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HARVESTER: U.A.W.'S LONGEST STRIKE

APRIL 26: "THE NUKES STOP HERE"

HARRISBURG, PA—The people of Middletown and Harrisburg have been held hostage for 367 days. Their captors—Met Ed, the NRC, Jimmy Carter. That was the message when 10,000 people demonstrated here on the anniversary of Three Mile Island.

A year ago these people had been office workers, teachers, housewives, steel workers, farmers, students. Today they are anti-nuke activists. And they are determined to "shut down TMI forever."

"We are all victims," said Kathy McCaughin, one of the local organizers and a speaker at the rally. "Victims of an economic and political system that respects profit more than people. We have all been TMI'ed."

The Harrisburg rally was organized by the broad March 28 Coalition, and all across the country similar coalitions staged their own TMI anniversaries.

Indeed some of the loudest cheers in Harrisburg came when news arrived of the international events—in Tokyo, London, Paris. Closing TMI is a local concern, but it can only be done as part of an international movement.

If the anti-nuke movement is serious about achieving a non-nuclear world, it will have to do what the Harrisburg activists have been doing the past year.

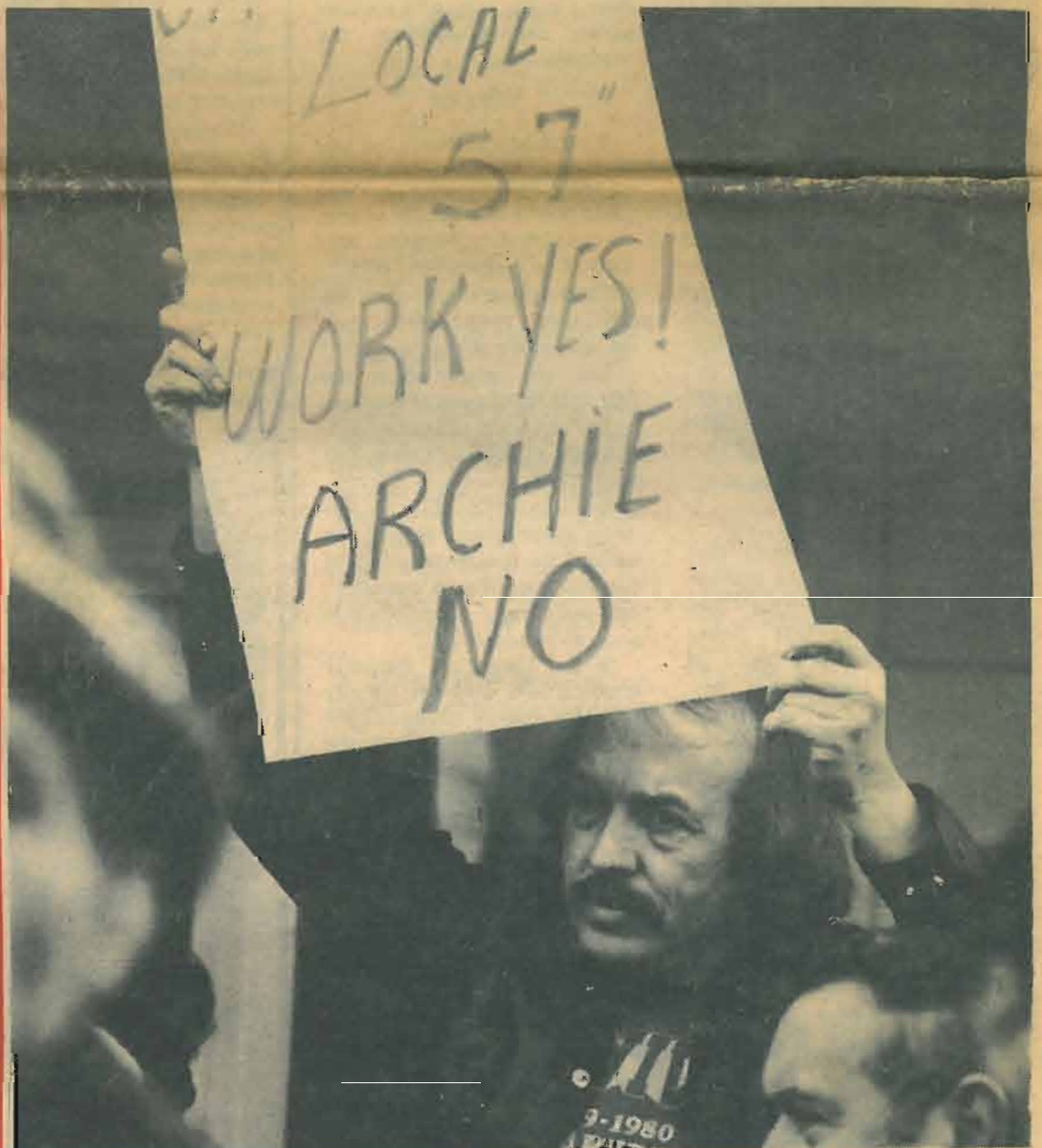
It will have to fight the companies who profit from nukes, and the governments which subsidize and protect these companies.

In short, it will have to challenge the fundamental class structure of capitalism—

by NEIL SMITH

in Harrisburg, Washington, D.C., and abroad.

March against nukes in Washington on April 26. Occupy Seabrook on May 24. Shut them down!!



The workers at International Harvester walked off their jobs on November 1, 1979. And they are still out.

Their strike is now going in to its sixth month, the longest major strike in the history of the United Auto Workers, longer than the 117 day strike against General Motors in 1945-46.

The strike involves issues which are of great importance for every working

person in this country, for International Harvester, led by its new president Archie McCardell, is on the attack. It wants to slash jobs and destroy working conditions. It wants to drastically reduce the power of the union.

But Harvester workers are fighting back, and they deserve support and solidarity.

See page 7 for an interview with a striking Harvester worker.

2,350 Seabrook workers shafted

SEABROOK, NH—On Thursday, March 20, the Public Service Co. (PSCO) of New Hampshire, builders of the Seabrook Station nuclear power plant, announced that they are laying off 2,350 workers at the site.

PSCO has been in serious financial trouble for a long time. This is partially because of rising interest rates and inflation have made money hard to come by.

RISK

It is partially because nuclear power is starting to look like a bad risk to many investors.

It is partially because the Seabrook nuke in particular has been the target of such vocal and militant opposition for so long that investors are beginning to believe that it won't ever be built.

Naturally, workers are the first to pay for the mistakes of capitalism.

Nuclear power was once hailed as "energy too cheap to meter." It has become the most expensive form of energy there is.

The cost of nukes is rising faster than the rate of inflation, while the cost of alternatives has declined to about half that of nuclear power.

But rate increases to pay for construction costs continue to be granted to companies like PSCO every time they ask for them. This happens despite votes, such as the one last year in N.H., against Construction Work In Progress (CWIP) hikes.

Thus the people of N.H. and other areas are forced to pay for nuclear power plants they neither want nor need.

FEW

It was also claimed that nuclear power would provide jobs. It is true that constructing a nuclear power plant employs thousands (at least for as long as the company can afford to pay them).

But once the plant is in operation, it employs only a few hundred highly skilled technicians.

by VICKI LEWIS

It has been estimated that a nationwide insulation program would save us 4 to 6 billion barrels of oil per year by 1990.

It would further eliminate the need for nuclear power in the first place, and would also create 3 million construction jobs, six times as many jobs per dollar as nuclear power creates. Nuclear power is capital intensive, not labor intensive.

The only people who profit from nuclear power are the capitalists who invest in it. And when the profits begin to decline, the first ones to suffer from the economic disaster the utilities and oil companies have built around nuclear power are, of course, the workers.

SUFFER

The layoffs at Seabrook put socialists in a contradictory position. We believe that nuclear power is a deadly source of energy that benefits only those who make money off it.

Thus we are opposed to the continued construction and operation of nukes.

But, we cannot cheer the fact that thousands of workers have suddenly found themselves collecting unemployment.

Workers laid off from nuclear plant sites should be trained in the installation of decentralized, labor intensive, non-polluting, renewable sources of energy.

In the long run, the only solution is a socialist society in which energy needs can be filled by safe forms of power that allow us to decide what we need when and where we need it. □



Seabrook demonstrator 1978

30,000 MARCH AGAINST THE DRAFT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On March 22 some 30,000 people marched against registration, the draft, and the new wars they foreshadow.

It was a very important demonstration, a significant outpouring of anti-war feeling. Its size was on par with demonstrations which took years to build up to in the Vietnam era.

START

So we are off to a very good start. Hopefully Jimmy Carter and the Pentagon will reflect back upon this march before they attempt to offer us up in some new military adventure—whether in Iran, in Central America, or Southern Africa.

And hopefully more and more people will begin to re-think the whole logic of the new cold war hysteria which is being whipped up in this country.

It is still not certain, of course, that we are in for a prolonged cold war—such as that which lasted from 1947 into the sixties.

There is always the possibility that Carter, once he is re-elected, will cool things down again. It is too soon to tell.

But there is already one thing for certain—a new cold war, however long or short, will be above all a weapon against those who oppose the existing order, East or West.

Neither Carter nor Brezhnev actually wants a nuclear war—it would be bad for trade. Mostly they would like people like the Iranians and the Afghans to quietly submit themselves and their resources to imperial domination.



Anti-draft marchers in Washington, D.C.

But they are quite prepared to risk such a war, by political or technical accident, in order to keep themselves in power, and to hang on to what they believe is their's in the world.

At the same time, however, a new cold war will make it much easier for Brezhnev to lock up and jail dissidents. And Carter and every variety of right-winger in this country will be able to use patriotism to discredit the left and to attack workers who do not loyally accept gasoline at \$2 a gallon.

The left of course has nothing to gain from illusions in Russia. There is no reason at all to try to excuse the Russian action in Afghanistan.

But above all, we have nothing to gain from flag-

waving and anti-Russian hysteria. We have to deflate the myths and expose the hypocrisies so that the new cold war can never take off—whatever Carter wants to do.

And it is in this light that the new anti-draft movement is so important. For it can begin this job with a whole new generation of student and young workers.

FARCE

Karl Marx wrote that the great events of world history occur twice—the first time as a tragedy, the second a farce.

The cold war of the forties and fifties was a tragedy for a whole generation of socialists. It is our job to see that Jimmy Carter's rerun never gets beyond being a squalid little farce. □



Jailed Kansas City fire fighters

KANSAS CITY, MO—The striking fire fighters have won an important victory here.

By striking, by standing together, by being willing to take whatever the city wanted to give—including mass jailings—the fire fighters succeeded in forcing the city to reinstate with full seniority forty-one fire fighters fired for participation in an earlier strike.

Seventy-one fire fighters were arrested in the March strike, including Louie Wright, the general vice-president of Local 42.

All were released when the city was forced to see there was no alternative to ending the strike.

The strike began after the city attempted to uphold the firings of fire fighters dismissed as a result of last December's strike.

Solidarity was the key to the victory. There was no scabbing, there were nightly support rallies, and there was support from many trade union and community organizations.

COURAGE

But mostly it was the courage of the Kansas city fire fighters themselves. They showed, at a time when labor is on the defensive, that fighting unions can win victories. □

If you like Kennedy...

A month ago it seemed inevitable that the presidential race would involve only two contenders.

But Kennedy has hung on, and despite losses in Wisconsin and Kansas, his victories in New York and Connecticut insure that there will at least be a few months more of primary campaigning.

SPICE

The Kennedy victories might well spice things up a bit, but don't believe that his presence in the race represents a liberal trend, let alone a progressive voting alternative. Think again.

It's nothing new that Kennedy's moral fiber is questionable at best. It is less known, however, that Kennedy is sponsoring one of the most repressive bills to come down the pike in years.

S1722, dubbed by friends and opponents alike as "Son of S1," is a right-winger's dream.

If S1722 had passed by

March 22, each of the 30,000 anti-draft demonstrators in Washington, D.C. would be guilty of a federal crime punishable by five years in prison and a fine of a quarter of a million dollars.

