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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
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THE MINERS LEAD THE WAY

There is only one way to stop Reagan's cuts—and that is to fight back!

The miners can lead the way. On March 9 and 10, the United Mine Workers (UMW) have called a two-day strike in the coalfields.

They are protesting Reagan's plan to cut federal funds for the black lung compensation program. The Reagan administration plans to stop nearly \$2 billion in federal support for black lung benefits over the next five years.

The UMW is also planning a March on Washington for March 9—and thousands of miners are expected to participate.

Much more, of course, will be needed to win, but this is a first step. Support the miners! Reagan can be stopped!



HANDS OFF EL SALVADOR!

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BOSSSES BEWARE

Bosses around the country are looking over their shoulders these days.

Lawrence McNair, 41, is being sought for the shooting deaths of John Pruitt, the plant manager, and Ray Leach, a foreman, at Diamond International in Cincinnati. Two other management men were seriously wounded.

The shootings took place after McNair was taken into the personnel office for a disciplinary hearing and told he was fired from his job of four years.

McNair was a stationary engineer at the Diamond International paper box factory in the suburb of Lockland.

Also present at the hearing were two United Paper Workers representatives. They were not shot.

The union reps said that the firing was extreme and planned to appeal the ruling. As the union people began to leave the hearing, McNair is alleged to have pulled his gun.

Details are sketchy about the events leading up to the hearing, but it is clear that this firing is only one of several management tactics aimed at intimidating the workforce at Diamond.

ORDER

McNair is said to have refused an order from his foreman the day before. This refusal is believed to be the reason for the hearing.

While most workers in the plant are not talking, those who do all report working conditions have deteriorated over the last year.

Disagreements with management last fall brought the union out for a two day wildcat strike.

McNair had recently purchased a house and two cars.

He told an uncle a couple of years ago that this job meant a lot to him. He encouraged his uncle to come to work at the plant.

McNair's brother-in-law said that he had been hospitalized once for a nervous breakdown. "But he's a super guy, the type of person that people would easily push over. They must have pushed him to a point. The man just mentally snapped."

His family and friends refused to give police a photograph.

It was two days before a driver's license photo was obtained.

On March 4, McNair voluntarily turned himself in to the Cincinnati police. □

by BILL ROBERTS

A message from Bernadette



Bernadette Devlin McAliskey

"Get out and do a bit of work!"

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH BERNADETTE DEVLIN McALISKEY

"There's no doubt that the attempt to kill me was part of a plan to get rid of people in leading positions in the struggle.

"Just look at the others they shot recently. And that will go on.

"It is an attempt to intimidate people from supporting the H-Block campaign.

"For years what prevented me from being shot was that I was known as a propagandist.

"If you shoot a propagandist, you create a martyr.

"It's when a propagandist becomes an organizer that they decide to take action.

"That's why Miriam Daly, John Turnley and Noel Little were shot. Because they were organizers. Turnley was a brilliant, meticulous organizer."

ALIVE

Bernadette believes she is still alive because her would-be assassins made a mess of their attempt on her life.

"I think they were late in coming to the house.

"They tried to get us both in bed, and they were thrown by the fact that we were up and about.

"And when Michael barred the door against them they didn't know what to do. I think they panicked because of that."

It would be understandable if anyone decided to take a break after an experience such as the one Bernadette and her family have endured.

Anyone, that is, except Bernadette.

Now that she's out of the hospital she's looking forward to starting work on the campaign around the new hunger strikes.

She hopes to join the International Women's Day demonstration outside the Armagh jail on March 8, even though she'll still be on crutches with her right leg

encased from thigh to ankle in a rigid cast.

"This time the campaign will be rough," she says.

"Paisley (the right-wing Protestant leader) is out to match us step by step.

"We heard nothing from the loyalists during the last hunger strike. They were confused and demoralized. They didn't know what to do.

"But Paisley's stunts are aimed at uniting them, giving them some backbone.

"Yes, it's going to be a lot rougher this time around. The campaign will have to be built up again.

"But it can be done. People are not confused about the need for a mass movement to support the hunger strike.

"I think the main feeling about the last one is that the leaders messed it up and that the British went back on their word."

SPIRIT

Bernadette, incredibly, still has her fantastic spirit. She joked with me even as she lay in the security ward of the hospital before being released.

She's tempted, she says, to send a note to Andy Tyrie, the Ulster Defense Association "commander supreme": "Come on Tyrie, you've started this, haven't you got the guts to finish it."

Bernadette sends her thanks to all her comrades and supporters for all the cards and messages she received.

She says she liked the humorous ones best. She says she will keep them all but not for the record, and not out of sentiment either.

"In a couple of weeks they'll all be getting a mailing from me asking them to support this campaign."

Her message to us: "Get out and do a bit of work!" □

Defeat at Sandersons

LAUREL, MS—The two year old poultry workers' strike at Sanderson Farms, in Laurel, Mississippi has ended.

On February 8th, on the recommendation of Frank Martino, the president of the International Chemical Workers Union (ICWU), the strikers voted to end their strike and to go back to work.

The strike, which has been long and bitterly fought, ended in a defeat for the 208 strikers, most of them Black women.

The defeat is not in any way the fault of the strikers, but of the International which not only advised the strikers to go back to work, but which for the

past year, did little to publicize the strike, or to encourage other unions in the area to help with picketing.

After a halfhearted attempt to launch a nationwide boycott of Miss Goldie chickens, the leadership of the ICWU called that off as well.

BARGAIN

Even though a judge ruled on February 23rd that Sanderson had to rehire the strikers, only 11 of them are now working in the plant.

And, according to Gloria Jordan, vice-president of ICWU Local 882, while Sanderson was ordered by the

judge to bargain in with the union in good faith, she expects Sanderson to file for a decertification of the union in a short period of time.

The 225 workers in Sanderson Farms are now working without a contract, earning as little as \$3.75 an hour.

Jordan and other strikers in the plant believe their job is to up the former scabs into the ICWU before a motion for decertification is filed.

Sanderson has not rehired Jordan, the leading spokesperson for the strike. But she vows she'll be in front of the plant every day trying to sign up more people into the union. □

ATLANTA: STOP THE TERROR

**Socialist
Worker**

WHAT WE THINK

Corretta Scott King and other Black leaders have called for nationwide Moratorium on Murder demonstrations March 15.

"In 1966 Martin Luther King Jr., led a March Against Fear in Mississippi to challenge terror against Black people at the polls," said Ms. King. "Today we are announcing a campaign which is very much in this tradition."

The demonstrations are planned to "challenge terror-

ism directed against Black youth in Atlanta."

The number of Black Children murdered and missing rose to 21 in February.

CLUES

Everyday the terror and fear increases in the city. Still the police and the authorities say they have no clues.

There has been a lot of speculation about who or what is behind these killings.

But much of this is simply a

diversion, an attempt to divert attention from the fact that all the forces of "law and order" in this country—from the F.B.I. to the state and local police—are not able to stop people from murdering children.

It is also an attempt to divert attention from the fact that there has been a nationwide wave of racist killings—from Buffalo to Salt Lake City. And a rise of the Klan, with reports of attacks on Blacks and burning crosses coming

now from every part in the country.

We must support these marches—and every attempt to stop the killing of children in Atlanta. But we must also support and take every attempt to defend the Black community in this country—by any means necessary including self-defense.

There is no alternative—not in a country which allows an outrage like that in Atlanta.



HARRISBURG, MARCH 28: STOP NUCLEAR POWER!

Reagan has now begun a new drive to increase the production of nuclear power.

And Joseph M. Hendrie, the man dismissed more than a year ago because of his handling of the Three Mile Island catastrophe, has been renamed head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission already wants to reopen Three Mile Island.

And they will go ahead, it seems, no matter what the dangers.

They must be stopped.

We urge all *Socialist Worker* readers to build for the March for Safe Energy called for Harrisburg on March 28.

The march has been called by a coalition of hundreds of groups and is endorsed by several major unions including the United Mine Workers, the International Association of Machinists, the United Auto Workers and the International Longshoreman's Union.

March 28. Harrisburg. Be there! □



CINCINNATI, OH—On February 28, 400 marched in the rain in a West End community to protest the killing of Black children—and stand in solidarity with Atlanta's Black community.

They were joined by another 400 at a local church to hear Mrs. Camille Bell, a mother of one of the murdered Atlanta children.

She told the mostly Black audience, "I'm here to tell you why Cincinnati needs to wake up. There are over 50,000 missing children in this country, Black and white. Get your act together. They are killing our children."

She told the audience: "Black people are the conscience of America. When we're quiet, bad things happen."

The march and rally were organized by the Ohio Black Women's Leadership Caucus and supported by numerous Black churches and groups.

In making their call for this demonstration the Caucus correctly labelled the killing of Blacks across this nation as "an attempt to intimidate the Black community into giving up the gains that we have made." □

Remember Vietnam! Hands off El Salvador!

Ronald Reagan says he will not turn El Salvador into "another Vietnam."

By that he means he will "win" in El Salvador. He will maintain control in the tiny Central American country—by whatever means necessary.

So the Pentagon and the State Department are busy producing documents about "communist aggression" and Senator Jessie Helms is advising that the "reds" may soon be in California.

"ADVISORS"

More American "advisors" are to be sent to El Salvador. New assistance includes \$25 million for helicopters, trucks,

radar gear and small arms.

There is a possibility of an aircraft carrier being sent off the Salvadorean coast.

No wonder the talk of Vietnam is everywhere—this is exactly how the United States got involved in Vietnam, step by step, all in the name of stopping the "communist conspiracy."

There are differences, of course. El Salvador is much smaller and nearer—thus greatly strengthening Reagan's hand. The Russians

recognize it to be in the American "sphere of influence" and are unlikely to get involved, even through Cuba.

And there is another difference. What Reagan really wants is a quick victory—the chance to show the world that he is tough, powerful, ready to intervene anywhere.

In his mind—and in the minds of those in the war rooms of the Pentagon—El Salvador is mainly a pawn. Reagan, Haig, Kissinger, etc.,

are in reality far more concerned with the much higher stakes still found in the Middle East and Africa.

So the killing will continue in El Salvador, where 13,000 have already died, the overwhelming majority poor peasants.

And it will escalate, for the right-wing terror squads and the ruling oligarchy's "security forces" will now have unlimited arms and money.

REBELS

But there is still the chance that Reagan may have miscalculated. The rebels in El Salvador have already shown that they can carry on their struggle in the face of incredible odds.

