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# WORKERS' POWER

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS APRIL 5, 1976 #154 15c

## In This Issue:

War In Lebanon . . . . .	4
Urban Removal . . . . .	5
Cinci UPSurge . . . . .	5
UAW News . . . . .	8
Laverne & Shirley . . . . .	11



## What We Think



# APRIL 1: THE STRIKE IS ON!

by Jim Woodward

At midnight, March 31, 400,000 Teamsters walked off the job, setting up picket lines at trucking companies coast-to-coast. It was the first nationwide trucking strike in history. The strike promises to have an enormous impact, extending well beyond the freight terminals.

The strike was officially called by Teamsters Union President Frank Fitzsimmons. In reality, it was called by rank and file truck drivers and warehouse workers who put such enormous pressure on Fitz that he had no alternative.

Since last August, freight workers have been preparing for this contract by building the Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). TDC began by circulating a petition, signed by thousands, listing minimum demands for the contract. The group then organized a delegation of over 100 Teamsters which went to Washington in January to present the union leadership with this petition.

### TDC NETWORK

Then TDC took the fight into the local unions, and won endorsement for its program from several of them. Local TDC groups were formed. The TDC network now extends to thousands, with supporters in at least 160 local unions.

Since the end of January, TDC has been publishing a newspaper, CONVOY, to keep its supporters informed of developments. As the strike began, CONVOY was to be published on a daily

basis in 53 cities.

The pressure on the union leadership became so intense that Fitzsimmons spent an hour the week before the strike telling local officials that TDC had nothing to do with his decision to seek a strike vote!

It is clear that without TDC there would be no national Teamsters strike this year. The anger of the rank and file would have been there just the same, but without organization that could not have produced more than isolated wildcat strikes.

Teamster officials did not want to strike. And even as picket lines were being set up, Fitzsimmons had set about breaking his own strike.

The union leadership was signing up small companies to an "interim agreement," based largely on the union's "final compromise" offer. Any employer who signed the interim agreement was given stickers for his trucks' windshields so they could continue operating.

The union's plan was to thereby divide and weaken the employers. But only the small companies were signing. The major effect of this strategy was to put some trucks back on the streets and confuse some of the strikers.

### WRONG DIVISION

As Ken Paff, TDC Secretary, told Workers' Power: "We say the interim agreement is dividing us—not the

Continued on page 3

# Support The Teamsters

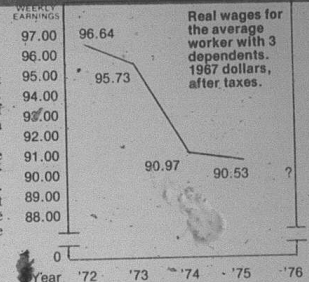
## If The Teamsters Win We All Win...

If the Teamsters win, it will benefit us all. The chart on this page shows why.

Virtually every American worker has felt the pinch of inflation in the last four years. Wages have not kept up with the cost of living... and that is simply another form of a wage cut.

In the depression of the thirties, the employers just cut wages by 10%, 20%, or more. Now they cut wages through inflation.

The average American worker has lost 6.3% to inflation since 1972. Teamsters have lost even more—over 10% in the last three years.



### TURN IT AROUND

This year and next is the time to turn that situation around, because contracts covering most industrial workers are expiring. The Teamsters are the first. And so in a very real sense, their picket lines this week are the front lines for all of us.

What the Teamsters gain will set a precedent, making it easier or harder for the rubber workers later this month, for the electrical workers this spring, the auto workers late this summer, the steel and communications workers next year.

And the same goes for all other workers—even those who are not unionized.

While the Teamsters are out there fighting, there will be a few voices hollering that they are greedy. Not many of the owners of those voices live on a worker's wage.

They'll be the publishers of daily newspapers, top corporation bosses, and well-fed politicians. Most will be in the \$50,000 or above salary bracket. And they will shamelessly holler that the Teamsters are greedy for wanting cost-of-living protection.