If S1722 passes, each of you who has discussed resisting the draft or suggested to a

friend that he or she resist—each one of you would be guilty of that same federal crime.

If that's a liberal alternative, we don't want to see it.

BUSINESS

There is no "progressive" alternative in the upcoming election. Period.

This year, even with its sham exercise of democracy, is no different from other years.

The real issues do not revolve around whether we should vote for Brand X or Brand Y. The problem remains as the need to build a movement that can provide real alternatives to all the obvious problems.

The business of socialists, in this election, is building that movement. □

by CHRISTINA BERGMARK



Marching on the Capitol

CARTERS' BUDGET: No remedy for inflation

Everyone in Washington is trying to look like an inflation fighter. In an election year, with inflation at 18%, any other stance would be suicidal.

Yet even the noisiest budget flashers are applauding inflationary measures. Carter's 10% gasoline tax will push inflation up another point. Paul Volcker of the Federal Reserve Board has raised interest rates to 19%, and threatens to keep raising them. With interest rates slightly ahead of inflation he hopes potential investors will feel less confident that they can turn a profit. The arms budget—one quarter of the total—will purchase an extra 3%.

REDUCE

These measures reduce the anti-inflationary impact of the \$15-16 billion budget cuts—2.5% of the total budget—to insignificance. Still, these cuts mean sacrifices for workers, the unemployed, and the elderly. Inflation adjustment for federal retirees and for those on food stamps will be less frequent. Reductions in

revenue sharing for states and cities will cut back welfare.

The federal deficit is being singled out as the cause of inflation, but oil prices and the credit boom are doing more to fuel inflation than the deficit. At the end of 1979, the outstanding balance on credit cards was 55 billion dollars—less than the expected 1980 deficit.

ROOT

Budget trimming, high interest rates, and the credit-card clamp-down are sure to slow capital spending and to increase unemployment. The root of inflation will still remain untouched. The corporations have been getting their profits by spiraling price hikes, rather than by increased productivity based on capital improvements. The requirement for stimulating capital investment is forbidding: It is a period of depression-level unemployment that would cut living standards drastically. □

by MILTON FISK

FIGHTING WORDS

"To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament (the government)—this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism. The way out of parliamentarism is not, of course, the abolition of representative institutions and the elective principle, but the conversion of the representative institutions from talking shops into "working" bodies . . . We cannot imagine democracy, even proletarian democracy, without representative institutions, but we can and must imagine democracy without parliamentarism, if our criticism of bourgeois society is not mere words for us . . ."

—Lenin, *The State and Revolution*

Consider this

Political activists should take note of S1722, the Criminal Code Reform Act. Ted Kennedy, in alliance with rightwingers Strom Thurmond and Orrin Hatch, has introduced this bill which will be voted on in the Senate very soon. It is expected to pass.

Under this bill, many activities now legal would become federal crimes. Following are some of the more shocking effects the bill would have.

- Picketing at an induction center, counselling a conscientious objector to resist draft registration, or signing a petition opposing an undeclared war would become criminal under the bill. Also outlawed would be any civilian speech or publication opposing a war. The peacetime sentence - up to five years plus a fine of a quarter of a million dollars. The wartime sentence - 10 years.

- Under the new bill, any planning or organization of anti-nuclear demonstrations, as well as any property damage at nuclear facilities or energy production facilities (whether operational or not) would be punishable by five years in federal prison.

- S1722 encourages wire tapping by compensating telephone companies. It would continue the practice of forcing witnesses to testify even if they have taken the Fifth Amendment and would allow "voluntary" confessions in absence of counsel to be admissible in court.

- Sentencing procedures would be completely revised with fines upped to a quarter of a million dollars, parole eliminated and mandatory minimum sentences required in certain cases. S1722 also would give judges the option of detaining for 10 days "sus-

Senate Bill 1722: Political Activists Beware

pects," before they have been found guilty.

- Any violent acts or property damage committed during labor disputes resulting in severe bodily harm or death could be federally prosecuted. The FBI would investigate labor activities in case the disputes became "extortionate." The sentence - 10 years.

- The broad definition of conspiracy would make discussion of a demonstration or rally that could disrupt a government function a federal crime, even if the demonstration or rally never occurred. The sentence would depend on the planned "crime."

- Outlawed would be any physical interference of a government function, including demonstrations blocking federal buildings and rallies in violation of court orders. The clause on impairment of federal proceedings by unreasonable noise or violent conduct would bar political activities at court hearings, congressional activities and regulatory agency meetings. Also barred would be demonstrations at a federal courthouse while a judicial proceeding (political trial) is in progress.

- "Riot," defined as disorderly conduct involving 10 or more persons, would include labor disputes and people "engaged" in a riot, even if

they didn't know the rally or demonstration in which they participated was considered a riot by the police. The sentence - 2 years.



Edward Kennedy

This bill exposes exactly on which side the "liberal" Kennedy really stands. S1722 will be used by the ruling class to repress all militant dissent whether from students or workers, in these times of economic and social crisis.

With the coming crisis, the value of such vague and repressive anti-labor measures to the capitalists should be obvious. The provision of harsher penalties for anti-war and anti-nuclear activities is ample evidence that the war moves now being made are indeed in earnest. The ruling class is gearing up for a war abroad. It can't afford a fight at home. □

by CAROL STEUER

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West Virginia miners continue strikes

MORGANTOWN, W.VA.—Wildcat strikes continue in Northern West Virginia, as 3,500 coal miners fight to win back the jobs of union members fired by Consolidation Coal Company.

The strikes began March 5, two days after an earlier strike ended.

In February, 5,000 miners shut down ten mines in a fight to stop the firing of Local Union 4060 president Mike

Zemonick, as well as two mine committeemen from the same local.

The latest strike began when Consol responded with more firings—this time of miners involved in picketing

in defense of the first victims.

Rank and file miners believe these strikes are very important. Consol, a hard-liner in the coal industry, is obviously testing the resolve

of the UMWA—and at a very critical time.

Consol has just rejoined the national coal bargaining unit and the miners' national contract talks just are beginning.

BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA BY TONY BOGUES

I say again, I'm not anti-Democrat, I'm not anti-Republican, I'm not anti-anything. I'm just questioning their sincerity, and some of the strategy that they've been using on our people by promising them promises that they don't intend to keep. When you keep the Democrats in power, you're keeping the Dixiecrats in power. I doubt that my good Brother Lomax will deny that.

A vote for a Democrat is a vote for a Dixiecrat. That's why, in 1964, it's time now for you and me to become more politically mature and realize what the ballot is for; and that if we don't cast a ballot, it's going to end up in a situation where we're going to have to cast a bullet. It's either a ballot or a bullet.

SYSTEM

In the North, they do it a different way. They have a system that's known as gerrymandering, whatever that means. It means when Negroes become too heavily concentrated in a certain area, and begin to gain too much political power, the white man comes along and changes the district lines.

You may say, "Why do you keep saying white man?" Because it's the white man who does it. I haven't ever seen any Negro changing any lines. They don't let him get near the line. It's the white man who does this. And usually, it's the white man who grins at you the most, and pats you on the back, and is supposed to be your friend. He may be friendly, but he's not your friend.

So, what I'm trying to impress upon you, in essence, is this: You and I in America are faced not with a segregationist conspiracy, we're faced with a government conspiracy. Everyone who's filibustering is a senator—that's the government.

Everyone who's finagling in Washington, D.C., is a congressman—that's the government. You don't have anybody putting blocks in your path but people who are a part of the government. The same government that you go abroad to fight for and die for is the government that is in a conspiracy to deprive you of your voting rights, deprive you of your economic opportunities, deprive you of decent housing, deprive you of decent education.

GOVERNMENT

You don't need to go to the employer alone, it is the government itself, the government of America, that is responsible for the oppression and exploitation and degradation of black people in this country. And you should drop it in their lap. This government has failed the Negro. This so-called democracy has failed the Negro. And all these white liberals have definitely failed the Negro.

So, where do we go from

THE BALLOT

OR THE BULLET: 1964

here? First, we need some friends. We need some new allies. The entire civil-rights struggle needs a new interpretation, a broader interpretation. We need to look at this civil-rights thing from another angle—from the inside as well as from the outside.

To those of us whose philosophy is black nationalism, the only way you can get involved in the civil-rights struggle is give it a new interpretation. That old interpretation excluded us. It kept us out.

COMPROMISE

So, we're giving a new interpretation to the civil-rights struggle, an interpretation that will enable us to come into it, take part in it. And these handkerchief-heads who have been dillydallying and pussy-footing and compromising—we don't intend to let them pussyfoot and dillydally and compromise any longer.

How can you thank a man for giving you what's already yours? How then can you thank him for giving you only part of what's already yours? You haven't even made progress, if what's being given to you, you should have had already. That's not progress. And I love my Brother Lomax, the way he pointed out we're right back where we were in 1954.

We're not even as far up as we were in 1954. We're behind where we were in 1954. There's more segregation now

than there was in 1954. There's more racial animosity, more racial hatred, more racial violence today in 1964, than there was in 1954. Where is the progress?

And now you're facing a situation where the young Negro's coming up. They don't want to hear that "turn-the-other cheek" stuff, no. In Jacksonville, those were teenagers, they were throwing Molotov cocktails. Negroes have never done that before. But it shows you there's a new deal coming in.

RECIPROCAL

There's new thinking coming in. There's new strategy coming in. It'll be Molotov cocktails this month, hand grenades next month, and something else next month.

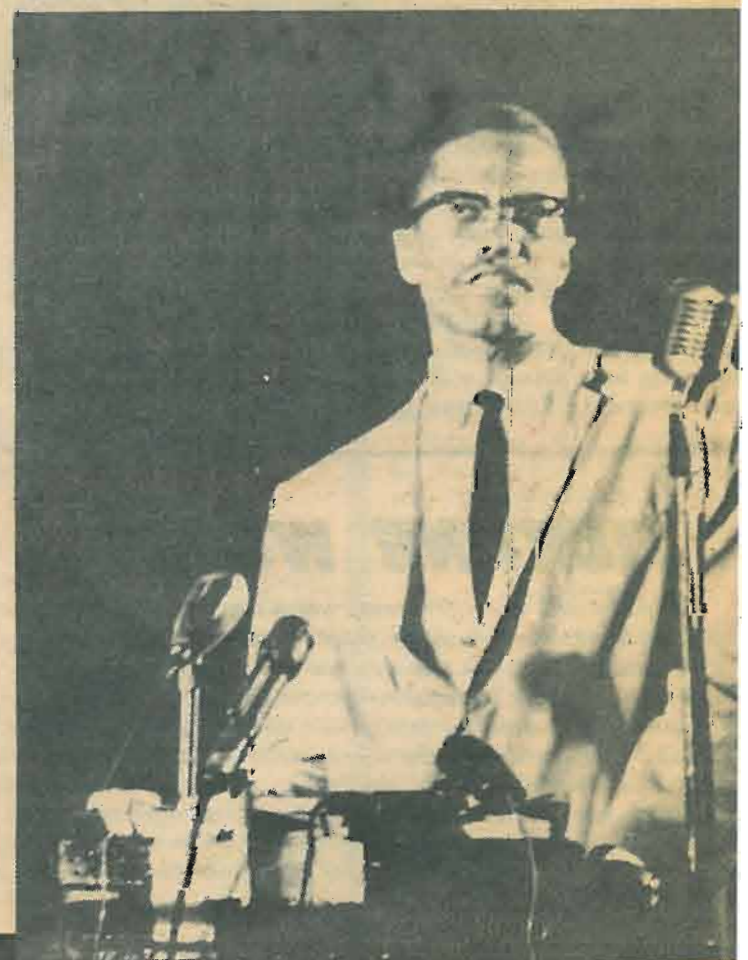
It'll be ballots, or it'll be bullets. It'll be liberty, or it will be death. The only difference about this kind of death—it'll be reciprocal. You know what is meant by "reciprocal?" That's one of Brother Lomax's words, I stole it from him. I don't usually deal with those big words because I don't usually deal with big people. I deal

with small people.

I find you can get a whole lot of small people and whip hell out of a whole lot of big people. They haven't got any-

thing to lose, and they've got everything to gain. And they let you know in a minute. "It takes two to tango; when you go, you go."