And Vietnam is in fact not forgotten.

Millions remember and that is our best hope. We must turn those millions into a movement that can get the United States out of El Salvador—and stop the next war.

No more Vietnams! Hands off El Salvador! □

FIGHTING WORDS

The 8th of March 1917 was International Woman's Day. The social-democratic circles had intended to mark this day in a general manner: by meetings, speeches, leaflets. It had not occurred to anyone that it might become the first day of the revolution . . .

Thus the fact is that the February revolution was begun from below, overcoming the resistance of its own revolutionary organizations, the initiative being taken of their own accord by the most oppressed and downtrodden part of the proletariat—the women textile workers, among them no doubt many soldiers' wives. The overgrown bread-lines had provided the last stimulus. About 90,000 workers, men and women, were on strike that day.

—Leon Trotsky,
The History of the Russian Revolution

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Militant tactics needed in Cornwell strike

by CATHY CENTOFANTI

MOGADORE, OH—The strike at Cornwell Tools here, will be a year old in May, but still the U.A.W. refuses to support its seventy members in this Akron suburb.

Region 2 director, Bill Casstevens visited the strikers on

March 2, but brought no good news.

When strikers asked why the union couldn't get their strike some publicity and why there was so little support coming from Detroit, Casstevens hummed and hawed and

said perhaps a "boycott Cornwell" ad could be put in the union magazine *Solidarity*.

But that, to say the least, will be of little help. One union member has already crossed the picket lines, answering Cornwell's offer to rehire

strikers.

Others are demoralized. Cornwell has a full shift of scabs working, and will hold a decertification election in May. Why is the U.A.W. letting this union die?

There are tens of thousands

of unemployed U.A.W. members in Northeastern Ohio. Why can't they be mobilized to help the Cornwell strikers?

Militant tactics helped win the first union contract at Cornwell. They are now needed to save the union. □

THE POLITICS OF BLACK LIBERATION IN AMERICA

Black women and the women's liberation movement

The relationship between Black women, Black liberation and the women's liberation movement is a controversial subject among Blacks.

It is the purpose of this article to attempt to resolve the question of whether the women's liberation movement and the Black liberation movement are simultaneously important to Black women.

There are similarities between the two struggles.

In the first place, racism and sexism both foster discrimination on the basis of physical characteristics.

EXPERIENCE

Also many experiences of Blacks and women are alike—Blacks and women are both denied training and employment in certain fields.

They are pigeon-holed in low-paying jobs that are also unfulfilling.

They are called irresponsible.

Blacks and women are referred to as being perpetually childish.

And Blacks and women often aid in their own exploitation—for Blacks there is a color line within a color line. Women themselves believe that they are incomplete without a deep relationship with a man.

But there are also arguments against women's liberation as compared with Black liberation.

One is that the oppression of women depends on the way one interprets history while racial oppression is rooted in fact.

This belief was supported by Frederick Douglass: "When women because they

are women are dragged from their homes and hung on lampposts, when their children are torn from their arms . . . then they will have the urgency to obtain the ballot equal to the Black man."

PEDESTALS

Other arguments against Black liberation include the idea that Black women have always been "free"—they have not been coddled as white women have.

And white women are only protesting the pedestal that they have been put on, while Black women have been used sexually and economically to keep white women on that pedestal.

Also it is argued that white women have aided in the oppression of Black women. Many white women have maids and servants whom they have abused and underpaid.

Women's liberation, some say, will drive a wedge between Black men and women, especially as Black men have not been allowed to be men.

While the above argument about Black women and the women's liberation movement may contain a grain of truth, it should be recognized that class relationships shape male-female-Black-white relationships in America.

The capitalist class, being in the main white, uses both Blacks and women for its own economic purposes, and then justifies this with the various racist and sexist schools of thought.

Women of the capitalist

ANALYSIS BY JOYCE WILLIAMS

class are considered weak, emotional and unintelligent beings fit only for procreation, yet the majority of women, Black and white, have always been used not only to reproduce the working class, but in the factories and fields, and offices and homes.

From this we can see that

both whites and Blacks are used to satiate the appetites of one group—the ruling class. And in light of this it must be said that oppression is oppression, whatever its form.

Therefore there is a link between Black women and women's liberation struggles

for they have the same oppressor.

And, as Robert Staples, the Black sociologist has written, "To seek a return to a system of unchecked male supremacy for Black people runs counter to the trends of equalization of sex roles in American society."

"Blacks who advocate a reinstatement of the subordinate role of Black women seem to have unwittingly accepted the myth that Black men have been castrated by white society and that Black women collaborated in their emasculation.

"Such an assumption only serves to create sex role antagonisms in the Black community that will pit Black women and men against each other, thus furthering the cause of white racism.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand, is an axiom that Blacks have yet to learn."

Sojourner Truth, the Black freedom fighter of one hundred years ago, spoke up for Black women on this same argument when she answered Frederick Douglass:

"There is a great stir about colored men getting their rights and not a word about colored women theirs.

"You see the colored man will be master over the woman and it will be as bad as it was before.

"So I am for keeping things going while they are stirring, because if we wait until it is still, it will be a great deal of time to get it going again . . .

"I have been forty years a slave and forty years free and would have forty years more to have equal rights for all." □



RALLY FOR GAY RIGHTS

by BILL ROBERTS

On February 22, 100 people rallied in downtown Cincinnati to support radio station WAIF and announcer John Zeh.

WAIF is the local 'peoples' radio station and Zeh is the host of the program "Gay Dreams."

Last week Zeh was indicted on a felony charge of disseminating material harmful to juveniles. He was charged for reading a passage on sexual lubricants.

The station management has already disciplined Zeh for what it describes as an indiscretion on his part.

The main point, however, is not the content of Zeh's "offense" but whether the local prosecutors can get away with dictating program content, and punishing someone for a minority view and lifestyle.

STANDARDS

Simon Leis, the prosecutor, is best known for his attacks on porn-publisher, Larry Flynt. Leis has set himself the task of determining what is the proper standards for the community of Hamilton County, and is out to enforce the standards no matter who's rights he tramples on.

Leis was one of those Reagan considered for Attorney General.

The assistant prosecutor on the case is former air force lieutenant colonel James Applegate. He was the prosecutor in the trial of former Air Force sergeant Leonard Matlovich—tried by the air force after he declared his homosexuality.

Gays are favorite targets for "moral majority" types.

This case was brought to the grand jury on the testimony of Joseph Platt, who just happened to record the January 3 program, even after the disclaimer calling for parental discretion.

Platt claims: "My kids were listening to the station and they left one of their recorders on."

During the elections Platt worked two nights a week for the Reagan team.

Platt's complaints to fellow Republicans and county prosecutor, Leis, were enough for the grand jury hearing.

BEGINNING

Margie Robertson, Cincinnati director of ACLU, speaking at the rally, said: "This is only the beginning of a tyranny against public expression of views different from those in power. We can not let this case go down in favor of the state."

John Zeh emphasized the importance of this issue in its wider implications and sees this as part of the general atmosphere of repression. Zeh has been asked to move from his apartment because of the charge. □

DON'T COMMEMORATE, DEMONSTRATE!

SUPPORT MARGE MARECK

by NEIL SMITH

BALTIMORE, MD—While administrators and faculty commemorated Johns Hopkins University's 105th birthday, students demonstrated over its history of worker exploitation.

The immediate reason for the demonstration—which attracted over 80 students in pouring rain—was the unfair dismissal of Marge Mareck, a secretary.

She worked on the Eisenhower project which is publishing the presidential papers of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"I've worked there for ten years with an excellent record," she said. "And by last May was earning only

\$10,800. I asked for a \$500 raise." Her boss, a history professor, Mr. Galambos, refused. She persisted and was threatened with termination.

ACTION

"I hadn't done anything wrong. All I wanted was a decent wage," says Mareck. "Instead I was harassed continually, and then finally fired on January 20th. Galambos just went out and built a false case against me, saying I was suddenly incompetent after ten years.

"I had no recourse. I filed a grievance procedure with the personnel office, but the Friday before I was fired the



personnel director was down in Galambos' office agreeing to back him up with my firing.

"That's not a grievance procedure. It's a conspiracy against employees."

Hopkins secretaries have no union. A mainly student support committee was formed to help Marge fight her case and to push for an adequate grievance procedure for Hopkins employees and students.

"The student support has been great," says Marge, "but secretaries shouldn't have to rely on students. They should be organized themselves. It's not just my job. It's the treatment of all secretaries here." □

And it's not just unfair dismissal either. A recent survey by the Johns Hopkins Employees Association showed that 50% of secretaries had suffered sexual harassment.

ORGANIZE

According to Mareck: "The university always says we're one big happy family and don't need grievance committees. But that's not true. They won't deal with us honestly as individual workers. The only way we can begin to force a change is for secretaries themselves to organize." □

New threats to abortion rights in Washington state

by MARY DEATON

SEATTLE, WA—Washington state anti-abortionists are feeling their oats now that Republicans control both houses of the state legislature and the new found confidence has resulted in numerous bills to deny women their right to abortion.

The Seattle Reproductive Rights Alliance, a four-month old affiliate of the Reproductive Rights National Network, has responded with a petition campaign demanding continuation of full state funding for abortion and an end to all welfare cuts in the state budget.

In two hours of signature

gathering in downtown Seattle January 31, 1,600 signatures were put on petitions.

The petitioning began and ended at rallies, with speakers detailing the gruesome details of proposed budget cuts that would gut welfare programs, end child-care subsidies, close the once "open-doors" of the state's community colleges and add greater weight to the burden of inflation and unemployment already crushing the state's poor.

Petitioning will continue until March 27. A public announcement of the results will be made at a picket of

the Washington Human Life Convention which congressman Henry Hyde will keynote.

Legislative committees are also considering two other bills to restrict women's rights to abortion. One requires all abortions which "may" result in the live birth of the fetus to have a second physician in attendance or be performed in a hospital.

VAGUE

The language is so vague it is impossible to determine what length of gestation would be considered liable for coverage under the act.

None of the hospitals currently doing late abortions have any record of such births occurring in Washington. Neither does the national Center for Disease Control have record of such births since 1973.

The clear intent of the bill is to intimidate doctors and hospitals into giving up all late abortions rather than face the possible legal hassles.

Even if hospitals did perform such procedures, the additional expense of a second doctor and special equipment would raise the cost beyond most women's means.

