

New York and London: strike together

LONDON, ENGLAND—In a remarkable show of international working class solidarity, journalists in London are now on strike in support of journalists in New York.

The strike first began when Reuters, the giant international news agency, broke off negotiations with the New York Newspaper Guild—after ten months of talks.

The New York journalists hit the bricks—Reuters was demanding a new contract that gave management arbitrary new powers in transfers and

job assignments, that ended double-time pay for over-time, and that restricted union jurisdiction.

In fact what Reuters wants is a non-union workforce—everywhere. New York just seemed like a good place to begin.

SURPRISE

They got a surprise. Reuters' journalists in London refused to touch any copy coming from the

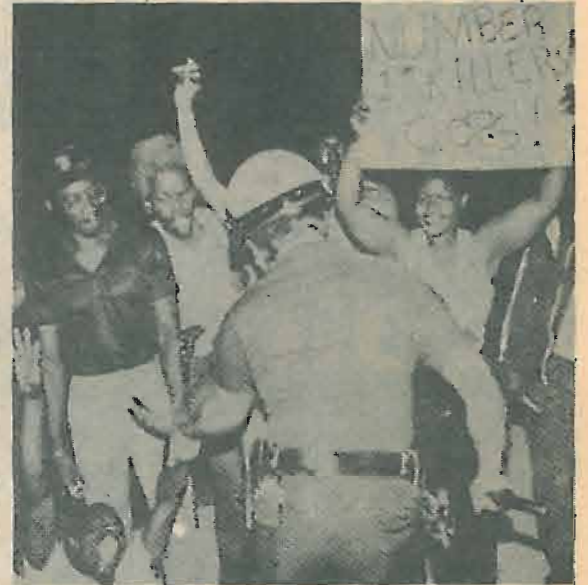
strike-bound New York office. So Reuters' London management suspended fifteen journalists without pay.

Then the London clerical and printing workers walked out—demanding immediate reinstatement of the journalists and the resumption of negotiations with the Guild in New York!

The clerical and printing workers were forced back to work by their union leaders—sounds familiar—but the journalists strike is now official. Right on! Workers of the world unite! □

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1980: YEAR OF REBELLION
see page 3

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CARTER'S RECESSION

THE 'CURE' THAT KILLS

➔
A new anti-draft movement was born in July. On July 21, the first day of the government's two week registration period, thousands of demonstrators took part in protests in hundreds of U.S. cities. Most rallies took place in front of Post Offices, where demonstrators protested not only registration but the war plans which demand a new draft.

Jimmy Carter's plan was to sign up 4 million 19 and 20 year olds in July, as the first big step in bringing back the draft. But all reports are that the turnout fell far short of that mark. See page 2 for the statement of one anti-draft activist.



Today's recession is partly the result of an economy out of control. It is also partly policy—Jimmy Carter hopes that unemployment will lower inflation, stimulate investments and increase profits for American industry.

The result—millions unemployed and millions more threatened. A University of Michigan special report to Michigan governor Milikin tells the human cost. The report concludes that as a result of this recession, 19,000 people will die in Michigan alone—people who wouldn't die otherwise.

This prediction, applied nationally, means that 250,000 people will die in the United States—as a result of this recession—a quarter of a million people dead who would otherwise be alive.

Capitalism is a system that kills—in good times and bad. We have to change it—and socialism is the only alternative. □

"He was blown away in cold blood"



BOSTON, MA—"He was a typical Black kid in the school who liked basketball and palled around with the kids in his neighborhood." That is how the principal at Woodrow Wilson Middle School described 14-year-old Levi Hart. Although only 5 foot 6 and 80 pounds, Levi had dreams of becoming a professional basketball player. That dream

ended on Tuesday July 15th when Levi had his brains blown out by a Boston policeman.

RESPONSE

The response by the Black community was immediate. On July 19th, 150 Blacks

REPORT BY KEVIN MURPHY

marched from Roxbury's Y.M.C.A. to Boston Police District 4 station demanding justice.

In addition, half a dozen Iranian students joined the march which was organized by the Community Justice Committee and supported by the

Black United Front of Boston.

The police report of Richard Bourque was that he and two other officers were attempting to arrest Levi Hart and two other youths for allegedly stealing a car. When the car with three youths in it pulled over the police chased them on

foot. Bourque claims that when he caught Hart, Hart then grabbed the gun from his holster and the gun discharged when Bourque tried to wrest it from the youth.

Other witnesses have told conflicting reports, including one witness who said there was no struggle at all. Indeed many questions have been left unanswered:

—Why was it not possible for a trained police officer to arrest an 80 lb. unarmed youth without any violence?

—How did an 80 lb youth grab a gun from this trained police officer?

—The autopsy revealed that the bullet entered behind Levi Hart's right ear and exited through his left ear. Even if there was a struggle, can there be any doubt whose finger was on the trigger when Levi was shot in the back of the neck?

—Why is Bourque still being paid?

CLOSED

—Why is the investigation being carried out behind closed doors?

Wendol Williams expressed the anger of the Black community at the rally. "The community has conducted an investigation. The verdict is that the brother was blown away in cold blood."

The shooting was the latest in a series of racist attacks in the Boston area. Earlier in the month a Black family was fire bombed out of their home in a predominantly white housing project in Brighton and a Black sailor was stabbed to death in Charlestown, the same community where Jamaica Plain High School football player, Daryll Williams, was brutally gunned down last September.

A police officer recently beat up Bella Borde, a Black woman who was waiting for a bus in a lobby during a rain storm. The Black community responded with a July 12th demonstration against police brutality. Three days later Levi Hart was murdered. [

This speech was given at the July 21st anti-registration rally in Providence, R.I., by Nanci MacLean, a member of RICARD (Rhode Island Coalition Against Registration and the Draft) and the ISO.

"The other day registration was called off because a federal court said it discriminated against women. Some people have hailed this as a great victory for women's rights.

Yet this comes a few weeks after the Supreme Court decided to cut off abortion funds for poor women, thus driving 300,000 women to illegal or self-induced abortion, maiming or possible death, or having children they do not want or cannot afford to raise. As a woman, I find it hard to get excited about the draft decision.

That decision was also made in the same week that the Republican convention took place. There the men overruled their token women delegates and put out a platform refusing to support the ERA and calling for a constitutional amendment against abortion.

So even if the draft decision had not been stayed, I'd say it's far from a victory. When women are being attacked on all other fronts, it amounts to an insult.

They say they'll give us equal rights to die in their wars. This is absurd. We want equality in life,

"Hell no, our fight is at home!"

not in death. And in this demand we join hands with Black, Hispanic, poor and working class people who will be hit hardest by the draft, and say, "Hell no, we won't go. *Our* fight is at home!"

We can't make the mistake of fighting the draft without looking at its social context. There's a recession on, with millions of people out of work who cannot provide for themselves or their families. To get an idea of what this means: a government study predicted that 19,000 people would die in Michigan alone as a result of the recession who otherwise would have lived.

PROFITS

19,000 people. But do the politicians and the heads of GM and the steel companies care? Apparently not. They run their system

for profits, not to fulfill human needs.

This recession will hit women, Black and Latino workers hardest. They are the last hired, the first fired, and they fill many of the public sector jobs and services that are being cut back.

Should these same people then fight a war to preserve this system? I think Miami answered that.

Miami also reminded us that things haven't changed very much in this country since the last war. They've actually gotten worse. Blacks and other American minorities *still* have not gotten any real equality, nor have women. Real wages are down, public services are getting slashed, and the war budget gets higher and more insane all the time.

And that's why when people say, as they will today, that we're trying to bring back the sixties, we should say "No!" loud and clear. Things were a lot different in the sixties and the anti-war movement was never able to expand its focus beyond the war. And what happened to it? It died. And today we have another war on the agenda.

ECONOMY

But the circumstances have changed in the last decade, and the movement coming to life now is different too. No longer will it be just students. Why? Because this time working people all over



Nanci MacLean

are realizing early on what the links between unemployment, inflation, and the war economy. Between the oil companies' profits and the call for draft registration. Between the oppression of women and minorities at home, and the talk of war against Third World peoples abroad.

CONNECTIONS

The sooner we understand those connections, the sooner we'll see that we can't fight the draft or the possibility of war without fighting the social system that makes them necessary.

When we say "no draft, no war!", we must also demand that the resources wasted to destroy life go instead to enhance life. That instead of weapons, we get jobs, and decent wages and homes, health care, and day care centers and schools for our children.