Malcolm X



Lane Kirkland: superhawk with friends at the C.I.A.

MEANY'S SUCCESSOR TIED TO BUSINESS AND THE MILITARY



Lane Kirkland (right) and his mentor Meany

Unlike his predecessors as President of the AFL-CIO, Lane Kirkland is not from the working class. Kirkland was born into an elite Southern family of cotton growers—his family supported the “southern tradition” of slavery. He at one time aspired to become a career diplomat, and has some rather unsavory connections with big business.

SIDE

Now Kirkland accuses the business community of waging a “class war” against the working class. But which side is he on?

Kirkland is a member of the Rockefeller Foundation. There he sits alongside such members of the financial establishment as C. Douglas Dillon, Robert Roosa and, until they resigned to join the Carter Administration, Michael Blumenthal and Paul Volcker.

Kirkland is a veteran placeholder on the corporatist (labor-management-government) Trilateral Commission, which was started by none other than David Rockefeller. From time to time Kirkland also serves as director of the conservative, pro-business Brookings Institute.

HAWK

In a time when militarism and jingoism are at a peak, it is frightening to know that the head of organized labor is a superhawk. Kirkland's ties to the military establishment are as deep as his ties to the business community.

According to A.H. Raskin, labor reporter for the New York Times, “Throughout his career Kirkland has been a superhawk, as unwavering as Meany in his belief...that even higher levels of armaments (are) needed to protect the U.S.”

Kirkland is a founding member and co-chairman of the Committee on the Present Danger.

He is also a member of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency's notably bellicose General Advisory Committee. There he works with Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and William Scranton, a long time Rockefeller family advisor.

According to a recent issue of The Nation, they are trying to “insure that there will be neither real arms control nor effective disarmament.”

Victor Reuther, co-founder of the United Auto Workers, is himself no friend of radical unionism. Yet even he details the connection between the AFL-CIO and the CIA in his book *The Brothers Reuther*.

CONDUIT

According to Reuther's account, the European office of the AFL was a conduit for “incredibly large funds” from the CIA as early as 1951.

Kirkland denies such ties, but admits, “The AFL-CIO

devotes a substantial part of its resources, attention and manpower to overseas work.

Lane Kirkland always wanted to be a career diplomat. He has a penchant for foreign affairs.

He has been a trustee of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) and a director of the African-American Labor Center. Both are AFL-CIO organizations that promote a pro-U.S. ideology and labor management co-operation.

According to a March, 1965, AALC bulletin, the center also exists to “expand American investment.” Both of these organizations have supported anti-left coups during the 1960's and 1970's. It should also be noted that strike tactics are noticeably absent from AIFLD training courses and curriculum.

AIFLD was organized in 1961. George Meany was its president and shipping magnate J. Peter Grace its board chairman. A host of other multi-national corporations were represented on the board.

It was explicitly organized to promote and defend the “common interests” of labor and business in Latin America.

However, AIFLD quickly became a major outfit funded by the Agency for International Development (AID).

EXPOSED

The AID, over the years, has been well exposed as a covert CIA group.

Naturally labor bureaucrats have denied this CIA connection. Yet, under AIFLD-AID guidance several U.S. unions have funded overseas operations that have helped curtail militant workers' actions.

At home Kirkland will follow the same sort of policies his organizations follow abroad. This means an opposition to militant unionism, a preference for stability in labor management relations and a strong, hierarchical, bureaucratic organization. There will be “discipline” in the labor movement.

These business and intelligence connections are only an indication of Kirkland's preference for repressive policies and organizations that do nothing but support capitalism.

He becomes head of the AFL-CIO against a backdrop of high inflation, low wages, poor working conditions, and an increase of runaway shops and plant closings. Unions are unresponsive and undemocratic.

Rather than aggressive unionism, we find nothing more than unionism that has been fully integrated into the capitalist system and the State apparatus. The change in leaders from Meany to Kirkland means nothing.

by MITCHELL MILLER

CHICAGO FIRE FIGHTERS “They won't break us ever”

CHICAGO, IL—After 24 days on strike the Chicago fire fighters went back to work.

Their feelings were summed up by Frank Muscare, president of the fire fighters local, a week later. “They didn't break us in 24 days. They won't be able to break us again ever.”

CONTRACT

The settlement of the strike did not lead to a written contract. In fact it only requires negotiations until December 31, 1980, at which time all remaining issues will go to binding arbitration.

However it isn't even “Binding” arbitration. The city council must approve the arbitration ruling. If the city council rejects it the fire fighters can go on strike in ten days.

All the outstanding issues of the strike will be resolved by this method.

Pressure from Chicago's top union bureaucrats, men like Bill Lee, the head of the Chicago Federation of Labor, isolated the fire fighters from other city workers and forced them to accept a losing settlement.

REFUSED

Bill Lee showed the most despicable politics when he refused to help the fire fighters in the face of the city's hiring of 475 scabs.

Jessie Jackson also helped force the fire fighters to go

by
BOB GOLDMAN

back by threatening to pull the Black fire fighters out of the strike.

Now that the strike is over the city is actively retaliating against the strikers by forcing early retirements, transfers and new physical exams in order to make permanent places for the scabs.

At the same time Mayor Byrne is attacking the teachers. She has proposed balancing the school budget by cutting 2,750 class room teachers as well as wages and benefits.

ORGANIZE

The only way to stop these attacks is for the city workers to organize themselves and fight. They cannot rely on the politicians and bureaucrats who have sold them out before.



Striking fire fighters

Graffiti

by Patricia Goldsmith

Science magazine's winner of last year's Doublespeak award was the nuclear power industry. In a tough year for the industry, they invented a whole lexicon of jargon during Three Mile Island, or, as they put it, the "abnormal evolution" of the "plant transient."

The word "explosion" was chucked for "energetic disassembly." The term "rapid oxidation" replaced the more mundane word of "fire."

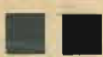
Rather than speak of plutonium contamination in the reactor vessel, spokesmen acknowledged that plutonium had "taken up residence there." □



The legal case has received massive newspaper publicity. Posters have gone up on walls denouncing both sides. The Israeli parliament will debate the question. Religious leaders are up in arms.

The subject? The kidney of an Israeli soldier killed by the PLO is now functioning in the body of a 12-year-old Arab girl who is said to have been heard expressing sympathy with the PLO.

Religious factions are demanding that autopsies be banned in cases where the family does not approve and that the removal of organs be covered by the same rule. Says the head of surgery at Hadassah Hospital, "This would mean the stroke of death to transplants in Israel." □



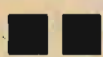
Everybody knows about Ronald's ill-timed duck joke. But little is made of wife Nancy's gaffe that same day. Attending a fundraiser in Chicago, she was speaking to her husband on the phone and said she wished he could be there to "see all these beautiful white people." She hesitated a moment, paled slightly, and amended, "... beautiful Black and white people." □



Sometimes it's hard, though, to tell when Ronald is making a joke, since most of what he says is so bad.

In an interview with the L.A. Times, he spoke of Hollywood in the 50s: "... The persecutors were the Communists who had gotten into positions where they could destroy careers, and did destroy them. There was no black-list in Hollywood.

"The black-list in Hollywood, if there was one, was provided by the Communists. There were lists by our customers... who said to the motion picture industry, 'We won't go to see pictures that these people are involved in.'" □



MARXIST ANALYSIS OF THE MONTH AWARD

Last week Mozambique's President Samora Machel, a "Marxist," met with Lord Soames, the British governor of Rhodesia. Mr. Machel praised the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher, calling her the best British Prime Minister for 15 years because she

had the courage to solve the Rhodesian "problem."

Mr. Machel added that "If the world was ruled by women then we could always have peace." He should tell that to the striking British steelworkers. □



Margaret Thatcher

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

"But isn't public education the great equalizer in this society?"

There's a long standing myth in America about the power of education. The myth says that no matter who you are or where you come from, all you have to do to gain equal opportunity is to work hard in school.

It would take many columns of this length to discuss all the issues raised by this myth. My main concern for the moment is the contention that education is an effective equalizer in society.

The public school system did not invent the class, race, and sex divisions in America, but it obviously helps to perpetuate them. Schools exist, first and foremost, to assimilate young people into the adult world and to reproduce the social and economic arrangements of capitalism.

For us, the most fundamental of these arrangements is private profit, in which everything and everybody is treated as a means for the enrichment of a small group. The population is divided into classes which are defined by their relationship to profit.

Schools exist under capitalism to reproduce these classes as efficiently and flexibly as possible, adjusting to various changes in the technological and political requirements of the system. Modern capitalism needs workers who have at least rudimentary skills of reading and counting.

It also needs the workers to be sorted into the various kinds and levels of skill required by the labor market, to be diligent, obedient, and punctual, and to be convinced that they were born to work and not to rule.

PLACE

This function of convincing workers of their proper place in the system is among the most important that the schools achieve. The system instills in young people from the age of five years up the belief that class, sex, and race divisions are fair, natural, and altogether necessary.

The division of society into classes is mirrored by the further division of workers into groups based on sex and race, with minorities and females suffering differential and inferior treatment. These divisions are perpetuated and subtly justified in the schools, and they prevent the development of any united class conscious response to the capitalists.

Thus the schools, like the

by
DEBORAH ROBERTS

nuclear family, provide a fundamental prop to the whole profit-making system.

For more than a century, the supposed ability of mass education to "elevate" the working class has been argued by liberals as one of the system's chief benefits. What they overlook is that the chief function of the schools is to integrate people into a system that is based on inequality—divided into workers and owners, ruled and rulers, slaves and masters. In this system, there is a top and a bottom, and the tiny space at the top is getting smaller every day.

Furthermore, since the entire social and economic structure is dependent on the majority of people being convinced that the system is just, necessary, and natural, the schools must train the majority of children to see themselves as inferior to those who rule.

That's why there is so much more concern about discipline and regimentation at poor and working class elementary schools than there is at those reserved for the children of the ruling class.

It also explains why the quality of education at many inner-city schools is so low that children often do not gain even the basics of literacy.

KINDERGARTEN

A working woman makes the point:

"There's got to be a certain amount of people who work in a factory, who are just going to be satisfied with what you tell them. If you had all brainy people in a factory who could think for themselves, they'd take over the factory and run it. All they want is for you to listen to them and do as you're told. When a bell goes you jump, and when the line forms, you get in line. You know what to do, you know

Education: producing its gravediggers



where to go and what you're expected to do. My school was like a kindergarten for the factory."

It's really very simple: workers and rulers need to be educated in opposite ways.

QUESTION

One way in which schools convince working class children of their inferiority is through the constant use of standardized tests. The race and class bias of these tests is well known—but even if they were "fair," the question would remain: What are the tests for?

I believe that the use of these measurement devices is so widespread and unquestioned by educators because the tests effectively sort children and help instill the required class and race attitudes at the same time.

At great damage to themselves, most working class children eventually accept grading, testing, sifting, and "creaming" as the way life is. They are forced by the system to devalue themselves, to feel inadequate and inferior.

Fortunately, the education system is developing some cracks. Racism within the

school system has left it vulnerable to angry pressure from the Black community.

Economic crisis and authoritarian school management have led many teachers to unionize and to strike against the school system and the corporate bodies that control it.

Parents have become involved in some of these actions, recognizing that the interests of their children and the teachers are the same.

And while schools do help to justify inequality, some of them are becoming arenas in which egalitarian consciousness can develop among students.

In other words, the authoritarian classroom produces not only docile workers, but "misfits" and rebels as well.

CHANGE

Real change in the school will grow from a movement to end the system of private profit and minority rule called 'capitalism.' The struggle for a better and more human educational system depends ultimately on replacing the class which profits from the inequality, segregation, and inhumanity of the present one. □



International Harvester was struck by the United Auto Workers on November 1, 1979.

The strike has now run longer than the record-breaking GM 1945-46 strike of 117 days.

Mike Myers, who has worked many years in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, International Harvester plant, describes the mood of the workers after nearly 150 days of striking.

This interview was done for Socialist Worker by Milt Fisk.

