

WORKERS' Power

BIWEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS Sept. 4-17, 1975 - \$ 1.28 15c

IN THIS ISSUE	
Grain Boycott Fraud...	6
Is China Socialist?...	12
White Line Fever...	13
Struggle in Prisons...	14
Banks Seize NY.....	15

Stop The Racists!



Last year, racist mobs in Boston began a violent campaign to smash busing and school integration. This year, the battle has been renewed on several fronts.

Busing has been extended to Louisville, in addition to Boston. Next year more cities are scheduled for busing.

But the battle the racist mobs began last year in Boston is far from over and increased violence is their plan.

Last year, the racists scored a partial victory. The Boston busing plan was postponed, then reduced.

Their victory spread. In Detroit a judge issued a ruling which will probably delay busing by 3-4 years. In Indianapolis and Philadelphia busing has been delayed.

NEXT ROUND

In Boston they have been organizing for the next round. They have been encouraged by the inaction of the police and the courts. A few weeks ago they tried to drive blacks off "White" Carson Beach.

School has been postponed for a week in the hope of cooling things. But there is no evidence the delay will make a difference.

In Louisville the Ku Klux Klan is the feal political leader in the anti-busing movement.

The racists who are building this movement are not primarily concerned with education or neighborhood schools. Their concern is to roll back every gain blacks have made in the last fifty years.

They want to build a movement to return to the days when

lynching, castrating and raping blacks was no crime, when blacks had no rights.

They want to show their strength by driving black children out of schools they have every right to attend. That is what is at stake in the busing issue.

The racist forces, today, are far too weak to smash the black community. In fact, the potential strength and resistance of black people to these attacks is greater than it has ever been.

But the racists are dangerous, because they are raising their heads when the capitalist system is going into crisis. Their goal is to play on fear—fear that is a product of this decaying system.

The time to stop the racist drive is now—while it is still weak.

[For coverage of the busing issue and how to fight the racist anti-busing organizing see pages 6-7.]

LOUISVILLE

HUNDREDS MARCH AGAINST KLAN

LOUISVILLE—The march route was a long one—well over four miles. And it was real hot. But hundreds of black and white people were determined to show the city, and the racist anti-busing forces that black children were going to be protected from violence when court-ordered cross-district busing begins here September 4.

The march began with a rally in a park in the black community. Speakers argued for an end to racist attacks, and a ban on racist demonstrations near schools. The Ku Klux Klan, heavily involved in the anti-

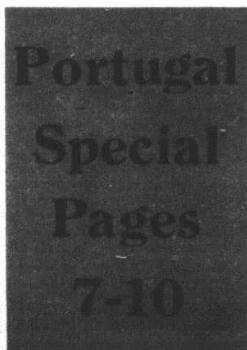
busing organizing, was singled out.

The Klan must be stopped from its attempts to build a mass racist movement out of this crisis. Speakers demanded protection for black children, indicating the community would provide it if the police would not.

The demonstrators marched through the black community into downtown Louisville. Along the route the contingent grew as people responded to the marchers' call: "Join us! Stop the Klan!"

At City Hall there was a second short rally. Three hundred people heard Bob Cunningham of the Council of Parents for Quality Education (COPE), and Fred Hobby of the International Socialists, congratulate them for a militant, serious demonstration of the community's reaction to the racist organizing.

This march and several other demonstrations in recent weeks were organized by People United, a coalition participated in by the International Socialists, COPE, the Black Panther Party, and Southern Conference Educational Fund.



West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania - Miners Shut It Down!

80,000 miners have shut down two-thirds of the union mines in this country. The miners' strike is the most important strike in the United States in thirty years.

But it is even more than that. This strike was called, and is being led and controlled by miners themselves—not the union officials. It is the largest, most powerful rank and file action of American workers since 1934.

They want the right to strike. For miners, the right to strike is the right to live. It is a right that most union members in this country don't have, for 1,094 days of the 1,095 days in a three-year contract.

Miners have begun the struggle. It won't be long before other workers follow their lead.

(For full coverage of the strike, turn to page 3.)

Local Presidents: All Talk, No Action

POSTAL CONTRACT RATIFIED

by Cal Williams

The 1975 postal contract has now been approved overwhelmingly by members of the nation's two largest postal unions, the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC).

In fact, the margin in this vote has been a great surprise to many, for the sentiment of the membership against the contract had been very strong. In dozens of meetings across the country, important local unions had voted to reject the contract.

At one point, NALC local presidents representing a majority of the union's national membership met in Washington and recommended that the contract be turned down.

The new contract is a disaster.

The wage increases amount to less than 4% a year. By comparison, when former President Nixon froze wages in 1971, he limited increases to 5.5% a year. No wonder both management and the government have praised the postal contract.

Postal workers did regain the no layoff clause. And this cannot be discounted. While New York postal workers were considering their contract, thousands of New York City employees were being laid off.

But the fact is that postal workers already had the no layoff clause. And, in exchange for keeping it, they not only got little else. They gave up a lot.

Most important, the new contract leaves the door wide open for experiments in time and work standards. It gives the postal service the go-ahead to push the

Kokomo plan in through the back door.

And worse, productivity disputes will be settled in the last analysis in arbitration. In terms of this contract, at least, the ability of postal workers to defend themselves from speed up and job elimination has all but been destroyed.

NO ALTERNATIVE

The fact is that there should be no surprise that postal workers have now ratified this outrageous settlement. As long as there was no alternative to the contract, and especially, as long as it was clear that there would be no action, it made little sense to the average post office worker to vote no.

And, by the time the ballots were sent out, the rank and file postal workers were so thoroughly demor-

alized that there was very little hope of action.

The blame for this is found in two places. First there is the national leadership in the unions, led by James Rademacher and Francis Filbey. They negotiated the contract and showed themselves to be clearly on management's side.

But just as important, there are the many local presidents who attempted to present themselves as militants. They threatened wildcat strikes. They chanted "No Contract, No Work" at demonstrations. And they promised to organize a national strike if the contract was unsatisfactory.

SOMBROTTO

Right up until two weeks ago, Vincent Sombrotto, the President of the New York Letter Carriers, was threatening to organize a national "Vote No!" movement. And he was also threatening a strike, if... if... if...

The truth is that Sombrotto and the local presidents knew that in the absence of an organized campaign, in the absence of any real action, the membership would vote yes, seeing no alternative.

They knew this from the very beginning. They knew weeks ago that a sellout was coming from Filbey and Rademacher. Still they made their promises. Still they made their threats. And they did

nothing else. Because of this, more than anyone else these are the people most responsible for the demoralization of the rank and file.

If there is any lesson to be learned from the contract fight of 1975 it is that no successful strategy can be based on relying on the best bureaucrats. There can be no more "waiting for New York."

The postal settlement is also a defeat for other workers, in addition to postal employees. It starts this round of national contract negotiations off with a big defeat.

NETWORK ORGANIZED

But good can still come from this. In the course of the contract negotiations a small number of rank and file organizations were formed, and a network of militants was organized. These groups, and this network were neither experienced enough, nor strong enough, to take the lead in acting to reject the contract.

They do, however, point the way for the future. For it will be up to them to begin the fight against all new forms of the Kokomo plan, the productivity drive the Postal Service has already begun.

And they have some advantages. They are young, militant, with no ties to the local or national union leaderships. And they are committed to thorough-going change in the unions.

Workers' Power interviews (da Killwright)

STOP FBI TERROR!

by Byron Gray and David Hayward

Native Americans in South Dakota continue to be subjected to the savage armed occupation of Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. In the past few weeks the FBI, along with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials and state and local police, have stepped up their terror campaign against members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and its supporters.

Homes have been burned, and men, women, and children threatened and tortured. Many people have been brutally murdered. Many are missing.

Over 200 federal agents, dressed in combat fatigues and armed with M-16's, are presently on the reservation, in search of sixteen Native Americans they charge were involved in the June 26 shooting of two FBI agents.

Despite grand jury inquiries, house to house searches, and all other harassment and terror tactics conducted by the FBI, no suspects concerning the two month old shootout have been found.

Little Joe Killwright, a Native American from Seattle and member of AIM, was also killed during the June 26 shootout. He was shot down in an attempt to defend a 12 year old boy from FBI gunfire. There has been no investigation made into his death.

Workers' Power talked with Ida Killwright, wife of Little Joe, while she was in Portland, Oregon with other Native Americans. They were camped out in a city park waiting for the BIA to act on a series of demands they had marched 140 miles to present. The first and only non-negotiable demand of eight presented was restitution to Ida and her two sons (1 and 3) by the federal government for the murder of her husband.

"JUSTICE AND EQUALITY"

"After Joe's death some of the police agents I talked to said a lot about 'justice' and 'equality.' I'd like them to explain that to my older boy who asks me every night where his father is. They can tell him about 'justice.' They can explain to him the 'equality' of hunting down my brothers at Pine Ridge for the death of FBI agents, but there will never be any FBI agents charged for the murder of my husband and the father of our sons."

"I came here for two reasons," Ida said. "The first is Joe's death, his murder by the FBI. The other is to support our other brothers who are in Joe's situation. They are being hunted down at Pine Ridge right now. Their lives are on the



Ida Killwright, with her son Richard, in Portland.

line.

"Our boys are our future. They shouldn't have to grow up with the sort of oppression that Joe and I did. That's why Joe and I have been active in the movement (AIM) to fight for our rights and the rights of other Native Americans. That's what we believe in, and that's what I'm going to continue fighting for: our freedom. That's what Joe died for."

Native Americans have involved themselves with the American Indian Movement for the simple

reason of survival. The corrupt and racist tribal council at Pine Ridge, backed by the federal government is doing nothing to aid the 70% unemployment on the reservation. It is doing nothing to change the incredibly poor living standards of these Native Americans. Nothing except the brutal continuation of harassment and terror against working people desperately struggling for a decent life.

As working people we must demand an end to the terror at Pine Ridge.

labor notes

by Jim Woodward

I goddamn well will be a candidate and that has always been my intention. That was Frank Fitzsimmons, announcing his candidacy for another term as president of the Teamsters Union. Fitz was responding to rumors he would quit next June in return for a lavish pension. "That's a lot of bull," he said. Any pension he might get would have to go some to beat his \$125,000 a year salary.

More than two thousand black and Puerto Rican young people blocked traffic on 125th Street in New York recently when the city was late in delivering their pay checks. Some had waited four to six weeks without getting paid. "This is crazy," said one. "The slavery days are over." After four hours of traffic jams, the city opened another office in a nearby school to get the checks out more quickly.

Miners in the midwest who work for Amax Coal Co. have begun a work-to-rule campaign in support of striking Amx miners in Wyoming. Amax, the country's fourth largest coal company, refused to renew its contract for the Wyoming mines with the United Mine Workers when the old contract expired January 12. The miners have been on strike since then. The UMW International supported the work-to-rule campaign, but opposed any sympathetic strikes.

Three United Parcel Service center managers were fired recently at the company's 43rd Street location in New York. The managers had been engaged in loansharking and bookmaking.

An employer in Chicago who recently tried to fire a worker for smoking marijuana was recently ordered to reinstate the employee. An arbitrator ruled that the employee couldn't be fired since there was no shop rule against possession of grass.

Chrysler Corp. recently sent a letter to all block department employees at the Mound Road Engine Plant in Detroit announcing that it is necessary to "go on an 'all-out' production basis... to supply the engine requirements forecast for the coming months..." The department will operate on a six and seven day basis.

In order to whip up enthusiasm for this speed-up, Chrysler enclosed a large bright red button with each letter. The button reads: "I am a BLOCK production BUSTER." "Please wear this button with pride," said management, "as you are now a member of the KEY PRODUCTION TEAM in Chrysler Corporation."

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



80,000 MINERS SAY "NO!" TO SLAVERY

Demand The Right To Strike

by Fred Pilner
CHARLESTON, West Virginia—They are fighting for freedom in the mountains and valleys of West Virginia. And their fight is spreading.

West Virginia miners are exploding the hollow phrases of the media's "Bi-Centennial." Their daring actions and sacrifice represent the real tradition that brought independence two centuries ago, and an end to slavery in the last century.

The growth of the miners' strike was breathtaking—from a few hundred one Friday to 10,000 the next, to 30,000 the following week and 80,000 by August 29.

Just as dramatic was their response to the call, "We demand the Right to Strike." Newspapers, the companies, and the union have scoffed at this demand as "impossible."

