

WORKERS' POWER

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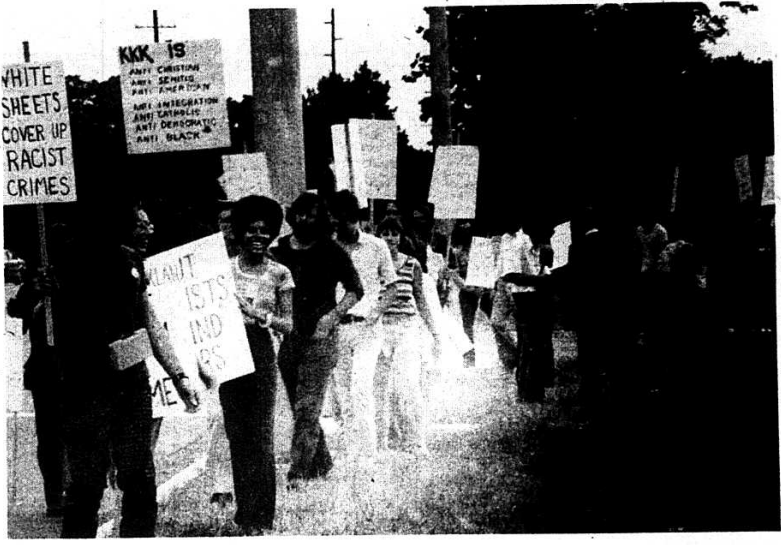
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STOP THE KKK!



LOUISVILLE COALITION PICKETS KLAN RALLY

by Tom Jackson

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—The Ku Klux Klan is a disgusting sight in the south. Kentucky has been luckier than most. This racist terror organization is weaker here than in other states.

This week they called rallies in three Kentucky communities. Louisville was first. But the Klan was caught off guard by an anti-racist demonstration of 125 blacks and whites.

ANTI-BUSING RALLIES

On July 16 the Kentucky Taxpayers League, a Klan front group, announced anti-busing rallies in Paducah, Everts (Harlan County), and Louisville. The Louisville rally was sched-

uled for July 18. July 17, a Federal Court of Appeals ruled that desegregation, including busing, will take place here this fall. It then became clear the Klan was trying to whip up racist hysteria in preparation for another Boston in Louisville.

In two days a number of groups and individuals pulled together an ad hoc organization calling for an anti-Klan demonstration outside their rally.

"People United Against the Klan" included the International Socialists, along with individual members or representatives from the Black Panther Party, Southern Conference Educational Fund, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist Repression, numerous clergy, United

Action Caucus of the Communications Workers, and trade unionists from the IBT, AFT, and others.

SURPRISED

125 pickets began to show up at the site of the rally an hour before it began. The Klan was clearly taken by surprise. In between vile references to "pickaninnies" reproducing faster than "the white race," Klan speakers denounced the demonstrators outside.

Wearing brown shirts, members of the "National Socialists Liberation Party" (former Nazi Party) walked through the demonstrators. But they kept their distance as the picket line formed and the bullhorn led the chant "If you

liked Hitler, you'll love the Klan."

For an hour and a half, there was singing and chanting. Inside, the Klan had to listen to "Jobs Yes, Klan No" and "How many murders, how many deaths, before the Klan is laid to rest?" One white picket was asked why he turned out for the march—"I detest what the Klan stands for and I don't think we have any room for them on this planet."

Twice Klan members were sent into the picket to disrupt it in front of reporters and cameramen. They tried to join the picket line with blatant racist signs. They were escorted away by demonstration marshals, who explained to them clearly that their health

was in jeopardy.

The picket was ended as demonstrators listened to a member of the Black Panther Party speak. He pointed out that this was only the beginning and that racist forces would be confronted wherever and whenever they appeared.

SECOND DEMONSTRATION

The Klan's intention was to stir up racism for the struggle against busing. To create a climate of violence and intimidation, they even asked for the "right" to burn a cross in the downtown area of Paducah, Ky.

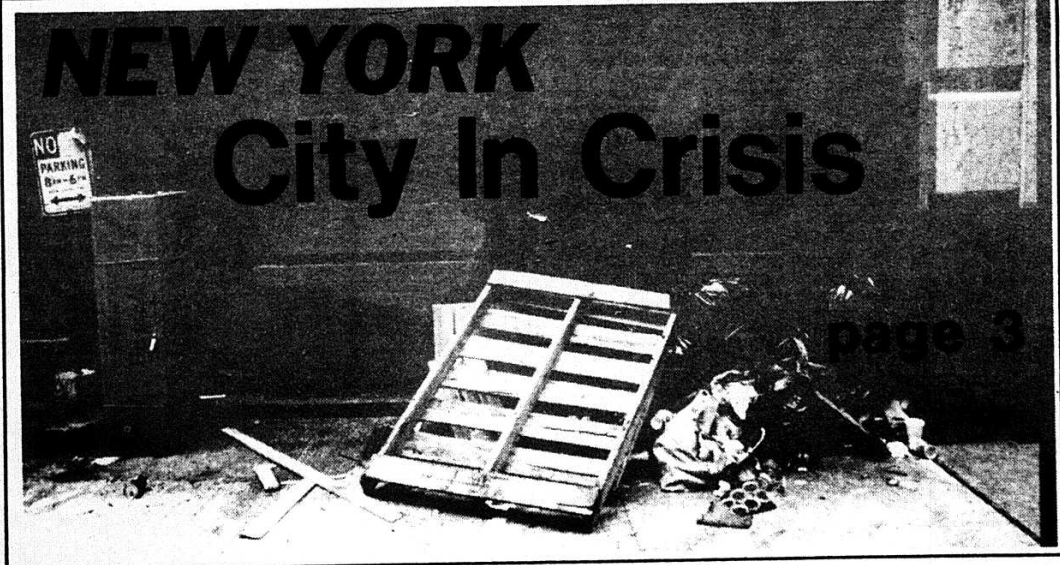
The Paducah rally was the next night, July 19. Again there was a demonstration outside, in protest. 250 demonstrators, most of them black, banged on the door, demanding to get in to confront the racist gathering.

There can be little doubt now of the real character of the anti-busing movement. One man shouted from the floor of the Klan rally "...a little Boston, baby. That's what we need."

The Klan is beginning to mobilize now for fall. Already they promised a bigger full-scale rally in Louisville. They are building a racist movement.

In the south, such movements have meant attacks on school children, and murder, mutilation and castration of blacks. The Klan claims they have a new respectable face. There are victims all over the south, some still alive, who can testify to what that face is. Their movement must be smashed.

Through our unions we need to build defense squads for school children this fall. The Klan and others like them must be challenged every time they spout their racist filth. These demonstrations point the way and it's only the first step. □



TEAMSTERS ON THE RUN

The Teamsters union appears to be on the run in its continuing fight with the United Farm Workers union. On July 15, the leadership of the Teamsters called what was to be a mass meeting of Teamster farmworkers in Salinas, California.

One thousand farm workers jammed the Washington Junior High School auditorium in Salinas, but the Teamster officials didn't like it much. The farm workers were virtually all supporters of the UFW. "Chavez, si! Teamsters, no!" they shouted.

Amid the clamor, UFW representative Antonio Gevara asked the crowd to be quiet long enough to allow the Teamsters to speak. But no Teamster official was willing to get up in front of the crowd.

ELECTIONS

For years, the Teamster union leadership has freely taken contracts away from the UFW by signing sweetheart deals with California grape, lettuce, and growers of other produce. They've never bothered to consult the

workers, who overwhelmingly support the UFW.

Now, a new California law will set up elections to decide which union represents the workers. The first of these elections will be held at the end of the summer. That's why the Teamsters have finally bothered to hold a meeting for the workers they claim to represent.

In addition to these troubles, the Teamsters are finding that sweethearts aren't always forever. Their negotiations with 135 growers for new sweetheart agreements have broken down.

One likely reason is that the Teamsters leadership feels it needs to win a substantial pay raise if it is to salvage any chance of winning

this fall's elections.

But it also may be the case that the growers realize the Teamsters are likely to lose most of the representation elections. The growers may feel that there's little point in making a deal with a union on its way out—particularly if that union is demanding pay hikes.

In this last minute maneuvering,

the Teamster leaders may actually try to call some strikes and will likely sound more militant than they ever have before.

That's like the drowning man who promises God he'll walk the straight and narrow if only he's saved. But once the crisis is over, it'll be back to business as usual, sweethearts once more. □

Black Workers Hit NY Bell

Black workers in CWA New York Local 1101 are beginning to organize. Last week they held two lunchtime demonstrations against New York Telephone's racism.

These demonstrations were a reaction to an advertising poster circulated by the company. The poster depicts a "typical New York City street scene."

People from several different cultural and ethnic backgrounds are shown going about their business. The only black on the poster is a young kid trying to rip

off a woman's pocketbook.

Rank and file black craftsmen decided on the demonstrations after the company and the union refused to act.

COLD SHOULDER

Dennis Serrette, a local vice-president, a black, had approach the company requesting a public apology. He asked his fellow union officials for support and action. He received the cold shoulder from both parties.

The demonstrations demanded first that the company make a public apology. Second, they demanded that the apology, along with the offensive poster, be posted on all company bulletin boards for thirty days. Finally, they wanted the persons responsible for the poster to be demoted or fired.

The demonstrations also demanded that a black craftsman who had been fired for fighting be reinstated. The craftsman had been attacked, while on the job, by a

fellow craftsman wielding a knife and a pair of shoes.

The man making the attack had not been disciplined. In fact, there are indications that the attack had been instigated, or at least condoned, by the craftsman's foreman.

These demonstrations are the first instances in several years of blacks in Local 1101 organizing themselves to fight company racism and union indifference. □

George Allkar

JOANN LITTLE TRIAL BEGINS

Supporters Demand Her Freedom

by Karen Kaye

"Drop the charges, the criminal is dead," chanted supporters of Joann Little. They were marching outside the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh, North Carolina where Little is being tried for murder.

The criminal they referred to is Clarence Alligood. He was killed by Joann Little the night of August 27, 1974, in her cell in the Beaufort County jail.

The 62-year-old white man was the night jailer and he was attempting to rape her, brandishing an ice-pick. She killed him in self-defense, she says.

Two lie detector tests have shown her story to be truthful. Her defense lawyers are asking that charges against her be dropped.

In April the prosecution said that if she passed three lie detector tests they would drop charges. The

prosecution was to have given the third test, but they have not done it yet.

ONE

One criminal is already dead: the jailer who tried to rape his prisoner. But another who has committed worse crimes against Joann Little is still alive.

That is the racist system that keeps black people poor and makes them desperate and throws them into jails—like the one where Little was being held for breaking and entering. While in that jail she was constantly watched on closed circuit TV—except when Alligood arrived at her door.

The criminal is the sexist system under which male attendants in that jail exposed their genitals and made obscene remarks to the female prisoners.

And it is this system that says that a black woman who defends herself against rape by a white man



Joann Little and bodyguard greet supporters at courthouse rally.

is a criminal. The system that says that from the moment she saved herself from rape, she must then begin a fight for her life.

After the attempted rape, Little fled, knowing she'd be killed if she was present when the body was discovered.

OUTLAW

When they found her missing, she was declared an outlaw. In North Carolina, this meant that anyone could kill her.

When she turned herself in she was charged with first degree murder. In North Carolina, this carries a mandatory death penalty. So then the power to kill her was handed over to the jury and the court.

Her defense lawyers managed to get the trial site moved to Raleigh, from Beaufort County. Racism is so deeply entrenched in Beaufort County that they knew she could

not hope for a jury that would acquit.

Jury selection is under way at the Wake County Courthouse. Of ten jurors selected so far, seven are women (2 black) and three men (1 black).

The prosecution has been trying to keep blacks off the jury. They are allowed to reject nine prospective jurors without giving a reason. So far they have used this six times—all against black people.

Little's life is now in the hands of the criminal racist system. Her lawyers must argue with it for her release, under its rules.

They will try to get the case dismissed by the judge who is part of that system. They will try to convince the jury that was picked by its racist and sexist methods.

But the other victims of the criminal system are also helping to save Joann Little. Black people, women, and working people have seen in her case what they also experience under this system.

Already the demonstrations and publicity in her support have prevented this case from being a routine case of a "nobody" who killed a "somebody" and received "justice"—death.

We must make sure that Joann Little is set free. And we must do away with the criminal that is still at large—this criminal system. □

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Stronger than the Jets Taller than the Nets Bigger than the Mets

THE N.Y. DEBTS!

by Gay Semel

New York is known as a dangerous city. Horror stories of life on New York's mean streets titillate the non-New Yorker with a fascination equalling the response to the movie Jaws.

Now the biggest rip-off of all is taking place in Fun City. The New York banks have got the city by the throat and are cleaning out the till.

For years New York City has borrowed money from the banks to pay its bills—at interest. And each year the interest adds up and the total debt increases.

Several months ago New York City could no longer afford to pay its bills and its debts. The banks demanded payment—New York City didn't have it. The city tried to borrow more—the banks wouldn't give it. Panic followed.

BIG MAC

Five weeks ago the banks plus the state government set up Big MAC (Municipal Assistance Corporation) a super state agency to solve New York City's financial crisis.

MAC's plan is to sell \$3 billion worth of long term municipal bonds and use the funds created to pay the debt to the banks.

But where will New York City get the money to pay off the bonds, you may well ask.

Big MAC has that one covered too. MAC's program calls for 273,000 city workers to foot the bill.

MAC is demanding an immediate wage freeze which would halt the \$350 million in wage increases that were scheduled for July 1; a ten percent wage cut for all city workers; and an additional layoff of 27,000 city workers.

Unless these demands are met (or some negotiated version of them) says MAC, no more money.

In that case New York City will be forced to default on payments August 14.

MAC's program is the same as the banks—make the workers pay. That is because MAC is, as the reader will have noticed, run by the banks. Its program is essentially a scheme devised by the banks to get their money back plus interest.

POLITICIANS

The city politicians have gone along. Percy Sutton, Borough President of Manhattan, said, "The banks have us by the throat. We say we don't want to die, so just tell us what we need to do." The banks are telling.