Harvester: "We're going to win it"

What is the main issue in the strike?

Before the strike you could sign up for overtime if you wanted to and then turn it down shortly before you were to begin. But the company's demanding that we change all this. There would be mandatory overtime. For us to lose on this would be to set everybody in auto back.

They could lay off regulars who they would turn around and hire on as part-timers. The union wants to keep the regulars. The part-timers have no provision for benefits.

Do you think you will win?

Getting through Christmas was tough. The kids didn't have much coming to them. But there wasn't any wavering. We could see the solidarity.

Now we've gotten through the snow, and people are saying they don't give a damn if they are on strike in the good weather. They see articles in the local paper about how the strike is going in Canton, Illinois. They are aware that it's solid everywhere.

MILITANT

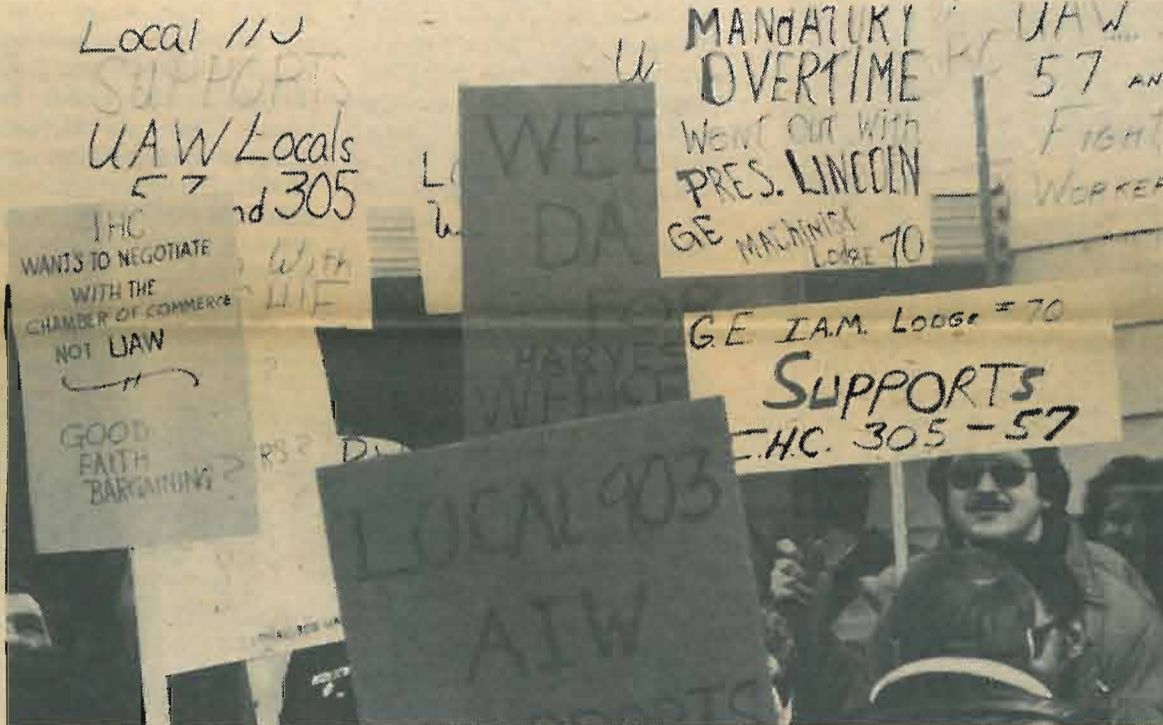
We are far from backing down. We are more militant than earlier on. We're going to win it.

Did making Archie McCardell head of International Harvester (IH) change things for you?

It is almost like there is a personal battle between the people and Archie. To them he is a dictator. He is cutting the life out of the workers. He's got the company to where it has the highest management to employee ratio in the auto industry.

How has McCardell's speed-up campaign worked?

He's paid the Proudfoot consulting firm \$3 million to do time studies. Louisville and Fort Wayne both wildcatted over their stuff. Proudfoot



Support rally for Harvester strikers Ft. Wayne, IN

"They figure they are going to get more profits for themselves by walking over us."

people roam about the plant, and though they can ask you questions, you are not supposed to start talking to them.

They actually get chased down the aisles with nuts and bolts. They are "thought controlled" and have no idea of what factory work is like.

They have never had their fingers chopped off or suffered plant boredom.

How do these consultants get their recommendations across?

They tell the foremen to tell the workers to do things.

FOREMAN

My brother-in-law was a foreman ten years after working in production eight years.

Proudfoot told him how to handle his workers, and he told Proudfoot to take his pencil and pad and get into the office so my brother-in-law could get on with his job.

Well, my brother-in-law got

called up and he was so pissed he walked out. Sixty foremen have quit because of this kind of thing.

What argument has the company given for the harassment?

The Vice President for personnel sent us all a long letter moaning about how if they went under we'd lose our jobs.

He said, "IH is a company committed to winning the World Series. To being the #1 Company in all the markets we serve . . . We're asking in these negotiations that the UAW give us some of the capabilities that are in the contracts of our strongest competitors. Relief is needed in just six areas . . ."

These are the take-away areas that make up the company's contract offer.

And what do they say about their big profits?

In that letter the company

says, "We need more profit, not less. Just making 4¢ on the dollar isn't very good. Particularly not when Caterpillar and Deere are making almost twice that much."

They figure they are going to get more profits for themselves by walking over us.

And what do the strikers say to this appeal?

It is not our fault they haven't got the profits of their competitors. We put together a truck that's as good or better than any that's made.

Those guys are trying to blame their mistakes on us and are now asking that we take it out of our hides.

If Deere, Cat, and GM are investing more in new plant for each employee, that's not because of us.

How has community support in Fort Wayne been?

The central labor council held a demonstration at the gate. There were lots of

unions represented down there even though there was a blizzard going on. The newspaper has been pretty good, too.

What about the union at the various levels?

We were set to go out October 1, and could have had the strike won in a month if we had. The reason behind this is that the company hadn't paid its quarterly dividends yet.

But Greathouse, the man from the international in charge of our division, overrode the decision of the UAW IH Policy Committee to go out on October 1.

Possibly Greathouse was hoping IH could ride the tails of settlements after strikes at Cat and Deere. So our strike was delayed until November 1, giving the company the chance to clear the fields of all the trucks to be repaired.

Even so Cat has just recently settled.

Are your strike benefits too small?

There are lots of people in those food stamp lines. I'm making it as a single person now on my \$55 a week, and so I'm sure I'll get through the summer on it. But the UAW could show it means business by raising the benefit \$10-15 a week.

WIN

What happens when you win?

The company will be on the defensive. There will be a thousand grievances written up the first day we go back. But mainly we will have stopped the company's take-aways.

We will have stopped mandatory overtime and the limitation on transfers to two a year, which would hurt the militant workers.

We've been told that we've come a long way on local issues in the bargaining already. But nothing will get us back until we win. □

Zimbabwe

Given an opportunity to vote, the Zimbabwean people elected the most radical of the parties standing, the party most clearly identified with the armed struggle. They did so despite the efforts of the Rhodesian state, nominally controlled by Lord Soames, who made his hostility to ZANU(PF) obvious.

For South Africa's rulers, March 4, 1980, when Robert Mugabe was appointed prime minister of Zimbabwe, was (in more senses than one) a black day.

The consequences of this election for the rest of southern Africa could be enormous. Zimbabwe has one of the most developed economies south of the Sahara.

It also has, outside South Africa, the largest settler population of any former colony (at the end of 1977, 263,000 whites to 6,500,000 Africans). It directly borders on South Africa.

PARTY

In order to assess these consequences, it is necessary first to examine the nature of the party which came to power at the beginning of March, 1980. Mugabe has been described as the "second elected Marxist leader"—the first being Salvador Allende. Leaving aside the accuracy of this statement, is ZANU (PF) a Marxist party?

The ZANU (PF) manifesto justifies its moderation thus:

"In working towards the socialist transformation of Zimbabwean society, a ZANU government will . . . recognize historical, social and other existing practical realities in the capitalist system which cannot be transformed overnight. Hence, while a socialist transformation process will be underway in many areas of the existing economic sectors, it is recognized that private enterprise will have to continue until circumstances are ripe for socialist change."

Only an idiot would argue that Zimbabwe could leap from capitalism to communism "overnight." The danger is that since ZANU (PF) has come to power by parliamentary means, since the settler state still exists intact and since there is no independent organization of the masses, the transition will be one, not from capitalism to socialism, but from settler capitalism to a weak and dependent bureaucratic state capitalism.

In terms of its history and social composition, ZANU (PF) is less a workers' and peasants' party than a traditional bourgeois-nationalist party.

It was founded in August, 1963 with Ndabaningi Sithole as its president and Robert Mugabe as its secretary-general as a breakaway from the Zimbabwe Africa People's Union.

In part it originated in differences over strategy with

The overwhelming victory of ZANU (PF) in election of February, 1980 is an event of historic importance. What will happen next? This report was written in Salisbury.

ZAPU. The latter's president, Joshua Nkomo, placed much faith in the British government's ability and willingness to introduce majority rule over the settlers' heads and sought to set up a government-in-exile through which to place diplomatic pressure on the British.

The founders of ZANU advocated a strategy of organizing within the country, and of "Confrontation rather than Circumvention." The first guerrilla action of any significance was mounted by ZANU near Sinoia in 1966.

The differences between ZANU (PF) on the one hand, and PF and the UANC on the other, are certainly not simple class ones. A significant section of the African business classes support ZANU (PF).

I travelled with a ZANU (PF) candidate in Midlands province when he was campaigning in Selukwe tribal trust land. The candidate, SE Matiyenga, was an accountant in Gwelo, the third largest city and capital of the Midlands.

The local party chairman, T. Gandire, was a fat little man who owned a second-hand American car and wore suspenders. He had owned the hotel at Donga, a township in the Tribal Trust Lands, but now had a couple of stores.

Then there was the charming and urbane African businessman whom I met in Salisbury. He had just returned to Zimbabwe after many years in exile to set up an import-export business and join the local board of Barclays Bank. He made his support for Mugabe quite obvious.

FORCE

As an economic force, however, the African bourgeoisie is small and weak. According to Eddie Cross, economist with the Agricultural Marketing Authority, the country now has some 20,000 black businessmen.

This includes some 5,400 general traders in the Tribal Trust Lands, 5,900 other traders running mills, repair shop services, service stations, butcheries, bottle stores and beerhalls, 5,000 other miscellaneous business enterprises in tribal areas and 5,000 urban businessmen.

The Rhodesian Front regime involved an alliance of white farmers with the white urban middle class and working class. All these groups had a vested interest in denying Blacks political power—the farmers because they exploit ultra-cheap Black labor, workers and middle class because

they benefit from huge wage differentials (in 1977 average European earnings were 6,156 dollars compared to African earnings of 588 Rhodesian dollars) and guaranteed state employment. In 1969 37.31% of employed Europeans worked in the public sector compared to 14% of employed Africans.

STATUS

The internal settlement of March 3, 1978 signed with Muzorewa and Sithole appeared to offer the opportunity to preserve this situation while formally handing over power to Blacks. For many African businessmen, Muzorewa's regime offered only marginal improvements in their status; a real transformation of their position would depend on the systematic use of state power in favor of the black bourgeoisie.

Moreover, the black intelligentsia, from whom much of

Hullets, South African Breweries. There is estimated to be two billion Rhodesian dollars' worth of foreign investment in Zimbabwe.

LAND

The problem of foreign capital is closely bound up with the land question. 83% of the African population still live outside the main urban areas. The grossly unequal system of land ownership lies at the heart of Rhodesian settler capitalism.

39,979,963 acres of farming land are allocated to the Tribal Trust Lands, where 95% of the African rural population live. There are 675,000 peasant farmers in the Tribal Trust Lands. There are 38,564,496 acres of farming land in the former European areas (now called the commercial farming areas, although the change is largely nominal).

