



AMERICAN STRIKERS VICTORIOUS

See page 15

KARL MARX: ONE HUNDRED YEARS

See pages 8 & 9



Socialist Worker

Paper of the International Socialist Organization
25¢ monthly



1933: The Briggs Strike
Page 13

MARCH 1983



NUMBER 71

THE RECOVERY

FOR BOSSES ONLY

This month Ronald Reagan will be wined and dined by her majesty Queen Elizabeth II on board her royal yacht Britannia off San Francisco.

San Francisco's elite will also join in for a sumptuous dinner and reception in Golden Gate Park's Young Museum.

The California rich are licking their chops, of course, but they aren't the only ones.

The rich from coast to coast have gotten a wiff of profits to come, and all of a sudden everyone from the Wall Street *Journal* to Roger Smith, the chairman of General Motors, is "optimistic."

PREDICT

Things don't look so good for the rest of us, however. Reagan has pledged to continue cutbacks in social services, and even his own advisors predict that unemployment will stay about ten percent for the rest of the year.

Workers and the poor will not be lining up for seconds of caviar, but instead for free cheese, and handouts from churches and charities.

Unless, of course, there is a fight back. That is the only alternative. We will only get what we fight for—in the factories, in our unions, in our schools and in the streets. □



Toasting the hope for a recovery in profits

UNLESS WE FIGHT BACK!

**GM AND
TOYOTA
COMBINE
AGAINST
UAW**

by KENT WORCESTER

When auto giants General Motors and Toyota Motor Co. signed a \$300 million agreement on St. Valentine's Day it made the headlines.

RESULT

After all, 25% of the world's cars are produced between them.

The new deal will result in the production of 200,000 Japanese-designed small cars manufactured out of GM's closed down Fremont, California plant a year.

Toyota gets around protectionist legislation, and GM saves more than \$1 billion by not having to design a new small car from scratch.

But there's a hitch. While the two automakers predict that the plan will create 12,000 jobs, some 50,000 jobs could be lost when GM pulls the Chevette out of production to make way for the new car.

And Toyota isn't much interested either in Fremont's 6,000 laid off autoworkers or their union.

"We have no intention of giving priority to former Fremont employees", say Toyota management, which expects the refurbished plant to provide 3,000 jobs. Besides, the company will accept the UAW only if seniority and certain work rules are dropped.

GM is no stranger to making deals that force drastic concessions, nor to attacking unions.

GM president Roger Smith negotiated concessions worth \$3 billion with the U.A.W. last year.

He told the United Steelworkers Union last December that they must settle with the steel corporations or GM will buy its steel from Japan.

HELLBENT

The concessions demanded from U.S. unions, as well as this agreement made with Toyota, are not negotiated in order that GM can create a healthy economy.

Whether a plant stays open or shut, whether a union is busted or tolerated, and whether jobs are created or destroyed, is determined by the dollars left over at the end of the day—profits. □

**THE CIA AND THE
"BUTCHER OF LYONS"**

Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyons" was an American spy.

The CIA knew Barbie was wanted for the murder of more than 4,000 resistance fighters in France, but they deliberately shielded him.

PAID

They paid him \$1,800 a month after the war, and smuggled him to Bolivia on a Red Cross passport. They admired his anti-communism and wanted to put him to use.

His escape was aided by a Nazi sympathizer—a cardinal in the Vatican.

These facts are proving embarrassing to the U.S. government.

Despite great publicity about denazification after World War Two, successive U.S. governments treated ex-Nazi war criminals very leniently.



In the S.S. left; as cocaine dealer right

An estimated 30,000 Germans wanted for various crimes have lived quite openly and usually prosperously, in Latin America for the past 40 years.

They have been protected by the right wing regimes and



military dictatorships which exist in most countries of that continent.

EMBARRASSED

In turn these regimes have received massive financial and

moral support from the United States.

The aim of this has been to protect the "free world" from communism.

But it is not only the U.S. government which is embarrassed. In France the trial of Barbie may cause problems for some of those who collaborated with the occupying Germans during the notorious Vichy regime.

But most significant of all is that the arrest of Barbie has revealed just a tiny part of the international network that links the Nazis of Hitler's regime with right wing and fascist organizations throughout the world today.

Barbie himself was a top adviser to the Garcia Meza dictatorship in Bolivia until it was overthrown.

He had a lucrative sideline in cocaine dealing, which he used to help finance right wing groups.

And the most wanted war criminal, the Auschwitz doctor Mengele, is alleged to be living in a community run by the obscure christian Mennonite sect, in Paraguay.

The fascist links show no sign of dying out.

An Italian fascist was recently deported by the new democratic Bolivian government because of his involvement in the Bologna bombings two years ago.

SMUGGLED

But when the new regime came to power two others, involved in the bombing, were smuggled out by jet.

Their flight was organized by the Bolivian military.

Along with many other Nazis, they are now believed to be in Argentina. □

**Hypertension: the
leading cause of death**

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a leading cause of death in the United States.

Every year thousands of people die of causes related to hypertension such as heart attacks, strokes, and kidney damage.

Your doctor will often tell you about avoiding salty foods and will give you a pill to lower blood pressure, but this does not treat the cause of high blood pressure.

Hypertension is an indicator of social problems. It is a disease of capitalist societies.

LOW

In primitive societies where people work together to hunt and grow their own food, blood pressure is low.

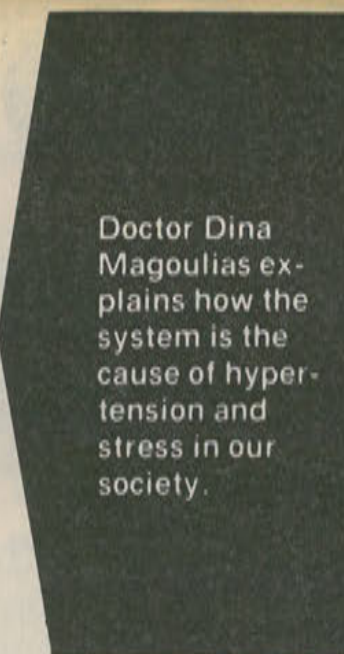
However, in capitalist societies, like ours, people work long hours at fast rates for corporations instead of for themselves.

This causes stress and can lead to high blood pressure.

Migrant workers lead particularly stressful lives. They are separated from their communities and do hard work in the fields for very low wages.

Medical studies show that they have higher blood pressure than the rest of the population.

Other studies show how hypertension is related to social class. There is three to four times more hypertension in lower classes than in higher classes.



Doctor Dina Magoulias explains how the system is the cause of hypertension and stress in our society.



Low-income Blacks, for example, have the highest blood pressure (whites in lower social classes have the next highest).

The death rate from hypertension for Blacks is six times higher than for whites. Blacks are not born with high blood pressure, but develop it because of social reasons.

Racism causes Black people to have lower incomes and more unemployment, and forces them to live in overcrowded and unsafe areas.

A study in Detroit showed that there is a difference in blood pressure of Blacks who live in high stress parts of the city compared with Blacks who live in low stress areas. □

In contrast, Blacks living in West Africa, where many American Blacks are descended from, have normal blood pressure.

STRESS

This all shows that the increased blood pressure among Black Americans is due to the stress that they encounter in American society, stress of a capitalist society under which we are all exploited.

The only way to prevent hypertension is to fight for a classless society where we all have jobs and produce things together for all our use and not for corporate profit.

We need more than low salt diets. We need socialist revolution. □

**COLUMBIA
CELEBRATES**

NEW YORK—Columbia University celebrated Black History Month by buying the Audubon Ballroom on 166th Street and Broadway in New York City.

They announced plans to demolish the Ballroom, an historic center of Black culture.

HISTORIC

The Audubon Ballroom was not just a jazz joint from the thirties to the fifties.

It was where Malcolm X was murdered on February 21, eighteen years ago.

Columbia is again doing what it does best—real estate development.

So much for the University's commitment to Black history. □

The 1983 recovery: not for the workers

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

Ronald Reagan's grin is much wider now—thanks to new signs that there will be some economic recovery in the coming year.

He is already taking the credit—of course—but this is nonsense.

The recession, if anything, was deepened by his policies—from the massive cuts in public expenditure to the taxation policies.

Still, there may well be a recovery. The economic indicators all point in that direction.

BOTTOM

In January, even the steel industry picked up—from what now appears to have been at bottom at about 30% capacity.

Housing starts are up. Tool orders are up. So is overall industrial production and capacity utilization.

One very optimistic projection in *Business Week* (March 7) goes so far as to predict an economic growth rate of from

3.5% to 5% in the coming year.

The writer notes, however, that even this rate would be "well below the pace of earlier recoveries."

All this is very nice, but there is a problem. While there is a widespread belief that there will be a recovery for business, virtually nobody is predicting a significant recovery for workers.

Reagan's own advisers forecast unemployment rates running above 10% for the rest of the year.

General Motors is already making substantial new profits, partially on the basis of increasing production and sales, but very few unemployed auto workers are back at work.

The important point, then, is that while this recession may well be followed by a recovery, as has happened throughout the history of capitalism—booms and busts—it will not bring about renewed prosperity, let alone new in-



Waiting for cheese in Cleveland

creases in the standard of living, but the opposite.

Certainly there will be no recovery for the armies of the poor in the old industrial centers of the system—the heartlands of the great boom—the Detroit and Youngstown of the country.

At the same time, the attacks on the social services are sure to continue with little or no opposition from the Democ-

rats, who are far more worried about deficits than peoples lives.

WORSE

So there will be worse health care, less aid to dependent children, attacks on food stamps, college loans and so on.

And the cities and states will remain impoverished—so that the crisis in everything from education to public works will continue.

In industry, there has been no letup in the demand for concessions and the attack on the rights of workers in the workplace. Plant closings are continuing.

So Reagan's rosy predictions should be seen exactly for what they are.

The truth is that the problems that face both Reagan and the Democrats are far deeper and more far reaching than the politicians and business analysts want us to believe. They are problems in the system itself.

1982 was a grim year, to be sure, but it was merely the grimmest year in what will soon be a full decade of world economic stagnation.

There are an estimated 32 million unemployed workers in the advanced industrial nations now, and this figure is expected to increase, even with a recovery.

The situation in the poorer countries is far, far worse, as the terrible events in Nigeria—the forced expulsion of one to two million workers—so terribly show.

At the same time the system is increasingly unstable. The staggering debts of the "third world" countries continue to

threaten the whole banking system, while the anticipation of recovery is already bringing back fears of renewed inflation and trade wars.

So the reality is that economic prospects are very grim. Continuing stagnation, punctuated by recessions, with each recovery weaker than the one which preceded it.

The only real question is how long, both in this country and in other industrial nations, the workers will be passive.

RENEWAL

In the past, economic recoveries have sometimes led to the renewal of class struggle—as the accumulated bitterness of the workers explodes in the confidence of slightly better economic conditions.

We cannot predict for certain that this will happen.

But we hope that it does. For it is the only alternative to the continuing immiseration of working people in this country and right around the world. □

Toxic waste and the system

Reagan wishes the scandal at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would go away.

But the underlying problems caused by massive industrial pollution won't.

DEADLY

The government has been forced to buy up the entire town of Times Beach, Mo. because the town has been contaminated with a deadly toxic waste, dioxyn.

Dioxyn is suspected to cause kidney and liver malfunctions, skin disease and possibly cancer.

At the same time, the EPA is being rocked by scandals of cover-ups, pro-industry favoritism, and destruction of documents. Many employees have quit, unable to perform their jobs.

The problem of toxic wastes has existed a long, long time. Just a few years ago, in 1978, residents of Love Canal, N.Y. discovered their town was contaminated with 20,000 tons of toxic wastes.

In fact, until 1976 there was no regulation of toxic waste disposal. Producers gave toxic waste to the lowest bidders and asked few questions about what happened next. Often wastes were buried in landfills or abandoned mines where they quickly leaked into the water table.

POLLUTION

The problem is even more widespread than just chemical wastes. In the drive for profits corporations don't care about people's health.

Lake Erie was almost totally

killed by industrial pollution. Acid rain is destroying the water life in the Northeast.

Nuclear wastes continue to pile up. For years the government has been dumping them in the ocean or burying them in the ground.

The EPA was created in 1970. It has either done nothing, as in the case of acid rain or nuclear wastes, or dragged its feet, as in the case of toxic wastes.

The problem is not just Reagan and his incompetent EPA chief Anne Gorsuch (now Burford).