It was first raised by a group called Miners' Committee to Defend the Right to Strike. As the strike spread from United Mine Workers (UMW) District 17 in central West Virginia to District 29 in southern West Virginia, that demand has become the rallying cry of the strike.

An open meeting of several hundred strikers at the Labor Day celebration at Whitesville voted unanimously that the right to strike was the central issue. A young miner was vigorously applauded when he said, "Without the right to strike, we don't have a union."

TEN YEARS

The miners' movement for the right to strike goes back over ten years of fighting to make the companies establish safe work places and respect miners' rights. It was this fight that led to the victory of the Miners for Democracy.

In 1970 the Supreme Court ruled that coal companies could get injunctions when miners walked out. Since then companies have redoubled their efforts to bring the

firm dictatorship they have in other industries into the mines.

They have systematically provoked strikes, then gone into court for injunctions. Four months ago in UMW District 6 they provoked strike of 10,000 miners by openly refusing to honor the contract provision requiring helpers for the dangerous roof-bolting job.

The result of tactics like these has been 1,400 strikes since January 1. The companies and the courts have become more vicious.

An injunction at one mine runs from now till the end of the contract—two years away! Any time the workers leave the job they are automatically fined \$50 per worker, per day.

The difference between this and slavery narrows down to next to nothing. Finally, one of these hundreds of incidents exploded in the owners' faces.

COURT ORDERS DEFIED

On August 4, UMW Local 1302 President Roger Thompson was fired by the Amherst Coal Company in Logan County for interfering with their plan to lay off the underground miners while continuing their strip mining. Thompson was fired when he said that if all the mines didn't work, none would. Amherst miners were out the next day.

US District Court Judge K.K. Hall ordered the strikers back to work. But the strike only expanded in response, to nearly all of Logan County's 33 mines. Local 1302 was fined \$6,000 for refusing to obey the order.

Then more union, locals were fined, and one local union President, Sam Howze, was jailed for refusing to order his local back.

The Logan County miners set their demands: "No injunctions, for firings, no fines, no jailings." They went to miners outside the county for help.

UMW President Arnold Miller, then the papers, and finally Judge Hall all tried to limit the issue to



Young Miners In The Lead

"I worked hard for Miller three years ago, and I am going to work just as hard to get him out," said a striker, to violent applause, at a West Virginia rally.

Arnold Miller is finished in the UMW.

When Miller's reform leadership first took office the air was filled with promises for a "rank and file union" and a "rank and file contract."

Now, strikers note bitterly, Miller has cancelled every public appearance since the strike began.

When Miller and the Miners for Democracy (MFD) won union office in 1973, Workers' Power wrote, "The Miners for Democracy has opened the door for democracy in the UMW, but not necessarily the kind of democracy that its leaders and their labor allies envisioned."

Now rank and file miners are proving that statement true. They have taken matters into their own hands and are looking for a new leadership that offers actions, not words.

YOUNG MINERS LEAD

The leadership of this strike has been mostly young miners. "Miller's hands may be tied, but ours aren't," said one.

It used to be you needed ten, fifteen, or even twenty years in the mines to have the authority to lead your fellow workers in struggle. No more.

Now, young workers, some with only a couple of years experience, are in the forefront. If you have ideas that can win, they'll be listened to.

The District 17 Executive Board has charged these young militants as "irresponsible," and called on the coal companies to take action against them. But the District 17 rank and file voted unanimously to stay on strike even while their officers voted to return to work.

Districts 17 and 29, with a quarter of the union's membership, were the only districts where Miller's 1974 contract was passed by a significant majority. Now they are the centers of the movement against it.

Older miners express admiration for the courage of the strike leaders. Miners are ready to back leaders whose only concern is miners' welfare, not the companies' profits or the so-called "national interest."

NEW STRUGGLE

There are many forces out to smash this strike—the coal companies, the government, Miller, and the old right wing that used to run the union under Tony Boyle.

And the strike itself has one weakness. It does not have organization and communication on a national scale, something that all its enemies have.

Its strength is the mass meetings with their democracy and organization at the local level.

That strength must be built upon—now!

the failure of the union and the coal operators to agree on an arbitration panel that was supposed to be set up under last year's contract.

But it was too late. In the sorrowful words of the Charleston Gazette-Mail on August 31: "The district arbitration panel was finally established. But the cry 'right to strike' had raised its head, making the arbitration panel a secondary issue for the miners."

SPREADING

Mass meetings were held in Districts 17 and 29, and pickets

sent out to close the rest of West Virginia, then Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and elsewhere.

One of the great strengths of the roving pickets is that when a mine is shut down by pickets from another mine, a direct injunction cannot be issued to stop them. They spread the strike like wildfire.

A grizzled, middle-aged West Virginia miner, returning from Pennsylvania last week reported: "The boys there said, 'Where have you been? We've been waiting. Shut our mine down and we'll take care of the rest of the state.'"

Many miners in District 6 (Ohio Valley), which was mostly working last Friday, were clamoring over Labor Day weekend for pickets to come shut them down.

Judge Hall's response to the spreading strike was more fines—finally, \$500,000 against the UMW and an additional \$100,000 each day the strike goes on.

But each fine has only driven home more deeply the main issues in the strike—the need to stop the injunctions and win the right for local unions to strike.

A tremendous feeling of victory has filled the hearts of coal miners. They have succeeded in uniting their forces to shut down over half the country's coal mines, in the face of the company, government and union "leadership" opposition.

Strikers set up survival centers to help each other and dug in to win the strike. "We have got a foot in the door," said a miner at a mass meeting last Monday. "And we won't stop till we're all the way in."

to pressure INS to arrest and deport "illegals" who were breaking strikes, the INS did nothing. Now, with a secret ballot election law going into effect August 28 and the UFW organizing drive gaining strength, "La Migra" has gone into action.

The UFW has now made a commitment to organizing workers without documents. This is the only way to defeat the growers' tactics of using these workers as scabs against the union.

If work stops whenever INS agents enter the fields, growers will be much less anxious to call them. If the UFW and its legal staff try to block every deportation, they will quickly create a huge backlog of cases, slowing down the INS in the next few crucial weeks.

David Marshall

Farmworkers' Union

SALINAS, CA.—The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has joined the growers' stepped up attack on the United Farm Workers (UFW).

On August 26 in Salinas, the INS arrested 32 farmworkers it claimed were "illegal aliens." Local UFW organizers said 29 of them had recently signed UFW authorization cards, and several were on ranch organizing committees.

When UFW organizers tried to see the arrested workers at the county jail, the workers were moved to an INS facility. When the organizers tried to see them there, three were arrested for "interfering with a police officer."

Last week in the Mentoda melon fields, two crews of workers, more than a hundred, were arrested by INS as "illegals"—again after most of them had signed UFW authorization cards. Similar incidents have occurred around the state.

A year ago, when the UFW tried

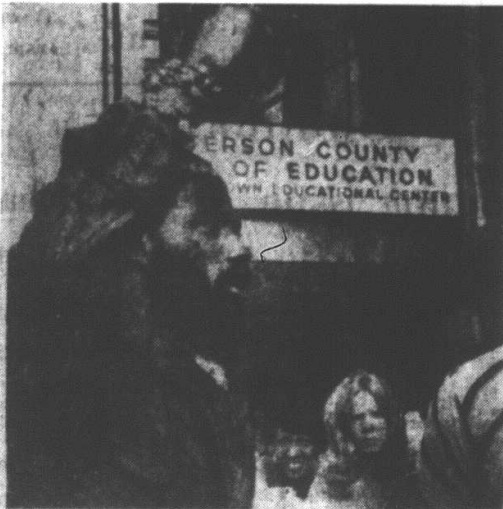
Workers' Power 128

Copyright © 1975 by the U.S. Publishing Company. Editor: Gay Semel. Business Manager: David Katz. Managing Editor: Kay Stacy.

Published bi-weekly except semi-monthly in December and monthly in July and August. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of Workers' Power, which are expressed in editorials.

Workers' Power is a member of the Alternate Press Service and is indexed in the Altman Press Index and microfiliated by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0634.

BUSING: THE REAL Louisville: Tensions



by Kay Stacy

LOUISVILLE—A climate of tension, fear and violence against blacks is being organized here as the day of court-ordered busing to de-segregate schools nears. Reports of racist assaults and incidents increase.

In supermarkets and on city buses, blacks are being verbally assaulted and intimidated with racist slurs.

When one black woman and her children left a restaurant in an integrated neighborhood, they were forced of the road by four white men in a car. A brick was thrown through their windshield.

A variety of groups are active in organizing white fears and racism against busing. Strategy is the major bone of contention between these groups at present.

Some favor court suits and election campaigns, other boycotting stores and job walkouts. Still others favor direct, physical attacks on busing and black people.

UNION MISLEADERS

A serious threat to black and working people in Louisville is the

opposition to busing of several important labor union locals.

The Executive Board of the 1700-member International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 761, voted to work against busing. Officials announced at an anti-busing rally that they would not work on the day school begins.

"Parents for Freedom," the organization backed by the IUE Executive Board, distributed a leaflet at the rally calling for a citywide general strike by both the unions and the business community until the busing order is rescinded.

At the end of this rally, demonstrators rampaged through a downtown shopping mall while city police stood by. A young black shopper was knocked unconscious by a club-wielding rioter.

CLAIM

District 27 of International Association of Machinists (IAM), with 4200 members in Louisville, is supporting a city-wide school boycott. UAW Local 791, with 300 area

members, also supports the boycott.

Leaders of these union locals claim to be fighting for their members' rights by opposing busing. But in fact, they are doing the exact opposite. By endorsing and sponsoring racism, they have divided workers and seriously damaged the union movement.

These officials can hardly claim to be fighting for the rights of their many black members. To these workers, their actions are a direct attack. They are an attack on other workers as well.

By organizing racist strikes and boycotts, these officials actively increase the tension between black and white workers—in the community and on the shop floor.

Already there have been confrontations between workers at General Electric, where IUE Local 761 members work. The only winner in these confrontations is GE, which takes thorough advantage of disunity by attacking working conditions.

The IUE officials have done nothing to lead their members against the massive layoffs that have gone on, or the attack on

Abdul "Bro Ben" tells Workers' Power about fighting the Klan in Louisville.

"As blacks we know what the Klan stands for. They are no more than murderers. The city officials want us to think they are just a few fun-loving guys, draped in pissey sheets, that will go away if ignored.

"We know they represent the repression of black and white workers, their unions, and the genocide of all non-Anglos.

"What's needed is for progressive organizations to keep us organizing attempts and to educate the masses so we can move toward the issue in terms of a base of black and white unity among all those affected by these killers.

"But we can't be totally involved in looking at the Klan, which is a diversion from the real enemy... the rich capitalist class who support any movement that divides workers, and their power. While we are watching the Klan, reactionary white racists without sheets are beating on our heads.

Strategy For Rank and

DURING the 1960's, very little was heard from racist terror groups like the Ku Klux Klan. What drove them underground, where they belong, was the militancy of the black movement. They did not attack the black community when they knew it would fight back—hard.

What will drive them back today is a movement that says the racists won't be tolerated, and that organizers to prove it.

There is a force that can organize this struggle in the unions and the black community. It is the growing rank and file movement of black and white workers.

We live in a society dominated by racism and segregation. In neighborhoods, housing, schools—in most areas of this society, blacks and whites are forcibly kept apart

by inequality, oppression and plain racial intimidation. Because societal institutions are based on segregation, they help keep the sickness of white racism alive and powerful.

There is only one major area of this society where segregation has gone a long way toward breaking down. That is in industrial production. In many factories, black and white workers are brought together by a common employer, although blacks often get the worst jobs.

In steel mills, auto plants and other major industries, white workers face the same immediate problems as blacks. They have begun to learn that they cannot solve their own problems if they allow racism to keep them separate from the black workers.

The stronger the black workers are organized, the harder they

fight, the stronger the argument for unity in struggle becomes.

Racism among white workers is still a powerful obstacle. But one fact stands out. It is only in the factories, in struggles against conditions like speed-up and arbitrary firings, that white workers have followed the lead of blacks who begin the struggle for workers' rights.

Examples of militant unity between white and black workers are still too few, but they are growing. They will be the cutting edge of the struggle to change the unions—and to build an anti-racist workers' movement.

In the unions it is rank and file militants who must organize an aggressive pro-busing movement. As with almost everything else, the trade union bureaucrats will not do it.

