



# Guatemala: the gathering storm

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# Socialist Worker

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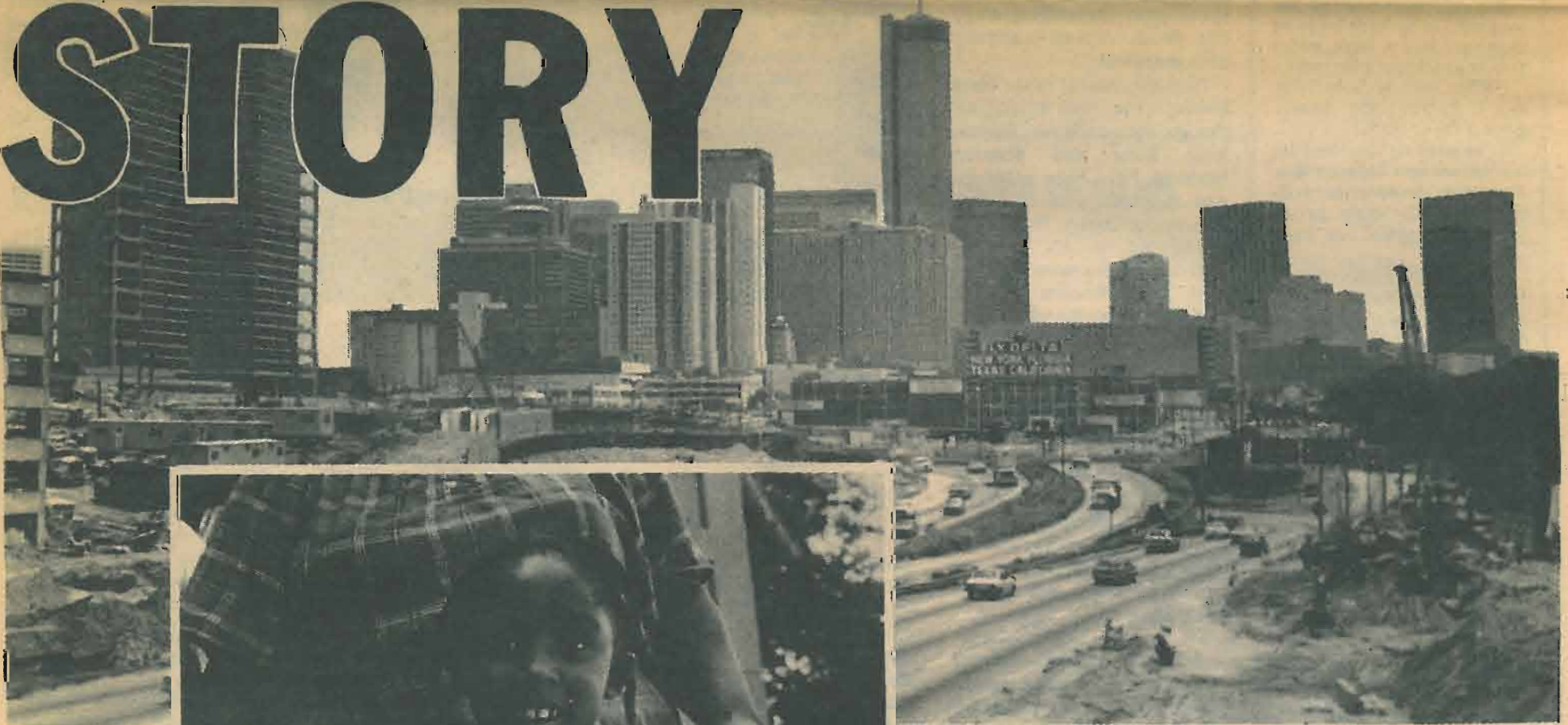
JOHN REED see page 9

JULY 1981



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# THE ATLANTA STORY



THE DREAM OF THE "NEW SOUTH" BECOMES A NIGHTMARE

Above: The Atlanta skyline, left, a Techwood child

In the past two years, twenty-eight young Black people, nearly all children have been murdered in Atlanta, Georgia, the pride of the "new south." Another is missing.

For months, the authorities could find no suspects.

At first they ignored the killings. Then they claimed they were unrelated. They covered up information. They fought with each other. They blamed the victims.

Now they have a suspect, Wayne Williams, a young Black

man, who is charged with murdering the most recent victim and may be charged with other killings as well.

### REASON

Will this end the Atlanta murders? What really was the reason for the long delay in finding a suspect? And what is the cause of the killings?

See pages 6 and 7 of this issue for an on the spot investigation of the Atlanta nightmare. □



**EL SALVADOR  
SUPPORT  
IN SEATTLE**

SEATTLE, WA—On June 20, over 200 trade unionists gathered to hear two representatives from the workers' movement in El Salvador.

Rosa Maria Rivera, the founder of the El Salvador teachers' union, ANDES, and Fernando Beltran from the Federation of Revolutionary Trade Unionists appealed to the group asking for international solidarity with the people of El Salvador.

The meeting was called by the Labor Task Force of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Rivera told the meeting, "We have the same problems, but you have not yet reached the point of chaos as in El Salvador."

"Our national university is now a barracks. 50% of the rural schools are closed.

"There are sixty thousand Salvadorian refugees. 15,000 to 20,000 are dead at the hands of the junta.

"No radio, TV, or lights are allowed after curfew.

"As teachers we saw the social problems of our country through the students.

"ANDES, the only democratic organization of teachers, was on strike for 40 days when other workers took action to support us.

"The government wasn't interested in students who were barefoot, just the bosses and the oligarchy.

**TIME**

"The people of El Salvador are very hurt but have not been conquered. It is time to unite."

Beltran also appealed for support: "In El Salvador to be organized and a labor leader is to be an enemy of the junta.

"When the workers raise salary demands the answer given is jail or death.

"The working class and its leaders are now underground. Employers denounce them to the army. The right to organize and strike has been suspended.

"If the U.S. government is interested in human rights they should worry about the massacre in Atlanta.

"We need to be united to show the employers and the corporations that we have strength, and that tomorrow if they do not relent they shall be as slaves before us.

"The workers are all and a few members of the oligarchy cannot continue to oppress us."

The following Seattle area unions have passed resolutions condemning U.S. intervention in El Salvador and demanding a halt to U.S. aid.

- American Postal Workers Union
- Boilermakers Local 104
- United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1105
- United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1001
- Seattle Teachers Association
- Washington Education Association
- Washington Federation of Teachers
- AFSCME Local 2084
- AFSCME Local 1488
- AFSCME State Convention
- Teamsters Local 763
- Communications Workers of America Local 9195
- Machinists Local 79

by SCOTT WINSLOW

**A VICTORY FOR THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

**Baltimore: Apartheid theatre sent back to South Africa**

BALTIMORE, MD—A coalition of groups and individuals, mostly from Baltimore's Black community, has succeeded in preventing a South African theater group from performing in the city's summer theater festival.

The theater festival was supposed to include the best companies from across the world, as a showcase of culture, but it was clear from the start that the organizers of the festival had a very narrow view of culture.

Groups were invited from Britain, the U.S., Japan, Ireland and elsewhere in Europe, as well as from South Africa and Brazil. And the tickets were expensive.

**DEFINED**

Baltimore City is 58% Black, but Blacks had no say in who came to the festival and no representation in it. Culture was defined from the start as upper middle class and white.

Many Blacks were incensed by this blatant racism, and so before the opening of the festival in June, an anti-apartheid coalition was formed which decided to picket the festival.

Ironically, the only two Blacks performing in the entire festival were in the South African company—the Baxter Theater. The City of Baltimore, the local newspapers and the festival organizers used the presence of these two Blacks to make it seem that the festival was integrated and the South African company anti-apartheid.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Although the two Black players, John Kani and Winston Ntshone, have been jailed for anti-apartheid work in South Africa, the Baxter Theater itself has not.

In order to even come here, John and Winston had to apply for passports where they were listed as "personal ser-

by NEIL SMITH & KATHY OGREN

vants" to the white actors. Blacks in South Africa are not eligible to be actors.

The truth is that John and Winston were being used by the racist South African government to test the waters for further cultural and political contact with the U.S. now that Reagan is in power. But their plan failed.

When John and Winston arrived, saw the picket line outside the theater, and talked

to members of the coalition who explained why we opposed their performing here, they agreed not to perform. With typical insensitivity, festival organizers had scheduled their opening night for June 16th, the 5th anniversary of the Soweto uprising.

**VICTORY**

This was an important victory for the Black community in Baltimore. The City will not soon arrange another festival without seeking the involvement of Baltimore Blacks. But it was a victory in a further sense.

As well as picketing the festival with chants like "Baltimore, Soweto, same struggle same fight," the coalition put on its own week long theater festival with several Black companies from the U.S. and one that is barred from its native South Africa because of its anti-apartheid theater.

The South African government will not miss the significance of this defeat for them. They may have a friend in Ronald Reagan and in Mayor Schafer of Baltimore, but they have a committed enemy in the American Black working class.



Anti-apartheid demonstrators

**Postal workers march for future**

by JOHN TRIPLETT

On June 25, the joint bargaining team of Moe Biller and Vincent Sombrotto called for a national informational picket to protest the Postal Service's unwillingness to negotiate.

Thousands of pickets marched around the main post offices carrying signs saying that they want Bolger to begin talking.

