

workers of the world, unite!

TRUTH



NO. 13

biweekly newspaper of the Trotskyist Organization

SEPTEMBER 1, 1975

10c



Miners in West Virginia Say:

By JON MYERS

Over 37,000 miners have been on strike in Southern West Virginia for more than three weeks -- demanding the right to strike over local grievances and an end to the interference of federal courts in the mines. Picketing has spread into Eastern Kentucky and sympathy walk-outs have taken place in Ohio and Virginia. The miners are fighting in defiance of the federal courts who have issued an injunction prohibiting the strike and have jailed a union leader. They are fighting in defiance of the Executive Board of the United Mine-workers Union (UMW) who has ordered the miners back to work. Wildcats have spread to Southern Illinois as well, with 8,300 miners on strike there.

NO "PEACE" IN THE MINES

It didn't take a genius to predict that there would be no "peace" in the mines after the UMW contract settlement last winter. UMW President Arnold Miller and his boss forced the miners to accept a rotten contract but they have not been able to crush the militancy and rebellion that is spreading throughout the coalfields. Miller, like the rest of the American labor bureaucracy, is now being by-passed by the mobilization of the American working class.

The miners are responding to the unemployment, inflation, speed-up and repression that is attacking the entire American working class and its youth. **THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO STRIKE, THE FIGHT AGAINST GOVERNMENT REPRESSION and THE FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT** is one and the same fight. Unemployment is the major weapon of the ruling class -- to divide the workers, to lay the basis for harassment in the factories and the mines, to weaken the workers' ability to defend themselves.

The fight against unemployment -- to impose the sliding scale of hours -- to unite the employed and the unemployed is the central weapon in the working class' battles against all forms of capitalist attack. The fight to impose the sliding scale of hours -- to unite the working class is the unifying struggle around which the entire working class must be mobilized to defend the right to strike, to end government interference in the trade unions.

NO POLICE STATE

The miners' rebellion in West Virginia is just one more sign that the strike movement of the American working class that began this year among the public employees and peripheral sectors of industry has now spread to basic industry. The miners strike, the recent auto workers strike in Lordstown, Ohio, the shipbuilders strike in the Great Lakes, the steel workers strike in...

And the workers know what is at stake in this fight. Sim Howze, the president of one of the locals in Logan County who defied the injunction and who was sent to jail said: "They are making a police state through the use of these injunctions. They think we're a bunch of dummies, but we are not. They will not push us around." The lessons are clear. We must begin the fight now.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO IMPOSE THE SLIDING SCALE OF HOURS -- IN ORDER TO: UNITE THE EMPLOYED AND THE UNEMPLOYED! DEFEND THE FIGHT TO STRIKE! END ALL STATE INTERFERENCE IN THE UNIONS!

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE!



U.S. Out of Portugal!

By MARGARET BRECHT

In a letter to the Portuguese people, published by the FIFTH ESTATE in Washington, ex-CIA agent Philip Agee details the activities of US imperialism in Portugal since 1950. Kissinger, in a speech to capitalists in Birmingham on August 14th, pledged the support of the Ford-Rockefeller regime to the "moderate" and "democratic" forces in Portugal. And now the US State Department has agreed to aid Portuguese settlers in Angola who have finally decided that they want to go "home" to Portugal. A decision no doubt motivated by "humanitarian values," just like the decision to bring all the Vietnamese lackeys of American imperialism (the so-called refugees from communist totalitarianism) "home" to the US.

In short, the role of the Ford-Rocke-

feller regime in the organization of the counterrevolution in Portugal is no secret.

US INTERVENTION IN PORTUGAL

If Kissinger is waving the Helsinki Pact and denouncing "Soviet intervention" in the "internal affairs" of Portugal, it is not because he believes that the Kremlin or the Portuguese CP is fomenting revolution. He knows as well as the Portuguese working class does that the CP is organizing demonstrations in support of the three-man military dictatorship of Carvalho, Gomez, and Goncalves. And behind this triumvirate is nothing but Ford-Rockefeller, Spinoia, and Archbishop Da Silva -- American imperialism, Portuguese fascism, and Catholic

U.S. Out of Spain!

reaction.