There is a solution other than

MAC's—but the banks won't mention it. The solution is to make the banks pay. If New York City were to just stop paying back the interest, the budget would be balanced. In fact there would be a \$400 million surplus.

MAC has its program—we have ours.

- For a strike of all city workers
- Cancel the debt
- Not one penny—not one job!

But to stop the attack on New York City workers will require a fight. The union leaders have done nothing but shake their heads in dismay and twitch nervously.

Rank and file workers and groups will have to make the unions fight. □

THE MEN BEHIND BIG MAC

by Anne Quill

New York State's Municipal Assistance Corporation emerged overnight five weeks ago, complete with a catchy nickname—Big MAC. It is a new super agency designed to save New York City from financial ruin by converting short-term debt into long-term bonds.

Big MAC was the brainchild of Felix Rohatyn, a big Democratic Party contributor and one of the best merger-acquisition men around. The Board of Directors was appointed by New York's Governor Carey and New York City's Mayor Beame.

It includes a few token liberals for window dressing, like Dr. Robert Weaver, the first black Cabinet officer in the US, and Dr. Donna Shalala, a one-time vice president of the supposedly "radical" New Democratic Coalition. But its backbone is men like Rohatyn and William Ellinghaus, President of New York Telephone.

MAC'S MEN

Ellinghaus was brought in five years ago to straighten out New York Telephone at a time when telephone service in New York was on the verge of total collapse. Service is no better or cheaper, but Ellinghaus has reduced the number of telephone jobs by 20,000, making New York Tel's workers pay for management's inefficiency.

Through Rohatyn, Big MAC has ties to international capital. Rohatyn is a partner in Lazard Freres, a private investment bank which has been described by a high ranking International Telephone and Telegraph executive as "a damn great money-making machine for a very few rich men." Among these "few very rich men" are the Rockefeller and their counterparts in Europe.

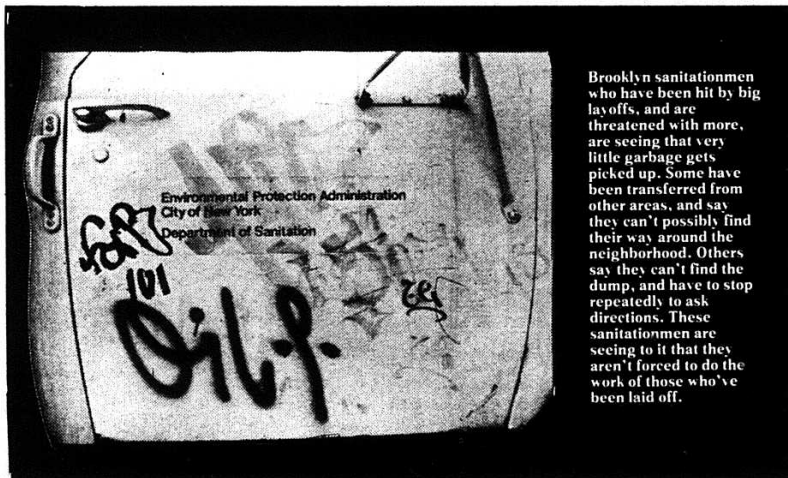
Rohatyn himself is on the Board of Directors of ITT and the architect of much of ITT's expansion.

Men like Ellinghaus and Rohatyn don't worry about fewer firemen in New York's slums like the South Bronx. They never go there.

By shifting the city debt into bonds, they create business for the banks who will get commissions by selling the bonds. They also protect their investment in outstanding New York and other municipal issues by restoring investors' confidence in the city.

Much of the money raised by the City through the sale of bonds is used to repay the debt, plus interest. New York City already owes the banks.

In very simple terms—the banks are paying themselves back—but charging New York City to do it. □



Brooklyn sanitationmen who have been hit by big layoffs, and are threatened with more, are seeing that very little garbage gets picked up. Some have been transferred from other areas, and say they can't possibly find their way around the neighborhood. Others say they can't find the dump, and have to stop repeatedly to ask directions. These sanitationmen are seeing to it that they aren't forced to do the work of those who've been laid off.

NYC FIREMEN - No Contract, Layoffs, More Injuries... More Anger

by David Donagan

New York City employs a lot of people: sanitation men, teachers, welfare workers, clerks, typists, daycare workers, health workers... the list could fill pages. In fact 1 out of every 10 jobs in New York City is a city job.

Now these hundreds of thousands of city workers are threatened with wage cuts and massive layoffs. They are angry and frustrated.

Workers' Power spoke with a group of firemen in Brooklyn. Here is their story.

New York City fireman have been working without a contract since July 1, 1974. Not only have they been working without a contract, but Fire Commissioner John O'Hagan has broken every clause of their previous contract.

He is assigning 4 men instead of 5 to a truck, assigning men borough-wide, transferring men wherever he wants including outside the borough, which is especially aimed at union delegates, and eliminating units.

1900 BELOW STRENGTH

Firemen haven't gotten a pay raise in two years. With Mayor Beame's new wage freeze and 10% wage cut they'll be falling further

behind inflation. The freeze will also affect the cost of living allowance.

The firemen are even more concerned about the layoffs than money. Before the layoff wave at the end of June they were 1000 men below strength, now it's 1900 and there is no way of knowing what will happen if Beame goes through with his new round of 27,500 citywide layoffs.

As it now stands the workforce is down 10% and 3% of the fire stations are closed. According to the union there are now fewer firemen working than in the '30s and there are 14 times the number of fires as in 1939. As the numbers in the work force go down the number of injuries goes up.

In this past week two men died

fighting fires.

The men are very upset because the Fire Department has been covering holes in the department with overtime while people are still laid off.

While there has been no official job action yet, there is an informal slowdown. It's due in part to the big drop in morale.

Firemen aren't as willing to put their lives on the line with the threat of layoffs and accidents hanging over them.

The men made very clear they didn't want any pictures or names or station numbers mentioned. As they put it, "If you put that kind of information in the paper, this station won't be open next week for you to sell us the paper." □

The Unions' Weak Response

by Florence Feinstein

The leaderships of the various unions representing New York City workers have responded to the demands of the banks with nothing stronger than statements of outrage.

In fact, most have done everything they could to stop an active struggle against the banks and the city.

The recent wildcat of sanitation men was undercut by the union leaders. When layoffs hit, the ranks responded with wildcats. The unions' response was to put up money [the dues of its 10,000 members] in order to guarantee jobs for a few more weeks.

But the city reneged on the deal and 1434 sanitation men have now been laid off. The union's reply is to demand the return of its \$1.6 million—not the jobs. The sanitation ranks, however, replied by vandalizing 40 trucks.

AFSCME

The largest city union is AFSCME District 37, with 110,000 members of the 300,000 civil service jobs.

AFSCME President Victor Gotbaum sounded militant when he called a demonstration of 10,000 people to take the union's funds out of First National City Bank in June.

Now that the \$350 million wage increase scheduled to go into effect July 1 is to be denied, and ten percent wage cuts are being demanded, Gotbaum is being pushed up against his rhetoric.

His solution is that the mayor should lay off political appointees and use federal funds to save civil service jobs. Nothing about not paying the bond interest.

Nothing about raising corporate taxes. And certainly nothing about using the one power his members have—the power to strike. □

RANK AND FILE COALITION ASKS UNIONS ACT

An organization of shop stewards, local officers and rank and file union members has begun to take action against New York City's financial crisis. Members of the April 26 Rank and File Coalition demanded that their unions act now to stop Beame and the banks from killing the city. They stated that if Beame gets away with this, any worker's job could be next.

They demanded that their unions send telegrams to Beame demanding that he stop the layoffs and

pay cuts; send telegrams to all city employee unions urging them to fight these attacks and pledging their full support for any strike; and organize a mass demonstration of all New York unions demanding an end to these layoffs and pay cuts.

The April 26 Rank and File Coalition is a national group of union militants from AFSCME, UAW, CWA, AFT, UFW, IBT, Retail Clerks and many other unions. They organized the rank and file contingent in the April 26 "Jobs Now" march on Washington. □

Letters

to

Workers' Power

Segregation In NY Telephone

Dear Workers' Power,
 Segregation has found a home at New York Telephone. Recently the company's Long Island division has transferred all black craftsmen in Southern Brooklyn to Northern Brooklyn.

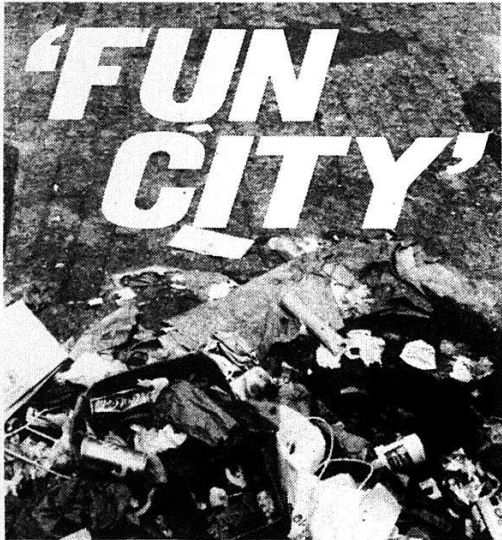
Southern Brooklyn is made up of integrated or white neighborhoods; Northern Brooklyn means the Bedford-Stuyvesant ghetto.

When asked to put a stop to this practice, the EEOC said it could not because it favored

people working in their communities. But one of the effects of these transfers has been that many black craftsmen have to travel much greater distances from their homes, many of which are in Southern Brooklyn, to their new job locations.

It seems that according to the government no matter where blacks happen to live their "community" is the ghetto.

Greg Allen
 New York



Dear Workers' Power:
 My sister goes to one of the three city colleges. My aunt works for the city. My fireman friend has been re-assigned from years of community relations work back to a firehouse.

My girl friend's husband lost his job as a school psychologist. And another friend will be laid off, because for the first time in 34 years there isn't enough city business to keep the traffic light factory open.

Stink City, Fear City, Fun City—whatever the description, New York is "It" on a grand scale. And when New York has money problems those are on the same scale.

The measures that have been proposed—and some already instituted—show clearly that it is the working people of this city who are supposed to bail out the banks.

No one who lives in New York is unaffected, city worker or not, except for those who can pay their way out of noticing. But for those of us who take the subway to work, bring out our own garbage to be collected, have children in day care centers or in school, or have ever needed the emergency room of a city hospital, we know the crisis is real—and that the banks are expecting us to pay for it.

Mary Brooks
 New York

Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

What you like about the paper—and what you don't. What you think of the political ideas we present, and your comments on problems facing working people.

But please be brief.

Write to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

CHECK THIS ISSUE

Dear Workers' Power:
 I was disappointed that the latest issue of Workers' Power (#124) contained nothing about the crisis in India.

Its importance cannot be understated. India has been highly touted as a democratic developing country.

As Lewis Simons, a writer for the Washington Post wrote:

"Suddenly this India was little more than a dictatorship. . . . But to me, the most astonishing part of it was how easy it had all been. In five days, less—overnight—democratic guarantees had been quashed."

This can happen here, too! The capitalist class has shown throughout the world that demo-

cracy will be allowed only to a point. Once the ruling class faces a serious threat, democracy will be eliminated.

In India, no mass movement was prepared to deal with this situation. We must learn this lesson.

B.P.
 Cleveland



Free Joann Little!

Dear Workers' Power:
 I recently attended a speakout rally supporting Joann Little at Riverside Church in New York City. The rally attracted 500 people both Black and White, and about one-fourth of the audience were men.

Well known speakers included William Kunstler, political lawyer; Ossie Davis, actor; Gloria Steinem, editor of Ms. magazine;

and Bella Abzug, Democratic Congresswoman.

The rally raised \$2000 for Little's defense, including \$1000 from audience contributions. \$200 came from the Coalition of 100 Black Women and \$200 from the Black Affairs Committee of District 65, Distributive Workers of America.

The most important aspect of

the rally, however, was the fact that the defense of Joann Little was spoken of as more than just a trial of one woman to assure her right to self-defense, but clearly as the confrontation with the racist and sexist realities of American life. Joann Little must be set free.

F.F.
 New York

The Great Space Waste

To the editor:

You've probably noticed all the publicity surrounding the famous "Apollo-Soyuz" space shot where United States and Russian spacemen shook hands and ate together from rubber tubes way up there in outer space.

Of course we are being told that this represents a great step toward a new era of co-operation in space exploration and maybe—who knows?—here on earth, too. Actually, I can think of only one good thing that's come out of all this. That's the fact that absolutely nobody takes it seriously, at least as far as I can see. Apollo-Soyuz turned out to be

the biggest media hype since the last Super Bowl. In fact, I understand that a lot of daytime soap opera viewers were outraged when their favorite programs were pre-empted for it.

I think the mass disillusionment with the "space program" is excellent. It's pretty glaring when the world's richest government pours billions into space shots, which have no scientific value, while 10 million people in New York City are losing their jobs and all the services they need to live.

It's even more incredible when that same government claims a "breakthrough" in co-operation

with the other big imperialist power, Russia—while the two of them go on stockpiling nuclear warheads and preparing for World War III.

The last thing workers here or in Russia need is to see grinning air force pilots meeting in a space module, telling pre-digested jokes and exchanging greetings written in a script.

We need to have American and Russian workers meeting right here on Earth, in a socialist world—after we've overthrown the barbaric ruling classes who are threatening to destroy us.

A.H.
 Tulsa



Bailar and Klassen—high-priced postal czars...

These men make \$60,000 plus expenses

They average \$11,500



WHOSE PAY IS TOO HIGH?

Post Office WHY THE POSTAL SERVICE IS FALLING APART...



"Enactment of the legislation I now propose would give our postal employees the means to attain a goal they have never before had the means of attaining—the goal of building, in America, the best postal system in the world."
With these words Richard Nixon

launched the United States Postal Service, and independent government corporation, and terminated the old Post Office Department.

These words turned out to be as prophetic as his more famous "I will not resign!"

The change from Department to Service meant putting the mail in the hands of businessmen rather than political appointees.

It was also supposed to turn mail delivery into a financially self-sufficient operation.

The Post Office was to be run like a business. And run it like a business they did. Harassment and speedup on the bottom and corruption at the top became the rule.