Bolger, the postmaster general, finally came to the bargaining table June 16 after his appeal of an NLRB ruling had been denied.

**DELAY**

Bolger had first attempted to delay negotiations by filing suit with the Labor Board to determine who the collective bargaining unit for the postal workers should be.

It was an attempt to delay negotiations and try to weaken the joint bargaining team of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and the American Postal Workers

Union (APWU). The NLRB refused to hear the case claiming (and rightfully so) that collective bargaining agents had already been determined. Bolger appealed but lost that too.

Bolger's attempt at sabotage has already backfired.

Now the president of the Mailhandlers is mad at him and claims that he would have to get tougher on certain issues (although he still claims he wouldn't call a strike). Even congress is mad at him and legislation to delay the introduction of the 9-digit zip to 1983 or later is under consideration.

Evidently Bolger was trying to squeeze more than the rest of the ruling class was wanting to squeeze at this time.

What this means for the possibility of a strike is hard to say.

Bolger is definitely anti-labor and anti-union and would like to force a confrontation. He has already said he would fire anyone who strikes and would end postal service monopoly in "order to get mail through".

The last act would require an act of congress, something which isn't sure to happen. As far as firing strikers, he can't fire everybody.

It is true he fired 200 workers last time but they were isolated. A nationwide strike would be something different.

Talk of firings can dampen militancy. It's hard to risk a relatively good job when there is so much unemployment.

**LEADERSHIP**

But this is where strong union leadership and union solidarity come in.

Workers must be given leadership and hope that a strike can be won. Postal workers' future depends on it.

**STOP THE  
"RIGHT TO LIFE"**

OMAHA, NA—Approximately 1,000 anti-abortionists, members of the so-called "Right-to-Life" organization, held their annual convention in Omaha, Nebraska on June 19 and 20. And, as has happened since the pro-choice marches in Cincinnati in June 1979 and in Anaheim in 1980, they were met by a large counter-demonstration of reproductive rights advocates.

The pro-choice rally of over 500 surrounded the "Right-to-Life" convention march through Omaha, and in general received very favorable publicity. The pro-choice march and rally was organized by the Reproductive Rights Task Force of NOW, although affiliates of the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2) participated as well.

The anti-abortionists vowed to continue pressing for a (in)Human Life Amendment, with no exceptions with regard to rape or incest. They plan to continue sitting in and harassing clinics. One of the more right-wing factions within the Right-to-Life Organization has declared war on Planned Parenthood, calling it "the arm of the devil", with the goal of shutting it down in December.

**INVADE**

The Right-to-Life Organization announced that August 8 and 9 would be the days they would invade abortion clinics. They claim their goal is to rescue fetuses.

In reality they want to terrorize women. There is really nothing new coming out of the conventions of these woman hating anti-abortionists. We in the reproductive rights movement should make sure we are involved in clinic defense August, and that we continue our efforts to oppose these dangerous right wingers.



# DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS CAVE IN Reagan gets

## his budget

Ronald Reagan has won his battle of the budget—with the help of a good number of Democrats.

By the time the budget for fiscal year 1982 is finally approved nearly \$40 billion will have been shaved from Jimmy Carter's proposals.

### CHILDREN

\$1.1 billion is being cut from Aid to Dependent Children benefits. \$1.5 billion will be cut from the Food Stamps program. \$1.3 billion will be cut from the school lunch program.

300,000 CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) jobs will be scrapped—saving the government \$3.8 billion. \$750,000 will be trimmed from youth training programs.

There will be massive cuts in dozens of educational programs—from library assistance to grants to colleges and college students.

There will be reduction on expenditure for Amtrack, for

highways, for mass transit rail construction.

Conservation programs, including synfuels and solar projects will be axed.

And more than 50 small health and social service



programs—such as the Runaway Youths Act—will be gone.

The military budget, on the other hand, will be the highest ever—running into trillions in the next years.

Much was made of the opposition to the budget in the Democratic controlled house, but in fact there was little opposition from the Democrats.

Both parties are committed to slashing social welfare programs—the differences being only a matter of degree. The Democrats proposed \$37.7 billion in cuts, compared to the Republicans \$38.2. Both support the military budget.

And in the end conservative Democrats, mainly from the South, gave Reagan his victory. Reagan promised Democrats John Breaux and W.J. Tauzin of Louisiana to support sugar price supports in exchange for their votes.

They joke it up. "You can be bought?" one Democrat asked Breaux. "No, I was rented," said Breaux.

Some joke. Literally millions will suffer as a result of the actions of both parties in the Congress.

The fight-back is already growing against Reagan's social policies, but it has a long way to go.

### FAVOR

One thing should be clear from the start, however. The Democrats and their party are no alternative to Reagan. Carter started the policy of massive cuts in social services. All but a handful of liberals favor a program of cuts.

And the conservatives in the party still enjoy power far beyond their numbers.

Opposition to Reagan and his cuts is urgent. But to have any hope at all it must be independent—independent of both the capitalist parties and the policies of war, racism, exploitation and oppression. □

## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

## BEGIN'S BOMBING: WHAT WILL BE NEXT?

The raid the Israelis made on the nuclear reactor in Baghdad is nothing new.

Every day Israeli planes and guns attack Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

### DANGERS

But the Baghdad raid was different in two respects—the terrible dangers it creates, and the cynical delight with which Begin and the Israelis have justified it.

Such action is of course indefensible. Were an Arab state to have attacked the Israeli nuclear plant at Dimona—already known to have produced atomic bombs of Hiroshima proportions—the world would be in an uproar.

Arab states would be accused of 'genocide' against the Jewish people.

But for Begin and the Israelis killing and maiming Arabs is acceptable.

Begin set a terrifying precedent. Will Israel again attack the Baghdad reactor when it is rebuilt by Iraq? Will he attack the reactors in Libya, in Pakistan, or, if his friend Sadat falls in Egypt, will the plants be bombed there too?

Begin represents the Zionist obsession with the destruction of the Palestinians and all those Arab states who oppose Israel's intentions.

It is the terrible tragedy of

Begin and Zionism that insane attacks like that at Baghdad can only further stir anger against the population of Israel.

### FUTURE

The future of the Jewish people, like the future of the Palestinians, can only be secured when maniacs like Begin and his system have been removed for good. □

## Iran: Khomeini on the rampage

Seventy-two members of the ruling Islamic Republican Party in Iran have been killed in an explosion, including the Chief Justice of Iran, Ayatollah Mohammed Beheshti, one of the top men in Khomeini's regime.

### CHAOS

Just days before the explosion, Iranian president Abolhassen Bani-Sadr was forced into hiding. The country is once again in chaos.

Islamic thugs tour the streets using the excuse of any expression of opposition to Khomeini to maim and murder, while daily leftist and radical opponents of the regime are being executed after summary trials.

This is the price being paid by the people of Iran for the failure of the left and democratic forces to rally together and effectively oppose the republic.

### SHIRIN RANI WRITES FROM TEHERAN

The firing of Bani-Sadr was not simply the settling of an old score within the right-wing Islamic camp.

For some time now he has been compelled to go well outside that camp, in order to find allies in the power struggle.

No one can deny that Bani-Sadr has to take much of the blame for his participation in the building up of this regime over the last two years.

### SILENCE

But it should not hide the fact that the significance of his fall lies in the determination of the fundamentalists to silence all public opposition to the growing Khomeini-led dictatorship.

For the most important aspect of Bani-Sadr's recent

political campaign has been his attempt to mobilize mass support around democratic demands such as freedom of the press, assembly and political activities.

### REGIME

In this he opposed the theocratic and authoritarian plans of his opponents.

It is also of course true that he became the banner under which was gathered the remnants of the past regime, the bazaar merchants and even sections of the clergy. Yet also supporting him were the leftist moslem Mojahedin and some sections of a very divided left.

The Khomeini movement is increasingly relying upon its well-armed thugs on the streets, backed up by the so called leftists of the Tudeh

(communist) party and the Fedayeen (majority) group.

For over two years now Iran has been very unstable and recently this instability has become so great that a danger of civil war between the factions existed.

It is not clear what the opposition will do now. The Left has spent much of the last two years in idle debates about why the Khomeini movement is not socialist, rather than seriously organizing against it.

Many groups argued, disregarding the popularity of the appeal for freedom, that Bani-Sadr was as bad as the opposition and now some of them see too late that without him the straitjacket of the Khomeini movement is tighter than ever.

### CERTAIN

Over the next few months a serious economic crisis is almost certain to hit Iran, particularly if it is unable to resolve the war with Iraq.

This could well lead to further defections from the fundamentalist camp and greater difficulties for them in mobilizing their street gangs.

One thing is clear: until that shift takes place, many opponents of the Khomeini regime are going to be executed or jailed. □

## FIGHTING WORDS

*The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of absolute tyranny over her . . . He has created a false public sentiment by giving to the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral delinquencies which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated, but deemed of little account in man. He has endeavored in every way that he could to destroy her confidence in her powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life.*

*Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, N.Y., 1848*

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# Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

## Safety first...

E.I. du Pont de Nemours, the chemical giant, has an ad on national TV that says its workers are safer on the job than at home.

But a private research organization thinks otherwise.

In a 147 page report, the Council on Economic Priorities revealed that of all the chemical companies, du Pont has the worst record of violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act laws. □

## A rustic abode...

It seems that Mr. Richard Nixon has bought a new house just in time to run from the courts.