Kissinger is preparing public opinion for "US intervention" in the "internal affairs" of Portugal, for an imperialist attempt to crush the revolution of the workers on the Iberian Peninsula. An "intervention" which will no doubt be made in the name of the defense of democracy, of the right of the people to determine their own future, just as it was in Vietnam.

NO TO THE MADRID PACT!

Four billion dollars in cash and military equipment have been poured into Spain under the fascist dictatorship of Franco. There are 28,000 US troops stationed there. There are missile sights and munitions dumps throughout

Spain and the largest atomic submarine base in the world. The US government is currently engaged in negotiations to maintain and extend the Madrid Pact, the codification of the counterrevolutionary alliance between American imperialism and Spanish fascism.

And if the Ford-Rockefeller regime had any doubts concerning the intentions of the Kremlin in Portugal or in Spain, they have been eliminated by the decisive action of the CP/USA. In response to these stepped-up preparations of the counterrevolution by the Ford-Rockefeller regime, the CP/USA has called on American workers to write their Congressmen. The Congressmen will prevent a bloodbath in Portugal and Spain just like they did in Chile.

LISBON! CHICAGO! September 13: Conference of Youth in Auto and Steel! -- ORGANIZE! MOBILIZE!

EDITORIAL

"Criticism is Treason..." Smash S-1 Bill!

As the working class struggle deepens around the world and here in the US as well, the American imperialist bourgeoisie must prepare itself for class war. The recent revelations about the CIA -- assassinations, bribery, massive interference against working class movements around the world, are only a small taste of what the ruling class is preparing for the working class internationally, and in the United States. They have no choice. They know their days are numbered.

Senate Bill--S-1, known as the Criminal Justice Codification, Revision and Reform Act, now being considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee, lays the "legal" basis for a police state in this country. On the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution, the representatives of the American ruling class are showing their true feelings about American democracy by seeking to outlaw the 200 years of the Bill of Rights which has outlived its "usefulness" for the American capitalists.

This bill, supported by such Democratic Party "liberals" as Mike Mansfield and Birch Bayh would classify as treason, punishable by death the publication of any information regarded by the government as "harmful to its interests." It would classify as treason, any newspaper vaguely defined as a "propaganda broadcaster." It classifies as treason the act of passing information to any international organization, thus broadening the reactionary Voorhis Act. It would outlaw any organization that advocates any actions that would "facilitate" the violent overthrow of the present government. The bill would make a felony, punishable by 15 years in jail, participation in picket lines, plant occupations, or interstate action in planning demonstrations, or "riots," which are now defined as five or more people who engage in "tumultuous conduct" which "creates a hazardous or physically offensive condition."

Even the bourgeois press has opposed this bill, realizing that the day will come when they will have outlived their usefulness for the capitalists. But the capitalists are not really worried about the bourgeois press, nor are they afraid of any real opposition from them. This bill is directed FIRST AND FOREMOST AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS AND ITS ORGANIZATIONS -- this is the real purpose of the bill that the protests of the bourgeois press, the ACLU, the labor bureaucrats, and the Communist Party seek to cover-up. The Communist Party and the labor bureaucrats seek to rally the liberals around a defense of the freedom of the press, while leaving the working class uninformed and disorganized in the face of the true nature of this bill. By relying on the liberals, by not mobilizing the working class, they do their job in paving the way for the police state.

The Fourth International places the fight against repression high on its banner. Only the massive mobilization of the working class, in particular the working-class youth who are in the vanguard of the world fight against repression -- in Spain, in Portugal, in Eastern Europe, and in the US can turn back the capitalists' deadly attack. Under the political leadership of the International League -- Rebuilder of the Fourth International, the fight for the Revolutionary Worker Youth in the US will pass through a fight against police repression, against the Voorhis Act, against Senate Bill-S-1. WE call upon all working-class organizations, militants, and youth to join us in this fight.

DOWN WITH THE VOORHIS ACT!

SMASH S-1!

JOIN THE WORLD FIGHT AGAINST REPRESSION--
BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH INTERNATIONAL!

