

Seabrook: the inside story...

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Seabrook, see pages 8 & 9

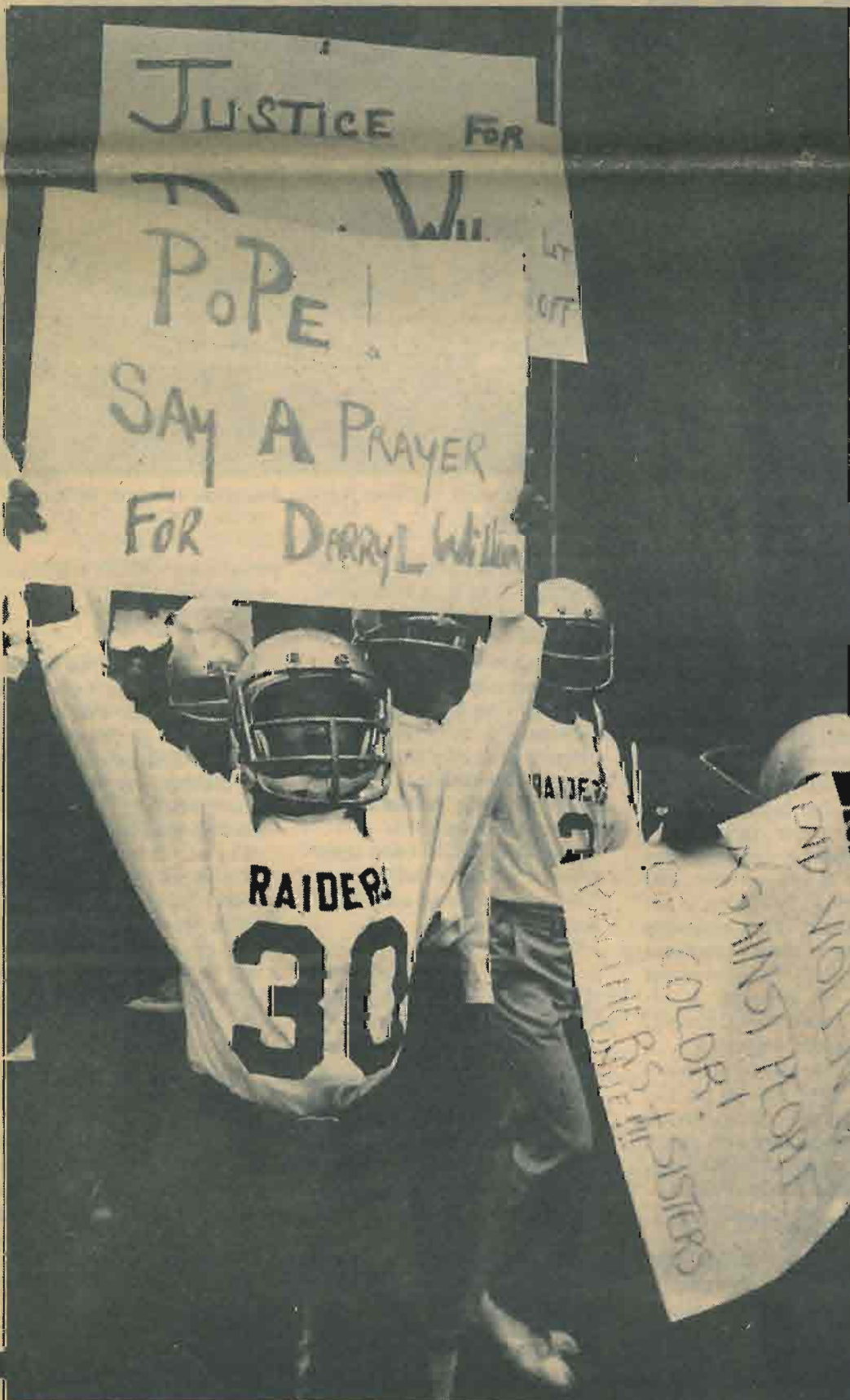
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**BOSTON: RACIST
MOBS ON
THE RAMPAGE**

WE SAY FIGHT BACK



BOSTON, MA—White antibusing gangs have unleashed a wave of racist terror in this city.

In recent weeks, gangs have—

- Roamed through downtown streets, attacking school buses, and black pedestrians at random.
- Demonstrated at Channel 7 News demanding "Nigger News, Nigger News, We Want White News." Channel 7 has a black news program.
- Stormed City Hall chanting "We hate Niggers." They attacked two workers, one black and one Hispanic in the process. The workers, attempting to enter City Hall to repair vending machines, barely escaped.



This latest eruption of racist, antibusing violence began when seventeen-year-old Darryl Williams, a black Jamaica Plain high school football player was shot during a game with Charlestown—an all-white neighborhood.

These gangs must be stopped. So must the right-wing racist organizations that stand behind them, including the Klan and the South Boston Information Center.

Most importantly, blacks must organize for self-defence, and in this they have to be supported and joined by every socialist and opponent of racism. □

More on Boston... page 5

ILLINOIS MINERS WILDCAT

WEST FRANKFORT, IL—More than 5,000 coal miners struck here for thirteen days.

The Wildcat strike was in response to the firing of five miners by the Old Ben Coal Company, allegedly for picketing.

The strike spread to more than a dozen mines here in the coalfields of southern Illinois, and it only ended after miners at Old Ben's No. 27 mine voted to return to work.

The vote came after considerable pressure from the UMWA district leadership, and from the local union presidents.

The vote was taken after a federal arbitrator upheld the firing of four of the five miners.

APPEAL

Gaylon Parks, the sub-district 7 representative to the UMWA District 12 Board said that he is considering appealing the arbitrator's board.

Local rank and file miner's, however, are considering how to carry on the fight to get the four jobs back.

by B.B.

SUPPORT PAN-AFRICAN STUDENT

PHILADELPHIA—On October 8, a Nigerian exchange student at Temple University, *Gaguna Messiri*, was shot and killed by a white student, *Michael Chiglo*. Chiglo told police that he mistook the Nigerian for an armed intruder.

Both students lived in the Yorktown apartments located on campus. Messiri was returning a pair of jogging shorts to Chiglo's roommate. According to Chiglo, he heard a knock at the door, opened it, and when he saw Messiri, fired one round from his .25 caliber pistol. The bullet hit Messiri near the heart, and he died shortly thereafter.

ROOT

Students and professors in the Pan African Studies Department see the root of the murder in the climate of racism that exists in this country.

Speaking out on the issue, *Dr. Odeya Ayaga*, chairperson of the department said, "We can't divorce the incident from everything else in society. As a black person, I see the killing as part of a trend in this city on the part of the police and some whites. If Messiri had been a white person, I believe [Chiglo] would have acted very differently."

Dr. Ayaga is absolutely right. In a society where black people are thoughtlessly identified with criminality, tragedies of this sort are bound to occur. The fight against racism, therefore, must be a fight against the whole system.

We urge all students to support the Pan-African Student Assembly in their efforts to force the university to take resolute action to prevent similar occurrences.

Chrysler: the workers pay

According to latest reports, UAW members in Chrysler are going to sacrifice \$403 million in wage and fringe benefits over the next three years in an effort to save their jobs. There is no provision for recovery of this loss.

ABDICATION

It is bad enough to suffer losses in wages, pensions, cost of living and personal paid holidays. It is far worse to experience the complete abdication of the union on the shop floor. Speed-up and other conditions affecting the workers have been eroded to the point where they are little better than they were in pre-union days. Penalty layoffs for failure to meet production standards set by management are a continuing problem.

Conditions at Ford and General Motors are no better. With the sharp reduction in the sale of big cars, the profits of Ford and GM are down from a year ago. With the holidays approaching and further layoffs expected the employ-

ers are putting the workers against the wall.

A strike vote has been taken and carried at Fleetwood Local 15, but it is doubtful that the International will authorize a strike. Hatred and dissatisfaction with the UAW mounts.

The question must be asked, "Can an opposition be organized to challenge the present UAW leadership at the March, 1980 UAW convention?"

COVER

Fraser's election to the Board of the Chrysler Corporation and the introduction of an incentive pay plan—employee stock ownership—is nothing more than a smoke screen to cover up the bankruptcy of the UAW leadership and the deteriorating working conditions in the plants. These "break-throughs," as they are called, only make it more difficult to correct conditions in the plants.

by JOHN ANDERSON



Can workers organize an opposition?

"Chances are the nuke will be on Indian land"

The Black Hills Alliance is composed of Oglalas, Sioux, and AIM, white ranchers, and young supporters, like most of the people at Seabrook.

If I had been told five years ago that I would be giving a soul brother handshake to a white rancher, I would have thought it crazy. White ranchers and Indians are two groups of people that hated each other's guts for half a century who are now united against Carter and the corporations.

It's good to see these two groups working side by side. The anti-nuclear movement is the first large movement uniting Indian and non-Indian people in a common struggle.

URANIUM

For the white ranchers, the mining of uranium means a life and death struggle because it will destroy the water table, which in turn screws up the cattle water supply. These guys are looking at their livelihood being destroyed. This is both exciting and dangerous at the same time.

The danger is in broadening the base. When Martin Luther King started mucking around with the Vietnam War, he was done in. This is very clear with Malcolm. After going off to Mecca, he'd become much

Interview
By
Kevin Murphy
And
Carol Sepkoski

too powerful for the white power structure, which wanted him gone.

The government and corporations fear most of all unity such as the Indians joining with the white ranchers or the anti-nuke movement. They will start to get nervous, and when they do, it's going to get dangerous. The anti-nuke movement is more permanent than the anti-War movement because it's broader. It affects so many damn people. This is just the beginning.

When they put us on reservations, they put us on the shittiest land they could find. Chances are the nukes are on or near the Indian land. Indians are directly affected.

PRESENCE

The American Indian presence at Seabrook demonstrations has grown substantially over the past three years. The June '78 rally was the same



Bob Gustafson, the first Native American to speak at an anti-nuclear rally

time as the Longest Walk. The coordinator of it, a traditional elder and respected medicine man, took time off to come to Seabrook to speak.

It works both ways. Each Thanksgiving there is a day of mourning at Plymouth. There's always a substantial Clamshell presence.

The situation in Black Hills right now is a standoff.

The Black Hills have been called by James Schlesinger "America's energy ace in the hole."

The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakoda people. The Hills are to the Sioux what the Vatican is to the Catholics. An 88 year old venerated traditional elder and spiritual leader, Frank Fools Crow, was asked what would happen if Carter and the corporations attempted to mine the Black Hills. He responded, "There will be a war."

This represents the feelings of the Lakoda people. I cannot believe Carter would have the Black Hills dripping in blood just before an election. But Carter has never im-

pressed me with his brilliance, so you never know.

JUSTICE

I am an Indian nationalist who wants to see justice for my people. But I'm equally committed to getting rid of the capitalist system we have in this country and bringing it toward socialism. I am a committed revolutionary.

We, of all people on this continent, know what hell this system can bring about. Murder, theft, rape, slavery, lying, hypocrisy—we've seen it all! It astounds me that a so-called civilization has done its best to obliterate the continent. I am committed to struggling for a system that would restore North America to human beings—all of them.