A \$1.2 million rustic abode in New Jersey, it has four acres of land, a pool and tennis court and seven bedrooms.

The community to which he's moving has the highest per capita income in the state, a population of 2,762, an unemployment rate of 3.2% and one welfare recipient. □

## Foreign relations...

Agriculture Secretary John Block says the U.S. has in its huge food-production capacity, "one of the most valuable tools in foreign relations that it has ever held." □

## Making the world safe...

While the Raygun administration is slashing social programs right and left and giving the biggest boost to the military in history, he might look at a few of the military's less savory expenditures.

1. Marching bands... \$98 million/year.
2. Servants... \$6 million per year.
3. Gazebos... \$65,000/year (14 generals have near their houses garden gazebos that need maintenance).
4. Air Force Bowling Tour... \$110,000/year.
5. Lawn Maintenance... \$385,000/year.

One concession is that the taxpayer-paid-for charm school where the military servants could learn such useful skills as ice sculpture has been closed.

## Memos...

The government shelled out \$6,500 for federal PR operatives to attend a recent seminar on how to get their stories on TV... House Republicans gathered this week to meet with Reagan shunned the bar while the TV lights were on; they feared the cameras would show them swilling booze. A rush for drinks began the moment the lights went off. □

# ASHTABULA NURSES SET FOR VICTORY

ASHTABULA, OH—After a full year on strike for a union contract and union security, there is a sense of pride among the Ashtabula nurses.

They continue to maintain 24 hour a day pickets and hold regular mass meetings, as they did throughout the long, bitter cold winter.

## LATEST

There have been no new scabs since April, and the latest offer from management—which contained no union security clause—was voted down overwhelmingly on May 9.

Now the nurses have dealt a big blow to the administration. The hospital had been planning an in-hospital "scabs only" election on the first

## Sharon Smith reports on the Ashtabula nurses strike now more than a year old

anniversary of the strike, designed to decertify the union and break the strike.

But the nurses have now converted their strike into an unfair labor practices strike—which eliminates the election completely—thanks to an NLRB ruling.

While the scabs seem to be tilting towards the nurses, the hospital has not given up yet. They've hired a new assistant administrator, Emily

Unkrich, whose main purpose seems to be harrasing the union!

Emily has made numerous phone calls to various union members and officials, requesting to "meet with a few nurses at a time" and suggesting negotiating sessions without lawyers present.

She has had no success in her endeavors, but not for lack of trying. She called and followed union president Mary

Runyon repeatedly for days on end—finally she showed up at Runyon's church and called out "Blessed be the tie that binds"!

For her efforts, Emily has now been added to the list of unfair labor practices that the Ohio Nurses' Association (ONA) has filed against the hospital.

## CONFIDENCE

Spirits are high and confidence is rising for the nurses. As Mary Runyon puts it "We've gone through the hard part."

Negotiating Committee member David Cunningham sums up: "Before we would say 'what demands can we leave out?' Now we're saying 'what more can we add?'" □

## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Are socialists against the family?

# Capitalism and the family

BY DEBORAH ROBERTS

Among the most important and yet least understood areas of Marxist thought concerns the nuclear family?

Socialists have long maintained that the family as it exists under capitalism oppresses women, that it fosters violence against women and children, that it is a basic ideological and economic building block of the society we live in.

## COMMITTED

All of this is true, and yet it's not all we need to say about the family. A great many people are committed to their families, love the people they live with and don't take kindly to any crudely put idea that they are wrong or deluded to feel as they do.

To really talk about the family in a clear way, we need to get rid of a popular misconception. Marxists don't have as part of our social program the "abolition of the family."

On the contrary, we recognize that *capitalism* is destroying the family. Unemployment, poverty, and the competitive pressures of surviving under capitalism, along with the ideology of male supremacy turn family members against each other.

We need to be very clear about both sides of this seeming paradox.

Capitalism depends on the existence of the private nuclear family and on the oppression of women within it. At the same time, other needs and pressures of capitalism tear the family apart.

By and large, people whose family life is falling apart do not feel liberated, but are instead desperately unhappy.

Behind the paradoxical relationship between capitalism



and the nuclear family we can see people's real need for intimacy, for loving relationships, for nurturance and mutual support.

Capitalism frustrates these needs just as it intensifies them by making the world outside the home harsh, cold, and impersonal.

## PERMISSIBLE

In this society, the only permissible form for the satisfaction of personal needs is the family. But we can't talk about the negative features of family life without also recognizing that people really need the relationships the family is supposed to give them.

At one level, the most obvious negative features of the nuclear family is its constraint. Families are groups of people thrown together by birth, economic necessity, and the legal contract of marriage, not bonded together by choice.

If you made a mistake and married the wrong person or if the mistake was in marrying at all, the consequence of that mistake will be suffering—either a miserable marriage or a miserable divorce, probably followed by a second marriage as risky as the first one.

Such mistakes are very common because this society puts so much pressure on

people to marry.

Without the economic and social pressure, choice would play a bigger part than luck.

People could begin to live together with a better chance at happiness.

The economic equality of women would make real relationships between men and women possible on a large scale for the first time. Heterosexual marriages would represent only one of many optional life styles.

Freely available contraception and abortion would go a long way toward lessening the pressure on people to become parents, as would the increasing awareness that children are the responsibility and the pride of the whole society, not just of their biological parents.

## DIVISION

In the society we want to build there will be a fair division of labor between men and women. Both will look after children and perform the labor necessary to maintain their living arrangement.

All relationships will be richer and more complex when constraint is removed from them. The socialist view of the family should not be just a denunciation of marriage and family life today.

Instead we can point to the transformation and liberation of human relationships—including family relationships that socialism will make possible.

Even though we don't have an exact blueprint for the kind of society we want, we need to have a vision of the future.

We need to show people part of what makes us socialists is our belief that human beings can have worthwhile, loving relationships with each other. □



# Guatemala: Next on Reagan's hit list

Joe Allen reviews the history  
of U.S. intervention in Guatemala



**WORLD IN  
STRUGGLE**

Since the Cuban revolution of 1959, U.S. foreign policy in Latin America has been to prevent "another Cuba."

The U.S. succeeded in holding back the revolutionary tide in Latin America and isolating Cuba. This was done by creating a garrison state in Latin America—training 71,000 Latin American military personnel, including 8 of the regions present dictators, and supplying \$2.5 billion in armaments. The U.S., also, supported and organized the military takeover of reformist governments in Brazil, Argentina, and Chile.

## INVASION

The U.S. didn't hesitate to use direct military intervention, when it had to, like the invasion of the Dominican Republic.

This ended with the Nicaraguan revolution of 1979. The memory of the Vietnam war, prevented the U.S. from invading to save Somoza or replacing him with a pro-U.S. substitute.

But, with the revival of militarism in the U.S. over the last two years, U.S. foreign policy in Latin America is now to prevent "another Nicaragua."

The U.S. is doing this now in El Salvador, by supplying tens of millions of dollars in military and economic aid, military "advisors", Green Berets, and the threat of military invasion.

But, as the situation in El Salvador intensifies and the media and world protest concentrate on it, they ignore another Central American country where a civil war is in its early stages, and where the U.S. is beginning to intervene to keep a totalitarian government in power against the will of its people—Guatemala.

The U.S. has a long history of intervention in Guatemala, supporting repressive dictatorships and opposing the mildest reforming governments.

In 1944, dissident military officers, armed students and workers overthrew the infamous Ubico dictatorship.

Elections were held and a reformist Juan Jose Arevalo, was elected president. During the Arevalo presidency, the Guate-



"We are poor. We need housing."

malan Congress passed a mild labor code, gave workers the right to organize unions, forced employers to recognize collective bargaining rights, and to improve the horrible working conditions of their workers.

Many employers resisted the labor code, including the U.S. based United Fruit Company. At the insistence of United Fruit, the State Department sent warnings to Arevalo to get rid of the "communist sympathizers", who were supposedly in his government.

In 1950, Jacobo Arbenz was elected president over the rightist candidate Francisco Arana. The elections were interrupted by an attempted military putsch by Colonel Carlos Castillo-Armas.

Arbenz carried out a radical land reform, which nationalized over 225,000 acres of unused land belonging to United Fruit. It was this event that led Eisenhower to give the CIA the go ahead to overthrow Arbenz.

## MERCENARY

The CIA created a mercenary army to overthrow Arbenz. It built training bases in Nicaragua and Honduras.

The CIA picked exiled, coup-plotting Colonel Castillo-Armas to lead the mercenary army and to be the new president of Guatemala. The CIA also supplied the most important part of the operation, P-47 Thunderbolt bombers. All of the pilots were Americans.

On June 18, 1954, Castillo-Armas and his CIA army invaded Guatemala and on July 8, 1954, he was officially made president of Guatemala.

Arbenz's government had the total support of the unions.

On taking power, Castillo-Armas immediately smashed the

two largest unions in the country—the General Confederation of Guatemalan Workers (CGTG) with more than 100,000 members and the National Federation of Agricultural Workers (CNGG) with more than 200,000 members.

Over 200 union leaders and 8,000 peasants were murdered in the first two months after Castillo-Armas came to power. He repealed all the reforms, including the labor code and gave United Fruit back all its land.

## RESISTANCE

Resistance to Guatemala's government has always been strong since the CIA sponsored takeover by Col. Castillo-Armas, and the U.S. over the years has built up, trained and funded Guatemala's military and police to crush any opposition to the government.