The list of what we *really* need is long, but the basic point is simple. We can't survive as a movement merely by fighting the system we have now. We must also be fighting for clear and better alternatives right here at home. [

UNIROYAL CLOSES PLANT

CHICOPEE, MA—1,600 rubber workers have joined the ranks of the unemployed as Uniroyal's Chicopee, Mass. plant closed this month. As usual, Uniroyal blamed foreign imports and labor costs for the closing.

Unfortunately, the closing met with little resistance as the leadership of the United Rubber Workers Local 11 engaged in a sordid last second wage-cut scheme in an attempt to keep the plant from closing.

Local 11 President Kane con-

vinced the membership to unanimously approve a nation-wide effort by the U.R.W. to slash wages to save Uniroyal \$9.5 million in labor costs.

Uniroyal responded by stating that the vote would have no effect because plans had already been made to close the Chicopee plant.

As the recession continues to hit the northeast, the tragic lesson of Chicopee is that it will take more than "worker-management cooperation" to save jobs. [

WOMEN: THE BATTLE IS ON!

We have a good idea what is in store for us.

The Republicans have come out strong against women. They want a constitutional amendment to ban abortions altogether. They want federal judges appointed on the basis of anti-abortion position only. They no longer support—if in reality they ever did—the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Democrats will not do better. A Democratic congress passed the Hyde amendment which cut off Medicaid funds for abortions. Jimmy Carter is opposed to abortion. And we can see how successful Democrats have been in getting the ERA passed in the states that

they control—Georgia for one!

The anti-women forces are on the offensive. They smell the chance of getting Reagan into the White House. And Ronnie's best friend and political confidante is Paul Laxalt, a man who hopes to introduce the "pro-family" resolution into congress.

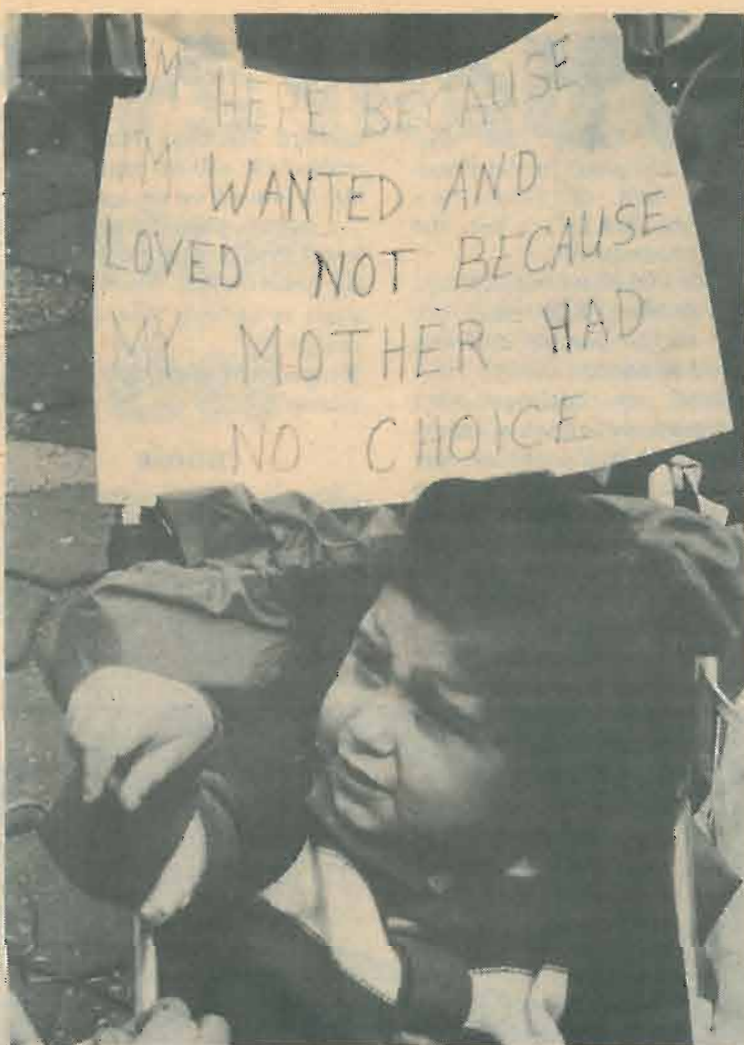
OUTLAW

This "pro-family" bill would outlaw homosexuality, contraception, and other necessary social services.

On July 10, immediately after the Supreme Court anti-abortion decision there were protests in a dozen major cities. These demonstrations were a necessary first step. They were in fact the only visible protest against the anti-abortion drive. They were, however, only a beginning. We have to go ahead and build a movement that will speak up for the majority who favor abortion rights—and a movement that takes up all questions of reproductive rights.

AVOID

There are a number of alternatives that can be avoided. One, we must not fall into the trap of going into the Democratic Party, in the vain hope that it somehow, will defeat Hyde. And we shouldn't get involved in campaigning for the few anti-Hyde Democrats that actually exist. The Democratic Party always has, and will continue to, sell women down the river. If we want to



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WHAT WE THINK

win something, we have to do it ourselves.

There will also be a temptation to drop the issue of abortion in the hopes of winning passage of ERA.

This is the perspective of NOW. We must be clear that the forces that are anti-abortion are also anti-ERA. We will only weaken our commitment to women's liberation. We won't win one, by dropping the other.

Some people will argue that we should try and provide alternative services—raise money ourselves so that poor women can get abortions.

COST

This generous sentiment, again, will not lead us in the direction of building a movement. In Ohio, for example, over 20,000 women are affected by the Hyde decision. It would cost \$200,000 a year to provide abortions in Cleveland. Think of the cost in New

York or Los Angeles.

There is, however, a great deal we can do.

First we have to be visible in our support of abortion rights. This means we must defend the abortion clinics.

We also should demonstrate against the anti-abortion politics of Carter and Reagan, and be there in force whenever anti-abortionists hold meetings or rallies.

UNIONS

Because of the promised attack on the reproductive rights of state employees, we should raise these issues in unions. And we should get our pro-choice information to women at the welfare and unemployment offices.

Most importantly, in all our work, we must link up the fight for abortion rights with the struggle against sterilization abuse and for full reproductive freedom for all women. □

1980: The year of the Black revolt

ORLANDO, FL—The Black rebellion 1980 continues, this time Orlando.

The uprising followed a police raid on a Black bar—fighting spread through the Black community and lasted two nights.

Orlando exploded just after Chattanooga, where Blacks took to the streets when an all-white jury freed Ku Klux Klansmen who gunned down four Black women in the street—and bragged about it.

Chattanooga burned while the fighting in Miami still flared, and in the aftermath of the Liberty City rebellion, the first major Black rebellion in a decade.

ANYWHERE

The next rebellion could be anywhere—for the police brutality, the racist white juries, the staggering unemployment for Black youth, the cruel cutbacks in services for the poor—conditions that exist everywhere North and South.

The police in Orlando have responded savagely, just as the police in Miami and Chattanooga. Heavily armed storm troopers in riot gear sweep the streets of Black neighborhoods taking revenge—the numbers of Blacks killed, wounded, beaten, jailed, mounts.

And this is the tragedy. But what is the alternative—acceptance?—accepting racism, police lynchings, the Ku Klux Klan, and no future, no jobs, no services, no freedom: Never!

The rebellions must be defended. They show once again the courage of Black people, their capacity to fight, their never-ending demand for freedom. They show the struggles to come.

ORGANIZATION

What's needed now is organization, for rebellion in itself is not enough. The way ahead is organization—Black organization to defend the Black community, and socialist organization to fight white racism, to build solidarity, and challenge capitalism, the system which breeds racism, the Klan, poverty. The system which breeds the conditions the Black people of Miami, Orlando and Chattanooga are now rising against. □

JAMAICAN CIA AGENTS EXPOSED

In the wake of months of escalating right-wing terror in Jamaica there is a lull—the calm before the storm, many sources strongly believe.

But even in the lull, the police are on the offensive, searching homes, terrorizing suspected and known left-wingers and supporters of the social democratic government of Michael Manley.

Just at the end of July, soldiers occupied the offices of one of Manley supporters in the Jamaican parliament—temporarily holding staff members of his hostage.

At the same time, sources in Jamaica revealed for the first time the identities of the known CIA agents who occupy the U.S. Embassy in Kingstown.

They are: Edward Baker; Ruby Johnson; Jessie Jones; Wesley Kingsley; William Muffet; Florine Cox; William Goodson; William Baque; Funda Kingsley; Cordette Brown; Travis Poston; Albert Melville; Thomas J. Ballweg.

Several of these agents are now reported to have left Jamaica—no doubt to be replaced. □

THE SHAH IS DEAD: GOOD RIDDANCE!

The Shah of Iran—the "King of Kings"—is dead. Good riddance!