BOSTON: RACISTS

ON September 8, five days later than planned, Boston schools are scheduled to open under the "Phase 2" plan ordered by Federal Judge W.A. Garrity.

Last year, black students bused into south Boston High faced bottles and rock hurling mobs who massed along the bus routes each morning.

This year, after a year-long anti-busing offensive, the city is even more polarized. Whites in South Boston openly tell reporters that the level of hatred of blacks has increased.

After a series of compromises and delays, this fall's busing plan calls for just over 20,000 students for integration (another 5,400 are already being bused voluntarily, for unrelated reasons.)

A major concession granted the anti-busing forces has been to drop East Boston High from the program. It will now not be integrated till it becomes a citywide technical school in September 1976.

Police officials are openly stating they may not have enough manpowers to control massive disturbances for more than a few weeks. The hidden intent of statements like this is to make the organizers of the anti-busing riots more confident and determined. And that is their effect.

ACCOMODATING

In fact, the main lesson of Boston's first year of busing is the willingness of every legal and political institution to accommodate to the racists.

The Boston School Committee (Board of Education), which is still waging its war to preserve the most blatantly segregated school system in the country, has been handled with kid gloves.

Last year the majority of the School Committee was threatened with jail for contempt, for refusing to submit any school integration

plan. The threat was never carried out.

Meanwhile, the police were doing their share. Of several hundred arrests made during a year of mass violence against black students, 60% of those arrested were black.

Now, violent incidents around the city are so common they hardly make the news. The racist forces have gotten the message: there will be no crackdown on them.

Nothing is being done to prevent them from organizing an even more violent reign of terror this year.

A few meaningless "rumor control centers" have been set up to assure everyone that things are quiet while buses are stoned and cars burned.

Officials of liberal Boston are still congratulating themselves that in all the riots, no one has been killed. But with the lynch mobs ready to run wild again, no one will predict how long this record will last. □



Sunday, August 10: A mass demonstration was called by the black community to establish black people's right to use Boston's public Carson Beach. 1,000 demonstrators, mostly black, were met by a screaming, rock-throwing mob of 2000 racists. Police claimed to be "treating both sides fairly." They shoved blacks off the beach when it became clear they would fight back if attacked by the mob.

QUESTION IS RACISM

Mount

working conditions. Their strikes and boycotts have to be stopped. This is racism pure and simple, wrapped in the banner of trade union leadership. The actions of these union leaders have paved the way for the growth of the Ku Klux Klan.

MAJOR THREAT

The most serious threat against blacks and working people is the organizing by the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK has held many public meetings already. They plan more as busing takes effect this week, including public cross burnings. The racist fifth started by the Klan is responsible for much of the present hostility and hysteria.

The Klan is far and away the most dangerous group on the scene. Unlike the anti-busing groups, it is not a single-issue organization. They're using the busing crisis to build a vicious racist movement in Louisville.

Their goal is black genocide. One Klansman interviewed at an anti-busing meeting said: "I think we should go out and kill them all."

The Klan is weak today, but it is

growing. If unopposed, their growth will be rapid. They must be destroyed.

BIGGER RESPONSE NEEDED

In response to the racist anti-busing organizing, the black community is beginning to move. Several groups have formed, with the aim of defending the children.

The community is just beginning to mount a public organized response to the Klan, the anti-busing forces, and the lack of protection from racist attacks aimed at black people. The feeling of most is that if the Klan is foolish enough to come into the black community they'll be dealt with by black people.

This response is not enough. Black children are being bused out of the community. The demonstrations against the Klan and the anti-busing forces have to be stronger.

Black workers must organize against the racist strikes and boycotts some labor leaders will build. It will take massive active support by the black community to stop the KKK and its allies. We must begin today. □

What We Think



DEFEND

THE BUSES

The stakes in this year's struggle around busing are much higher than the questions of schools and education. Those who are organizing against busing have defined the issue. Their slogans opposing "forced busing" have only one meaning: they are trying to impose forced segregation in this country.

That was obvious in Boston last year. It is obvious in Louisville, where the Ku Klux Klan has taken leadership of the anti-busing movement.

Their aim is to use busing to build a mass racist movement. If they are successful they will terrorize black people, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and other minorities. They will attempt to destroy every gain women have won. They will be unleashed to oppose workers fighting for a decent life.

The racists must be stopped now, as they try to mobilize against busing. The question is how to do it.

There is one line of thinking that says: rely on the authorities and the courts to enforce the busing programs they have ordered. This argument says, trust the government, the army, the National Guard, or the police for protection from violent racist resistance.

Of course, that argument comes from the government itself, which says it stands for "law and order" and will enforce integration where courts order it. The same line comes from liberals, and from the middle-class black leaders who have brought most of the court suits to bring about busing. After all, they say, in the '50's and '60's the government provided some defense of civil rights in the south.

DEAD END

But that strategy is a dead end today. And it is a dangerous trap that can only defeat the struggle for black equality and liberation. A look at the record will show why.

In the 1950's and '60's industry was expanding in the south. It needed an expanding, urban, and better educated work force. At the same time, the US and Russia were involved in the Cold War as they fought to dominate Asia and Africa. In this conflict, the obvious oppression of black people in the US was very embarrassing.

Under these pressures, the government sometimes acted to protect civil rights. It did so slowly and reluctantly. It allowed black demonstrators to be beaten

and attacked with police dogs. It allowed churches to be bombed, and it allowed illegal mass arrests by racist local sheriffs with federal agents standing by observing.

Of course, the federal government had the power and ability to act quickly and decisively. And sometimes it did. But when it did so, it was always against blacks. Troops, national guard and police who never touched racists were sent in to squelch the ghetto uprisings. Then the brutal murders and jailings of the Black Panther Party took place.

This government cannot be relied on to enforce busing.

Neither can police, who are vicious racists. White police usually refuse to live in the cities because of the large number of black residents. When they must live there to keep their jobs they live in all-white areas and are among those most hostile to busing. For years to be a policeman was virtually to have a hunting license on black people.

REBELLIONS

With the black rebellions of the 60's the police forces greatly expanded. Police were being hired in dozens of cities to repress the black community. Anyone who joined did so as a conscious mercenary, hired to suppress black rebellion.

This is the force we are asked to rely on to turn back the racists.

The truth is that every political institution in this country bends over backward to compromise with the racists. Gerald Ford told the rioters in South Boston he was on their side. Boston's Mayor White announced he would take no initiative on his own to enforce busing because it was "too dangerous." One court after another has thrown out metropolitan busing ("cross-district" busing to the suburbs) or revised plans to put black children in the most difficult position.

When things are quiet, the government can pretend to be fair and treat everyone equally. But whenever racist forces mobilize, they force the government to show it really stands on their side. If the black movement and its allies rely on the government, local, state or federal, to protect busing, then busing and integration and the black liberation struggle will be defeated.

The only force we can rely on to defend us is ourselves. □

File Defense

In some places, like Louisville, many union leaders have come out of the anti-busing movement.

The rank and file movement has the power to organize and unite black and white workers for their common needs in the shops and the unions. It can organize to confront and defeat racist assaults.

The rank and file movement can also accomplish something even greater. It can defeat racism in a political struggle.

Black and white workers, fighting together for common needs, are proving that there is an alternative to racism. They can offer to whites in places like South Boston, Louisville and Detroit a way of winning a better life. It is a life that this capitalist system, with all its liberal rhetoric and court orders, can never provide.

The rank and file movement can

offer the antidote to the poison of racism that is produced by this society. It is part of the struggle to end the misery capitalism produces. That's what has begun to happen in the factories and the unions.

The same thing must be done in the struggle for busing and integration today.

There are huge numbers of people, including white workers, who are unhappy with capitalism, but don't know what to do about it. But they will never be attracted to a side that does nothing to solve the problems.

The rank and file movement must be in the forefront of the defense and support of busing. That is how the Klan, the Nazis, and other scum rising to the top of the anti-busing drive, can be isolated and smashed. □

OPEN YEAR OF TERROR



A black Haitian worker, Andre Yvon Jean-Louis, drove into South Boston last fall to pick up his wife from work. He was pulled from his car and nearly murdered by a white mob.



For a year, a steadily escalating series of violent attacks on black people has been building up in Boston. Yvonne and Alphonso Atkinson had just moved into a new house in Mattapan. That night, while they were unpacking, the front of the house and their car outside was riddled with gunshot holes.



After a year of violence with no protection from police or courts, and almost no leadership from the middle-class black leaders of the NAACP, black people are beginning to fight back. Militant, organized defense of the black community's rights is the way to beat back the racist offensive.

COURT, UAW KILL MASS PICKET

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Over 600 workers at Gould, Inc., UAW Local 1631, have been off the job since May 1. They've been replaced by scabs, but are still maintaining the picket line against astounding odds.

You won't notice 600 workers picketing now though. You won't even see ten. The most recent move made by the company and courts with the cooperation of the union leadership was to limit the pickets to six. This came after the strikers violated the initial limit of 12 set by the court.

They knew the union leadership wasn't doing a damn thing, so they packed the line. Fifty to 100 pickets showed up that day, which was a

little too effective for the company to handle.

Dominic Cassesa, UAW staff representative, told the judge later that he tried to keep the pickets to 12. Good work, Dominic.

The strike began after the company decided they wanted: 1) a seven-day work week; 2) no weekend overtime; and 3) the power to lay off anyone regardless of seniority.

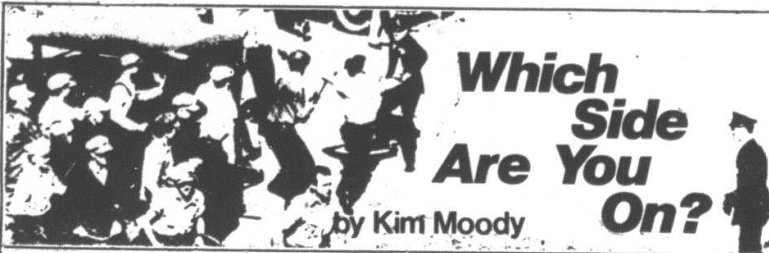
Lee Ann McKim, an electrical assembler, had been arrested for breaking some glass on the driveway leading to the plant. She said the strikers felt they had nothing to lose. "The way we look at it," she said, "we may not have jobs when we go back in there. So we're going down fighting."



Pickets Cook Up New Tactic

AKRON, Ohio—Strikers here at McNeil Corp. came up with a new twist to picket-line tactics. Faced with the problem of salaried employees working, they first tried to keep them out with mass picketing. When that didn't work, they organized a barbecue and massed at the gate to keep the bosses in.

Last Wednesday, about 100 pickets had the foremen sitting in their cars in the parking lot, waiting for the cops to let them through the line. As one picket put it, they would make them smell the barbecue. Local 358, United Steel Workers of America, is demanding decent money and a cost-of-living.



Which Side Are You On?

by Kim Moody

Meany's Grain Boycott

At its July Convention, the International Longshoremen's Association decided to refuse to load US grain destined for Russia. ILA President Thomas Gleason said the big grain sale to Russia would cause a huge rise in US food prices.

The motivation behind this boycott of grain shipments to Russia is political. But the politics behind it are completely reactionary.

Generally, US unions do not engage in political strikes or boycotts. Top labor leaders have stated again and again opposition to direct political action by labor. They usually say that job actions should be confined to contractual issues.

But this political act has received enthusiastic backing from other labor leaders. Paul Hall of the Seafarers, and George Meany are, all for it even though it would actually cost sailors and others jobs.

influence of American capitalism throughout the world. Because American imperialism has suffered serious defeats in Vietnam and elsewhere most of the capitalist class and its political representatives favor a soft policy at the moment.

However, some sections of the US capitalist class still favor an aggressive fight against the so-called Communist countries because they believe quite mistakenly that those nations are the source of the growing workers' revolutionary movement. Their goal, however is the same as Ford and Rockefeller: protect and expand capitalism and the power and wealth of the capitalist class.

By blaming rising food costs on the wheat sale to Russia, the labor leaders are dividing a fight against the real culprit, the capitalist class.

FLABBY

The economic reasons given by Gleason, Hall and Meany for supporting this political boycott are both contradictory and flabby. They know well that the sale of grain to Russia or elsewhere is not the real reason for inflated food prices. It was recently announced that 57% of the rise in food prices was going to the "middle man." That is the big food corporations, transportation companies and retailers who are beefing up their profits. Higher food prices are not the result of a crunch in supply or demand, but of profiteering by big business. We have never heard George Meany propose a political strike against profiteering, inflation, unemployment or anything else that really affects the standard of living of the working class.

