president circulated a letter stating there would be no authorization from the International for a strike.

RULES

Prior to July 1, these work rules had only been used against the Vernon men. Alcoa and UAW representatives have been waging a campaign to pit the locals against each other.

They said Vernon had agreed

to these work rules when they accepted the 1971 contract. Cleveland had rejected it, leading to an 80-day strike.

Cleveland went out because the employers threatened to take away the bonus system, which would have led to a wage cut.

This was the issue, not the work rules. The work rules were the result of a secret agreement between the UAW bureaucrats and the company.

Johnny, a second shift worker, referring to the 1974 contract, said: "We don't know what is in that contract. We didn't vote on it. All we voted on was the high-lights."

"We have over 100 unsettled grievances. The company is breaking into seniority rules in the skilled trades to get the older men out of the industry. The problem is you have older workers who just want to get their pension and retire. You're not going to get them to wildcat."

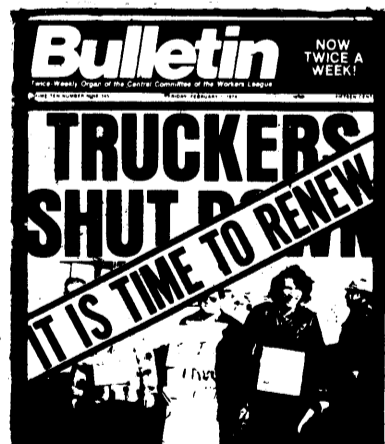
"Now they're introducing a new disciplinary point system. I don't remember that in the 1974 contract."

CONDITIONS

The conditions coming at Alcoa, speedup and disciplinary layoffs, are a reaction to the crisis that is now hitting the auto companies. Alcoa is hiring to assure stable production and is speeding up, especially in the Forge departments, in anticipation of layoffs, when the production cuts in auto will affect aluminum production.

The Cleveland Alcoa men must demand that their contract be reopened, and in Chillicothe, fight for a minimum one dollar an hour wage increase and a sliding scale of wages to protect wages from inflation.

A fight must be taken up to reopen all the master steel and auto contracts to win decent working conditions, to eliminate the point system, and to win job security. Cleveland men must demand their leadership instruct the membership not to handle any work shipped from Vernon.



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lucha obrera

lucía rivera Poder Dual en Portugal



Obreros ocupando los astilleros de Lisboa.

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(Continued From Page 1)

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ROCKEFELLER...

(Continued From Page 1)

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The Lasky book is just the tip of the iceberg. The investigation of Rockefeller's financial gifts is continuing. More than two million dollars in gifts have come to light.

The most questionable of these gifts is Rockefeller's annulment of a debt of \$550,000 owed to him by William Ronan, chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.



William Ronan

Ronan became a Rockefeller aide 17 years ago and then was catapulted into one of the most powerful positions on the eastern seaboard as chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Association.

The MTA achieved stranglehold control over all transportation operations after it absorbed the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority in 1968, a highly controversial merger.

It has now been revealed that the merger was masterminded by Nelson and David Rockefeller at a secret meeting in the former governor's townhouse in New York City.

The Chase Manhattan Bank, of

which David is president, served as trustee for the Triborough bondholders who had contested in the merger. In the settlement between David and Nelson, who represented the MTA, there was an increase in interest payments to the Triborough bondholders of an extra quarter of one percent, plus a guarantee of the state's credit as backing for the bonds.

\$12 MILLION

This added up at about \$12-million extra over the lifetime of the bonds, largely held by commercial banks and insurance companies.

At the hearings, Ronan denied that the \$500,000 was repayment for political services to Rockefeller. When asked by reporters what he did in return for the money, Ronan arrogantly replied: "I said thank you."

The Congress is frightened of the prospect of more incriminating evidence, and it will do everything it can to maintain a coverup of Rockefeller's crimes.

But the fact that this evidence comes out at all is an expression of the deep divisions and uncertainty in the ruling class as it confronts the collapse of the economic system and the unbroken power of the working class.

The trade unions must now drive mercilessly against Ford and Rockefeller and smash up their preparations for war against the working class by calling a Congress of Labor to build a labor party.

Workers League Meeting
10 YEARS OF THE BULLETIN
 ● Labor must call its own congress!
 ● Build a labor party!
 ● Forward to the daily Bulletin!

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William Ronan

Ronan became a Rockefeller aide 17 years ago and then was catapulted into one of the most powerful positions on the eastern seaboard as chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Association.

The MTA achieved stranglehold control over all transportation operations after it absorbed the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority in 1968, a highly controversial merger.

It has now been revealed that the merger was masterminded by Nelson and David Rockefeller at a secret meeting in the former governor's townhouse in New York City.

The Chase Manhattan Bank, of

which David is president, served as trustee for the Triborough bondholders who had contested in the merger. In the settlement between David and Nelson, who represented the MTA, there was an increase in interest payments to the Triborough bondholders of an extra quarter of one percent, plus a guarantee of the state's credit as backing for the bonds.

\$12 MILLION

This added up at about \$12-million extra over the lifetime of the bonds, largely held by commercial banks and insurance companies.

At the hearings, Ronan denied that the \$500,000 was repayment for political services to Rockefeller. When asked by reporters what he did in return for the money, Ronan arrogantly replied: "I said thank you."

The Congress is frightened of the prospect of more incriminating evidence, and it will do everything it can to maintain a coverup of Rockefeller's crimes.

But the fact that this evidence comes out at all is an expression of the deep divisions and uncertainty in the ruling class as it confronts the collapse of the economic system and the unbroken power of the working class.

The trade unions must now drive mercilessly against Ford and Rockefeller and smash up their preparations for war against the working class by calling a Congress of Labor to build a labor party.

Workers League Meeting
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 ● Build a labor party!
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