Nixon had declared that "the act would insure smoother operation of

the postal service, faster delivery and better pay for postal employees."

Five years later, mail service is the object of late night television humor and the anger and frustration of postal employees is explosive.

LIFE AT THE TOP...

In January 1972, Elmer Klassen was appointed Postmaster General. Klassen came to the Postal Service via Harvard Business School and had been general manager of Industrial Relations at American Can Co.

At Harvard and American Can he learned that to make a profit the workers must pay. At the Postal Service he introduced mind and body destroying machines to speed up mail sorting.

Far more mail is now sorted by one operator, but the speed of the machines means many more mistakes. Mail delivery is now 20% slower. Prices are higher and 31,000 postal jobs have been lost since 1973.

Klassen also seems to have learned well some other elementary laws of capitalism: "while workers work—bosses spend" and "money is easy under the table."

As Postmaster General Klassen spent the following to redecorate his office:

- walnut doors..... \$3671.00
- reception desk..... 1576.00
- couch..... 1143.00
- seven chairs..... 5748.00
- conference table..... 1141.00
- carpeting..... 11,666.00
- drapes..... 5999.00
- pantry..... 5280.00
- kitchen..... 50,000.00
- dinnerware..... 6147.00
- cream pitchers..... each 59.00

- sugar bowls..... each \$3.23
- pair of water pitchers..... 229.52
- chandelier..... 3718.00

...the list goes on and on and on. Klassen also had two full time chauffeurs, a cook and a maid. All paid for by the postal service.

Not only does Klassen know how to spend money on himself—he is generous to his friends.

While in office, he apparently aided his friends in securing contracts from the postal service. His friends appear to be generous as well. Klassen received \$22,000 from the Segal Co. In return for helping his old friend Marty Segal get Post Office insurance contracts.

Some people call that real friendship—others call it bribery and illegal.

Klassen also got caught extending franking privileges (free postage) to his political friends.

Eventually the stench at the top forced Klassen's resignation.

"My only reservation in stepping aside is that it may appear I am yielding the battle to the critics of the postal service. Nothing could be less justified," Klassen said while stepping down.

THE HIGH COST OF IDLENESS...

But don't feel too bad for the man from Harvard business school. He was an excellent student.

In early January of 1974 he negotiated an excellent job security clause for himself. (Postal workers take note!)

If fired Klassen would continue making his \$60,000 a year for 3

years. If he resigned he would make \$15,000 a year for the rest of his life. He resigned.

Following Klassen up the postal ladder is Benjamin Bailar.

Bailar is also a graduate of Harvard business school and American Can. Although thus far Bailar's life style seems somewhat

less spectacular, he does own several Ferraris which he drives for pleasure "while maintaining a more conventional car that he uses for business."

Bailar, as did Klassen, makes

\$60,000 a year plus expenses.

When these bastards tell us that the postal service is falling apart because of high wages and excess spending—remember who they are and how they live.

INDIA: CORRUPTION, REPRESSION AND STARVATION

By Dan Posen

When Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was convicted of election fraud, and faced losing her office, her response was swift and to the point.

She declared a "state of emergency." Her political opponents were thrown in jail without trial or charges. India was turned into a police state.

For 28 years, India paraded as a showpiece of democracy in Asia. Behind this facade were webs of intrigue, influence-peddling, and bureaucratic bungling. An ever-present worsening economic crisis threatened to rip the country apart every day.

Now, the collapse of India is out in the open. Indira Gandhi holds on to power only by repression.

SMALL POTATOES

Indira Gandhi's election violations were small potatoes, compared to what her political machine carries out every day. India is riddled with corruption. The corruption is licensed and organized by Gandhi's Congress Party which rules the country.

State officials traffic in gold and silver, crops and import licenses. Everything is for sale. When the government steps in to control the situation, there is a thriving traffic in evasion.

Indira Gandhi's son Sanjiv has one of the best rackets. He has been awarded the franchise, with



Indira Gandhi...convicted of fraud, she jailed opponents

government aid, to become the country's only independent auto producer.

His company is to make a "People's Car." Just what the average Indian peasant needs, with an average annual income of \$50 a year!

Last year, an old politician named Jayaprakash Narayan latched onto the issue of corruption. In response the government began a much-publicized "crackdown" against smuggling.

Among those arrested were prominent businessmen who were fund-raisers for the Congress Party.



Last year's rail strikes in India were smashed by 20,000 arrests.



Thousands have been shot dead in food riots, and millions are starving and suffering.

The campaign aimed at giving Gandhi a shining new image. But it was soon revealed that those arrested were getting luxury treatment in prison.

One of them, Haji Mastan, explained why: he promised a "political explosion" if he "named those who had fought and won elections at my expense and became ministers."

But why is corruption so widespread? Because life is so poverty-stricken and uncertain. The only escape is through connections with the state and the functionaries who can provide capital, or licenses, or both.

BRINK OF COLLAPSE

The government of India exists to protect the capitalist economy. But capitalism in India has been devastated by the world economic crisis. The social structure is collapsing. India is following the path of decay and brutal repression which are already well advanced in their neighbors, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The poor can no longer afford the cost of even a starvation diet. Miserably low agricultural wages are being slashed. Unemployment, already around 50 million, is increasing fast. Famine and disaster are living reality.

The situation for poor peasants is desperate. Last year there was already crisis. So they sold their seed corn or little parcels of land to get food.

NOTHING

Now they have nothing. This year they must starve and die. Their masters—the large landowners, the industrialists and the government—only hope they will die quietly.

Even when world capitalism was booming, the economies of South

Asia delivered nothing for the broad masses of people. Capitalism in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, pillaged and then controlled by the forces of the world market, could not deliver.

Now the fragile balance of survival has been toppled. Oil prices have shot up. Demand for raw materials and textiles that underdeveloped countries produce has collapsed.

Mrs. Gandhi and Co. have given up trying to plan for development. They have turned their attention to screwing the poor even more.

While starving millions live on weeds and leaves, the budget is eaten up by the police, the army, and the production of India's atom bomb.

POISONED

None of this is inevitable. India could produce more food. It could double production if fertilizers

could be obtained in the quantities needed.

But the giant multinationals which control world fertilizer production—Dow Chemical, ICI and others—will supply fertilizer only at enormous cost.

They supply only to those who can pay. They are in business to profit from desperation, not to halt it.

Capitalism maintains its grip from the inside as well.

A century ago British colonialism developed big landowners in India to grow crops British manufacturers needed.

Those lords of the land are still there. It is they who benefit from the agricultural development promoted by the Indian government and international aid agencies.

Every year, India staggers further into debt. The wealth to repay loans, to support the \$2 billion military budget and the police must be squeezed from India's impover-

ished workers and peasants.

That is the real crisis behind Indira Gandhi's "state of emergency."

The American press may moan the fact that the "light of democracy" has gone out in India. For the mass of Indian people democracy never existed. The emergency regime and the dictatorship that could follow will be much worse.

SUPPORT

Last year's railway strikes were smashed by 20,000 arrests. There are 35,000 political prisoners in prison without trial. Thousands have been shot dead in food riots, and millions are just starving and suffering.

India's workers and peasants have never known anything like freedom or democracy. But they have the power to reconstruct the society and smash the institutions that keep them in starvation.

India's industrial workers have the power to lead that struggle. They are militant, combative and well-organized, as the railway strike showed.

But India's workers today have no independent political voice. The union leaders backed down last year when the government threatened.

The Communist Party is pro-Moscow. It loyally supports Indira Gandhi and all her policies—including her state of emergency.

The way out of the chaos and mass misery in India is a mass revolutionary socialist organization.

That organization must be built. It will mobilize the Indian working class to smash the system of corruption and capitalism—not to play feeble parliamentary games with it.

Israeli officials openly sympathize with the attacks by the anti-Palestinian right wing in Lebanon.

Full-scale civil war has broken out in Angola. Thousands of troops from FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) are trying to drive forces of MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) out of the capital city of Luanda.

FNLA has diplomatic support from both the United States and China.

Details of the struggle are unclear. However, it is obvious that the new war in Angola gives the United States an opening for political maneuvers in Africa.

It has also intensified the political crisis in Portugal. Pressure by Portuguese settlers in Angola is mounting on the Portuguese government to send troops back into Angola.

The result could be another explosion in the Portuguese Army.



The latest explosion in the Middle East has been in Lebanon, where a series of right-wing attacks have been made against Palestinians and Moslem workers.

The first round of fighting began when the right-wing Christian Phalangist Party massacred 27 Palestinians in a bus. The crisis in Lebanon is a major threat to the united image of the Arab states.

There have now been three rounds of bitter fighting. The latest ended in a shaky truce when a close ally of the Phalangists, Camille Chamoun, became a minister in the government.

Israel has contributed to the crisis in Lebanon by carrying out a series of air raids. Israeli planes attacked crowded Palestinian refugee camps from the air.



Phalangist Party Soldier



Isabel Peron

A two-day general strike of unions in Argentina forced President Isabel Peron to rescind an order limiting wage increases to a maximum of 50%. That might seem like a big increase—but inflation in Argentina last month alone was 30%.

The strike also forced the resignation of Mrs. Peron's private secretary and Labor Minister Lopez Rega, the "strong man" behind her right-wing regime. He was also the sponsor of the terrorist squads which have murdered a large number of union militants in the last year.

This was the first time that the anger of Argentina's workers forced the unions to use their full power against a Peronist government.

PORTUGAL: New Crisis Set To Explode

The collapse of Portugal's coalition government last week brought the country's political crisis to a turning point. The future of the Portuguese revolution is at stake.

Over the last few weeks the political forces in the country have been mobilizing. 30,000 workers turned out in a huge demonstration several weeks ago, called by the organizers of revolutionary workers' councils.

At the same time mass strike activity by workers continued, with telephone workers leading.

However, these events were overshadowed last weekend when the Socialist Party called monster rallies in Oporto and Lisbon against the Communist Party and the military officers of the Armed Forces Movement (MFA), who run the Portuguese government.

The Socialist Party, led by Mario Soares, wants Portugal closely tied to Western European capitalism. Its leaders want to help manage a modernized Portuguese capitalist economy which would be part of NATO and the Common Market.

The Communist Party has followed a different road. It has supported every step taken by the military officers to nationalize industry and to concentrate power in the hands of the Armed Forces Movement.

This battle came to a head over the takeover of the Socialist Party's newspaper *República*. The government promised the paper would be returned, then reversed itself and took the paper under military control.

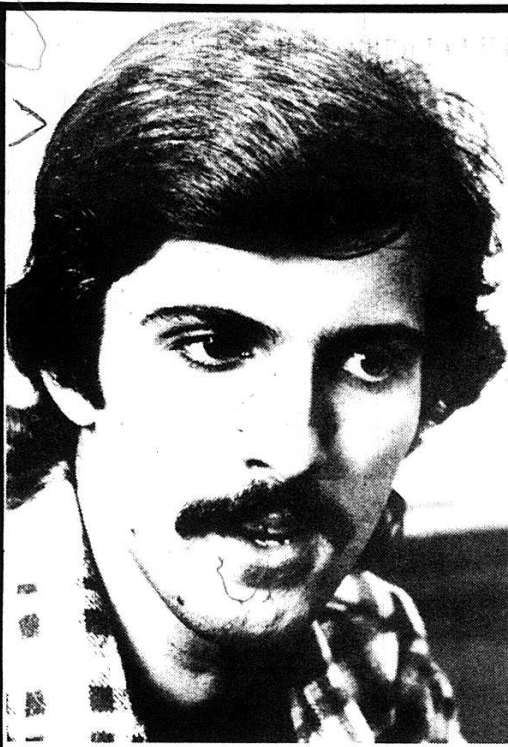
Shortly afterward the government announced that political parties would be "bypassed" under some form of direct military rule. When anti-military sentiment reached a peak, the Socialist Party resigned from its positions in the government.

The immediate situation is still unclear, but obviously explosive. The base of political support for the military government right now is incredibly thin.

The Armed Forces Movement itself may be cracking up over the issue of dumping Prime Minister Vasco de Gonalves, who is closely allied to the CP. The CP is in a tremendous squeeze.

There is a struggle to preserve basic democratic rights, including a free working class press. Because this fight focused around the pro-capitalist, pro-West Socialist Party, a very large section of the militant Portuguese working class has rallied behind the SP.

However, this course involves dangers for Portuguese workers



Carlos Silva

This speech was given by a revolutionary socialist named Carlos Silva. He is a soldier in the Portuguese Army. The talk was given at a meeting in Coventry, England sponsored by the British International Socialists.

For the first time in two decades, since the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, workers are taking steps to rule society themselves. The capitalist political structure of Portugal began to crumble in April 1974, with the overthrow of the fascist dictator Marcello Caetano.

Since then no stable capitalist government has been able to form. They cannot solve Portugal's problems. In that vacuum, workers

which are just as great as the threat of military rule. For the SP political offensive may become the cover for NATO intervention and a right-wing invasion.

The workers' councils which have sprung up and now control dozens of crucial factories in Portugal, are the basic line of defense for the working class. Without these councils, Portugal's revolutionary worker militants

would be fragmented and powerless in this crisis. With the councils, they have the chance to reach the rank and file soldiers, and to mobilize the working class to defend itself.

The Communist Party, the Socialist Party and several currents inside the Armed Forces Movement are interested in using the workers' council movement as a base for themselves.

organized themselves.

Carlos is an active member of the organizing committee of the revolutionary workers' councils in Portugal. He is also a member of the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP).

The speech is a powerful appeal for solidarity with the revolution in Portugal by workers around the world.

In the months to come we must organize a powerful solidarity movement among rank and file workers in this country. The struggles of Portuguese workers to free themselves from exploitation must become a part of our own struggle as well.

Revolutionary Soldier Appeals For Solidarity

Comrades: first of all, I want to present you revolutionary greetings from Portuguese workers!

On March 11 there was an attempted coup by right-wing officers. It was their answer to the growing organization of Portuguese workers at the rank and file level.

The workers' movement hit a high point before the attempted coup, on February 7. Workers' committees called out 80,000 workers in a mass demonstration.

But the right-wing uprising of March 11 was still possible because sections of soldiers who were not yet politically informed followed reactionary officers—who were still around in the armed forces.