The tragedy is just that he has in death escaped having to face the people he barbarically ruled.

Jimmy Carter, David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, the CIA—his friends here in the U.S. sheltered and defended him until the end.

RECORD

Now they will defend his relatives and his riches—the vast wealth he extorted from a generation of Iranians.

The truth of the Shah's record is well-known. Not even the C.I.A. can conceal it. He ruled with torture, unspeakable cruelty, his agents maimed children, raped women, killed tens of thousands, probably more.

No wonder Richard Nixon



admired him so. But he earned the bitter hatred of nearly every person in Iran.

This is not the end of the story, however. The outcome of the Iranian revolution remains to be seen.

One thing is clear—the best memorial to the Shah will be carrying on the revolution—to socialism and a workers' republic. □

FIGHTING WORDS

The existence of violence is at the very heart of a racist system. . . . When people say they are opposed to Blacks "resorting to violence" what they really mean is that they are opposed to Blacks defending themselves and challenging the exclusive monopoly of violent practices by white racists.

Robert Williams
Black leader, 1962

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Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

Protected activity...

The NLRB has ruled that a steward in the postal service who called a supervisor "a stupid ass" while discussing a grievance was engaged in protected, concerted activity.

The NLRB also ruled that the Postal Service had violated the law in suspending the Columbus, Ohio worker for five days. □



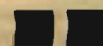
Who's overeducated...

An Ohio State University professor has made the astounding discovery that no less than half of all American workers is overeducated.

This problem, according to Russel Rumberger, a senior research associate at OSU, leads to job over-qualification, mental health problems, job turnovers and declining productivity.

"It's a myth that job skill demands have increased much," he says.

Professor Rumberger, and a crew of assistants are paid money for undertaking this research. □



Tarantula news...

Increasing numbers of tarantulas were being imported as "pets." That was not unusual.

What was unusual, the Customs Bureau and the United States Agriculture Department noted in August 1976, was that tarantulas had somehow escaped the web of government regulation.

With 10,000 items on the tariff schedule, with the Code of Federal Regulations ample enough to fill a room, not one rule referred directly to tarantulas.

The situation today? "The same," says Philip Lima in charge of permits at the Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Inspection Service in Washington. No permit is needed to move a Tarantula in interstate commerce, he says. The Customs Bureau, however, is more creative.

While there is no specific listing of tarantulas on the tariff schedule, there is this catchall: "other live animals not mentioned." Tarantulas, says Edward Kittredge, a customs spokesman in Washington, "would be classified as 'other live animals.'"

They are duty free in any case, he notes, unless they are Communist tarantulas. Those from the Soviet bloc are subject to a 15 per cent tariff on their value, he says. □



Poor Billy's brother

Jimmy Carter has now earned his place in the President's hall of fame—he's admitted that he's a liar, the chief pre-requisite.

He's lied about his dealings with brother Billy—and not only in the peanut business (never mind Bert Lance). He's covered up dealings with "western civilization's" arch-enemy, Libya's Muammar Kaddafi. And he's been caught.

Will Jimmy Carter take the honorable way out? Will he follow the noble footsteps of Lynden Baines Johnson and

Richard Milhouse Nixon and resign? Or will he continue to inflict himself on us.

Carter's popularity is now lower than any president since the polls began. Teddy Kennedy is cursing that damned bridge . . . And Ronnie Reagan is stocking up on heart transplants.

CHOOSE

Choosing a candidate in November should be great fun . . . deciding which candidate is the most corrupt, and which corrupt candidate has the most corrupt brother . . . □



DOG BITES POLICE

HANNOVER, WEST GERMANY—A dog bit a police patrol car, putting it out of commission, police in this northern German city reported.

The pooch crept up to the rear of the patrol car and bit one of its tires, causing it to go flat, police said.

The crew of another police car watched the scene and later found the dog owner, who must now pay for the damage. □

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Isn't nature the ultimate cause of famine?

A few years ago, I heard a socialist speaker estimate how many more hundred deaths from starvation occurred in one city, Calcutta, with every one cent increase in the world price of grain. That struck me as a good way to look at the world capitalist system, to focus at every point on the concrete human cost of the system.

In mid-July I remembered that speech again when I read an Associated Press (AP) report on the disastrous famine sweeping across Africa. The present food crisis there is even deeper than that in 1972-1974, when more than 300,000 people starved to death in Ethiopia and the Sahal belt south of the Sahara desert.

HOURS

In Nairobi, Kenya, thousands of women stand in line for hours to buy enough maize meal to feed an average family for one day. And they get it only if they have the money to pay for it.

In Tanzania, some families eat every other day. In Somalia, one of the world's poorest countries, food shortages are made even more serious by the presence of 1.5 million refugees fleeing the Ethiopian government's war on Eritria.

AP doesn't seem to think anyone can do much about the crisis. Its root cause is nature: "The underlying cause of the crisis is rain—lack of rain, too much rain at the wrong time."

And even if nature were under control, we would still have human beings standing in the way: "Man himself" and the population explosion in particular.

This last explanation is the most widely held American myth about world hunger, and socialists need to give it serious thought.

In the first place, the population explosion explanation for world hunger has a very familiar, victim-blaming ring to it. It goes like this:

"People are starving



because there are too many of them. There are too many of them because they have too many babies. They have too many babies because they are too ignorant (or lazy, or stupid) to use birth control or abstain from sex. So if they don't get enough to eat, it's really their own fault."

REASON

A valuable pamphlet, "World Hunger: Ten Myths," written by Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins, explodes this argument and gives the real reason for the world food crisis:

"Neither scarcity nor population growth cause hunger. The illusion of scarcity is the product of extreme inequalities in control over food-pricing resources that thwart their development and distort their distribution."

Part of the problem in poor

Why half the world goes hungry

by DEBORAH ROBERTS

Monstrous though this seems when you look at pictures of the people who starved in the Sahal region, it makes perfect sense in a capitalist world, where food itself exists less as nourishment for people than as a commodity for sale.

If "too many people" caused hunger, we would not find countries like Bolivia and Brazil with comparatively large amounts of agricultural land per person but whose people nevertheless suffer from chronic and severe hunger.

Brazil has more cultivated land per person than the U.S., yet in recent years the percent of people undernourished has risen from 45% to 72%, and both Brazil and Bolivia are major agricultural exporters.

SYMPTOMS

Both hunger and rapid population growth are symptoms of the same disease—the insecurity and poverty of most people, resulting from the monopolizing of agricultural resources by a few people and a few strong countries. In two words, capitalism and imperialism.

High birth rates are symptomatic of the social powerlessness of women, which is made worse by poverty. As Labbe and Collins point out, "Birth rates do not fall until women gain control over reproductive decisions, a process that cannot occur in isolation from both men and women achieving increased economic self-determination."

The complexities of the world food crisis are great, but not so mind-boggling as the Associated Press wants to think.

The first step is understanding that millions of people live and die hungry in a world of plenty because it is also a world based on profit instead of human need. The second step is to work to change that world. □

Auto workers lead largest Russian strike ever reported



Fiat workers in Togliattigrad

On May 8 and 9, 200,000 workers at the mammoth auto plant in the closed city of Gorky stayed away from work, in protest against the lack of meat and dairy products in the local shops (this was also a secondary issue in the Togliattigrad strike.)

Unlike most Soviet strikes it was organized and preceded by the distribution of 2,000 hand-written leaflets. It was the largest single walkout ever reported in the Soviet Union.

The strike ended after the arrest of four leading workers.

There are hints that these are not the only disputes in the Soviet car industry in recent months—on the weekend of June 14 and 15, for example, Central Committee heavyman Kirilenko flew to the giant new Kama River Truck Plant for a series of urgent meetings with management and trade unions.

IMPORTANT

This is the third and perhaps the most important strike wave in modern Soviet history.

The first took place in 1962, when the doubling of prices for meat and dairy products was greeted with mass protest demonstrations and rioting all over the Soviet Union.

The most violent outbreak was in Novocherkassk, in the Donbas region of the Ukraine, where the price rises coincided with a 30% reduction in piecework rates.

The government panicked and sent the army in and a workers' demonstration was mowed down with machine guns.

The second series of strikes occurred in the early seventies, at the same time as the workers' demonstrations over food in Poland. The Soviet authorities were so worried by the similarity that they redrafted the 1971-75 five year plan to promise, for the first time ever, faster growth for consumer goods than heavy industry.

The new strike wave, like the other two, has been sparked off by attempts to increase production norms (ie. to reduce wages) and, above all, by food shortages.

Typically, factory workers in Tula in 1977 refused to collect their paychecks for two consecutive months. They told officials "we do not need the money because there is nothing here to buy."