As long as profits come before people's needs we can expect to see more of the same. Unfortunately for Reagan the environmental crisis won't go away. Doubly unfortunate for us. □

FIGHTING WORDS

Our present system and the institutions that make it up are the debris of history. They have become inimical to life, and must be swept away. They constitute a noose around the neck of mankind, threatening to choke off the human future, but we can cut the noose and break free.

—Jonathan Schell

Socialist Worker

March, 1983

Socialist Worker is published monthly by the International Socialist Organization, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

Northwestern students rally against Reagan's draft registration policies

With chants of "Northwestern's business is education, not draft registration," about 300 students at Evanston, Illinois's Northwestern University held a rally recently against a new law which will cut off federal financial aid to students who didn't register for the draft.

The Reagan administration and congress are trying to push an unpopular policy, draft registration, by targeting working class people who can't afford to pay.

REQUIRE

Scheduled to take effect July 1, the new law requires all men between eighteen and twenty three, applying for federal college grants or loans, to provide proof to their college or university that they had registered for the draft.



Marcia Davis

Also, under new Selective Service regulations, once a draft law is passed draft age men would receive letters ordering them to report to military induction within ten days.

Only during this short ten day period would they be

permitted to apply for conscientious objector status or deferment of military duty.

"It says something about the current regime in Washington that it connects draft registration with money," said one rally speaker.

Another speaker, Marcia Davis, the coordinator of the major Black campus organization, linked the draft issue to other assaults on working people.

"When we stand up for peace we must also stand up for affirmative action, we must stand up for full employment, we must stand up against racism, we must stand up for pulling the United States out of South Africa."

The students at the rally also called on the university administration to replace all cut off federal grants and loans with grants and loans from the university.

Yale University has already pledged to do this, and Earlham College said it will do the same for conscientious objectors.

A Northwestern spokesperson

said the university will probably only replace the federal grants and loans with loans from the school.

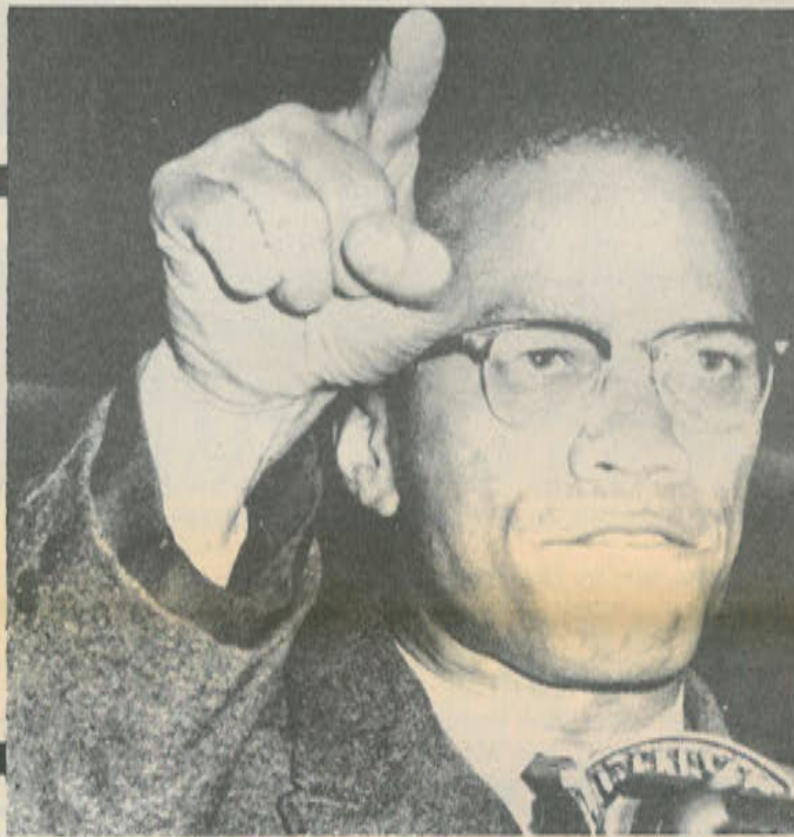
At a school which had a 17% tuition increase last year and a proposed 6% increase this year, this can hardly be seen as a magnanimous gesture.

TUITION

Undergraduate tuition alone already runs over \$8,000 a year and working class students already thousands of dollars in debt can hardly afford to take out more loans to replace the lost federal grants.

Apparently the Northwestern administration has little interest in attracting working class students to a university which already is predominantly white and upper class. □

by ANDY THAYER



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY: BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA

A DESPERATE LAND WHERE BLACK FOLK LIVE

Malcolm X

The situation in "Black bottom" has become progressively worse over the twelve past months since Reagan's economic and social policies have taken effect.

"Black bottom" was a term coined in the first half of this century for the segregated areas where Black families lived in every city town and hamlet across America.

Today, "Black bottom" stretches across the U.S., but this time it refers to the bottomless pit of frustration and poverty that the majority of 30 million Black Americans find themselves in.

SEGREGATED

Today, Blacks are not merely segregated residentially from the mainstream of American life but in every area the capitalist crisis is cutting the lifeblood from the masses of Black people.

Over the past twelve months the state of Black Americans has become more desperate. The ranks of the Black poor sharply increased—a half million more adult Blacks are jobless, our unemployment rate is now 25% higher than it was at this time last year standing at an official 20.8%.

BY RETHA HILL

The White House is the biggest discriminator of all. Blacks are losing their government jobs at twice the rate of whites. Millions of poor people have been forced off the welfare rolls, off the food stamp rolls, off nutrition, school lunch and health programs, out of college, and out of their homes.

POOREST

Black women are the poorest of the major race-sex groups in American society. They head the poorest of poor families and have the lowest average income.

The situation is constantly aggravated as hundreds of trained Black women stream out of colleges and training schools each school year, creating an oversupply of eager to work hopefuls. The private profit makers are the chief beneficiaries of the current position of Black women in the labor force.

In the past year, civil rights has become a cruel joke on Black Americans. A leaked report of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission showed the number of job

discrimination suits approved by the commission has dropped sharply. There is no enforcement of school desegregation and fair housing laws.

In addition, the Reagan administration has gone to court to kill affirmative action. In two crucial cases, in New Orleans and Boston, the government argued against

"discriminating against innocent third parties".

That is, white job applicants who were not directly responsible for creating a 3,000 year old system of racism against Black people.

It is a desperate land where Black folks live.

It should be obvious that capitalism does not work.

Even if there is a recovery the government says unemployment will remain over 11% for all Americans for the next six years.

This translates into over 20% for Blacks over the next six years. It's time to fight back and for Blacks to seize this land and create an equal and just society.



Our unemployment rate is more than 25%

Chicago Blacks shake city

CHICAGO, IL—Some Chicagoans were shocked in the wee hours of February 23rd. Some were very happy.

"I went out this morning (on the 23rd) to see if I could see a change in the city and I could," remarked one woman.

"All my Black brothers seemed to be holding their heads a little higher today."

UPSET

The event that shook Chicago was the upset victory of Harold Washington in the Democratic mayoral primary.

Winning the Democratic nomination in Chicago has more or less meant becoming the next mayor of this machine controlled town.

But, more and more, racism is rearing its ugly head shedding doubt on Washington's road to a walk-away victory in the April election.

The Chicago *Sun-Times* reports that machine workers from the losing primary campaigns have offered to work the precincts for the Republican candidate Bernard Epton.

And the Republican national committee has already given money to the campaign, hoping to attract white voters who would rather vote Republican for the first time in their lives than elect a Black mayor.

ACCOMODATION

In order to head off this situation Washington is now saying that "an accomodation will have to be worked out" with the machine.

But a far greater challenge to Washington's political reforms will appear in the coming months—with the city teetering on the brink of financial collapse, Washington has to come to an accomodation with the banking and business elite of the city.

If elected, Washington will face several million dollars worth on bonds coming due and empty bank accounts.

The schools, rapid transit, public housing, long held together with financial rubber bands and bubble gum face massive shortages in funding this year.

Washington's much heralded promise to "get the jobs back in Chicago" is doomed to failure, as public aid disappears into Reagan's black hole defense spending.

The severity of the crisis, combined with pressure from the Democratic party machine, will force Washington to turn on his friends. After all, in the end he's committed to upholding a system in crisis. □

THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DEPORT DENNIS BRUTUS

The man the INS wants to send back to racist South Africa

The government wants to deport Dennis Brutus.

Brutus, a Northwestern University English professor and world renowned poet is a long term opponent of his native South Africa's apartheid system.

And with Ronald Reagan cozying up to the South African government, anti-apartheid activists are not popular.

"Dennis Brutus is a threat politically," said Marcia Davis, a Northwestern student and member of the Chicago based Dennis Brutus Defense Committee. "His whole existence is a kind of contradiction to the country."

EXAMPLE

Brutus' counsel, Susan Gzesh said, "The case is another example of the government using immigration laws to suppress freedom of speech in this country."

Brutus agreed, "We know that the links between Washington and Pretoria have strengthened since the Reagan administration," Brutus told *Socialist Worker*.

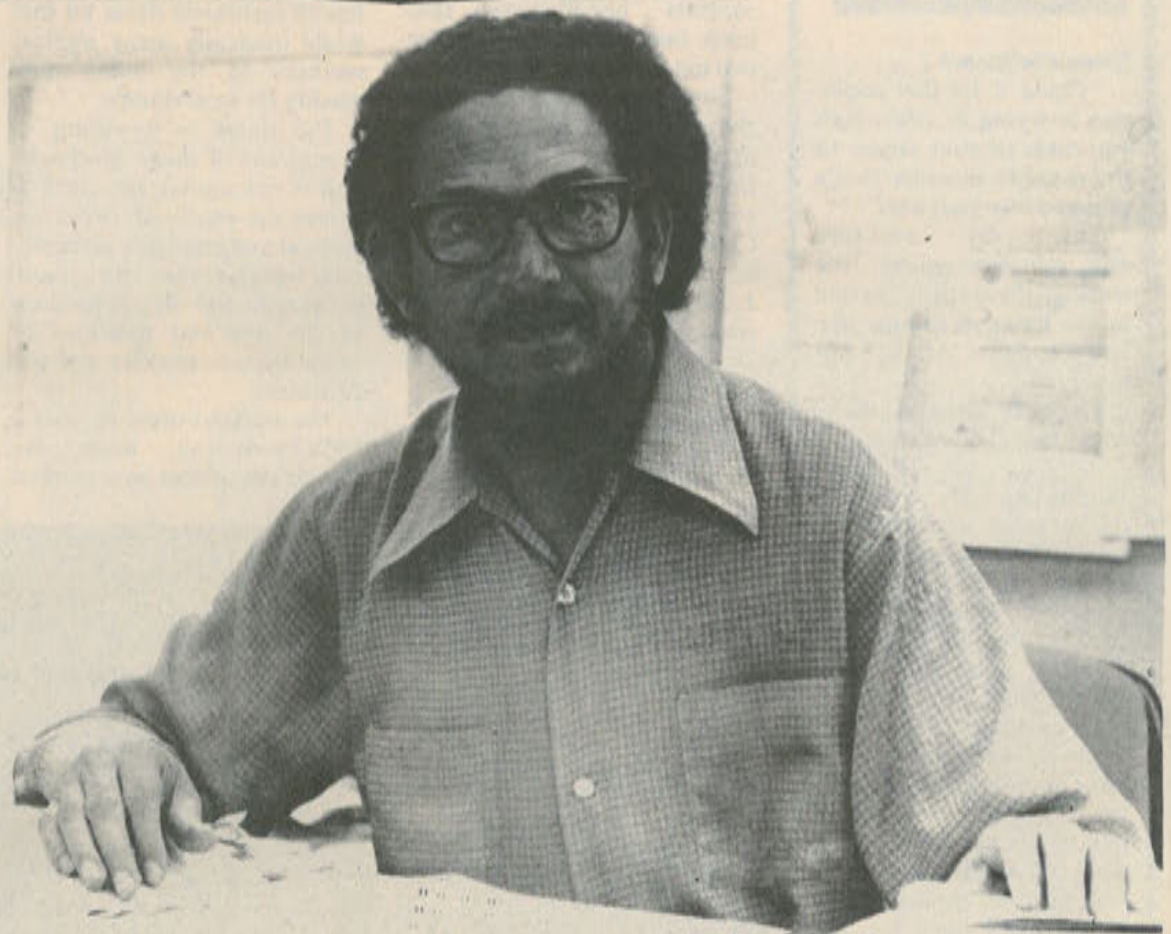
The government's case against Brutus began in February 1982, shortly after the Reagan administration came to power.