The U.S. has trained between 1950-1976, 3,213 Guatemalan military officers and soldiers in the U.S. and at the U.S. Army's elite jungle warfare School of the Americas in the Panama Canal Zone.

The U.S. has supplied Guatemala between 1950-1976 with over \$74.6 million in military aid.

The U.S. trained 377 police officers, between 1961-1973, at the International Police Academy in Washington D.C., and stationed 7 American "Public Safety Officers" in Guatemala.

The Agency for International Development's public safety program trained over 32,000 police officers in Guatemala. The U.S. supplied Guatemala with \$4.8 million in aid to its police force. The U.S. trained the military and police in the most advanced methods of political repression and counterinsurgency.

Economically, Guatemala became more important to the U.S. throughout the 1950's and 1960's. U.S. investment in Guatemala rose, from 1959 to 1969, 128 per cent.

U.S. capital represents 86% of the total foreign investment in Guatemala of \$115 million in 1969. U.S. investment is concentrated in food processing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, tobacco, iron and oil refining and distribution, except for Del Monte, which virtually controls the export of bananas from Guatemala and is the country's largest employer. The other exception is Hanna Mining/International Nickel, which owns what is thought to be the world's largest deposit of nickel.

In the early to mid-sixties, guerilla armies began to oppose the government. By mid-1966 the Rebel Armed Forces (F.A.R.) and the November 13th Movement (MR-13) had a wide influence over the areas Izabal, Zacapa and Alta Verapaz.

Guatemala was considered to have the strongest guerilla movement in all of Latin America. The guerillas, however, never numbered more than 300 to 600 and were badly outnumbered.

## SPONSOR

The U.S. army in 1966, at the height of the guerilla movement, sponsored a massive counterinsurgency program to wipe out the guerillas.

Colonel John Webber, the U.S. military attache in Guatemala, said in a *Time* magazine interview in 1968, that "it was his idea and at his instigation that the technique of counter-terror had been implemented by the Guatemalan army in the Izabal areas" (gueril-

la strongholds). Between 1966-1968 there were one thousand U.S. Army Green Berets in Guatemala, working with the Guatemalan army to crush the guerillas. U.S. pilots, despite official denials, flew bombing missions and dropped napalm on peasants.

The U.S. Military Advisory Group (M.A.A.G.) which deals the training of officers, soldiers guerilla insurgencies, grew as the guerilla threat grew, from 15 advisors in 1959 to 35 in 1965, the largest proportional mission in all of Latin America. The U.S. supplied tens of millions of dollars in military and police aid, counterinsurgency planes, helicopters, communication equipment, napalm and advisors to crush the guerillas. Over 8,000 Guatemalans were killed between 1966-1968 in order to eliminate the guerillas.

Today, Guatemala is a country where 2 per cent of the country's 7.2 million people own 70 per cent of the cultivable land. 200,000 peasant families own no land at all. 50,000 children die each year of malnutrition, and over 35,000 Guatemalans have been murdered since the beginning of U.S. subversion in 1954. The murder of trade unionists, peasants, opposition leaders and guerilla sympathizers continues.

## MOVEMENT

Out of these wretched conditions has grown a widely supported guerilla movement. There are four guerilla armies fighting the Guatemalan government—the Guerilla Army of the Poor (E.G.P.), the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (O.R.P.A.), the Rebel Armed Forces (F.A.R.), and the Guatemalan Workers Party (P.G.T.).

The E.G.P. and O.R.P.A. have a strong base among the Indian population. The E.G.P., in fact, has organized more than 75,000 Indian agricultural workers into its labor union, the Peasant Unity Committee (C.U.C.). It won its first strike in February, 1980, raising the daily minimum wage to \$3.20.

The cost of winning the strike was very high, over 100 peasants involved in the strike were killed by death squads in June, 1980.

Reagan has pledged to restore military aid to Guatemala, in order to "save" it from "international communism".

Ex-CIA deputy director General Vernon Walters was sent to Guatemala to begin the process to restore aid to Guatemala. Walters was also sent to Brazil, Argentina, Honduras and Haiti, pledging Reagan's support for their totalitarian governments.

Reagan hopes that by sponsoring a war in El Salvador, cutting off economic aid to civil war devastated Nicaragua, and restoring military aid to Guatemala, he can isolate Nicaragua and stop the present revolutionary tide in central America.

While Reagan begins his intervention in Guatemala, thousands of Guatemalans are sacrificing their lives to bring social change and justice to Guatemala. □

## RUSSIA

How the Revolution was lost



Chris Harman

Available from Hera Pres.  
P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland,  
Ohio 44118.



# The Atlanta

## CHILDREN DEAD BECAUSE THEY WERE POOR AND BLACK

STORY BY AHMED SHAWKI  
PICTURES BY DAVID BEACH

Two years ago this month, July 28, 1979, the body of 14-year-old Edward Smith was found on Niskey Lake Drive in southwest Atlanta. He had been shot.

Half an hour later, the body of another 14-year-old boy, Alfred Evans, was found fifty yards away.

These two children head the list of 28 murdered and one missing in Atlanta's Black community.

Two children, each 14, found dead within fifty yards of each other on the same day, on the same stretch of road—a cause for concern? A big news story? Yes, but in Atlanta no one seemed to care.

Not the *Atlanta Constitution* which ran a brief item on page 18a, about the bodies of two Black males being found.

### CAUSE

Not the wire services—none picked up the story. No cause for alarm for the Atlanta police or the city administration. After all, the kids were Black and poor.

But by May 1980, when 6 children had disappeared or been murdered, three mothers thought they saw a pattern—in the killings and in the lack of interest shown by the authorities.

Camille Bell, Willie Mae Mathis and Venus Taylor decided to form a committee—later to become the Committee to Stop the Children's Murders (STOP).

They went to the police department, the mayor's office, called on the Justice Department to investigate the cases. They were shunned.

In the months of May and June, 5 more children went missing.

The parents stepped up their efforts and began leafletting the community. In July, they demanded the formation of a special task force.

Still, there was foot dragging. A major Taylor was appointed the head of the new task force in August. His qualifications: nil.

His effort: he called on psychic Dorothy Allyson to solve the murders.

The toll kept mounting. By December, 16 children were murdered or missing.

The explosion of an Atlanta day care center, killing four, attracted national attention. Through the parents efforts, reporters were forced to ask, "What missing and murdered children?"

### TOLL

Today, the toll is 28. Why so much stalling, so much foot dragging? Because the kids were poor, Black, ordinary children. And because all those in authority put their own interests first.

The investigative bodies involved wanted to cover themselves and divert attention away from their lack of success.

The city administration and business community was worried about the city's reputation—how would the killings affect convention business and investments. The federal government belatedly said it was concerned, but did nothing—where was the national outcry for 80,000 Atlanta children held hostage.

### VICTIM

In Atlanta, the victim was blamed.

The curfew was imposed for children 15 years old and younger—but all the children had disappeared during the day.

The children were made out to be "streetwise," possibly homosexual reported *Time*, or hustlers who brought it on themselves.

As Camille Bell put it: "Well, if you can't keep it quiet that these kids are dead, then let's tell the world that it's their fault that they're dead."

It was nonsense. Jeffrey Mathis sang in a choir at church and in school. He was in the 5th grade, was a boy



Atlanta's sprawling Techwood project

scout, and a member of the boys club.

Yusef Bell played trumpet and drums, stood at the top of his fifth grade class, belonged to the boys scouts and boys clubs.

And if the kids weren't responsible, the parents were. Special F.B.I. agent Michael Twibell announced in April, 1981, that "some of those kids were killed by their parents" because they were "nuisances."

The parents' organization

was accused of fraud and exploiting the children's murders.

Today authorities are smug because they have arrested and charged Wayne Williams for the murder of Nathan Cater, the 28th victim.

Williams, a 23 year old freelance photographer and promoter, has been a suspect for two months.

The evidence against him rests on fiber evidence—fingerprints and dog hairs found on Cater showed "no significant mic

## "We're concerned with the 50,000"



Camille Bell

Camille Bell and Willie Mae Mathis were founders of the Committee to Stop the Children's Murders (STOP). 26 of the 28 victims' parents are members of the committee. The committee was organized in August, 1980.

Willie Mae Mathis had not previously been involved in political activity, and she explained how her son's murder changed her life, and that of her family.

"It's really changed my life and my kids lives too. You know we've all changed."

### LIGHT

"My daughter, Wanda, she's 10, she won't stay in her room by herself, in fact she won't stay in the house by herself. She won't be in a room at night unless the light is on and the door is open—and the curtains drawn together.

## Two Atlanta mothers talk to Socialist Workers

"I have one boy that's seeing a psychiatrist twice a week. He says he'd seen Jeffrey, and seen 'The Man.'"

"And I have another one. He just wasn't the type to sit around the house, he just had to be out doing something. And now I can't get him out of the house."

"It has changed my household and me a lot."

Mathis is made confident by the committee's success and the support they have received:

"Peoples are responding. I've been just about round the country now, to different groups, schools, what have you, because people are concerned."

"They want to do some-

thing and they're responding and want to help. Because this is affecting everyone all over the country—all over the world.

"It's brought a lot of people together, closer together, united a lot of people, especially in Atlanta. It brought a lot of good out of a tragedy."