Meany explained the real politics of the boycott to the ILA convention. He told the delegates that the grain shipment was the outgrowth of the Ford administration's "ill-conceived" policy of detente. Meany and those top union leaders who still support him oppose detente. In place of detente they propose a policy of aggressive cold war with Russia. Sounding like a John Birchler, Meany complains that detente is just a big give-away to the "commies."

IMPERIALIST TRUCE

Detente is really nothing but a truce between two rival imperialist systems—capitalism in the US, bureaucratic class rule in Russia. In the face of successful anti-imperialist movements in the third world and a growing revolutionary workers' movement in the industrialized countries, the rulers of the "Big Powers" are attempting to buy time. The rulers of the U.S. and other western capitalist countries have decided to go slow on the fight with Russia, so that they may devote their efforts to fighting their own working class more effectively. This policy is part of a strategy for maintaining the

USE OF BOYCOTTS

Boycotts such as this one can be used to strengthen the working class, when they have the right target.

It was the ILA that last fall participated in a world wide two day boycott of Chilean goods. That political boycott was a positive action in defense of the Chilean working class, which lives under a fascist regime. That type of political boycott is a good example of what labor could do to support workers in other countries.

Meany and Gleason, however, do not share this approach or even these goals. They share the outlook and goals of the capitalist class. They want to strengthen American imperialism, and place this goal above the defense of working class living standards.

For example, to further the position of US imperialism they avidly support the limitless expansion of the arms budget, knowing full well that arms spending is one of the major causes of inflation. They are not worried about inflation half as much as they are worried about keeping the capitalists—the employers they are supposed to fight—in power.

Direct action, strikes and boycotts, by labor is a necessary tool for any working class. Furthermore, intervention in "foreign" affairs is important and becoming more so as the world revolution progresses. But this intervention needs to be directed toward the independent goals of the working class, not towards policy squabbles among capitalists.

The defense of the Chilean working class should have been far more massive and aggressive than it was. American workers should prepare to oppose any interference by the US or other power in Portugal. You can be sure that when rank and file militants propose such actions that George Meany and Thomas Gleason will express horror at the idea of direct political action.

CONSENT DECREE

CAN'T WIN FOR LOSING

CLEVELAND—Sometimes you can't win for losing. Under the terms of the Consent Decree in basic steel, back pay averaging about \$300 is due minority steel workers. Although the Consent Decree went into effect over a year ago, the money has still not been paid.

The Consent Decree is a court-ordered plan to compensate minority and women steel workers for discrimination in the mills. The plan was immediately challenged in court by the NAACP and the Ad Hoc Committee, a black caucus in the United Steel Workers union.

They charged, among other things, that the back-pay award was far too low. They argued that the terms of the Fairfield Decision, which covers only one steel mill in Alabama, should apply to the entire industry.

If Fairfield were applied throughout the industry, the suit points out, a back pay settlement of close to \$500 million would result. Compare that to the \$31 million under the Consent Decree, and it

becomes clear that the Consent Decree is simply a cheap way of lifting liability for discrimination from the companies.

A CRUMB

The \$31 million is a crumb, a sop to appease the minority workers. But to add insult to injury, even this sop has not been paid on the grounds that the Consent Decree is under challenge in the courts.

The NAACP suit is now in the appeals process. Recently an appeal was denied by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Steel workers here believe that on that basis the money may now be paid.

Whether the money is paid or not, the whole affair is typical of the attitude of the USW (International) on discrimination. First they refused to lift a finger to stop company racism. Then they colluded with management to withhold the back pay awards—all the while blaming the delay on the black steel workers who were fighting for a more equitable settlement.

Lying Statistics No. 2

Magazines are always publishing graphs to show that working people are better off than ever before. This graph from Time Magazine's August 18 issue is the other side of the coin: it tries to show that the bosses are starving.

If you look at it casually, you see that "Profits" were about +20 during 1973 and 1974. But now, in mid-1975, they are less than zero. Clearly the bosses are losing money, right?

Wrong. When you look at the

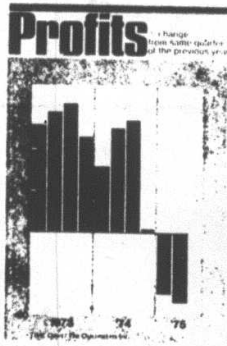
corporations in all the major industries in this country, almost all of them were making profits—plenty of them—in the first quarter of 1975. Airlines and chain stores lost money, but everything else made money (25 oil companies made \$2 billion all by themselves).

How does it work? Look at the graph a little closer.

The label at the top tells you what the vertical scale stands for. It is "% change from the same quarter of the previous year." What the graph shows is that in early 1973 profits were up about 26% from the previous year. In early 1974 they were up another 16% from early 1973. And in early 1975, profits were down 17% from early 1974.

A capitalist who made \$1000 in profits in early 1972 made \$1260 a year later (up 26%). A year later profits had gone up another 16%, so they would be \$1462. In early 1975, profits were down 17% from that level, to \$1213. Taking that graph at face value, profits are now above their 1972 level.

What the graph doesn't tell you is what the actual rate of profit was at the start of all this, in early 1972. Actual rates of profits are "trade secrets" and are kept from working people.



Workers' Power

SPECIAL

PORTUGAL



Ongoing coverage of the Portuguese revolution direct from the Proletarian Revolutionary Party-Revolutionary Brigades in Lisbon.

Eyewitness Report by Steve Burns

ON WEDNESDAY, August 20, I marched with 150,000 workers through the streets of Lisbon. It was a demonstration of massive and militant support for Portugal's movement toward revolutionary socialism.

It was an action which has terrified the bosses, right wing army officers and political bureaucrats. For it announced that the working class was ready to take a hand in the unfolding Portuguese revolution. They would not just follow quietly behind one or another of the various corrupt political parties.

Workers had been faced for a month with growing support for a reactionary plan for the revolution expressed in an army officers' document. But increasingly, workers felt the Communist Party offered no alternative. Thus they were mobilized by the two major revolutionary parties in support of the left wing army position, the COPCON document.

Slogans of the demonstration were designed to show there was a third path for the revolution, the path to workers' power. The size of the march proved that this path was more real than anyone had thought.

One of the organizers had told me that they hoped for 50,000. With only three days notice and the majority of the workers on vacation, even these numbers appeared to be optimistic. But the workers of Lisbon were ready. What took place he later described to me as "The first march of the working class that lets the world know what this revolution is all about."

He was right. The march was by and for the working class. Most marchers were revolu-

tionaires and fighters.

As the march formed up, the first to arrive were peasants from the south. There were hundreds and hundreds of them. They came, 20 or 30 jammed in wooden wagons pulled by old tractors. Men and women, young and old, waving red flags of the revolution.

And tens of thousands more were arriving by now and I joined the growing march, with a group of young Lisbon workers. Well organized marshalls handed out badges of the CRTSS (Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers and Sailors), each bearing the now famous slogan, "Out with the Scum. Power to those who Work."

The bosses used to call militant workers "scum," but that all changed when the councils were organized. Everyone knows who the real "scum" are now. People love that slogan. Everyone around me was trying to explain in bits of English, Spanish and Portuguese, what its origin was.

There was a real pride that the CRTSS's were important now. "The councils are growing, you watch. We workers know where our power lies... and it's not with any of those political parties."

Then came the soldiers, over a division of them. They were in uniform and riding army vehicles, contemptuous of their officers' orders to them not to join the march. Their numbers helped fill the huge square, and it seemed to me it was time to move off. But everyone seemed to be waiting.

Subscribe or renew before October 15 at a savings. One year, \$7.50.

Name

Address

Zip

Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI, 48203

continued next page

"Out With the Scum - Pow

1974: THE FALL OF FASCISM...

On April 25, 1974, the Armed Forces Movement overthrew fascism. Masses of workers took to the streets. Their first target was the secret police. Workers hunted them down throughout Lisbon.

In response to the stormy upheaval, the new government made the first concession to militant working class action. It disbanded the secret police and released all political prisoners.

Workers used their new freedom and democratic rights to resume a strike wave that had begun in 1973. In Portugal most wages were under \$30 a week. Many workers were employed in American- and European-owned textile and electronic plants. They made as little as \$20 a week.

Yet prices in Portugal are almost as high as America. For families to survive everyone must work. Children had to leave school at 13 or 14 for full-time jobs.

Under fascism, underground unions controlled by the Communist Party fought for a minimum wage of \$240 a month. The CP had tremendous prestige in the working class. It was the party of resistance to fascism, of the underground trade union struggle.

JOINS GOVERNMENT

But the Communist Party joined the liberal capitalist coalition government. To head off the strike movement the government introduced a new minimum wage of \$132 a month. Workers call it the "wage of misery."

As part of the new government, the CP welcomed the new minimum and denounced the \$240 it had previously fought for as "unrealistic."

The CP unions tried to stop or break strikes, calling them provocations to restore fascism. With the CP unions opposing the strikes, workers elected their own committees to organize and lead strikes. This was the beginning of the independent self-activity of the working class and its independent organization.

The strike committees attempted to purge bosses and supervisors who had been fascist collaborators. In some places the workers locked out fascist bosses, in others they chased them out of the factories.

Workers began to demand that in getting rid of fascists, they should have the right to select and control their supervisors.

On September 12 workers in the Lisnave shipyards struck demanding the purge of fascists throughout government and industry.

Troops were sent in to break it up. The Lisnave workers stood their ground, chanting to the troops, "Soldiers, You are the Sons of the People," and "A People Armed and United Will Never Be Defeated."

WON OVER

The troops were won over by the first revolutionary workers' demonstration. They refused to be used against the Lisnave workers. Remember the name "Lisnave."

Lisnave workers initiate each new stage of the revolutionary process. They are the vanguard.

Working class political consciousness grew by leaps. Workers opposed the attempts of the bosses to hang on to the colonies for neo-colonial exploitation. They demanded complete and immediate independence for Portugal's African colonies, not just an end to the colonial wars.

This growing militancy and radicalism of the working class did not go unchallenged. Last September, right wingers organized a "March on Lisbon" as a prelude to a right wing military coup. They were led by General Spínola, then President of the Republic.

Railroad and bus workers refused to run the trains and buses that day. Without transportation the right wing mobs could not get into Lisbon. On the eve of the planned coup, armed detachments of workers joined with soldiers to set up roadblocks around Lisbon.

The right wing collapsed. The march was cancelled and Spínola was forced to resign.

The workers and sections of the Armed Forces Movement now realized the great danger posed by the capitalists. Neo-fascist parties, the bulk of the capitalist parties, were banned.

Right wing and conservative officers were purged from the armed forces. Some of the bosses fled their factories and the country. The working class and the revolutionary left gained in confidence and strength.

The revolution in Portugal started as a demom between the General Staff and the Armed Forces coalition were to replace fascism with libera necessarily colonialism, and to bring Portuga and a half, six governments have formed ai by the growing radicalism of workers' strug becoming a working class socialist revolutio of no return. It will lead to socialist revolut fascism.

Story of the Revolution Recently Returned From



Eyewitness Report ...continued from preceding page

As dusk settled on the plaza, the crowd quieted and we heard the faint sound of marching feet in the distance. It came from the district of the massive Lisnave shipyards.

Lisnave workers are recognized as the best revolutionaries in the working class. The whole of Lisbon knows they are already armed to defend their plant if civil war breaks out.

The crowd listened, the sound got louder, and then they arrived. Thousands of Lisnave workers, marching in perfect military formation, seven abreast, arms linked, dressed in grey work uniforms.

They started a chant that workers around them picked up, and turned into a magnificent chorus. "The people armed can never be defeated!"

As we marched, people began to express the feelings that had brought them there.

Speaking in Spanish, one worker told me, "Our workers' council met and we decided to come and show the Socialist Party and the Communist Party where workers really stand."

As we marched past the occupied buildings of Radio Renaissance and the Republica Newspaper the workers there met us with applause and clenched fists of solidarity. We returned their salutes with cheers.

Putting his arm around me, one older marcher (a supporter of the Proprietarian Revolutionary Party—PRP) yelled in my ear: "See... we save our cheers for workers who take control of their own lives, and our boos for the Communist Party who want to tell us what to do... we know the difference."