Brezhnev rushed down to declare Tula a 'hero city' for its role in defeating Germany in the Second World War. Hero cities come into a privileged category and automatically get better food supplies.

MEAT

In summer 1978 meat disappeared from the normally well-stocked city of Leningrad. Alarming rumors spread that Leningrad had been reduced to the status of a second class city. The workers at the key Kirov factory finally downed their tools and announced their refusal to work on a vegetarian diet.

Within half an hour a member of the Politburo was on the spot. Three quarters of an hour later, vans loaded with meat drew up outside the factory gates.

So far the reaction of Brezhnev's government, in contrast to Khrushchev's, has been to placate the workers by rushing emergency food supplies to trouble spots. But how long can it keep it up?

Meat and dairy products have long been scarce in the Soviet Union. But the shortage has been critical since the terrible harvest of 1975.

Many small towns have had almost no meat since then. Rationing has been in force in Cheboksary (400 miles east of Moscow), for example, since 1976

by CLAIRE HERSCHFELD

or 1977, with a limit of 2.2 pounds per adult per month.

In spite of heavy investment in agriculture, the grain harvest of 1979 was another disaster. The Volga valley, east of Moscow, has been hit particularly hard. Meat rationing began in Gorky in April, just before the strike. Rationing is also being introduced in the Urals where workers are going slow in protest.

Even in Moscow, meat and dairy products are vanishing from the shops. The situation shows little prospect of improvement—the urban population is increasing three times faster than food supplies.

WORST

In industry as well as agriculture, 1979 was one of the worst years since the Second World War. Soviet industry is paralyzed by bureaucratism, inefficiency, corruption and theft.

In the Togliattigrad factory, for example, everything has to be locked up at night. On November 28 last year Brezhnev came out into the open and admitted this.

But he didn't call for any major reforms of industry, just the 'strengthening of discipline', ie. the incessant raising of production norms, the tightening of the screws on the workers.

In reaction, for the first time since the twenties, Soviet workers are beginning to feel the need for their own independent organizations. The lack of these has meant that until very recently strikes have been completely spontaneous and very short.

CHANGE

The use of leaflets at Gorky shows that things are beginning to change.

Fired by the example of Klebanov's *Free Trade Union*, (almost all the members of which are now in prison or psychiatric hospital), Soviet workers are beginning to demand that trade unions should not be run by the management and the party.

A group of workers in Togliattigrad Milk Combine have written an *Appeal to Nowhere*:

"It is known that there is unemployment in other countries. That is very bad and unfortunate. But there is something else which is many times worse and sadder.

"This is the situation where we workers are gradually turned into mute, depersonalized beings, living appendages to machines and equipment, robots who are not allowed to have their own opinions.

"There, far away, in the West we do not know, there are at least trade unions which are, or are at least capable of being, the spokesmen of their workers. Once the workers have such unions, they are no longer robots! But here?!

"It is not just that we have a bad chairwoman on the Factory Committee and no right to call her to account. The real point is that any chairperson of the committee will be chosen by the director and the party bureau . . .

"Our propaganda . . . declares that we, the workers of the USSR, have our own workers' organ—our trade unions. Lies!"

To all appearances, the Soviet Union is entering on a new era of industrial conflict. □

SOUTH AFRICA: BLACK WORKERS SHAKE THE SYSTEM

Black auto workers in South Africa have won a major victory over their employers.

Strikes involving 8,000 workers in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area, the heart of the country's auto industry, won wage increases of nearly 70 percent.

Then in mid-July 10,000 municipal workers struck in Johannesburg. And the strikes has paralyzed the city—armed soldiers ride buses and trucks. But the South African regime, thus far, refuses to negotiate.

Once again it has been proved that the most potent weapon in the struggle against apartheid is the economic muscle of the Black working class.

WAVE

South Africa is now being shaken by the third great wave of Black industrial unrest in the past eight years.

The first was in 1973 when 100,000 Black workers took their bosses and the apartheid regime by surprise with a wave of strikes which paralyzed most of the factories in the Durban-Pinetown area.

The new industrial militancy led to the first rise in African's share of national income in South Africa's history, from 26 per cent in 1970 to 32 per cent in 1975.

Then in 1976 came the Soweto uprising, when three massive general strikes shook the Witwatersrand and the Cape.

In the past year the South African economy has made a sharp recovery from the recession which struck it in the mid-1970s.

GOLD

A rising gold price has pushed up the living standards of white South Africans, thanks to a giveaway tax cutting budget in March which offered nothing for the Black majority. Now Black

by ALEX CALLINICOS

workers are demanding their share.

The western Cape has been especially affected by the strikes, including one at Monis & Fattis flour mills which lasted for seven months.

A one-day dockers' strike in Cape Town last December forced employers to recognize the Western Province General Workers' Union.

The Ford plant in Port Elizabeth was closed down for several weeks over the sacking of Thazmile Botha, a Black political activist. The threat of a city-wide general strike and boycott of white shops forced the employers to retreat.

PRESSURE

Even the pressure of mass unemployment—there are some two million Africans unemployed—has not dampened Black militancy.

The regime's response has been one of divide and rule. The right of Africans to form trade unions has been finally recognized in the hope that the minority of better paid and more highly skilled workers can be split off from the mass of migrant workers.

This strategy has been still-born. In the Cape the skilled and unskilled, Colored and African,



A young gold miner

have united against the employers and the state.

There are signs that the government is switching to more repressive tactics.

Fosatu, the main Black trade union group, has had some of its leading activists banned or arrested and is no longer to receive funds from abroad, which means it cannot afford to give out more strike pay.

LEADERSHIP

Black workers' struggles have so far been uncoordinated, without any united national leadership. Once such leadership develops, the days of Apartheid will be numbered. □

REGULATING THE ECONOMIC BUST

This March the Federal Reserve System took drastic action. Debt had pushed up to the one trillion dollar mark, and inflation was close to 20%.

The economy was over-heating and a bust was sure to follow. An unregulated bust could be devastating, creating a rash of bankruptcies and politically dangerous levels of unemployment.

The Federal Reserve System was created back in 1913 to deal with just such explosive situations.

Among the things the Fed did this time were to: a) cut the money supply down; b) push the discount rate on money borrowed by banks in the Federal Reserve System from the Federal Reserve Banks up to 13%; c) forbid borrowing for speculative, as opposed to productive purposes; d) insist that lenders keep 15% in reserve on credit they issue; e) add a 3% surcharge to the discount rate, and f) push up the minimum monthly payments on credit cards.

EFFECT

The effect was dramatic and immediate. The money supply is now growing at less than half the rate the government desires. This means the Fed is not putting dollars into circulation by buying up government securities from the banks.

Continued slow growth in the money supply will push up into deeper recession. Money must grow with the growth in production if goods are to be sold rather than build up as corporate inventory.

In fact, the inventory-to-sales ratio has reached the high level it reached in the 1974 recession. Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has proved unwilling to carry through on his promise to turn the money supply on once recession is evident.

The restrictions on credit also did their work. The demand for investment capital and for consumer credit dropped sharply in April, and is still in a tailspin. (Borrowing in the form of bond issues reappeared mainly as a means of refinancing debt incurred at earlier, higher interest rates.)

Accordingly, the Fed's discount rate went down and the banks' prime rate of interest has now dropped from a high of 20% three months ago to under 11%. Production has suffered by being starved for capital; it dropped 4% since March and unemployment is approaching 8%.

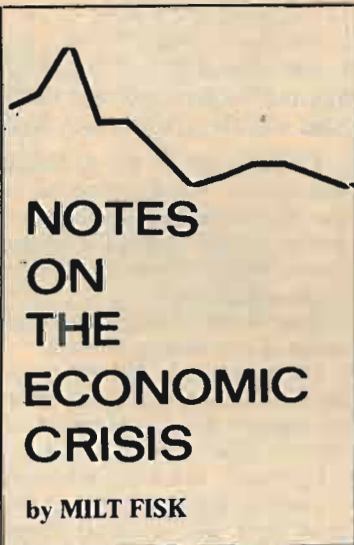
PYRAMID

The prohibition on speculative borrowing was beached when the Hunt brothers silver pyramid collapsed. Money that capitalists won't invest in productive ways will seek higher returns in speculation—in commodities, precious metals, and land.

The Hunts did not have the cash to pay up on the silver they had bought at \$50 an ounce when the price dropped to \$11 an ounce. Volcker helped free up \$800 million in credit for the Texas billionaire brothers, with the understanding, of course, that they would not use this credit to begin fresh speculation. The justification for this bail-out was saving the banking system, not promoting speculation.