These officers didn't intend to let the end of fascism [which was overthrown in Portugal in April, 1974] lead to any form of working class power.

STRUGGLE FOR POWER

The right-wing officers were smashed on March 11. But we must understand that at this moment, the working class is still nowhere near being in power.

Since March 11 there has been a

different evolution in the type of organization that exists in the working class.

This new form of organization is the only way in which the Portuguese working class can be organized effectively—because this is a rank and file, non-party type of organization.

After March 11, the workers felt it was necessary to organize themselves at places of work—factories, offices or wherever else.

In this situation there appeared for the first time a Congress designed to set up councils of workers, soldiers and sailors.

From this Congress I was selected to the Provisional Secretariat, which set itself the task of trying to set up this type of rank and file council organization.

This congress was supported by the PRP. We made the analysis that in the crisis Portugal is in, it is possible to get out of it and go beyond the struggle of the parties only by building up independent working class forces.

It is also necessary that the working class be organized to defend itself against foreign imperialism: This is a very great problem which we have at present.

WORKERS UNITE

Our work at this moment is to make the working class aware that imperialism is waiting to attack—and it will not wait very long.

We know what Gerald Ford is saying about Spain.

As we know Gerald Ford has been declaring himself in favor of the fascist regime in Spain, on behalf of NATO. From this quarter we may have to expect an attack from imperialism.

Imperialism is trying to intervene in numerous ways—through the Azores where there are US bases, through Angola, and through social democracy (the Socialist Party) internally in Portugal.

Because of this danger it is very important for the Portuguese working class to be able to count upon the support of people abroad—in Europe and in the world as a whole.

It is important to remember that when you support the Portuguese working class you are also supporting the revolutionary development throughout Western Europe. Portugal seems to be the entry point for the revolution into Western Europe.

This is why I am here on an invitation from the International Socialists—to explain to as many revolutionaries and workers as I can the importance of solidarity with Portugal.

SOLIDARITY

In Portugal the fundamental work is to build up rank and file councils of workers and soldiers, which will be able to create a workers' army capable of resisting any advance, from any imperialism.

As the Provisional Secretariat of these councils, we already have some strength in trying to push this ahead.

But we are not strong enough yet. Our enemies are too many.

For this reason, whenever we are abroad we have to try to counter the misinformation—the lies that are spread about Portugal, to try to build up some serious links. In order for the revolution to make any headway in Europe at all, there must be solidarity with workers in Spain and in Portugal.

It may be your working class which might be the key to enabling us to win. So let's oppose imperialism with proletarian internationalism!



Revolutionary Portuguese soldiers.

For the first time in many decades socialist revolution is once more possible. The growing capitalist crisis is producing increased working class struggle here and abroad.

But that struggle must be organized. To win, to overthrow the brutal, oppressive and powerful capitalist system requires building a mass disciplined revolutionary party. The party, composed of the best, most dedicated working class fighters, is able to unify and lead the struggles of the entire working class.

Building the party, training its members in struggle, takes time and work—it will not happen over night.

That is what the International Socialists is about.

Over the last year the IS has made substantial gains in both the growth of the organization and its work. Our newspaper, *Workers' Power*, is now the best paper on the American left and the only revolutionary socialist paper that is actively used to build working class struggle. The IS has formed a youth group, the Red Tide. IS members are helping build rank and file groups in the major unions across the country.

But time is short. The steps necessary to build a revolutionary party must be accomplished as rapidly as the system crumbles. If not, the struggle of the working class will be crushed.

These questions were the theme of the 7th national convention of the IS. Over 200 members and sympathizers attended. Delegates to the convention represented work in auto, steel, telephone, teamsters, teachers, mining, hospitals, civil service, Post Office, CLUW, UFW support and among youth and blacks.

Many new members joined the IS at the end of the convention.

One woman said she always had thought she just wanted to do her own thing. But hearing the discussion on turning the IS into a disciplined revolutionary machine convinced her. "I knew I'd rather be part of a machine that was doing something than some little nut or bolt lying in the corner by itself rusting," she said.

Several new members joined because they had been convinced of revolutionary socialist politics by reading *Workers' Power*. Many members of the Red Tide joined the IS because of the success of the convention. Several black workers joined pledging themselves to bring more blacks into the IS. One pointed out that it was not what the IS could do for him but what he could do for the IS.

The following are highlights of some of the convention discussion.



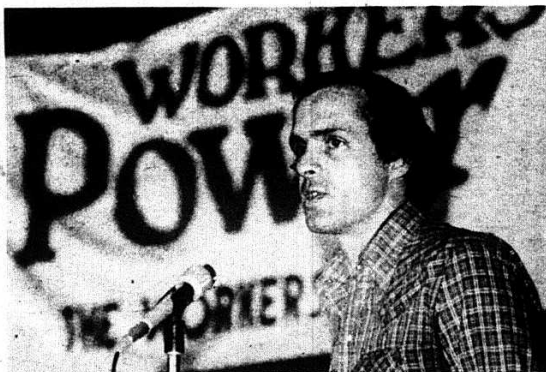
"We believe it is possible in 1975 to begin building working class parties, not only in the British Isles, but in your country too. Your organization is the organization, your paper is the paper, which we believe can carry the American working class forward." Steve Jeffries
British International Socialists



I.S. CONVENTION, 1975

BUILDING A REVOLU

Economic Crisis and Rank and File Revolt



Kim Moody

Kim Moody, IS Industrial Organizer, presented the IS economic analysis of the next period and the related tasks before the organization.

Moody explained that during the next several years there will be national contracts negotiated in most major industries: auto, steel, trucking, telephone. These contracts will be negotiated after several years of high unemployment and high inflation.

At the same time in many unions there will be internal struggles to replace out-going presidents. These succession fights will make it easier for angry rank and file unionists to organize opposition movements.

The economic crisis and the bargaining round will also be affected by the political climate in the US. Moody pointed out that there will be a crisis in many urban areas over school busing to end segregation.

"We're not just talking about building an industrial movement. The rank and file must intervene to end segregation and racial violence. We must lead it."

In the midst of the bargaining round there will be a national Presidential election and, following that, an attempt to again enforce wage-price controls as the economy continues to fail.

TASKS

Moody stressed the two immediate tasks for the IS in this situation. "We must build a working class movement. The rank and file must come out of this bargaining round with enough organization and communication to develop national opposition caucuses in major industries.

"We must also build a revolutionary workers combat group, one that is tougher and better organized than our enemies—the capitalist class and the trade union bureaucracy."

An auto worker from Philadelphia said it was most important to take our perspective into our workplaces.

"It's a myth that the government is messing up the economy. The economy is messing itself up. We

must tie this to every question we fight on. We must show that the only solution is to end the system that causes them."

A Cleveland teamster described the consolidation that is going on in the trucking industry through mergers and bankruptcy. This is creating instability in the industry, sharpening political questions in the teamsters' union.

"The bureaucracy is becoming more conservative; the workers are more open," he said. "We must have specifics to propose in the contract campaign, but be capable of moving beyond narrow issues."

A Detroit auto worker said the speed in building rank and file groups is changing because of the economic crisis. "Our collective experience will aid in building more groups. We have our successes, now, as well as failures to learn from."

YOUTH

Michael Long, Red Tide National Organizer, said, "Unemployment is the worst effect of the crisis. It's

worse for youth, and the worst of the worst for black and minority youth. Most of the minorities entering the job market today won't have jobs into the 80's.

"There is a tremendous change in consciousness. There are always depressions in the black community. Now the effect is gangs, increased ripoffs, community demonstrations by blacks, Chicanos, Asians in Los Angeles.

"In New York thousands stormed unemployment offices for a few dozen jobs. They didn't care that the government can't afford it; they want jobs. Youth will be among the most militant in this fight. That is the basis for the Red Tide unemployment campaign."

In summing up the discussion Moody said, "We must build a rank and file movement that has as its backbone a revolutionary party. Today both are weak.

"History will hold us to this timetable. The IS must have around it a rank and file movement that is its life-blood. We're going for broke this time. And we think we're going to win."

Forg

To accomplish the tasks the IS has set for itself, the IS must also change.

IS National Secretary Glenn Wolfe presented the view of the Executive Committee on building the IS into a workers' combat organization—an organization, capable of taking on the capitalist system, and winning.

During the prosperity of the last 25 years, he said, the revolutionary socialist movement throughout the world was cut off from the working class.

The most that socialists could do was to comment, from a socialist viewpoint, on what went on in the class struggle and keep revolutionary ideas alive.

And, he added, we must not apologize for that past. During this time we developed an analysis and perspectives on capitalism that are used today. The deepening crisis of the capitalist system means that American workers in increasing numbers are now ready to act. But they need leadership.

The IS has to rapidly make itself ready to provide that leadership. Excessive caution now, he warned, will mean lost opportunities. He urged a massive campaign to recruit workers to the IS.

THE NOT SO FEW

Because of the thoroughgoing bureaucratization of the unions, pressure on workers not to fight is great. But when they do go into struggle, as they are beginning to today, this means challenging the whole system.

"We must pick up on that dynamic," he said, "to turn the few into the not so few."

The key to this is convincing and demonstrating to workers that some element of control can be

"All the conditions exist for building a rank and file movement and revolutionary party."

"We are turning the organization around, that is what is happening in this period. All the conditions exist for building a rank and file movement in the unions and a revolutionary party. If we don't do it, we'll have no one to blame but ourselves."

So said Glenn Wolfe, IS National Secretary, summing up the situation facing the International Socialists in his report to the convention.

In virtually all areas, there have been dramatic changes in the work of the IS in recent months.

Both the IS and its youth organization, the Red Tide, have grown substantially. Moreover, a much larger percentage of the new members are being recruited from trade union work.

The work of all the IS trade union fractions has moved forward significantly. In every union, revolutionaries who have a serious rank and file approach, confidence in their ideas, and aggressiveness can have a real impact.

One truck driver from Chicago reported to the convention that he had written off the workers at one barn because they were older and more conservative. But the changes brought on by the economic crisis in this country have been fantastic.

"Now," he said, "we discuss why we should take it away from the boss. We've been able to get whites out to defend the jobs of blacks and the blacks to come out and defend the jobs of Irishmen."

In recent months, the recruitment of women to the IS has been turned around. After a period when the percentage of women in the organization had been falling, the situation is completely reversed.

Wolfe said this new recruitment of women is a vindication of the perspective adopted by the organization that women members should concentrate on the most important industrial unions. "We have proved that we will recruit our best women leaders from these unions, even though there may be a larger number of women concentrated in less strategic unions," he said.

In the last few months, the organization has laid the basis for significant recruitment of black workers. In the coming months, this recruitment must be the

priority. The ideas and influence of the IS have also expanded through the growth of Workers' Power. In the last year, circulation of the paper has doubled.

"We are now in the stage where we are recruiting workers just because they have read the paper. This process will be accelerated when Workers' Power becomes a weekly this fall," Wolfe said.

In summarizing the discussion, Wolfe stated: "We've had a report from the whole organization. We have a right to pat ourselves on the back, but now that has to stop. It's clear we're moving in the right direction—but not fast enough."

"We now want to hear what our members are doing wrong, because we're past the time when mistakes can be repeated." □

"In the four months our organization has existed, our membership has tripled. In the coming years, the American IS and the Canadian IS will be able to contribute on a whole variety of issues."

Don Lucas
Canadian Independent Socialists



"Building a national Red Tide is based on the success of the International Socialists. We look forward to building the revolutionary party together."

Michael Long
National Secretary, Red Tide

REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION

Building a Workers' Action Group

"Few workers doubt that this system stinks, that it is rotten, cruel and unjust. Few would argue against the idea that those who produce wealth should control it."

"But most American workers doubt that their co-workers can be counted on in struggle," he said. The IS must give the lead that produces small victories. We must take the struggle forward and build on it a working class confident enough to seize power.

We must change the organization internally to do this, Wolfe argued. The emphasis must be action.

He stressed the need for stronger leadership and tighter security. Concluding, Wolfe said, "We cannot guarantee success, but if we don't move now, certainly we fail."

DEBATE

The first speaker from the floor told why he supported the EC resolution. In St. Louis, half the factories have been on strike this

year. But his branch lost four months to internal debate before waking up and getting involved. Recruitment has been the result. The whole organization, he said, cannot afford the same mistake.

Wendy Weinberg, a Detroit autoworker, said that the mood in the plants is changing. A year ago she was fired, but got back after putting up a public, political fight. Afterwards, people were afraid to talk to her. This year she was again

fired and reinstated. However, this time she was elected committee-woman shortly afterwards.

Fred Hobby, member of the IS Black Commission, stressed that we must be willing to take chances if we are serious about recruiting black and minority workers. These workers, he said, have never had a chance to say "the time is not right to struggle." We cannot ask blacks to join a multiracial organization if we are not willing to fight.

A telephone worker from New York pointed out that for the first time we are able to organize directly through our newspaper, Workers' Power.

WORKERS' POWER

Jack Trautman, member of the IS National Committee, picked up on that point, stating, "We sold 3,500 pamphlets at the Post Office in three weeks. Five rank and file

groups have formed. This is because we dared to move. Workers' Power is now bringing news and direction to the rank and file in the post office."

Gay Semel, WP editor, stressed the importance of building the paper in building the IS. "Use of Workers' Power must be integral to all our work, not an afterthought," She pointed to the even greater role of the paper as an organizer when it goes weekly next fall. □

"We must show that a multi-racial group will fight racism as hard as an all-black."

The session on black liberation opened with presentations by Jack Trautman and Fred Hobby. Both are members of the IS Black Commission.

Trautman spoke of the need for the IS to address squarely issues of racism. Being able to build struggles of concern to blacks and recruiting blacks is now a life and death issue for the organization.

This is in part because the ability to establish black-white unity in struggle will be key to the success of the black struggle, and of the rank and file struggle in the next period. It is also because blacks are the most militant section of the American working class.

The best place to build unity is at the workplace, Trautman said. Blacks who have attempted to struggle alone in the last period waged courageous battles but often met defeat due to their isolation.