Due to a mix-up in a passport reapplication, the Immigration and Naturalization Service denied his temporary visa extension.

Brutus, who has been teaching in the U.S. for ten years, was ordered to leave the country. He refused, fearing he would be unable to re-enter later.

An immigration judge concluded he was "deportable" in January 1982.

With South African secret police death threats still outstanding, Brutus opted to apply for political asylum in February.



REPORT BY ALAN MAASS

The INS asked the U.S. State Department to render an opinion on the Brutus application.

OPINION

The opinion came down in January, 1983, but it included "classified" material.

According to an INS official, this is the first use of classified information in a Chicago deportation hearing.

This means Brutus doesn't even know what he's being accused of.

But Brutus said the classified information improved his case. "In the past, they said it was simply a matter of filing my forms late—all technical grounds," Brutus said.

"But when you say something is classified the implication is that it has political consequences.

"We've always said that there are political, as well as technical arguments, so in a sense we've been vindicated."

He added that he has no idea what the information could be, speculating that it might be anything from South Africa's secret police files to complaints from students who got bad grades.

The 58 year old Brutus' opposition to apartheid, the South African system that denies equal rights to its Black majority, began in 1958.

He and his brother Wilfred formed the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee to stop the exclusion of Blacks from the South African Olympic team.

The government cracked down in 1961 banning him from his job and from contact with friends and family.

The secret police arrested

him in 1963 for violating the banning order.

He fled the country only to be returned by the Portuguese secret police stationed in Mozambique.

He was sentenced to eighteen months of hard labor on Robben Island, the toughest prison in South Africa.

He was shot while trying to escape the island.

When he was released in 1965, he was exiled to England on the basis that he never return to South Africa.

South African secret police consider him "one of the 20 most dangerous South African political figures overseas," according to Gordon Winter, a former South African agent and author of the expose, "Inside Boss."

Winter also noted that the South African secret police share information with the CIA.

When Brutus tried to enter the U.S. in 1969 to take a teaching job the U.S. embassy in Britain stonewalled him.

When he finally won a visa, an embassy official warned him he might be deported if he continued his political activism in the U.S.

But Brutus remained active in the U.S. In 1975, for example, he persuaded Mohammed Ali to cancel a scheduled heavyweight fight in South Africa.

TRIAL

Throughout Brutus' trial, he has received support from teachers' organizations and anti-apartheid activists.

But Northwestern University has been conspicuously absent from the supporters.

Last year Black and left-wing campus activists forced

the university president to write a half-hearted eleventh hour letter of support.

"People are going to do all they can to make sure that Dennis has a decent life chance," said activist Davis.

"There's a lot of people who are not only personal friends of his but have connections with the freedom fighters in South Africa.

CONFIDENCE

"I have a lot of confidence in the people to make sure Dennis comes out all right."

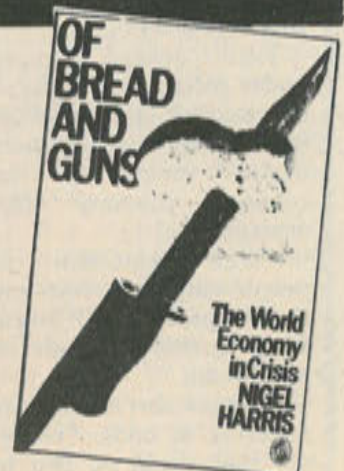
The outlook of the case is good, said lawyer Gzesh: "Somehow or other, this country is going to realize the honor of having a man like Dennis Brutus teaching here," she said.

Gzesh said she planned to raise the South African political situation in court.

"We're actually putting apartheid on trial here" she said.

"We don't get this kind of case every day."

For anyone interested in helping Dennis Brutus, contact the Dennis Brutus Defense Committee, Box 59364, Chicago, IL 60659. □



\$7.95

Graffiti

by KENT WORCESTER

Satanic influence . . .

"Could it be that someone is trying to brainwash you through your stereo or the cassette recorder that's plugged into your ear?"

Yes, say anti-rock and roll evangelists: the word of the devil is carried in the lyrics of groups like Led Zeppelin, AC/DC and others.

Preacher Greg Anthony says that Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" sounds like "My sweet satan, no other made a path, for it makes me sad, whose power is Satan" when played in reverse. "Another One Bites the Dust", by Queen, actually says "Satan must have no limit" in reverse.

These evangelists also burn records. Billy Adams, for instance, boasted of having burned over \$200,000 worth of rock vinyl "because it preaches the use of drugs, illicit sex, the occult and rebellion."

★★★

What is sex education? . . .

The *Cincinnati Post* recently reported that "sex education is more than do you or do you not have intercourse. That's the least part of sex. Sex education is good mental health prevention."

★★★

Good old days . . .

When Cleveland's *Plain Dealer* asked Mike Henson "At what point in history would you like to live?" he answered:

"In the Civil War period. Right before the Civil War in the South it was elegant. Gentlemen were gentlemen and ladies were what ladies used to be. Everything was laid back and the South didn't worry about work then. It was total enjoyment, total class, that sort of thing."

"Women in that period were lesser than men . . . The women were there to be pretty and hold parties. I think that's what a lot of women still want to do."

★★★

Quick recovery . . .

T.K. Jones, deputy under secretary of defense for research and engineering, strategic and theater nuclear forces, on the country's recovery after armageddon:

"With protection of people only, your recovery time to prewar GNP levels would probably be six or eight years."

If we pile dirt around our factories, he adds, "recovery time could be two to four years."

Social workers walk-out to protest dragging contract negotiations

NEW YORK, NY—On Thursday, February 24, members of the city-wide Local 215 of the Community and Social Agency Employees Union (District 1707 of AFSCME) went out on a one-day walkout to hurry-up contract negotiations that have been dragging on for two months now.

Some 400 union members chanted and picketed in front of the offices of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and the Jewish Childcare Association, the two agencies that employ over 1,000 workers throughout the city.

REDUCTION

Management is demanding a reduction of sick days from 20 to 12, the right to temp-

by JOSH LICHTENSTEIN

orarily lay-off workers and that they pick up their own health insurance rises; all this while ironically many clerical workers in the union now qualify for food stamps.

The union is unwilling to accept any of these givebacks and is demanding the right to grieve the workload, break for clerical and childcare workers, and compensation for single coverage, and the upgrading of the pay and positions of maintenance workers on the facilities.

The walkout drew at least a 99% response, while the march and picket was marked

by optimism about the union's potential.

Chris Renaud, a negotiator for the local, said, "The walk-

out was very successful and we are determined to push for a contract as soon as possible—with no givebacks!" □

BOSTON HISPANICS MARCH

BOSTON, MA—On February 27, a group of angry Hispanics and supporters from the Heath Street projects in Roxbury marched to the Boston police headquarters to protest the shooting of seventeen year old Mario Velez by a Boston policeman.

Mario was shot in the head on January 17, when he was allegedly sitting with two other youths in a stolen car.

by PAUL D'AMATO

Eyewitnesses say that Mario was unarmed and the car was blocked on all sides.

They say that when the police approached the car Mario rolled up the window and a policeman shot him through the glass. He is still hospitalized in critical condition. □

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Why won't a recovery lead to new jobs and prosperity?

Capitalism has always led to economic crisis. It cannot be otherwise because of the system's built-in contradictions.

Almost every object around us is a result of combined efforts by many people doing many kinds of work, in usually more than one country.

Our TV's originate in several sources: oil from the mid-east for the plastic, gold from South Africa for tuning contacts, printed circuits from Taiwan, picture tubes from Japan and assembly from Korea. The label might be an American company, but the division of labor is international.

PLANNING

You might think this internationalization of production would inject some planning into the system, and indeed governments attempt to plan through national policy—tariff meetings, banking conferences, trade agreements.

But the essential features remain: competition and the drive for profits.

The result is international crisis not just national slumps. In every country workers are being told to tighten their belts for their own good and the good of the nation.

This of course reduces the number of goods workers can buy. There is not enough "demand" to buy what is being produced by the different national car industries, steel industries and so forth.

After being told not to be greedy the workers are now laid off because there is *too much* being produced. This crisis of "overproduction" can be solved if the capitalists use

by BILL ROBERTS

their profits to buy all the extra goods and use them for investment—for new plant and machinery.

But they will only do so if they can make more profits. Otherwise they will hang on to their wealth.

Capitalism creates these crises of overproduction periodically.

This happens because, when capitalists invest, they do so all at the same time, madly buying up things they need to produce more goods. Like pigs at feeding time they plunge their snouts into the profit trough, buying up as much as they can in order to beat out their competitors.

Shortages follow and prices shoot up until there is a new crisis. Because there is no

planning there is no way to stop capitalists from stampeding after one another and crushing all in their way.

Some people believe the state can stop this lunacy. But in reality the state becomes part of the process.

Five years ago Chrysler workers were told they had to lose their jobs and take wage cuts in order to save the company. Their reward would come later.

The government loaned Chrysler owners investment capital. They modernized the plants and eliminated forever jobs of Chrysler workers.

Now the company is asking the remaining workers to hold the line on wages because of the lower demand.

If the company is successful more jobs will go—because the only way Chrysler can compete with its rivals is to

invest in labor saving equipment.

In the U.S. today almost all new investment is aimed at cutting the number of workers not increasing jobs. That is why there are fewer jobs in industry today than there were ten years ago, even though productive capacity has increased.

Only by "rationalizing" production, by increasing productivity and cutting the workforce can one capitalist get a bigger share than his rival.

For the system as a whole it is devastating. The number of workers does not increase at anything like the same speed as the increase in investment.

That is why the economists can talk about coming out of the slump based on investment spending figures and still predict a high level of unemployment for some time to come.

Yet it is the labor of workers that is the source of profit, the fuel that keeps the system going.

BREAKDOWN

If you get bigger and bigger investments without a corresponding increase in the source of profits you are heading for a breakdown—just as surely as if you expected to drive a Cadillac with the same amount of gas needed to keep a Honda going.

That is why Marx argued a hundred years ago that the very success of capitalism in piling up huge investments and new equipment led to a "tendency of the rate of profit to decline" which means ever worse crises. □



There are fewer industrial jobs today



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

ISRAELI REPORT CHANGES NOTHING

Israel's report on the Beirut massacres, in which Lebanese Christian militias killed hundreds of Palestinians last September, resulted in defense minister Ariel Sharon's removal.

HARDLINERS

Prime minister Begin then named Sharon a Minister Without Portfolio and appointed Moshe Arens as Sharon's replacement. Arens is another hardliner—he opposed the Camp David accords.

As a parting shot, Sharon warned that any criticism of him and his role in the massacre could deter an Israeli preemptive strike against Arab armies. This strike, of course, would deter an attack that remains a figment of his imagination. Sharon is a butcher—but he was not solely responsible. Begin and the rest of his cabinet learnt about the massacre 90 minutes after it had started.

Having learnt about it they did nothing. They were prepared to let it happen in order to hit the morale of the Palestinians.

Unfortunately for Sharon, world opinion was horrified, and Israel was forced to find a scapegoat.

Sharon's removal may appease these critics. It may save Begin's government.

BLOOD

But it will not stop the flow of blood in the Middle East. A state that is built on the expulsion of two million of its inhabitants and the continued oppression of those Palestinians who remain will never be able to do that.

Nigeria and the world economic crisis



Ghanian refugees attacked by soldiers

The world economic crisis has hit Nigeria like a sledgehammer.

The collapse of the oil market has shattered the Nigerian "economic miracle."

The government's response? Attack the workers—the immigrant workers.

It is one of the largest forced migrations in history—somewhere between one and two million people—no one can say for sure.

On January 17, Nigerian Internal Affairs Minister Ali went on television to order all "illegal aliens" out of the country—within two weeks.

Mostly these workers came from Ghana, but they also came from other neighboring West African states—Benin, Chad, Togo, Niger, Cameroon, Upper Volta and Mali.

FEAR

They left by whatever means they could—by car, on buses, by foot, or boat, fearing the wave of anti-foreign feeling unleashed by the government, press and politicians.

The massive compliance to the expulsion order was indicative of that fear. Some of those who fled were "legal" immigrants who left nonetheless.