I'm fond of a Malcolm X story. Malcolm was in a car in New York City and a dude pulled up next to him and said, "Hey Malcolm, will you shake hands with a white man?" Malcolm replied, "I'll shake hands with any human being. Are you a human being?"

Goodbye George

"I never went on strike in my life, never ran a strike in my life, never ordered anyone else to run a strike in my life, never had anything to do with a picket line . . .

SYSTEM

"In the final analysis, there is not a great difference between the things I stand for and the thing that the National Association of Manufacturers stands for. I stand for the profit system. I believe in the profit system. I believe in the free enterprise system completely."

So said George Meany in 1956. Today, 85 years old and ill, the dinosaur of the American labor movement is finally retiring.

The state of the labor movement is a tribute to Meany's leadership. Fewer than 20% of American workers are in unions. The union heartlands of the midwest and northeast are losing factories and jobs to the right-to-work states of the south and southwest. Unions

lose more representation elections than they win. Union jobs are disappearing, in particular the union jobs of women, blacks and hispanics.

When he was asked in 1972 about why there was a decline in union membership, Meany said, "I don't know, I don't care."

Meany will be remembered as the racist president of the AFL-CIO who allowed segregation at AFL-CIO meetings and segregated union locals. He let the labor movement know where he stood at the AFL-CIO 1959 convention. A. Phillip Randolph asked, "What justification is there for Jim Crow locals?" and Meany yelled back, "Who the

hell appointed you the guardian of the Negroes in America?"

SECOND

By his own definition Meany was second only to Richard Nixon as "the most rabid anti-communist in America." And he was not an armchair anti-communist. The AFL helped the CIA topple the freely elected Guatemalan government in 1954.

Meany enthusiastically supported the Vietnam war: "I would rather fight the communists in South Vietnam than fight them down here in the Chesapeake Bay when they are landing on our own shores."

Meany admitted that he



George Meany in Florida

didn't care if more workers were organized unions. "Frankly I used to worry about the size of the member-

ship. But quite a few years ago I stopped worrying about it because to me it just doesn't make any difference." □

The largest lesbian and gay rights march ever

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The largest gay rights march in history took place in Washington, D.C. on October 14.

Just a week before, the pope had been in town to preach mass. No to women's rights, no to abortion, no to gay rights—that was his message. But with nearly 200,000 people, the gay rights demonstration outmassed the pope.

FREE

"We are everywhere, and we will be free," chanted the marchers. They demanded an end to discrimination against gay men and lesbian women; job discrimination, discrimination by the law, vicious attacks by police.

Jackbooted D.C. policemen lined the march route. They looked distinctly uncomfortable as waves of militant lesbians chanted at them, "Two-four-six-eight, how do you know your wife's straight?"

But although the demonstration was spirited, it was politically diffuse. There were gays against nukes, revolutionary gays from Latin America, and following the main

event there was an enthusiastic meeting for lesbian and gay socialists. But they were outnumbered by others who believe that civil rights are possible under capitalism. Despite the supposed success of the black civil rights movement (the passing of laws, etc.) blacks are worse off today than ten years ago. Why should it be different for gays?

The oppression of gays did not happen by chance. Capitalism relies on the family to provide labor power, and it relies on the family to provide political authority over the country's youth. Gay men and lesbian women challenge this nuclear, patriarchal family that is so central to capitalism.

WIN

The gay rights movement may win minor reforms in Congress. It will never win full gay rights until it is prepared to take on the capitalist system which benefits from the oppression of gays and lesbians. □

by NEIL SMITH

ACTION AND DEMOCRACY: LESSONS OF SEABROOK

The attempted occupation of the Seabrook nuclear plant site on October 6th was an important and worthwhile action even though it failed its stated objective.

Within the framework of the system itself, the occupation attempt was a necessary step and should have been supported by everyone who is against nukes.

The people of Seabrook have themselves voted against the Seabrook plant in several referendums. So to be worried about the "legality" of the occupation makes little sense in view of the disregard by the nuke industry of the system itself.

But the October 6th action was most important for those who themselves participated in it. It served to give us an identity of our own, distinct from the sector of the anti-nuke movement which is hopelessly mired in a non-activist strategy.

SENSE

The events of the weekend forced us to work closely to-

gether, gave us a real sense of solidarity and trust, and gave us some valuable experience in a combat situation.

Still there are some crucial lessons to be learned from this experience. Two of these involve the question of the State and of internal democracy.

Many who tried to occupy were surprised by the massive presence of state police (which came from all New England states except tornado torn Connecticut) and the National Guard.

Many were shocked by the blatant, unprovoked brutality of these armed agents of the State. It makes no sense to try to be nice to the police, as some occupiers attempted. They are our enemies, not our friends, during actions like October 6th.

These police are the same forces that break strikes, and suppress minorities, in addition to defending the nuclear sites.

Those occupiers who pulled their comrades away from the police and guards are to be congratulated. Those who shouted in unison at the gates "Army out" and "out now" when comrades were hosed and maced showed solid determination in the face of brutality.

AWARE

The experience of the weekend should make us angry, and it should also make us more aware that the system which supports nukes, besides putting profits ahead of people, is violent and will defend itself by any means necessary.

The other main question which needs comment is that of internal democracy and meetings.

When crucial logistical decisions had to be made during a dangerous situation, questions of internal democracy were discussed, and a decision on logistics was not even arrived at.

We are also worried about "leadership." We need leadership, and we need democratic decisions.

But consensus prevents a clear and decisive way of making decisions. It also makes meetings unbearably long and tedious.

There is another reason why we advocate democratic majority rule and meetings that are brief and to the point. If the anti-nuke movement is to grow, it must attract the active participation of ordinary people—people who cannot afford ten hours for each meeting. Those of us in the anti-nuke movement must be sensitive to this reality. The time to change is now. □

by PETER LOWBER

FIGHTING WORDS

"If I leave here alive, I'll leave nothing behind. They'll never count me among the broken men, but I can't say that I'm normal either. I've been hungry too long, I've gotten angry too often.

"I've been lied to and insulted too many times. They've pushed me over the line from which there can be no retreat. I know that they will not be satisfied until they've pushed me out of this existence altogether. I've been the victim of so many racist attacks that I could never relax again . . .

"I can still smile now, after ten years of blocking knife thrusts, and the pick handles of faceless sadistic pigs, of anticipating and reacting for ten years, seven of them in solitary. I can still smile sometimes, but by the time this thing is over I may not be a nice person.

"And I just lit my seventy-seventh cigarette of this twenty-one hour day. I'm going to lay down for two or three hours, perhaps I'll sleep . . ."

From Dachau, with love,
George Jackson

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Vietnam vets launch new drive

PHILADELPHIA—An organization of wives of Vietnam veterans and their families was launched this month in Philadelphia.

Spearheaded by Bernadette White, herself a veteran's wife, and John Judge, a GI and veterans' rights activist, the group intends to publicize and combat the effects of agent orange, post-Vietnam syndrome, and less than honorable discharge.

Agent orange, a chemical defoliant that was used extensively in Vietnam to de-

stroy vegetation, causes serious mental, physical and genetic problems in humans.

Millions of American GIs and Vietnamese people were exposed to the substance during the war, and are today suffering its effects. Bernadette's husband, who is currently in the Coatesville VA hospital, has chloracne (a skin disease), collapsed lungs, gastrointestinal difficulties and a nervous condition, all of which effects have been traced to agent orange.

Her children, born after the

war, show chloracne, symptoms, are subject to febrile seizures, and have various other symptoms associated with exposure to the chemical. The number of people affected is unknown, because the government and the drug companies are blocking efforts to obtain information on the nature of the problem and its treatment.

SYNDROME

Post-Vietnam syndrome, a complex of mental and emo-

tional adjustment problems experienced by at least 20% of vets, is either going untreated, or is handled by dangerous drugs in the phenothiazine family.

Many of these drugs have such potent side effects that they must be administered with counteractive drugs, which in turn produce their own side effects.

The wives want to see drug "treatment" discontinued and alternate forms of therapy developed.

The third focus of energy,

"bad paper," is a problem for more than 800,000 Vietnam vets. Less than honorable discharges result in 50-100% unemployment discrimination making close to a million GI's virtually unemployed and unable to obtain benefits. Bad paper is more of a problem for black vets, though not exclusively, cause this type of discharge was and continues to be issued (at the rate of 200 per year) with racist and classist motivations.

by SANDY MERED

BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA BY TONY BOGUES

In 1860 Marx wrote to Engels: "In my opinion, the biggest things that are happening in the world today are, on the one hand, the movement of slaves in America started by the death of John Brown, and, on the other, the movement of the serfs in Russia..."

"I have just seen in the *Tribune* that there has been a fresh rising of slaves in Missouri, naturally suppressed. But the signal has now been given." The victory of the North in the Civil War was made possible because of the intervention of the Black slave population. Lincoln had no desire to abolish slavery. In response to an article in the *Tribune* advocating abolition, he wrote: "My permanent objective is to save union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery." Marx, understanding the pivotal role of Blacks in the war, wrote to Engels: "A single Negro regiment would have a remarkable effect on Southern nerves." In 1863, with many slaves fleeing the South and joining the ranks of the Northern armies, Lincoln recognized that the war could only be won with the assistance of the slaves. So, on January 1 he issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

FORCE

During the period of the reconstruction until the late 1890's Blacks were the major revolutionary force in the populist movements. The ending of the war was the impulse of the rise of the labor movement in America. The first agitation for the eight hour day is an example. C.L.R. James, however, has stated: "That side by side with his increasing integration into production which becomes more and more a social process, the Negro becomes more than ever conscious of his exclusion from democratic privileges as a separate racial group in the community. This dual movement is the key to the marxist analysis of the Negro question in the USA."

The reaction of Blacks to this dual process was shaped

The birth

of our movement

by the previous years of slavery and racial oppression. Many localized movements sprang up. The majority had "nationalism" as the mainspring. The vast numbers of Blacks were still located in the South. The "Black codes" kept them in a position of social inequality. By 1900 capitalism was turning into imperialism. At the beginning of the century, while many Blacks were sharecroppers, a significant number were in heavy industry. In the steel mills there were so-called "Negro-jobs"—there were jobs in saw mills and fertilizer plants. The United Mine Workers claimed in the same year one third of the total organized Black workforce. Perhaps it is no accident that the Western Federation of Miners merged with the IWW.

SOUTH

The IWW at the height of its power claimed one million members, 100,000 of whom were Black workers. The most important of these were in the South—the lumber industries in Louisiana and Texas. The Brotherhood of Timber Workers in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas had 35,000 members in 1910, 50% of whom were Black.

Still, 86.7% of the Blacks population remained in the South in agriculture. It took the IWW to break that pattern. Yet, though the vast majority of Blacks remained in agriculture, because of racial and national oppression the activities of the IWW and the response of Black workers touched the entire Black population. Because the entry of Blacks into the industrial proletariat did not lessen racial oppression, and in some instances it made it sharper.