White workers can and must be won to support of black issues, or their racism will be used against them and the whole working class will suffer tragic defeats. This is exactly what the ruling class wants



Fred Hobby

as their economy slides downhill. They want to see working people fighting each other for crumbs.

"The rank and file caucuses with which we are associated must become much more aggressive in pushing black issues," Trautman stated. "They must become known as the voice of the struggle for black equality in the plants."

"The crucial issue this year will be busing," he argued. "There now exists the basis for a dangerous right wing movement to develop. The events in Boston around busing last year provided

hope for racist forces. The success of racists there in terrorizing the children made them believe that they can prevent blacks from participating in society on an equal basis."

As busing becomes an issue in other major cities this fall, racists, reactionaries and fascists will try to use the issue to strengthen their forces and hold black people down. "We must take the lead in countering such an offensive. We support busing," Trautman asserted, "and we will work to defend it."

We must organize black and white workers to participate in this defense in all areas where we work.

"The alternative to 'forced busing,' as the racists call it, is forced segregation," he declared.

Next Fred Hobby spoke about recruiting blacks to the IS.

"Those black workers who we are able to attract as a result of our political work on the shop floor, and through our public agitation will join on the basis of our seriousness, our confidence, and our ability to develop a political party, capable of

leading the working class and smashing all forms of its oppression," he stated.

A speaker from the floor declared, "We must demonstrate through our practice that a multiracial organization can and will fight against racism as hard as an all-black one."

Kay Stacy said, "Defeat in the past produced a feeling that unity among blacks was the highest priority. The nationalist movement was able to create a feeling of unity among blacks, but it was not able to produce lasting successes for black people."

"Today the fact that there are different classes and different interests in the black community is becoming more apparent. What we must do is convince blacks that our strategy for fighting on the shop floor is the way to move the struggle for black liberation forward."

"The tasks are enormous," she continued, "but the IS, I believe, has proven that it is equal to the task." □



Kay Semel

Hands Off Portugal!

A revolution is taking place in Portugal. There is now a clear, direct threat that the United States government, NATO and the capitalist Common Market of western Europe may try to intervene to crush it.

The warning was publicly sounded last week by the most important newspaper of the American capitalist class, The New York Times' editorial of July 17 warned that what it called a "Communist-supported" dictatorship may be imminent in Portugal.

The Times' editorial urged the following tough response: "West Europe's Common Market Commission should make it clear that its proposal of an \$840 million loan to Portugal and other closer ties are conditional on continued freedom there. Even more important, the United States and its NATO allies need to make it clear to Moscow that the Soviet Union will be held responsible if Portugal's Communists continue on their present path and that the West's democracies cannot accept the imposition of Communism there by force or subversion."

The message is unmistakably clear. The capitalist powers should continue their campaign to strangle Portugal's staggering economy. But they have already been doing this for months! Now they should go further: they should "warn Moscow" that the West will step in to save Portuguese capitalism.

What does this mean? The Times knows very well that Moscow is not, in fact, calling the shots for the Portuguese Communist Party. The Times

editorial is written in a thinly veiled code. It is not really a warning to Moscow at all: it is a threat of a NATO-sponsored invasion of Portugal.

The Portuguese revolution is extremely complex. There are several forces engaged in the struggle for power. As revolutionary socialists, we side with the revolutionary workers' councils, not with the Portuguese Communist Party. But we know very well what the New York Times, the CIA and the United States government are up to in Portugal.

Yes, Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger want to crush the Portuguese Communist Party. But that's not all. They are even more interested in crushing the revolutionary Portuguese working class. Portugal's working class has seized factories and started to create its own power after 50 years of fascist rule.

During those 50 years of terror, the US government supported Portugal's fascist dictatorship all the way. That's what they mean by "freedom." The same kind of freedom that slaughtered over 50,000 workers in one year in Chile, and murdered more than two million Vietnamese fighting for their freedom.

The future of the Portuguese revolution must be decided in Portugal—by the Portuguese working class. We must not allow the imperialists to dictate terms for Portugal's future. We must respond immediately and powerfully—through our unions, our caucuses, our organizations. Hands Off Portugal!



Demonstration in Portugal last spring.

Talking About Socialism... and a Revolutionary Workers' Party

by Bernard O'Higgins

In previous columns we've discussed the idea of a workers' state, a state based directly on the power of the armed working class organized through democratic workers' councils.

Workers' councils come into

being when capitalist society is in a state of extreme crisis, when the ruling class cannot rule effectively. They can exist within the capitalist framework only until they are strong enough to replace it, or are defeated.

Though workers' councils are needed to overthrow capitalism and to reorganize the economy to serve human needs instead of profit, they

are not enough. Something else is also needed to make a socialist revolution happen.

In the backward, underdeveloped Russia of 1917 there were workers' councils and a socialist revolution was victorious, though it was later defeated.

In the Germany of 1918, the most developed capitalist country of Europe and the one with the largest and best organized working class, there were also workers' councils. But they left power in the hands of the reformists who wanted to patch up German capitalism. These reformists' inability to solve Germany's problems paved the way for Hitler.

It isn't that the Russian workers of 1917 were any smarter or purer or more courageous than German workers.

KEY ELEMENT

One key element that existed in Russia has been lacking every other time workers have organized councils to rule society.

What existed in Russia and didn't exist in other countries was a revolutionary workers' party. A revolutionary party brings together the most determined, dedicated, and militant workers into a centralized political organization that has only one purpose: to lead the entire working class in taking over society.

There were political parties in other countries where workers' councils formed that claimed to represent the interests of working people. Many of them had a lot of working class support. But none of them were revolutionary parties.

They were dedicated to reforming capitalism, not to overthrowing it. They didn't believe that there was an alternative to capitalism.

There are many reasons why such a separate organization of the most revolutionary workers is needed. One key reason is the fact that our enemies are organized

nationally and internationally and we need to be too.

Only an organization that can carry out a consistent national policy has any hope of dealing with the power of the capitalist state.

Our enemies have a stable organization to maintain their rule over society with, and we need a stable organization to undermine that rule.

NOT ALIKE

Another reason is that just as all people in general aren't alike, all workers aren't alike. That's why a revolutionary party makes no attempt to get all the workers in the country to join it.

Some workers are always ready to fight the company, and to fight it with every weapon available, no matter how seemingly minor the issues. Others will only fight if they are personally singled out and harassed, or if the company tries something really extreme and out of line.

Then there are those who won't fight no matter what the company's up to. And at the very bottom are those whose only ambition in life is to put on that tie and become part of management.

It's the same way in relation to the capitalist state when the social crisis gets really bad. Some workers realize that the immediate overthrow of capitalism is the only way out and devote themselves to making this happen. Others aren't ready to lead the fight but will follow the first few. Others remain neutral. A few openly side with the capitalists.

DEDICATED

It's clear that a party which included all these people in its ranks would be incapable of acting in a revolutionary situation. Instead of overthrowing the capitalist state, it would argue violently with itself and do nothing.

A revolutionary party is the organization of those workers who dedicate themselves to the destruction of capitalism and the setting up of a workers' state.

It's the organization of those workers who take the lead in fighting the company and the capitalist state. It's able to lead the rest of the working class because it organizes itself as a separate group.

Instead of trying to merge itself into the rest of the working class it tries to raise all working people to its level of consciousness. It doesn't just concern itself with just one union or one work place, but with the common needs of all working people.

Only such a party, one that knows what it wants, and is determined to bring it about, can lead the workers' councils in making themselves the state.

Workers' councils are the organization of the entire working class, of the most timid and conservative as well as the boldest and most revolutionary, and include all shades of opinion in between.

Though workers' councils can rule society, they can only take power when they are led by a revolutionary party. That party has to win a majority of the workers' councils for the revolution to happen.

Workers' councils are created more or less spontaneously when the capitalist crisis gets deep enough—they are a natural reaction to the faltering capitalist rule. But a revolutionary party has to be built over a period of years.

It has to gain experience and sink roots into the most important parts of the working class. It has to demonstrate in many struggles that its members are the best fighters for the needs of all working people.

When it calls for the overthrow of capitalist society, it has to be clear that it is able to lead that change. □

STOP THE TERROR AT PINE RIDGE

TWO YEARS AFTER THE WOUNDED KNEE OCCUPATION A BANAL CAMPAIGN OF TERROR HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT AND THEIR SUPPORTERS ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA. THE CORRUPT PINE RIDGE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OF BUCK WILSON, OPERATING WITH THE FBI AND BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS APPROVAL HAS CREATED A POLICE STATE ON THE RESERVATION. SINCE MARCH 1, SEVEN AIM MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING TWO WOMEN AND ONE CHILD, HAVE BEEN MURDERED AT PINE RIDGE. MEANWHILE, THE FBI HAS MOVED ON A NATIONAL LEVEL TO CRUSH AIM, USING MURDEROUS TACTICS SIMILAR TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IN 1967-70. ON MARCH 1, THE FBI ARRESTED 17 AIM MEMBERS IN A THREE-STATE SWEEP, CHARGING THEM WITH CRIMES RANGING FROM MURDER TO "CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM." A CHARGE LAST WEEK AGAINST EUGENE P. DEBS IN 1919, AFTER AN OUTRAGED GROUP OF OGLALA SIOUX WOMEN SAT IN AT THE FBI'S RAPID CITY OFFICE. THE FBI DECIDED TO "INVESTIGATE" THE SCENES OF MURDERS AT PINE RIDGE. A GRAND JURY MET AND RECENTLY RETURNED FELONY INDICTMENTS ONLY AGAINST AIM PEOPLE—THE VICTIMS OF THE TERROR. IN ONE RECENT GOVERNMENT ATTACK, AIM LEADER RUSSELL MEANS WAS SHOT IN THE BACK BY BIA POLICE ON JUNE 7, AT STANDING ROCK RESERVATION IN NORTH DAKOTA.

THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT HAS ISSUED AN URGENT APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY IN THIS CRUCIAL TIME. DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS WILL TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT THE US THIS SUMMER AND A NATIONAL BOYCOTT OF SOUTH DAKOTA. *SEE SOUTH DAKOTA LAST PAGES BEING ORGANIZED.



Lessons of Victory

by Harry Selden

This series of articles has discussed the struggle for union recognition by Minneapolis Teamsters in 1934. Their struggle, including two strikes which virtually closed down the city, made the Teamsters one of the powerful industrial unions in this country.

Previous articles have discussed how the strikes were organized and won through the initiative of masses of rank and file workers. We have also seen how the struggle was led by members of the Communist League of America—the American Trotskyist organization of that period. The Minneapolis strike has many lessons to teach us about how revolutionary socialists can provide organization and leadership to workers' struggles—the kind of organization that wins victories.

When the May strike was over, a member of the Citizens Alliance (the bosses' strike-breaking organization) commented: "It was really horrible. I felt like slipping away, getting out of Minneapolis onto a farm somewhere, and never coming back." After the second strike in August, a lot more of the city's bosses probably thought about taking up farming.

The strike was a major defeat for the city's employers because the workers in the trucking industry won their key demand, recognition of their union—Drivers Local 574.

The importance of this gain was best illustrated by the level of struggle that was necessary to achieve it. The bosses only agreed to settle after martial law, thousands of troops, throwing the strike leadership in jail, and two murders failed to break the strike.

BETRAYAL?

The workers of Minneapolis, the Citizens Alliance, and the Communist League all agreed that Local 574 had won an impressive victory. But one organization announced that the strike had ended in betrayal. That organization was the Communist Party.

In a pamphlet entitled "The Permanent Counter-Revolution," the Communist Party denounced the Trotskyists, who had led the strike, as "a group of strikebreakers in the service of the bourgeoisie and its labor aristocracy."

In fact, said the Communist Party, "Their duplicity and opportunism surpassed that of the most corrupt and degenerate labor bureaucrat." The Communist Party focused its attacks on the Trotskyists' "failure" to expose Minnesota Governor Olson and their "capitulation" to the AFL bureaucrats. They also accused the Trotskyists of "hiding" their politics.

These denunciations fit in with the Communist Party's line in that period. On Joseph Stalin's instructions, they proclaimed that socialists and trade union leaders were the main enemy, even worse than fascists. They proclaimed that workers who wanted to engage in any kind of struggle must immediately accept the full program of the Communist Party, and that "revolutionary unions" separate from the AFL must be organized.

But all this wasn't really the main reason why the Communist Party attacked the Trotskyists for leading the Minneapolis strike. What really enraged the CP was that it hadn't led the struggle itself.

EXPOSURE

The Daily Worker, the official organ of the Communist Party, stated: "The exposure and defeat of Olson should have been the central political objective of the Minneapolis struggle. This was the basic necessity for winning the economic demands for the Drivers Union and the rest of the working class."

Supposedly the Trotskyists should have called for a general strike to achieve this, even if no workers would respond to the call. The Trotskyists and the strikers, however, maintained that their central objective was



The Minnesota National Guard, called out by Governor Floyd Olson.

recognition of the union. Bill Brown, an important rank and file leader and Trotskyist sympathizer, replied: "We happened to want a truck drivers' union in Minneapolis, and some of our leaders were revolutionists enough to tell the difference between a militant strike and a revolution."

Although the charges the Stalinists made may seem ridiculous today, they were important because thousands of committed and militant workers followed the lead of the Communist Party in other areas of the country. So the Trotskyists responded to them.

Throughout the strike they had criticized Olson. In doing so they often provoked the displeasure of the strikers. But experience, and not merely denunciations, brought workers to the Communist League's point of view: "By raiding the strike headquarters, imprisoning the best pickets, Olson taught the strikers more about Olson than all the editorials in the world could have done."

Meanwhile, the Communist Party decided that the reason why the Trotskyists were able to share the strike leadership was because "they surrendered to the labor bureaucrats of the AF of L" and also "by appealing to the most backward ideology of the workers." Trying to look like real revolutionaries, the Communist Party proclaimed that the AFL leadership was openly fascist.

The Communist League felt that the union bureaucrats of the AFL had to be confronted—but with something a little more effective than resolutions and denunciations.

Farrell Dobbs stated many years later in his book, *Teamster Rebellion*: "the tactic was to aim the workers' fire straight at the employers and catch the union

bureaucrats in the middle. If they didn't react positively, they would stand discredited." That was the difference between talking to 40 people who were already revolutionists, or reaching 40,000 people who would learn first hand what socialist politics are all about.