A second bill requires doc-

tors to give detailed descriptions of fetal development and anatomical features of the fetus before getting a woman to sign a consent form.

She must also be told irrelevant details about the physical and psychological traits of what even the Supreme Court has called a "minor operation."

Several regulations already in place are totally adequate to protect the health of women seeking abortions or the rare fetus which is born alive from saline or prostaglandin abortion.

Washington, in fact, has one of the best records in the country for safe abortions. Over 95% of all Washington abortions are performed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The bulk of the remaining five per cent are under 20 weeks.

CONCENTRATE

Besides abortion, the Alliance will concentrate on researching and publicizing incidences of sterilization abuse, especially among Native American women, and other activities supporting and defending the right of women to control their own bodies.

For more information about SRRA, write to 915 E. Pine, Room 426, Seattle, WA 98122 or phone (206) 324-2051. □

HECKLE HYDE!

HECKLE HENRY HYDE

March 27, Bellevue Holiday Inn
Sponsored by the Seattle Reproductive Rights Alliance and numerous other groups. For details, phone (206) 324-2051 or (206) 725-5134

Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

Gross and evil . . .

Ernest LeFever, named assistant secretary of state for human rights, thinks that some activist priests and nuns have "overstepped their bounds" of religious freedom by becoming involved in Latin American political struggles.

He objects to religion being "used as a garb for cloaking political activities" (except Jerry Falwell, of course).

In general, he says, church groups should only condemn "gross evils" like the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. □

Promises, promises . . .

The tab for each of Reagan's weekend jaunts to his California ranch? \$200,000.00

And he's worried about spending cuts?

Reagan also promised no government money would be spent on the inauguration—but 1,120 marines soldiers and sailors acted as chauffeurs and aides, at taxpayer cost of \$1.8 million. □

New rules . . .

New rules at the White House have been announced: no blue jeans, no slacks for women, and men must wear coats and ties.

Secretaries may not be on a first name basis with "superiors" and must call them "mister."

Styrofoam cups are out, to be replaced by china.

Clerical workers are banned from eating at their desks. □

Working class . . .

The Postal Workers Union gave a dinner party aboard an elegant yacht at the AFL-CIO's Florida convention.

About 30 guests dined on steak and seafood while the craft cruised.

The union says the bash was paid for by its outside PR man, Robert Armao, who also represented Iran's late Shah. □

A trend to reverse . . .

Strike-caused idleness in January remained at December's 0.03% of time worked. It was the lowest rate for any January since 1945—during World War II—the Labor Department reported.

The Department said 253 strikes began in January, bringing the month's total to 297, compared with 66 strikes begun in December and a total of 247.

In January 1980, 304 strikes began, bringing the month's total to 576.

THE NOT SO MORAL MAJORITY

The Rev. Gerald Gordon, pastor of Kent Corners Congregational Church East Providence, R.I., is chaplain of the Moral Majority of Rhode Island.

He is also an absentee landlord, and in February was forced to appear in District Court as a housing code violator.

Richard Riendeau, lawyer for Providence's Code Enforcement Division, said that Mr. Gordon was cited on December 3, by city inspectors for failing to furnish heat and

water for a 78-year-old woman tenant who lives in a building he owns on Smith Hill.

District Court Chief Judge Henry E. Laliberte issued a restraining order against Mr. Gordon, barring him from violating the housing code. The effect of the order was to require the landlord to restore heat and water to the apartment of Grace Manzilli of 86 Jewett Street.

The Code Enforcement Division decided to ask Laliberte to act in the case on the ground that the violations

represented a "life-threatening situation."

The decision came after code enforcement officials met with members of the Coalition for Consumer Justice (CCJ), who have been pressing city officials to seek restraining orders to bar landlords from violating the city's housing code.

The fact that the Code Enforcement Division sought and obtained the restraining order represents "an important precedent," says CCJ member Antonetta Leonard.

"It can be used to avoid the

recurrence of such cases as 96 Jewett Street where a 61-year-old tenant was frozen out of her home on Christmas Eve in sub-zero weather," she said.

Mr. Gordon is also head of an organization called Fathers United for Equal Justice, a group that advises husbands of their rights in divorce proceedings.

And Mr. Gordon also owns the property at 96 Jewett Street.

Rev. Gordon could not be reached for comment. □

by Nanci Maclean

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

"Socialism also means the simple right of human beings to physical survival."

It's obvious that the Reagan Administration's economic proposals represent a blatant attack on poor and working people. Among the most obscene of these proposals is a \$1.8 billion cut in the food stamp program—18%—and another \$4 billion reduction—25%—in meals and milk for school children.

There is no question that these cuts will result in suffering, in daily hunger, in long-term malnutrition. Resistance to disease will be lowered, and rates of infant mortality, maternal mortality, and birth defects will increase.

DAMAGE

This damage will not just be evidenced in newspaper statistics or general, impersonal trends. It will happen to real human beings, especially children, women, and old people.

The food stamp program has never fully met the needs of the poor, of course. In food stamp centers all over the country, people sit for hours waiting to apply for the stamps.

Each applicant is required to fill out a 19-page form and present check stubs, bank statements, rent receipts, and utility bills to prove that they are poor enough to need food.

In this great land of plenty,

by
DEBORAH
ROBERTS

the nation Ronald Reagan calls "the last, best hope of man on earth," 22 million people—1 in 10 of us—meet the very stringent requirements. And many more need food stamps than have ever received them.

Right-wingers have long been outraged that the government provides funds so that poor children, mothers, unemployed, disabled, and old people—sometimes even strikers—need not starve.

Interestingly, the program was not really begun to help the poor so much as to increase demand for farm products—a kind of welfare program for agribusiness.

But many people have benefited. They have not eaten well, but those who got food stamps at least did not starve.

Reagan said on February 18 that no "truly deserving needy" will be hurt by his proposals, that the reduction in the food stamp budget will be accomplished by "eliminating those who are not truly eligible or are abusing the program."



Three quarters of all food stamp recipients are children, old people or single parents

The average monthly income of families who receive food stamps is \$325, well below the poverty level. Three-quarters of all recipients are children, old people, or single parents who lead households.

And the maximum allotment for a family of four earning \$400 a month is \$113 worth of food stamps, or about 35¢ per person per meal.

Even *Newsweek* magazine, hardly a radical publication, argues in its February 16 issue that the overwhelming majority of food stamp recipients are very poor indeed.

But economic advisor David Stockman wrings his hands about "double-dipping," by which he means the outrageous greed and gluttony of children who receive free school lunches and food-stamps. His goal is to impose restrictions that will altogether eliminate 2-3 million people from the program altogether.

As part of his plan, Stockman wants to return to the system as it operated before

1975, when all recipients had to pay for their stamps. For example, to get \$100 worth of stamps at the beginning of the month, an eligible family had to pay \$46.

He knows this part of the plan will indeed save money, because many poor people cannot get enough cash together at one time to buy the stamps. They will simply go hungry, and the government can use the money that would have fed them to build neutron bombs and send napalm to El Salvador.

While liberal Democrats in Congress lament the proposed cuts, they have moved steadily to the right in the past years and are in large part responsible for the program's weakness.

Large numbers of people who would have been eligible for food assistance in 1972 are today ineligible because of more and more stringent requirements imposed during Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations.

BASIC

The attack on the food stamp program is so basic, so primitive, that it's hard to find words for a response. Surely rich men who've never missed a meal in their lives should not be allowed to grab food from hungry children. Surely in the richest country in the world, money that could feed people ought not be spent for arms.

Karl Marx once said that the advent of socialism will mean "the beginning of real human history." Many socialists—myself included—like to point to socialism as a system that will make possible "the full flowering of the human personality."

Today we are all reminded that socialism also means the simple right of human beings to food, to physical survival, to good health, and to control of the resources that can guarantee the full and abundant lives which human beings deserve. □



El Salvador: the rebel offensives

by NEIL SEALEY

In January the Farabundo Marti Front for the National Liberation (FMLN) announced its "final offensive" against the rightist government of El Salvador.

During the week or so after the announcement, the FMLN scored some key victories, most notably the occupation of several provincial capitals (among them Santa Ana, the second largest city in El Salvador) and several attacks on government garrisons in San Salvador.

DEMONSTRATE

Though the guerillas eventually retreated, they demonstrated to the armed forces and the U.S. that they could conduct a well coordinated military campaign with relatively inexperienced personnel—many who participated were recent recruits who had not been seasoned in battle.

The general strike called for January 13th, however, was not entirely successful. Most sources estimate that it was 50% to 60% effective in San Salvador and 80% to 100% effective in the countryside.

The major reason for the partial success was the government's stepped up repression during the offensive.

Many of the workers who did take part in the strike were arrested or found murdered in the streets.

Some factories were occupied by soldiers. Buses in the capital were kept running by the military.

The curfew from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. in San Salvador has given the government free reign to kill anyone on the streets and to kidnap civilians from their homes without the complication of witnesses.

The outcome of the January offensive has been the consolidation of guerilla control over large areas in several provinces along the border with Honduras and control over the countryside at night.

Since January, some of the government's soldiers have defected over to the FMLN. Mutinies and desertions have not been uncommon.

LULL

Though there are continued confrontations between the military and the FMLN, there is now a lull in the fighting.

In upcoming weeks, the Front will probably launch phase two of its "final offensive."

Meanwhile, the Democratic Revolutionary Front, the political expression of the forces for liberation, has continued its diplomatic offensive.

It is now known that officials in the Carter administration conducted secret talks with the FDR in an attempt to drive a wedge between the "moderate" and "radical" factions of the FDR.



A funeral procession

Carter's hopes were dashed, however, by the Front's refusal to compromise.

At any rate, Reagan put an end to any future negotiations with the Front and has reaffirmed U.S. support for the terrorist government of El Salvador.

One of Carter's final acts before he faded into oblivion was to grant the junta \$10 million in lethal military aid.

With lightning speed, Reagan tacked on over \$12 million in "economic" aid and suspended aid to Nicaragua.

On February 2nd, it was revealed that Ambassador Robert White was dismissed from his post and replaced by Frederic Chapin, former ambassador to Ethiopia and former assistant deputy secretary for inter-American affairs at the Defense Department.

Chapin had been involved in the preparation of plans for a larger military aid program for El Salvador.

White was considered to be a spokesman for "human rights" in El Salvador.

CHIEF

Actually, he was one of the chief defenders of the junta and played an essential role in covering up the government's violence and brutality.