And despite what the American press keeps trying to tell us these

workers are not only anti-Communist but anti-Socialist Party too. They are for workers' control; they regard themselves as the real socialists.

TO THE ASSEMBLY

We walked for over two hours through working class neighborhoods to the Constituent Assembly. The marchers were greeted with tremendous applause along the whole route.

Old people using one arm to hold up the other saluted us with clenched fists. Small children waved tiny red flags from windows and doorways. Thousands joined us.

When I said that this didn't happen in the US on our marches, the older PRP comrade merely smiled and said, "It will... it will."

By the time we arrived at the Constituent Assembly the whole march was a disciplined army, marching seven abreast behind the Lisnave workers, chanting every new slogan with a volume and enthusiasm I have never known.

It was night now, and the size of the crowd was impossible to estimate from inside it. It blanketed the huge plaza, spilled down the steps and on to the grass and wound around the streets for over half a mile.

The Socialist Party- and Communist Party-dominated TV stations, no friends of the march, reported that it was the largest demonstration since the overthrow of the fascist government 18 months ago.

The crowd was too large to hear the speeches. But no one seemed to

mind. They had already spoken with their feet. As I said good-bye to my PRP friend he grabbed my arm.

"You have to tell the Americans what our fight is about. Tell them why we are here and not on vacation. Tell them how the Socialist Party helps the Fascists and the Communist Party sells us out."

"All this is for our revolution, for workers' power, for workers everywhere. You are one of us."

It was true, his words echoed a scene I had witnessed the week before at the International Solidarity march. Made up of revolutionaries from Western Europe and North America, we had marched up to the American Embassy to show our support for the revolution.

The embassy was surrounded by COPCON troops. They obviously didn't like being there but they wanted to be certain there would be no incident that could give the US a pretext for intervention.

When our march reached the line of soldiers we stopped. One soldier, a grizzled, beefy veteran around forty was facing a masked demonstrator whose face had to be hidden. That marcher was a Spanish revolutionary who had risked his life to come to Lisbon and show support... and the COPCON soldier knew it.

Slowly, taking his gun off his arm, the veteran placed the weapon in the hands of the Spaniard. They embraced. Speaking quietly the soldier said, "Our revolution is your revolution." A phrase that will grow louder and louder as it echoes around the world.

...WORKERS SE

Capital has other weapons than coups. It now used its most vicious one to push Portuguese workers back down to their usual place of taking orders and working hard for the bosses.

Economic sabotage to create chaos and hunger was the new strategy of international capital. Corporations refused to invest in Portugal. Multinationals sent their orders to their subsidiaries in other countries.

America and Western Europe began an economic blockade. Orders for Portuguese goods were cancelled or not renewed.

The six great monopolies that controlled Portugal's banks and industries started to ship money out of the country, legally and illegally. They were caught at this by bank workers who opened their books.

Although hundreds of thousands of jobs were threatened, the working class refused to be cowed into submission. They began the struggle for the right to work.

OCCUPIED

Workers occupied the factories to protect their jobs. They took over companies that were going bankrupt, or not reinvesting, or not taking care of the machinery properly.

They demanded that the government nationalize the factories and maintain jobs. The wave of occupations pushed the government to grant subsidies to corporations on the verge of bankruptcy. This kept them going and saved jobs.

Throughout industry there were struggles to end pay differentials. At Lisnave, for example, there were 11 pay differentials. The

workers, under revolutionary leadership, struck to raise all wages to the level of the highest paid.

The struggles of this period were coordinated by the workers' commissions. The commissions grew out of the democratic strike committees of the first stage of the revolution.

Delegates, immediately recallable, are elected by the different sections of the plant. They are responsible to mass workers' meetings. The commissions overcome the division of workers in one plant into different unions, and the Communist Party unions' unwillingness to fight for workers' needs.

When an attempt at a right wing coup on March 11 failed, workers occupied the banks and insurance companies. Their demand for nationalization was met.

Government signs and posters in Portuguese bank windows proclaim "This Bank Is In the Service Of The People." Over one, the workers had written one word: "Ours."

It is a fine contrast to New York, where thousands of workers are losing their jobs and social services disintegrating—all to make payments to the banks.

In the most advanced factories the workers control production. They set the hours of work, salaries, supervise the technical personnel, organize production and determine working conditions, line speed, and health and safety measures.

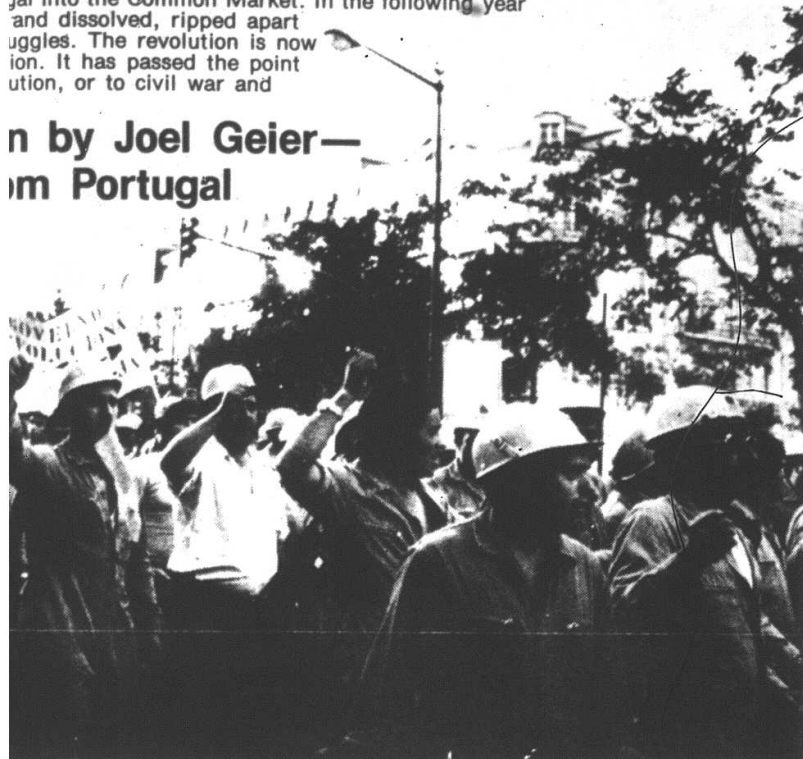
LIMITATIONS

But there are enormous limitations placed upon workers' control in a society where the working class does not control the state. Large

...AND NOW THE FIGHT FOR POWER

ocratic revolution to end fascism. It was led by an unstable coalition forces Movement (MFA), composed of junior officers. The aims of the eral democracy, to end the colonial wars, but not gal into the Common Market. In the following year and dissolved, ripped apart uggles. The revolution is now ion. It has passed the point tion, or to civil war and

n by Joel Geier—
om Portugal



...AND NOW THE FIGHT FOR POWER

...AND NOW THE FIGHT FOR POWER

In April, a year after the revolution began, new organizations called Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers and Sailors (CRTs) began to appear.

These councils, controlled by workers, are organizations by which the Portuguese working class will be able to rule the country.

The movement to build the CRTs was started and politically led by the PRP-BR (Proletarian Revolutionary Party-Revolutionary Brigades). But the councils are independent of all parties.

Delegates from factories or barracks are elected, and may be immediately recalled by those workers.

The councils are democratic organizations which include workers of many different political parties: Socialist, Communist, left socialist, the PRP-BR, and others.

MFA IN CRISIS

In May, a proposal to reconstruct the government on the basis of revolutionary councils was made by PRP-BR supporters in the Armed Forces Movement General Assembly. This proposal touched off a national debate in the working class and the army, on how workers could take power.

The CRTs organized a demonstration for June 17. The day before, 4,000 workers at Lisnave met in mass assemblies, approved the slogans and demands for the demonstration and agreed to lead it. They elected a committee of 400 to investigate setting up workers' councils.

On June 17 the Lisnave and Setnave shipyard workers, dressed in their work clothes, led a demonstration of 40,000 through the streets of Lisbon. They called for power to the workers' councils.

When the radical, middle-class officers of the MFA saw tens of thousands of workers in the streets demanding power, they became frightened. They veered sharply rightward.

The right wing shift was stopped by still another workers' offensive. At the end of June a series of occupations and strikes took place for workers' control—among telephone and postal workers, at TAP airlines, at Republica newspaper and Radio Renascenca.

Every time troops were sent by the government to break the strikes, they went over to the strikers. The soldiers could not be used to put down the struggles for workers' control.

As a result the MFA assembly swung back, even further left. This led to the Socialist Party leaving the government, and the greatest crisis of the revolution.

Today, the Socialist Party is the major organizer of the right wing forces trying to move the revolution

back. Why does it play this role? The SP is a party of middle class reformers—lawyers, professors, technocrats. It has support among some workers, but no organized rank and file.

Above all the SP opposed workers' control and the attempt to create workers' democracy and workers' councils.

The SP wants close ties to European capital and the Common Market. Western Capital demands "discipline" in Portugal's factories. The SP carries out this demand within Portugal by fighting against workers' control.

The Socialist Party told the outside world that it was leaving the government because of the takeover of Republica. It said it was defending democracy and freedom, not trying to smash workers' control.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Portuguese press is more free, presents a wider range of views, than any other press in the world.

The Socialist Party continues to print its own weekly paper. Its views are also expressed by the daily Jornal de Novo. Nor is it true that Republica is now run by the CP—or any other party. Republica today is an independent paper run by workers' control, sympathetic to the broad revolutionary left.

The truth is simply that print workers took over Republica for the same reason other workers seized factories—workers' control. There was no attack on freedom of the press of the Socialist Party or any other non-fascist party.

WORKERS CAN WIN!

The latest political maneuvers have not ended the government crisis, or stopped the revolution. The Portuguese revolution is rapidly approaching the stage at which workers' councils on a large scale, will become a reality.

It is within these councils that the real policies of the different political parties will be sorted out. The PRP-BR, the party of working class revolution, will grow to mass influence within the councils and lead them in the final assault on capitalism.

Portuguese workers have learned the lesson well—the lesson of Chile. The most common buttons they wear read "Chile Resists." The workers of Portugal know that when capitalists talk about democracy, they mean Chile—the witch-hunt and murder of militant workers, and their families.

Everyone in Portugal knows how America caused economic chaos in Chile and organized the fascist counter-revolution. They look at their children, and they say to you: "There will be no Chile here."

numbers of workers believe that their main task now is to protect the machinery, to learn to control it properly, for the future—when it belongs to them.

Until the workers take political power, the factories do not belong to the working class.

Half the economy is still privately owned and run for the profits of the bosses. And for the whole economy, the laws of the capitalist market continue to operate.

The factories under workers' control are often forced to be run as capitalist cooperatives, competing on the market.

In downtown Lisbon, there is a luxury hotel, the Hotel Ambassador. The owner, like many others, was implicated in the coup. He fled to Brazil. The workers' commission now runs the hotel.

Malds, porters, janitors, waiters, run this luxury palace designed for the ruling class. Their only concern is to rent enough rooms to be able to pay wages.

ASK NATIONALIZATION

They have asked the government to nationalize the Ambassador. It would then be subsidized and the

jobs protected. The government has refused. Tourism is not a priority industry.

So last month they rented out their rooms to groups of revolutionaries who were in Lisbon for demonstrations in international solidarity with the revolution. The room rates were \$2 per night per person for luxury accommodations—just enough to pay wages.

One day I took the train from Lisbon to Estoril. On line I saw big signs ahead which said to have your 10 escudos ready when you approach the ticket window. I did.

When I got there, there was a sign on the window: "The workers' commission believes that fares are too high for working class families to afford. Therefore it has reduced the fare to Estoril to 7 escudos.

Social services in Portugal were almost non-existent. The money that would have gone for them went to pay for three colonial wars. For fourteen years the wars ate up more than 50% of the government budget.

The neighborhood councils are now changing that. They occupy mansions, or large buildings, and have turned them into neighbor-

hood clinics, or childcare centers, or old people's clubs, or rooms for workers to have political and social meetings.

ECONOMIC CHAOS

Yet the economic blockade is having its effect. The country is rapidly sinking into economic chaos. The Common Market has just put a 10% surcharge on Portuguese textiles. It will cripple their sales in Europe, their biggest market.

The revolution has come to a temporary impasse. The capitalists can no longer run society, but the capitalist market continues to function.

The unstable Armed Forces Movement by itself can take no decisive action. It is swayed by the stronger class forces which push one way or the other.