MINNEAPOLIS TO TODAY

The Communist League felt that a broad left wing in the unions was needed to unite the working class for the coming struggles. The Trotskyist newspaper, the *Militant*, declared their aim "to be with the masses, especially at the moment of their sharpest collision with capital, whatever form these collisions may take."

In Minneapolis in 1934, these tactics led to an important victory for the workers. It was a victory that did more than raise the consciousness of all involved. It spread industrial unionism in the trucking industry throughout the country. All over the midwest, workers in many industries began looking to Drivers Local 574 as a model of how to struggle.

The growth of Local 574 itself underscored the victory that was won. At the end of the July strike 166 employers agreed to a settlement although none would sign a direct contract. Two years later 500 employers signed direct agreements with the union they had worked so hard to destroy.

There was further proof that the policies followed by the Communist League were correct, principled policies for revolutionaries in the unions. That proof was the rapid growth of the Communist League itself following the strike.

Before 1934, the American Trotskyists were a tiny, isolated propaganda group that existed at the fringes of the Communist Party. The Minneapolis strike of 1934 made them a force in the American workers' movement. The Trotskyists were still far from being a mass revolutionary party—but a section of American workers respected their leadership, and began taking interest in their ideas about workers' power and world revolution.

The International Socialists are organizing to carry on the class struggle traditions of the Trotskyists in Minneapolis. Many of today's tactics and tasks are different. Today massive industrial unions exist in this country, and rank and file caucuses must be organized inside them. The revolutionary party must be built from the rank and file movement.

But much of what was learned in Minneapolis is still true. To build revolutionary consciousness in the working class, socialists must build the organizations that advance the immediate struggle. Theory and practice develop together, within the class struggle, not in isolation from it.

The American Trotskyists of the Communist League led the first great battle that won industrial unionism in this country. They were the pioneers. Our vision is clearer because of them.



How Local 574 took on red-baiting. This cartoon was entitled, "Minneapolis Communism: 42½ Cents an Hour."

Unemployment Strike

CHICAGO—Workers at the Belmont-California office of the Division of Unemployment Compensation Benefits here have been on strike since June 30. They are demanding an end to forced overtime, speedup, and union busting tactics. They are also fighting for the hiring of more minority workers and the issuing of checks on time to claimants.

The strike was sparked by a UCB directive forcing all workers to work Saturdays and Sundays indefinitely or be fired. On June 28, almost 75% of the agency's workers in Chicago refused to comply. On top of everything, no one has received any overtime pay to date, despite working up to 20 hours a week overtime for months. Management fired two alternate

stewards and another union member on the morning of June 30. In the afternoon the rest walked out. Management has tried to hire black workers as scabs, hoping to play upon racial fears. But the majority have respected the picket line when they found out there was a strike on.

The strike is well organized and militant, but limiting it to one office has been a serious problem. Officials of AFSCME Local 1006 reluctantly authorized the Belmont-California office strike, but have discouraged other offices from following their example.

All the offices suffer from the same conditions and have the same gripes. All of AFSCME Local 1006 should be out in the streets.

Christina Cadbury



Unemployment office worker talks to unemployment applicant about strike issues.

Court Sends Steel Strikers Back to Work

CICERO, Ill.—After fourteen weeks on strike it looks like workers at Danly Machine in southwest Chicago are going back to work.

Members of United Steel Workers are voting as we go to press to accept or reject the company's original offer—28c over three years, plus a cost of living provision with a 6c cap. "I hope we stay out, but a lot of the guys are hungry," was one reaction.

Until last week the Danly strikers mass-picketed the factory. But the company went to court and got an injunction against mass picketing after factory windows were broken by rocks and (according to strikers) Molotov cocktails.

The courts succeeded where the company had failed to frighten some of the workers. Local union

officials played up the injunction's scare value for all it was worth.

The union had each striker sign for a copy of the injunction and told them they were responsible for enforcing it.

Although the union convinced the strikers to obey the injunction, both Local and District officials have lost support. "The local President is a company man," one striker said. And that's why they threw eggs at him at the last union meeting.

District Director Ed Sadlowski also came under fire. "We voted for Sadlowski and he hasn't even shown his face out here," said one.

We asked other strikers what Sadlowski had done. "Nothing." "Nil." "Not one thing. He sure can make a good speech, though."

WALLS AND BARS

Struggle in The Prisons



By Elizabeth Jones

WOMEN

Thirty-three women inmates are charged as ringleaders of a series of revolts at the North Carolina Women's Prison. They have been moved to a heavily guarded men's prison.

Meanwhile the other 450 inmates at the Women's Prison were kept locked in their dormitories.

For over a week the women prisoners struggled to win demands such as a grievance procedure, diagnostic counseling and an end to sweatshop working conditions.

LOCKED

At one point guards attempted to break up a peaceful demonstration by beating up inmates and locking them in the gymnasium.

The women responded by using volleyball net poles as battering rams to knock open the doors. Then they broke off chunks of concrete to throw at the guards. They drove the guards outside the chain link fence surrounding the prison.

The warden then agreed to the three most important demands, telling reporters, "The three issues today were justified."

But the women refused to

return to work until more specific steps were taken. When the warden reneged on his promises the protests continued.

The inmates were attacked again by the guards. Forty-two people—21 inmates, 18 guards and 3 matrons—were injured. The next day the 33 inmates were transferred and the warden announced a "hard line" attitude towards protests. □

ATTICA

In a major victory for the Attica Brothers, Attica defendant Shango Kakawana was acquitted of murder and unlawful imprisonment charges June 26.

Because of the mammoth number of lies and contradictory statements one juror felt the state witnesses were "fed" their stories by the prosecution.

Another juror said the defense didn't really need witnesses since every state witness who took the stand "put their foot in their mouth."

Haywood Burns, one of Shango's attorneys, said the verdict proved defense statements of gross state misconduct in the Attica trials.

"This should be an end to the Attica tragedy," he said. "How many more millions will they spend in this useless prosecution?" □

Stop Racist Gangs

by Kay Stacy

Members of California's black community are calling for a series of protest actions against Taft, California. Taft is a small oil town whose white citizens drove out the entire black population in May.

The 13 blacks were athletes at Taft Junior College.

One of them, Craig Tinson, said, "They told us we'd better get the hell out of town and never come back." The Bay Area Committee to Boycott Taft is calling for several sanctions to protest the mob terror.

The Committee is calling for a boycott of all intercollegiate athletic contests involving the college. They demand the college file suit against the attackers, and that Taft Police Chief Walter McKee resign.

In addition the Committee demands that no further federal funds be released until the civil rights of blacks are guaranteed.

The Committee maintains that if the demands for a serious investigation are not met, a massive march by black Californians on Taft would be organized to dramatize the concern of the community. □

MARXIST TO SPEAK ON CHINA TODAY



Nigel Harris

"25 Years of People's China" is the topic Nigel Harris will discuss at a Workers' Power forum in Boston, Friday, August 1.

Harris is a leader of the International Socialists of Britain. As director of their Black and Asian work, he has been active in the struggles of the Indian and Pakistani minorities in Britain.

Harris is also a leading Marxist authority on China and the Indian sub-continent. He is the author of *India/China, Underdevelopment and Revolution*, and is currently completing a book on 25 years of Mao's China. He is a frequent contributor to *International Socialism*, journal of the British International Socialists.

Harris will be speaking at Workers' Power forums in several cities in the next few weeks. Watch the "What's On" column in Workers' Power. □



Women prisoners protesting conditions drove guards past the fence in this North Carolina prison.

International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or, would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS
14131 Woodward Ave.
Highland Park, MI 48203

Name

Address

Trade Union

WHAT'S ON

Louisville, Sunday, July 27—
"Postal Contract 1975—A Step Forward?" Paul Roose, postal worker, Swiss Park, 719 Lynn St., 7:30 p.m. A Workers' Power Forum.

Boston, Friday, Aug. 1—"25 Years of People's China." Nigel Harris, Director of Black and Asian work, British International Socialists, leading Marxist authority on China and the Indian sub-continent, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 7:30 p.m.



What We Stand For

The International Socialists are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member of our organization to achieve them. We stand for:

WORKING CLASS REVOLUTION

Working class revolution will destroy capitalism. Reform schemes cannot patch it up. The wealth produced by workers will be collectively controlled by workers to provide a decent life and freedom for all. Today that wealth is stolen from working people by the capitalist class. Socialism can be won only through workers' revolution. The capitalist state must be destroyed. So must its institutions: the legislature, army, police, and courts. A socialist society will be ruled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

Today the trade unions are the only mass working class organizations. We work for rank and file control of the unions to make them fighting instruments of workers against the employers. We fight for workers' action against the economic and social crisis of capitalism: Defend working conditions. No controls on wages. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. The right to a job at union wages for everyone. Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.

BLACK LIBERATION

We stand for black liberation. Full equality for black people and all national minorities. Defend the black community and other oppressed peoples against all forms of racism, police terror and discrimination. We call for independent organization by black and other specially oppressed people to struggle for their liberation and to build the unity among all workers that will lead to socialism. Independence for Puerto Rico.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

For complete social, economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion on demand. Abolish oppression of gay people, and all sexual oppression.

YOUTH

Equality for young people. The right to good jobs for all youth. Stop police intimidation of young people. For schools controlled by students, teachers and community. For a revolutionary socialist youth movement.

AGAINST IMPERIALISM

We oppose US imperialism, its nuclear weapons and its alliances such as NATO. Unconditional support to movements for national liberation. We oppose Russian imperialism and its war bloc, the Warsaw Pact, which controls Eastern Europe. For an independent movement of the working class and oppressed peoples everywhere against imperialism, East and West.

FOR WORLD SOCIALISM

The first successful socialist revolution was made by the Russian working class in 1917. But the revolution was isolated, and destroyed by a counterrevolution led by Stalin. Workers' councils, political parties and trade unions were all crushed. Today Russia, China and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but societies in which workers are exploited by a bureaucratic ruling class. We support workers' struggles in Russia, China and Eastern Europe for democracy and freedom. For workers' revolution to overthrow Stalinism and replace it with socialism.

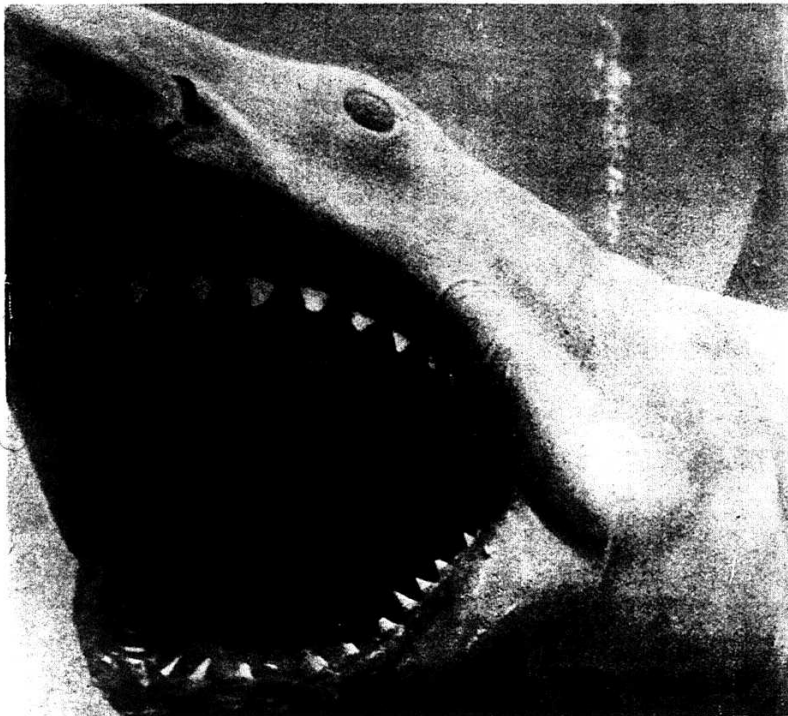
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win the fight for socialism the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The revolutionary party is a political force linking workers in separate factories, unions and industries, helping to organize and lead them to take state power and control society as a class. All the activity of the IS is directed toward building such a revolutionary party out of the struggles working people are waging today.

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National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
Amherst: PO Box 850, Amherst, MA 01002
Bay Area: PO Box 910, Berkeley, CA 94701
Bloomington: Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401
Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
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WHEN THE \$HARK BITES



The first day "Jaws" opened in Detroit, 110,000 people lined up to get in. After 17 days of showing, the producers ecstatically proclaim that they have pulled in more than 36 million dollars.

And, as they gloat and brag, "Jaws" will probably out-earn other top money-making blood and guts films, like "The Godfather," and even that all-time financial winner "The Sound of Music."

This phenomenon was planned over two years ago, even before Peter Benchley wrote the book about the monster shark which ravaged the summer resort town of Amity.

Millions of dollars were spent in pre-film publicity. The studio spent over \$3 million just to build one of the three rubber killer sharks (who were named Bruce). Just before the film was released, Time magazine had Bruce as its cover story, entitled "Super Sharks and Other Summer Thrillers."

Today, newspapers and television are daily carrying stories about sharks. It has been Time magazine and Universal pictures that have made "Jaws" the phenomenon it is.

The film is an exciting adventure story in the glorious tradition of men (males) bare handed battling the elements. In fact, "Jaws" has everything going for it—sex, greed, adventure, mystery, a little comedy, and of course lots of blood, guts and floating limbs. After all, what could be more exciting than a beautiful naked woman being devoured by a killer shark.

GREED AND GORE

"Jaws" even attempts anti-capitalist social commentary. After the killer shark has claimed its first victim, the honest, humanitarian police chief wants to close the

beaches to prevent further shark deaths.

But the greedy shopkeepers, aided by the mayor of Amity, are more interested in profits than in human lives and demand that regardless of the danger, the beaches remain open. As a result, and as an obvious punishment for the collective greed of the townspeople, the shark kills and maims others.

In the second part of the film, three men, all with a mission, set out to kill the fish. Brody, the police chief, not only must overcome his fear of water, but also must atone his guilt feelings over the shark deaths.