The committee is more concerned with more than the murders in Atlanta. Camille Bell explained:

"We're concerned with things like 50,000 children missing across the nation and nobody looking for them."

"We're concerned with the educational system in this country that allows kids to grow up uneducated."

"We're concerned with t



# a story



## The dream becomes a nightmare

BY

RETHA HILL

The cashier at the drugstore where we bought cigarettes and batteries looked up and smiled at my two companions. "Oh yeah?" he said. "I used to live in Cleveland."

Then came the snicker and the knowing glance. Everyone we met that day was from Cleveland. They all peered at us with a mocking look that seemed to say 'pity you have to go back.'

### DREAMS

They now live in Atlanta—Georgia's capital and largest city, the "New York of the South" and one of America's most glamorous towns.

As the regional center of finance, transportation, trade and the center of the service sector of the entire Georgia economy, Atlanta is as close to a 1981 version of the American dream city as allowable in today's economy.

Speaking of dreams, Atlanta at first glance brings to mind the city that Martin Luther King had when he envisioned a day when freedom and opportunity would ring from the red hills of Georgia to the Lookout Mountains of Tennessee.

With a Black mayor, the largest Black middle class of any city in America, more than two thousand Black-owned businesses, and not less than ten Black millionaires in the city alone, it's no wonder that poll after poll shows Atlanta to be one of the best homes for Black Americans.

Atlanta is 66 percent Black. It is the home of many of the oldest Afro-American colleges and seemed to prove that Black capitalism can and does work.

But then came the murders and with them the critical eyes of the nation. And more importantly the eyes of Blacks in the rest of the country who wanted so much for Atlanta to work.

Those eyes saw the sorrow of twenty eight families and discovered that there are many bruises on this Georgia peach.

Atlanta is no dream. It is a city in the sunbelt with northern snowbelt problems.

More than 20 percent of the city's Black population lives below the poverty line. Black unemployment is high. Though relatively low compared with the rest of the country it still doubles that of white Atlantans. About 40% of Black owned businesses fail, despite a large number of start-ups.

It is estimated that 10,000 whites leave the city each month, taking with them a huge part of the tax base. Politicians have turned to annexing neighboring counties to improve the city's immediate economy.

Black school enrollment is 80%, and desegregation seems no longer possible. Black leaders integrated immediate school integration for top level administrative jobs six years ago.

The city's poor, like the residents of the Techwood projects, are being rooted out of the downtown area so new businesses can move in.

### PLACE

Behind the glass towers on the south side of town, there is a place that looks very much like Cleveland—and all of the old cities in the north.

Black people live there. Old buildings sit abandoned and burned out. Old men sit on worn out chairs and lead tired lives in an old system called capitalism.

Atlanta is no real dream, but one deferred. Like the cities of the East and midwest at the turn of the century, Atlanta is flourishing at the expense of its poor.

The 117,000 who have migrated to the Georgia capital have found many of the same problems that they fled—like high crime and a displaced workforce. And they are discovering new difficulties such as lower wages and non-union shops.

The problem with Atlanta is capitalism.

Business interests control the city. And the job of the politicians, whether Black or white, is to make sure that the city runs smoothly. That's why the deaths of the first ten children were ignored by the Black mayor and the white corporate bosses.

### CLIMATE

They did not wish to create a bad business climate by protesting the deaths of poor Black children.

Yet a few years ago when a white doctor was murdered in downtown Atlanta there was a furor, a white panic. Front page news. The mayor, Maynard Jackson, created a special crime unit.

opic difference" to those found in Cater's bedroom and his dog, testified a lab expert.

But Williams is only charged with one of the murders, leaving 27 unsolved. It is rumored he will be charged with as many as 13—but that still leaves 14 unaccounted—and the evidence against him is heavily circumstantial.

Much of course is made of the fact that Williams is Black. Therefore, we are told, there is no question of racism.

But this settles nothing. All

the murdered are Black youths. This system thrives on violence against Black people—including within the Black communities itself.

There is no question that if the victims were white and well-off an investigation would have taken off immediately.

The Atlanta story is about racism and which class you're from. And the need to change the whole system on which this society is based.

In Atlanta ordinary people began trying to change things.

The parents' organization, the support committees, the self-defense groups that emerged—and so vehemently denounced.

### IMPORTANT

Their efforts may well be the most important part of the Atlanta tragedy. For racism and violence will continue as long as a double system of justice exists.

The Atlanta story is an indictment of American capitalism. □

## 10 missing children"

drug trade that says that we can find the kid on the corner with an ounce and a half of pot, but we can't find a boatload of heroin in the ocean.

"We're concerned with community awareness and parent involvement.

"We're concerned with Reagan's cuts that say we can afford bombs but we can't afford school lunches.

### KIDS

"We're concerned with a society that can afford battle-tips and submarines, but can't afford medical care for kids.

"Basically, if you deal directly with Atlanta, when Atlanta's over, everyone re-creates—until we start counting deaths in some other city.

"If you start organizing around the country, then perhaps you won't have to count deaths in other cities." □



Willie Mae Mathis



# 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

### BOSTON

Wayne Standly on **What's Happening in China?** July 19, 7:30 pm. Call 282-6711 for details.

### CINCINNATI

Dan Petty on **The Unions. Reform or Revolution Series.** July 18, 8:00 pm at 134 Kinsey. Call 871-1371.

### CLEVELAND

Black History Series: Christina Bergmark on **Malcolm X.** July 10 at 7:30 pm.

Glenn Perusek on **The Black Panthers.** July 24 at 7:30 pm. Call 371-7648 for details.

### KENT

Ahmed Shawki on **The Politics of Black Liberation.** July 14 at 8:30 pm.

Sharon Smith on **Why We Need a Revolutionary Party.** July 28, 8:30 pm. Call 678-0633 for details.

### SEATTLE

Ahmed Shawki on **The Crisis in the Middle East.** July 11 at 7:30 pm at IOOF Hall, 915 East Pine.

Socialist Education Series: **The Seattle Labor Movement: 1910-1920.** July 8.

**The Movement Against World War I.** July 22. Meetings at 7:30 pm. Call 324-2302 or 323-0701 for more information.



Buttons 50¢



# ISO NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Sessions include:

- Poland: a year of revolt
- Perspectives for American workers
- Atlanta and the rise of racism
- The fight for reproductive rights
- The Central American revolution

There will also be debates, workshops and international speakers.

Please write: ISO, Box 18037, Cleveland Ohio 44118 for details.



There will be practical sessions

**August 14, 15, and 16, 1981**

**"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   | ● Detroit, MI      | ● Northampton, MA |
| ● Bloomington, IN | ● Durham, NC       | ● Portland, OR    |
| ● Boston, MA      | ● Fort Wayne, IN   | ● Providence, RI  |
| ● Charleston, WV  | ● Indianapolis, IN | ● Rochester, NY   |
| ● Chicago, IL     | ● Kent, OH         | ● Seattle, WA     |
| ● Cincinnati, OH  | ● Los Angeles, CA  | ● Toledo, OH      |
| ● Cleveland, OH   | ● New York, NY     | ● Trenton, NJ     |
| ● Dayton, OH      | ● New Haven, CT    | ● Washington, DC  |

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



# "I saw a new world born"



## John Reed

Owen Gallagher on John Reed, the revolutionary journalist, who wrote the classic accounts of the revolutions in Mexico and Russia

John Reed in Leningrad

I first came across John Reed, not through his famous work, *Ten Days That Shook the World*, a first hand account of the Russian Revolution; but through another almost unknown work, *Insurgent Mexico*.

At the age of 26, Reed had already won some fame as a journalist, particularly for his coverage of the 1913 strike of silk workers in Paterson, New York, led by Big Bill Haywood of the Wobblies.

### WITNESS

He had approached the strike as a bit of a lark. But what he witnessed there shook him considerably.

"All the violence is the work of one side," he wrote, "the mill owners, their servants the police, club unresisting men and women, and ride down law abiding crowds on horseback. Their paid mercenaries, the armed detectives, shoot and kill people. Their newspapers publish incendiary and crime inciting appeals to mob violence against the strike leaders. They deal out heavy sentences to peaceful pickets that the police net gathers up."

Reed marvelled at the courage and inventiveness of these 25,000 striking workers and their children who picketed the schools and whose teachers spoke out against the strike.

And when the mill owners covered Paterson with flags and banners saying "We live under the flag; we fight for the flag; and we will work under the flag", the pickets replied with their own banners: "We wove the flag; we dyed the flag; and we won't scab under the flag."

But, although Paterson had a profound influence on Reed, it did not bring about a lasting commitment from him to the labor movement. He was still

groping his way on the fringes of the labor movement.

His big journalistic break came when he was asked to cover the revolt of the peons of Mexico for the magazine *Metropolitan*.

His articles from the front-line established him as among the top journalists of his day, and on his return he published his experiences in book form.

*Insurgent Mexico* tells the story of four months in the battlefields with the Mexican guerillas, destitute masses with popular leaders, ill armed, dressed in rags, but determined to fight for land and liberty. His descriptions of the risings, marches and battles, all of which he took part in, are magnificent.

And the symbols of the revolution itself, the peons, robbed by ranchers and priests, are portrayed as courteous, gay, and poor, yet fiercely proud and revolutionary to boot!