These areas contain 6,682

Here lies the heart of the problem for ZANU (PF). A real solution for the agricultural question must involve the appropriation of the big white farms. Yet the ZANU (PF) election manifesto is still very ambiguous on this matter. It talks, as we have seen, about "unproductive" and "unused or underutilized" farms, and about absentee landlords, but does not say whether ZANU (PF) government will take over the highly efficient and profitable farms owned by local and foreign agribusiness.

The danger is that, as in Kenya, the establishment of majority rule will leave the structure of social relations in the countryside largely unchanged, merely permitting rich African peasants to plant the less efficient white farmers.

One businessman working for Anglo-America, the



Peter Walls



Lord Soames



Ian Smith



Robert Mugabe

the nationalist leadership are drawn, remained completely excluded from power.

As in the case of most of the less developed countries, the state is the crucial instrument through which the local bourgeoisie can win its place in the sun. In Zimbabwe it has largely been the settler bourgeoisie which has taken advantage of the state, both to secure and reinforce the super-exploitation of Black labor in the mines and agriculture, and to build up secondary industry, particularly during and after the second world war. Now the African bourgeoisie hopes to supplant the settlers and to turn the state into an instrument for their advancement.

CAPITAL

Most significant sectors of the economy are controlled by foreign capital. In mining, agriculture, manufacturing, finance and banking, hotels and breweries it is South African capital in particular which is dominant—Anglo-American,

farms. Thus, African farmers outnumber white farmers 100 to 1 on roughly the same area.

The result is massive overpopulation in the Tribal Trust Lands. There are 2½ times as many cultivators there than the optimum farming conditions laid down by the Rhodesian government recommend.

The African peasants are condemned to subsistence farming in conditions where it is very difficult for them to support themselves and their dependants out of their production. The result is the migrant labor system, whereby people move from the Tribal Trust Lands to work in white-owned farms, mines, factories and homes for longer or shorter periods of time. Between 60 and 75% of all African households depend on wage labor for their subsistence.

Wages are kept low by the existence of the tribal trust lands, which help to support workers' dependants and provide a social security system for the old and infirm.

South African multinational conglomerate, told me cynically: "Whoever comes to power, the peasants will lose. What we need is a ruthless government to keep down. Mugabe will be ruthless, so let's have him."

Zimbabwe is an important mineral producer, exporting gold, copper, asbestos, nickel, chrome and coal. In 1977 the value of mineral production was 314.7 million dollars, nearly twice the level five years previously.

The industry is dominated by foreign firms—American, Union Carbide, Turner and Newell, Ashburton Investments, Lonrho, and others. The ZANU (PF) election manifesto promises that the need for direct state investment in the mining industry on a partnership basis will be examined. This sounds suspiciously like the strategy adopted in Zambia after independence, when the state took a 51% share in the copper mines.

we!

The Zimbabwean general election

by Alex Callinicos in

Furthermore, mass unemployment dogs the Zimbabwe economy. Under the impact of war and world recession, real gross domestic product fell by 13.4% between 1975 and 1978. It is estimated that African living standards fell by nearly 40% during that period.

The Zimbabwean population is growing at a rate of 3.8% a year, one of the highest in the world. By the year 2000 the labor force will have doubled, requiring 95,000 new jobs to be created every year.

To begin to solve these problems would require the implementation of a radical economic program, and in particular, confrontation with the settlers and the multinationals.

Yet it is not clear that ZANU (PF) is prepared to undertake such measures. Its manifesto and other public statements wobble between a pledge to resolve the land question and measures which

headed by his relative Mugabe's erstwhile leader, Ndabaningi Sithole.

It is as if the African working class became temporarily submerged in the broader national movement. The question is how long will they remain submerged. Certainly urban workers and unemployed youth will be among the sections of the population whose expectations will be highest.

STATE

In the short term, the biggest problem facing the new regime is the Rhodesian state. It is a unique situation. ZANU (PF) will assume power under the supervision of the colonial power, Britain.

Yet the state machine is one controlled, not by Whitehall, but by the settlers. Furthermore, it is a state against which ZANU (PF) has waged a bitter war. In the case of other settler societies in Africa, the state was controlled by the colonial power—Algeria, Kenya, Mozambique, Angola. Yet when Lord Soames flies to London, Mugabe will be left facing Ian Smith and Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, Commander of Combined Operations.

It is Walls who is the crucial figure in the situation. The Rhodesian security forces constitute a formidable military machine, and one never defeated in battle.

There is an army of 20,000 (including 14,000 mainly white conscript) and an air force of 1,500 backed up by the paramilitary British South Africa Police (6,000), 24,000 police reservists (mainly white), 6,000 guard force in the protected villages and 30,000 security force auxiliaries, Muzorewa's private army, the hated *Madzajutsaku*.

The regular army is 80% Black and will probably find little difficulty in shifting their allegiances. Greater problems will be provided by various elite units—the all-white 1,000 strong Rhodesia Light Infantry which provided the helicopter-borne "fireforce" during the war, the SAS, the Selous Scouts, notorious for dirty tricks such as the recent bombing campaign against churches, and the mounted Grey Scouts.

These forces, and groups of armed white civilians (there are 100,000 licensed privately owned arms and probably as many illegal guns in white hands) could provide the base of a white terrorist organization like the OAS in Algeria.



Will Mugabe satisfy the demands of Black workers?

It is no doubt to counter such a danger that Mugabe has been so conciliatory. For example, he put General Walls in charge of the integration of the security forces and the 22,000 guerrillas of ZIPRA and ZANLA. Mugabe's hand is greatly strengthened by the legitimacy he enjoys thanks to his overwhelming election victory.

It is very unlikely that South Africa will intervene militarily to overturn a Mugabe government—the pressure on the west to impose economic sanctions against South Africa would be irresistible.

There are other dangers on the horizon, however. If Mugabe proceeds too cautiously, he may so disillusion and demoralize the mass of workers, peasants and unemployed that he renders himself vulnerable to a coup.

This was the fate of Salvador Allende in Chile. Alternatively, Zimbabwe is very vulnerable to South African economic pressure. As we have seen, South African capital dominates many sectors. The war bound Zimbabwe closely to South Africa. It will not be easy to break these links.

Botha's strategy of creating a southern African "constellation" of states directed by Pretoria relies very heavily on the mechanisms of economic dependence binding many African states to the apartheid regime.

Mozambique and Zambia's support for the Lancaster House agreement was largely dictated by economic necessity. Mugabe's great weapon is the mass support he so evidently enjoys. But ZANU (PF)'s program, composition and tra-

ditions contain little room for the independent organization of the workers and peasants. ZANU (PF) leaders assured me that they are in favor of grass roots democracy, but the sort of democracy they advocate can take place only within the framework of the party and in the localities.

SCHEME

Independent forms of organization, based on the process of production, wider than party allegiances, linked together to form the basis of the state apparatus, are not envisaged in their scheme of things. Yet it is these forms of organization alone that could consolidate a genuinely popular regime in Zimbabwe and enable it both to resist attack and carry through a program which would meet the burning needs of the African masses.

The attitude of revolutionary socialists to the Zimbabwean elections should, therefore, be a balanced one. It is a triumph for the liberation struggle in southern Africa, one of the most serious blows yet to be struck against the apartheid regime in southern Africa.

It has opened the doors to Zimbabwe's workers and peasants, offering them the opportunity to end their exploitation forever. It is our duty to defend the new government of Zimbabwe from the attacks it will undoubtedly suffer from imperialism.

It does not follow, however, that we should adopt a completely uncritical attitude to ZANU (PF). The experience of radical nationalist regimes in southern Africa is now sufficiently great for us to be aware of their limits.

None has gone beyond the attempt to build up a strong native capitalist class based on control of the state. None has permitted the independent organization of the masses. None has been able to avoid collaboration with western and South African capitalism.

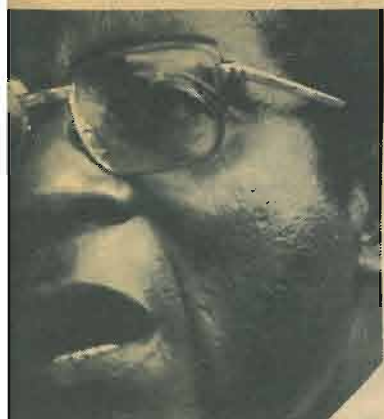
The nature of ZANU (PF) and the conditions under which it comes to power make one doubt that the experience will be any different this time.

This is not a pessimistic conclusion. White power has been further weakened in southern Africa. Western capitalism—which hoped to see a Muzorewa-Nkomo-Smith coalition—has suffered a serious political defeat. Above all, the Black working class in South Africa, the most powerful social force on the continent, has been given renewed hope.

STIRRINGS

There have been stirrings in the South African townships of late. A strike by Black workers closed down Ford's Port Elizabeth plants for several weeks. Three guerrillas of the African National Congress took over a bank in Silverton, Pretoria, in January and were gunned down by the security forces.

They were given a heroes' funeral in Soweto. The South African Defense Force took over northern Natal after incidents involving ANC guerrillas. It was MPLA's victory in Angola and Frelimo's in Mozambique which helped spark off the Soweto uprising of 1976. Perhaps ZANU (PF)'s victory will set the South African townships alight once more. □



Mugabe

seem to aim at supplanting the settler bourgeoisie with its black equivalents as junior partners of foreign capital.

The Zimbabwean working class is large by African standards—a quarter of a million industrial workers and 342,000 farm laborers. It has traditions of struggle dating back to the very early days of settler rule. The general strike of 1948 helped stimulate the African nationalist movement.

Joshua Nkomo first entered politics as secretary of the Railway Workers Association. But in recent years the black working class has been subdued. The trade-union movement is tiny and divided. The larger of the two African trade-union bodies—ATUC—claims 18,000 members.

The unions are top-heavy and bureaucratic, with little rank-and-file participation, and tend to organize only the best paid workers. Phineas Sithole, president of ATUC, ran in the general election as a candidate for ZANU, the party

Letters

Dear Socialist Worker,
 Congratulations on your fine coverage of the crisis in the steel industry. The centerfold in January's issue was excellent.

Readers may be interested to know that capitalists are talking about shortages of steel by the mid-1980's because of the current layoffs. According to the New York Times of February 3, 1980, "worldwide demand for steel will grow to about 900 to 950 tons by 1985, while present capacity of 810 million tons will expand by only 70 million tons." Which basically means that capitalism is a crazy system where thousands can be one day laid-off and the next day badly needed!

The Times only ran the article in a back page—they wouldn't want steelworkers to know how anarchic production really is.

Solidarity,
 Kent Worcester
 Cambridge, MA

Dear Socialist Worker,

I was surprised to hear the chant, "We won't fight in Afghanistan," at the recent anti-draft march on Washington, D.C.

I certainly don't want to fight in Afghanistan, but it seems to me that the most likely place for U.S. intervention is on the Persian Gulf. And if there are to be chants about Afghanistan, it seems to be that it would be more appropriate at this point to demand that the Russians get their troops out—they're already there, and they're already fighting!

John Nelson
 Richmond, VA

Dear Socialist Worker,

"Kent State" is permanently etched in the minds of all Americans.

It was where "the war came home." With the shooting of students at Kent State in 1970, the decline of Richard Nixon's presidency was signalled.

Today, registration and the draft are immediate possibilities, and we know that no draft has ever taken place without being followed by a war.

The lessons of "Kent State" are driven home—the Vietnam War was wrong, those who actually had to fight and die had no interest in it.

The war that students at Kent State were shot for opposing is no different from the war being contemplated now in Washington and Moscow.

The students at Kent State were right for opposing the Vietnam War, and today we must oppose the moves toward war. It is our moral and political obligation.

May 4, 1980, marks the tenth anniversary of the Kent State shootings. On that day the May 4th Task Force will hold its annual memorial program. We urge everyone to attend.

Glenn Perusek
 Kent State
 Ohio

"Today's Army": No place to be

Over the gate leading into the brig at Fort Dix, New Jersey, is a sign reading "Obedience to the Law is Freedom." This doublespeak reminds one of a similar motto the Nazi's emblazoned above the entrance to Auschwitz: "Arbeit Macht Frei." ("Work Makes One Free.")