Matt Hooper, a young, smart ass, wealthy, Yale-educated marine biologist, wants adventure and a chance to see the shark close up.

The third man to go is Quint, a captain of a small charter fishing boat, who has a vendetta against white sharks. Quint most obviously is a modern-day Captain Ahab searching for his Moby Dick (the killer white whale).

Quint also ends up the same way Ahab did, except Ahab wound up in the belly of a whale, while Quint is eaten by the shark.

HOLLYWOOD ENDING

The only role for women (aside from being eaten by the shark) is to weep for the dead and to support their brave men who are fighting for humanity.

In the book "Jaws", the shark wins. Even the honest and resourceful police chief is defeated. But the film makers changed the ending for the film.

They knew that it wouldn't be too smart to have millions of Americans watch a rubber shark triumph over the technology of American capitalism.

Celia Emerson.

SOMETHING ELSE TO SCARE YOU

This Global View Of Ecology Can't See Past Its Nose

[Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich. **The End of Affluence. A Blueprint for Your Future.** Ballantine Books, New York. 1974. 307 pp. Paperback edition \$1.95.]

At my local bookstore, next to "How You Can Profit From A Monetary Crisis," is a stack of copies of **The End of Affluence** by Paul and Anne Ehrlich. This is appropriate. There is a similarity between the two books.

Although one is about money and the other about ecology, they both are basically intended to scare hell out of you.

Trouble is, the Ehrlichs can never quite make up their mind how badly they want to scare you, who is to blame, or what they want you to do about it.

And that is also the state of the ecology "movement," a non-movement which once claimed it made all political issues obsolete.

It is hard to figure out what the Ehrlichs' basic theme is. It seems to be the exhaustion of resources. The exhaustion of resources such as oil and minerals will, they claim, make the economy collapse.

We are in for a much less "affluent" life in the future, and the only question is whether or not we get there in an orderly and planned fashion.

Now this is not a new theory. But various resources have been running out ever since primitive hunters wiped out the mammoth, ever since the British cut down their forests hundreds of years ago. What has saved us from econo-

mic collapse? Simply that industry and science have advanced faster than resources have declined.

DOOMED?

But the Ehrlichs never even try to discuss this: they assume that the world economy is doomed.

They wobble around a lot on the economy, sometimes blaming labor for being greedy. (Why don't those workers realize that they should be grateful to be eating at all!)

But mostly they are obsessed with inflation. They think it was caused by the government printing too much money.

This begs the important questions. It isn't just that prices have risen: they have risen faster than wages.

The money was printed because corporations were in a profit squeeze, and were raising prices faster than wage increases to restore their profits.

It never seems to cross their minds that the government was not just stupid. It never occurs to them that the government knows what it is doing; serving the interests of the big corporations.

Their politics are even worse than their economics. First they spend a whole chapter recommending that you vote for liberal congressmen. Then they turn around and decide that government won't solve the problem.

This, they say, is the fault of "all of us," since we don't involve

ourselves in politics. So you and your family should start stocking up on food for future shortages.

Don't try to organize, that's hopeless. Try to make yourself independent of human society.

ADVICE

This leads to pages of pithy advice: don't preheat your oven, stock up on vitamin C...charcoal...sterno...etc.

Even this advice is good only for a minor catastrophe, and the Ehrlichs can never make up their minds how much of a disaster is coming.

Move closer to your job (but will there be one?), learn to repair your own car (but will there be gas?), switch to gas heat (but will it exist?), live on your own plot of land (but will you be able to afford a single-family dwelling?).

In short, the book is a monument to political schizophrenia. The ecology "movement" has finally realized that the oil shortage was a fake, six months after everyone else had come to the same conclusion.

It tried to take a global view, but could not even see that there is a capitalist ruling class running things.

But the issues it tried to deal with are still with us: pollution and starvation. They are political problems, and need political answers, not just a confused jumble of reactionary slogans.

H. Helner

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LARGEST STEEL DISTRICT VOTES NO ON "NO STRIKE"

CHICAGO—At a July 11-13 meeting of United Steel Workers District 31, over 900 delegates voted opposition to the steel industry's no-strike deal (ENA) and productivity committees.

That puts the largest district in the USW on record against these policies of union president I. W. Abel. The conference also passed resolutions that basic steel contracts should be voted on by each local, and that the union's constitution be amended to provide seats for blacks, women and Latinos.

Demands for voluntary overtime and the 32 hour work week at 40 hour pay passed unanimously. Since the conference was not a policy-making body, prominent conservatives felt free to vote for these resolutions, knowing that they did not mean much.

District 31 is led by Ed Sadlowski, an opponent of the International leadership. The conference was a showcase for his undeclared campaign for USW president.

GRINS

Around the linen covered tables of the Conrad Hilton convention hall, you could see delegates in green ED SADOWSKI jackets. As each resolution passed, Sadlowski supporters nudged each other and grinned. "We're winning everything," one whispered.

Sawlowski supporters expected face stronger opposition. But with Sam Evert, the former district director, absent, Abel supporters

were disorganized. In addition, Sadlowski put up little for the bureaucrats to fight about.

The resolutions that were passed do not mean a great deal unless there is a plan to implement them. Even John Johns, vice president of the International union, could get up and speak in favor of a shorter work week with no cut in pay. To win this demand, Johns advocated lobbying Congress.



Ed Sadlowski

Other speakers urged Congress to pass better safety laws, or urged the courts to rule fairly on the Consent Decree. What was missing was a discussion of what steel workers can do on the job to win the demands listed in the resolutions they voted for. Without that, all of Sadlowski's resolutions are so much talk.

CWA MEMBERS DEMAND CIA PROBE

SAN DIEGO, CA—Fifteen labor union members publicly called upon Senator Frank Church to investigate ties between their union, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), and the CIA.

The group presented a twelve page appeal to fellow members at the CWA national convention held here during the second week of June.

The appeal quotes ex-CIA agent and author Philip Agee. Agee states in his book that former president of the CWA, Joseph Belrne, was a key figure in establishing the American Institute for Free Labor Development. The AIFLD has been mentioned in numerous independent studies during the past year which show the AIFLD is a front for CIA activities in Latin America.

The open letter to Senator Church was signed by CWA member Cynthia Sweeney and fifteen others.

They said that "the CWA performs a special service for the CIA and is used by the CIA to control the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Workers International which is an international trade secretariat encompassing communications workers in many nations."

Documentation of the charges was obtained from former CIA officer Victor Marchetti, Philip Agee, the North American Congress on Latin America and several other sources, according to Sweeney. The CWA group added they intended to distribute their charges to all CWA local unions in the US.

They will appeal to their fellow union members to sever the links between the CIA and their union. They are also distributing copies of their documentation to the general public.

Inquiries should be directed to P.O. Box 8155, San Diego, CA 92102. The CWA members are working with a national committee of unionists investigating the AIFLD.

Rodney Larson



by Kim Moody

Women & Layoffs

The eight women auto workers who took General Motors to court last year are back at work. They had been laid off from GM's Fremont assembly plant in 1974, along with all 481 women working there. In August 1974 they filed suit against GM, charging sex discrimination. They demanded that enough women be recalled to maintain the proportion of women working at Fremont prior to the layoff—about 10%.

The case stated that GM had not hired any women assembly workers at Fremont before October, 1968. Because of this past discrimination, women would always be among the first laid off. Even GM did not dispute this. GM simply argued that what the Fremont women wanted was too expensive.

The specific proposals demanded by the Fremont women were designed to make the company pay, with the least possible negative effect on any of the workers. First, they proposed a short work week with two shifts instead of one. GM said this would cost them \$26.9 million a year to operate the plant that way.

The Fremont women's second proposal was for alternate work weeks, with unemployment insurance and SUB (Supplementary Unemployment Benefits) making up most of the lost pay. GM didn't like this either complaining that it would cost them \$5.6 million.

However, SUB is financed by a fund into which the workers pay. The fund goes broke when there are massive layoffs. The workers would be carrying a good deal of the burden for the company's past discrimination.

WATKINS

A third proposal was based on another discrimination suit called the "Watkins decision." Under "Watkins," a steel company had been ordered to recall enough black workers to re-establish the previous proportion of black to white workers, but without laying off any whites. The important thing about the "Watkins" solution was that no white male workers would be laid off because of the recall of blacks. Thus the company would be the party that paid the bill for its own racist past.

At Fremont this would have meant rehiring 230 women, without laying off any men to compensate the company. GM said this would cost them \$3.3 million and would force them to recall people for whom there was no work. This solution would bring justice to the women but would not cost the male workers anything. It would not even upset the existing system of seniority for layoffs. All it would do is to make the company pay for its past practices and put 230 women on the payroll.

General Motors had hardly even prepared its defense when the UAW leaped into the matter—on the side of the company. The UAW said that the Fremont women's solutions really did jeopardize male jobs and upset seniority. A UAW memo said,

"By the nature of seniority, if one stays, another must go." Apparently, the UAW leaders share GM's horror of seeing workers paid and reporting to work if the company says they are not "needed." In fact, as all concerned parties know the "Watkins" remedy says specifically, "one stays, but another doesn't go, and the company foots the bill."

EMBARRASSING

At some point, the UAW bureaucracy must have found it too embarrassing to simply put forth the company position, unmodified. So, in line with their liberal tradition, the UAW leadership came up with a scheme for introducing a small measure of justice to women and minority group workers suffering from the company's past discrimination. They call their scheme "Front Pay."

The Front Pay scheme recognizes that few women were hired at all before 1968 and that before 1973 there was still a lot of discrimination against women in hiring. So the UAW International Executive Board says that a woman who put in an application before 1973, and who can show she was turned down for reasons of sex, and who has either been since hired or has filed suit against the company, should receive full back pay and benefits for the period from the first application to the present. If such a woman is laid off, but would not have been laid off if she had been hired when she put in her first application, then she will be laid off but will get full pay and fringes during the layoff.

The problem with the UAW's Front Pay scheme, of course, is that it applies only to women who actually put in an application years ago when the company didn't hire women, and who later got hired or filed a suit. The number of women who meet all these criteria is tiny. Many women who wanted a job didn't bother to apply at Fremont. They knew it didn't hire women. This scheme, clever as it is, will help only a handful of women and will cost the company very little.

Front Pay would be a progressive measure if it actually applied to all women auto workers, but that would make it as unacceptable to the company as the "Watkins" remedy or any other system of compensatory treatment. And you can be sure, if it's unacceptable to the company, it's unacceptable to the UAW leadership.

The Fremont women have agreed to postpone their suit indefinitely now that people are being called back. But the problems of racial and sex discrimination and layoffs are not going to disappear. The rank and file movement, and the unions as well, are going to have to be prepared to protect women and minority group workers the next time mass layoffs strike.

These workers must be protected and the company must pay, not the other workers. The only way to do this is a system of compensatory treatment along the lines of the "Watkins" remedy, or work sharing at full pay.

RAILWAY CLERKS END SEVEN MONTH HOLDOUT; GAIN LITTLE

CHICAGO—On July 18th, C.L. Dennis, President of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), announced he had reached agreement with the nation's railroads in the clerks' seven-month contract dispute.

BRAC was purportedly holding out for a better contract than the other rail unions had won. Among BRAC's demands were a better cost of living clause, a no-layoff guarantee, an extra week of vacation, another holiday, and a dental insurance plan. But in the final contract only a slightly better cost of living provision remains. Wages and benefits will increase

42% over three years. But of that only 21% will be in wages—10% now and 11% over the rest of the contract.

The no-layoff clause was dropped in Dennis' bottom-line offer. Instead, a joint union-management panel will bury it in conferences.

AN EMPTY THREAT

If the clerks had struck, they could have closed down all the railroads in the country, crippling business and industry. Dennis in fact threatened a nationwide strike, but then consistently retreated from that position. Three times

since April 18 he postponed the strike before selling out the clerks. In between, he managed to find time to break a wildcat strike of Railroad Express Agency (REA) workers.

Some clerks were bitter. "I have a wife and three kids," said a clerk on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. "Maybe I'll take them over to Dennis' house and let him take care of them with the \$999,999 he made from buying C&NW stocks."

"We worked without a contract for seven months," said another. "And all we got was the same

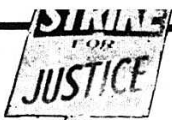
horseshit the other unions sold out for. All we got, really, was a wage cut."

Real wages are now back at 1964 levels and falling. The railroads are being run into the ground to provide management with raises and government subsidies. And management has received 20% rate increases in the last two years.

The BRAC settlement continues government and management's attack on labor. Federal mediator W.J. Usery announced he would ask Congress to pass a special law to end any strike that occurred. That was all the excuse Dennis needed to give up without a fight.

labor notes

by Jim Woodward



The AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) is boasting that most of the Congressmen it helped elect last year are voting "with labor" on virtually all issues. Strange indeed. If Congress is so pro-labor, we wonder why it couldn't override Ford's veto of the jobs bill or do much of anything else about unemployment.

Edward G. Jordan has recently been named president of the Consolidated Rail Corp. (Conrail), the corporation set up by Congress to "save" the bankrupt Northeastern railroads. Jordan's salary will be about \$200,000 a year. How does this fat cat plan to save the railroads? He's just announced that his first act, when Conrail begins operating early next year, will be to fire 5,000 railroad workers as "surplus."

UPS workers will love this one. Thanks to a Teamsters rank and file group in Pittsburgh, we're able to reprint a section of the UPS Supervision Policy handbook: "We Do Our Best to Give Every Employee Complaint Prompt, Sincere Attention. Even little misunderstandings, if overlooked or neglected, may lead to great dissatisfaction. We try to anticipate and remove causes of complaints. Where a question exists, we give the employee the benefit of the doubt. When we reach a decision, we do our best to take action that is just, both to the employee and to the company."

At the recent meetings of the Western Conference of Teamsters, IBT President Frank Fitzsimmons declared that the union would not tolerate violation of contracts during the recession, and would strictly enforce seniority, layoff, and rehiring clauses. That's another way of saying the union won't do anything for black and women workers who have low seniority only because they have been consistently discriminated against.

In other contexts, though, Fitzsimmons hasn't minded twisting a contract out of shape because of economic hard times. For instance, the union allowed the Great Lakes Express trucking company to impose a 20% wage cut last January. For Fitzsimmons, a contract is a contract unless it's the employer who's suffering from it.