World War One had a tremendous impact on the Afro-American population. Two things: firstly, the needs of the war industry meant that many Blacks were employed in industry. The need for labor and the conditions in the south stimulated the desire for migration. Between 1916-24 over one and a half million Blacks migrated. The impact of this was enormous. Detroit's Black population grew from 5,741 to 14,838 between 1910 and 1920. Blacks took the worst jobs in the Chicago stockyards, the steel mills of Pittsburgh, the Detroit auto factories and the Philadelphia docks. Secondly, many Black soldiers went to fight for "democracy." Returning home they met intense racial discrimination.

The summer of 1919 was described as "Red Summer 1919." In the last months of this year twenty-six "race riots" were recorded. An editorial in a Black newspaper described the mood of the Black masses: "The white inhabitants were anticipating great fun seeing Negros scurrying before them like so many rats driven by the flames. They went, they saw, they were defeated. They saw

new things that day and met new people. They saw fire, deadly, well-directed fire, a volley after volley of it belched forth from the mouths of rifles and revolvers held by the hands of Black men who no longer have stiff backs." It was not a sudden transformation. The aftermath of the war and the proletarianization of the population had laid the basis for this mood.

During World War I blacks went into industry



Racist violence in Boston

The heart of Dixie has moved to Boston.

While hundreds of Democratic Party dignitaries gathered to open the JFK library, Boston's streets were aflame with hatred just blocks away.

Racist students hung "White People's Rights" placards on a Boston commons sculpture honoring white officers and black soldiers who fought against the Confederacy in the Civil War. While the Democrats patted each other on the back, blacks were being attacked on Boston's streets.

ATTACK

The recent events were triggered in September when a well organized mob of white students assaulted school busloads of blacks in South Boston with bricks and steel bolts.

The whites wore masks. They injured at least three blacks and shattered bus windows. Fifty whites boycotted school that day, and openly harassed black parents and vandalized cars of blacks. But there were no arrests.

Then, two weeks later, Darryl Williams a black high school student, was shot on a football field in Charlestown.

Three white youths were arrested. They claimed that their aim was poor, and that they were shooting pigeons. They were released on low bail—\$15,000, \$10,000 and \$1,000.

The day the Pope came, 1,000 blacks marched to the Commons to protest the racist shooting. Fifteen year old Williams is paralyzed from the neck down.

Two days later, 700 black students defied the Citizen's Parents Advisory Council's cancellation of a demonstration, and marched on their own to Boston City Hall. They were incensed by the racism of the Courts in setting such a low bail. Blacks involved in much lesser crimes have been slapped with far greater bail bonds.

WALKOUTS

Walkouts by blacks from schools continued through the week in protest, but the walkouts were orderly, and there were no incidents of violence against whites.

However, white students also began to walkout, and not in sympathy with blacks. Quite the contrary. The whites who walked out were upfront about their racism.

200 whites came from English High School, which is one of the better schools in the city and is not in South Boston, to City Hall to demand more "security against the Niggers."

A week later, whites showed up at City Hall to demand the use of City Council for a meeting. Led by James Kelly of the South Boston Information Center, the racist mob demanded "Equal Rights for Whites."

Kelly, who just resigned from a position in Mayor

by **PETER LOWBER**

White's Administration, denounced the media for not covering attacks by blacks on whites. Yet while he and Raymond Flynn, another racist politician, blamed blacks for violence and demanded more security, mobs of white students attacked busloads of blacks in Columbia Point.

ARRESTS

No whites were arrested, but five black students were arrested for "trespassing" at English High School. Meanwhile, when the white mob left City Hall, whites trashed cars, but only two arrests were made of two older white men. Bail was set at \$500.

The arrests of the black students were a blatant racist move to prevent black students from organizing. At the same time the passivity of the police towards the white racist mobs gave encouragement to the white students.

In fact, the police incited racist violence. The day after the mob scene at City Hall, white students returned there. They attacked two workers, one black and one Hispanic, who were trying to get to City Hall to repair a vending machine. The workers de-

fended themselves with screwdrivers but were punched by white youths who shouted, "We hate niggers."

Next they moved to the State House, where they demanded to see some politicians.

While they waited, they spat at and beat on the windows of cars carrying blacks.

While these racist actions were taking place, there was no effort to stop them. The Mayor (White) did nothing. Governor Edward King released a statement saying a "breakdown of the family structure" is responsible for the violence in the schools.

The police made no arrests and said they would make an "investigation."

The Democratic Party, led by Carter and Ted Kennedy, opened the JFK Library, yet said nothing about the blatant white racism polluting the festive occasion.

SYSTEM

Blood is flowing on Boston's streets. We have seen it before in America's past. It flows from racism. White youths might be the direct attackers, but it is the system which is racist. These are not



This 1974 rally opposed the racists

spontaneous events, they were obviously organized. The media was informed well in advance about some of them.

Clearly, the anti-busing forces, led by the South Bos-

ton Information Center, are behind the racist violence. They should be held fully responsible for what has happened and what will happen. □

How Carter got his recession

Jimmy Carter had defined inflation as "the Number 1 threat to our national economy."

Giving it this importance will, he hopes, make a big dose of the conventional medicine for inflation go down all the easier. The conventional remedy is a recession, and Carter has been seriously trying to create a recession since the fall of 1978.

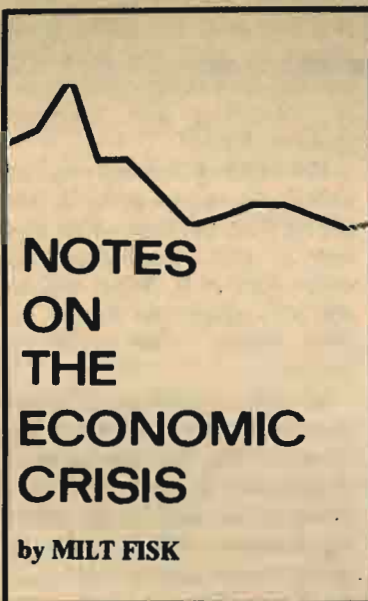
Richard Nixon was doing precisely the same thing to combat inflation in 1973-74. The result was 9% unemployment in early 1975 and a drop from a 12% to a 7% rate of inflation from 1974 to 1975.

Carter thought he got his recession when the Gross National Product declined in the April-June quarter of 1979. But the recent figures for the July-September quarter indicate that growth had resumed. The Carter Administration held to its forecast of a moderate recession.

CREDIT

This doggedness is not so much the product of a crystal ball as the product of confidence in the Federal Reserve Board to continue to tighten up credit until economic growth stops for a considerable period.

Carter's attempt to slow inflation with wage-price guidelines is a proven failure. While wages rose during this first year of the guidelines only 7.8%, prices rose 13%.



Profit rates held steady while real wages declined significantly.

In the summer of 1979, the emphasis of the inflation fighters shifted to monetary policy. The replacement of G. William Miller by Paul Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board signalled an effort to control inflation by reducing the money supply.

MONEY

The gospel of "monetarists" like Volcker is that the society suffers from too much money chasing the too few goods that an economy with lagging productivity generates.

This policy encourages saving by absorbing money in high interest Treasury Notes.

It simultaneously discourages borrowing by making banks pay high interest for money they get from the Federal Reserve. The borrowing needed for building houses or making engines becomes more difficult and expensive.

As a result jobs fall off and there is less buying of both capital and consumer goods. Prices are then supposed to level off.

There is nothing new here. Interest rates went up prior to the 1970 recession and prior to the 1974 recession for the purpose of generating those recessions.

What is striking is that whereas prime interest rates charged by banks were 8.5% in 1969 and 10.5% in 1974, they are now 14.5%.

RISKS

The question is not whether at some point high interest will bring such a deep slump that prices will hold steady. It is whether the Carter Administration is willing to take the political risks involved.

Unemployment of 12-15% would knock the pants off inflation, but would intensify class conflict in unpredictable ways.

In fact, Carter has stated he is only willing to administer enough monetary medicine to bring inflation down to 10%, which may still increase unemployment two million to 8%.

There is a deadly irony to all this. Why inflation in the first place? The 2% annual real wage increase in the 20 years after World War II could not be sustained.

The economy was top-heavy with capital from that expansionary period and as a result profit rates went into a tail spin. With smaller rates of return after 1966 the capitalists could not keep improving the living standards of the working class.

STRUGGLE

What was called for was an effort to reduce the standard of living of the working class. It is proof that the class struggle is still alive and effective. In the last decade the capitalists' price increases have failed to reduce the living standard of the working class.

The lower-paid, non-union, and non-male workforce lost several percentage points in terms of real wages since 1967, while the higher-paid, unionized, and male workforce has, with the exception of construction, improved its position.

But when inflation becomes double digit, it creates dangers for the capitalists too.

They boosted inflation to reduce workers' standards of living. Having failed, now Volcker says, "The standard of living...has to decline" to reduce inflation. □

Graffiti

By PATRICIA GILMAN

Hedonism and low moral standards . . .

Pope John Paul II ended his visit to the United States by scolding us all for "hedonism" and "low moral standards."

He condemned not only the legalization of abortion, the divorce rate, the norms of family life, and birth control, but also the unwillingness of Americans to care for the poor and needy.

Exhausted by his trip, John Paul II then went immediately to the special compartment on his plane, and then retired after just one course of his meal. He ate hors d'oeuvres of caviar, salmon, pate and shrimps and drank three glasses of wine. □

National defense . . .

Newly released army documents show that the US released hallucinogenic drug in Utah tests in 1964 to determine if enemy soldiers could be incapacitated by inducing delirium.

The drug, BZ, is said to be 100 times more potent than LSD. □

The only victim . . .

Dr. Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb and fanatic proponent of nuclear power took out full page ads in several major newspapers with the headline "I was the only victim of 3 Mile Island."

If this seems strange, he claims that after trying to refute the "propaganda that Ralph Nader, Jane Fonda and their kind are spewing to the news media" he suffered a heart attack.

If only Jane and Ralph had kept their mouths shut, there would have been no bad effects from 3 Mile Island. □

Have a whiff . . .

Consider this development. New chemical odors have been designed to make the consumer forget both logic and inflation.

One fragrance maker has synthesized the odors of hot apple pie, chocolate-chip cookies, baking ham and pizza.

The odors are packed in aerosol cans linked to timing devices.

There you are standing in the store, in front of the pizza mix, when suddenly you get a whiff of cheese pizza. Get it? □

Money swears . . .

Last year nine Congressional candidates spent half a million dollars or more in campaigning for office.

The price of a seat in the House has soared from \$106,000 per winning candidate in 1974 to \$229,000 in 1979. □

Meanwhile, high over the Pope's head . . .

ABORTION IS A WOMAN'S RIGHT

A.R.M.—the Abortion Rights Movement greeted the pope with this banner

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

"Why should I join a small socialist organization? Can't I do just as well on my own?"

Socialists are often asked this question by sincere, hard-working friends. I've been thinking about ways of responding, because it's an honest and obvious question for many of the people we work with.

I guess the most immediate response is that we don't think you can do the same political work over any length of time without becoming an organized socialist. But the problem is still a hard one, because it grows out of a very real perception.

The fact is that in this period of history, in this country, the left is small, fragmented and weak. The revolutionary socialist wing of the left is tiny. The left organizations are at best marginal, more often irrelevant in the main industrial, political and social events of the day.