### ARMY

We meet Pancho Villa, who says, "When the new Republic is established, there will never be any more army in Mexico. Armies are the greatest supporters of tyranny. We will put the army to work!"

This Mexican Robin Hood, as he was called, fed whole districts by capturing granaries, herds of cattle and bullock, and distributing it to the poor. He raised an army of 20,000 in a few months and captured Northern Mexico! He confiscated 17,000,000 acres and gave every citizen 62½ acres each. He fixed the price of essential foods and set up schools for adults and children throughout the state.

In April 1914, Reed left Mexico, but he was slowly beginning to realize that his responsibility must be a continuing one. On his return home he defended the up-

rising by speaking and writing against American intervention.

In the states he covered the miners' strike in Ludlow, Colorado, where 11,000 miners were on strike.

The strike resulted in a massacre in which men, women and children were shot and their tents burned down by Rockefeller's agents, armed detectives, strike breakers and the militia.

Reed's ties with workers and their organizations were becoming much clearer in his writings.

He was arriving at Marxism by the pitted route of experience. Almost everything he now wrote expressed his hatred of capitalism and aided the cause of revolution. He also began to argue that literature had to be freed from the stupidity and triviality of the bourgeoisie and from the commercialization of the profit making magazines.

Ideas alone though didn't mean much to Reed, he had to see to be there. "It didn't come to me from books that the workers produced all the wealth of the world, which went to those who did not earn it. It was all around me to see."

### MARKED

In the summer of 1914, Reed left to Europe, to cover the First World War, for *Metropolitan*. He became depressed and disgusted by this "traders' war" as he called it. His analysis of what he saw and thought could not be printed, for American capitalists were intent to enter the war, to expand their world position in their struggles for new markets and new raw materials.

He was now a marked man. No longer sought after as a writer. For he was beginning to use his pen like a club.

Being isolated, doubts crept in, about whether the class he had put his faith in would reply to the war madness, and this was furthered by the growing support of "Socialists" for the war, and by his having no outlet for his writing.

### PROCESS

This is revealed in *Almost Thirty* an autobiographical essay, which is an offshoot of his despair at the time. Reed however failed to take account of the rising anti-war feeling, shown in the rise in labor struggles at home and abroad, and the left socialist conferences taking place in Europe, against the war. His doubts were those of a man who had allied himself with a class, but still had to grasp why social ferment was a complex process, uneven in results, and often contradictory to any individual's most complex wishes.

The news of the Russian revolution, however, lifted him sky-high. He went off to Petrograd as a reporter for the *New York Call* and other socialist publications.

The result was *Ten Days That Shook the World*. Lenin wrote the inscription, "Unreservedly do I recommend it to the workers of the world."

"The people had clambered out of the pit," Reed wrote, "and were showing what creative genius lay in them now they had the power to rule themselves."

It was here, during the revolution, that Reed found the answers to his questions. It taught him that "In the last analysis, the property owning class is loyal only to its property. That the masses of workers are not only capable of great dreams, but have in them the power to make dreams come true."

Reed's development, into

becoming a disciplined communist and writer, was hard but steady. The difference between most of his early writing and that on the revolution, was the difference between the close sympathizer and the participant. *Ten Days* was a measure of the great leap forward he had made. It was a force for working class power.

On his return to America, Reed was cursed and threatened by the right wing and the establishment. One newspaper's headline was "One man who needs the rope." He was the spokesman for the Bolsheviks, for the socialist revolution. He wrote continuously and spoke at meetings across the States which were often broken up by police and soldiers.

Tragically, on his return to Russia, he died like thousands of others of typhus, deprived of drugs due to the country being blockaded. His plans to write two other books on Russia were doomed.

### MOLD

The road to socialism was not easy for Reed to discover. But struggle steeled him. His experiences as a journalist with Pancho Villa, with striking workers, on the frontline during World War One, and in Russia during the revolution all helped to shape and mold him into becoming a committed revolutionary activist and writer, as opposed to the romantic adventurer he started out as.

It was not a sudden conversion to socialism, it was more of a simple ripening.

Unreservedly do I recommend his books. . . .



*Ten Days That Shook the World* and *Insurgent Mexico* are available from Hera Press, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.





## on the picket line



# FIRST MIDSEASON STRIKE EVER Baseball: "It's a J-O-B!"

"We're not going to give anything back. The first 100 years of baseball, players were treated like cattle. You think we're going to change and go back to that? No way."  
—Joe Ferguson, Los Angeles Dodgers catcher.

On June 12 the Major League baseball season ground to a halt. This is the first midseason strike ever.

The issue is compensation for free agents—players who have played out their option with one team in order to sell their services to the highest bidder. The owner's chief negotiator, Ray Grebey, calls the strike unnecessary since it is over the mere issue of "one small paragraph" in the Basic Agreement between the players and owners.

The players counter that the issue is of great importance, and further that the owners

provoked the strike. "The owners have put us into a corner," says Pittsburgh Pirate Phil Garner, "and now we have to fight."

"The owners want to go to war," says Chicago White Sox pitcher Ed Farmer. "It's not compensation they want, all they want to do is hold down salaries."

### DEATH

Once upon a time in Major League baseball, players were signed by a team and bound to that team until death. If they wanted to play baseball, they could do so only with the team that owned them.

Thus, the players were very much at the mercy of the particular owner they played for. If unhappy with salary or conditions they could demand to be traded, but the owners held the upper hand. Salaries

and players could easily be kept in line.

Then in 1975 Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Andy Messersmith played for one year past the expiration of his contract. He maintained he was no longer bound to the Dodgers, but instead had become a free agent. He took his case to court and won.

Since that time players' salaries have risen. Players who feel they are worth more than they are getting with one team can refuse to sign a contract, play for a year without one and become free agents. Then they can sign with the team that offers them the best deal.

Under an agreement that headed off a strike last May the owners had a right to implement a compensation proposal by February 20. The players had a right to strike by June 1 and if they did not strike it would signify acceptance of the owners' compensation plan.

That plan, under which a team losing a quality free agent receives in return a player and an amateur draft choice, has been rejected by the players for the past year.

The owners want to weaken the free agent system, while the players want to strengthen it. The players don't want teams that sign free agents to be punished.

In preparation for this year's strike the owners took out a strike insurance policy with Lloyd's of London. Each owner is getting \$100,000 per game as long as the strike lasts.

Reggie Jackson of the New York Yankees commented at the beginning of the strike: "Maybe now people will realize that baseball is not a game. It's a J-O-B and a business."

Many baseball writers lament that they and the fans are being deprived the continuation of "the most exciting season ever." Dick Young, the conservative New York sports columnist blames Marvin Miller, head of the Players Association, and greedy players.

### CAREERS

Most fans, however, don't seem to buy it. Baseball players have short careers. The gigantic salaries of a handful of top players don't reflect the situation of most major leaguers, not to mention the players who never make it to the big leagues.

Baseball is a business, albeit a peculiar one, with only 650 players at the top level. Before the players were organized it was extremely difficult for them to get anything from the owners, as former pitching great Bob Feller relates:

"I was a player representative for a number of years during my playing career. We asked for some concessions in the 1950's and the owners just laughed at us."

They aren't laughing now. □

by GLENN PERUSEK

## TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

# GM workers' wages don't match profits

Mr. Smith, president of General Motors is demanding the UAW open negotiations for a cut in wages and fringe benefits to meet Japanese competition. He says the Japanese have an \$8.00 per hour wage cost advantage.

Before the auto workers agree to such negotiations they should examine the GM profits over the years from 1947 to 1979.

### DISPARITY

The September 3, 1979 issue of *Solidarity*, the UAW monthly paper, gives facts and figures to prove the disparity between the profits of the company and the wages of the workers. The following is a quotation from that issue of *Solidarity*.

"In a bargaining year when workers are being asked to moderate their demands, GM raised its regular dividend on common stock by 15 per cent, to \$1.15 per share for the second quarter of this year. On top of that stockholders got a special dividend of 50 cents a share. According to a UAW Research Department study, a GM stockholder with 1003 shares would have received dividends and potential capital gains of \$867,700 between 1947 and 1979, while a GM worker would have earned only \$278,000 working full time over the same 32 years."

For the first six months of this year, GM's profits were \$2.2445 billion, up sharply from the same six months in

1978, when they totalled \$1.976 billion. In the last bargaining year, 1976, the first six months total was \$1.7 billion.

GM's after-tax profits, in fact, were a whopping 22.2 per cent of its net worth last year—considerably higher than the average of all US corporations which was 15.9 per cent.

### EXECUTIVES

In addition to feeding corporate stockholders, GM's high profits were shared with executives, too. The corporation's provision for executives' bonuses totalled a record \$192.4 million for the year ending June 30, 1979—up 21 per cent from \$159 million for the year through June 30, 1978.

"The company can afford to make a just and equitable settlement for its workers who, unlike the corporate officials, must confront inflation on a day-to-day basis," Bludstone said. "We intend to win such a settlement."

As it now stands, the UAW Research department reports, GM makes \$6.36 per day in pre-tax profits for each hour a U.S. hourly worker puts in, or a total of \$13,040 per worker per year. This is after deducting wages, material and other expenses.

Meanwhile, the big three auto workers have seen a decline in their spendable earnings "of .3 per cent since a year ago..."

The above facts make clear the short-sighted greed of GM manage-



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

ment. Having been warned by the 1974 oil crisis GM should have used some of their record profits toward the production of a small fuel efficient car. Instead they payed them out in inflated salaries and bonuses to executives and excessive stock dividend to stockholders.