Yet his dismissal does reflect a shift in U.S. foreign policy—one towards an uncompromising stance vis a vis the U.S.S.R. and libera-

tion movements in the less developed countries.

Recently the Reagan administration launched a diplomatic campaign to garner support for U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

Officials from Washington are trying to convince leaders in Europe and Latin America that Cuba and the Soviet Union are the main instigators of violence in Central America.

According to the *New York Times*, not even the CIA finds such a story the least bi-credible.

It is clear that the present government in El Salvador owes its continued existence to Uncle Sam and his allies.

Politically, it is isolated both at home and in an increasing number of the world's nations.

Economically, the country is in shambles. Over the last two years, approximately \$1.5 billion in capital has left the country.

The import/export trade is at a standstill. More than 100 factories have shut down completely. All government ministries and state agencies are non-functional, except those involved in the repression.

All major schools at all levels have been closed.

It is also clear that the overwhelming majority in El Salvador support the FDR. The FMLN has claimed that its ranks have increased significantly over the last few weeks.

The government's repression has only served to increase the Salvadorean people's determination to overthrow the oligarchy and the military.

Recently the Permanent People's Tribunal in Mexico City (descendent of the Bertrand Russel Tribunal of the 1960's) delivered a verdict of guilty to the charges that the junta is committing genocide against the people of El Salvador.

The Tribunal heard testimony after testimony of torture and murder. A frequent method of execution used by the junta is slow decapitation with a machete.

TOLL

The death toll surpassed 13,000. At a rally in support of the FDR at Phoenix, Arizona, Chole Serpas, the aunt of Salvadorean president Jose Napoleon Duarte, read a letter she had written to her nephew.

The following is an excerpt: "The blood spilled in combat will bear fruit.

"The chains will be broken and you can be sure that your alliance with an empire that has no friends, but only interests, will take you to final defeat.

VICTORY

"The Salvadorean people have decided to be free or die. And they will win . . ."

!Hasta La Victoria Final!
To Final Victory! □



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

COMIC OPERA COUP

The comic opera attempt by two hundred civil guard to launch a coup in Spain last month, has been dismissed in the media as the work of a handful of lunatics.

This is true as far as it goes. It ignores the fact that such lunatics run much of the Spanish armed forces, including nearly all of the 80,000 strong, heavily armed, civil guard force.

These forces remain firmly in the hands of the fascist thugs put there by Franco—despite the advent of "democracy" four years ago.

The two civil guard officers who led the siege of the Parliament building also took part in another abortive plot in November, 1978. They were given a mere month's prison sentence and were not even dismissed from the service.

Most of Spain's military would favor a return to dictatorship.

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the failed coup—however farcical the outcome—lies in the fact that one or two officers felt confident that such an audacious action could lead to success.

But the vast majority of Spain's rulers prefer a "democratic" option as the best way of keeping the workers in line—and they can still use most of the repressive machinery established by Franco.

The one place where this hasn't been accepted is in the Basque country, where ETA guerillas have waged a tenacious and bloody war against the state.

The extent of mass support for the struggle is demonstrated by the massive general strike declared, after police tortured to death an ETA member, Jose Arregui.

The suggestion that some of those responsible for Arregui's death might be brought to justice produced a wave of protest and indignation amongst the police.

PURGE

Unfortunately, the Socialist and Communist parties have refused to call for a purge of the armed forces. Their reaction to the coup attempt has simply been to call for calm.

Only the Catalan communists, who are in dispute with the national leadership called for a general strike.

A mass campaign to punish those responsible and thoroughly purge the security forces is only being raised by the revolutionary left. □

In the 1950's, the coal miners and their union were devastated.

The miners fought and won many of the great battles of the 1930's and 1940's. They led the way in organizing the CIO—the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which transformed American labor.

Their greatest triumph, however, became their defeat. John L. Lewis, the legendary dictator of the UMW, led the fight for a health care plan, controlled by the union, but paid for by the companies. It was won, an unparalleled victory in American industry.

MECHANIZATION

But Lewis tied the plan to productivity—the companies paid according to the amount of coal produced. In return, Lewis agreed to place no restrictions whatsoever on mechanization.

The result was 300,000 jobs lost in the coalfields in a decade. Mechanization plus the decline of the industry's traditional markets—home heating fuel and the railroads—meant that Appalachia never recovered from the depression of the thirties.

It became the "other America" of the fifties, the symbol of poverty and suffering amidst prosperity. 1.5 million people were forced to leave their homes in the fifties—to move from their mountains and hollows to the Appalachian slums north of the Ohio river.

In one Kentucky county it was estimated that 80% of all high school students left the state on graduating—mostly for factory jobs and unemployment in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and Cincinnati.

The vaults of the UMW's bank, the Washington National Bank, and the pension health funds grew, but the union languished.

The UMW was all but driven out of Eastern Kentucky—a legacy which to this

THE RANK AND FILE

day is the Achilles heel of the union in the East.

John L. Lewis and his hand-picked successors, first Thomas Kennedy and then, in 1963, Tony Boyle, prospered in Washington, D.C.—Cadillac-driving union bosses far removed from the members who paid their salaries.

CORRUPTION

Anyone who complained was silenced or driven from the union, and the white-hatted "organizers" (goons) maintained order at UMW conventions, becoming synonymous with union corruption.

Several things happened to change this situation. Gradually, in the sixties, the demand for coal increased, and by 1967 and 1968 hundreds of young miners, many of them Vietnam veterans, were entering the mines.

At the same time a spirit of rebellion was building, led primarily by a generation of victims—the disabled, the widows, the miners suffering from black lung.

Three incidents turned this spirit into open rebellion.

First, there was the terrible explosion at Consolidation Coal Company's No. 9 mine in Farmington, W.Va., in November 1968, which buried 78 miners forever.

Explosions, death and disaster—these, of course, are constants for coal miners. More than 100,000 have been killed on the job in this century alone.

But Tony Boyle went to Farmington and appeared on national television with the flames of the explosion still burning behind him.

He took the time to praise Consol's safety record, and say that "as long as we mine coal there is always this inherent danger of explosion." Coal miners listened in disbelief.

Early in 1969 a second event fueled a rank and file rebellion. After decades of denials by coal companies and the medical establishment that the black lung disease even existed, coal miners took matters into their own hands.

On February 18, West Virginia coal miners walked off their jobs and stayed off for 23 days. The strike was a political strike, aimed at the state government and was supported by 95% of West Virginia's coal miners.

They won. For the first time in history, the West Virginia state legislature recognized black lung disease as a compensable occupational disease.

Then, later in the year, Jock Yablonski, a long-time loyalist in the union hierarchy, defected and challenged Boyle for the union's top post.

It was the first serious election in the UMW since the early days of Lewis. Before the year was out, Boyle had won a rigged election, and Yablonski was eliminated as an opponent.

Yablonski, his wife and his daughter were crudely assassinated by killers hired by the union's district in Eastern Kentucky. Boyle himself was later implicated and convicted.

The Miners for Democracy (MFD), a national rank and file reform movement, was organized at Yablonski's funeral.

The dark days of dictatorship in the UMW were coming to an end.

A new generation of militant, young miners, fused with the victims of past generations to lead an unparalleled rank and file rebellion—the first ever to succeed in the UMW.

The government had long ignored the notorious corruption of the UMW, but by 1970 it was increasingly alarmed by what *Fortune* magazine called

A DECADE OF STRIKE

The coal miners have always been Maguires.

Now they face another test. Ten years ago, they were on strike for 1

This year, the companies, backed by the government, are out to win a contract from the Workers of America.

The companies want to turn back the clock. They fought their way out of the depression. They are the fighters in the American working class. Here is a look at the past decade

"anarchy in the coalfields." *Fortune* was referring to the fact that the union could not control its rank and file.

The government ordered new elections, and in 1972 an MFD slate led by Arnold Miller, a partially disabled West Virginia miner, captured 55% of the vote.

Mike Trbovich, a Yablonski supporter, and Harry Patrick, a leader of the 1971 contract strike in defiance of Nixon's wage freeze, joined Miller at the top of the new administration.

The following year rank and file slates won in all the major districts in the union, from Pennsylvania to Illinois.

DEMOCRACY

The high point of the campaign was the 1973 convention in Pittsburgh, the first convention held in the coalfields in a decade.

Rank and file delegates made the UMW democratic, or at least the most democratic major union in the United States. All union positions, from top to bottom, would be elected. The rank and file miners would vote on every national contract.

The officers actually lowered their salaries and promised to move the union's headquarters to the coalfields. The Cadillacs were auctioned off.

The administration pledged to organize the unorganized miners, whose ranks were swelling in the non-union strip mines of Kentucky and in the unorganized mines of the

West, where the companies were opening strip mines 50 foot seams, yielding 75 tons an acre.

The UMW actually won a campaign to unionize the Brookside mine in Hancock County, though it allowed the strike to drag on far too long, leaving the Brookside mine dispirited and other miners weary of entering such a conflict.

But that was the high point for the Miners for Democracy, which, in any case, had already been disbanded. The rank and file leaders no longer supported the rank and file organizations.

NON-UNION

Another bitter strike in Kentucky, this one at Stearns, was lost—and the job organizing the West had never begun. Today, largely because the West is non-union, the UMW mines only 44% of the nation's coal, down from 70% in 1970.

By the 1976 UMW convention in Cincinnati, the administration was isolated and in disarray.

It came to power as a result of the rank and file rebellion, but also as the result of the labor department campaign against Boyle, well as through the efforts of liberal lawyers like Joseph Rauh and Jock Yablonski's son, Skip.

In Washington, the UMW leaders increasingly carried the weight of the whole



THE MINERS: A DECADE OF STRUGGLE

On labor's front lines, right back since the days of the Molly
contract with the coal operators expires on March 27. Three
days, just to hold the companies to a standstill.
by the giant energy monopolies, the courts, and the Reagan
settlement which will, in effect, break the United Mine
decade of struggle, a decade during which coal miners have
of the fifties, and reestablished themselves as the best
what it means for the contract fight of 1981.

REPORT BY CAL WINSLOW

ernment apparatus, and, in-
creasingly, they responded as
bureaucrats. They lobbied,
they went to court, they tried
to find supporters among the
liberal Democrats in Cong-
ress.

They still felt the pressure
of the rank and file miners in
the coalfields, so in practice
they vacillated between the
interests of the membership
on the one hand and the
demands of the state and the
companies on the other.