The ISO certainly is very small, both in relation to the size of the American working class, and to the immensity of the goals we have chosen. We want to be part of building a revolutionary workers' party in this country, but we have a very long way to go.

This is a hard contradiction—there is no way of getting around it. But it is a contradiction which contains the strongest arguments for joining an organization—in particular why people who agree on what has to be done should join our group, the ISO.

COLLECTIVE

The ideas of revolutionary socialism did not drop from the sky, nor did they spring out of some genius' head. They represent the lessons and collective inspiration of more than a century of organized socialist activity and working class struggle—throughout the entire world.

Someone once called revolutionary organization the "collective memory of the working class." For us, this means that whatever our immediate situation, our day-to-day work is based on the experience of many thousands of people, on years and years of victory and defeat.

It means that we are consciously continuing a long tradition and attempting to develop that tradition at the same time. So we don't start from scratch and we don't have to make every mistake ourselves. We were not alive in 1871 for the Paris Commune, but we understand how

and why they destroyed the bourgeois state and set up the first workers' government.

We also know—through experience, though not necessarily our own—that the anti-nukes movement cannot rely on Jerry Brown or any other flash in the Democratic Party pan. And we know that women's liberation depends on the self-activity of women, and that we must not repeat the mistakes of some socialists of the past. We cannot relegate women's struggles to a secondary position in our theory and practice.

Because our tradition grows out of the life and death fight of workers against owners, we also know that the survival and development of socialist ideas depends on the actual struggles of workers against their exploitation and their understanding of these struggles.

MISTAKES

We'll make our share of mistakes. Of course we will. But the past we come from shows us both the necessity and the means for continuously correcting and learning from mistakes.

I'm arguing that our present political work as a group is not cut off from the past—that history is still happening and we're part of it. What we do will also affect the future. In other words, we're not alone in time.

Revolutionaries need organizations so that they aren't alone in the present either. Capitalism is expert at isolating us as individuals, making us believe that we can go it alone, rely simply on ourselves as individuals—on the job, in the union, at school, wherever we are.

Nowhere is this idea more dangerous than when it is reflected inside the heads of militants and leftists, and, of course, all too often it is.

A comrade recently told me that he became an active socialist in 1971, because it was "either that or give up on people and become a cynic." Too many people did just that when the big movements of the sixties went into decline. They gave up, decided they could go it alone, became cynics—or worse.

ODDS

The simple lesson of this is just that it is virtually impossible to maintain our commitment alone through the ups

and downs of political activity in this system. The odds are far too high against us. Without each other, how can we hope to make the right decisions in the years of struggle—without democratic debate, shared resources and experience, and the collective inspiration that comes from organization.

Our enemy is strong and well organized. In addition to



wealth, our rulers have the newspapers, the electronic mass media, political organization. They control the police and the courts. Their ideas rule our society—"Socialization," the sociologists call it. The Wobblies said it was "head fixing."

Only a collective can really oppose them. Only a collective organization, can develop a systematic alternative world view, and begin to overcome the many divisions that divide us—white collar from manual,



skilled from unskilled, black from white.

It isn't by choice that we start small—with limited experience and a shoestring budget. We did not choose the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

But we are starting all the same, because a revolutionary organization is necessary today, despite the difficulties, to make the first steps toward building a collective revolutionary socialist consciousness in the class. We need tools to do this, first a paper, also books, pamphlets, and speakers. Most of all we need to develop every member into a confident, convinced fighter.

CHANGE

While consciousness changes only in struggle struggle doesn't automatically produce revolutionary consciousness. As Chris Harman, a British comrade, has written, "In a revolutionary situation, millions of workers change their ideas very, very quickly, but they do not all change their ideas all at once . . . they must be in an organization of socialists who can draw the lessons of past class struggles."

Only as a group can we weather these times and meet the tasks that come. So, while we are by no means in a revolutionary situation, that time will come, and the working class, if it is to win control of society, will need a revolutionary party.

We're saying that it won't have that party, not unless people like ourselves and the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other activists begin today to build an organization, a revolutionary socialist organization linked to the real struggles of the working class. □

Behind the crisis in Central America

Carter scrambles for an alternative to socialism

For forty years at least, the U.S. has aided and supported the dictators of Central America. In 1954, John Foster Dulles was secretary of state as well as a director of the United Fruit Company. United Fruit had always seen the banana republics of Central America as a private estate.

When, in that year, Jacobo Arbenz was elected to the Presidency of Guatemala on a radical program, Dulles backed an invading army under Castillo Armas to overthrow him.

BOMBERS

Castillo Armas' troops and bombers entered Guatemala from El Salvador, a tiny overcrowded republic ruled by 14 families. The rest of Central America looked on and did nothing. Nicaragua, under the Somozas, supplied arms and men for Castillo Armas. Panama was an American military zone. Costa Rica, with no army, and the impoverished enclave of Honduras were equally dependent on American power. And Cuba and the Dominican Republic, watching from the Caribbean, were in the most brutal phase of the dictatorships of Batista and Trujillo.

Today, the Sandinista victory in Nicaragua has turned the arrow the other way. Within Nicaragua itself, the conflicts within the new government are already becoming clear. The situation hangs in the balance. What will tip it may lie outside Nicaragua itself, in the banana republics of Central America.

KEY

El Salvador is probably the key. The Romero government has now been overthrown by a right-wing military junta.

The Romeros represented fourteen families who shared the proceeds of Salvador's coffee between them.

The army kept them in power through a systematic massacre of peasant opposition, coupled with elections more openly fraudulent than any where else.



Massive FSLN rally

Yet the struggle grew in El Salvador. The 1,000 guerrillas of the FARN waged war in the countryside, while protests and demonstrations grew in the cities—despite brutal repression.

So, with Nicaragua across the border, the State Department worried that their example would be followed. Jimmy Carter began to talk about human rights, and then the Romeros went.

FALL

Guatemala, after the fall of Arbenz, saw a developing guerrilla struggle in the 60s under Yon Sosa and Turcios Lima. Despite real popular support it was destroyed, in its isolation in the countryside, by a systematic American-backed military assault. Since then the army has ruled through terror. Like the Argentines, anti-communist terrorist squads (called the ESA) roam freely in the streets of towns and villages. The new "civilian" President

Lucas Garcia continues the line. Yet the resistance continues, particularly among the peasants of the north—and Nicaragua is an example for them too.

So Carter has warned the Guatemalans about the dangers of ignoring human rights, and suspended military aid.

The press is always anxious to tell us that human rights are an issue above politics. Yet today, after decades of direct support for animals like the Guatemalan military or Somoza, the U.S. talks of human rights. It said nothing when Somoza took the international aid for the earthquake victims and invested it in the United States, leaving tens of thousands to starve.

That's not what they mean by human rights.

ANTIDOTE

Human rights today in Latin America, and especially in Central America, are the name of an alternative policy, an antidote to socialism. If the U.S. administration has remembered it now, it is because they have seen power taken from the dictator by mass action.

The issue now for the United States is to shore up the state, to ensure that it is government that makes changes, that it is the dependent local State that controls it. The State Department tour around Central America was designed to force reluctant vested interests to act before and instead of the masses, and to leave the leadership in the hands of a twitchy and unstable middle class.

In Nicaragua that will be achieved through aid pressure, loans, the re-establishment of a standing army through military aid, etc. In the rest of Central America (and the Caribbean, now facing important changes) the bourgeoisie must be aided and supported—and if necessary created.

Because the rights that Carter is talking about—political and economic freedom, freedom of the press, etc.—are bourgeois rights. It is not a moral issue; it is simply because to speak of freedom for a people without power, without control, without organization, is just so much rhetoric. For socialists human rights are an issue—but one that is never separate from the struggle to create the means to achieve those freedoms and to protect them.

ISOLATE

Carter is willing to provide those means and instruments—to a threatened bourgeoisie. That is exactly what John Kennedy's Alliance for Progress set out to do after the Cuban revolution—isolate the revolutionaries by presenting freedom as something that can be achieved through State action and the "natural" progress of nations.

The alternative—the socialist alternative—is to build the organizations that can win and guarantee rights for the workers and peasants of Central America through their own direct control of a new, socialist, Central America, where human rights are not bargained for, but taken. □



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

ZIMBABWE: NO SELL-OUT!

The talks between the British government, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, and Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo of the Patriotic Front, have resumed.

The main sticking point in the negotiations between foreign secretary Lord Carrington and the Patriotic Front has been certain clauses in the new constitution. One of the most important, provides that white farmers whose land is taken away by the state are fully compensated.

Land is one of the central questions in the war. A tiny group of white farmers monopolize the best land. The 3% white population controls 80% of the most productive land. For independence to mean anything the white farms must be taken over.

The British constitution aims to stop this. It seeks to defend white power and privilege.

The Patriotic Front found this proposal hard to swallow. Both Nkomo and Mugabe head formidable guerrilla armies, many of whose members are unlikely to accept a blatant sell-out.

CONCESSIONS

The Patriotic Front is, however, prepared to make concessions. They have proposed that during the elections for an independent government, security should be in the hands of a tripartite force, drawn from the regime's security forces, the guerrillas and U.N. forces.

Mugabe and Nkomo are under very heavy pressure from the African front line states to stay at the negotiating table and reach a settlement.

The constitution is a last ditch effort to shore up white power, the multinationals and the right to exploit black labor.

A settlement—whether it includes the Patriotic Front or not—would offer very little to black workers and peasants. They will have to fight to get anything. □



October 28 & 29: No-nuke round-up

BANGOR, WA—25,000 people marched against the construction of the Trident submarine base on Sunday October 28. On Monday, 88 people were arrested for scaling the fence surrounding the base. All were arrested except one protester who climbed a tree and evaded police for several hours.

SUNNYVALE, CA—650 people demonstrated against Lockheed and Westinghouse. 43 were arrested and charged with trespass on Lockheed's property. The Lockheed plant is the assembly site for the Trident missile.

GROTON, CT—75 people went to the shipyards of the Electric Boat division of the General Dynamics Corporation, where the first Trident vessels are still under construction. 19 people were arrested engaging in non-violent civil disobedience.

ASHLAND & CLAMLAKE, WI—Between 50 and 75 people participated in a weekend of varied activities, including a trek into the woods to the proposed location of the extreme frequency communications system for Trident.

In these woods, 200 miles of antenna grid will be buried underground and signals may direct the Trident missiles and their up to 17 nuclear warheads to targets anywhere in the world.

PITTSBURGH, PA—4 people were arrested when they carried a small Trident monster into the international corporate offices of Rockwell International, the company which manufactured both the navigation systems for the Trident submarines and the plutonium triggers for the system's nuclear warheads. Charges against the four were dropped.

ST. LOUIS, MO—125 people staged a "die-in" at the corporate headquarters of General Dynamics Corporation. Seven were arrested for illegally entering the company's offices.

NEW YORK, NY—3,000 people converged on Wall Street in an attempt to shut it down, on the fiftieth anniversary of the crash. 1,045 demonstrators were arrested—the largest number yet in a no-nuke protest.