Ford and Chrysler managements were no better than that of GM. Ford spent \$500 million on the Renaissance Center in Detroit instead of designing a car workers could afford.

Erving Bluestone speaking to a New York audience on October 8, 1976, said: "The fact is that management's authority over methods, means and processes of production relegating the worker substantially to the role of robot to the machine still holds supreme."

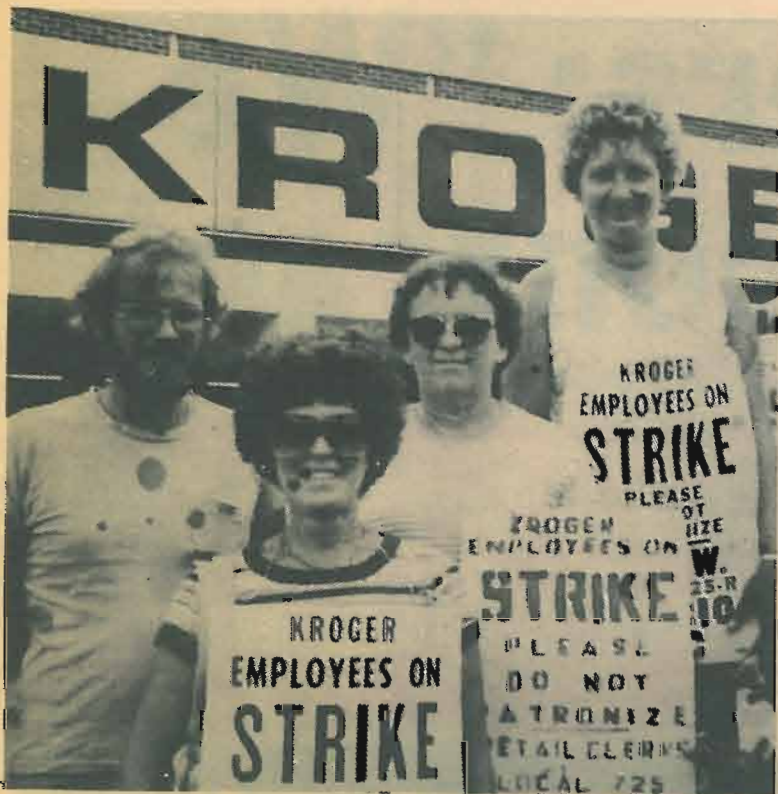
### QUALITY

To gain measure of political and economic freedom the worker must wrest control of production from management. They must begin by exercising their power on the shop floor. They quality of a workers' life will never be improved if they wait for the labor bureaucracy or management to bring about these improvements. □





## GROCERY WORKERS IN CENTRAL INDIANA SHUT DOWN KROGER'S



Kroger's strikers in Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON, IN—On June 16th, United Food and Commercial Local 725R, which represents grocery workers at 64 Krogers supermarkets in central Indiana, rejected a contract aimed at ultimately busting the union.

While offering what most employees considered an at least liveable wage package, management introduced several provisions aimed at dividing workers.

The company proposed a new rule which would place junior employees on permanent call without notice during days off. If a worker refused to come in he or she could be fired. As one striker commented, "we fought a war to get rid of slavery over a hundred years ago."

Other provisions of the proposed contract would tie the wage increase formula to hours worked rather than the time employed and would reduce Sunday pay for new hires from double time to time-and-a-half. The most onerous aspect of the proposed pact would limit new employees to 29 hours part-time status. Thus these workers would be ineligible for most negotiated fringe benefits and would have no personal stake in retaining them.

Here in Bloomington grocery unions have been broken in the past, and the workers at the Seminary Square and Eastland Plaza Kroger stores are determined to fight back.

### TRICKS

The company is using the usual tricks—offering rock bottom prices, advertising for student scabs in a depressed college town and calling in their pals, the cops.

The local superior court judge John Baker, a Democrat, quickly issued an injunction limiting the right to picket at the Seminary store.

Still the workers are optimistic. Local trade unionists are aiding in spreading the boycott and Indiana University students (including foreign nationals) have been welcomed to help walk.

The meat cutters in a separate local of the UFCW, are honoring the lines. Business has been reduced by eighty per cent some days and the scabs have been pilfering the registers.

As the thieves fall out the strikers continue to defend their union.

by JIM HURD

## Cannery organizer gunned down in Seattle union hall

SEATTLE, WA—In the afternoon of Monday, June 1st, as Seattle I.L.W.U. Local 37 (cannery workers) was gearing up for its early summer dispatch of seasonal workers to the salmon packing plant of southeast Alaska, two men walked into the hall and gunned down the local's secretary-treasurer, Silme Domingo, and dispatcher Gene Viernes.

Gene died instantly and Silme fought for his life through the night before succumbing the next afternoon. Before losing consciousness he was able to tell medics the names of the killers.

### REVOLT

Silme and Gene spearheaded a rank and file revolt that swept the 1980 local elections, winning 11 of the 17 executive committee seats.

The new officers were elected on a platform dedicated to reforming the local's corrupt dispatching system, ending race and sex discrimination in the canneries, and establishing a strong shop steward system to achieve adequate contract enforcement (something entirely new in this industry).

Silme and Gene were both experienced "Alaskeros" having worked in the canneries since their high school days.



Silme Domingo

They were also activists in the Seattle Asian community.

Silme was a founding member of the Katipunan Demokratika Pilipino in 1973, an organization that supports the anti-Marcos revolutionary movement in the Philippines, and fights for justice for Filipino and other workers here in the U.S.

He was instrumental in establishing the annual Filipino peoples' far-west convention as a forum for educating U.S. Filipinos for the fight against racial and national oppression.

In 1972 he and Gene, formed the Alaska Cannery Workers Association, which initiated and ultimately won 2 major lawsuits against New England Fish Co., making

major gains in the fight to end discrimination against Filipinos and Native Americans.

In 1977 Gene, Silme, and other militants formed the Local 37 Rank and File Committee to make the union an effective force for struggle against the cannery bosses. At the time of the murder they had only begun to start making progress.

As Dave Della of the Rank and File Committee has said, "In their deaths, Silme and Gene have become heroes of the working class movement. We are certain that from these deaths the reform movement in Local 37 will only gain strength and momentum."

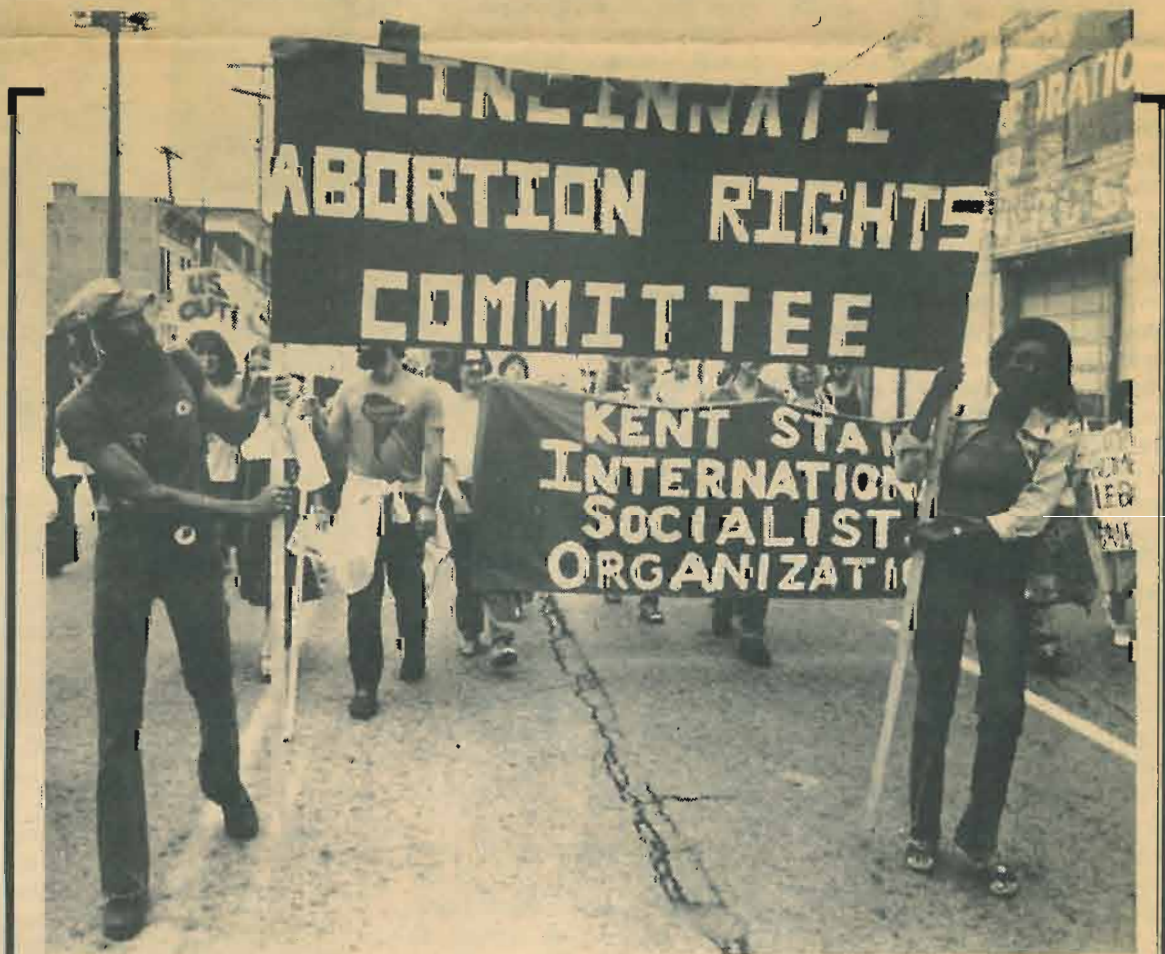
### FUND

Silme is survived by his wife and 2 children. Gene was the supporter of his widowed mother.