The recession that followed the Fed's actions was not one the Fed created. The Fed simply chose the time of a recession that was in the wind anyway. It did this for a reason that all capitalists understand.

If a recession is coming anyway, it is far better to have it on your own terms.



What specifically was gained by this induced birth?

The economy has been in a sluggish period for a decade. It has grown more slowly, had more unemployment, and has been beset by lower productivity than in the previous decade. In a sluggish period like this, a bust in the short term business cycle can be quite dangerous unless it is controlled.

To see what is possible, just consider the aftermath of the crash of 1929. Within a few years there was 25% unemployment. Capital growth had completely dried up. So, within a long-term period of stagnation, short-term busts are potentially disastrous to capitalists. That is why the recession of 1974 was worse than any that had occurred during the two fat decades of the post-World War II period.

The signs of recession were present before the Fed took its sharpest actions this spring. Inflation and union busting combined to depress real income 10% in the past eighteen months.

WILD

This of itself slowed the increase in credit to 13% in 1979 from 19% in 1978. But the efforts to overcome the effects of the previous sluggish decade were still evident in huge price hikes and in speculative investment gone wild.

At some point, the bubble would burst: the weight of debt would bury corporations that hoped against hope for a competitive edge through endless borrowing. So it wasn't the government that created the recession. It only induced it before the point of widespread bankruptcy and 20% unemployment.

Our society is still one in which the mechanism of the capitalist economy is still dominant. Some would have us believe that because the government can intervene to induce recession or to save the Hunts, it is the government that is dominant. They would have us believe that it is less important to change the economy than it is to get the government to move in our direction. But this is the old song that revolution can be forgotten in favor of reform.

In the present crisis, it is the mechanisms of the sluggish capitalist economy of this period that called for government intervention. The government did not create those mechanisms.

INTERVENTION

Although intervention will soften the recession for capitalist and worker alike, it will not prevent untold suffering for millions who will be denied employment and be expected to survive on reduced welfare benefits.

What is needed is not a government that intervenes more efficiently, but an end to the capitalist economy that is doomed to have sluggish periods after fat ones. □

In 1928, the NSDAP—the Nazi party of Germany—polled 2.6% of the vote in Germany's national elections.

It was a marginal and isolated party. Its shock troops—the Storm Troopers—were merely a handful of misfits.

But Germany was entering its third economic crisis of the decade. Between 1929 and 1932 industrial production fell by 42 per cent. In 1932 there were some 6 million unemployed, out of a workforce of twenty million.

Germany's traditional parties had no answers to the crisis. The Nazis proclaimed they did.

STREETS

By July 1932 the Nazis polled 37.4 per cent of the vote. The Storm Troopers were transformed into a uniformed army of 400,000 thugs. They controlled the streets. Almost the entire German middle class deserted the traditional parties and flocked to the Nazis.

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. The Nazi party had succeeded in seizing power.

A reign of terror was unleashed. Trade unionists, socialists, communists, liberals, Jews, Catholics, gays and many others became the victims of the Nazi regime.

Hitler's plans of conquest did not stop in Germany. He set out to conquer Europe and then the world.

"The gigantic growth of fascism is an expression of two factors: a deep social crisis throwing the petty-bourgeois masses off balance, and the lack of a revolutionary party that would today be regarded by the popular masses as the acknowledged revolutionary leader. If the Communist Party is the party of revolutionary hope, then fascism, as a mass movement, is the party of counter-revolutionary despair."

Leon Trotsky, September 26, 1933

Italy was already fascist: Mussolini took Rome in 1920.

In Spain, between 1936 and 1939, a civil war was fought—between the workers and peasants of Spain and a growing fascist movement. There too the workers' movement was defeated. Fascism triumphed in three European countries: Germany, Spain and Italy.

How did it happen? Can it happen again. This is the subject of a new book by Colin Sparks, *Never Again*.

Fascism in the 1920s and 1930s triumphed in the midst of economic crisis, mass unemployment and desperate deprivation.

Today, the world faces crisis again—will we face a new wave of fascists as well?

Today, fascism is largely misunderstood, it is one of those words with many shades of meaning.

To many, fascism is just an epithet, loosely applied to

reactionaries, people they don't like, to America today, America next week or year, to the legal system or the police force in a given city or state.

To others, institutionalized racism equals fascism. To some, the recent rise in Klan and Nazi membership, heralds fascist rule in the near future.

Colin Sparks' examination of the fascist movements of Germany and Spain provides a better picture of fascism—and more importantly it offers a way to fight it.

Fascism is a reactionary mass movement in the most literal sense of the word.

Fascist organizations arise in times of severe social crisis. Fascism is a mass movement of the frenzied middle class in crisis—shop-keepers, small businessmen, self-employed operators, driven to desperation. They aim to smash trade unions and workers' organizations.

The fact that fascist organization is based on the middle class defines and limits it in a number of ways. Fascist organizations have two main

It is not a "let's get together and forget our differences" approach. Quite the contrary. The united front tactic is inevitably involves a power struggle to compel all the involved to live up to their professed principles and to act alongside revolutionary objectives they also support.

The united front also means that within the movement the working class must maintain its own independent organizations. The united front is

problems—developing a basis of unity and effectively pulling divergent people together.

The combination of nationalism and racism has proved very effective politically. Demonstrations and marches unite them. The public rally is at the heart of fascist organizing.

The classic weapon to fight fascism is the united front. Yet this term too has come to mean a myriad of things.

The united front consists of bringing otherwise antagonistic working class parties together around a specific fight. In this case fascism.

AGREE

It is not a union of revolutionary groups. The whole point of the united front is to involve workers and workers' organizations who accept the immediate tasks but do not necessarily agree on the ultimate goals.

substitute for a revolutionary party.

In the context of Germany in the late twenties and thirties this meant a united front between the Communist Party (KPD) which numbered 300,000, and the much larger Social-Democratic Party (SPD).

This is not what the Communist Party attempted. Instead, between 1929 and 1933 they argued that the united front were not the main enemy. They believed that the united front was the social democratic reformist, but mass working class party.

To this end, they agreed to work with the Nazis against the "main enemy". In the case in 1931, the Communist Party invited the Nazis to join them in a physical attack on the social democratic conference. It is not surprising, therefore, that the communists were unable to reach an agreement with themselves in the street.

NEVER AGAIN

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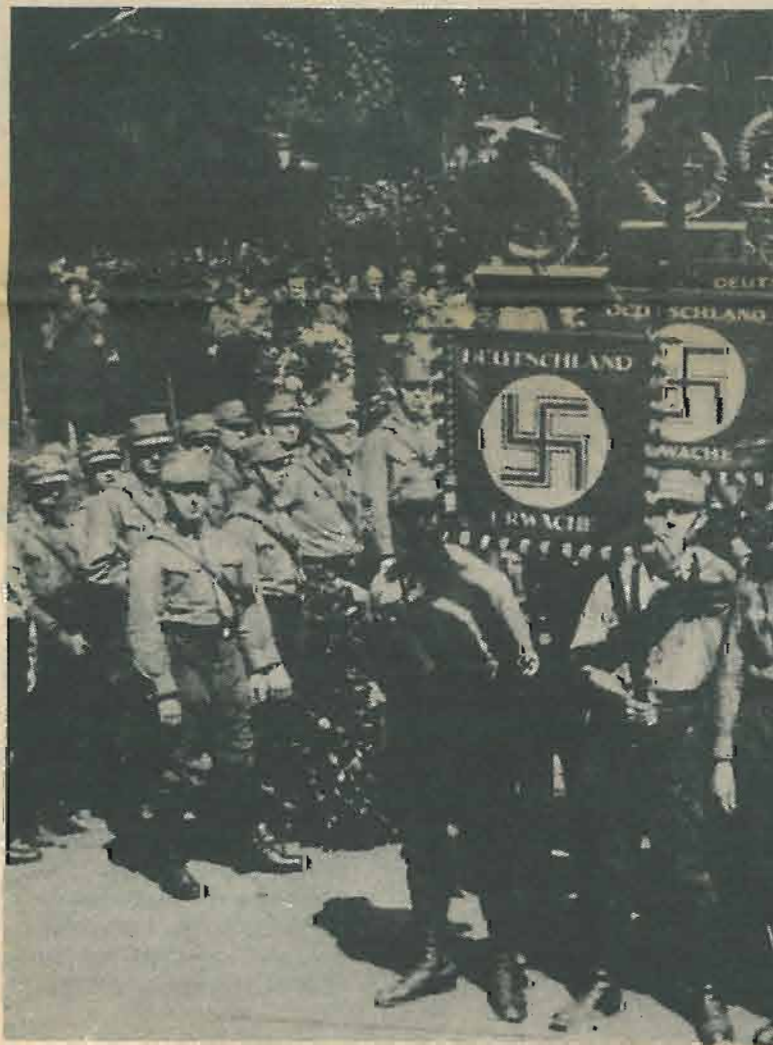
CHRISTINE
AVAILABLE
OHIO, 441

NEVER AGAIN!