WHY THE SCALE OF

By KEVIN TRACEY

The sliding scale of hours is a simple enough idea. What it means is that the work of the society is divided up among those able to work with wage levels maintained at the present scale. It means full production and full employment. A simple and logical idea -- and totally unacceptable to capitalism. Capitalism exists and runs for one reason only -- the creation and accumulation of profits. And profits demand unemployment, overtime, speedup. Thus, the fight to obtain the sliding scale of hours is the fight to IMPOSE it on the bourgeoisie, to defeat it and its rule.

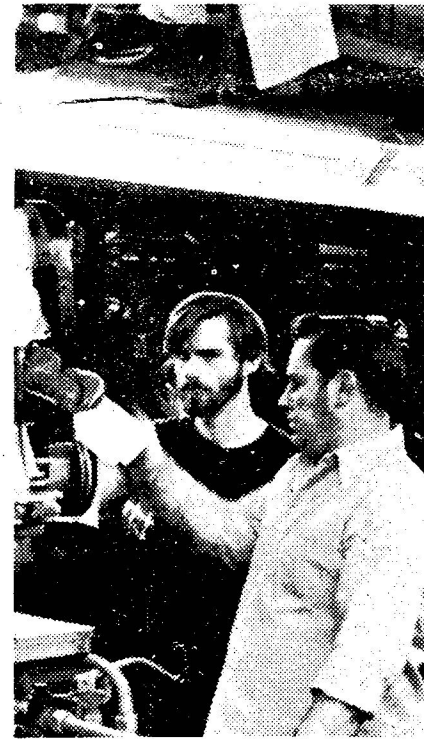
capitalists? That is a question of class struggle, of refusing to bear the burden of capitalist decay. When the workers refuse, when they impose the sliding scale of hours, they are in fact already going beyond capitalism reaching out to the socialist organization of production.

Let's assume that unemployment in this country is really at levels of about twenty-five percent. That includes unemployed officially and unofficially, underemployed, etc. THAT MEANS THAT BY CUTTING THE WORK WEEK BY ONE FOURTH THERE WOULD BE FULL EMPLOYMENT. And the only



FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

The bourgeoisie knows only one way to increase profits and that is to produce more at less cost. It can try to do that by forcing workers to work harder but that has its physical limits. Its basic policy is to replace men by machines, and this means in our time, when capitalism can no longer really expand production, chronically growing unemployment which, while varying from time to time, always goes upwards. Machinery is so massively expensive, production so lagging, that capitalism must drive workers out of production. There lies the struggle to impose the sliding scale of hours. While capitalism is dying, will the working class allow it to kill it, too? The proletariat must demand that there be no layoffs, no reduction in the workforce. The road to JOBS FOR ALL lies through imposing on the capitalists the right of the workers to work. If full employment in a plant, industry, society is impossible at forty hours, then cut the workweek. That's why one slogan for the sliding scale of hours is THIRTY HOURS WORK FOR FORTY HOURS PAY! The question is who will suffer from the death agony of capitalism -- the workers or the



YOUNG AUTO WORKERS AT THE GM

"THE TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM"

the death agony of capitalism and
the tasks of the fourth international

JUST OUT!

Contains a preface, the STATUTES of the FOURTH INTERNATIONAL and the PROCLAMATION of the INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE--REBUILDER of the FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

PRICE: 50¢

Order from: TRUTH, PO Box 4997, Chicago, Ill. 60680
Inquire about bulk orders.

BUILD THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SLIDING HOURS?

damage would come to the pockets of the capitalists who are responsible for this situation anyway. The fact that their system cannot accept such measures only shows that their system deserves to be done away with.

THE FIGHT AGAINST OVERTIME

But the drive for capitalist profits is not only reflected in unemployment figures. It is also reflected in the vast overtime that is worked by the majority of the American working class. The forty hour week is in reality a joke; sixty and seventy hours are common. What this means is that capitalism is paying the workers so little money that there is a compulsion to work extra. The famous time-and-half and double time are already figured into the cost of wages beforehand in order to provide a compulsion to work more hours. And, at the same time, overtime directly means unemployment. One worker working a sixty-hour week should be two workers working two thirty-hour weeks. The fight for higher wages, the fight for the sliding scale of wages (full cost-of-living protection) is inseparable from this fight to impose the sliding scale of hours. The question is the survival of the working class. It will not allow part of itself to sink into wretched poverty while another part slaves away in order to barely scrape by.