Actions also occurred in Kings Bay, GA., Hartford, CT., Kesselring, NY., and Washington, D.C.

by STEVE LEIGH



“A sma

Plans were laid for the occupation this summer. Posters and stickers reading “See you on the site—October 6” were plonked in obvious places and naturally the word began to spread. No one was quite sure what to expect. Red Clams, a militant socialist affinity group (affinity groups were units of ten to thirty people who shared interests, worked and stuck together making up larger regional clusters), prepared for the worst.

How many cops would we face? How brutal would they be? Would there be enough of us, and would we be sufficiently organized to avoid a rout? Naturally, these questions couldn't be answered thoroughly. We attended the six to eight hour “preparation” sessions, but didn't feel too prepared. Slide shows and maps are never like the real thing.

At one planning meeting some sixty people argued over possible directions from which to assault the plant for over two hours (this was just one section of a very long agenda), but a lack of precise information on the feasibility of any one plan made decisions difficult. Many meetings were so unbearably long that one would have thought that reaching consensus superseded stopping nukes as the coalition's goal.

Ultimately, the realization of what we might face didn't sink in until our boots were sinking into the mire of the marsh.

ARMY

A Boston newspaper, the “Real Paper” likened the potential occupiers to the Barbarian armies that attempted to invade ancient Rome. A more precise analogy could not be found. Our ragged army did not seem all that together when it amassed on campsite and began its slow march towards Priority Area 1—the core construction site.

The Red Clams were prepared: straining 'neath 60 pound backpacks, full with essentials, donning red construction helmets and 40 year old army surplus gas masks. We raised some chants, but the air seemed too still to pierce . . . the mood was apprehensive.

The press was there in all their glory, with cameras and floodlights glaring into our bleary eyes. The whole world was watching and it felt stupid to know that everyone in the world knew our plans.

Gathered into part of a larger cluster, Red Clams trudged in ankle high mud towards the site that loomed in the distance. Eventually all were gathered in front of Priority One. We waited seemingly for an hour for the stragglers, and when all were together, waited a bit longer for good measure. The first “spokes” meeting was held, that is, one spokesperson per affinity group got together and gabbed long enough for our feet to get numb, and finally

Seabrook: October 6, 1979 A report by two participants

**Paul D'amato
and
Matt Backer**

decided upon a suitable tactic. Meanwhile, the purveyors of law and order, who resembled a hybrid between massive storm troopers and R2D2, waited impatiently behind the fence for the opportunity to mace a few young upstarts who thought they were above the law. They didn't have to wait very long.

The day's first casualties were a man and a woman who decided that they were going to commit civil disobedience in a suitably non-violent manner. Rather than cutting through the fence and trying to get past the police, they decided to climb over the fence so as not to cause any property damage.

They informed the officer of their intentions and politely asked to be arrested. As the man began to climb, his fingers were pummeled with clubs and both were maced.

ARCHAIC

Nervously, we decided to go for it. We surged forth with wire cutters at the ready, sucking air through our archaic nose-hoses. A few squirts of mace sent us scurrying back a safe distance where we proceeded to have more meetings. Further along the fence SCANN (Student Coalition Against Nukes—Nation-wide) along with some other Boston groups attacked the fence again and again, sniping here and there, while others held up large pieces of plastic for protection against mace.

A teargas cannister was launched from the enemy ranks and was promptly tossed back by a brave occupier, thus gassing not only the police but the Attorney General Douglass Rath as well. One of the Red Clams at one point in the day managed to grab a club that a trooper was jabbing through the fence. We stashed away our trophy only to find that some others had returned it to its original owner. The masochism of some people . . .

No more than several dozen were assaulting the fence at any given point during the day. Others sang patriotic songs, some chanted, some lectured the police, some tried to transcend the fence. In general, the majority stood back not knowing what to do. Needless to say, we never got through the fence. It was easy to see that we were neither determined nor well organized enough to occupy the site.

That night there was a very long meeting in which it was decided to have another meeting in the morning.

The next afternoon, after a very long meeting, we decided to go for a stab at occupying Priority site 2, the batch plant where cement is mixed for construction on the site. Failing that, we would block the gate at the North Access road.

MILITARY

At this meeting an occupier stood up and said, “If we really want to occupy we're going to have to run this like a military operation.” Thus an important lesson was learnt—the fence will not fall down by prayer alone.

It was clear that many had been sobered by the previous days events. Having established this (or at least some having established this) we gathered our dwindling forces—many of the transmitters had split—and this time, more militant and determined, marched through the woods towards the site.

As we surged forward towards the fence we were met with more determined opposition from the other side. The troopers and guardsmen swept around us using mace and clubs to drive us back from the fence. Half of our cluster got maced, some were jabbed, one had a club cracked against her head but was saved by her helmet, and one was arrested. The badgeless wonders even went so far as to turn on unsuspecting townspeople with their nasty chemicals.

100 of us formed a line and started to “hold that line.” Many were confused and ran or fell back, but a few managed to cut fence before being repelled. Our line was eventually broken by a trooper organized and aggressive police line.

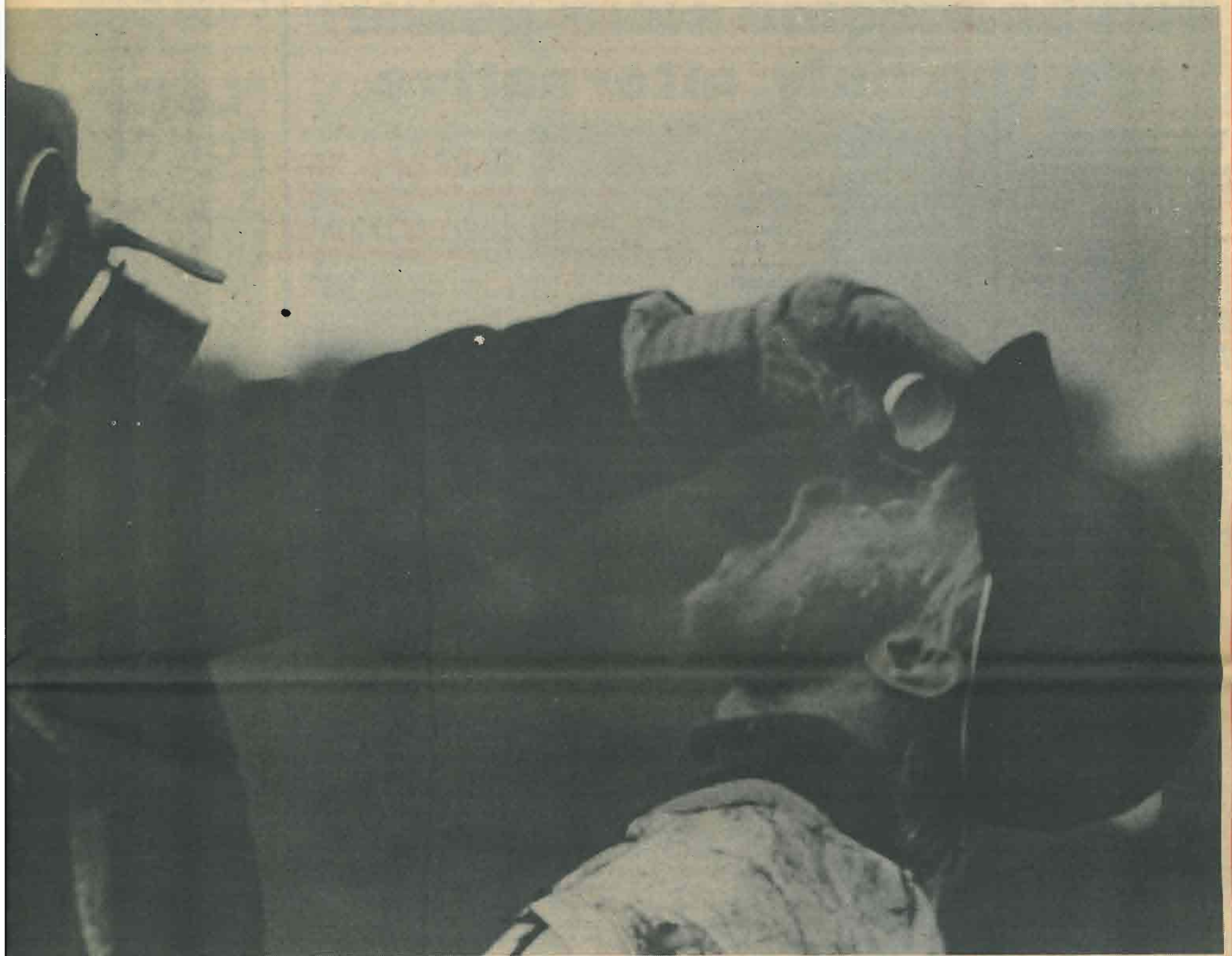
We all beat a hasty retreat tending to our wounds slowly recovering from the panic. Those who came back with any injuries learned that the police will be brutal if necessary.

PROVE

Despite failure, though, we created a great feeling of solidarity amongst us. We stood along the railroad tracks towards the main road, demoralized, but determined to prove our commitment to end nukes even if we have the immediate materials to accomplish the task of occupying.

As we barbarians trotted out along the road to the

“All victory”



gates, the degree of local support was tremendous. Someone began to walk backwards with a sign reading “Honk for No Nukes.” From then on we had a steady din accompanying us on our way. Most of the sympathisers were local people, some young, some old. The ways of showing support ranged from polite smiles to affirmative fists and shouts of encouragement.

CLEAR

As if in a “B” movie, the weather cleared and the honking and chanting got louder as we neared the gates. We arrived to find a closed gate, tended only by a few bewildered security guards. They were met with a barrage of chants. The militants shouted “Tear It Down, Tear It Down,” while in response pacifists formed a line directly in front of the fence to prevent anything of the sort from happening and shouted “Non-Violence, Non-Violence.”

After ten minutes of this, several busloads of troopers and guards arrived and positioned themselves behind the line. We missed our chance.

Ironically enough, the picket line that was preventing us from cutting the fence was maced. The pacifists received large doses of boric acid as an antidote to their large doses of non-violence. Then the cops brought in hoses and water-trucks. We sat down, linked arms, those with nerves of steel and waterproof clothing headed for the front, put their heads between their legs, kissed their asses goodbye, and waited to be thrust across the road by a great blast of H₂O.

TRIUMPH

When the water was turned on and no bones were broken people held the line. More joined in, elated. We raised our fists and cheered in

triumph, most of us standing up to face the the hoses. Smoke was released to disperse us. We retreated thinking it was tear gas, but returned when we discovered it wasn't. After a while they gave up. The air was tense, but the police weren't making any attempt to move us. We chanted “The Whole World is Watching!”, “Call back the Guards!” and “Call in Sick!” (the following day 27 National Guardsmen did.) It was a small but meaningful victory.

The last two days were more subdued. On the third day a picket line was held in front of the main gate. Simultaneously, small commando-raids took place at various parts of the fence, heroic but unsuccessful. A group from Texas pulled down 25 feet of fence which they presented to the Guard later that day.

Other groups were less lucky. In one raid from the north side of the plant, an occupier was beaten senseless

and kicked down a 15 foot rocky incline by state troopers. Others were chased away into deep marsh water while troopers shouted “swim, fuckers, swim!” These attempts were brave but isolated and as such could never have been successful.