In the end, however, they
believed in the law, the right
of the government to rule, and
the right of the companies to
exist and make profits from
the labor of the miners.

Inevitably, when the inter-
ests of the rank and file came
into conflict with those of the
state and the companies,
Miller, Trbovich and Patrick
sided with the latter.

They succumbed in Wash-
ington. In a word they became
bureaucrats—no doubt des-
pite their own best intentions.

The rank and file did not
succumb, however, and ulti-
mately the MFD leaders were
destroyed in the ensuing con-
flict.

BATTLE

Why? The struggle in the
coalfields did not end when
democracy in the union was
won. In fact the victory led to
just the opposite—the rank
and file, freed from the yoke
of the bureaucracy, went to
battle.

There was an explosion of
wildcat strikes. In 1975,
80,000 miners struck for the
right to strike on local griev-
ances. In 1976, 120,000 (out of
130,000 total!) miners struck
against injunctions and fines
levied by the federal courts
against wildcat strikers.

In 1977, again in August,
100,000 miners struck, pro-
testing cutbacks in health
benefits.

There were strikes every-
where. In the first six months
of 1977, for example, there
were 1,400 individual wildcat
strikes. They cost the opera-
tors 16.5 million tons of coal.

The rank and file miners
were winning back what had
been lost in the fifties. They
struck on issues ranging from
job assignments to safety.

Over the course of the
decade they forced their
wages up. They forced pro-
ductivity down. The UMW
stood out as a fighting union,
in sharp contrast to the rest of
American labor. Miners went
on strike ten times more often
than any other workers.

The operators and the
government struck back. By
the time the coal miners'
national contract expired in
December 1977, courts were
fining local miners' unions
tens of thousands of dollars in
fines against strikes. Rank and
file leaders were routinely
jailed.

The companies manipulated
the coal market to isolate and
defeat militant miners.

The 1977-78 contract fight
was the culmination. The
miners struck for 111 days.
The operators wanted what
most miners considered to be
a "1930s style contract"—
complete with punitive clauses
for strikes.

The rank and file miners
held out all they could—
against the companies, the
state and local police, the
courts, and the Carter admini-
stration, which invoked Taft-
Hartley.

SABOTAGE

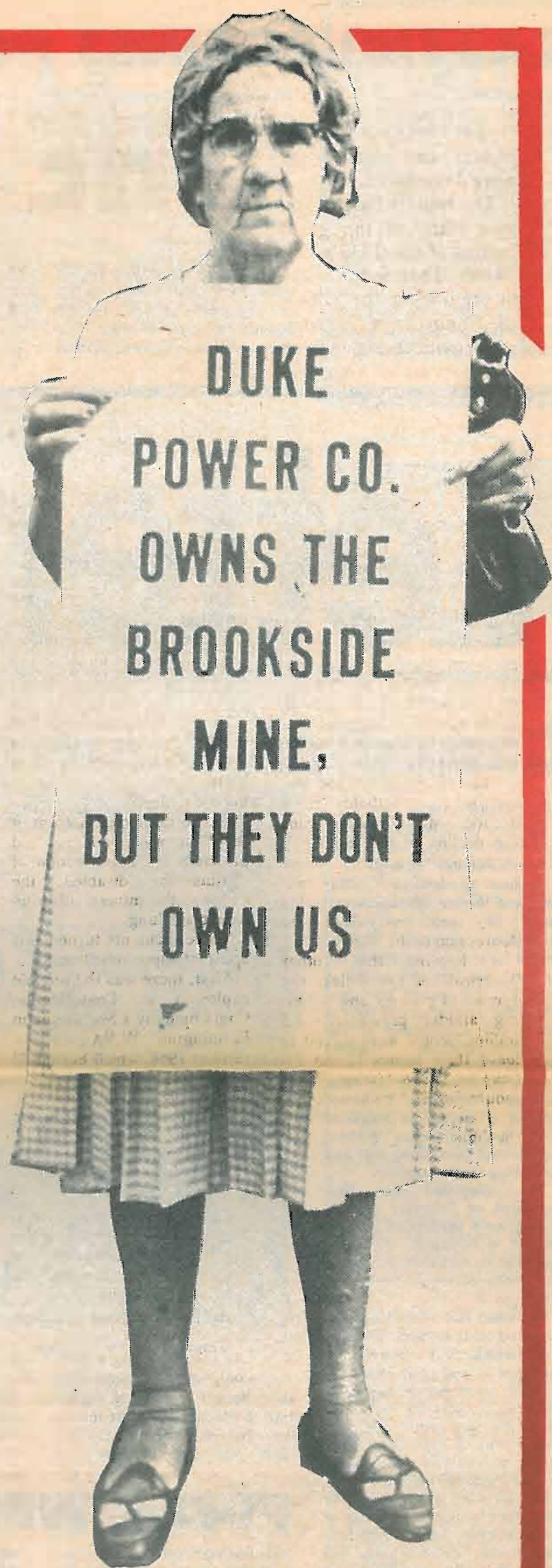
They defied Miller's at-
tempts to sabotage the strike.

The result was a stand-off.
The miners failed to win the
right to strike, but the com-
panies could not win auto-
matic contractual punish-
ments.

The miners' health and
welfare program was dis-
mantled, but other company
demands on productivity and
absenteeism were defeated.

The miners were not de-
feated, but the strike left them
exhausted, and since 1978,
strikes have sunk to a ten year
low. The companies have the
upper hand in the mines, and
30,000 UMW miners are
unemployed.

The national contract ex-
pires on March 27. The com-
panies want the right to insti-
tute continuous production in
the mines—a program which
would be disaster for miners,
turning around their struggle
to shorten the workday, and
improve working conditions
and safety in the mines.



At the same time the
Reagan administration wants
to dismantle black lung
compensation—making the
incredible assertion that 88%
of all black lung claims are
fraudulent.

The companies have stock-
piles. They hope the supplies
in the West will pull them
through. They still believe
they have an ally in the
union's new president, Sam
Church, and no doubt they do.

But the rank and file miners
are tough. They have a tradi-
tion of struggle unlike that in
any other American union.

This year they know the
odds are against them, but
they also know what is at
stake—their union, their fu-
ture, their very lives.

They must overcome impor-
tant weaknesses of their own.

The rank and file is disorgan-
ized, and isolated, district by
district. Anti-communism still
divides miners from militant
workers in other unions and
from supporters outside the
coalfields.

POWER

All the power of capitalism,
including the fabulously
wealthy oil companies, will be
against them.

But they can still win. Not,
however, without a fight on
the scale of the biggest battles
in American labor history.

To win, therefore, they will
have to take a lesson from the
past, and to call on the support
of other workers.

And a lesson from Poland—
"Solidarity". Only solidarity
will win—in the union and in
the working class. □

CASTRO AGAINST POLISH WORKERS

Dear Socialist Worker,

I hope this information is of interest to you and can be used by your paper.

Excerpt from Fidel Castro's Main Report to the Second Congress of the Cuban Communist Party on December 17, 1980 as reported in *Granma Weekly Review*, December 28, 1980, Year 15, No. 52 (page 14, column 4).

"This already tense and dangerous international panorama was further complicated by the explosive situation in Poland.

What happened there was partly a result of imperialism's subversive policy toward the socialist countries and its long-range design to penetrate, destabilize and wipe out socialism in Eastern Europe, thus weakening and isolating the USSR and, if possible, destroying socialism throughout the world.

"Especially in Poland, imperialism is orchestrating a sinister act of provocation directed against the socialist camp. The success the reaction has had there

is eloquent testimony to the fact that a revolutionary Party in power cannot deviate from Marxist-Leninist principles, neglect ideological work and divorce itself from the masses; and, when the time for rectification comes, this should not be done on the basis of concessions to the class enemy inside or outside the country.

"We firmly hope that the Polish Party will be able to save the situation through its own forces—and Polish Communists

are duty-bound to use their own forces and their own efforts to counteract the anti-socialists and counter-revolutionaries—but there is not the slightest question about the socialist camp's right to save a country's integrity and ensure that it survives and resists at all costs imperialism's onslaught."

Samuel Farber,
New York, NY



CAMPUS NEWS

Boston . . .

In the February student elections at the University of Massachusetts, Harbor Campus, a progressive slate representing a coalition of feminists, Blacks and radicals won 20 of 24 seats on the Student Activities committee . . .

They ran on a platform that included no tuition hikes, no military recruitment on campus, and a call for a student-faculty committee to oversee sexual harassment cases . . .

Students also voted to bar military recruitment from the campus. 52% supported a referendum against the military . . .

Kent . . .

Students from Kent supported the rally of striking Ravenna, Ohio teachers on February 21 . . .

They were cheered by the six hundred people at the rally as they marched onto the Portage County Court House lawn . . .

Student activists recall that they have not always been so welcome. The Portage County Courthouse is the place where students were jailed during the anti-war movement . . . and in the struggle against the Kent State Gym . . .

Cleveland . . .

Members of the Case Western Reserve University Anti-Draft Committee picketed military recruiters on February 17 and 18 . . .

Recruiters appeared unannounced in Thwing Hall, the student center, the first such appearance in a decade . . .

Cincinnati . . .

On February 25, a dozen students protested the appearance of Watergate crook G. Gordon Liddy at the University of Cincinnati . . .

Liddy appeared at the invitation of the University Bookstore which is promoting his new book, *Will*.

The students chanted "Don't buy books from Watergate crooks" . . .

Chicago . . .

The Circle Labor Support Committee here at Circle campus of the University of Illinois held a meeting to support the Stewart-Warner strikers . . .

30 people attended, and \$111.00 was raised. Three strikers spoke before the group, and the film "Union Maids" was shown . . .

Letters

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

Canadian workers sit-down

Dear Socialist Worker,

For five exciting days British Columbia Telephone (B.C. Tel) was under workers' control.

Banners proclaiming "Under New and Better Management" could be seen everywhere throughout occupied offices. Except for remote facilities in the far north, workers had control of all 20 B.C. Tel centers. Participation in the occupation was 90% of the 11,000 membership of the Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU).

I was allowed to tour the main building in Vancouver. It was not difficult to sense the surge of power and confidence workers experienced from taking over and controlling their workplace.

The occupation was first motivated on February 4 when management suspended 29 employees in Nanaimo. 150 TWU members immediately occupied. The sentiment was clear—enough is enough.

The union had worked without a contract for 14 months. Workers were continuously exposed to harassment and dehumanizing practices from management. As two station operators said, "If you're just one minute late getting to work or back from break you're reprimanded and it goes on your employment record."