They sold whatever they could not carry. Some had their belongings stolen. Others were attacked. The United Nations believes many died on the long 120-mile journey and were buried in the bush and on the beaches. The death toll will probably never be known.

At first Benin, the country bordering Nigeria on the west, closed its borders to the immigrants—fearing that Togo,

Ahmed Shawki on the crisis in Nigeria

the next state along before Ghana would refuse them entry. Ghana itself temporarily closed its borders.

Predictably, the thousands of refugees were attacked by Benin police. Finally, they were given permit to cross into Benin, Togo, and then Ghana.

The government's edict had a clear political motivation. President Shagari's government faces elections this August, and is using the issue of "illegal immigrants" as a major campaign issue.

They are the ones "responsible" for Nigeria's woes.

Indeed, president Shagari went on television arguing it was an act of generosity on the part of his government to grant the immigrants as long as two weeks to clear out.

CAUSE

But the underlying cause of the government's actions stem from the fact that Nigeria, Africa's wealthiest and most populous nation, faces severe economic problems.

Through the 1970's, Nigeria's economy boomed.

Principally, this economic activity was tied to oil—Nigeria is Black Africa's largest producer of oil, one of the largest in the world.

In the period of boom, migrant workers were sought and tolerated.

They came to Nigeria under an agreement of member nations of the Economic Community of West Africa that permits free movement across the borders and a 90 day stay.

In fact, they stayed longer—and were encouraged to do so by employers as they worked, on average for 50 naira (\$75). The Nigerian minimum wage is 120 naira.

But the world recession in the mid-seventies, and especially the present recession produced an oil glut and drove prices down. Today Nigeria is pumping 500,000 barrels a day—compared to 1.29 million a year ago and a high of 2 million.

The crisis is not yet over for Nigeria, for the refugees, or for Ghana, the country to which most went.

Nigeria's economic crisis is not the result of the number of immigrants in the country, but of the world slump.

And it won't be solved by expelling the immigrants.

Indeed, some argue that Nigeria was so dependent on migrant labor—on large scale construction, in the schools—that their overnight expulsion will lead to a worsening economic situation.

And for those who remember Nigeria's bitter civil war in the early 1970's it is a small step from blaming Ghanians to blaming Ibos.

For the refugees who have returned to Ghana, the problems are only starting.

Ghana's economy is also in crisis.

That is why workers mig-

rated to Nigeria in the first place.

In 1960 Ghana had about 40% of the world's cocoa trade, today it is under 20%—yet the country still depends on cocoa for 60% of its exports earnings.

Since 1972, the cocoa output has dropped by 50%. Many returning Ghanians only had a suitcase and a cassette player—the small reward for work in the boom years.

But as one western diplomat put it, the trouble in Ghana will begin when they find that they cannot even afford to buy batteries.

The forced exodus from Nigeria also raises other questions.

SCAPEGOATS

As the economic crisis deepens governments will increasingly turn on immigrants as scapegoats.

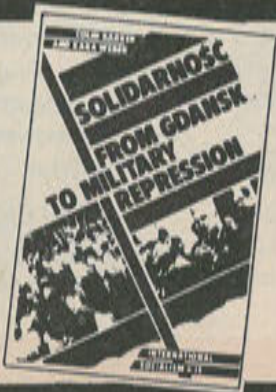
We have to say clearly that any such attempt not only will lead to the suffering of workers of other nationalities, but that in the end it is a noose around the necks of workers who accept the argument.

It accepts the right of the state and capitalists to use and discard workers at will.

It divides the workers and ties them to their own oppressive state.

It is a recipe for disaster. This is true for Nigerian workers blaming Ghanians. It is also just as true for American workers who accept the argument that it is the fault of Mexican and Japanese workers that they are out of a job.

The crisis is international. So too must be the solution—an international working class alternative. □



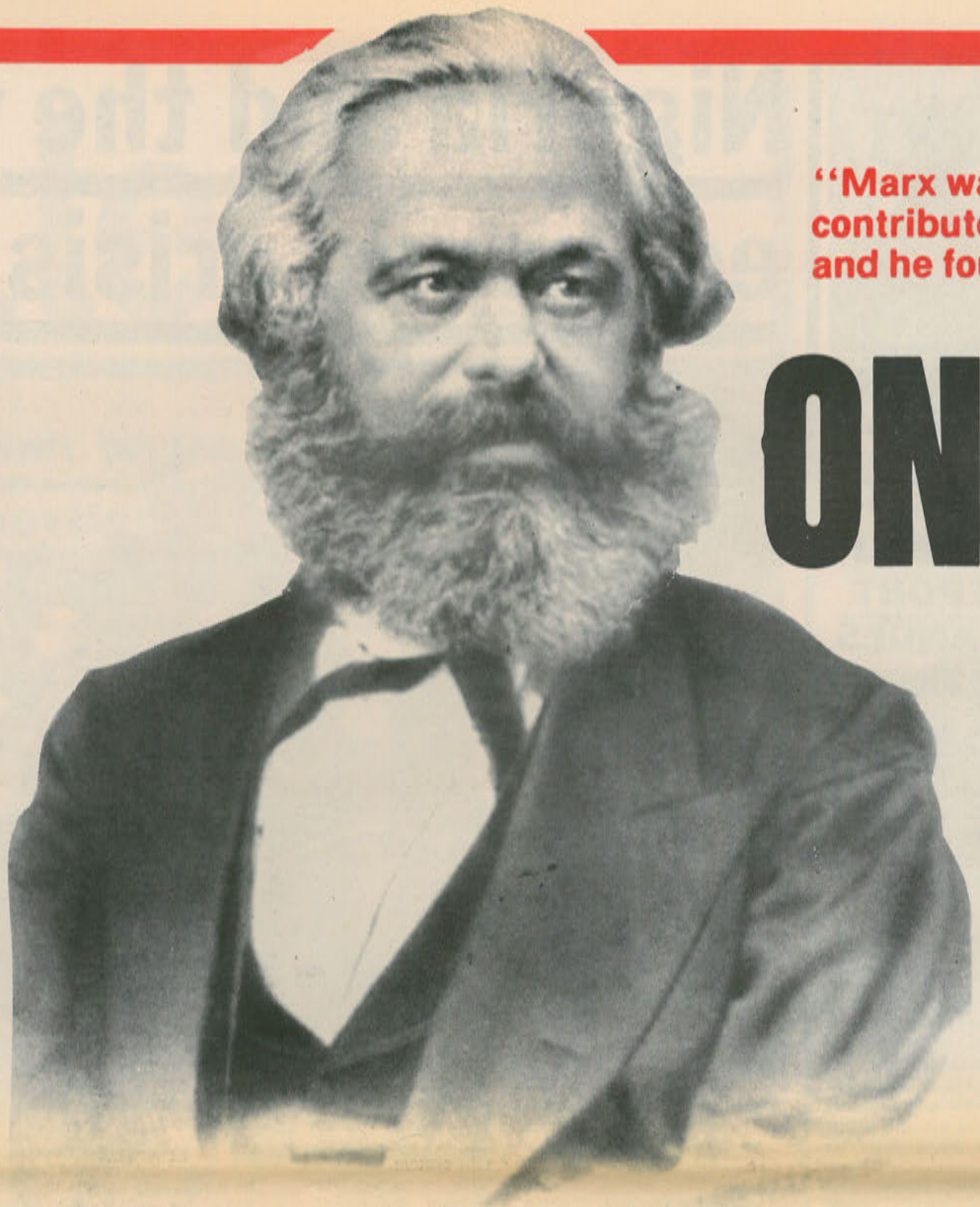
\$4.95

**“Marx was before
contribute to the on
and he fought with**

ONE

K

**Duncan Hall
life of the great
and thinker**



“Around your face a web of lies is woven,” wrote the English revolutionary poet Shelley.

Marx put the same idea another way—“The dominant ideas in any society are always the ideas of the ruling class.”

HORNS

So it is not surprising that most people in America think of Karl Marx, if they think of him at all, as a man with horns, hooves and a tail, a villainous and devilish fellow who is responsible for totalitarian dictatorships, mass murder, aggressive wars and pretty well anything unpleasant you can think of.

Of course, if it was just a matter of what the rulers of America and their journalists, TV commentators, professors and preachers have to say, it wouldn't be too hard to convince at least some considerable number of working people in the U.S.A. of the truth, which is that Marx was an uncompromising fighter against every kind of oppression and exploitation and that his whole life was devoted to the cause of the 'self-emancipation of the working class', as he put it himself and that his ideas are fundamentally important for American workers today.

MARXISTS

But the rulers of America have powerful allies in this business of portraying Marx and Marxism as enemies of human freedom.

Yuri Andropov for one. This ex-super cop, boss of the KGB and the new 'Tsar of All the Russians' claims to be a marxist.

So does the murderous Pol Pot of Cambodia, the megalomaniac Kim Il Sung of Korea, the military dictator of Poland, Jaruselski—the man who smashed the Polish workers' movement—and a whole gallery of other rogues.

All of them have a common interest with the rulers of 'the West' in identifying Marx, Marxism, and Socialism in general, with the repulsive and repressive dictatorships that masquerade as 'socialist states'.

Ronald Reagan has as big an interest as Yuri Andropov in promoting this big lie.

And there are no end of 'socialist intellectuals' in America, as elsewhere, who help them both by talking about 'actually existing socialism'.

Actually, Marxism, Socialism, is about freedom.

It is also about constraint, about the circumstances, the

conditions, that prevent working men and women—the actual producers of all wealth—from controlling the conditions of their own lives and work.

And it is about how these circumstances can be changed and how working men and women, Black and white, can create a truly free society in which all contribute according to their ability and receive according to their needs, a society free from exploitation, free from oppression, free from racism, from unemployment, from war, from poverty and inequality.

VISION

Is all this pie in the sky?

The Christians, the early Christians that is, had just such a vision.

Except that they saw it as

coming in an (imaginary) world above the sky and they looked to a savior, Lord Jesus, to get them to it.

Marx showed how it could be got in *this* world and not by a supernatural savior, but by the collective efforts of working people themselves.

How? And why hasn't it been done before, long before?

Let us look at the constraints, the things that prevent, deny, limit or cripple our freedom.

“A man must eat before he can think.” That is the basic idea.

It is very simple, and it is profoundly important. During most of the course of human history most people have been compelled to spend most of their time in grinding toil,

simply in order to produce enough to support themselves and their children at a pretty miserable standard of living.

Now people in this condition (and there are hundreds of millions of people still in this condition in the world *today*) cannot be free in any meaningful sense.

SLAVES

They are slaves to the brutal necessity of endless work.

Not only that. When there is little enough to go round, what bit extra there is has to be *concentrated* in the hands of a few if there is to be any fund, any resources, for investment in the future, for science, for art, for everything except the bare necessity of keeping alive.

And so we have social classes.

Actual producers; then those who screw out of the producers all that can be screwed—the ruling class—and some people in the middle, the middle classes.

With classes and class society we have class struggle.

“The history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggles.” Marx wrote, “a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.”

The class struggle is the motor of social change; at the same time it both influences and is influenced by technological change, giving rise to, successively, different kinds of class societies.

Often, these changes can take a long time. The beginnings of the capitalist class goes way back into the middle ages in Europe and the 'revolutionary reconstitution' that led to fully capitalist societies were quite long drawn out over the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

COLOSSAL

Capitalism is a very special sort of class society.



American mill workers in 1860

all else a revolutionist. His real mission in life was to overthrow of capitalist society. Fighting was his element a passion, a tenacity and a success few could rival."

HUNDRED YEARS: KARL MARX

on the ideas and
of revolutionary

Marx was enthusiastic about the progress it had made possible.

The capitalist class, he wrote, "during its rule of scarce one hundred years has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together".

Since that was written the productive forces have been multiplied many times over.

There is no longer any necessary reason for poverty or social classes on a world scale.

We have poverty now in the midst of plenty.

The qualification about 'on the world scale' is important though.

MARKETS

Capitalism created a world market, an international division of labor, a world economy.

That omlette cannot be unscrambled without a catastrophic fall in output, a fall so great that it would destroy the material basis for socialism—highly developed productive forces.

That is why Marx and Engels said 'Workers of the World Unite', that is why real socialists must be internationalists.

It is not simply a matter of sentiment. It is a matter of necessity.

Possibilities, potentials are one thing. The means to realise them are another.