From top, Hitler; Nazi march, 1932; American Nazi, Frank Collins

THE HOWS AND WHYS OF STOPPING FASCISM

MARK REVIEWS COLIN SPARKS NEW BOOK, NEVER AGAIN!, THE UNITED STATES FROM HERA PRESS, BOX 18037, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44118.



against fascism. Instead, and tragically, they paved the way for the fascist movement which ultimately seized power.

The Communist Party reversed itself in Spain. They developed the theory of the "popular front"—a tactic which called for the unification of all classes against fascism—unity at any price.

Ultra-leftism in Germany was replaced by rightism, which stressed unity irrespective of class—unity which would eventually defend the bourgeois state outright.

RESULT

The end result was tragic. The fascist movement, led by Franco, defeated an increasingly disunited and demoralized working class, a class with no real leadership.

As Trotsky wrote brilliantly: "There was no lack of heroism on the part of the masses or courage on the part of individual revolutionists. But the masses were left to their own resources while the revolutionists remained disunited, without a program, without a plan of action. The "republican" military commanders were more concerned with crushing the social revolution than with scoring military victories."

The history of fascism is relatively short—having first appeared in the twentieth century. In its short history, however, fascism's opponents largely failed. We can't afford to fail again.

We can't afford to make the mistake of thinking "it can't happen here." It could.

We enter the 80s facing a deepening economic crisis, unemployment and inflation. Traditional parties are already losing support—people are looking for alternatives to deteriorating standards of life.

In a society racist to the core, with a huge population of the small middle class, the

classic petty-bourgeoisie, the potential for a developing fascist movement is very real.

This is why we must oppose the Nazis—and the Klan—now. No matter how small or marginal they may seem. They cannot be allowed to march and hand out their filth unhindered. It is our task to stop them before they become a force—before it is 1933 all over again.

The public rally, the mass demonstration, is the core of fascist organizing—that is the point of the burning cross, that is why the Nazis fought to march in Skokie, Illinois. Opposition to fascism must see that it is impossible for the fascists to use this tool, though carrying this out is easier said than done.

The fascists of today—U.S.A., 1980 are murderers. They assassinated four anti-Klan organizers in Greensboro, North Carolina, a little less than one year ago. They have lynched and murdered in cold blood untold numbers of Blacks. They all mean bloody business.

MOVEMENT

Still fascism can be defeated in the streets—publicly—but not without a movement that reaches beyond the confines of the organized left. If fascists are met at each rally, at each juncture in their development with resistance from workers, leftists, anti-racists, and all self-professed

progressives, they will never again make the fascist nightmare a reality.

This can only be done effectively by providing workers with another alternative—a socialist alternative to the crisis, to this system. This is why building a socialist organization today, laying the foundations of a strong workers' movement, is a key component in the fight against the fascists, and ultimately against the system that breeds crisis—and breeds them.

As Colin Sparks concludes his book, "If we can unite ourselves, then we can go a long way further than just a victory against the embryo forces of fascism. We can win a victory against capital." □

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.

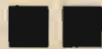
As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism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



Seattle Socialist Education Conference.

Labor Day Weekend in the North Cascades.

Three days of speeches, films and recreation.

Call 367-5417 or 324-2302.



BALTIMORE

Barbara Winslow on Working Women and Women's Liberation. August 7, 7:30 pm. Call 367-5417.

BOSTON

Cal Winslow on Why you should be a socialist. August 3, 7:30 pm at 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.

CHICAGO

Film: The Selling of the Pentagon. Discussion to follow. August 9, 7:00 pm at 925 W. Diversey. Call 769-6233.

CINCINNATI

John Mason on The "New" Ku Klux Klan. August 9 at 8:00 pm. Call 871-1371.

CLEVELAND

Barbara Winslow, Black Reconstruction, (Black History Series, part 4). August 8, 7:30 pm. Call 321-6143.

PROVIDENCE

Cal Winslow on Why you should be a socialist. August 5 at 7:30 pm. Wilson Hall, Brown University.



Socialist Perspectives for the 80s

BUT WHAT'S IT REALLY ALL ABOUT?

There will be three full days of discussion and debate. The topics for this year's convention include: the state of the economy, the international crisis, an assessment of the revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua, and the prospects for Black liberation.

There will also be working sessions of such practical subjects as day to day trade union work, strike support, how to fight the draft, and what to do about the elections.

YOU SEE - SIMPLE!

NATIONAL CONVENTION 1980

August 15, 16, 17

The 1980 convention will be held at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

The convention is open to all ISO members and to observers. There will be childcare available during all sessions of the convention, and room and board is available at the college.

Please contact the ISO at Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118 for information concerning attendance, registration and room and board.

"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

“no power greater”

by BARBARA WINSLOW



“THE REBEL GIRL”

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was the leading revolutionary woman in the period up to the First World War.

She was a fighter, an orator, an agitator, and an organizer.

Joe Hill, the martyred IWW leader, said she was the embodiment of the IWW woman. He wrote his famous song, “The Rebel Girl,” in her honor.

‘Gurley’ was born in 1890. Annie Gurley Flynn, her mother, was an ardent feminist herself, she once was a member of the Knights of Labor.

As a young girl, Flynn met revolutionaries, feminists, socialists, anarchists.

But her real introduction to the world of revolutionary politics began in the struggle for women’s rights.

She won a gold medal in her high school debating society by urging that women should get the vote.

At sixteen she made her first public speech at the Harlem Socialist Club—“What socialism will do for women.”

She was arrested for the first time that same year—for blocking traffic and speaking without a permit.

At the trial, her lawyer predicted that Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was “the coming socialist woman orator in the country.” She was!

WOMAN

In 1906, she joined the revolutionary syndicalist organization, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). She was granted a special exemption, for she was both a woman and a minor.

The membership of the IWW at that time was restricted to wage earners.

But while the IWW suffered its full share of male chauvinism, it did not agree with the sections of the Socialist Party and the American Federation of Labor that argued that

Elizabeth
Gurley
Flynn:
Fighter,
orator,
agitator,
and
organizer

women could or should not be organized into unions.

The Wobblies believed that all workers should be organized industrially—women alongside men.

Flynn thrust herself into the struggle to organize women workers.

Her first experience was in the free speech fights. These fights took place after towns enacted ordinances forbidding socialists from speaking.

The Wobblies response was to gather as many forces as possible into the town, then all stand on soap boxes, make speeches, get arrested (usually while reciting the declaration of independence or the Bill of Rights), and then be sent to jail.

The idea was also to fill the jails, organize the other prisoners and, in general, create havoc.

This tactic has been used by radicals, socialists and the labor organizers ever since.

Flynn was prominent in the Spokane free speech fight of 1909. She lost her first child there, suffering a miscarriage in jail. She argued for and won the right of women Wobblies to be in the free speech struggles. And this was important, for many of the Wobblies still



Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Big Bill Haywood with strikers' children

called their wives “the ball and chain.”

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was thrown into the national spotlight during the great Lawrence strike of 1912. This strike, then and now, symbolized not only the plight of working women, but also their fantastic capacity to organize, to lead and to struggle.

Lawrence in 1912 was infamous for its horrible living and working conditions, and when the employers forced a wage cut, the upheaval began. Flynn, and other IWW organizers, Bill Haywood, Carlo Tresca, and Lawrence Ettor, were invited in to help with the strike.

CRUSADE

During the strike, Flynn was everywhere—speaking, organizing women’s meetings, fighting the police and the National Guard. She raised funds for the strike. She organized the “Lawrence Children’s Crusade.” Children of

the strikers spent the duration of the struggle in the homes of sympathetic socialists and unionists.

The strikers finally won after a long and bitter fight. This was in large part due to the persistence of women like Flynn, in particular their refusal to allow traditional male chauvinist ideas deny the women strikers their rights.

After Lawrence, Flynn continued a tireless fight for the rights of women workers.

She waged a constant struggle in the IWW to allow wives who weren’t working to be full members. She argued that if revolutionaries were to have women in the fight, they would have to deal with both women’s problems within the family and at the workplace.

She championed contraception for women, and organized meetings and discussions around the topics of marriage, sexuality and love.