In Vancouver a supply clerk, Lily Wang refused to change a T-shirt she was wearing depicting management as strangling the union. That afternoon, February 5, employees were given their checks as usual but were then told not to return to work. This was a clear notice, from past experience, that a lock-out was to take place. It was the same tactic used by management in the last dispute of 3 years ago. It was then decided to occupy Vancouver. By February 7 a province wide occupation was taking place.

One may question why, if the occupation was so successful, did it only last for five days. One need only look as far as the system of bourgeois "justice." Justice McKenzie of the Supreme Court of British Columbia angrily vowed stiff fines and prison sentences if the occupation continued. He said the occupation was a "great insult to law and order" because it was "a form of anarchy, forced seizure of private property." It is clear by this that our bourgeois justice sees property rights as having a higher priority than those of the rights of workers and unions to fight to protect themselves.



B.C. Tel under new management

Although the occupation was short lived it was highly significant in many ways. Most important, the union membership was highly politicized in a short span

of time. The general sense of pride and power felt throughout the membership will not be erased easily. This was the successful lesson learned from

B.C. Tel.

Stephen Anderson,
Vancouver, British Columbia
I.S. Canada

PUBLIC WORKERS AND TAXES

Dear Socialist Worker,

Thanks for printing the article on Proposition 2½ in Massachusetts by Peter Lowber in the January *Socialist Worker*. Many voters were suckered in by Prop 2½ propaganda without realizing its implications. It means massive layoffs of public workers, cuts in services essential to poor and working people, and fantastic tax breaks for corporations and the rich.

I would like to elaborate on some of the issues mentioned in your article.

1. The cuts and layoffs in the mass transit system are primarily aimed at busting the Carmen's Union. Of course the MBTA management and local politicians are trying to blame everything on "Greedy" workers who are "overpaid and underworked." The facts are that the cost of labor has only increased by 1% during the last ten years, when inflation is taken into account; while the MBTA deficit has increased by 10% during the same period. Membership in the Carmen's Union has shrunk by 500 mem-

bers in the last five years; while the executive payroll has increased from 30 to 300. It is clear that the blame lies with the accusers who have wasted money through bureaucratic mismanagement, graft, corruption and cronyism. Money that should have been used to run the trains and buses.

2. Proposition 2½ is a racist attack. The Mass. Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) called it "a major step backward, a massive retreat and the greatest threat to the civil rights movement since the 1960's." A last hired-first fired layoff policy would in effect kill the already weak affirmative action programs. There are about 89,000 municipal workers throughout the state—only 4.8% or 4,297 are minorities! MCAD predicts a 25% reduction in the workforce would mean 3,222 Black, Hispanic and Asian workers would lose their jobs. This is a 75% reduction, compared with 23% for white workers.

3. The unions have not even begun to organize and effective

fight against Prop. 2½. AFSCME, the largest union of municipal workers, actively worked for the election of Gov. Edward King, despite his known support for Prop. 2½. At best AFSCME turned out "Vote No on Prop 2½" bumperstickers and placed some ads in newspapers.

If past actions are any indication, AFSCME officials will do their best to keep the rank and file passive, will sell-out certain workers, and fall apart when the crunch comes. And later it will be billed as some sort of victory.

This type of deal can only be pulled off if the union members let it. There is a militant tendency running through many AFSCME locals. It is still very small. But it is our only hope in building a real mass action which can win.

As a public worker and union member for over nine years, nothing would please me more than a "Polish solution."

Wayne Standley
Northampton, MA

A PAGE FROM WORKING CLASS HISTORY

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



International Women's Day: 1909-1981

They marched—15,000 strong—demanding an end to sweatshop conditions, the right to organize unions, for day care centers, and for the right to vote.

They were young, mostly under 21, mostly foreign born. Many spoke no English. They were militants, many were revolutionary socialists.

On March 8, 1909, in New York City, 15,000 garment workers proved to the world that women were a powerful force, and that they, the women garment workers of New York, were determined to play a leading role in the fight for unions—as well as in the fight for women's emancipation.

STRENGTH

Their strength arose from the conditions of their own lives—from the unending misery of work in the garment industry.

Most garment workers slaved twelve to sixteen hours a day in tiny, unventilated, poorly lit factories. They were locked into their shops—from the outside.

They had no toilets, no rest breaks. Talking and singing were forbidden. A woman could be fired for laughing.

The pay was so low, most women took more work home. There, after the shopping, the washing, looking after the husband and children, the women worked on into the night.

Sometimes, the children worked as well.

Many women went blind before they were 25. Their eyes were ruined sewing the beads and sequins onto the dresses of the rich.

Since the 1890's garment workers fought, marched, struck for the right to form unions.

The women who organized the 1909 demonstration were members of the women's section of the Socialist Party.

The turnout was far larger than they anticipated. Emboldened by their success, they proclaimed March 8 a holiday—a working women's day, and a working class celebration of women's struggles.

Clara Zetkin, the German revolutionary socialist, learned of the American demonstrations and called on the European socialist move-



ment to do the same—to make March 8 International Women's Day, a socialist celebration on par with May Day.

UNDERSTAND

She argued that the socialist movement did not yet fully understand the importance of women workers, and that International Women's Day would help to convince the men of the importance of women's liberation and of its central place in the fight for socialism.

She also believed that it would make women more aware of themselves—as women, as workers, and as socialists.

The first organized International Women's Day celebrations took place in March, 1911, in France, Germany and Austria. They too were more successful than anticipated.

In Austria, 30,000 women swelled the first rally, according to the Russian feminist, Alexandra Kollontai: "Men stayed at home with the children for a change, and the wives, the captive wives, went to a meeting."

In March 1917, the celebration of International Women's Day helped spark revolution—the Russian revolution.

International Women's Day had been celebrated in Russia in 1913, in rallies and demonstrations organized by the Bolsheviks, the leading revo-

lutionary socialist organization in Russia.

But the Czar banned the celebrations, and no further demonstrations were held until late in the winter of 1917.

Then, on March 8, women textile workers, joined by housewives, took to the streets demanding an end to the war, higher pensions for the wives of soldiers and sailors, and lower prices for bread.

LIVES

They were joined by thousands of other women, weary of waiting in the long lines for bread.

There was rioting, looting, fighting in the streets. The soldiers were brought in to disperse the women. The women would not disperse.

According to Kollontai: "They go up to the cordons more boldly than the men, take hold of the rifles, beseech, almost command—put down your bayonets, join us!"

The Russian revolution had begun, and for the first time in history the possibility of women's emancipation had become a reality.

In the years that followed October, 1917, when the revolution brought the workers to power in Russia, there were hitherto unimaginable changes for women—equality at work, abortions made legal, laws against homosexuality abolished.

There was education for women, and communal restaurants, laundries, nurseries. Social, political and economic equality for women was the immediate goal.

And all this was in Russia, the backward, religious, peasant dominated giant on the fringe of Europe.

The revolution, unfortunately, was shortlived, and by the mid-twenties, women were on the defensive again. The revolution, impoverished and isolated by imperialist invasions, and then the failure of the European revolution, was defeated.

DESTROYED

In the 1930's the women's movement was destroyed, both by the rise of fascism in Germany, and the Stalinist counter-revolution in Russia.

In the working class movements outside Russia, feminism was smothered by Stalinist communist parties, which elevated the miserable, downtrodden mothers of Russia, to heroines to be emulated.

Women's liberation was reborn in the 1960's, following the May, June 1968 rebellion in France, and in the course of the fight against the war in Vietnam. International Women's Day was reestablished.

Today, our numbers are still small, but we have recaptured

our history—and our tradition is very powerful.

This March 8, we should rededicate ourselves to continuing the struggles of the sisters who went before us—and to the struggles to come.

Women today, as much as in 1908, are a force, and an international force. Anna Walentinowicz, the Polish crane operator, helped spark the Polish workers' revolt.

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey was shot because she would not let the cause of Irish freedom die.

Now, here in the United States, the Reagan administration has launched a vicious attack on women—threatening to turn back the clock on all our economic, political and sexual rights.

SYSTEM

Our work is all the more important as a result, and International Women's Day can help us go forward.

It can remind us that there is only one way to achieve women's liberation, and that is to begin now the fight to end forever this system of capitalism which brutalizes, degrades and exploits us, which thrives on war, poverty and racism.

And that means we must educate, organize and build—build a revolutionary movement that fights uncompromisingly for women's liberation and international socialism. □



15,000 marched

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

BLOOMINGTON

Socialism and Human Rights.
March 13, 7:30 p.m. Rapps
Pizza Train.

Nuclear Weaponry. April 3,
7:30 p.m. Rapps Pizza Train.
For more information call 332-
8272.

BOSTON

**Film: "Harlan County:
U.S.A." March 15, 7:30 p.m.**
595 Mass. Ave., Central
Square, Cambridge. For more
information call 282-6711.

CHICAGO

**Glenn Perusek on Imperialism
and National Liberation.**
March 21, 7:30 p.m. For more
information call 248-1572.

CINCINNATI

**Blacks Under Capitalism
Series: John Mason on Mar-
cus Garvey and Black Nationa-
lism.** March 21, 8:00 p.m. 134
Kinsey. For more information
call 871-1371.

KENT

**John Van Raalte on El Salva-
dor.** March 17, 7:30 p.m., 239
E. College Street. For more
information call 678-0633.

PROVIDENCE

Neil Smith on Gentrification.
March 16, 7:30 p.m., Wilson
101. For more information call
521-9247.



International Women's Day is the celebration of past struggles of working women, fighting for liberation.

This year, join us not only to commemorate the past, but to organize for the future.

ISO branches in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Kent and Seattle, are organizing meetings on the weekend of March 7 and 8. There will be films, pot lucks, speeches, songs and parties. □

BERNADETTE DEVLIN MCALISKEY APPEAL

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey and her husband Michael are now out of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

But they still need support. We are continuing our McAliskey fund through the month of April.

Then an ISO member will deliver the donations and any messages of support to the McAliskey's personally.

So far we have received many

contributions, including two \$50 checks from Chicago. ISO members in Northampton, MA have distributed a leaflet asking for support.

And a Progressive Student Alliance conference in Amherst, MA endorsed the appeal.

Please send your contribution to the McAliskey Fund, c/o Socialist Worker, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118. □

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

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

reviews

Cicely Tyson and the Black woman in film



Is Cicely Tyson the exception or the rule?