Marx believed that capitalism itself had created the force that could overthrow it and establish a classless society—the modern wage-earning working class.

Socialism, for Marx as for the International Socialist Organization is the self emancipation of the working class and it is nothing else.

There is no socialism without collective, democratic rule by the people who do the work and create the wealth.

The claim that countries like Russia and Poland are socialist is simply fraudulent.

Note too, 'self-emancipation'. Nobody can replace actual working class struggle in the fight for socialism. The attempt to do so always leads to reactionary results.

But isn't the working class divided, under the influence of ruling class ideas, racist, sexist, nationalist and a few other undesirable things too?

All that is true and it can only be changed in struggle. It is a long, hard and complicated struggle.

It is also the only cause worth fighting for.

BUREAUCRATS

One important feature of this struggle, a feature Marx did not know about—it didn't exist on any scale in his day—is the role of the labor bureaucracy.

In the unions, in parties like the British Labour Party or the German Social-Democrats, the bureaucracy is a conservative force.

It is not that the bureaucrats are always to the right of the mass of workers; in some circumstances and times they

are, in words, 'more progressive.'

It is that their social position makes them try to limit struggles, often to sell-out, always to try to prevent struggles within the system spilling over into struggles to transform the system.

When labor bureaucrats talk about 'the labor movement' they mean themselves and the organizations they control. We mean the workers, organized and unorganized.

FIGHTER

I have given the barest outline of some of Marx's ideas. The incredible richness

of his thought nowadays supports a whole industry, a growth industry until very recently, of commentaries on Marx and commentaries on commentaries on Marx and so on ad infinitum.

CHANGE

The people who make a living out of this, and not a bad living either, are not Marxists—although most of them think they are.

Why not? Because, as Marx wrote as a young man, "the philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways, the point, however, is to change it."

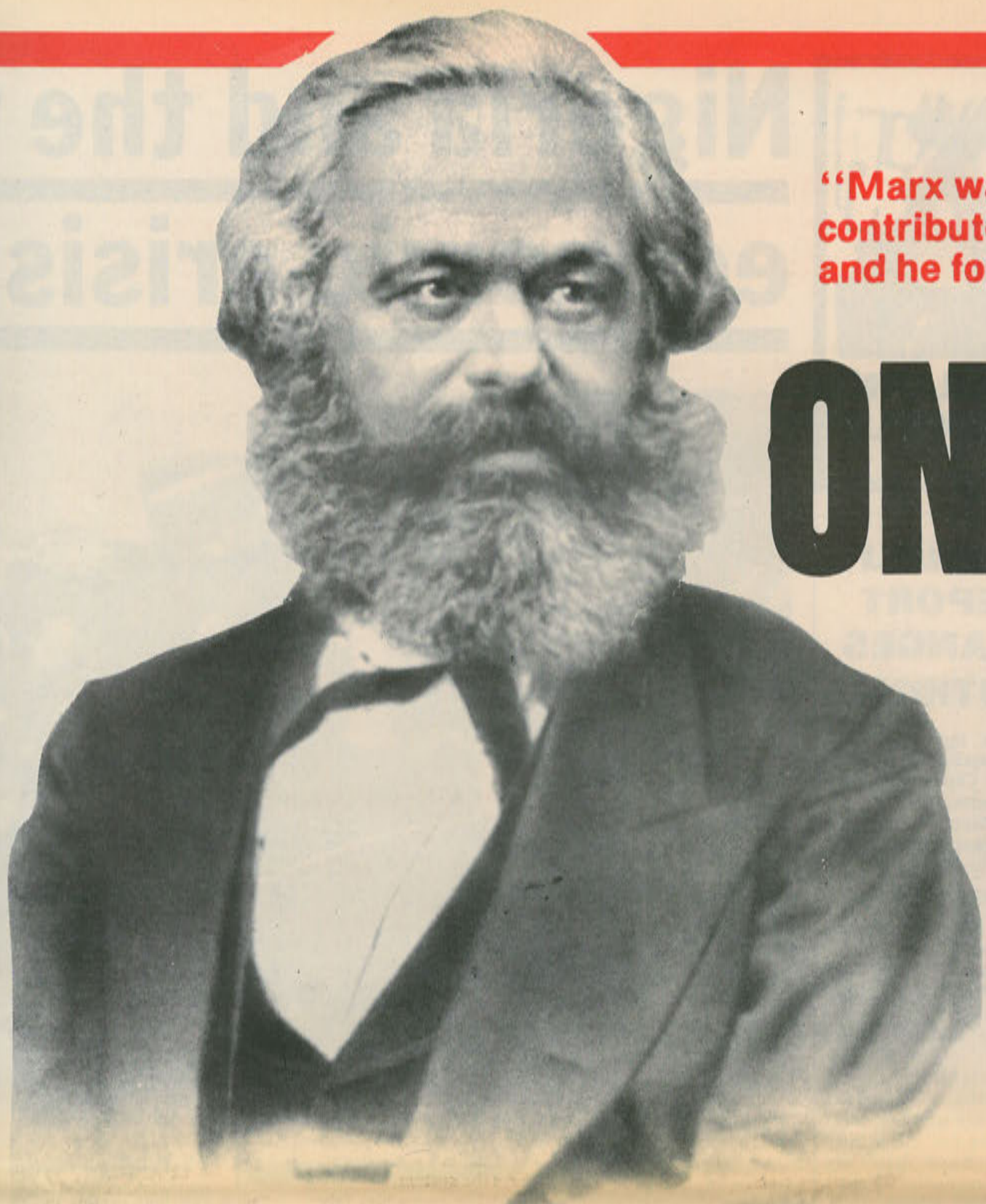
To be a Marxist you have to be a fighter in the cause of the working class, nationally and internationally, as Marx himself was.

One hundred years ago this month, Engels, life-long friend and co-worker of Marx, spoke these words at the old man's funeral. They cannot be bettered.

"For Marx was before all else a revolutionist. His real mission in life was to contribute, in one way or another, to the overthrow of capitalist society . . . Fighting was his element. And he fought with a passion, a tenacity and a success that few could rival."



Marx, Engels and the three Marx sisters—Laura, Jenny and Eleanor



“Marx was before all else a revolutionist. He contributed to the overthrow of capitalist society and he fought with a passion, a tenacity and a courage that few men have ever known.”

ONE HUNDRED YEARS KARL MARX

Duncan Hallas on the ideas and life of the great revolutionary and thinker

conditions, that prevent working men and women—the actual producers of all wealth—from controlling the conditions of their own lives and work.

And it is about how these circumstances can be changed and how working men and women, Black and white, can create a truly free society in which all contribute according to their ability and receive according to their needs, a society free from exploitation, free from oppression, free from racism, from unemployment, from war, from poverty and inequality.

VISION

Is all this pie in the sky?

The Christians, the early Christians that is, had just such a vision.

Except that they saw it as

coming in an (imaginary) world above the sky and they looked to a *savoir*, Lord Jesus, to get them to it.

Marx showed how it could be got in *this* world and not by a supernatural *savoir*, but by the collective efforts of working people themselves.

How? And why hasn't it been done before, long before?

Let us look at the constraints, the things that prevent, deny, limit or cripple our freedom.

“A man must eat before he can think.” That is the basic idea.

It is very simple, and it is profoundly important. During most of the course of human history most people have been compelled to spend most of their time in grinding toil,

simply in order to produce enough to support themselves and their children at a pretty miserable standard of living.

Now people in this condition (and there are hundreds of millions of people still in this condition in the world *today*) cannot be free in any meaningful sense.

SLAVES

They are slaves to the brutal necessity of endless work.

Not only that. When there is little enough to go round, what bit extra there is has to be *concentrated* in the hands of a few if there is to be any fund, any resources, for investment in the future, for science, for art, for everything except the bare necessity of keeping alive.

And so we have social classes.

Actual producers; then those who screw out of the producers all that can be screwed—the ruling class—and some people in the middle, the middle classes.

With classes and class society we have class struggle.

“The history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggles.” Marx wrote, “a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes.”

The class struggle is the motor of social change; at the same time it both influences and is influenced by technological change, giving rise to, successively, different kinds of class societies.

Often, these changes can take a long time. The beginnings of the capitalist class goes way back into the middle ages in Europe and the ‘revolutionary reconstitution’ that led to fully capitalist societies were quite long drawn out over the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

COLOSSAL

Capitalism is a very special sort of class society.

Marx was enthusiastic about the progress it had made possible.

The capitalist class, he wrote, “during its rule of scarce one hundred years has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together”.

Since that was written the productive forces have been multiplied many times over.

There is no longer any *necessary* reason for poverty or social classes on a world scale.

We have poverty now in the midst of plenty.

The qualification about ‘on the world scale’ is important though.

MARKETS

Capitalism created a world market, an international division of labor, a world economy.

That omlette cannot be unscrambled without a *catastrophic* fall in output, a fall so great that it would destroy the material basis for socialism—highly developed productive forces.

That is why Marx and Engels said ‘Workers of the World Unite’, that is why real socialists *must* be internationalists.

It is not simply a matter of sentiment. It is a matter of necessity.

Possibilities, perhaps, but one thing. The message is that these are another

Marx believed that socialism itself had created that could overthrow capitalism and establish a classless society. The modern working class.

Socialism, for the International Organization is the participation of the working class and it is nothing else.

There is no social class, but out collective, determined by the people who create and create the world.

The claim that Russia and Poland is simply fraud.

Note too, ‘section’. Nobody is an actual working class in the fight for freedom. The attempt to create a world leads to reaction.

But isn't the world divided, under the rule of the ruling class is sexist, nationalist, other undesirable.

All that is true only be changed is a long, hard and a struggle.

It is also the worth fighting for.

BUREAUCRACY

One important this struggle, a did not know about exist on any scale is the role of the cracy.

In the unions, the British Labour German Social-Democratic bureaucracy is a force.

It is not that there are always to the mass of workers circumstances a



American mill workers in 1860

Letters

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



HEALTH AND SAFETY NOTES

BY MATT FILSINGER

Worker's compensation

Many workers have known for years that the compensation system has some serious problems and inequities. Recently the American Labor Education Center has issued a report on the worker's compensation system.

It stated that only half of the compensation dollars actually go to the worker. The other half goes to insurance companies, doctors, lawyers, and state governments.

It is also estimated that only 1 out of every 20 occupational diseases is actually compensated for by worker's comp. And even when a health and safety problem is covered, the system only ends up replacing an average of one third of the worker's lost income.

The worker's compensation system began in the early 1900's. It was passed largely at the request of the owners, because many companies were being hit by very large lawsuits from the workers and widows who were victims of the horrendous working conditions.

Today, compensation dollars are more controlled, and more easily forecast by the accountants. So the companies just write it off as another business expense. But since compensation payments are so low, it's our health that's really being written off.

Toothless OSHA

Some statistics on OSHA under Reagan:

The number of workers covered by inspections has dropped 41% since Reagan took office.

Inspections have dropped only 3%—but many inspections consist of a mere reading of the company's injury reports.

Follow-up inspections have gone down by 86%—thus there almost never is a return visit.

Fines have dropped by 67%.

The government is leaving health and safety totally up to the bosses.

★★★

Send health and safety notes to Socialist Worker, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118.

"WE NEED MORE MIAMIS!"

Don't write off anti-abortionists: we're not all right-wing

Dear Socialist Worker,

I've been subscribing to *Socialist Worker* for a year and look forward to it each month.

I was especially pleased to see your headline "It's Right to Rebel" and your coverage of the Miami riots.

While it is true that riots in themselves are by no means enough, it is very inspiring to see that someone is fighting back.

In Canada we face a similar crisis, with 13% unemployed, an increasingly conservative union bureaucracy and a reactionary government that has taken away the right to strike from public sector workers, and imposed on them "6 and 5" percent wage controls.

The Liberal government has increased government controls in an attempt to blame the crisis on third world immigrants, and is about to sign an agreement with the Reagan administration to test Cruise missiles in Alberta and increase Canada's role in Nato.

Looking at the news, one sees every day signs of the hardship of the 1930's returning.

It sounds pretty bad . . . and it is.

But despite the total disappearance of the organized left in Canada, the International Socialists have been growing faster in the last year.

People are radicalizing in one's and two's, and the I.S. is the only significant revolutionary left group that is surviving the crisis and posing an alternative (though a small one) to the reformist New Democratic Party (NDP).