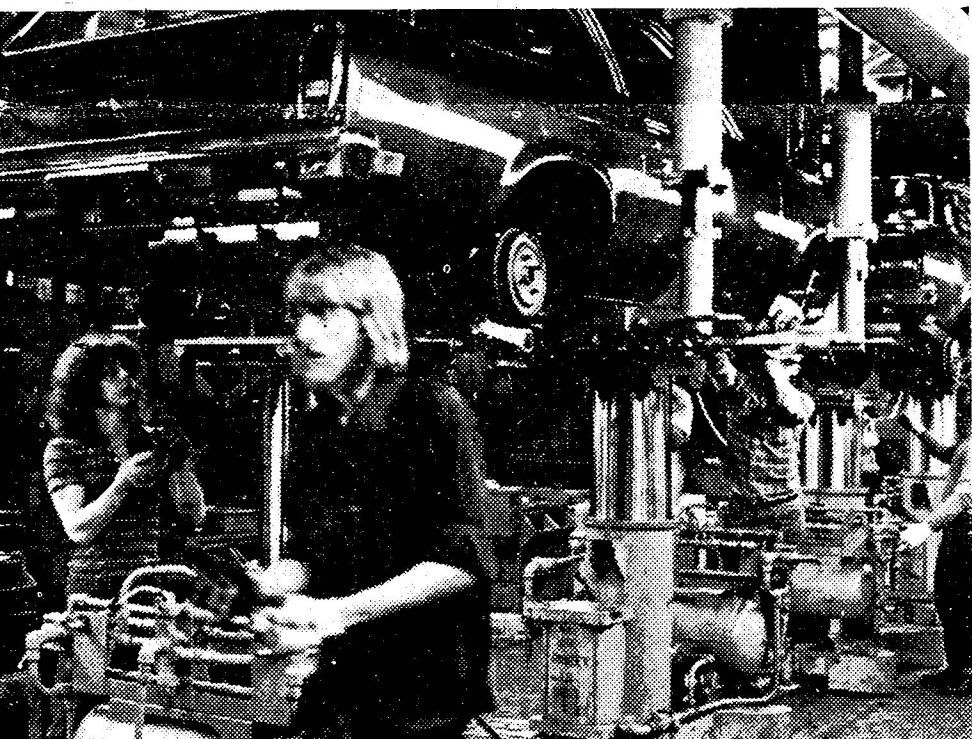
The fight to end overtime, to impose the sliding scale of hours, is also the fight to end speedup -- the attempt to get more work out of each worker -- and its companion, ever-increasing harassment and brutality. More

against overtime and unemployment.

Suppose that a company says it cannot afford to pay for the sliding scale of hours. First, the workers themselves must demand that they inspect the books to determine for themselves the truth of this. No more passive acceptance of "management rights!" And if the capitalists cannot provide for the needs of the working class then the working class will remove them from production. Nationalization of companies is a result of the fight to impose the sliding scale of hours, of the struggle to impose the workers' control over production, over work rules, over "business secrets."

In addition, much capitalist production is simply waste production. "Defense" plants, most automobile production, etc., contribute nothing to the well-being of society. The fight here involves planning alternative production for such plants: mass transit vehicles, etc. This fight goes directly against the capitalist order, raising not "just" a rearrangement of hours, but a complete change in production, its purposes and who controls it.

These fights cannot be carried out by individual workers. They demand the organization of the workers into factory committees, committees of action, etc., which under the leadership of the revolutionary party will wage these fights. In the same way, the committees will centralize the activity on a national plane. This or that nationalization while the capitalist class continues to rule solves nothing. Workers' control over production at the factory level demands workers' control over production



OSTOWN PLANT WHICH RECENTLY STRUCK FOR OVER FIVE WEEKS.