In many ways, the military is like a concentration camp. It is an institution governed by the most virulent racism, sexism, and classism. It is a place where ordinary democratic rights are practically non-existent.

by
**SANDY
 MEREDITH**

VOLUNTEER

Today's "volunteer" army, Volar, began in 1976 when the draft was ended. But for millions of poor teenagers Volar did not signal the end of the draft. It marked the beginning of economic conscription.

40% Black youth unemployment, and high white youth unemployment, leaves many inner city and rural teenagers little choice but to enlist.

For others, a few months of working at McDonalds or some rundown warehouse at less than minimum wage is enough to convince them that the military, with its lures of job training and travel and other glamorous promises is...well, not too bad.

But the reality is a far cry from what the recruiters promise. The army is 30% Black, but Blacks make up:

- 53% of the military prison population.
- 48% of the punitive discharges. Blacks receive dishonorable discharges at 4½ times the rate of whites.
- Only 6% of the officer corps.

You find Black people—and

women—in the military tracked into the same sort of low skill and no-skill jobs they would be forced to do in the civilian world, if they could find them: kitchen work, clerical work, etc. 80% of women enlistees are in the lowest four pay grades, and most jobs aren't even open to women.

Not only is most of the work menial, much of it is also very dangerous. Exposure to radioactive materials, asbestos, nerve gas, and other toxic substances is common.

Being in the military means being under severe stress, especially during basic training. Psychiatric hospitalization of Navy women is 44 times higher than the civilian rate. There is a large hidden suicide rate among both men and women. Sexism is rampant, and rape is the most rapidly growing crime.

CRIMES

Being in the military means being under 24-hour surveillance. It is illegal to hand round petitions or to organize on one's own behalf.

A recent law makes it a

federal offense carrying a maximum sentence of \$10,000 fine and 5 years in jail to attempt unionization in the military. Many things are crimes in the military which are perfectly legitimate in civilian life—things like talking back to the boss and walking off the job.

Single parents are, by military law, forced to give their children up for adoption.

Under these circumstances morale is low and rebellion is common.

Of the approximately 400,000 new enlistees coming in every year, 35% don't finish their first term of enlistment.

People go AWOL at the rate of 225 per day. At any one time, by latest reports one-fifth of the marine corps is always missing. There are 100,000 non-judicial punishments a year, a process the military uses to bypass the courts-martial, where at least people are allowed to defend themselves.

A poll was taken last year in the military, and 68% of those questioned said they wouldn't fight in a Vietnam

type war. In the air force, 35% said they wouldn't even defend the base where they were stationed!

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of all is the long term effect the military has on peoples' lives. Bad paper (less-than-honorable discharge) marks one for life; when employers see this, they are almost certain not to hire. Today, there exists a class of over 800,000 virtually unemployable Vietnam era vets, most of whom were stigmatized for challenging authority or because their commanding officer was a racist. The military continues to spew out bad discharges at the rate of 200 per day, making itself a leading factor in creating unemployment.

FIGHT

The government is not reviving the draft because it needs more people in uniform. The U.S. today has the largest peace time military in history. 2.1 million active duty and 1 million reserves. The U.S. is preparing for interventionist war and is afraid Today's Army simply won't fight. □



A victim of yesterday's army

Women workers discuss health

BOSTON, MA—About 450 women met in Boston on March 22 for a conference on "Women's Work, Women's Health" sponsored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (Mass COSH).

Those who attended represented many trade unions, including UAW, UE, IUE, IAM, the Boston teachers union (District 65) and others.

They were blue and white collar workers, office workers, hospital and day care workers and community health care workers.

HAZARDS

The conference held workshops on workplace health hazards in light and heavy industry, on reproductive rights,

sexual harassment on the job, maternity and paternity rights.

In one of the workshops, Joan Banfield, an auto worker from UAW local 422, described how she had to fight the union and the company for maternity leave.

She related that, "I wanted to force GM to set a precedent to give pregnant women the right to job transfers from unsafe jobs or admit the fumes were hazardous.

"So, I thought that if I could win worker's compensation it would help other women in the future.

"On the form it asks if your disability was caused by GM. I felt the unsafe conditions in

the paint department were caused by GM.

"But the union officials kept asking me if my pregnancy was caused by GM. I said, 'I don't know. They certainly screwed me over enough times.'

"Well, I didn't win the battle, but I did get medical pay for all the months I was out."

Banfield summed up her experience in general with GM by saying, "We cannot rely on laws to give us the answers.

"We have to use the laws where we can, but they don't go far enough. We cannot depend on our unions or our health and safety committee to take up the issues of health and safety. □

by PETER LOWBER

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



Homestead: the bitter battle of 1892

Homestead, Pennsylvania in 1892, was a town of 12,000 people located seven miles east of Pittsburgh.

It was dominated by Andrew Carnegie's steel mill, which employed 3,800 workers.

At the plant, the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers represented 800 skilled workers, most of them native born.

The union operated under an agreement with Carnegie that wages would rise and fall in accordance with prices in the market. A skilled worker at Homestead earned what was then a comfortable \$180 a month.

BREAK

Carnegie, however, decided that he wanted to break the Amalgamated, and three months before the contract was to expire, he wired his manager, the notoriously anti-union Henry Clay Frick and informed him of his plans.

Frick, always willing to help break a union, told the union that the skilled workers would have to accept a 22% wage reduction, plus the dismissal of several hundred union men.

Frick's plan was to eventually replace all the union workers with non-union labor.

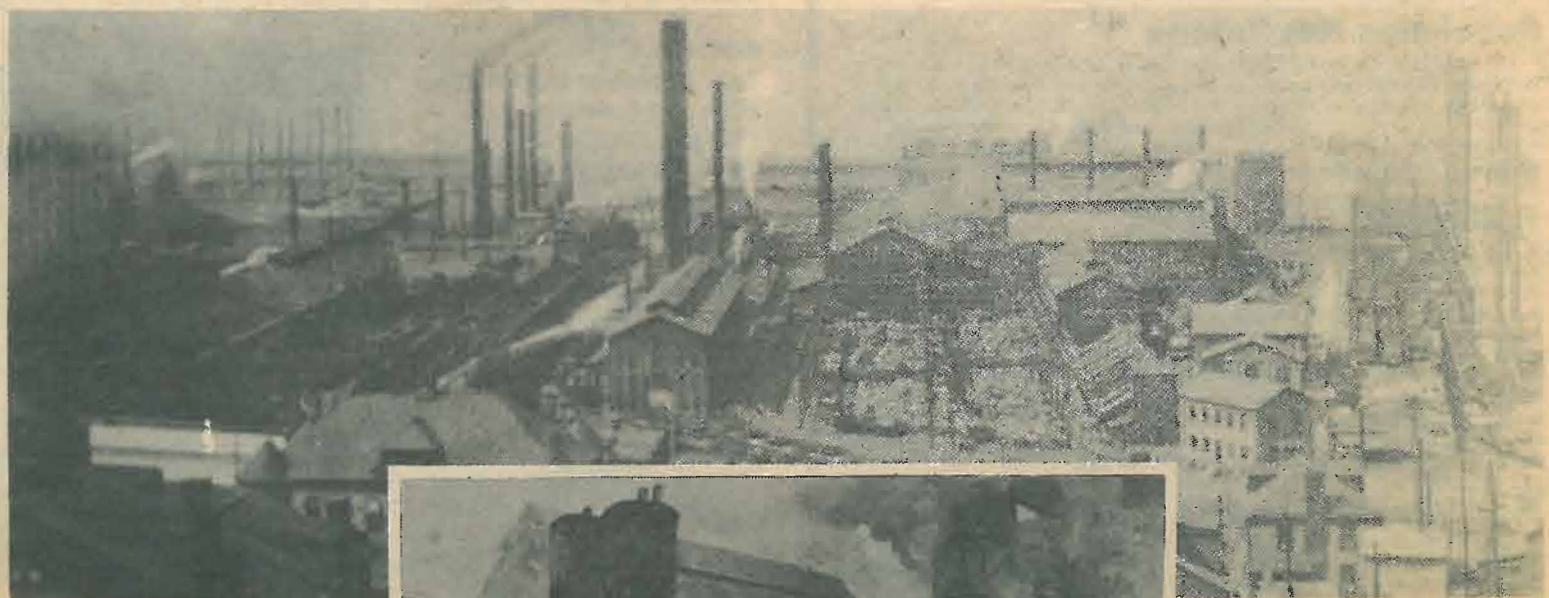
Naturally, the Amalgamated rejected Frick's offer. But the union did not call a strike because they believed that something would be negotiated.

Carnegie and Frick, however, knew the only way to smash the union would be in bloody battle. So they prepared.

Frick built a three mile, fifteen foot high fence on all three sides of the Homestead plant, topped it with barbed wire and searchlights.

Slits were cut in the fence, obviously for rifles.

Frick's idea was to bring in the Pinkertons to escort scabs into the mill. The Pinkertons were the most notorious of nineteenth century strike-breakers. They planned to sail down the Monongehela to the Homestead works.



One steelworker poet described "The Fort that Frick Built:"

*Twixt Homestead and
Munhall
If you'll believe
my word at all
Where once a steel works
noisy roar
A thousand blessings
did pour
There stands today
with great pretense
Enclosed within
a whitewashed fence
A wondrous change of
great import
The mills transformed
into a fort.*

There had always been antagonism between the unskilled and skilled workers at the Homestead plant. But these differences vanished during the strike. All 3,800 workers voted to support the strike.

The union, despite its craft character, was the hope for all workers. If the union was smashed, every worker would be at the mercy of the company.

The union learned of Frick's plan and launched union ships to patrol the river.

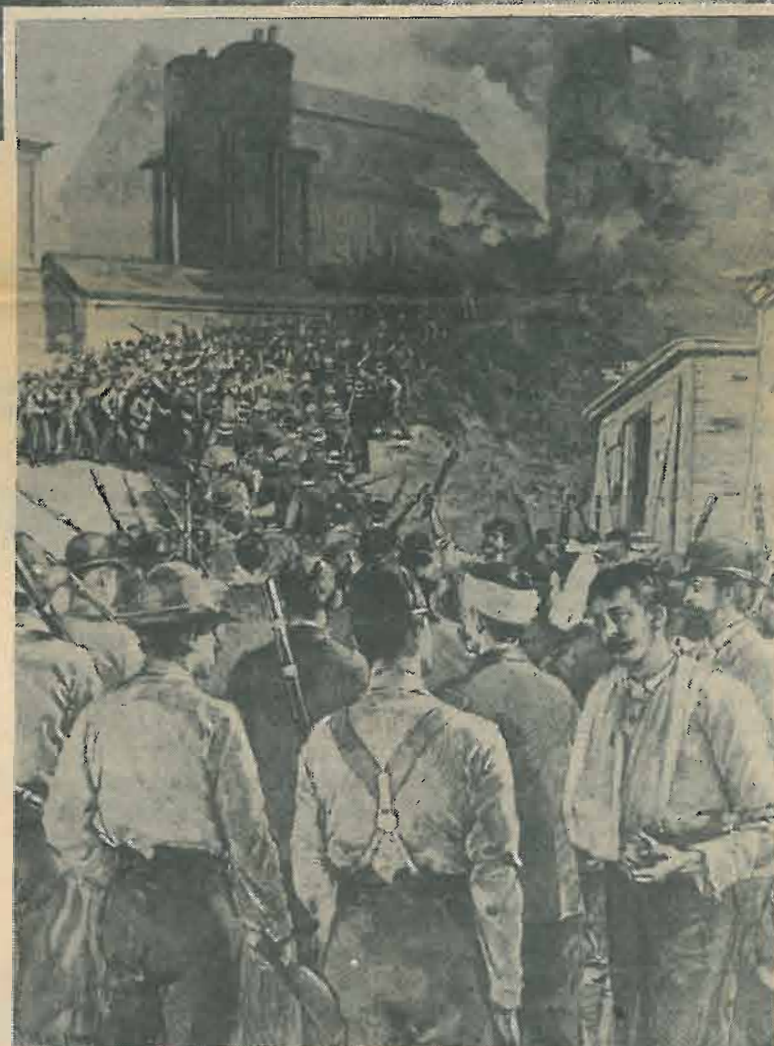
They also set up a strike committee, and, after they were locked out, set up 24-hour pickets.