Contributions to help them can be sent to: Domingo and Viernes families benefit fund c/o Local 37, International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman Union, 213 S. Main St. Seattle, WA.

by PHILLIP HELESTO



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### ANNIE SMALL IS FREE

CINCINNATI, OH—Annie Small, a forty-eight year old Black woman, is free.

She was found not guilty on June 24 in the shooting death of a Ku Klux Klansman who broke into her home.

It took the jury only 45 minutes to vote her acquittal on charges of voluntary manslaughter.

Justice has prevailed. But Annie Small and her supporters are still asking why she was tried in the first place.

The Klansman, Clyde Hensen, had threatened and harassed Ms. Small for years because she was the only Black person in the neighborhood.

She shot him only as the last resort.

### CONTINUE

Annie small's supporters were on hand throughout the three day trial. Several met the following week at the Church of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth to initiate a committee to continue the fight against racism in Cincinnati.

by BILL ROBERTS



# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

## Postal workers: "We want a decent contract"

The postal contract expires July 21. It is still up in the air whether there will be a first official nationwide strike.

The first and last time postal workers struck was in the 1970 wildcat. That strike led to the Postal Reorganization Act. That Act established collective bargaining.

Postal workers were to get substantial wage increases in exchange for increased productivity. Postal workers were to accept this and not strike. Management now wants to cut wages and increase productivity more.

This, as in other union contracts the past few years, is the issue.

Management is making the attacks while the unions are just trying to maintain status quo.

### ISSUE

William Bolger, the postmaster general, stated early that the uncapped COLA had to go. This has become the issue over which the unions may strike. In 1978 it was the no-layoff plan. Management worked hard to get rid of it, but gave in at the last moment to avoid a strike. Although the union negotiations won on this count, the rest of the contract was lousy and was voted down. One of the main gripes was the capped COLA. The issue was sent to arbitration. The COLA was then uncapped, but the no layoff plan was lost.

Anyone hired after September 15, 1978 can now be laid off.

Although the contract was voted up, the letter carriers voted in Vincent Sombrotto as their national president. Sombrotto was known as the New York shop steward who led the 1970 wildcat strike. He ran on the idea that the '78 contract was a bad one.

The clerks (who are in the APWU) later voted in Moe Biller, another radical, known for his leadership in the 1970 wildcat also. The two said they

by JOHN TRIPLETT

would get together for joint bargaining for the 1981 contract talks.

Their election indicated that postal workers were dissatisfied with the last contract despite the fact it was voted up.

There are other issues involved in the 1981 contract that are of importance. One is sick leave.

An employee is entitled to four hours sick leave for every pay period of 80 hours work. There is no limit to how much sick time leave one can build up.

Workers are constantly harassed when they call in sick. It's not just people who "abuse" the system. Workers who haven't called in sick for a year or more are told that they need doctors excuses.

Sick leave is something postal workers have earned and should be used at their own discretion.

Another thing is mandatory overtime. For substitute clerks and carriers there is constant overtime (ten to twelve hour days, six to seven day weeks for example).

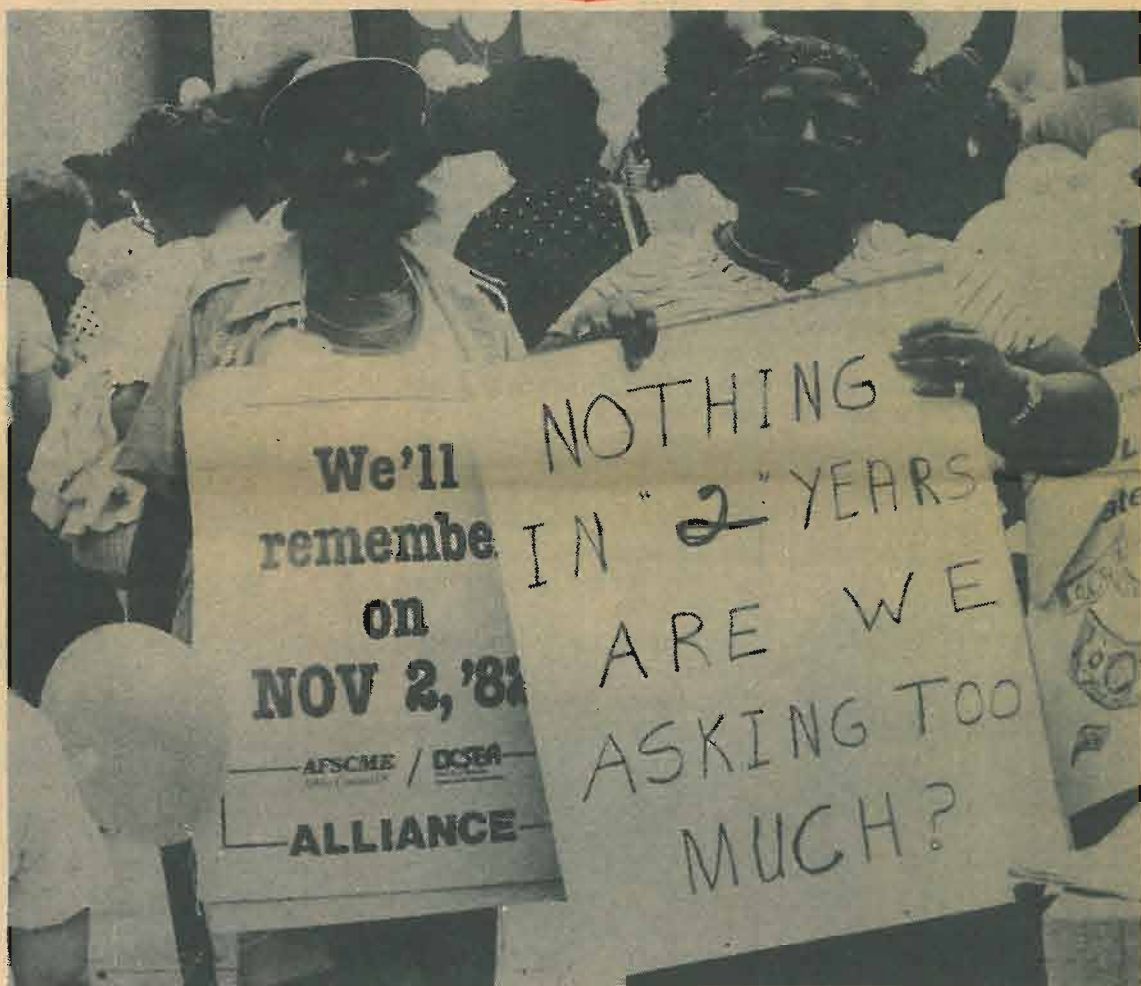
### DELAYED

Contract negotiations were delayed two months by management tactics and so the possibility of the contract expiring without a tentative agreement is there. This could lead to a strike.

The NALC and APWU presidents have said they would call a strike over the COLA issues and the no-layoff clause, but what about the other issues. Surely they shouldn't give in on everything else just to avoid a strike.

Militants don't want what happened to the air traffic controllers—a last minute sell-out. Workers want something they can live with, a decent contract for the next three years. □

## OHIO STATE WORKERS MARCH ON COLUMBUS



COLUMBUS, OH—3,000 angry Ohio state workers marched on the capitol building on June 16 in a hastily organized demonstration called by the Alliance to push the passage of H.B. 836, the state workers "pay bill."

The Alliance, a temporary merger of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA), was formed to

by DAN PETTY

strengthen the weakening efforts of both unions in the State House.

### SLOWDOWN

House Bill 836 calls for an immediate \$1.00 per hour wage increase, a COLA, and an end to the present ceiling on wages paid for overtime. Briefly, it's a paybill that would barely slowdown the increasing attacks on Ohio state workers who currently make an average of \$2.00 less per hour than most other state workers.

Trying on the role of militant, Bob Brinzda (president and director of AFSCME Ohio Council 8), promised more demonstrations on the capital until the bill is passed by the legislature.

The normal operation of the State House was disrupted as the 3,000 workers marched

into the building chanting "We want a raise" and releasing thousands of helium balloons into the dome of the capitol.

It will take more than talk about militant action, however, even in the present form of the Alliance. Kay Frye, health care worker from Holmes Hospital, Local 217, Cincinnati, told *Socialist Worker*, "I've counted the number of workers I know whose filed bankruptcy—I've counted 81."

### CRIPPLE

"The only way we're going to do it is to one morning wake up, call in and cripple the state." Similarly Barbara Bronston, Treasurer of Local 217 said that what they need is "a one day walkout all over the state. It's got to be consistent."

It's also going to take a bit more effort than the mere 9 days and paltry publicity put out by the Alliance to organize this demonstration. □

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