On the eve of a general strike of the "Common Front" (public sector workers) in Quebec, we need more Miamis!

Revolutionary greetings to all American comrades and readers of *Socialist Worker*.

P.S. I've enclosed a belated \$20 to your fund drive!

Peter Votsch,
Toronto, Canada

Dear Socialist Worker,

Here is \$10 for your *Socialist Worker* fund.

I wish I could afford to give more. I look forward to receiving *Socialist Worker* each month and read it avidly—as do several friends.

You're doing a good job. Keep it up.

John Thompson,
New Haven, CT



Dear Socialist Worker,

I think you make a mistake when you write off all people who oppose abortion as right-wing fanatics.

Many socialists, myself included, oppose abortion for the same reason we are socialists—we want a society which puts people first.

I also think that you should be careful when you poke fun

at Catholics, as you did in your February article on the Cleveland right-to life movement.

Millions of workers in this country are Catholics and there is no way that they will ever be won to the cause of socialism if they believe that they will have to choose between politics and religion.

Julie Martinson,
Akron, OH

Dear Socialist Worker,

Thank you for the article by Doctor Dina Magoulias. It's a rare treat to hear a doctor say something that is not basically designed to cost the patient money. I hope you will continue the articles on health care.

A retiree
Lansing, Mi.

Dear Socialist Worker,
Comrades you are doing an excellent job with the paper.

It makes the job of introducing socialist ideas to people much easier.

I especially want to commend you for the stories on page two in February.

The articles strove to shock and implore.

They suggest the absolute necessity of a socialist alternative. But they are aimed at people who are groping for ideas, answers—not the already convinced.

This is one of the most important tasks today: make our ideas relevant to the experience of people we meet.

Keep up the good work.
Glenn Perusek,
Chicago, IL

Dear Socialist Worker,

We, the undersigned, are two lower-working class men who are fed up with the life of the American Dream.

We have always believed in it and have worked hard to obtain it. We now realize that it is a fabrication of our rich masters to keep our noses to their grindstone.

If socialism is truly what it claims to be, we wish to know all about it.

Please send us both information on your movement.

Thank you,
S.E. Baker,
Milton, FL
Clayton Adams,
Pensacola, FL

Buy It, Read It, Sell It!

The drive to increase the number of subscriptions to *Socialist Worker* is doing well. We are now regularly receiving many more subscription requests than at any time in the past two years.

Many subscribers now send us \$10 for their sub, even though the cost of a sub is just \$5. We should encourage this, because as we reported in the last

issue, *Socialist Worker* needs all the financial support we can get.

We should try to combine the job of selling subscriptions and raising money for the paper. When you are selling someone a subscription, explain the purpose of the paper to them, and the reason why we charge only 25¢ for a copy—and only \$5.00 for a sub.

You'll be surprised. So-



Socialist Worker readers are more generous than you think.

Ahmed Shawki

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



Marxism and women's liberation

This March we will commemorate two very important dates—March 8, International Women's Day, the day set aside to honor the struggles of working women.

And March 13, the 100th year since the death of Karl Marx, the greatest socialist and revolutionary thinker.

The two dates should be connected, for Marx was not only the person who analyzed capitalism, and the importance of working class revolution.

He was also one of the first people to understand the relationship between class society and the oppression of women, in particular the situation of working class women.

DEVELOPMENT

Marx studied the development of early capitalism, and the great revolutions that ushered in the new system, in particular the French revolutions of 1789, 1830 and 1848.

These great revolutions also gave birth to the struggle for women's liberation.

In 1791, for example, working women led the march from Paris to Versailles to capture the king and queen.

In 1793 in Lyons, working women rose up and demanded and won more equitable food distribution.

In 1793, working women founded the radical Society for Republican Women, which believed that women's emancipation would only come with working class power.

So the first socialists, inspired by such events attempted to understand the position of women in society.

Flora Tristram, an early socialist writing about the silk weavers revolts in France in the 1830's and 1840's wrote, "The oppressed man can oppress one being, his wife."

"She is the proletariat of the proletariat."

Tristram published a book called *Workers Union*, devoting one chapter to working class women, capitalism, the family and the fight for socialism.

In the United States, the mill workers of New England were the first women to rise in revolt.

In 1836, 800 women went on strike in Lowell, Massachusetts. One journalist reported that a strike leader "made a



firey Mary Wollstonecraft speech about the rights of women and the inequities of the monied aristocracy."

The women formed the Lowell Female Reform Association, an organization which helped lead the long struggle for the ten hour day.

The Female Reform Association elected Sarah Bagley, a mill worker, as their leader and sent her as a delegate to the International Workingmen's Association—the first revolutionary international, in which Marx played a leading role.

The early Marxists fought for women's equality, not just in the factories, but in the home as well, and in the revolutionary movement.

JOIN

In 1868, Marx assured a correspondent that women could and should join the First International.

He argued, moreover, that women had the right to join independently of their husbands—something hardly taken as granted in the 1860's.

Marx's daughter Eleanor was also an active socialist and fighter for women's liberation. She worked with the unskilled and fought for union rights for women.

She wrote a short pamphlet in 1886 called the *Woman Question*, in which she argued:

Above: New York garment workers march. Right, Frederick Engels

"The truth, not fully recognized even by those anxious to do good to woman, is that she, like the labor classes, in an oppressed condition—that her position, like theirs, is one merciless degradation.

"Women are the creatures of an organized tyranny of men—as the workers are the creatures of an organized tyranny of idlers.

"Even when this much has been grasped, we must be weary of insisting on the non-understanding that for women, as for the laboring classes, no solution of the difficulties and problems that present themselves is really possible in the present condition of society.

"All that is done, heralded with no matter of what flourish of trumpets, is palliative, not remedial."

She concluded: Both the oppressed classes, women and the immediate producers, must understand that their emancipation will come from themselves."

WAGE

The early Marxists linked women's oppression to class society and capitalist exploitation.

out from social productive labor and restricted to private domestic labor.

"The emancipation of women will only be possible when women take part in production on a large social scale and domestic work no longer claims anything but an insignificant part of her time.

POSSIBLE

"And only now has that become possible through modern large scale industry, which does not merely permit the employment of female labor over a wide range, but positively demands it, while it tends toward ending private domestic labor by changing it more and more into public industry."

International Women's Day, organized and first celebrated by socialists in New York in 1908, was a recognition of the rise of women workers.

This year in particular, when we celebrate International Women's Day, we should also understand that the ideas of Marx and the socialist movement are more relevant than ever.

Women's unemployment is double that of men's. Our wages are only an average of 57¢ to a man's dollar.

As the economic crisis worsens, the condition of women worsens.

Yet as Marx wrote more than 100 years ago, capitalism also sows the seeds of its own destruction.

Today nearly half the workforce in the U.S. is women—far, far more than in Engels day. Women are concentrated in large workplaces. They are forced to work together. They fight back collectively.

Marx also insisted that capitalism is not reformable, and consequently there can be no liberation for women without the destruction of class society and the emancipation of all workers.

INTERTWINED

So for us the two are intertwined—the fight for the liberation of women and the working class struggle for socialism.

Marx wrote, "Workers of all countries unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains."

Working women must be part of this. We have two worlds to win. □



Karl Marx and his lifelong collaborator Frederick Engels began their analysis of women with the rise of private property and the state.

Referring back to Tristram's ideas, Engels wrote, "Woman was the first slave of the slave."

"The overthrow of mother right was the world historical defeat of the female sex.

"The man took command in the home also. The woman was degraded and reduced to servitude.

"She became the slave of his lust and a mere instrument for the production of children, for the production of children."

Engels went on to argue that women's oppression, rooted in capitalist society, could be ended with the overthrow of capitalism and the end of class society.

"We can already see . . . to emancipate women and make her the equal of man is and remains an impossibility so long as the woman is shut

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 fight for women's liberation, supporting equal pay for all women. 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. 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.

• Black Liberation

Our support for the struggle against racism is unconditional, and we oppose any attempt to subordinate this fight. We fight racism in all its forms, from institutionalized "legal" racism to the activities of groups such as the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

We fight segregation in the schools and in housing, we support affirmative action, and we oppose racist firings and harassment. We support armed self-defense in the face of racist attacks. We support independent self-organization and the right of self-determination of the black community. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

• 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 Poland to Puerto Rico, from Palestine to El Salvador. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia. 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.

International Socialist Organization

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

ISO NEWS

What's ON

BALTIMORE

Film: Salt of the Earth. Barbara Winslow on International Women's Day. March 5, 7:00 p.m. Listening and Viewing Room, J.H.U.

Educational on Marxism and the Party. March 4 and 18. 7:00 p.m. Call 235-4620 for details.

CHICAGO

Film: The Wilmar 8. Christina Bergmark on International Women's Day. March 6, 7:30 p.m. Call 288-7572 for details.

International Women's Day. March 7, 7:30 p.m. Call 328-6830 for details.

CINCINNATI

Film: What Could You do With a Nickel. International Women's Day Celebration. March 12, Room 402, TUC, 8:00 p.m. Call 871-1371 for details.

CLEVELAND

Film: What Can You do With a Nickel. International Women's Day Celebration. Speakers, potluck and party. March 11, 7:30 p.m. Call 371-2370 or 371-7648 for details.

DETROIT

Faith Simon on Eleanor Marx. International Women's Day Celebration. March 8, 7:30 p.m. Call 833-0621 or 527-2180 for details.

NEW YORK

Anne Griffiths on Revolutionary Feminism. March 4, 8:00 p.m. Call 316-0569 for details.

DUNCAN HALLAS TO SPEAK

★★★★★★

Duncan Hallas will be speaking to ISO branches this month on Karl Marx: One Hundred Years. Hallas is a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party in Britain, the sister organization of the International Socialist Organization. He is author of several books and pamphlets including Trotsky's Marxism and The Meaning of Marxism.

★★★★★★

Cincinnati, OH
February 27

Chicago, IL
March 3

Baltimore, MD
March 13

Yellow Springs, OH
February 28

Minneapolis, MN
March 6

Boston, MA
March 15

Dayton, OH
February 28

New York, NY
March 10

Rochester, NY
March 17

Richmond, IN
March 1

Philadelphia, PA
March 12

Cleveland, OH
March 18

Bloomington, IN
March 1

Detroit, MI
March 19

PHILADELPHIA
Barbara Winslow on The Economic Crisis and Working Women. March 4, 7:30 p.m. Call 625-9342 for details.

Tom O'Lincoln and Janie Smith on **Class Struggle in Australia.** 8:00 p.m. March 18.

Sandy Hiott on **Protective Policies and Working Women.** March 30, 7:30 p.m. Call 285-1908 for details.

ROCHESTER
Film: Union Maids. International Women's Day potluck dinner. 5:00 p.m. 148 Brooks Ave. Call 235-3049 for details.

SEATTLE
Marxism for Beginners: Educational Series. March 6 and 20, 7:00 p.m. Call 722-4133 or 725-9717 for details.

SAN FRANCISCO
Carol Siddle on **Alexandra Kollontai.** International women's Day Celebration. March 9, 7:30 p.m.



"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
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Northampton, MA
- Bloomington, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Philadelphia, PA
- Boston, MA
- Kent, OH
- Portland, OR
- Charleston, WV
- Los Angeles, CA
- Rochester, NY
- Chicago, IL
- Madison, WI
- San Francisco, CA
- Cincinnati, OH
- Minneapolis, MN
- Seattle, WA
- Cleveland, OH
- Muncie, IN
- Toledo, OH
- Detroit, MI
- New York, NY
- Washington, DC

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

THE BRIGGS STRIKE OF 1933

It helped spark labor's giant step

1933 was a grim year for workers in the U.S. 17 million were out of work. Millions roamed the country in search of jobs.

Many of those working saw their wages slashed and conditions deteriorate, but were afraid to strike, deterred by the large number of jobless.

The spontaneous strike of 10,000 workers at Briggs Manufacturing Co. in Detroit in January 1933 marked the beginning of a change in workers' attitudes—a new sense of militance which led, eventually, to the sit-down strikes of '36 and the growth of large industrial unions.

John Anderson's new pamphlet, *The Briggs Strike*, available for 50¢ from Hera Press, is a first hand account of that strike from someone who was an integral part of it.

The experience of the strike propelled John Anderson and others involved into militant union activity.

Conditions at the Briggs plants were terrible. Workers would work for 12, 14, even 16 hours a day, six days a week for wages of 50¢ an hour or less.