This impasse cannot go on for long. The country is threatened with an impending economic catastrophe, the danger of civil war, and with outside intervention.

It will be socialist revolution or fascism. Workers have taken control of factories, now they must take control of society.

PORTUGUESE REVOLUTIONARY TO SPEAK ON THE STRUGGLE IN PORTUGAL TODAY

Speaking Tour by

Antonio Silva and Joel Geier

NEW YORK CITY Sunday, Sept. 14, 7:30 pm
Grand Ballroom, Hotel Diplomat, 108 W. 43 St.

BOSTON Monday, Sept. 15, 7:30 pm
Arlington Street Church, 355 Boylston

SEATTLE Tuesday, Sept. 16, 8:00 pm
Carpenters Hall, rm. 2, 2512 Second Ave.

OAKLAND Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:30 pm
Laney College Forum Auditorium, 10 St. and Fallon

LOS ANGELES Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:30 pm
Embassy Auditorium, 839 South Grand

LOUISVILLE Friday, Sept. 19, 7:30 pm
University of Louisville, Humanities building

ST. LOUIS Sunday, Sept. 21, 7:30 pm
The Learning Center, 4504 Westminster (at Taylor)

CHICAGO Monday, Sept. 22, 7:30 pm
Midland Hotel, 172 West Adams

CLEVELAND Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7:30 pm
Case Western University

DETROIT Thursday, Sept. 25, 7:30 pm
Central Methodist Church, Woodward at E. Adams

TORONTO Friday, Sept. 26, 7:30 pm
Unitarian Church, 175 St. and Clair Ave. West
Donation \$1.50

Workers' Power

Building The Councils Leading the Revolution



Proletarian Revolutionary Party— Revolutionary Brigades

Portuguese workers know what they're fighting for. Hundreds of thousands march in formation chanting: "Out with the Scum! Power to those who work!" They have begun running hundreds of factories themselves.

They know the struggle now is for power. Their futures, their families, their very lives depend on winning.

What is needed now, to lead the struggle to victory, is a revolutionary party of workers and soldiers—a party that will lead the working class in taking state power, totally smashing the capitalist political machine and beginning to create the foundations of a socialist society.

Portuguese workers are deeply suspicious of the existing parties. The Socialist and Communist Parties have manipulated and betrayed them.

The victory of their struggle, however, depends on building a genuine revolutionary party. That party is now being formed out of the explosive struggles of the Portuguese working class.

PRP

The Proletarian Revolutionary Party—Revolutionary Brigades (PRP-BR) is racing to become the mass revolutionary party that is desperately necessary.

The PRP-BR began in the late 1960's, as an underground organization dedicated to the armed struggle against the old fascist regime. The PRP-BR played an heroic role in the struggle against Portuguese imperialism in Africa.

The Brigades, among other actions, blew up NATO headquarters outside Lisbon. They also stole the fascist regime's war plans for Guinea-Bissau and turned them over to the national liberation

movement.

The PRP is working class, revolutionary and non-sectarian. Its goal is to organize the struggle for workers' power.

The central strategy of the PRP is to argue, organize and build at every level for workers' councils of revolutionary workers, soldiers and sailors. It is the only party in Portugal that stands unconditionally for the transfer of power to a government of revolutionary workers councils.

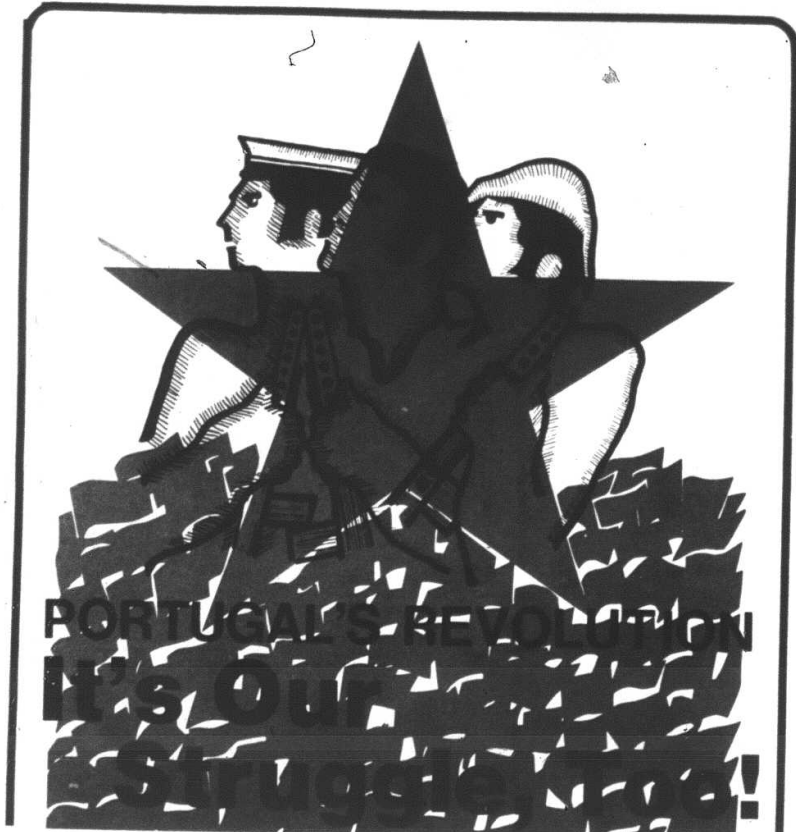
ARMED

The PRP is still armed. Its militants took part in the defense of Lisbon against attempted right-wing coups on September 28 and March 1. It was the first revolutionary group that resisted and fought back when right-wing mobs attacked its offices.

The PRP played a leading role in the demonstrations called by the workers' councils on June 17, in the huge workers' march of August 20, and in other revolutionary demonstrations advancing the workers' movement.

In the present crisis, the PRP has proposed a program for overcoming economic chaos and winning the small peasant landowners to the workers' revolution. The program includes a government based on revolutionary councils, and confiscating the wealth of the rich to buy the goods the peasants must sell to survive.

The PRP-BR is the party which revolutionary workers are shaping as the vehicle for their own emancipation. Daily it grows in size and influence. The PRP-BR carries forward the revolutionary goals of the working class. It is the one group which can bring those goals to reality. □



Portuguese railway workers have taken over the railroads. They decided the fare was too high for working class families, so they cut the fare by one third. In the US commuter railroads are raising fares by at least a third, and more. The subway and bus fare in NYC just went up by almost half.

The railroads are not the only industry run by workers in Portugal. Many companies have already been taken away from the bosses. They are now run by elected workers' commissions. Workers organize production, decide wages, hours, working conditions, line speed, and health and safety measures.

Soon the Portuguese workers may take control of the whole country. Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers, and Sailors are being organized. The councils are democratically elected from the factories, barracks, and ships.

If the revolution succeeds, councils will become the government. The working people, not a few generals and capitalists will own and control Portugal.

OPPONENTS

The CIA and the US corporations, with millions of dollars invested in Portugal, are determined not to let this happen. They're not just worried about their investment. They're afraid Portugal will set an example for American workers and workers all over the world. After all, why should workers in NY put up with wage cuts when workers in Lisbon decide their own wages? Will Detroit auto workers meekly accept speedup if they find out that Portuguese workers set the line speed?

The CIA is spending vast amounts of money to stop the Portuguese Revolution. They are financing the right wing mob attacks on the Communist Party and other left groups you see on TV and read about in the papers. They are going all out to spread lies about the revolution both in Portugal and especially in the American press.

NATO fleets appear off the Portuguese coast every time there is a crisis. The CIA wants to provoke the same kind of right wing coup they successfully

engineered in Chile.

Portuguese workers need help. A big show of support from American workers could make the government and the CIA think twice about trying to sabotage the Portuguese Revolution. Portuguese workers need to know they are not alone, that they have allies in other countries.

There are many important ways to help. Get your union local to pass a resolution opposing US intervention in Portugal. Unions, groups and individuals can send telegrams to the White House and the State Department demanding the US keep hands off the Portuguese Revolution.

SEND HELP

Portuguese workers need direct, immediate help from us. Give it by contributing as much as you can to the Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund. The money will be given to the Party of the Revolutionary Proletariat—Revolutionary Brigades (PRP-BR). The PRP-BR has led in organizing the Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers, and Sailors. The money will be used to further the work of the councils and the fight for workers' power.

Workers' Power will also be active in bringing the truth about Portugal to American workers. We have published this special supplement on Portugal in large numbers. It sells for 5c a copy, 10 for 25c, 50 for \$1.00. Get a bundle and sell them to your friends at work and in your neighborhood. Spread the truth about the Portuguese Revolution!

Order them from Workers' Power Portugal Solidarity Campaign, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan, 48203.

Remember, the Portuguese workers' fight is our fight. They are proving that workers can fight back and win. With our help they will soon prove that workers can make a socialist revolution and build a society run by and for the masses of working people, not the privileged few. □

WORKERS' POWER PORTUGAL SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203

I want to help spread the truth about Portugal.

Please send me copies Workers' Power Portugal Special at 5c each, 10 for 25c, 50 for \$1.00.

Send a speaker to my group. Name of group

I would like to contribute to the Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund.

\$100..... \$50..... \$25..... \$.....

Name

Address

Zip

Make checks payable to Workers' Power Portuguese Solidarity Fund.



Isobel Do Carmo, General Secretary of the PRP-BR.

REPORT

WORKERS' POWER POSTAL CAMPAIGN

The Workers' Power postal contract campaign is now being concluded. The campaign began with a decision of the National Committee of the IS, which met in May and mapped out a program of intervention in the current (1975-1977) contract round. The 1975 postal contract was the first contract to expire.

As a result, beginning in June every IS branch made a major effort to meet militant postal workers, to sell Workers' Power to postal workers, and to assist in setting up rank and file organizations to lead the fight for a decent contract.

PAMPHLET

Workers' Power itself devoted considerable space and energy to covering postal news. In addition, a special pamphlet was published, "Postal Workers Fight Back," by Jack Trautman. This pamphlet explained the key issues for

militants, and put for a strategy for fighting.

In all, more than 4,000 copies of the pamphlet were sold, nearly all directly to postal workers at post offices throughout the country. The first printing sold out completely within two weeks.

The major weakness of the campaign was the fact that there were few rank and file organizations in the post office prior to the contract period. As a result, there was not sufficient time to build a movement capable of leading a real fight for a decent contract.

Consequently, when Rademacher and Fibey, the top postal union leaders, completely capitulated to the Postal Service, and when the local union leaders refused to act, the rank and file was not in a position to fight on its own.

POTENTIAL

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the potential was there. In the contract period, postal

POSTAL WORKERS FIGHT BACK

JACK TRAUTMAN

CONTRACT 1975



workers were militant and united. With the proper leadership and organization, they would have won. One strong rank and file organization in one big city could have made the difference.

When there was no strike, despite the fact that the settlement was clearly a sellout, militancy quickly turned into demoralization, and the unity of the postal workers vanished.

Both the Postal Service and union officials quickly took advantage of this to attack the rank and file organizations and to red-bait militants. In Cleveland, the local union leadership issued a leaflet attacking the IS, and by implication anyone who would fight for a good contract.

In spite of these setbacks, however, a network of militants was built during the course of the campaign. Some have already joined the IS. And these, with many others, are already making plans to turn this network into a real opposition in the postal unions.

For IS members, there are several partial lessons to be learned. Most importantly, the campaign shows that even with few postal worker members, the IS was able to reach thousands of postal workers and have a real impact on the events.

Our experience in other industries, plus the changing consciousness of the working class, has given the organization the confidence and the opportunity to make real gains in such campaigns. And Workers' Power is the key.

TURN READERS INTO SELLERS

The task at this time is first to recruit those postal militants we have worked with, and to work to build a militant opposition in the postal unions. One important aspect of this will be to continue the use of Workers' Power in the post office.

The main point now is to turn Workers' Power readers into Workers' Power sellers. In every city, we must convince those militants who read Workers' Power to take a bundle of newspapers to work with them, and to use it in building the rank and file movement.

Finally, despite the present demoralization, there are still good prospects. One IS postal worker recently wrote us that "the post-struggle letdown was not as great as in some cases. I know people who just began to get interested in the union as the fight was peaking and winding down, who have not yet invested all their energy in the struggle, who want to start now. For some, the contract sell-out woke them up."



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 taking 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!