A new Teamsters rank and file publication has appeared in the Pittsburgh area. It's called "From the Horse's Mouth," and is published by Concerned Rank and File Teamsters (CRAFT). Other Teamsters who want a sample copy of this excellent publication can write to CRAFT at PO Box 5623, Pittsburgh, PA 15207.

At a recent meeting of CWA Local 4001 (Detroit), members of the United Action rank and file group proposed a motion to fight speedup. They urged that stewards should grieve any instance of pressure for sales, any harassment or suspension over the number of jobs performed or defects on jobs, and any reduction of the estimated time allowed to do specific jobs. Local President Charles Echlin ruled the motion out of order and then adjourned the meeting on the grounds that the motion was "usurping the authority of the executive board." That must mean the membership no longer has the right to tell the leadership what to do.

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) is preparing for a campaign to unionize the army. The Pentagon's reaction is not so different from any businessman. When asked what his reaction to the idea was, one general said, "Sheer horror!"

Today's chuckle: A guy named M. J. Cahill, who's a big shot at Crane Co.'s Hydro-Aire Division in Burbank, California, is convinced that the people with the most difficult jobs in manufacturing are those at the "bottom of the hill." That's us, right? Nope. He's referring to "superintendents, general foremen, and the like." These unfortunate souls, according to Industry Week magazine, "are surrounded with people of all colors, races, and creeds, and most of them are inexperienced."

In addition, new regulations "scare hell out of most of them [supervisors]. They don't know how far they can go in demanding discipline, productivity, quality, or reprimanding before they go over the line." And finally, many of these lowly creatures "believe they no longer have the support of their management." So next time, show some consideration and think twice before you give your supervisor a hard time.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Labor Editor, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Or phone 313-869-3137.

UMW Director Scabs On Strike

NEW KENSINGTON, PA.—130 members of United Steel Workers Local 14077 have been on strike since June 30 against Miners' Clinics, Inc (MCI). The four MCI clinics serve retired and working coal miners. MCI's board chairman and chief strikebreaker is Louis Antal, Director of United Mine Workers of America, District 5.

Two years ago when the Clinic workers were on strike, Antal marched on the picket line with them. Then he was running for UMWA District 5 Director. Now he's allowing MCI to use scabs—wives of administrators and doctors, and clerical workers hired through agencies.

Antal justifies the scabbing this time by saying that where health care is concerned, picket lines should be crossed and strikebreakers used. The truth is that the care being provided by MCI while these workers are out is sub-standard.

SUB-STANDARD

Also sub-standard is the contract offer MCI made. Its proposal offered: no wage increase over a three-year period, took away one holiday, took away all benefits for new employees during their 90-day probation period, and made five jobs non-union.

One MCI administrator, Donald Conwell, wanted to include in the contract rules like: "Employees seen congregating in groups of more than two are subject for dismissal."

CLUW SUPPORT

The strikers' spirits remain high. Mail, linen and medical supplies are not getting through because these drivers refuse to cross the lines. Members of the Pittsburgh Coalition of Labor Union Women have been out to support the strikers, 90% of whom are women.

Workers at the UMWA Health and Retirement Fund office wrote to union president Arnold Miller objecting to Antal's use of scabs. This is the right idea. The UMWA has a strong tradition of solidarity and refusing to cross a picket line. That tradition must be defended by defeating Antal and MCI's strike-breaking tactics.



POLICE STATE? IT'S HERE AT UPS

PITTSBURGH—If you work at United Parcel Service, listen to this message from Pittsburgh UPS workers. When you go home from work today check your house thoroughly. Throw out anything that you don't have a sales receipt for. And be sure to get rid of oregano or any medicines that come in pills.

Last Wednesday, July 16, Pittsburgh police busted UPS committeeman Bob Miller in his home. They had a search warrant (later shown to have obvious falsehoods) for a "large quantity of amphetamines," which were nowhere to be found.

But he was arrested for the alleged possession of some marijuana, a few unidentified pills, two switchblades (one broken) and four mag wheels that he couldn't produce a receipt for.

At the station they called up UPS to ask if they were missing mag wheels. Negative. But instead of

returning them, police told Bob he could pick them up ten miles away.

"UNDESIRABLE"

The next day Miller was called to the UPS office. Management said they needed a week or two to decide whether this made him "an undesirable employee" who would be fired. This is no idle threat! Six months ago Pittsburgh UPS worker Graham Smith was arrested on a drugs charge. He was fired before the ink was dry on the booking sheet.

Where the bill of rights says "innocent until proven guilty," UPS reads "guilty, even if proven innocent."

UPS admits giving workers' names to the police to help them "curb theft," but denies having anything to do with the arrests. Just three issues ago Workers' Power reported that a security supervisor stole one of Bob Miller's

belongings and wasn't even reprimanded by this management which is so concerned about honesty. Maybe that's just a coincidence.

Maybe it's just a coincidence that Miller, as union representative, helped lead the roving pickets during the 1973 Pittsburgh UPS strike.

But UPS's eagerness to fire as "undesirable" a worker who has no discipline on his record and has never been convicted of any crime, just because he was arrested on non-job related charges, is no accident. UPS plays god to people's personal lives to give them more control over people at work. It helps maintain sweatshop working conditions for which they are famous.

It's likely that the only reason Bob wasn't fired Thursday was a rumor that everyone would walk out if he was. If that rumor stays around Bob probably will too.

Joe Fine

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VOTE NO!

Workers' Power

The last minute settlement of the 1975 postal negotiations makes three things clear.

First, A "No" vote is absolutely necessary.

Second, Rademacher and Filbey, the two top union presidents, are on the other side. They have openly joined with Benjamin Ballar, the Postmaster General, the rest of the Postal Service management, William Usery and the President's negotiators to see to it that postal reorganization continues.

Third, The postal unions have more than their fair share of phoney labor leader militants. Despite all the strike talk, despite all the big promises, not one local union president was willing to do one thing. This includes the famous Vincent Sombrotto, president of the New York letter carriers.

BETRAYAL

The proposed new contract is an outrageous betrayal of rank and file postal workers. And worse, it comes at a time when the government, both national and local, is

Another Sellout: 180-Day Casuals

Rademacher and Filbey have staked everything on one victory, retaining the no layoff clause. But behind this "victory" lies a serious defeat for Postal workers.

The proposed new contract allows the Postal Service to use casuals for up to 180 days. Under this agreement, the "89 day wonders" will become "180 day wonders" and everyone will suffer... everyone except management.

According to reports, the contract also restricts the use of casuals to 5% of the national workforce (down from 7%, but this is no victory).

Temporary employees (casuals) are not paid annual leave, they have no health plan, no insurance, they receive no Sunday differential, no step increase. With them, the Postal Service saves money in every petty way.

NOT UNIONIZED

Casuals, of course, are not unionized. They have no rights, no protection. They divide the workforce, therefore and weaken the union.

They can be put to any use by the Postal Service, for a period of up to nearly six months, and then cast aside.

With this new agreement, Benjamin Ballar hardly needs the right to lay postal workers off. He has nearly all the power he needs to "adjust" the workforce as he chooses.

He can continue the process of reducing the whole workforce by hiring only temporary employees.

He is also free to exploit the many people, who, because of the shortage of jobs, are desperate to take any job they can find, including a temporary job at the Post Office.

This clause alone therefore is ample reason to justify a "No" vote on the whole agreement. □

engaged in an all out attack on the rights and standards of workers.

This proposed contract gives the government a clear cut victory. And it gives them a green light. If this contract is accepted, every future fight will be more difficult.

The proposed postal contract is by far the worst contract negotiated thus far in 1975. Here are some of the details.

• **Wages.** \$1500 over three years. This is only 3.5% per year. Postal workers have already seen their real wages decline in the past two years.

• **They are already well behind workers in comparable jobs (UPS). This puts them further behind.**

• **Cost of Living.** The proposed contract retains the last contract's formula (1¢ for each 0.4% increase in the consumer price index).

This is the formula that lost postal workers \$1300 against inflation in the last two years. It will lose them more in the next three years.

• **Kokomo.** The new agreement gives union sanction to the increasing pace of speedup, harassment and job elimination. It gives management the right to "test" new time and work standards.

The union retains only the right to challenge changes when they are instituted on a nationwide basis. The union already had this right but hasn't used it.

• **Overtime and holiday work.** No improvement.

SMALL GAINS

There were small gains, \$14 per year increase in uniform allowance. An additional 10% on health benefits.

In exchange, however, the contract has been extended to three years, and this extension comes in a period of severe economic change.

Inflation, now at a "low" of 6%, is scheduled to return with a vengeance next year. Predictions are for up to 20% by the middle of 1976.

Pathetic as these gains are, the daily papers are already blasting the postal unions. They are blaming postal workers for the new increases in the costs of postage.

The truth is that these increases were planned long ago. Benjamin Ballar has simply waited until now

so that he can conveniently place all the blame on the workers.

The real victor in all this, of course, is business. Business uses the postal service... 80% of total volume. It pays, however, for far less. It is the taxpayers who take the losses, including the postal workers themselves.

NOT TOO LATE

This proposed agreement can still be turned down. The ratification procedure is just now beginning. Ballots will not be out for some time.

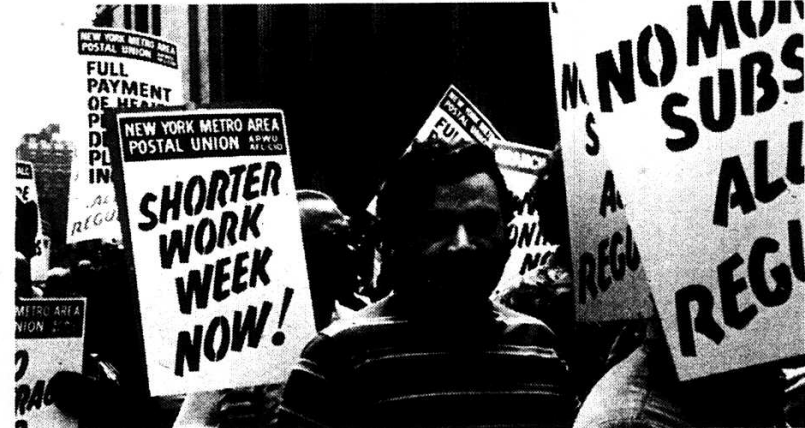
But there is no time to lose. The

rank and file, while increasingly angry, is still disorganized. In the period up to July 20, everyone looked to someone else... the New York leaders, the negotiators, militants somewhere else.

This cannot happen again. Rank and file "Vote No" committees will have to be set up in every branch and station. Every rank and file committee that now exists will have to devote full time to this campaign.

There will be special contract meetings. Militants have a responsibility to see that every one of these is on record against accepting this contract.

Vote No! It's not too late. □



New York Postal demonstration. Only mass action can win.

POSTAL POINTS

▶ Jersey City, N.J.

One of the main grievances at the bulk center here is the rate of mechanization. The phasing out of the sacks, the new belts and the brick laying techniques mean a dramatic increase in the work load.

Mail handlers feel that the new contract does nothing to reverse this process. In fact, some feel it gives union sanction to the speed-up.

▶ Riverdale, Md.

"I recommend a 'No' vote. The three year contract is too long. The contract should have secured more in the way of the rights of workers.

"It has no safeguards against more speedup. I guess it just doesn't have enough of what we really need, more workers' control."

—Lee Poole, Steward NALC 3349.

▶ Philadelphia

Following the June 20 APWU special meeting, 30 postal workers attended a Workers' Power forum to discuss the prospects for a good contract and how to fight for one.

After the meeting a number stayed to discuss how to develop a real rank and file movement, and what action to take in the immediate period of the contract.

▶ Chicago

"Despite the retention of the no layoff clause, because the new contract sustains the current grievance procedure, where you're guilty until proven innocent, I suggest voting 'NO'."

—Grady Davis, the former head of the Concerned Postal Workers and a rank and file leader at the O'Hare Air Mail Station.

▶ Pittsburgh

Rank and file postal workers in Pittsburgh are fighting to get Elmer Miller reinstated as a shop steward in APWU Local 81.

Miller was decertified by the APWU Executive Board when he and members of Postal Action, a rank and file postal workers committee, attempted to inform APWU members of the importance of the contract, and of the importance of taking militant action.

The Executive Board tried to get approval for their action by reporting the decertification in the minutes to the membership at a Pittsburgh Metro special meeting July 19.

Despite the fact that many members were confused by this tactic, the minutes were passed only by the bare margin of 110-92.

Miller and his supporters are confident they will get him reinstated. They are also confident they can turn out a big "No" vote on the contract from Pittsburgh.

▶ Los Angeles

Postal workers from the major terminals—Worldway, Cheli, and Van Nuys—have formed a Los Angeles Area Postal Workers Action Committee (PWAC) to organize a "No Vote" on the contract. The L.A. PWAC expects to recruit workers from the

Terminal Annex and smaller PO offices quickly because the settlement is so bad.

In a recent leaflet, the committee called for Los Angeles postal workers to "send union leaders back to the negotiating table to get what we need: 10% wage increase a year; a two year contract—never three years; a cost of living formula that will keep us up with inflation—not drag us down; no rate increase—the postal service proposes a 33% rate increase of first class mail, and gives us a 3.5% wage gain."

▶ New York

Rumor here has it that Vincent Sombrotto, President of the New York letter carriers, is planning to organize a national opposition to the contract proposal. He's still in Washington, however, and doesn't want to do anything until the whole contract is out this Saturday, the 26th. Let's hope that he does better on this than he did on his last promise. Two weeks ago he said he would lead New York out if the contract was no good.

▶ Cincinnati

"I'm definitely going to vote no. I demand the right to read the whole contract. They've put out what we're getting, which was nothing. Now I want to know what we're giving. To me it seems like a ripoff, not what we wanted. We wanted something about the sneaky way they're putting in Kokomo here. But we didn't get anything."

—Anna Palmer, NALC 43



▶ Seattle

"Working here has always reminded me of the army, all the petty harassment. A supervisor doesn't like you, he gives you all kinds of shit, and there's nothing you can do about it."