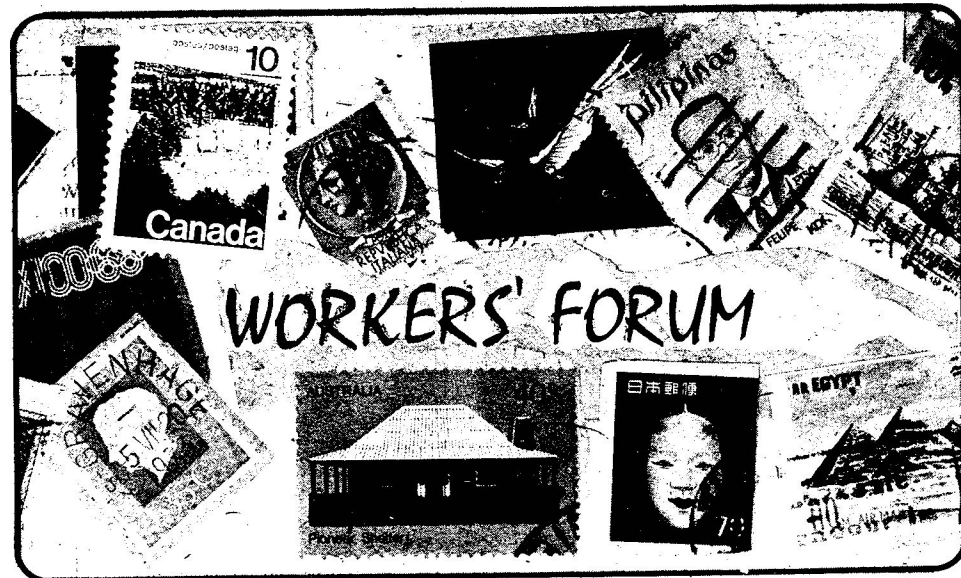
production, yes! But more employment! Only the imposition of the sliding scale of hours can fully involve all of society in production for the uses of society. Outside that production means only the drive for profits, unemployment, and poverty.

THE FIGHT FOR WORKERS' CONTROL FOR PLANNED PRODUCTION

This struggle to impose the sliding scale of hours is no mere matter of a law or a clause in a contract. It is a question of the workers' beginning to seize control of the economic destiny of society.

For instance, the workers must determine the organization of production in the plant. How many workers are needed to do a job? This fights against capitalist planning,

nationally. That is, it demands the economic planning of society. This cannot occur on the basis of capitalist production. The fight to impose the sliding scale of hours, to impose workers' control, to impose nationalization, is the fight for the socialist revolution and the establishment of the workers' government. This is the sole guarantee of the success of the fight to impose the sliding scale of hours and is the logical outcome of this fight. The mobilization of the working class in this struggle, its organization into committees of action, etc., its centralization in a national fashion, culminate and cannot do anything else but culminate in the fight for the revolutionary transformation of production as part of the transformation of society as a whole.



Dear Truth:

Changeover has just happened at the plant. Ford hasn't changed the Elite at all. The Elite has been the same for two years. The car won't sell. The men know that without a change there's more layoffs and less sales.

It all works in a circle. First GM, then Ford, then Chrysler. One will change its style and then the other will each year. They all get together and decide fiscally all the industry profits.

The union will push for higher wages and a few little things that benefit minorities. That wouldn't amount to anything. The employees are the ones that suffer. They agree for one thing that they're getting and taking away two things you already got.

Some guys think its a million dollar idea if they change styles and their job is made easier. But if he doesn't know what the changes are he's left in the dark.

We hear that if any of our peers get in once they get that power they'd turn into the same thing. But the men want a change from the same old mediocre scene, which goes on from day-to-day so they could see the light a little better.

If the man had any feelings we wouldn't have to write this letter. We say wake up! It's time to stand with TRUTH.

Signed,

L.,L., & H.

FORD TORRENCE, CHICAGO, IL.

This column, "Workers' Forum," is open to all workers, militants, and youth. We want to hear about your thoughts, problems, criticisms, and suggestions concerning the problems that confront the working class movement today. Other workers want to hear about them as well. Please WRITE. This is your "Forum."