Some men were forced to rebate part of their pay to the foreman to keep their jobs, women pressured to grant sexual favors. The pace was grinding.

John Anderson was hired in January 1933 as a metal finisher at 52¢ an hour. He never received even that.

Each week the hourly rate he and others received dropped—to 45¢ an hour, 40¢ an hour until finally the metal finishers were receiving only 35¢ an hour.

When they complained to their foreman he answered: "If you don't like your job why don't you quit. There's lots of people waiting outside to take your job." That provoked the strike.

PROTESTING

The metal finishers walked out together and soon the word strike spread throughout the plant. Hundreds began to walk out.

As Anderson puts it: "Soon there were more than a thousand workers milling around in the street.

"But there was no organization; no-one to speak for them. I had seen this in 1929—the men staying out for a while and then going back with few or no gains.

"So I got up on the fender of a car and put into words the ideas I thought were going through the minds of the protesting workers."



He suggested a committee be selected to meet with management. Along with several others Anderson was picked. A meeting was arranged.

The plant manager, M.L. Briggs, agreed to restore wages. When asked to put this in writing, however, he refused.

The committee returned to the strikers, unwilling to call the strikers back without some written promise.

When they returned they found members of the Communist Party and the Auto Workers Union addressing the strikers. Eventually many men wandered off, but hundreds of others proceeded to a meeting hall where they discussed the strike and elected a strike committee.

AID

Anderson describes the aid that strikers received from the organized left.

Elected to the strike committee, he became involved in the organization of the strike. With the aid of the Communist Party controlled union the strike was spread to all four Briggs plants until over 10,000 workers were out.

As Anderson puts it: "A strike this size required an organization and people with experience to direct it.

"During the first crucial weeks the C.P. and the Auto Workers Union filled this gap.

They provided the organizers the speakers, the meeting halls, and the legal defense."

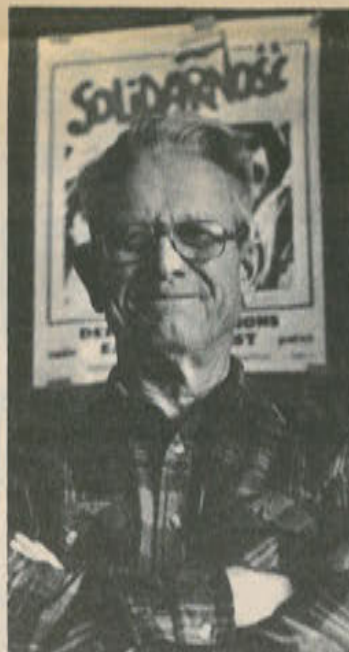
Most strikers had little or no

Peter Cogan reviews the new pamphlet on the Briggs strike by John Anderson.

Anderson was one of the leaders of the strike, and his involvement helped make him a socialist.

This year marks his fiftieth year as a militant and socialist.

The pamphlet is available for 50¢ from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118.



John Anderson

experiences as strikers. Without the C.P. the strike might have rapidly failed.

At first the pickets were hundreds strong, but as money and food ran low their numbers would dwindle.

Every few days there would be an attempt to break the strike. Thugs were brought in to attack pickets.

Strike leaders were arrested, held without charge for 24 hours, then arrested again. Strikers were cut from the relief rolls.

Publicity was hard to obtain. The newspapers ignored the strike at first. When they finally did cover it they described it as Communist inspired.

According to their version a bunch of communists came into the plant wielding clubs and forced the workers out.

Other left groups began to organize strike support, including the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) and the Socialist Party. The C.P. was hostile to these groups and their sectarian attitude discredited them in the eyes of many strikers.

END

Roosevelt's inauguration in March and his closing of banks diverted public attention from the strike.

It also squeezed the strikers financially. Many Detroit

banks were closed for weeks. The number of pickets fell.

One afternoon someone began hurling metal debris at the strikers from the Mack Ave. plant. Pickets threw it back, breaking some windows.

The police moved in with tear gas and rifles and dispersed the pickets.

Anderson describes the end of the strike: "We were in no position to take on the Detroit police, so picketing ended... the strike committee met and voted to end the strike.

Briggs made no agreement with the strikers but not only did Briggs workers benefit from the strike, so too did workers in other Detroit plants whose wages were raised and working conditions improved.

RELEVANT

Like today, workers in the thirties were initially willing to take pay cuts, hoping to hold onto their jobs. Eventually they realized that this strategy wasn't working and began to take action on their own against bad conditions.

It was only after they began to strike that any improvements were made, and this fact was not lost on workers.

In 1934 major strikes took place in Minneapolis and Akron, leading to the sit-down strikes of '36 and '37, the growth of industrial unions, and the improvement of conditions for workers.

Fifty years later the Briggs strike remains relevant.

It shows that only through fighting back will we win anything. □



CHRYSLER WANTS TO KEEP DOUG FRASER



Fraser announces GM concessions

DETROIT, MI—Doug Fraser, the man who once complained of industry's "one sided class struggle," is being urged to remain on Chrysler's board of directors. Fraser plans to retire from both the board and the UAW in May.

CHANGE

Union officials voted last month that Fraser "change

by JOHN NELSON

his plans" and keep the seat on the board.

Chrysler executives would be happy to have Fraser either as union rep, or as an individual. They won't promise that the seat go to the next UAW president when Fraser retires, however. □

Caterpillar strikers company resist concession demands

PEORIA, IL—Last October 1, Caterpillar Tractor Company forced its 21,000 employees to walk off their jobs.

Today, the strike continues with no break in sight. At issue is concessions.

Caterpillar sat down at the bargaining table in July with a list of 37 major take-aways it wanted in a new three-year contract with the United Auto Workers (UAW).

FREEZE

The list included a base wage freeze, a reduced cost of living allowance, elimination of 11 paid days off and severely restricted seniority rights.

The union's official bargaining position called for a 3% raise, retention of the old COLA formula, and no change in benefits and paid days off.

In other words, a continuation of the existing agreement with a small wage increase.

by BEN BLAKE

Caterpillar, the world's number one manufacturer of construction equipment, rejected the union offer because it says it needs major concessions to meet increasing competition from John Deere and Komatsu of Japan.

According to Cat management, it needs the help of its employees to beat out its rivals in this corporate war.

For the UAW, a more important battle is being fought in this strike.

It is a battle between profit hungry Caterpillar management and Cat workers who want to protect their jobs and living standards.

In the six years ending 1981, Caterpillar made a total profit of \$3 billion, with its profit rate reaching an all-time high in that year.

At the same time, the layoffs began. Since 1979, Caterpillar has cut its number of union employees from 37,000 to 21,000.

Now Cat management wants to squeeze more out of its remaining workforce with concessions aimed at cutting real wages and increasing pressure for more production on the job.

The aim here is to increase Cat's profit rate. Unlike International Harvester, Massey Ferguson, and Allis-Chalmers, Caterpillar was not in the red the first half of last year.

In fact, last January, Caterpillar even increased the dividends it pays its stockholders.

Last July, the same month Caterpillar presented its laundry list of takeaways to the UAW the *Wall Street Journal* reported that the company "remains profitable and in good financial health."

So today the battle between Caterpillar management's drive to increase its profit rates at the expense of its workers continues on the picket lines of its ten plants spread throughout the Midwest.

It's likely to continue to be a long, hard fight. Dave Schwab, a millwright at the Peoria plant, summarized the determination of the workers on the picket line in these words

"I'll sit out as long as it takes. You can't give up seniority rights. You can't give up all these things our union has fought for all these years."

The problem is that there is really little hope that the UAW's typical go-it-alone, one-company-at-a-time strike will win anything for the strikers.

Certainly it didn't when UAW members struck International Harvester in 1979 and 1980 for a total of 172 days, the longest major UAW strike in history, and ended up with a terrible defeat, losing both jobs and working conditions.

When the Cat strike began the company had on hand at least six months supply of heavy bulldozers, pipe layers and tractors.

Forbes, the business magazine, said they had a one year inventory. At the same time, the UAW is allowing John Deere to continue production without a new contract.

SOLIDARITY

The UAW does not seem interested in revising its tactics, however, despite the well known fact that it only established itself in the first place with solidarity strikes and sit-down strikes.

Surely it's time for the rank and file workers to remember this. The alternative is a long, long strike with a high chance of defeat at the end. □

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

THE UAW: TAILING THE DEMOCRATS

For the last 35 years the UAW has been a union run by a tightly controlled political machine. It has been a tail to the Democratic Party. Anyone who was critical of the machine or the Democratic Party became a non-person in the union. Independent political thinking was not tolerated. They were branded as communists or enemies of the union.

MODEL

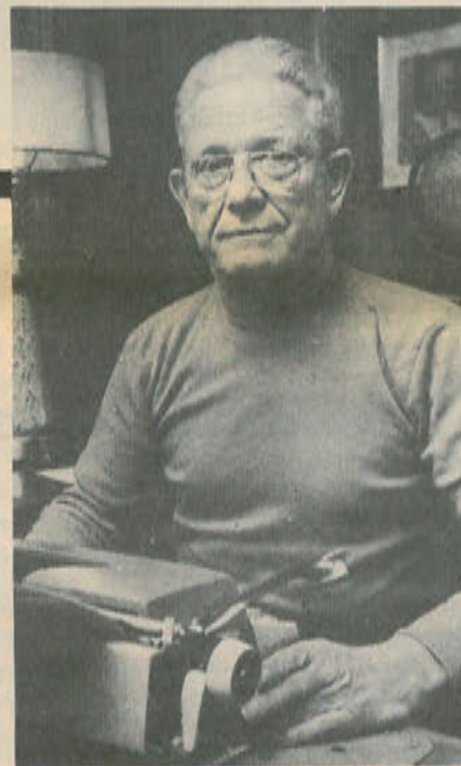
The GM contract with its inadequate representation plan became the model for the industry. Fringe benefits were traded for control on the shop floor. Instead of the 30-hour week with 40-hours pay the 1957 convention called for, in the 1958 negotiations we were compelled to accept forced overtime. Corporation and divisional councils have been used to divide the workers rather than unite them. The political junkets to Washington and the council meetings held in El Paso, Texas, Denver, Florida, and other cities far from the auto centers is a form of bribery to hold the loyalty of the local cliques to the machine. For thirty years there have been no reports to the membership of these junkets to Wash-

ington or what transpires at these council meetings.

Too often the financial reports of the local unions give the membership little information on how the funds are being used. Salaries and expenses are given in lump sums not by individual receipts. When the top officers of the UAW conspired with the local leaders of Local 15 to have me suspended from the local for three years and fined one hundred dollars, it was obvious that the corruption was deeply imbedded in the locals as well as the international union.

The International Constitution makes it mandatory that the history of the labor movement and the UAW are taught to the membership. This has not been done during the last 36 years. The role of the left, the role of the socialists and communists, in building the UAW has been concealed from the membership. I have been in the labor movement for 50 years and a member of the UAW since November, 1936.

I have had little success in having my articles published in the *Fleetwood Organizer*. During recent weeks I have interviewed a dozen UAW officers in the Detroit area. I have found officers



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

of the Chrysler locals are more willing to talk than those of the GM and Ford locals. In talking with an officer of a Chrysler local I was told, "I know what you say is true, Anderson, but I have been indoctrinated in the UAW."

INDOCTRINATED

The majority of local leaders have been indoctrinated in the UAW. They have been indoctrinated into accepting monopoly capitalism as the only workable economic system. Their minds have been poisoned against socialism. They accept the Democratic Party as having the only solution to their problems. There having been no free political discussion in the UAW for over the last 35 years, the present UAW leadership both in the international and the locals are incapable of thinking for themselves. What is needed is a left wing group organized to unite the opposition behind a class struggle program. They must be prepared to break with the present leadership and the Democratic Party. □



**ROCHESTER
UNEMPLOYED:
"TAKE IT
POLITICALLY"**

ROCHESTER, NY—260 unemployed workers, trade unionists, and community activists held a day-long meeting on February 5th to establish the Rochester Area Unemployment Council with the theme, "Don't take it personally, take it politically!"

The meeting showed a new level of concern about unemployment in Rochester, where industries like Kodak and Xerox have been slow to respond to the recession with layoffs.

ACTIVE

Some cities, such as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Detroit, have had unemployment councils for a number of years.

Representatives from the Mon Valley Unemployed Council in Pittsburgh travelled to Rochester and spoke at the meeting.