I.S. BRANCHES

- National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Amherst: PO Box 850, Amherst, MA 01002
- Bay Area: PO Box 24313, Oakland, CA 94623
- Bloomington: Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401
- Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
- Chicago: PO Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611
- Cleveland: PO Box 02239, Cleveland, OH 44102
- Detroit: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203. 869-3137
- Indianapolis: PO Box 1903, Indianapolis, IN 46206
- Los Angeles: PO Box 110, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90024
- Louisville: PO Box 70449, Louisville, KY 40270
- Madison: PO Box 725, Madison, WI 53701
- New Falls: Central P.O. Box 8, Kingston, N.Y. 12401
- New York: 17 E. 17 St., 7th floor, New York, NY 10003
- Philadelphia: PO Box 8262, Philadelphia, PA 19101
- Pittsburgh: PO Box 9024, Bloomfield Sta., Pittsburgh, PA 15224
- Portland: PO Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208
- San Francisco: PO Box 1045, San Francisco, CA 94101
- Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109
- St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130

Harris To Speak On Asia, Africa

NEW YORK

Friday, Sept. 5, 7:30 pm. "The Struggle for Freedom in Africa." St. Gregory's Church, 140 W. 90th St.

BLOOMINGTON

Friday, September 1, 4:00 pm. "Crisis in India." Ballantine 013, Indiana University.

CHICAGO

Saturday, Sept. 13. Contact Chicago IS for information.

ST. LOUIS

Sunday, September 14 at Washington University. Contact St. Louis IS for information.

Nigel Harris will be on tour speaking on Asia and Africa.

Harris is a leader of the International Socialists of Britain. 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*.

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

White Line Fever

HOLLYWOOD PUTS A WORKING CLASS HERO ON FILM

The ad reads: "Carrol Jo Hummer—a working man who's had enough!" Can it be? Is Hollywood coming down on our side of the

class struggle for a change? Well, believe it or not, Workers' Power fans, you are in for a treat:

White Line Fever is about truck

The hero, Carrol Jo, comes home from the Air Force and gets married. He and his wife buy a repossessed truck, which they

decorate beautifully and name the Blue Mule. (The rig almost becomes a character in its own right.) Their dream is that he will pay

much more independent than truck drivers who have only their labor power to sell, but like many dreams of independence in this society, this one has catches.

They have to pay the huge taxes and repair bills on their trucks. Sometimes they have to wait days for a load, or drive home empty. Often their notes to the banks are thousands per month; repossession is pretty common. You can get an idea how much owner-operators get ahead of the banks by a joke they tell:

A guy inherits a bunch of money. Right away he buys a brand new Pete. (Peterbilt, the Cadillac of trucks). He's telling his buddy about it. His buddy asks what he's going to do next. He says, "Well, I figure I'll work it til I run out of money."

Like truck drivers in general, owner-operators have a well-deserved reputation for toughness and militancy. When they tied up the interstate highways last year by



During the winter of 1973-74, independent truck drivers blocked interstate highways and eventually went on strike. In some places they fought with police and highway patrolmen. Their actions were sparked by sharply higher fuel prices. Now Hollywood is using independent truckers as the focus of a new film.

White Line Fever: Columbia Pictures. Starring Jon-Michael Vincent and Kay Inez.

drivers who are trying to organize a union in a corrupt trucking outfit. Even though there's about ten times as much violence as you'd likely see in a true-to-life organizing drive, it's realistic enough to be well worth seeing. Preview audiences of truckers loved it, according to Open Road magazine.

The movie is about the owner-operators who drive many of the big tractor-trailers that haul goods and products over the highways.

off the \$38,000 loan from the bank by hauling freight on contract jobs. Then he and his wife will be free and independent. That's the dream.

FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

Freedom and independence are the usual dream for owner-operators. They hire out themselves and their trucks by the mile. They are

parking their rigs across the lanes, they would call up the banks and say, "I can't pay my note this month. My truck's parked on I-94. You want it, you go and get it." And the banks would say, "No, no that's all right, we'll wait."

They could have done a film about people organizing against the everyday run-of-the-mill exploitation in the trucking industry, and how people are driven to taking speed, etc. But that's not Hollywood, of course. There has to be crime—as defined by them, not by us.

When Carrol Jo tries to get work in what used to be his father's outfit, he finds out that the new owners are smuggling illegal items like slot machines and untaxed cigarettes. He refuses to be part of it, and soon finds himself set up by the company's wholly-owned highway patrolman and stomped on by the company's goons.

CONSERVATIVE HOUSEWIFE

While he recovers from his injuries his wife works double shifts in a bottling plant. She flips her supervisor the bird, possibly the first woman in film to do it, and complains to C.J. about "speed-up," a new term for Columbia Pictures. But she doesn't stay there and organize. She wants out. And she wants him out.

In general, she plays the typical role of the conservative housewife who constantly begs her husband to avoid the struggle and be safe and secure for the sake of the family. It's interesting that from the fair sexist perspective, Open Road saw her role as "supportive." There is no safety or security in giving up.

When the pressure of the two thousand dollar bank notes forces him to look for work, he finds he's been blacklisted by all the companies.

He soon takes matters into his own hands with a shotgun and forces the original company to hire him for a load. He is supported by an older black man named Pops, who used to work for his father. They drive off together, and sure enough, trouble follows.

After winning a trucking movie's equivalent of a swashbuckling swordfight with more company goons in a fast-moving tractor, the young white man and the older black man "slap five" across the cab of the truck—one of many high points of White Line Fever.

Carrol Jo becomes a hero to the other owner-operators, black and white, and they begin to stand up to the company. The movie shows the consciousness of some of the characters changing because of the multiracial unity around common needs.

Pops's son is very hostile to C.J. at first: "Just because you used to be his father's nigger don't mean I have to kiss his ass." During the struggle he becomes tight with the rest of the drivers, whom the company calls "niggers and crackers."

NIGGERS AND CRACKERS

Well, niggers and crackers gettin' together worries the owners so much they even take time out from their golf games and steam baths to hold a meeting with the drivers. And they take C.J. out and try what bosses often try with tough young militants: They try to buy him off. But he won't be bought.

This movie might give you the idea you have to be into Kung Fu to be an organizer. Because it's still your basic Hollywood macho movie, with one hellacious fight, murder, or firebombing approximately every three minutes, only in an organizing context for a change. And it's not organizing as we see it, but as Hollywood sees it. You wouldn't expect politics from Columbia, and you don't get politics—C.J. is the one big macho who's gonna take care of everything.

But the truckers get it together. When they said, "We need a union," we almost fell out of our cars at the drive-in. Of course, instead of regular drivers, it's about owner-operators, who are sort of respectable individualists.

But White Line Fever proves that even Hollywood can tell there's a change taking place in the American working class these days. □

Yvonne

WORKERS' Power

In This Issue:
Joann Little Trial 2
UFW Gains in Calif. 2
India's Crisis 6
Jaws 13
Steel: No on no-strike 14

STOP THE KKK!

LOUISVILLE COALITION

Going Weekly!

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Enclosed is \$7.50 for a year's subscription.

Name

Address

Zip

Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203

On October 15, Workers' Power is going to start coming out as a weekly newspaper. For all of our subscribers this means that your subs will run out sooner than they would have otherwise.

Renew your sub now and guarantee uninterrupted delivery of Workers' Power.

By going to a weekly, Workers' Power will be handled by the Post Office as first class mail. You will have same week delivery.

Renew or subscribe now and save money. Subscription rates will go up to \$10.00 a year on October 15. If you subscribe or renew now, it will cost you only \$7.50 for a year.

Letters

to

Workers' Power

Ecology and the Workers' Movement

Dear Workers' Power,

This letter concerns H. Leiner's review of Paul and Ann Ehrlich's book, *The End of Affluence*, on page 13 of WP #125.

Paul and Ann Ehrlich are in

the right wing on the ecology movement and most of Leiner's criticisms of them are correct. For a more left wing analysis of environmental problems of capitalism, I suggest *Beyond Repair: The Ecology of Capitalism* by Barry Weisberg or *The*

Closing Circle by Barry Commoner.

A real solution to the environmental crisis will require the profit system to be smashed, but some pollution problems are so dangerous that socialists must deal with them now. The union movement could stop nuclear power and force the Big Three auto makers to devote more resources to mass transit and building small, clean cars. The U.S. as advocates of planned, useful production should raise at least a few environmental issues in its UAW work.

It would be opportunistic to put off the mass transit issue till the revolution, since more US workers are killed in autos each year than in the entire Vietnam war. UAW members are some of the most highly paid industrial workers in the world. Should the rest of the world proletariat sacrifice its health for UAW jobs?

Comradely,
Dave Moore
Topeka, Kansas

Demand the Right To Work

Dear Workers' Power,

I have worked in Bloomington all my adult life. In September of 1973 I started work for Otis. I worked at Otis for 1 1/2 years before I was laid off. I liked the work and I liked the money I made. Now I am unemployed and very worried about my family's future.

I have three sons and \$63.00 a week doesn't buy much food or clothes or pay all the bills. Standing in line at the employment office, I see hundreds of other people unemployed. I wonder, could all this be avoided?

Going grocery shopping is very depressing. As usual, I would put things in my grocery cart that I needed, but by the time I got back to the checkout lane I would be putting food back on the shelves that I couldn't afford. The kids could not have snacks - they were a luxury. We were lucky to even get three meals a day!

For six weeks after being laid off I never received an unemployment check. The employment office lost my file and my cards didn't get sent to Indianapolis. While I was waiting for a check we were living on my support check which is \$22.50 a week. My bills got behind even more. REMC turned my electricity off. If you are only two weeks behind on your bill, REMC will shut you off. I had no other choice but to borrow the money from my mother to pay the electric bill.

When you go into the employment office and ask why your checks are delayed they just make an excuse that the IBM machines aren't working right (I wonder!) They also tell you that there are a lot of people with the same problems. That doesn't help my bill collectors!



Joyce Halstead, Unemployed Otis Worker.

Now the employment office has this new thing that if you're not there at your set time to sign up for your checks they won't accept you! So if your time is Weds. at 1:30 and you have a flat tire (which you don't have money for anyway) and get there say at 2:30, you're just out of luck.

It's not our fault that we are unemployed. I know for myself I don't like being without a job. I always feel a certain amount of pride in being unemployed. I know that I am working for everything I get. I'm not asking for handouts and welfare. I just want a chance to work. I want a job!

When you apply for food stamps you feel like you're begging. To be able to get food

stamps you have to show last month's bill receipts. I was behind on my bills so I didn't have receipts to get food stamps. What do I do to get food for my children right now when we need it?

Also our medical insurance was cancelled because to keep it up I would have to pay \$45.00 a

month. When I was working I paid \$8.33 a month. In most union contracts when a person is laid off the company continues to pay the set amount for medical insurance, but not at Otis. The union should see into this. What happens if my boys need hospitalization?

My boys are also feeling the effects of my being unemployed. They feel embarrassed when they have to go on the free meal program at school. There is never any money for the house upkeep. There is never enough money for any pleasures, not even a movie or skating for the kids. These are the things the kids are missing.

All I want is a chance to have a steady job. Just a chance to take care of my own family. I don't want government handouts or people's pity.

Why aren't we given a chance to work? Because working people are at the mercy of the big companies. If the companies can't make their big profits for their big homes, swimming pools, fancy cars, full wardrobes and full stomachs, they just lay off some of the workers they have to pay wages to. Do they even stop to think about these people they turn out on the streets? I think it is time that the workers should come together and demand our rights to work like normal American people.

Joyce Halstead
Bloomington, Ind.

HOFFA NOW

FITZSIMMONS SOON?

Dear Workers' Power,

The article on Jimmy Hoffa was great. I hope to be reading a similar one on Frank Fitzsim-

mons soon. Keep up the good work.

A Brother,
Pittsburgh



WALLS AND BARS

Struggle in The Prisons

[This first hand account of conditions in the prison system was written for Workers' Power by two prisoners active in the struggle against them.]