Write! Subscribe!

TRUTH

Fourth International

Next Issue:

MANIFESTO TO WORKERS IN EASTERN EUROPE

PO BOX 4997, Chicago, IL., 60680

\$10,000 FOR BERLIN!

The financial campaign to raise \$10,000 in the United States for the BERLIN RALLY and the FOURTH OPEN CONFERENCE that will rebuild the Fourth International has raised \$2,245.00 so far. In order to insure the participation of American working class youth in Berlin this December--in order to rebuild the Fourth International-- we call upon all of our supporters to continue their efforts in the weeks ahead of us. FORWARD TO BERLIN '75!

E OF YOUTH IN AUTO AND STEEL!

Building the Revolutionary Youth International



Revolutionary Worker Youth in the USA

"The youth is the flame of the proletarian revolution."

Spain

MEETING WITH A LOCAL LEADER OF THE YOUNG COMMUNISTS OF CATALONIA WHO HAS JOINED OUR FIGHT (published in JUVENTUD REVOLUCIONARIA, Journal of the Revolutionary Youth of Spain, #2)

Juventud Revolucionaria: How did you develop your opposition to the policy of the Spanish Communist Party?

Member of the Young Communists: It is because the Party had spoken many times that it was necessary to finish immediately with the dictatorship (of Franco), and now, it doesn't even speak of the General Strike. I have asked many times what has happened since the proclamation of the Democratic Junta and I have arrived at the belief that the Democratic Junta, instead of helping, delays the fall of the dictatorship, and above all, that the Democratic Junta will defend capitalism after Franco.

JR: How does the leadership of the Young Communists justify the abandonment of the General Strike?

MYC: It says that one cannot make too much pressure, so that the change will be adequate and peaceful. Even more, it says that the workers movement alone does not have the means. It is for this reason that the Democratic Junta must unite all the forces who are for change. But this is fraud, for if the Communist Party of Catalonia was a revolutionary party it would place itself at the head of all the strikes that are occurring, in order to organize the General Strike. On the contrary, the CP of Catalonia has abandoned the workers' struggles in the last months.

JR: What do the militants in the YC think about all this?

party says that it is necessary to wait.

JR: At this time, what is your main activity?

MYC: To prepare the union elections. Forward for the CNS! (Ed. fascist trade unions in Spain), says the front page of the latest JOUEN GUARDIA. The SCP and the YC have invested everything so that the participation in the elections will succeed. The pressure is very great. In the YC, they tell me to present myself as a delegate in my factory, my companions at work have also asked me, because they cannot see any other possibilities. The discussion has already begun in my YC committee, and flowing from this, the first accusations of Trotskyism have begun. That which is the most lacking is the material force, an organization in order to unmask the fraud that one must walk step by step in order to win all the legal posts and on the contrary, to not prepare the General Strike, which is the fastest way to win legality.

JR: What are the accusations launched against Trotskyism here?

MJC: That the Trotskyists are terrorists. It is the same thing that I had already heard about Trotskyism.

JR: In your opinion, what would be the reaction among your comrades in the YC, confronted with the call for the Revolutionary Youth International, under the slogan: DOWN WITH THE BERLIN WALL!?

MJC: I think that there would be a reaction of surprise, because the call breaks completely with the "communist" policy of separation between states, of nationalism, that we have been educated in. But also acceptance, because if the comrades

"IF THE COMRADES UNDERSTAND THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CHARACTER OF THE DIVISION OF GERMANY AND OF EUROPE INTO BLOCS DONE BY IMPERIALISM AND THE BUREAUCRACY, THEY WILL BREAK IN MASS WITH STALINISM."

MYC: Well, the problem is that they still have a great deal of trust in the Party and think that if the party says that it is better this way, with the Democratic Junta and all that, it must be true, even if they don't see it. I am certain that what will really lift up their enthusiasm, at this moment, will be to launch agitation in the factories, the working class districts, everywhere. However, the

understand the counterrevolutionary character of the division of Germany and of Europe into blocs, done by imperialism and the bureaucracy, they will break in mass with Stalinism.