Formation of the Rochester Council comes as part of a national trend, as more and more unemployed organizations become active.

It's not hard to see why this trend will probably continue.

In January, nearly 13 million people in the U.S. were "officially" unemployed.

But these figures don't include the 2 million classified as "discouraged workers" who have given up even looking for a job. Nor do they include the perhaps 5 million who are working part time because they can't find full time jobs.

At the Rochester meeting, unemployed workers listed the "feeling of helplessness", along with mortgage and utilities, as the biggest difficulty they faced.

Self activity of the unemployed is the important first step in fighting this helplessness and isolation. That is the whole logic of forming unemployed councils.

To be successful these councils must above all be active—fighting organizations that take up the problems their members face as local and immediate concerns.

This is precisely where established councils like in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have had their most notable success—in saving the homes of the unemployed workers who face eviction or mortgage foreclosure; in preventing utility shut-offs. In demanding and securing health care for workers who have lost their insurance.

POTENTIAL

Unemployment councils can bring to the labor movement an organizational focus founded on workers' self activity.

Their potential is great so long as they can avoid those familiar strategies based on lobbying, on signing petitions, and on waiting for the next election. □

by BRIAN ERWAY

OPERATORS VICTORIOUS IN BOSTON AMERICALL STRIKE

BOSTON, MA—The 93 workers at Americall Answering Service in Brookline and at Secretell in Roslindale, members of Local 925, Service Employees International Union, have won their strike.

The operators walked out nine months ago when their boss Joe Limmerick tried to break their union.

Limmerick gained control over the answering services by foreclosing on Communications Management Corporation (CMC) which had purchased the answering services from him previously.

Joe Limmerick's business involved buying and selling answering services and foreclosing on buyers when they fall behind in their payments.

At Americall and Secretell, the workers unionized while CMC ran their services.

When Limmerick took over he tried to break the union so he could sell the businesses for a better price.

Wendy Henry and Gloria Unger, operators at Americall and union militants, talked to *Socialist Worker* about their victory.

TACTIC

Wendy Henry: "Their very first tactic was to fire people."

"He fired all the union organizers so people in there wouldn't have any organizational strength behind them."

"Gloria was fired, I was fired, Kay, the shop steward over at Secretell, was fired."

"The people who were active in the union were out the door."

Gloria Unger: "If he had just been a little less extreme than he was, he could have broken the union. But because he was so extreme and hit so many different strata of people in there—he fired the Blacks, he fired the gays, he fired the union activists—this made people in there think. "Why not me? If he fired Gloria and Wendy, why wouldn't he fire me? People were scared."

"And of course because the majority of us were white he wanted to make racial tension."

"He wanted to make it look racially motivated. No doubt that was another one of his tactics."

"I'm sure that some people may have felt different. But they didn't want to play Lim-

by GEORGE AXIOTIS

merick's game. Limmerick taught them a big lesson.

"He opened up a lot of peoples eyes who may have been racially prejudiced and who learned during the strike how wrong that is."

"The majority of the day shift were gay."

"Management was primarily interested in harassing the workforce."

"The lesbians were harassed more than anyone else because management was usually there only during the day."

"There were sexist comments and things like that."

Wendy Henry: There was a very large attempt made at harassing people. The out of the closet gays certainly were looked down upon, it was very obvious.

"The lesbian and gay stuff was a very big issue in the strike because this has been a very feminist strike."

PICKETS

Wendy Henry: "We had mass pickets."

"The mass pickets were almost always successful because these were the things that we could get the outside groups, all the unions involved in."

"I remember asking the union about having people from other unions walk with us on the picket line, and they said it really doesn't happen that much."

Gloria Unger: "We changed that."

"I think we got a lot of support from other unions, and we also let it be known to other unions that if they ever need our support on their picket line we'd be there, and we did that when we went to the homemakers strike. They are part of the United Labor Union and we were down there for them."

"And the ULU came down to our picket line."

"I think we helped set a precedent in Boston for union solidarity."

Wendy Henry: "The settlement was reached because Limmerick had a buyer in his pocket."

"It was either go to court and get on the stand or settle."



Striking operator

Gloria Unger: "The contract is similar to the old contract. But we can't stress enough, that the successor language is extremely strong."

"It's three pages long instead of one paragraph."

"So what happened with Limmerick coming in after the owners defaulted on their payments and telling us we didn't have a contract can't happen again."

Wendy Henry: "Under the new contract we lost some economic things."

"Let's face it sixty percent of the business was lost because of the strike. Wages were cut from 25¢ to a dollar so that the highest wage is now \$5 an hour and we lost some sick and vacation days

but the impact of that will be delayed somewhat because the new owners are honoring sick and vacation days accumulated under the old contract."

MORE

Gloria Unger: "But the contract is only for one year, so if the business is doing better we'll be asking for more."

"Don't let Reagan scare you. Don't let the economy scare you. Victories are still to be had if you stick together."

Wendy Henry: "There's only one thing I have to say to other union workers fighting for their rights."

"Hang in there because you're what makes the union. And if you're not there then you're going to lose." □



Join Us

- I want to join
- I want more information about the International Socialist Organization

Name _____
address _____

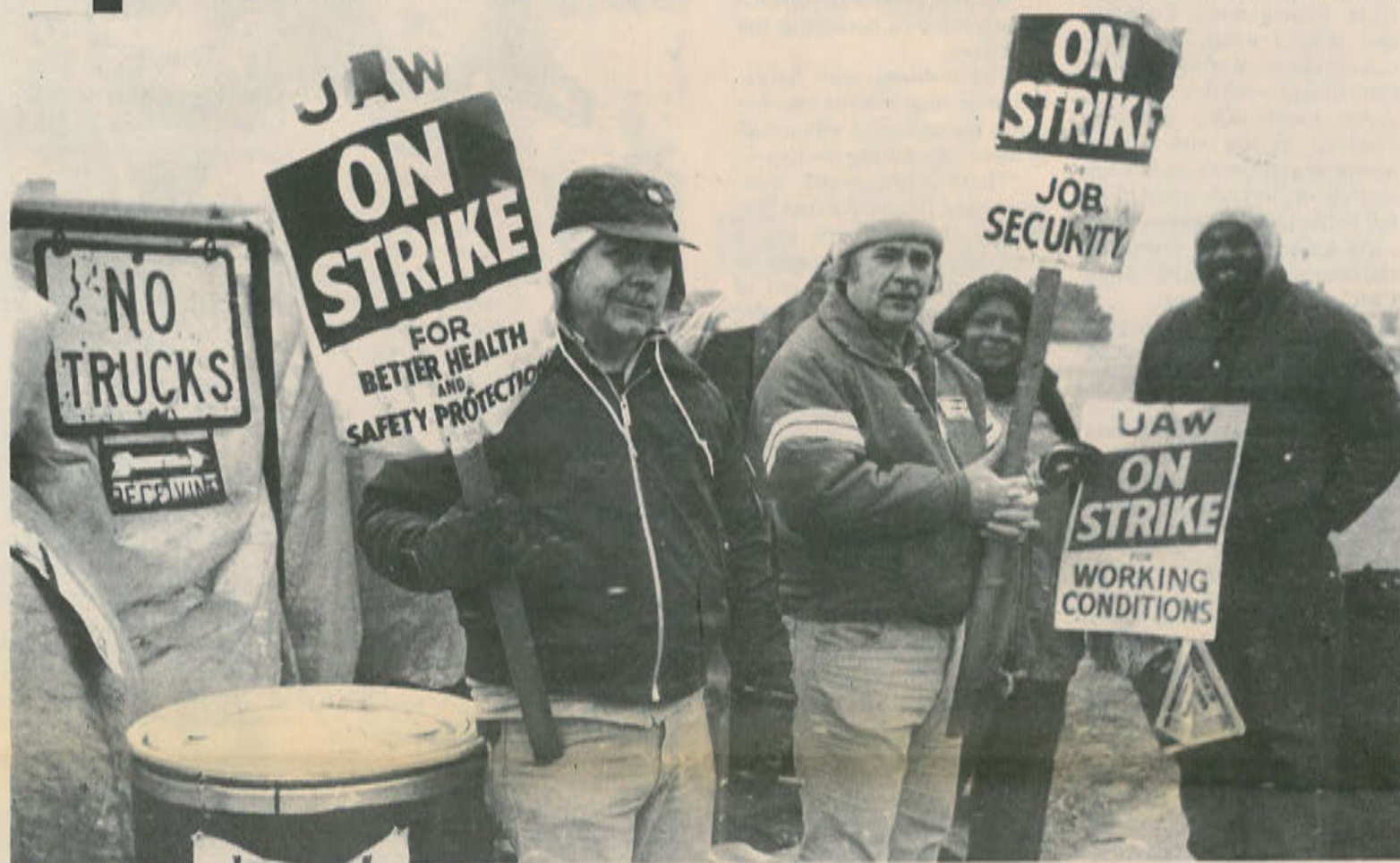
ISO PO Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

Spark plug giant demands concessions

CHAMPION STRIKE!



DETROIT, MI—The demand by the Champion Spark Plug Company that workers make drastic concessions has produced a bitter strike by members of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) at plants in Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Pennsylvania and in Canada.

CONCESSIONS

The company is demanding concessions in COLA, personal paid holidays, and insurance benefits for retirees, as well as changes in the seniority system—despite the fact that there is no claim that Champion is losing money.

The workers struck on February 1, when negotiations came to a standstill.

The situation is particularly bitter at the plant on Detroit's northeast side, where rank and file workers feel that they are getting no support from their local union, UAW Local 272.

One striker, a Black woman with seventeen years seniority, told *Socialist Worker* that Champion "did not believe we would strike. They haven't had a strike in twenty years."

"Our union office is on company grounds. It's a company union."

"When we went on strike the company gave the union one hour to get everything they needed out of the office."

"The union officers can't even get into the hall."

"And I just can't understand it. We are one of the richest locals there is and we don't even have a union hall."

Many of the workers at the Detroit plant are Black women, and they are concerned that the company's demand for changes in the seniority rules will be used in a racist manner—promoting white workers at their expense.

Still, the strike here is solid. The same striker told us:

"I'm hurting just like everybody else."

"But I'm okay if I can maintain my house note, lights and gas."

"The \$65 in strike benefits the union is giving us is not enough, but we are prepared to stay out here until we get what we want."

RALLY

Thus far there has been little communication between the strikers in different areas, but a rally is planned for February 28 in front of the corporations Toledo headquarters. □

An open letter to Ken Morris

Dear Brother Morris:

It was hard for me to believe a UAW local would have its office in the company office building. Finding both are listed at 20000 Connors, I am convinced it is true. How can it

help but be a company dominated union?

I visited the strike headquarters and spoke to the officers and a number of the strikers. I visited the picket line and talked to the pickets.

I was not able to find a written statement of any kind explaining the issues of the strike. I was told by one of the officers the local had \$100,000 in the treasury, yet little was being spent on the strike. No information meetings for the strikers are being held. Why? The strikers have been told not to speak to "reporters." Don't you want the strike given publicity?

Are the officers of Local 272 and the Region relying on Emil Mazey's formula for forcing the membership of Local 272 to accept the concessions demanded by the company?

Mazey said: "I think that strikes make ratification easier. Even though the worker may not think so, he is reacting to economic pressure. I believe that if the wife is raising hell and the bills are piling up, he may be more apt to settle than otherwise." (From *The Company and The Union*, by Bill Serrin, page 4).

Are you and the local officers deliberately neglecting this strike so the members of Local 272 will become demoralized and will be willing to settle on company terms?

I place my 50 years of experience in the labor movement at the service of the strikers and Local 272.

Yours for victory in this strike.

John Anderson,
Retiree UAW Local #15

SUBJECT: CHAMPION
SPARK PLUG STRIKE AND
LOCAL 272 UAW

Socialist Worker

Subscribe —NOW!

Subscribe to *Socialist Worker*. \$5.00 for a one year subscription. \$10.00 for a supporting subscription.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Send to *Socialist Worker*, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

BERKELEY FRAMERS WIN

BERKELEY, CA—The Framers strikers here scored a victory by winning an offer to four out of six strikers for their jobs back.

The desperate owners have hired notorious union-busting law firm Littler, Mendelson, Sasstiff & Vichy, but the workers are ready for them.

BY DAVE SIDDLER

The help of other machinists workers and students in keeping an effective picket line is urgently needed to help the workers strategy to succeed.