Hollywood and the media would have us believe she is the exception.

But we as Black women know the opposite is true. In her latest film, Tyson plays Marva Collins, a Black teacher in Chicago, who leaves the public schools and opens an alternative preparatory private school on the West Side of the city.

Because of Marva Collins' progressive and unique teaching techniques, the school becomes highly acclaimed and successful.

TRADITION

In her role as Marva, "Cicely continues the tradition of her 20 year acting career by portraying incredibly strong Black women who are supportive of their men, their people and their own beliefs."

Cicely Tyson, as Rebecca in *Sounder*, was a refreshing breeze from the Black exploitation films of the late sixties and early seventies.

Other roles she played, such as Jane Pittman, Kunte Kinte's mother in *Roots*, abolitionist Harriet Tubman, track star Welma Randolph, and Coretta Scott King, have all been positive images of strong, courageous Black women.

Tyson began her acting career in the early sixties.

"It is by far one of the most difficult professions in the world.

"It's twice as difficult for a black woman. I had no idea how difficult it was going to be. I just stepped over each hurdle as I came to it."

Even though it was hard for a Black person to break in the movies, Ms. Tyson refused to do a movie for six years until *Sounder* came along.

It was her own form of personal protest against the destructive and negative images of Blacks in the movies of the sixties.

"Super nigger" films, pimps, drug dealers and undercover cops.

The Black freedom movement of the sixties, along with the rising African and Asian revolution, became politically explosive facts in American ghettos.

Hollywood, always out to make a buck, as well as being a major defender of western values and the American social order, had John Wayne move over and made room for John Shaft.

Black actors were hired, Black directors employed, Black writers assigned to write scripts. The Black anti-hero was born.

If he wasn't pushing drugs, he was pimping off of Black women and killing other Black people.

And as appalling as these things were for Black men, the roles for Black women in the movies were worse.

REVIEW BY ANITA DOBBINS

The role for what was supposed to be a strong Black woman was the negative "Aunt Jemima" type role.

And the role for what was supposed to be the weak Black woman was also as bad.

As Ms. Tyson said, "I had to make a choice and I decided I couldn't afford the luxury of just being an actress."

"I had some very definite statements to make. It was my way of picketing."

STRUGGLE

Thus she continued the struggle of the great artist and freedom fighter, Paul Robeson, and the pioneer Black actor, Charles Gilpin, who each fought against the racist stereotypes and demeaning roles on the stage and screen.

That is why the role of Rebecca in *Sounder* is so great. It is the kind of dignified and loving portrait of a Black woman seldom seen in film—white or Black, past or present.

Not all of what happened to Blacks in the sixties was bad.

We did make some gains in the movie industry and on television as a result of the Black movement. Before the problem was total omission.

Blacks were simply left out, except for a few performers on variety shows or comedies.

In the sixties Black movies and shows came into their own, but it was because they

were profitable for Hollywood, and most importantly, they were still completely the creations of whites.

They were conceived by whites and executed by whites, even though they were watched by a large number of Blacks.

Until the *Autobiography of Jane Pittman*, rarely had there been a serious portrayal of Blacks.

The tremendous acting abilities of Cicely Tyson, who is undoubtedly one of the best actresses of our time, helped make the TV movie as brilliant as it was. But even this TV film fell short when compared to the fine novel by Ernest Gaines. And with the realities of slavery.

Many important details were omitted and the whole tone of the book was changed for a white audience.

We never see, for example, the terrible beatings the child Jane received from her white master and mistress when she refused to answer to the slave name of Tycey.

SYMBOLIC

This beating, caused by the expression of her identity, resulted in her lifelong infertility and thus has great symbolic value.

But just as white Americans have never accepted the savagery of their history, so this important part was omitted.

And there is another important distortion. In the book, Jane leads a civil rights march. Her victory is also one for the Black community.

On TV she leads the people, but walks alone to the white drinking fountain and faces the white sheriff, who permits her to drink.

We applaud Jane in the movie, but only as an individual. The Black community remains unmobilized and undangerous.

Cicely Tyson is a Black woman who deserves recognition for the gains she made for Black women, as well as the Black race as a whole.

She would not compromise her beliefs. She was the first nationally proclaimed actress to wear an Afro or a cornrow on television. As we approach International Women's Day we should remember the contributions she made.

BASIC

There is still a basic problem, however, and that is that Black movies and Black actors are dependent on whites.

The stories, the ideas, everything from the production to the direction and technical development remains in the hands of whites. Total control.

There will be no real Black movies until Blacks have the control. Hollywood will continue to produce cheap fantasies of Black life, and great Black actresses like Cicely Tyson will have to struggle to achieve a realization of their talents. □



on the picket line

NURSES NEED SUPPORT!

ASHTABULA, OH—The strike of 170 nurses at Ashtabula General hospital, now in its eighth month, continues, despite harassment and intimidation by hospital management.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is investigating an incident where, during the early months of the strike, a nursing supervisor, wearing a ski mask to conceal her identity, was caught throwing tomatoes at strikers!

That supervisor has now returned to Ashtabula General after a period of suspension. Not only is she now scabbing inside the hospital, but she has routinely called striking nurses to intimidate them into returning to work.

THREATS

The hospital administration has refused to negotiate seriously with the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA). It also turned down ONA requests for

both fact-finding and binding arbitration. Instead the hospital has heightened its threats.

Every striking nurse received a registered letter, explaining to them that anyone who does not return to work by midnight, March 8, will be permanently replaced.

After that time, the letter states, any striker who seeks a job at Ashtabula General will lose all seniority and be considered for employment as a starting nurse!

According to striking nurse Tom Wagner, "The nurses are not down, depressed and scared. The hospital couldn't have had better timing—most nurses received the letter the same day we held a fundraising brunch attended by 600 supporters, where we raised \$1,200 for the strike.

"They think that nurses are intimidated and stupid. But it's all just scare tactics.

"If they could have replaced all of us, it would have been



done on the first day of the strike—not eight months into it."

Support the Ashtabula nurses! Send your messages of support and contributions, to Kathy Keller, chairperson, 2190 South Ridge East, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004. □

by SHARON SMITH

Seattle interns demand action

by SCOTT WINSLOW

SEATTLE, WA—Last fall resident doctors at the University of Washington Hospital began an attempt to upgrade their working conditions, and at the same time improve conditions for patients.

Evidence was found which showed that their wages were in the lowest 10% in the nation. Many of their benefits also seemed to be sub-standard.

They found themselves spending an inordinate amount of time on the job. Work weeks of 70-110 hours were not uncommon. Because of their hours and schedules such issues as parking rights and meals became important.

NEGATIVE

The long hours and the accompanied fatigue was not only hard on them but had negative side effects on the patients they were treating.

They became active in an employees association which had been virtually dormant for several years. This voluntary association

has no collective bargaining power, but was seen as a first step towards an organizing drive.

A drive for membership was begun and after diligent work, 85% of the 496 residents, who work at six different hospitals in the Seattle area, signed up.

A structure was established, temporary officers elected and they began discussion of the issues.

One of the first efforts was going to be a petition for increased salaries. However at a meeting several residents spoke out and expressed the feeling that making money the focus would be overly narrow.

Other issues were then raised, including patient care, benefits, the need for an adequate number of residents, sick leave, and the lack of other necessary staff to provide necessary patient care.

In addition, affirmative action was seen as important. The residents are primarily white, unlike a large proportion of the patients they serve. They also advocated child care facilities, and translators for patients with language barriers.

COMMITTEE

A negotiating committee was elected, made up of eight residents. They met with the Dean of Clinical Affairs, Dr. Chase, who loved the opportunity to talk with them, but stressed that he could sign no contracts ensuring that promises made would be kept.

Despite the obviously important and necessary work the residents do, they are often treated as students. Their salaries are called stipends. But this is taxable income, of course.

They are reminded of their future income as doctors and are expected to work through whatever hours and working conditions hospital and university management see fit to provide.

The residents then appealed to the Board of Regents, asking that their concerns be added to the agenda of the Board meeting set for February 13.

The Board refused, stating that three members would be absent from that meeting. The residents were also told they were going through the wrong channels.

The residents went to the meeting anyway, but weren't allowed to speak. They distributed a statement of their intent and desire for bargaining rights.

They received widespread coverage through the two newspapers in town and on television.

Residents have since met with union representatives from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) as one possible option.

The residents are still trying to find some party to negotiate with, be it Dr. Chase, The Board of Regents, or the Higher Education Personnel Board.

They have been put on the agenda for the Board of Regents meeting in March, and have set a deadline of mid-April for the various layers of management to determine the "appropriate channels."

At this point, the residents are contemplating their next move. Interest remains high.

They know what happened in the last organizing attempt, and don't plan on letting stalling or cooption get them this time. As one resident put it, "People are angry and determined to have definitive action this year." □

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

HOW THE U.A.W. USED McCARTHYISM

I, like other leaders of the 1937 Flint sit-down strike were members of either the Socialist or Communist parties. Some of us had been trained in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

We were class conscious workers who believed in the class struggle. We understood there were two classes in society: the working class and the ruling class. We believed that human rights came before property rights.

MILESTONE

It is correct to say that the 1937 GM sit-down strike was an important milestone in the history of the American labor movement.

How were we defeated? What happened to the people who were responsible for such an important victory?

The leaders of the early years of the UAW were purged in the McCarthyism of the fifties.

Walter Reuther brought the poison of Senator McCarthy into the UAW and the CIO. When he couldn't destroy his opposition with redbaiting, the House Un-American Activities Committee came in to do the job. They helped destroy the opposition in Ford Local 600 and Chevrolet Local 659. Local 659 was the last local to fall under his control.

In May 1954, Congressman Kit Clardy came to Flint to attack Local 659 for its tolerant policy toward members of the left. A member of Local 659 writing in the July issue of

the *American Socialist* describes what took place.

"In mid-May, the House Un-American Activities Committee went to town in Flint. Within three days it turned this industrial community into a nest of hate, hysteria and vigilante action. Scores of workers named by the FBI informants were driven from their jobs in four General Motors plants by mobs of irate workers many of them led and abetted by officers of the local unions. Homes of alleged communists were bombarded by stones and pails of paint. Before the hysteria subsided, the General Motors Corporation fired several workers for falsification of their employment records."

NAMES

The *Flint Journal*, sole daily newspaper, printed names, addresses and places of employment of subpoenaed workers as front page news for a week. Pictures of ousted workers with ripped shirts vied with hysterical articles. None too subtle appeals to anti-semitic prejudices were sandwiched in between snide references to "intellectuals" and "New York colonizers."