Honorary mention must go to those few brave souls who blocked the court house on Tuesday and demanded the release of those arrested. The police treated them with the usual brutality, but a few actually resisted, tires were slashed and one protestor was so militant as to give a cop a black eye. Right on.

MONEY

Unfortunately, some non-nukers took up a collection to pay for slashed tires. Those who did the slashing were hospitalized. The money raised to pay for the tires should have been used for the injured comrades. It must be understood that when

property is violated—as in cutting fences—violence must be expected from the state.

Many community supporters criticized the coalitions tactics during the action, saying that a more militant approach was necessary. These included a government employee we talked to in a local laundromat, a 69 year old Deputy Sheriff who allowed us to camp on his land, and at least two workers on the site itself.

“The Edge”, a Boston paper, quoted one Seabrook worker's response to an occupier's statement, “We are trying to be non-violent.” “Sure, great. But what did you get for it? Didja expect that they were gonna let you move in and live there?”

“You gotta think Japanese. Lookit, those Japanese students got helmets, they got clubs. They even got shields. That's what you need, you gotta have shields.” We agree. □

Letters

Write to Letters, Socialist Worker
P.O. Box 18037 Cleveland, OH 44118

Don't condemn solar power: it's the only alternative

Dear Socialist Worker,

Ahmed Shawki and Doug Passey, in their letter in the October Socialist Worker ("Capitalism is the World's problem, not Scarcities") disagreed with calling for increased use of renewable resources (solar, wind power, etc.) now and under socialism.

They argued that the type of energy we use is irrelevant and the economic system is the only thing that matters. I will try to answer their major arguments point by point.

Admitting that there is a longterm oil shortage leads to support for present cutbacks on workers' living standards.

I said clearly in the first letter that there is no immediate oil shortage and even if there were, the cause of the "energy crisis" is poor planning and hence capitalism.

The technology exists to meet our energy needs. The crisis is economic and political, not natural. This means that the capitalists should suffer rather than the workers if there are energy shortages.

We should support no attacks on workers' living standards and should fight propaganda that "We're all in this together." This means that we should support riots like the one at Levittown. We should defend workers' rights to transportation, and now this means the right to plentiful, cheap gas.

However, we have to be honest. The longterm solution is not more oil production.

Ahmed and Doug's position can easily lead to support for current government policies.

REFUSE

The government too downplays and refuses to fund solar power. It insists on relying on coal, oil and nukes because they are more profitable than



The wells will run dry some day

solar and wind power. One of the most crucial political issues we face is "Where should we get our energy?" The government and ruling class say, "coal, oil and nukes." Ahmed and Doug say "It doesn't matter."

I say "conservation and renewable resources such as solar and wind power." It's a fight between the need of workers for safer, cleaner, less destructive energy and the capitalists' need for profit. They aren't sitting this out. We shouldn't either.

Solar Power is no better than oil or coal.

Of course they are right

that as long as capitalism exists, companies such as GE and Westinghouse will monopolize it and keep prices up. But even if they try, they won't be able to make it as dirty, unsafe and environmentally destructive as nukes, coal and oil.

Further, though they can monopolize solar power it will be hard for them. This is one reason these corporations are resisting a shift to solar power. They aren't sure it will be as profitable as nukes, coal and oil.

Every alternative is perverted under capitalism, but

some alternatives are better than others.

The movement cannot pressure capitalism to adopt saner energy policies because capitalism will always pick the most profitable forms of energy.

This is their most dangerous point. If they really believe this, they should tell the anti-nuclear movement to give up—for what else is it trying to do but make capitalism adopt saner energy policies?

WAIT

The same statement could be made about any issue. Capitalism will always exploit workers, be sexist to women, etc., because this produces profit. Would Ahmed and Doug urge us to wait til after the revolution to fight these evils as well?

No one is claiming that we can reform capitalism so that it has safe, clean, rational energy policies, any more than we can reform away racism, sexism, or war. But if we build a strong enough movement, we can make some progress toward elimination of these evils including irrational energy policies.

In conclusion, suppression of solar power by government and industry is one of the clearest examples of the irrationality of capitalism. Instead of ignoring this example as Ahmed and Doug want to do, we should use it as much as possible.

There is already tremendous sentiment for solar power in the anti-nuclear movement and other places. That sentiment is healthy and can be moved in a socialist direction—if it is supported by socialists instead of ignored or condemned.

Steve Leigh
Seattle, WA

Busing

Dear Socialist Worker,

I don't see how busing helps anyone, certainly not the black children who are abused by both the students and teachers in the white schools they are forced to attend.

You would do better to argue for quality education. That way you might also make some progress towards the unity of the working class you often write about. Busing, unfortunately, only divides the working class.

J.G.
Hartford, CT

"Lefty for life"

Dear Socialist Worker,

It is unfair of your publication to infer that all people who have moral reservations about abortion are either woman haters, bigoted religious fanatics, or right wing reactionaries. I am particularly disturbed by your ridiculing the concept of being pro-life.

It may seem strange to you, but my pro-life sentiments motivated me to become a political activist for peace and justice oriented to left wing causes in the first place; to work for peace, freedom and social justice by opposing all forms of killing as well as dehumanization which leads to killing. My pro-life sentiments lead me to oppose war, militarism, capital punishment, nuclear power with its inherent dangers, and political oppression. They lead me to oppose any form of dehumanization including sexism, which is why I support most feminist causes in the first place. Since your newspaper is concerned about such issues my pro-life sentiments also explain why I bother to read it.

I realize that many prominent anti-abortionists seem like such foolish hypocrites when they claim to respect life while taking anti-life stands on other issues. I have already written hard-hitting letters to some of these people suggesting that if they are so pro-life they ought to be concerned about human rights after people have been born, too. However, the inconsistent stands taken by some anti-abortionists regarding the right to life do not obscure the fact that human life should not be tampered with for the sake of expediency...

Robert M. Ferrera
Villanova, PA

Pamphlets from Hera on women

REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM

A SHORT HISTORY OF
WOMEN'S LIBERATION
BY BARBARA WINSLOW

75 pages \$1.50

Womens VOICE

Monthly from Britain \$1.00

Jean Smith

WOMEN AND THE FAMILY

10 pages 50¢

available from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

What about the national election

Dear Socialist Worker,

I think that your newspaper is one of the better left newspapers available in the U.S. today.

But, as the 1980 elections come closer you need more coverage on your perspectives for social change.

You totally ignore the very important moves now taking place to form a third political party to challenge both the Republicans and the Democrats. Many of us on the independent left are now working for the success of such a party.

Until we get a mass socialist party what do you tell American workers who do take an interest in elections to do? Vote no? Passively sit at home and forget that it is election year? or what?

You should, in future issues, state clearly where you stand. People need an alternative they can see now, and can believe will work. Promising socialism in the future while not commenting on the present is not an option.

Bob Green
Denver, CO

WHERE WE STAND



WORKERS' CONTROL

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggles of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, the courts, army and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda—newspapers, radio, television, movies. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the working class can trust and use in their fight against the present system.

FIGHT OPPRESSION

Capitalism divides the working class. It pits men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to prevent the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups—blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, youths, gays—suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation. We are for equal pay for all women workers. We fight for an end to forced sterilization and for free abortion. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for the opening up of jobs for women and an end to sexual harassment and firings. We are for an end to discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

RANK AND FILE ORGANIZATION

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped fighting seriously for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders either act as brakes on workers' struggles, or as police, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to change this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, power must be built on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

INTERNATIONALISM

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international and that is why the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico, from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The activity of the ISO is directed toward the initial steps of building a revolutionary party in a working class that is today fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the day-to-day struggles of workers and other oppressed groups at the work places, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that will strengthen the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

Join the International Socialist Organization

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO) please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

ISO NEWS

What's ON

PROVIDENCE

Paul D'amato and Mitra Behroozi on "Why you should be a socialist." Tuesday, Nov. 6, 8:00 pm, Brown University.

CLEVELAND

Forum: "After Seabrook, what next?" Saturday, Nov. 10, 8:00 pm. Unitarian Center, 2728 Lancashire.

BOSTON

Paul D'amato and Mitra Behroozi on "Why you should be a socialist." Sunday, Nov. 4, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass Avenue, Cambridge.

CHICAGO

"Sexual Politics: the reproductive rights movement today."

Panels on reproductive rights, lesbian and gay liberation, and racism and reproductive freedom. Plus the film "Blow for Blow."

Saturday, Nov. 3, all day. 925 W. Diversy. Call 477-7363 for information

McAliskey tour a success



Bernadette Devlin McAliskey's speaking and fundraising tour to the U.S. in October was an unqualified success. She spoke to big meetings everywhere she went, with crowds of more than 400 in Seattle, Bloomington,

Dear comrades and friends,

Thank you. Not simply for resolving our immediate cash crisis—in which respect we exceeded our wildest hopes.

Through your efforts the speaking tour has met entirely the debt outstanding on our June campaign.

But thank you for so much more.

Your solidarity with our struggle in Ireland, your comradeship and commitment in the struggle for socialism, and not least your hospitality and the warmth of your friendship.

To travel alone from airport to airport and to be completely dependent in unfamiliar places on people you have never met and realistically may never meet again can be a daunting experience, yet the fact that it was not proves in theory and practice that truly we are not strangers but brothers and sisters in struggle.

It is also important to socialists in Ireland once again to be able to demonstrate that it is socialists outside Ireland who are prepared to offer real assistance without preconditions, and because their support is principled—without having to check whether what's good for the Irish might be bad for themselves.

For all of this the only return we can make at this time is to say thanks again.

But we are confident that the day will come when we can do more.

Your comrade in struggle,
friendship and revolution
Bernadette

and Boston. \$8,000 was raised for her. She spoke in fifteen cities. The meetings were sponsored by the ISO and the International Socialists of Canada.

"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

- Karl Marx

If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us. There are ISO members and branches in the following places:

BALTIMORE, MD

CLEVELAND, OH

NEW YORK, NY

BERKELEY, CA

DAYTON, OH

NEW HAVEN, CT

BLOOMINGTON, IN

DETROIT, MI

NORTHAMPTON, MA

BOSTON, MA

FT. WAYNE, IN

PHILADELPHIA, PA

CHARLESTON, W.VA

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

PROVIDENCE, RI

CHICAGO, IL

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SEATTLE, WA

CINCINNATI, OH

LOS ANGELES, CA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I.S.O. National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

reviews

Leon Trotsky: 1879-1979



Leon Trotsky, chairman of the Petrograd workers' council during two revolutions in 1905 and 1917, builder of the red Army, and the voice of socialism after Stalin's takeover in Russia, was born 100 years ago on November 8, 1879—or 25 October by the old-style calendar.

From his early involvement in the Marxist movement in Russia in 1898 to his death in 1940, Trotsky was one of the leading and most original members of the movement. His theory of permanent revolution—which grew out of the

experience of the 1905 revolution—is one of the many outstanding contributions he made to Marxist theory.

After ten years of exile from Russia, Trotsky returned in May of 1917 and joined forces with Lenin. Together they led the Russian revolution of 1917.

Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution* still stands today as one of the best books on the subject.

After the revolution, Trotsky played the vital role of putting together an army to defend the new workers'

government. Referring to Trotsky, Lenin said: "Could anyone point out to me another man who would organize an almost model army in a year and win the respect of military experts? We have such a man."

But with the defeat of the revolution and Stalin's rise to power, Trotsky was expelled from Russia in 1929.

For the next eleven very difficult years he fought tooth and nail to keep alive a socialist tradition.

In August 1940, after a number of unsuccessful

attempts, one of Stalin's agents brutally murdered him.

The International Socialist Organization does not take Trotsky's ideas hook, line and sinker. We are not "Trotskyists" in the commonly used sense of the word. In vital respects we do not accept parts of the analysis Trotsky made of the capitalist crisis nor of the state set up by Stalin.

But we do acknowledge our enormous debt to Trotsky, to his relentless defence of the traditions of revolutionary socialism.

His analysis of fascism, his commitment to internationalism and to the working class—in short his understanding of the revolutionary road to socialism—makes him one of the outstanding figures in the revolutionary socialist tradition. □

*Leon Trotsky, 1940,
his last testament*

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Leon Trotsky: a suggested list of books about his life and ideas

There are many books by and about Trotsky. Some of his best are: *1905*, *The History of the Russian Revolution*, *The Struggle Against Fascism in Germany*, and *The Revolution Betrayed*.

Isaac Deutscher has written a good 3 volume biography of Trotsky entitled: *The Prophet Armed*, *The Prophet Unarmed*, and *The Prophet Outcast*.

We are glad to announce the publication of a new book, *Trotsky's Marxism*. Written by Duncan Hallas of our fraternal group, the British Socialist Workers Party, it will be available from Hera Press in December.



Students back Palestine

BLOOMINGTON, IN—A Palestinian Solidarity Committee has been formed by students at Indiana University. The committee has been formed in an effort to educate the community on the nature of the Palestinian liberation struggle. The press in the U.S. continues to characterize the Palestinians as terrorists and to misrepresent their demands.

The Palestinian Solidarity Committee supports the right of the Palestinian people to form a democratic secular state in Palestine. It stands against attempts to get the Palestinians to limit their struggle to one for a mini-state

alongside the existing Zionist state of Israel. It recognizes that for peace to come to the mid-East the Zionist state must be replaced with a secular state, comprising various peoples, in Palestine.

STAGE

The Egypt-Israel agreements have set the stage for yet another sellout of the Palestinians. Many people in the U.S. have, though, been led to accept those agreements as the basis for a just solution for the Palestinian people. Yet the Solidarity Committee will stress that the Egypt-Israel agreements can at best lead to a mini-state for the Palestin-

ians that will be a pawn in further conflicts.

The Solidarity Committee is sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Rejae Busailah on the Palestinians at 4:00 pm November 18, in Ballantine Hall 109, on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington.

The Solidarity Committee has brought U.S. and third world students together in a working alliance. The International Socialist Organization, the Organization of Arab Students, the Iranian Students Association, and Students for Revolution in the Third World all support the Committee. An additional 35 individuals are also working with the Committee. □



Palestinian refugee camp

POLICE RIOT AT OLIN WINCHESTER

NEW HAVEN, CT—Shortly after dawn on October 9, 150 police in riot gear moved in on the picket line at the Olin Corporation's Winchester arms plant in New Haven. They pushed through the crowd of 400 striking workers, clearing the way for 85 strikebreakers to enter the plant.

Five pickets were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct. That same morning one of the strikers, Moira Cunningham, was hit by a car as it crossed the picket line.

About 800 of the 1,350 members of IAM Local 609 have been picketing the plant since the strike began on July 15. The strike is being fought over productivity standards, an area in which the union has lost considerable ground in the last several contracts.

Olin is demanding a production quota that workers feel is turning a killing pace into a completely inhuman situation. There would be no union representation for those workers who could not meet the quota set by the company.

ILLEGAL

Olin's gun manufacturing division, located in the center of a black community in New Haven, has the unique distinction among arm manufacturers of having been caught selling guns illegally to the white South African government.

The company claims that its New Haven division is not as profitable as its chemical divisions, and has threatened to move the plant to the South periodically over the last 5-10 years. The city of New Haven has responded by giving up an entire block to the gun manufacturing division, but Olin has continued its threats.

But these threats are not intimidating the Olin workers. They are committed to staying out until the company meets their demands. □

by ROBIN LATTA

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

THE FAILURE OF THE LABOR LEADERS

Authoritative reports indicate labor unions now have the lowest rating they have had in the last 40 years.

In public opinion polls the labor leader is given a favorable rating by only fourteen percent of the population. They are at the bottom in all the public opinion polls of people who serve the public. The percentage of the American labor force organized is the lowest since the industrial unions were formed in the 30's.

The news media, the radio, TV and the magazines are controlled by the ruling class. They make exaggerated claims regarding the wages of some union members. They give little publicity to those receiving the minimum wage. They give the employer's point of view when reporting on health and safety in the work place. High profits are considered good for the economy; high wages inflationary.

CORRUPT

The employers prefer the corrupt bureaucrat to the reformer who gives voice to the rank and file. Without collusion between the news media, the employers and the labor bureaucracy, the latter couldn't remain in office.

In a corrupt society the labor leader is particularly vulnerable to corruption. It is in the interest of the employer to deal with people who are corrupt. It is less costly to buy off or compromise the labor bureaucrat than to meet the economic demands of the workers. By discrediting the labor leader the employers weaken the union they deal with as well as the labor movement. Workers become alienated from their union.

Unions like the Teamsters have a long history of having Mafia influence. The violence in the unions is given top

publicity—that inspired by the employers is justified or ignored. The ties of the labor bureaucrats with the Democratic and Republican Parties is insurance against prosecution when they engage in corrupt practices.

HELP

By their redbaiting and with the help of the Taft-Hartley Act, the labor bureaucracy was able to not only destroy the left-wing forces in the unions, they were able to silence all dissent. With no dissent there can be no organized opposition. Lacking an opposition in the locals the officers have been able to have by-laws adopted giving themselves exorbitant salaries and expenses.

The ties of the bureaucracy with the news media and the employers, their control of local union publications and their financial resources makes it difficult if not impossible for an opposition to defeat the incumbents.

Without an educational program dealing with the basic economic and political problems of the workers an opposition can't be developed and trained. There will be no change in the American Labor movement until the left-wing parties bring it about.

OPPOSITION

Democracy in the unions is at an all time low. Without an opposition to raise the issues the rank and file have lost interest in their union. To raise questions embarrassing to the leadership can bring retaliatory action against the questioner rather than an answer to the question. Any attempt to organize a principled opposition is treated as an attack on the union. The loyalty of the cliques running the locals is to the International bureaucracy rather than to the rank and file.



John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW local 15 in Detroit.

Lacking in social consciousness the labor movement shows little interest in social problems. Racism, sexism, poverty, pollution and education get little attention from the labor bureaucracy. Instead of helping solve these problems the unions too often are a part of the problem.

Upwards of 25 million Americans are earning no more than the minimum wage. There are upwards of 8 million unemployed. This one-third of the work forces gets little attention or sympathy from the labor movement. Most unions allow their members to work overtime while others are laid off. Solidarity, social consciousness and generosity are too often lacking even in strike situations.

FAILURE

The greed, the bigotry and the indifference to the needs of society that pervades the ruling class is reflected in the labor movement. The labor bureaucracy does nothing to inspire solidarity, generosity or social consciousness in the union membership. In this failure they fail to carry out the basic reason for which unions were organized.

To improve the image of the unions dissent must not only be permitted, it must be encouraged. The left-wing parties must play the important part they played in the days when the unions were first organized. □

SAFETY IS OUR BUSINESS

PITTSBURGH, PA—The Consolidation Coal Company's Mathies Mine near Pittsburgh was recently the scene of a dispute involving safety standards.

The union safety committee ordered the coupling on an emergency elevator replaced. They also demanded that the new coupling be replaced by a better one.

Consol's safety man disagreed, however, saying another coupling was not needed. To prove his point, he offered to take a ride on the elevator.

He boarded the elevator and headed down, but before he reached the bottom, the coupling broke. He fell to his death. □



Bailey: the contract is company revenge

WICKLIFFE, OH—The long and bitter strike by 850 UAW Local 1741 members at Bailey Controls is over. Bailey, a division of Babcock and Wilcox Corporation, has come out on top.

The new contract is terrible. It smacks more of company revenge than of a bargained settlement. Many of the company's offers are equal to if not worse than those made before the strike began.

REVEALED

On Wednesday October 24, at a mass meeting of over 800 strikers, the union leadership revealed the details of the contract.

The wage offer was less than that offered before the strike began. Workers will receive a 7¢ increase next year, and COLA in 1982. There will be no guarantees against lay-offs.

Union leaders, backed by the UAW International strongly urged their members to end the strike and accept the contract. They argued that it was the best settlement they could get.

Not surprisingly, many strikers left the meeting angry and frustrated—at the company and at their so-called leaders. But once the leaders had thrown in the towel, there was little they could do. Unfortunately, there was no organized rank and file group that could



The rank and file were militant

put up a fight against the contract and win it.

Despite the very large sentiment against the contract, it was ratified on Friday October 26, by a margin of 2—to—1.

Many of the strikers were hurting for money, others were worried about winter setting in. They were only making \$40.00 a week on picket duty.

Some, with many years

seniority, believed their jobs would be safe.

Still, there is no doubt that the contract should have been rejected. Already, over 300 workers have not been called back to work. One worker with 14 years seniority was called back but at the very lowest classification.

Rumors now have it that Bailey intends to phase out production altogether at its Wickliffe plant. □

Victory in Newport News

NEWPORT NEWS, VA—After a long, drawn out battle, stretching nearly two years, the 15,500 workers at the Newport News Shipbuilding Company have won union recognition.

On October 12, the company, A Tenneco subsidiary, was forced by the courts to recognize the Steelworkers Union as bargaining agent,

while hundreds of workers held a victory march in front of the shipyard.

In January, 1978, Newport News workers voted for USWA representation.

Earlier this year, still without union recognition, they struck for 13 weeks to protest the company's stalling tactics.

The union prematurely

called the strike to a halt. State police, called in by the company, beat and arrested workers on the picket line, and trashed union offices.

The Newport News workers' militancy and determination finally has won out. This victory is especially significant because it was won in the traditionally non-union, viciously anti-union, South. □

AAUP STRIKES CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI, OH—October 25 saw the first walkout of professors in the history of the University of Cincinnati.

At least two-thirds of the teaching staff, represented by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) honored the picket lines.

The administration at the University had not conceded any economic demands. In addition, it wanted new power to cut programs and to fire tenured and non-tenured teachers alike.

The AAUP picket lines and rallies have been well attended and spirited.

The AAUP has not, however, recognized the need to expand the strike to other university employees. The campus maintenance and grounds workers, organized by AFSCME, have been encour-

aged both by AFSCME and the AAUP to cross the teachers' picket lines. So have the clerical workers and teaching assistants.