But she always saw women’s oppression in class

terms. She was implacably hostile to the rich women who patronized sections of the Socialist Party and the suffrage movement.

CHAMPION

Flynn saw herself as a champion of the Bill of Rights. She once said that she had a teacher that instructed her so thoroughly in the Bill of Rights, “That I have been defending it ever since.”

She was a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union, but to their disgrace, she was expelled in the 1950’s, during the McCarthy witch-hunts.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, and all the other ‘rebel girls’ of the IWW changed the history of women in the labor movement. They need no monuments—they will be best remembered by our own struggles. If we have greater opportunities than they did, it is only because we stand on their shoulders. □



STEEL WORKERS RALLY TO PROTEST CLOSURES

CHICAGO, IL—500 steelworkers rallied here July 9th to protest shutdowns and layoffs in the steel industry.

Alice Peurela, the president of Local 65 at U.S. Steel's Chicago South Works, explained that the "Save Our Jobs Rally" was called because "these shutdowns threaten our very existence."

Steel plant shutdowns have already wiped out 13 USW union locals. The next 2,000 steelworker victims may well be at Pullman Standard's plant on Chicago's southside—the plant management is threatening to stop production.

The July 9th rally marks, hopefully, the beginning of a fight against shutdowns in the Chicago-Gary area. A key weapon in this fight should be education on the real status of the U.S. steel industry.

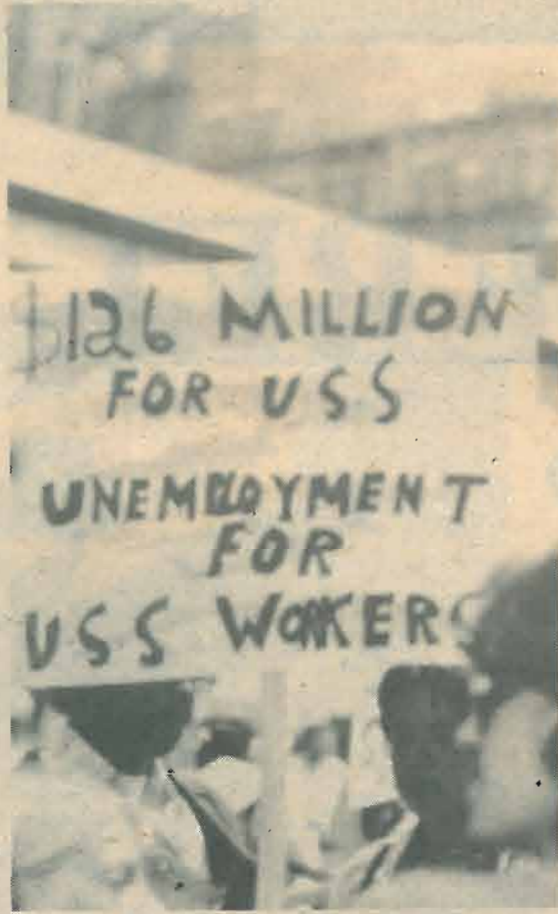
PASTURES

The truth is that U.S. Steel's "economic crisis" is of its own making. For years, stockholders' dividends and corporate investments went to greener pastures in Brazil, Argentina, and Taiwan.

The steel industry in this country was in fact "just another investment"—and not a particularly profitable one.

The fight must go on—and hopefully it will go beyond the plans of USW top leaders to seek protection in Congress, and guarantees in upcoming contracts. That, in the words of one protester, "is like cattle negotiating with the butcher. What we need is a fight!"

by BEN BLAKE



Steelworkers protest

BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL: "SOLID"

BOSTON, MA—1,000 clerks and lab technicians struck Boston City Hospital, returning to work only under the threat of stiff fines and prison. The strike lasted three days.

City officials and hospital management were stunned by the solidarity, especially the nurses. During the strike over half the nurses stayed out.

Last month doctors and nurses won better contracts by threatening to strike, but the hospital, frightened by the prospects of a total shutdown, settled quickly.

BANDS

When SEIU Local 285 struck this week, doctors supported the strikers by wearing yellow arm bands.

On the second day of the strike, AFSCME Local 1489, including maintenance, workers, housekeepers, and dietary workers, staged a sick-out in support of the 1,000 technical and clerical workers in Local 285.

The hospital was completely surrounded by lively picket lines.

The city tried to send in CETA workers to scab, but many CETA workers, who did not know what they were being used for, turned back when strikers told them what was happening.

The main issue in the strike was job security. Arthur Fitzgerald, a B.A. from Local 285 explained that the city creates a turnover in the hospital to keep wages low by not renewing provisional appointments.

When provisional appointments are not renewed, workers not only lose their jobs, but cannot get unemployment because the hospital denies that they were fired or laid off.

The settlement that Local 285 agreed to provides for permanent job security after two years, and for a 7% wage increase for each of the next two years, plus a \$500 cash bonus.

INFLATION

One of the picketers said that the 10% annual increase the union was asking for was an "insult" considering that with an annual 20% inflation rate, a 10% wage increase is actually a 10% wage cut per year.

It's an even bigger insult considering that the top city boss, Mayor White, who was willing to fine and arrest city hospital workers for striking for decent pay, recently demanded that the Boston City Council raise his annual pay from \$40,000 to \$95,000 per year.

SEIU Local 285 workers have not voted on the contract offer yet. The vote will take place within the next ten days.

But whatever the outcome the workers feel they have won a victory. "The very fact we struck was a victory," said one. "And we were solid." □

by PETER LOWBER

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

DETROIT: THE WORKERS MUST ORGANIZE

Mayor Coleman Young and the city of Detroit came to terms with Council #25 of AFSCME as the Republicans came to town. There was a show of solidarity among those workers that is a harbinger of things to come. Even police and firemen joined AFSCME picket lines during the last days of the strike.

No sooner was that strike settled than the teamsters silenced the Detroit *Free Press*. Here solidarity was lacking. Union Teamsters who had closed the *Free Press* continued to deliver the combined edition of the *News* and *Free Press*.

MILD

Local 15 delegates to the UAW convention wrote a mildly critical article for the Fleetwood Organizer—the first such report in almost thirty years. Fleetwood management has given the Local Executive Board and the Shop Committee a week's indoctrination in union management cooperation in improving the quality of Cadillac bodies.

After a week's wining and dining of the local leadership at a high class motel, they had won a majority to the latest form of company unionism.

The International Union has given its endorsement to this new form of company unionism. Several of the local leaders see this maneuver on the part of the company for what it is, a further attempt to undermine the workers confidence in the union.

ZERO

With 16% unemployment in Detroit, 25% in Flint and 14% state wide, absenteeism has been reduced to near zero. With the introduction of the new small cars, thousands of workers will be fired because of the new technology. With 30% of the work force on indefinite layoff and an uncertain future for thousands more, many of them are beginning to question the system of capitalism.

Even Mr. Estes, top spokesman for GM now sees no early recovery with the introduction of the 1981 models.

In recent months, several of the officers of UAW Local 15 have become friendlier to me and my ideas. Hearing Douglas Fraser's warm remarks to the Republican platform committee, workers are beginning to see him as willing to compromise with the most conservative politicians. □



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

Most workers know that Ronald Reagan and George Bush will not solve their problems. In 1980, as in the past, workers will vote against a hated incumbent only to cast their vote for someone who may be worse.

Tens of thousands of auto workers are now facing the experience of applying for food stamps and welfare. Their reluctance to do so is causing some families to go hungry. The unemployed must either force the union movement to take up their problems or organize independently. Organize them now.

Without a labor party, millions of Americans will split their vote between John Anderson and the various left-wing candidates. The depression conditions are beginning to stimulate political thinking on the part of the workers. It is a great opportunity for a revolutionary socialist party. □

CANTON BUS DRIVERS WILDCAT

CANTON, OH—RTA bus drivers here walked off their jobs on July 18, protesting the suspension of a fellow driver.

The wildcat lasted a day, and was sparked by RTA's 15 day suspension without pay of a driver who left his door open on the hottest day of the year—the temperature was nearly 100 degrees and the buses' air conditioning system was not functioning.

PICKET

The strike began at 4:45 am in front of Canton RTA's main garage, when 50 members of Teamsters' Local 92 picketed in protest.

None of the company's 110 drivers worked that day.

The drivers returned to work after the company announced plans to investigate complaints of unsafe working conditions and non-functioning air-conditions. □



Strike stops San Francisco hotels

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—In the middle of the tourist season, the prestige hotels of San Francisco have been brought to a halt.

6,000 cooks, maids, waiters and waitresses have struck for higher wages and workplace union organization.

Workers at several hotels began the strike on July 17. The outraged Hotel Employers' Association responded with a lockout in all 36 city hotels which they represent.