Equally damaging was the placing of an administratorship over the Chevrolet local union by the UAW International Executive Board on the eve of the hearings. As the Chevrolet local was the main target of the Clardy committee, the administratorship appeared to give union sanction to the witch-hunters.



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

In short order, the labor movement found itself thoroughly embroiled in the red scare. The conservative Buick local leaders besmirched themselves with a headline declaration that they would refuse to defend workers tossed out of the plant.

"The witch-hunters were after the union more than the isolated witnesses. Beatrice Churchill, FBI informant, was repeatedly asked leading questions in an attempt to identify the Chevrolet local union as a hotbed of communist activity.

STUNNED

"Flint labor was stunned when the CIO United Auto Workers International Executive Board announced that it was pressing charges of "anti-union activity" against 14 leading officers of Chevrolet Local 659, including the president, the entire shop committee, and publicity committee. The attack, coming at the time of the Clardy committee hearings in Flint, is similar to Walter Reuther's 1952 assault on Ford Local 600 after hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committees..." □



Ravenna teachers' strike longest in U.S. history



Rally for Ravenna teachers

RAVENNA, OH—Every day now the Ravenna teachers set a record.

Their strike is the longest teachers' strike in U.S. history. The 160 members of the Ravenna Teachers Association (REA) have been on strike since November 12, 1980.

On Saturday, February 15, seventeen members of the REA were jailed for contempt of court.

The Ravenna Board of Education meeting two days later was attended by 400 people—and another 150 who could not get into the room. They stood outside and yelled, "move it to the gym."

Members of fifteen other local unions joined the teachers at the meeting, including members of United Rubber Workers Union, locals 39, 530 and 86. They started a chant, "Free the Teachers, Jail the Board."

It was rumored that the Board would announce that 169 teachers were to be fired, but the meeting lasted only minutes. The cowardly board members left through the back, escorted by police.

Shortly after the Board left,

by **LINDA BYRKET AND MICHAEL KNOWLES**

there was fighting between pro-teacher and pro-board people. Four people were hospitalized as a result.

The next day, February 18, the jailed teachers were released.

The following Saturday, the REA held a strike support rally, which attracted teachers from across Ohio, as well as many local trade unionists. A contingent of Kent State University students joined the rally with a banner—they were greeted with a cheer as they marched into the Portage County court yard.

Speakers at the rally included striking teachers, representatives of the Ohio Education Association, and local rubber workers.

BANKS

Lonny Stacey, the president of URW Local 530 announced that his union and several others would withdraw their funds from local banks—school board members are on the boards of several Ravenna banks.

The Ravenna teachers are also picketing the offices of the Colonial Rubber Company, whose president is on the board.

Pickets have also been sent to Tangiers, a night-club in Akron frequented by board members.

Send messages of support to the Ravenna Education Association, 241 So. Freedom, Ravenna, OH 44266. □

As we go to press, Portage county officials have joined the Ravenna School Board in attempting to break the strike of the Ravenna Education Association.

45 teachers are charged with "rioting" and "obstructing official business" on a picket line outside a Ravenna school on February 9.

The county prosecutor says the new charges, coming almost a month after the alleged incident, have "nothing to do" with the fact that the teachers have refused to give in to the threats of the school board. □

INDIANA MINERS READY TO STRIKE

BOONVILLE, IN—Hoosier miners and their families got \$27 million in federal money in 1979 for black lung benefits. They will stand to lose substantial amounts under the Reagan administration's proposed cuts to black lung victims.

Russel Stilwell, who works in a Peabody mine, says Reagan is not familiar with the real facts about health hazards in the mines. He disputes the General Accounting Office claim that 88% of the black lung claims are phony.

Reagan and the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA) are teaming up to weaken the safety regulations in the mines.

The BCOA is complaining that productivity is two times higher in scab mines, and to raise productivity in the union mines they are willing to risk more accidents.

According to Stilwell, miners in non-union operations have to go anywhere they are told to go, whatever the hazards.

If the BCOA has its way in the current contract negotiations with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), workers in union mines will also have to do work in more hazardous conditions.

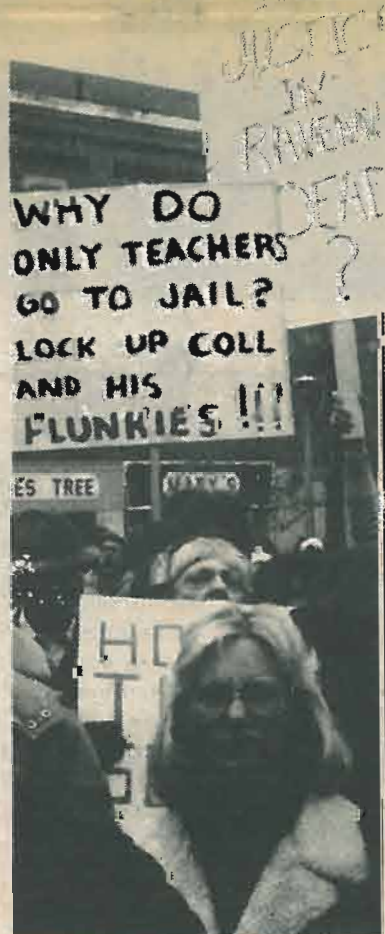
Stilwell says that Indiana miners are ready to strike if they can't get a good contract. The main UMWA demands are uncapped COLA, increases in both the old 1950 and the more recent 1974 pension plans, more money, and a dental plan. Stilwell says the 1978 contract contained "wage increases disguised as COLA." The miners showed in 1978 that they could break the companies. "The big non-union producers," says Stilwell, "are ready to grab the big customers, like the utilities, if the BCOA companies are struck."

PROFITS

Despite the four month stockpile of coal on the ground now, the operators would be badly hurt by a strike. They suffer a loss in their annual profits when they are struck.

"The 1978 strike took the pep out of us," Stilwell said. "But if we have to strike we will. People shouldn't forget the solidarity of miners when we do." □

by **MILTON FISK**



Youngstown teachers defy courts

YOUNGSTOWN, OH—1,020 teachers in this city joined Ohio teachers from Cincinnati and Ravenna on strike in February.

The teachers, members the Youngstown Education Association, maintained their picket lines despite injunctions banning their strike, and contempt of court charges against the union for defying a back to work order.



Join Us

- I want to join
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Name: _____

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

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

STEWART WARNER ON STRIKE

"We walked out because of pride"



On strike for dignity

CHICAGO, IL—"It's a difficult battle. It's hard on our members, but it's hard on the company too.

"We're going to keep it up, until we get what we need."

That's how Steve Cohen, spokesperson for 2,500 members of the United Workers Association-UE Local 1154, summarized the continuing strike against Chicago's Stewart-Warner Corporation.

GENERAL

The strike began on January 24, and is the first general shutdown since the auto parts manufacturer was founded in 1912.

Olga Compean, a calibrator of auto speedometers with five years seniority, explained to *Socialist Worker* some of the conditions inside the Diverse Avenue plant that led to overwhelming support for the walkout.

"My supervisor calls me 369. Hourly production rates are reported.

"If you drop below the rate you are called into the office. If your production stays low you get warning slips and can be fired."

The aim of the strikers is to begin to bring Warner-Stewart wages and benefits up to the level received by unionized workers in other Chicago area industries.

They include a 90¢ across the board wage increase from the current average rate of \$6.33 an hour, COLA, and improvement in holiday, vacation, and medical benefits.

An important part of the strikers' demands is to find a way to end the company's practice of concentrating women in the lowest paying jobs, and paying women less for doing essentially the same work as men.

Of the 1400 women workers at Stewart-Warner, half are concentrated in the bottom three labor grades.

Of the workers in these classifications 90% are women. The lowest grade, paying \$5.30 an hour is 99% women.

Among the workers it's referred to as the "ghetto labor grade."

One example of unequal pay is the classification of women as "light janitors" who receive ten cents an hour less

by BEN BLAKE

than men janitors. The company's excuse is that the women don't shovel snow in the winters!

The company has refused to change its "final offer" of 8% or 46¢ an hour on average with no change in benefits or discriminatory practices.

This offer is 10¢ an hour less than the wage increases negotiated in 1979 and would amount to a 6% plus wage cut due to inflation if accepted by the strikers.

Management argues that Stewart-Warner workers should accept this cut because business and profits are down from record 1979 levels.

The problem with this argument is that top level management should have no problem skidding down the downturn in profits.

For example, Mr. Bennett Archibambault, president and chairman of the board, should have no problem considering he made over \$330,000 salary and benefits in 1979.

Of course, if things really ever get tough he can retire on his \$181,680 a year pension plan.

EXISTENCE

The strikers on the other hand are fighting to stay above poverty level existence.

One striker expressed the spirit of the Stewart-Warner workers in these words: "It's a matter of pride, a matter of living decently.

"No matter what you do, you should expect a decent life. We walked out because of pride."

The Stewart-Warner strikers need your help. The Circle Labor Support Group at the University of Illinois raised \$111.00 for the strikers at a benefit film showing. But they need much more support.

If you live in the Chicago area, attend the International Women's Day benefit for the Stewart-Warner strikers on March 8, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the St. Nicolai United Church of Christ at 3000 Kedzie (admission \$4.00).

If you live outside the Chicago area, send contributions and solidarity messages to: UWA-UE Local 1154, 1901 W. Wellington Ave., Chicago, IL 60657. □

REAGAN AND THE POLES

General Bernard Rogers, NATO and US Supreme Commander in Europe, recently told a press conference in Brussels that he did not believe it would be in the West's best interests for Poland to resist a Russian invasion.

At the same time, the Reagan administration has announced that it will let Poland defer payment on its \$80 million debt to the United States, hoping this will help stabilize Poland's tottering

"communist" government.

But what about Poland's freedom, you ask? And what about Reagan's new anti-communist crusade?

CHORUS

When the Polish workers first rose up in rebellion last summer, there was a chorus of support from every reactionary in this country. But now that the direction of the workers' revolt is clearer, the enthusiasm has diminished.

We would be totally against any American intervention in Poland. That goes without saying. *But* support for the regime in Poland is the real policy in Washington, and it is just one more example of the utter hypocrisy of this nation's rulers.

The banks are quite happy to make money off the "communist" Poles, and the government will do whatever it can to see that they make as much as possible. Freedom has nothing to do with it. □

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