FIRST

For most professors, this is the first time on a picket line, so there is little understanding of the need for solidarity with other workers—nor of the need to build campus-wide support for the strike.

Campus workers at the University of Cincinnati need to build alliances so that in the future they can act together for a more effective, united stand against the administration.

Still, we applaud the courage of the teaching staff for not caving in to the administration and for setting up the picket lines. A victory for the

AAUP will have an effect throughout the campus. □

by DAN PETTY
AFSCME, local 217

HELP SAVE COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL

CHICAGO, ILL.—Cook County Hospital and its seven neighborhood clinics nearly closed on October 5. Several rallies and demonstrations, including one on October 13 when 1,000 people gathered to protest the attacks on the hospital, have shown widespread support for the hospital. However, it is still not clear if the hospital will survive the next fiscal year.

Cook County Hospital is one of the largest municipal hospitals in the country, and, like other city hospitals around the country, it is under attack. Philadelphia General recently closed and six municipal hospitals in New York City are slated for closing.

Like the others, Cook County Hospital is the only source of health care for the majority of black, hispanic and working class people in the city. Over 70% of its patients are black or hispanic.

There is no charge for medicine, outpatient clinic visits (1200/day) or Emergency Room visits (800-1000/day). It has one of the few departments of Occupational Medicine where working people can get check-ups and straight information about job-related diseases. It has one of the best Burn and Trauma units in the Mid-West. It has wards filled with TB patients, while the large, rich, private hospital a block and a half away has almost none. (TB is still prevalent in urban ghettos). It is the only place in the city where patients are first asked, "What is bothering you?" instead of, "Do you have insurance."

CRISIS

The attempts to close city hospitals are clearly racist attacks on the poor and working people who use those hospitals. Their continual state of crisis and poor financial condition are not accidents.

Those situations are created

by the state. In Illinois, the state has refused to update Medicaid eligibility levels since 1973 and has increased the difficulty and time required to get Public Aid. This has caused the state's contribution to the hospital's budget to fall from 63% to 32% in five years. Even with that cut the hospital anticipated a deficit of only 16 million dollars in 1979.

However, in actuality, the state cut back even further. Losses in Medicaid payments were 13 million dollars with millions more held up in the bureaucracy. The state eliminated the corporate property tax this year which cost the hospital another \$9 million.

Inflation has also taken its toll. The hospital is now \$44 million in the red, and without extra funds, it will not be able to meet its payroll for the rest of the year. The state forced the immediate crisis by refusing to allow the hospital to borrow more than \$37 million.

SAVE

Faced with this kind of attack, the medical staff, other employees and the community are organizing to save the hospital. The staff, half of which is women and a third of which is black, have been key in organizing demonstrations and other actions—like occupying Mayor Byrne's office, taking patients to other hospitals in wheelchairs en masse and holding a mock funeral for the hospital on October 26.

They also realize that the only way to save the hospital is to build a movement which will mobilize tens of thousands of people.

But they need your help. Rallies, marches, demonstrations, pickets and benefits are being organized every week. If you are interested in getting involved, call the Cook County Hospital Crisis Center at 312-633-7612. □

by BOB GOLDMAN



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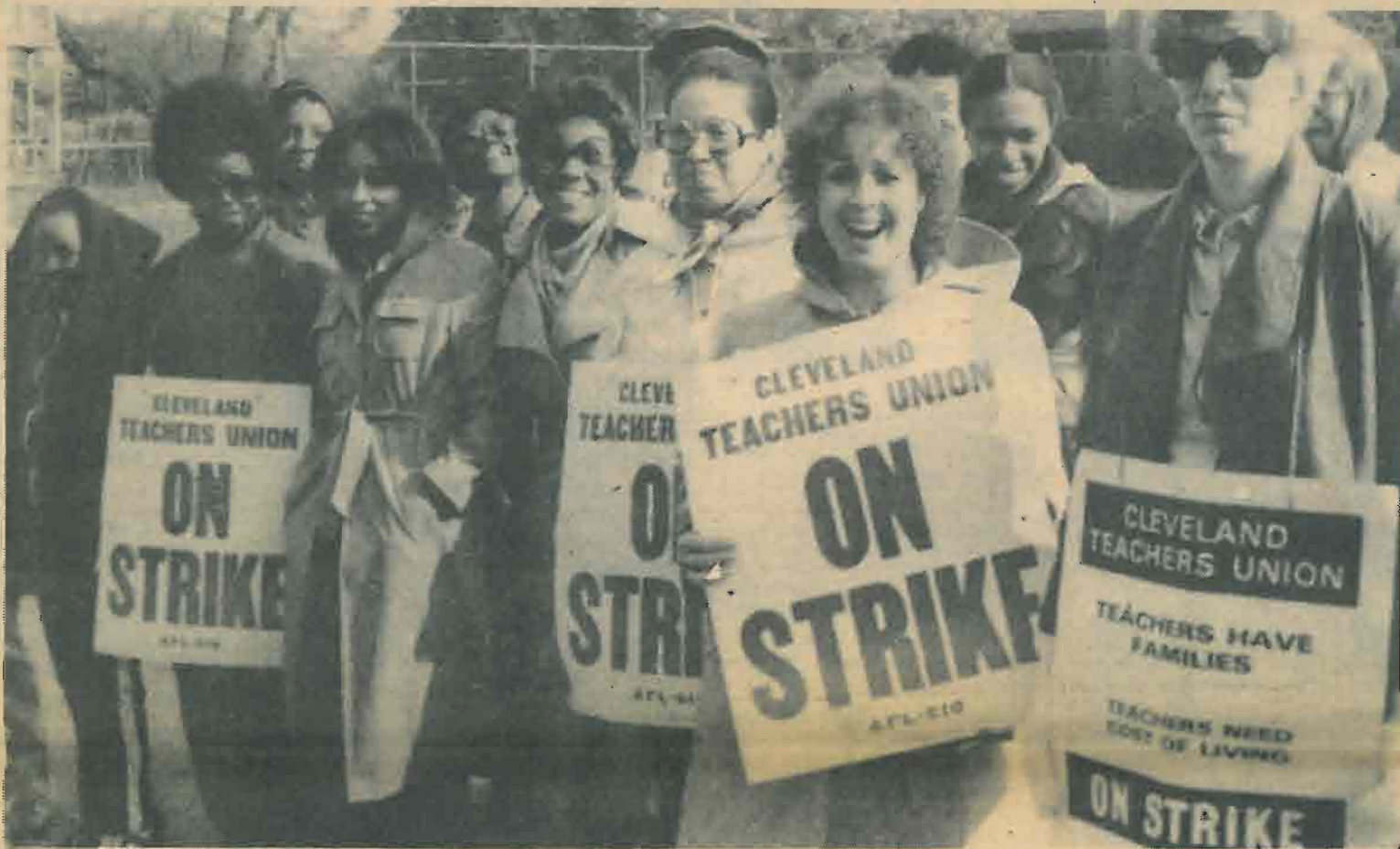
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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

TEACHERS WANT A LIVING WAGE



Cleveland teachers are lowest paid in Ohio

CLEVELAND, OH—Four thousand teachers walked off the job on October 18, beginning the "Second Annual Cleveland Teachers Strike."

LINES

Honoring the picket lines are 1,400 clerks, cafeteria workers, cleaners and library aides belonging to Local 47 of the Service, Hospital, Nursing Home and Public Employees Union.

The starting salary for Cleveland teachers is only \$9,877, the lowest in the county. Still, the school board is only offering a 6% pay hike. This late in the school year, the raise would only amount to a 4.73% advance—a figure far short of the current inflation rate.

Cleveland teachers are asking for a 14.5% hike, with cost

by CHRISTINA BERGMARK

of living advances yearly, smaller class sizes and less burdensome course loads.

From day one of the strike, the school board has announced that the schools are open. Even though children are not attending, the fact that schools are officially "open" means that state funds, allotted on the basis of actual classroom hours, continue to pour into the shut-down system. It also means that the school children will not be able to make up the days missed. The school board is ensuring that the school children will be made to suffer from the strike.

The situation facing Cleveland teachers is a critical one. Over the last few years, real wages have plummeted, and

working conditions have steadily worsened.

Cleveland's economic crisis has contributed to the problem: special education centers have been shut down; special programs have been cut back; class sizes have grown astronomically; preparation periods for teachers have been replaced by additional course assignments.

SHORTAGE

Last winter, in the face of these and other problems, Cleveland suffered an acute teacher shortage. While teachers in other cities continued to compete for sparse job opportunities, the Cleveland public school system was begging for teachers.

The situation has been further complicated by busing. In the face of a court order, Cleveland was forced to desegregate this fall. Thanks to the work of a pro-desegregation, anti-racist community group called WELCOME, the first days of busing were surprisingly smooth and peaceful.

But resistance to busing has reared its ugly head. The city establishment and press uncritically publicize the work of CORK, Citizens Opposed to Rearranging our Kids, a reactionary, anti-busing group committed to seeing that busing fails.

CAUGHT

Enrollment in private schools for white children has sky-rocketed, and overtly racist acts have been committed. A cross was burned at a white high school to which black youths are bused. White supremacist graffiti is spray-painted throughout the white neighborhoods of the city. And the school system is under public fire.

Cleveland teachers are caught in the crossfire and many of them are fleeing the system altogether. The ones remaining are fighting back: demanding a living wage, decent working conditions and an environment in which education can take place. It won't be an easy fight to win.

STRIKES HIT AG- IMP

MENTOR, OH—43,000 members of the United Auto Workers' Union, employees of the Caterpillar Tractor Co., have walked off their jobs, including 1,800 workers here at Caterpillar's towmotor plant.

The strike is now nationwide, with Caterpillar workers off the job in five states. It spread only after workers at Caterpillar's huge, sprawling Peoria, Illinois plant held out nearly a month on a wildcat strike.

23,000 workers walked out of the Peoria works on October 1, when their contract expired.

Bill Jones, the financial secretary of Local 709 in Mentor, says the dispute involves important contractual language, not money. Pat Greathouse, the UAW's chief negotiator in talks with the big three farm and heavy equipment manufacturers, says the talks may be off now for some time.

OUT

Many rank and file workers, however, do not understand why the strike has been put off this long, especially with the 23,000 out in Peoria.

The UAW's contracts with Caterpillar, International Harvester, and Deere & Co., all expired on October 1. Caterpillar, with headquarters in Peoria, is the largest of the three, with 40,500 UAW employees. International Harvester of Chicago has 35,000 UAW employees, and Deere & Co. of Moline, Ill., has 35,000.

Deere was the strike target in the last two rounds of bargaining. This year Deere settled after a three-week strike. There was no strike in 1973. Harvester may still go out this year, perhaps within a week.

Ag-Imp (agricultural implements) business is booming. Unsold inventories of farm and construction vehicles are low and layoffs are rare.

The UAW bargainers are keeping their demands to themselves. Greathouse says he hopes to improve pensions.

RECORD

He'd better do better than that. There will not be another year like this for Ag-Imp workers for some time to come. 1978 profits for Caterpillar were \$556 million, International Harvester's were \$186 million, Deere's were \$264 million.

All three report enjoying record profits and sales this year as well.

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