CHALLENGE

The workers, members of the Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Local 2, took up the challenge. They organized militant picket lines outside the exclusive foyers of hotels most people only hear of in songs—or see in movies.

The police used local anti-noise statutes to arrest 46 pickets at the Hyatt Regency. Several other pickets were arrested on charges of attempted arson. The employers also went to the courts and were awarded temporary restraining injunctions limiting the number of pickets at eleven hotels.

But still the picket lines continued. On Saturday, July 26, the lines were strengthened by several hundred trade unionists belonging to the local Rank and File Coalition—they marched from Union Square to the Hyatt Regency, the site of the arrests.

The strike is an important one. Half of those out are

by **MURRAY ARMSTRONG**

women. Most are recent immigrants. The most important issue is basic discrimination—waiters, the best paid hotel workers, are by tradition male, and that is the way the employers want it to stay.

The union is demanding an affirmative action clause in the new contract.

The employers also demand the right to maintain "theme" dining rooms, including the right to hire and fire according to the "theme."

The union president, Charles Lamb, however, says the union will fight for equality in hiring and promotion "whether the worker can cut a rack of lamb according to 'theme' or not."

SERVANTS

The workers are also fighting for dignity. The employers, according to the strikers, view hotel workers as "servants wearing starched jackets and walking silently across thick carpets."

This is a strike socialists should support wholeheartedly. Send messages of support to: Hotel, Restaurant and Bartenders Union, Local 2, 209 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California. □

PASS CARDS COMING: SO IS BIG BROTHER

The Select Service Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy is considering a proposal to require identification cards for all American workers.

Such a system could be implemented by 1984, in time to coincide with Orwell's novel. But this is fact not fiction.

AFL-CIO officials favor such a system because they argue that it would prohibit illegal aliens from getting jobs. But illegal aliens are not to blame for soaring inflation and unemployment.

A passcard system would be the first big step towards direct control over the whole working class, not just illegal aliens.

PERMISSION

Pass card systems have long been used in Russia, where workers cannot move from one city to another without permission, and in South Africa, where apartheid is enforced through the use of pass cards.

A pass card system in the U.S. would not be used only against illegal aliens, but against all

workers, particularly Black and Hispanic workers.

Blacks and workers with foreign accents could be stopped at any time. Workers without cards could be arrested. Those with cards could be reported to their employers if the police did not like their "attitude."

Union activists, or workers of "undesirable" politics would suffer the same repression.

There is an alternative to the pass card system being proposed: a computer data bank system, whereby employers could get "clearance" from a central computer before hiring any prospective employee. Such a system would provide for the same obvious abuses as a pass card system.

So who needs Big Brother—1984 here we come! □

Ma Bell contract expires: militant strike needed

The national contract between the Bell System and more than half a million telephone workers represented by the Communication Workers of America (CWA) expires at midnight, August 9.

A national strike has seemed highly unlikely until now, especially as CWA President Glenn Watts is a big supporter of Jimmy Carter's, and is disinclined to do anything that might make things more difficult for the president.

But strike sentiment is growing, according to Cynthia Whetsell, a technician for Northwest Bell in Seattle, CWA Local 9102. Whetsell was also a delegate to the recent CWA convention.

SECURITY

"I think we need a strike," says Whetsell, who thinks that the main issues are job security, job pressure, sub-contracting and wages—including improving the present cost-of-living clause.

Another key issue is job upgrading. At an otherwise uneventful national meeting in Los Angeles earlier this year, operators picketed the CWA convention demanding better wages and conditions for operators and clericals, workers who fill the majority of the telephone system's underpaid jobs.

Clericals and operators are also traditionally women and minorities, says Whetsell,



which makes this issue all the more important.

Telephone workers have an unexpected bargaining weapon this year, though one Glenn Watts is unlikely to use. The telephone contract expires one day before the Democratic Party convention

begins in New York City.

And there is no way that the convention could proceed with the telephone workers on strike.

MILITANT

"Some locals are beginning to make strike preparations," says Whetsell, "but there's no leadership coming from the International and very little from the locals. So it's up to the rank and file."

"But with a militant strike, we could win something, a strike which also kept the management out could stop the system. But a lot of work will have to be done." □

IRAN FORUM MEETS

BOSTON, MA—On July 20th, following the u.s. government propaganda against the Iranian revolution and using the "hostage crisis" as a tool for the presidential campaign, the Boston Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in Iran held an informational forum. The program included workshops, speeches, films and members of Ramsey Clark's delegation recently returned from Iran. It was attended by 200 people.

The workshops were on the current questions in Iran such as women, national minorities, the left and Islam. There was also a workshop on racism (Blacks and

Iranians) which was a good indication of the closer cooperation between Blacks and Iranians in the future.

In the preceding several meetings, we decided to adopt a public position on the Iranian government and its repression of the working class, women, the left and the events in Kurdistan.

The Boston Coalition is planning future actions such as a rally to condemn a racist attack on some Iranians that took place in Cambridge, and a forum commemorating Bloody Friday. □

by **LADAN-RAZI**



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**OSBORN:
'WE'LL
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IRAN: IT'S UP TO THE WORKERS

by PHIL MARFLEET

And neither the working class nor the national minorities, especially the Kurds, are prepared to abandon their struggles. Popular enthusiasm for the republic is waning.

REPRESSION

The response of the regime has been to use repression in an attempt to impose its rule.

Militant workers are being purged and the mullahs are campaigning for the dissolution of the largest leftist groups, the Fedayin and Mujahidin.

As part of this 'cultural revolution' a group of men and women were stoned to death three weeks ago for 'prostitution, homosexuality, and rape.'

Such barbarous acts are the work of a regime still too weak to control society. Only the continuing revolution, led by the working class, can assure the freedoms for which the Shah was overthrown are not a mere illusion. □

ISRAEL: LEGAL TERROR!

By a vote of 69 to 15, the Israeli parliament has voted to make Jerusalem the capital of Israel. This is where the government, the parliament and the Supreme Court will be based.

Begin has announced that he plans to move his own office to East Jerusalem—what is now the Arab part of the city.

East Jerusalem was annexed by Israel, grabbed from Jordan in the 1967 war.

This law places a legal stamp on systematic terror and expropriation—on the forced annexation of Arab land and the forced removal of the Palestinian people.

In 1948, through the use of terror, the Zionists seized 80% of the landed area of Palestine. In 1967, they grabbed more land from Egypt and Jordan.

The victims were the tens of thousands of Palestinians who were forced off their land and out of their country—people who now live in squalid conditions in "refugee" camps. □

The Ayatollah Khomeini's latest decree is that women government employees are to wear a new 'Islamic' office uniform or face sacking and prosecution.

The ruling brought a swift response. Two thousand women gathered outside the president's office.

They were met by pro-government demonstrators, mostly men, who denounced them as 'foreign dolls' and agents of the Americans.

REASON

A year ago Khomeini made a similar statement on women's dress. A huge protest forced him to withdraw. But on this issue, as on many others, the regime is attacking with a new determination.

Why? What has happened to the revolution?

Revolutions are about freedom. In Iran millions of men and women were able for the first time in their lives, to express themselves freely without fear of torture or imprisonment.

But now 'revolutionary' committees have replaced the factory committees which organized mass strikes against the Shah.

The press has been attacked and newspapers critical of the regime closed down. The national minorities have been denied the rights for which they too had fought.

The revolution did not lead to the victory of either the Iranian capitalist class or the mass of workers and peasants. The power vacuum was filled by the bazaar class—the network of small traders and merchants.

From the beginning the bigotry of this small-minded class fitted the desire of the clergy to return to 'pure' Islam, insisting on unquestioning obedience, the 'decadence' of democracy, the need to control women and deny their rights.

PROBLEMS

Now the control of this ruling group is shakier than ever. All the economic problems which had plagued the regime of the Shah are visiting themselves upon Khomeini in a more extreme and desperate form.

Unemployment has risen to 3½ million. Inflation is approaching 50%. Everywhere there are shortages, and corruption and the black market thrive as never before.

CLEVELAND, OH—The strike at Osborn Manufacturing here in Cleveland is in its sixth week.

280 members of UAW Local 538 struck Osborn on June 27 after Osborn's refusal to negotiate.

Salaried employees are working some machines, and it is rumored that Osborn has also hired additional scabs.

But the strikers are determined to fight on, and pickets are out daily.

As one striker put it:

"If they don't want to talk now, we'll just have to make them talk."

ACTION

The strikers certainly have the determination and conviction to win the strike. With militant rank and file organization they can. But it will take some action. □



On the picket line at Osborn

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