The strike committee also organized in Homestead to make certain that scabs could not sneak in through the town.

FLOTILLA

On July 5, the Pinkerton's were transported to Homestead.

But the strikers knew of the plan, and led by the launch, the *Edna*, a flotilla of union boats met the enemy.



Homestead strikers battle Pinkertons

On shore, thousands of women and children broke down Frick's fence and stormed to the banks of the river to prevent the Pinkertons from landing.

A day long battle raged. The unionists took oil soaked barrels on a flat car, set them on fire and pushed them at the Pinkertons barge.

They put oil on the river around the Pinkerton barges and set it on fire with a cannon.

After 24 hours, the Pinkertons finally surrendered. They were forced to run through a gauntlet of angry Homestead workers who almost lynched them.

The word of this "naval vic-

tory" spread to workers across the country.

Unions submitted resolutions denouncing Frick and "the hired thugs of the many times millionaire Carnegie..."

One AFL organizer in New Orleans expressed regret that the men in Homestead "Let a living Pinkerton man get away."

Strikes broke out in three other Carnegie steel mills.

But Frick and Carnegie were not going to be intimidated.

They issued a statement that "the Homestead mill hereafter will be run non-union and the Carnegie company will never again recognize the Amalgamated Asso-

ciation nor any other labor organization."

ARRESTS

They called upon the governor of Pennsylvania to bring in 8,000 national guardsmen to bring in 2,000 scabs.

Furthermore, 16 strike leaders were arrested on charges of murder and treason.

None of the men were convicted, but the process of arrests, bail and harassment drained union energies and money.

Martial law, arrests, bail requirements, influx of scabs, as well as the hunger of the strikers, had its effect. After five long months, the Amalgamated voted to end the strike.

"Our victory is now complete and most gratifying," Frick cabled Carnegie, who wrote back, "Life is again worth living . . . surprising how pretty Italia is . . . congratulate all around."

The result of the strike was a bitter and devastating defeat for the steel workers.

And after 1892, no union person again worked at a Carnegie mill.

Membership in the union dropped from 24,000 in 1894 to 8,000 in 1895. Carnegie's profits, which were \$27 million in 1875, soared to \$106 million by 1900.

Nevertheless, the solidarity and tenacity of the strikers was a high point in the labor movement. Not a single Homestead worker ever scabbed on a fellow striker. But they were up against the giant steel magnates, men who were able to hold back unionism until the great steel organizing drives of the 1930s.

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, the education system. 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 the fight against the present system.

• Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class — pitting men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups — blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, gays, youth — 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, supporting equal pay for all women workers. We fight for free abortion and an end to forced sterilization. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for equal hiring opportunities for women and an end to sexual harassment and hirings. Discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities must be fought.

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 truly fighting for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders act either as brakes on workers' struggles, or as cops, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to put an end to this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power 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, so 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 at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens 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

BALTIMORE

Tony Bogues on **Socialism and Black Nationalism**. April 8, 7:30 pm, Johns Hopkins, phone 235-9630 for details.

BOSTON

Tony Bogues on **Black Nationalism and Socialism**. April 10, 2:30 pm, 21209 Harbor Campus, UMass-Boston.

Ruth Buckley on **Population Control**. April 13, 7:00 pm, call 661-8765 for details.

CINCINNATI

Neil Smith on **Gentrification: Urban displacement of the poor**. April 14, 8:00 pm, call 871-1371 for details.

CLEVELAND

Tony Bogues and Barbara Winslow on **Imperialism and the New Cold War**. April 5, 8:00 pm, 2728 Lancashire.

John Van Raalte and George Axiutis on **The Nuclear War Economy**. April 11, 7:30 pm, call 321-6143 for details.

KENT

Neil Smith on **Gentrification: A Back to the Cities Movement by Capital, not People**. April 4, 12:00 noon, 317 Kent Student Center.

NEW YORK

Tony Bogues on **Socialism and Black Nationalism**. April 9, 7:30 pm, Shimkin Hall, Room 826, 50 West 4th St.

A panel on **The Crisis in the Cities**. April 24, 8:00 pm, Main Building, Room 709, 100 Washington Sq. East.

NORTHAMPTON

Tony Bogues on **Socialism and Black Nationalism**. April 11, call 549-4600 ext. 264 for details.



Pacific Northwest ISO Conference

'THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME'

The Seattle branch of the ISO is planning a day-long conference on the issues and problems of the eighties.

The conference will include talks and workshops on topics including, the scramble for energy resources, the new technology in the workplace, the history of draft resistance, the rise of union-busting, the future of the family.

The conference will be held on April 19, 1980, beginning at 11:30 am and ending at 8:30 pm. Admission will be \$4 for advance tickets and \$5 at the door, which covers all expenses including a Mexican dinner!

The conference will be held at 2336 15th South, Seattle, Washington. Call 324-2302 for details.

PROVIDENCE

Jean Maunder on **Women and Health Care**. April 23, 8:00 pm Wilson Hall, Brown Univ.

Cal Winslow on **May Day**. May 1, 8:00 pm, Wilson Hall, Brown University.

Tony Bogues on **Black Nationalism and Socialism**. April 10, 8:00 pm, Wilson Hall, Brown University.

Mark Seeley on **Harlan County Miners**. April 14, 8:00 pm, Wilson Hall, Brown Univ.



BUTTONS 50¢

ANNOUNCEMENT
American Indian Pow Wow
Ann Arbor, Michigan
April 13, 1980

"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 cities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Berkeley, CA
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- New Haven, CT
- Northampton, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Providence, RI
- Rochester, NY
- San Diego, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Trenton, NJ
- Washington, DC

ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

reviews

WORKING FOR YOUR LIFE

by LOUISE MITCHELL

Almost all women work in the United States—unless they are rich or disabled.

And a larger percentage of women work outside the home than ever before.

The growth of women in the work force, plus the impact of the women's liberation movement, has created a new awareness among working women about sex discrimination and about unsafe working conditions.

DEFINE

Today women are defined primarily as mothers. This is the underlying reason for unequal pay, job discrimination, and higher unemployment.

WORKING FOR YOUR LIFE: A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO JOB HEALTH HAZARDS, by Andrea Hricko, with Melania Brunt. LOHP University of California, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. \$5.

It is assumed that we are mothers first, workers second.

Yet despite rhetoric about "motherhood" it is unhealthy, unsafe and almost impossible in today's society to be a working mother.

Over one million women each year face reproductive hazards at work.

Women breathe in sub-

stances such as lead, mercury, formaldehyde, cigarette smoke and are exposed to radiation and other toxic substances, all of which can harm the woman's reproductive organs, cause miscarriages or birth defects. Bad lighting, ventilation, constant sitting or standing, and stress adversely affect pregnant women.

Working for Your Life is an invaluable handbook for socialists, activists in the reproductive rights movement, and union militants.

The workbook provides a wealth of information about women in the work force, and the real and potential hazards of the work place.

The guide offers scientific references for workers to consult, as well as the names of organizations which can help women in their fight back.

Working for Your Life breaks down women's work by occupation pointing out the hazards.

For example, until recently few people thought that clerical workers, the largest percentage of women workers, faced hazards at work.

But every day, poor ventilation, asbestos in the air conditioning, ultra violet light, chemicals from office machinery, radiation from CRTS's

as well as solvents and ozones can affect fertile women.

Over a million and a half women work in textiles. Aside from the poverty wages and oppressive working conditions, raw cotton dust, synthetic fibres, dyes and moth-proofers all ruin a woman's health.

Half a million women are beauticians or hairdressers. They are exposed to vinyl chloride in hair sprays, which is known to cause birth defects.

There are over 200,000 laundresses in the U.S. 15% of them have children with birth defects.

STUDIES

The study also documents the fact that U.S. government and industry care very little about the health of working women.

After 1945 all studies done on occupational health and safety were about male workers.

The handbook gives us some help as to where to go, and how to fight back. But ultimately, the only way that hazards at the workplace will ever be truly cleaned up is for working women to organize to take power—power over their lives and their workplaces. □



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AN INSIDE LOOK AT UNITED PARCEL BY MARY DEATON

\$1.00

A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION BY BARBARA WINSLOW



REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM

WOMEN UNDER ATTACK: ABORTION, STERILIZATION, ADULTERY AND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST BY CAL WINSLOW

\$1.00

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BLACK NATIONALISM & SOCIALISM TERRY BOBBERS, JOHN BRIDGES, GLEN JONES

BREAKING THE CHAINS

THE STRUGGLE FOR GAY LIBERATION AND SOCIALISM BY SAUL TAYLOR

\$1.00

Available from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

MOON MINING

An earth bound political battle has stalled a new United Nations treaty on a far out project, mining minerals on the moon.

Although the United States was a major architect of the "Moon Treaty," domestic political opposition is so fierce that Washington has not signed the draft.

Opposition includes Senator Barry Goldwater and then runs through the more exotic reaches of the right.

The main object of their opposition: Article XI of the Treaty declaring the moon and its resources "the common heritage of mankind." The mineral resources of the moon are to be "equally shared" among all nations.

OPPOSITION

Gerald Diggers, a Birmingham aerospace engineer who is a spokesperson for the opposition, says the Treaty will "slow down the development of space by private industry."

And Leigh Ratiner, formerly a lawyer for Kennecott Copper, adds that it will "foreclose the commercial uses of outer space by American private enterprise," and create "a system of international socialism." □

from Bernard Nossiter



on the picket line

Restaurant workers fight for union



CAMBRIDGE, MA—Three blocks from the academic community of Harvard University restaurant workers at Eugene's Restaurant have faced thug violence, blacklisting, and illegal firings for attempting to organize a union.

FIRED

The strike began on March 5th, after employees had notified management of their intention of forming a union, and Molly Hangland, part-owner, promised a meeting later in the week but in the interim period fired all 31 employees by letter.

A picket line was set up, and management promptly sent out three thugs who punched and kicked male picketers. Later management

announced things would get rougher if the strike wasn't ended. Management also issued threats of blacklisting and slandered the peaceful picketers in the local press.

Despite management pressure, the strike continues. Peter Larson, a bartender, told Socialist Worker, "The strike has been going well—we've kept out 80-90% of business. The community has been extremely sympathetic once we've talked to them on the picket line. Several fundraising benefits are being held in the coming weeks."

Another striker, Margaret Daley, told us that: "I'm dedicated to seeing this injustice stopped. The manage-

ment is going to try and wait us out. They may close any day, however!"

RIGHTS

She further added, "This has made me much more aware of my rights as a human being. There's been total injustice here." Peter Larson added that, "It's increased my awareness of the importance of quality at the workplace affecting the quality of life."

Pickets are up from 12:00 noon to 1:00 a.m., and support is needed particularly Friday and Saturday nights. If they win it will be a victory for restaurant workers everywhere in Boston. □

by VICKI LEWIS

US STEEL WORKERS LOSE IN COURT

YOUNGSTOWN, OH—After a week-long hearing, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Lambros ruled in favor of US Steel, giving the company the right to close its works in Youngstown.

The company had been brought to court by lawyers representing employees and unions of US Steel's McDonald and Ohio works in Youngstown.

DELAY

The court had delayed the closing of the plants for three weeks, so the trial could take place.

Now the shut downs will proceed. When they are completed in June over 3,500 steelworkers will be unemployed.

Much of the steelworkers' case centered on testimony from Robert Vasquez, president of local 1330, representing the Ohio works. Vasquez testified that in September, 1977, local management told union officials that steel production in Youngstown would be terminated if profitability did not improve.

Union leaders thereupon agreed to cooperate in an effort to lower costs and improve productivity. This cooperation included agreement to consolidation and foregoing some grievances that were guaranteed in the union contract.

The workers' case charged that an implied contract had been made for the company to keep the Youngstown plants operating as long as local management and employees improved profitability.

Lambros ruled that no such contract existed.