Finally, I wish to add here a call to my comrades of the YC to unite in the fight that I have joined with the REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH OF SPAIN, so that the Berlin Rally will be a success.

USA

ST. LOUIS

By A REPORTER
St. Louis, Missouri
Five working-class youth in St. Louis responded to the call of the Trotskyist Organization of the US, American supporter of the International League Rebuilder of the Fourth International for the National Conference of Youth in Auto and Steel, to lead the fight to impose the sliding scale of hours.

The Trotskyist Organization intervened at a public meeting of the Workers League on August 9th, to propose to the militants of the Workers League and the youth present at the meeting a united campaign to fight unemployment. Unemployment is a life and death question facing the working class and its youth, especially among black youth where unemployment runs over 40%. It is the major weapon of the capitalist counter-revolution -- demoralizing and sending the working-class youth into the streets with no future, and isolating the workers who do have jobs --

weakening their struggles and leaving them open to increased repression.

Only a united and international campaign, open to all working-class tendencies, militants and especially the working-class youth, to fight to impose the sliding scale of hours can turn back the capitalist attack. It was the need that the youth in St. Louis responded to -- the need to organize, centralize, and mobilize the working class against unemployment, in this country and around the world. The Revolutionary Youth International, the Revolutionary Worker Youth, the National Conference of Youth in Auto and Steel are what the youth in St. Louis responded to on the 35th Anniversary of Trotsky's assassination. They will continue Trotsky's fight against Stalinism -- not by building a labor party for the reformists, but by organizing the class independence of the working class in its struggle for power -- the true meaning of Trotskyism and the Fourth International.



DETROIT

By A REPORTER
Dearborn, Michigan
The auto workers at Ford River Rouge plant have begun to mobilize against the increased unemployment and repression in the plant. Ford Motor Co. has already announced that 1,000 more workers in the Dearborn Assembly Division will be laid off by September 1st. From now until Thanksgiving, the workers at Dearborn Assembly will have six weeks off in layoffs. This is what the "recovery" that the capitalists are boasting about means! It is a recovery that is coming off the backs of the working class and in particular auto workers, in the form of double-digit inflation, continued unemployment, and more and more speedup and harassment in the plants.

Some of the workers at Rouge are already beginning to think and talk about the 1976 UAW Contract that will come up in the fall of 1976 and it is very likely that Ford Motor Company will be the target for the contract negotiations. Hank Wilson, president of Dearborn Assembly Division of Ford Rouge, has called in the latest issue of Local 600's newsletter, for a fight around the 1976 contract for the following demands: 1. a shorter workweek -- 32 hours for 40 hours pay; 2. "25 and Out" with full benefits and improved pension plan; 3. "Total job security" after two years seniority; 4. Full SUB pay and compensation bene-

fits paid by the company for the duration of any forced layoffs.

It is important that the workers at Rouge begin to organize their fight now. The timing of our struggle cannot be simply left to the limits imposed by the union bureaucracy and the company. The fight against unemployment, against speedup, against repression must be begun and organized now -- the auto workers at Lordstown have already gone out on strike for their grievances, refusing to "wait" for 1976.

The fight to impose the sliding scale of hours -- dividing up all the available work among all the available workers, employed, and unemployed, will centralize the fight against unemployment, speedup and repression at River Rouge. A Worker Youth Circle must fight within Local 600 to centralize this fight throughout Rouge and throughout the auto industry. When the union bureaucrats continue to try to limit this fight to a "demand" for the sell-out contract they are preparing in 1976, the workers must organize their own committees and centralize their fight.

The Trotskyist Organization/US intervened at River Rouge on the week of August 24-31 to organize the united campaign for the sliding scale of hours through the National Conference of Youth in Auto and Steel on September 13th in Chicago. The proposal for the campaign met with a very favorable response among the young workers at Rouge.

COMING SOON...

YOUNG GUARD

ORGAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE BERLIN RALLY AND THE FOUNDING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH INTERNATIONAL.

Join the Committee of Preparation!
Write! Be A Correspondent for YOUNG GUARD! Help Distribute It!
Contact: P.O. Box 4997, Chicago, Ill., 60680

RYI • BERLIN '75!