Here at the Atlanta Federal Concentration Camp, a drama is unfolding. Jesse Evans, one of the prisoners who rebelled against the oppressive conditions at the Leavenworth camp on July 27, 1973, and who was taken to the enemy court and received an additional Prison sentence, is still confined in the segregation unit 25 months later. No other Federal P.O.W.'s have been subjected to this type

of treatment, just the Leavenworth brothers. Whenever a P.O.W. is tried in an enemy courtroom, and receives another prison sentence, he is usually transferred to another camp and placed in the new camp compound. Jesse was transferred to Atlanta and placed in the hole. This is an attempt to break the spirit of this comrade. Whenever a P.O.W. refuses to be another boy and go along with the program of the enemy, then he is given this type of treatment. To keep a P.O.W. in isolation for this amount of time, is only meant for the express purpose

of 'destroying the mind, to vegetate him. It is a proven fact that sensory deprivation is a mind destroyer, and this is what the P.O.W.'s are being subjected to in the various isolation units.

Brother Horsford, a P.O.W. from the Virgin Islands, has also been in isolation for two years. This brother was charged for violating a serious rule (law), he got too close to some outside visitors!!! The conduct report stated that this prisoner was walking behind visitors.

We guess that the keepers were afraid that he might tell them the truth about their tour, instead of the lies that the robot guide was telling them.

This brother was serving a sentence in his homeland, the Virgin Islands, which is a colony of the Imperialist Government America. When he refuses to cooperate with his keepers, the American Government transferred him from state custody, to the US Penitentiary here at Atlanta, Georgia.

This P.O.W. is supposed to be serving a state sentence, not a federal sentence. He was actually kidnapped, brought thousands of miles away from

his homeland, his family and friends, to be left to the mercy (?) of these beasts.

We are only sorry to say that the other inmates have not seen fit to demand that these P.O.W.'s, be placed into the compound, so therefore our outside comrades must do it. We urge all to write to: Norman Carlson,

the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D.C.; and to Marvin Hogan, Warden, Federal Prison Camp, Atlanta, Georgia, 30315, and demand that these brothers be placed into the main compound.

George Blue
John Fackelman

Community Leader Framed

by Michael Long
LOS ANGELES—On August 25 Michael Zinzun, director of the Pasadena Community Information Center (PCIC) was sentenced to 30 days in jail and three years of probation after being convicting of assaulting a cop.

In October 1973 Zinzun and a friend were junking a car at an auto working shop. An unmarked police car approached and three plain clothes cops asked to talk to Zinzun. When Zinzun asked that they meet in a more populated area, a cop grabbed him. He was arrested for felonious assault.

The sentencing occurred after the first conviction had been thrown out of court by the Municipal Court

Judge. The prosecution appealed to the Superior Court and won a conviction there. It was after the second conviction that Zinzun was sentenced.

About 100 of Zinzun's supporters attended the sentencing. The trial itself was the result of a police frameup.

HARASSMENT

The incident was part of the harassment that has been carried on against the PCIC in the black community of Pasadena.

The present conviction and sentencing will be appealed to the District Court of Appeals, where the PCIC hopes to win a reversal of the conviction.

More Teacher Layoffs Hit NYC Schools

by Dave Miller

NEW YORK CITY—Just one week before the start of school, 3,000 teachers here have been given layoff notices. This cut brings total teacher layoffs to ten thousand, out of a workforce of 80 thousand—a 12.5% cut.

Even before these ten thousand were laid off, unemployment among teachers was already 10%.

The new cuts were announced in the middle of the United Federation of Teachers desperate negotiations for a new contract. Nevertheless, the UFT remained totally silent about any fight against the cuts. Appearing on TV two days after the cuts were announced, UFW President Albert Shaker did not even mention them.

With the union silent, a Coalition Against Teacher Cuts has been formed around a two plank platform: fight the wage freeze; restore the ten thousand jobs of teachers and paraprofessionals. About 150 teachers showed up at the coalition's first rally on August 29 outside the Board of Education.

On Thursday Sept. 4 the Coalition is calling a rally outside the hotel where contract negotiations are taking place. The rally will call for a settlement containing both Coalition demands. Teachers will be back in school on Tuesday and a large turnout is expected at the rally.

The union is begging: "We accepted ten thousand cuts. Isn't that enough?" "All we are asking for is some increase in pay to make up in part for inflation." But so confident is the School Board, that they may well push the union into a strike against its will.

Shaker is still hoping that the Democratic politicians, Mayor Beame and Governor Carey will step in to save his skin. Shaker has been full of praise for these two political hacks, the same men who froze New York City workers' wages.

Teacher Strikes Hit Chicago

CHICAGO—Teachers at Chicago's Junior Colleges voted unanimously to defy a court order to return to classes after the first day of their strike on Monday, August 25.

Norman Swenson, president of the Cook County College Teachers Union, said that he would rather go to jail than lead the teachers back into school without a decent contract.

In 1971 Swenson spent 30 days in jail for defying a similar court injunction.

Teachers are particularly disturbed by the City College Board's decision to cut teachers' salaries by about \$1,100 per teacher, by cutting pay for summer school, substitute teaching, overtime and adult education.

The union is demanding a 10% cost-of-living increase, a halt to increased class sizes, and the hiring of about 100 teachers who now have five-month self-terminating contracts.

The first day of the strike was between 90 and 98% effective. Student support for the strike has been strong, since many of the students work and they often have

union jobs themselves. At a couple of the schools students joined the teachers on the picket lines in a show of solidarity.

Peter Vento

Sears Gunning To Smash Union

LOS ANGELES—The Sears Roebuck Company has a well deserved reputation for being anti-union to the core. This extends to their truck drivers and warehousemen as well as their sales force.

At the Sears Warehouse in Bernon, Ca. 70 members of Teamsters Local 986 are on strike. They are fighting the company's attempt to bust their union.

Over the last year, Sears has laid off 180 out of 250 workers. Most of the work has been sent to Sears' Orange County warehouse, which is non-union. The remaining 70 workers have had to work faster.

The 70 have been on strike since Sears "offered" them a 14% wage cut in a new contract. When union drivers for Brato Truck Lines refused to cross their picket lines to

make deliveries to Sears, Brato shut down its operation and transferred the Sears work to D'Anza Trucking, a non-union subsidiary.

Similar attacks are coming against Sears workers in other parts of California. Five Sears warehousemen have been fired for honoring an official picket line in San Leandro.

New York City: BANKS SET TO TAKE OVER



MAC's Big Three: Elish, Rohatyn, and Ellinghaus, planning to get rid of the elected city government and let the banks run New York City directly.

New Yorkers are waiting for the next disaster. Unless the city gets new money it will go broke within two weeks. The banks refuse to lend the city any more money. They won't even buy more Municipal Assistance Corporation (Big MAC) bonds.

Felix Rohatyn, Big MAC's top hatchet man, proclaimed: "As of

today we have not one cent committed. Next Friday you might skip a payroll."

According to the bankers, the politicians are too squeamish. They've only laid off 13,000 city workers, cut the remaining workers' pay and frozen all raises, closed city hospitals and raised the subway and bus fare to 50c.

The banks say these politicians can't be trusted to take the really tough measures necessary to cut the city's operating expenses.

INTEREST

Neither the banks nor the politicians are talking about cutting the city's biggest operating expense—the interest on city bonds. During August New York paid \$824 million in interest on bonds. The supposedly bloated city payroll only amounted to \$226 million—one fourth as much.

New York Governor Hugh Carey thought he had a solution. NY state would collect all city revenues and lend the city money. The state would then borrow money from the banks.

A special three man board—Carey, Mayor Abe Beame, and State Controller Arthur Levitt would have complete control over city spending. They would dole out to the city every month as much as

they thought it could afford to spend.

The banks turned Carey down flat. They said they wouldn't lend the state money to help the city. They were afraid even this arrangement might give the city too much money to pay city workers and provide needed services. Besides they want a direct role in running the city.

Beame, Carey, and Big MAC may just be able to raise enough loans from the city and state workers' pension funds and other sources to squeeze through September.

ALLOWANCE

But pretty soon NYC will be taken into receivership by some combination of the banks, the state and the federal government. When

this happens the city will be put on an allowance. It will be given only as much to spend as the banks think it should have.

The bankers will have thus dismissed the elected city government and appointed a new one.

City workers will be hurt the worst. They will face new layoffs, more wage cuts, and worse speed up. But instead of organizing to fight, leaders of the city unions are forcing their members to accept the wage freeze and layoffs.

If the rank and file puts real heat on the city, union leaders will be forced to fight back. A strike by all city workers would stop Beame and Carey and Big MAC in a hurry.

With the city shut down completely they'd soon find the money to pay city workers decent wages and give New Yorkers real services.

WEAR A WORKERS' POWER T-SHIRT

Colors: orange, yellow, grey, white, white w/ red or blue trim.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL.

Children's T-Shirts: S, M, L. Yellow, Orange, only.

Price: \$3.00, children's \$2.00.



Order from: Big Bevo Graphics; P.O. Box 24135; St. Louis, MO

SUBSCRIBE TO



1 year—\$2.00 Sustainer—\$5.00

The monthly newspaper of the Red Tide, Youth Section of the International Socialists.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

School/Workplace: _____

P.O. Box 64402, Los Angeles, California 90064

Turn the Union Around

United Action Campaign in Louisville CWA

Local elections are coming up in October in Louisville CWA. United Action, an opposition group in Communications Workers of America Local 10310, is running a full slate for the election. Workers' Power recently talked with the candidates about the issues and their campaign.

"Protection from harassment and probably what kind of contract we get" are the biggest issues, according to Harold Kincaid, candidate for Vice President.

Rick Wallace, steward and candidate for Grievance Vice President said the situation now is "you hear everybody say 'why file a grievance, it won't go anywhere.' And really that's the way it is right now."

One of the major things United Action is stressing in its campaign is the need for organization—to win grievances as well as decent contracts. "One of our objectives is to get the stewards organized so they can go organize the people they represent," said Paul Schmidt, steward.

WOMEN

Fighting for a better shake for women is another key issue. "In

the long run, our goal is to upgrade traffic, get them more money. But the short run goal is to get the operators organized to prevent harassment and discrimination," said Joe Pardieu, candidate for treasurer.

Workers' Power asked about the opposition—the current local leaders. Wallace summed it up this way: "Let me give you a Dennis Dearing [Local 10310 President] quote: 'I'm worried about me, number one.'" Another United Action member cited Dearing's famous comment about the 1974 contract: "I don't need a wage increase, my wife works."

CWA INTERNATIONAL

United Action thinks they have a good chance to win. They recently organized a successful demonstration against the charge for directory assistance and their meetings are drawing increasingly bigger crowds. Workers' Power asked what would be the reaction of the CWA International if United Action won. Pardieu's assessment was, "Totally negative. In our opinion the International is nothing but a big sellout—Glenn Watts and his \$400,000 worth of automobiles."



Vernon Jackson, candidate for president, stressed the need for going outside Louisville if United Action wins. "We figure when we win the International will try to alarm all the other locals by sending out letters saying watch out for this rank and file group—don't let them take over your local. They're going to do everything they can to keep us back."

Pardieu agreed, "Our only defense is to organize the people, keep the people behind us in

Louisville, and then get out to other locals."

United Action members are certain that win or lose, the fight will go forward. Pardieu felt that "we might lose all the offices but United Action will gain through the publicity and through the ranks." And Ann Thomas, steward, stressed that "even if we lose, when we have our union meetings we will get what we want because we will have enough people backing us."

For the members of United Action the positive response to their campaign is a sign of the future for the rank and file movement. Summing up the sentiment of the group, Pardieu said,

"This is only the beginning. We hope all the locals in every union get organized and have their own forms of United Action. And eventually, who knows? It will be a better world for the working class."



NEW YORK TELEPHONE WORKERS PROTEST AT&T'S RACISM

On August 27, telephone workers again picketed NY Telephone's headquarters to protest the company's racist practices. The demonstration united black and white workers from all three company departments—plant, traffic and com-

mercial. The workers were demanding not only an apology for a racist sales poster, but also no further part-timing or layoffs due to directory assistance charging, the reopening of upgrades, and open hearings on NY Tel's racist practices.

LOS ANGELES—There will be no dues increase in Teamsters Local 208 before July, 1976. The August local membership meeting tabled a motion to raise dues \$1 a month till after the IBT International Convention next year.

A large turnout at the meeting voted overwhelmingly to table. Talk around the barns was that they didn't see why they should have to pay more for the representation they are getting.

After the increase was tabled, Business Agent Charlie Brenner stood up and told the meeting the increase should have been passed. He hinted that there might be cuts.

Secretary-Treasurer Alex Maheras quickly stated that was not so. Then he left for three weeks in Europe.

If and when the question of where to cut the budget comes up, Local 208 members will turn out again to make sure they don't come out of our services.