Steelworker Art Vines, already laid off from the Ohio works plant, said, "I wasn't surprised by the decision. The court tactic could only delay the inevitable. There really was no hope in going to court. Most of us didn't think it had a chance from the beginning."

Lambros, the Sixth Circuit's most liberal judge, conceded the corporation's legal right to close, but questioned their moral right.

"US Steel should not be permitted to leave the Youngstown area devastated after drawing from the lifeblood of the community for so many years."

This was little consolation for the steelworkers, however, who must now search for jobs in an economy that is in recession.

ACTION

The legal route could not be the answer. Unfortunately, in January hundreds of workers were ready to take action. But when they occupied the district headquarters building of US Steel, the action was headed off by union leaders who wanted to discuss matters peacefully with management. □

by GLENN PERUSEK

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

LIVES CUT SHORT FOR PROFITS

With 200,000 auto workers on indefinite lay-off and another 40,000 temporarily laid off, the employers are pushing the workers to the limit of their endurance. Cadillac sales being down 35% from a year ago, GM is trying to eliminate every worker they can. Speedup, harassment, disciplinary lay-offs are the order of the day.

POLICY

Ray Church, a shop committeeman and chairman of the Local education committee at GM's Detroit Cadillac Fleetwood plant, published two articles for the February, 1980, issue of the Fleetwood Organizer. One was entitled: "Quality of Life Will It Work?" The following is a quote from that article.

"Fleetwood management has violated our seniority rights more in the past year than at any other time during the years I have been at Fleetwood.

"Management has established a policy of assigning employees to jobs who will perform to management's satisfaction without regard to seniority rights of other employees, and if any of the abused employees stand up for their rights they are harassed, penalized and sometimes discharged..."

Another article written by Church is entitled, "How Fleetwood Treats Employees who have given them the Best

30 years of their Lives." Below is an excerpt from that article.

"It is a damn shame the sanitary conditions that we have to contend with, but what is even more disheartening to me is the working conditions our older seniority workers are faced with in the Sanitation Department as well as other departments throughout the plant. What is considered hard for the younger worker is almost impossible for our older ones."

In their drive to maintain profits during this slump the sweepers are being eliminated. They are being replaced by workers from production with less seniority. Older workers who can no longer meet production standards of the lines and the handicapped are being forced to take sick leaves or accept retirement as totally disabled.

ROBOT

A crisis has developed in the Local over the elimination of upwards of 100 workers by a robot. These workers had been able to maintain their production standards over the last 20 years. This was the last stronghold of the union, where the workers, over the last 40 years, had a measure of control over the line speed.

To break this control management is removing men with 25 years seniority and calling back young workers off



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

the street who will accept the speed-up imposed by management.

Without a leadership in the Local willing to stand up to management and with the International representative siding with management the workers are being forced into submission.

What is happening in Fleetwood Fisher Body is being repeated in hundreds of other UAW plants. With profits on the decline and the increasing competition of foreign imports, Ford, General Motors, Chrysler and the supplier plants have the workers up against the wall. The lives of untold numbers of auto workers will be cut short for the sake of profits.

INTERESTS

The local leadership as well as that of the International bureaucracy are more interested in collecting dues than in defending the interests of the workers.

The articles written by Ray Church in the February issue of the Fleetwood Organizer are an indication there are those in the local leadership who will stand up to management. This crisis can give birth to a new leadership in the Locals. It is not something that will happen overnight. □



UNION BUSTING IN NEW JERSEY

BORDENTOWN, N.J.—Two-hundred members of the Retail Clerks Union found themselves no longer in employment at the Two Guys department stores in Bordentown, N.J. and Levittown, Pennsylvania, recently.

These discount stores were bought by Montgomery Ward (M.S.), a subsidiary of Mobil. Immediately upon buying the stores, Montgomery Ward threw out the union. When they reopen, M.W. will be run by unorganized workers.

The Retail Clerks Union has asked M.W. to rehire the former employees but does not have any control over the matter. Even if the clerks are rehired, they will lose all of their former benefits. These include eye care, a 50% per prescription plan and their pensions.

However, they will "gain" a minimum wage-paying job.

BLEAK

Montgomery Ward (Mobil), has also planned to buy eleven more Two Guys stores which are situated in the Philadelphia-Camden-Atlantic City area. It is expected that the Retail Clerks Union will be thrown out there also. The employees at these stores will face the same bleak situation—loss of job or take what you get.

So, as the world of monopoly turns on an ever more centralized axis, workers at Two Guys are getting a real strong sense of where Mobil's "windfall profits" are going. □

by CHRIS RENAUD



Laurel, Miss. For over a year workers have been on strike at Sanderson Farms, a chicken producer. They face some of the worst working conditions in any American industry—low pay, lack of security, no safety, harassment, dirty and demeaning work.

Most of the workers at Sanderson are black. Most are women. "We were slaves on that plantation," says Gloria Jordan, president of the Sanderson workers union, International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU) Local 882.

GORE

The conditions at Sanderson Farms are appalling. Some 200,000 chickens come into the plant each day. Employees who unload the chickens often must work covered with feathers. Those who cut the chickens are drenched in blood.

Workers are expected to cut up five chickens a minute, and the line moves faster all the time. One striker says the knives are often rusty, making it impossible for workers to keep up. Often the rusty

MISSISSIPPI WORKERS PLAN 'MARCH FOR DIGNITY'

"We were slaves on that plantation"

knives cause workers to cut themselves.

But if they cut themselves, they must stay on the line, she says.

Gloria Jordan says the plastic aprons worn by the workers at Sanderson cannot be kept clean. The gore from the chickens produces a painful rash on the workers' arms and necks.

TRAIN

Most of the workers at Sanderson are paid \$3.15 per hour, five cents more than the minimum wage.

"Lots of weeks I wouldn't get 40 hours," says union member Sadie Coleman. "I was averaging something over \$300 per month. And most of the time we had to train new foremen. I feel like if I have to train the foreman I must be qualified to do the foreman's job. Yet, I was just getting regular pay."

Hours at Sanderson are irregular. When workers go in in the morning, they do not know how long they will stay.

Sometimes there is not a full day's work. On other days there is overtime. Any worker

who refuses to stay is counted absent for the entire day. Three absences in two months brings dismissal.

Workers are allowed to leave the line only three times per week to use the lavatory. One worker fouled herself on the line, says striker Ellen Chinn.

Many women report continual sexual harassment by male bosses at the plant.

O.L. Neathery, head of the Laurel Chamber of Commerce comments, "If I had a job that was bad and I didn't like it, I'd get a new job."

In February 1979 workers at Sanderson went on strike when the company refused to consider any grievances. Over 200 of them have been on strike all this time. Meanwhile Sanderson continues to operate, having hired new people. The conditions inside the plant remain unchanged.

SOUTH

The ICWU has planned a "National March for Dignity and Justice" to be held in Laurel on May 17. The union sees the strike at Sanderson as an important battle in the

struggle to unionize the South. They hope to get thousands to support the Sanderson strikers.

For more information on the march, contact the ICWU, 1665 W. Market St., Akron, OH. 44313. Phone 216-867-2444. Victory to the Sanderson workers!



JUDGE LENIENT ON BOSTON RACISTS

BOSTON, MA—Remember Darryl Williams? Darryl Williams is the 15-year-old high school student who was shot on a football field last September in Charlestown by a couple of white racists.

While Williams is still lying paralyzed in a Boston hospital, his assailants could be free on parole in two years.

This was the decision by Judge Herbert Travers, Jr. It is another in a long series of racist decisions in Boston reached through plea bargaining. Williams' assailants did not even have to face a trial.

Instead, Stephen McGonagle and Joseph Nardone, both 18, white and residents of Charlestown, plead guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and were sentenced to ten years at Concord prison. McGonagle and Nardone admitted they had shot Williams, but claimed they were aiming at pigeons.

ARREST

They were arrested last October for the slaying, but were released on an extremely low bail (\$10,000 and \$15,000). Since their release, they have also plead guilty to an armed robbery last November, and Nardone plead guilty for another armed robbery last January. □

by PETER LOWBER

For these crimes they will serve concurrent sentences with the sentence for shooting Williams. They will be subject for parole in two years. Assistant Attorney General Daniel Mullane said that the sentences "were obviously what everyone felt was fair."

Darryl Williams' mother did not think it was so fair. She was so shocked she was speechless.

When politicians talk about controlling crime on the streets, they are really talking about harassing Blacks. If Nardone and McGonagle had been Black and had shot a white youth playing football, they never would have been released on bail in the first place.

They would have been put away for life. □



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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

AKRON WORKER PREDICTS

"A NATION OF MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS"



URW Local 18 members hear details of closings

8,500 RUBBER WORKERS TO LOSE JOBS AS FACTORY CLOSINGS CONTINUE

BARBERTON, OH—Firestone Tire Company, the third largest American tire producer, announced a series of massive plant closings in March.

Over 8,500 workers nationwide will lose jobs by October. In Akron, Ohio, once the center of the American rubber industry, and nearby Barberton, some 1,400 workers face the unemployment lines.

"I have no security, I have nothing to fall back on," said Vince Yurick, a 12-year tire builder at the Barberton located Seiberling plant, which will shut down completely by year's end.

700 factory and 265 office workers will be put out of work there.

PROFITS

According to Richard Riley, Firestone chairman and chief executive, the closings are intended to "meet the changing market conditions by eliminating unneeded capacity."

Harry Millis, a rubber industry analyst, commented that "this is a most encouraging move," and that it is "probably the best way to improve profits."

It is because automobile sales are way down and people cannot afford to drive as much as before that the tire industry is contracting. In places like Akron, though, it is the same people who cannot afford \$1.30 a gallon for gasoline that now will be out of work.

IMPACT

The Ohio Bureau of Employment Services says Summit County, of which Akron and Barberton are a part, has lost about 25,000 manufac-

turing jobs since 1953. 8,000 of these have gone since 1974, and most of those in the rubber industry. It is these jobs that have the most impact on the economy.

More importantly, it is these jobs that most effect the families of the working people in the area.

The tire builders at Seiberling find no solace in the announcements by Ohio Governor Rhodes last year that 38,000 new jobs have been added in the state.

MINIMUM

"Those are all jobs at McDonald's and Wendy's for minimum wage," said one worker. "That's just where we're headed—a nation of minimum wage earners. Ten jobs at McDonald's aren't worth one job building tires."

Joe Albanese, president of the Barberton Local 18 of the United Rubber Workers, said, "They threw us in the pile just like that. They just didn't give us a chance for survival. If this is the bottom line of the free enterprise system, then it should be changed."

COURT TO RULE ON ABORTION

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear final arguments in Harris vs. McCrae sometime this month.

The outcome will determine the fate of the Hyde amendment which cut off federal funds to poor women who needed abortions.

RELIED

Before Hyde, over 300,000 women a year relied on Medicaid funds to pay off abortions. Since the Hyde amendment, passed in 1976, six women are known to have died from illegal abortions.

The effect of the Hyde amendment was to encourage anti-abortionists to enact restrictive anti-abortion laws in state legislatures, which all but made abortion illegal. Furthermore on state and local levels, anti-abortion ordinances were introduced which in effect harassed women wanting abortions and terrified them into unwanted pregnancies.

Illinois is a frightening example. A law was passed that required a doctor to consult the husband if the woman was married, or her parents if she was under 18, at least 24 hours before the operation.

The woman had to be counselled by the physician about the risks of abortion, what the fetus looked like, its ability to bear pain, and alternatives to abortion.

She received a statement which said: "the state of Illinois wants you to know that in its view the child you are carrying is a living human being whose life should be preserved. Illinois strongly encourages you not to have an abortion but to go through childbirth."

STERILIZATION

Another effect of the Hyde amendment was an increase in sterilization, sterilization abuse.

The Hyde amendment forced Medicaid recipients to be sterilized as an alternative to an unwanted pregnancy.

Sterilization abuse is highest among Hispanic, Black and Native-American women.

The Supreme Court decision will probably be announced sometime in late June.

Abortion rights activists are planning demonstrations, meetings and other events to both publicize the issue of abortion and sterilization abuse as well as to attempt to put pressure to bear on the court.

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