They'll cry that the strike is hurting the economy. Here's one typical whimper, from the Detroit News of April 1, the first day of the strike: "A prolonged strike by Teamsters would have a devastating effect on the nation's sputtering economy." That's supposed to make us think it's the Teamsters' fault.

But the reason the economy is "sputtering" has nothing whatsoever to do with a

nationwide Teamster strike (this is the first one in history) or any other strike.

### PROFIT SYSTEM

The economy is on the rocks for one reason: the capitalist system of private profit does not work. Every few years that system

### More Teamster coverage:

Why They're Striking . . . . .	3
Dollars & Sense . . . . .	8
Poster . . . . .	6-7

goes through a crisis, bringing mass unemployment in the wealthy nations, and mass starvation in the poor ones.

In every crisis, the employers try to save their system by sticking it to the working people. What they want this year is for that line on the chart to keep going down.

If the newspaper publishers, employers, and politicians had enough guts to be honest, they would say they want the Teamsters back to work because that would mean more money for them and less for working people.

Working people have had enough of that. The Teamster strike can begin to turn things around. That's why we say, "Support the Teamster Strike."

# Rodino Bill: Legalized Racism

by Richard Levy

The U.S. government is threatening foreign workers who work in the U.S., with bills in Congress and court decisions.

Senator James Eastland has now come out in support of the House Rodino Bill (HR-982) by introducing a similar version in the Senate.

Eastland is a racist plantation owner from Mississippi and chairman of both the Senate Judiciary Committee and its subcommittee on immigration.

Both the Rodino and Eastland bills would levy a fine on employers who knowingly hire foreign workers without documents.

The workers would lose their jobs and get deported to their country of origin.

Furthermore, this legislation will

strongly encourage racist discrimination against U.S.-born workers who are or appear to be of foreign background. Employers and governmental institutions would have the road completely open to harass them.

## DIXON-ARNETT

But this is not all. The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of the Dixon-Arnett Act. It is an even more extreme California version of the Rodino Bill.

Dixon-Arnett had previously been invalidated by the lower courts on the grounds that the state of California had no jurisdiction on immigration matters.

Also, California Congressman Sisk has introduced a bill that

would require workers to prove that they are citizens or legal immigrants before they are issued a social security card.

This bill would also require all workers to get new social security cards so there would be no possible escape from this police-state measure.

We must oppose the Rodino-Eastland bills and all the legislation against immigrant workers with or without documents.

As a minimum, we must demand

total and unconditional amnesty for all workers without documents who are currently in this country. But this is not enough.

It is very difficult for workers without documents to organize or join existing unions. "La Migra" (Immigration and Naturalization Service) collaborates with the employers again and again to intimidate workers without documents.

These forces prevent them from effectively defending themselves. Legal, financial, organizational

help from the whole labor movement can provide a minimum of security and encouragement to workers without documents so they may organize against their exploitation.

Some organizations, notably the Coalition Against the Rodino Bill, have begun to work on these necessary tasks.

[For more information contact Coalition Against Rodino Bill at 911 S. LaVerne Ave., Los Angeles, CA (213) 487-4171.]

## labor notes

by Jim Woodward

The National Labor Relations Board has an unusual definition of what a worker is. **Hospital Interns**, for the period of their internship, are among the most exploited people in the medical "industry." Eighty hour work weeks are normal, leading to fatigue and substandard medical care. Yet, according to the NLRB, interns are not workers because part of their work involves learning. So the NLRB has ruled that hospitals do not have to bargain with unions of interns. According to one doctor, the board "has publicly affirmed that the profits of hospital employers are more important than the welfare of workers or the sick."

Maybe he should resign? We thought readers would be interested in UAW President Leonard Woodcock's own admission that he doesn't know what to do about bankruptcy or runaway plants. It's from his speech to the UAW Bargaining Convention last month:

"The most letters I get in my office, are from UAW members who have been UAW members for 20 or more years and who are victims of a runaway plant or a bankrupt plant. And they write and say, 'My God, what can I do? It takes practically all of my income to pay the Blue Cross-Blue Shield premium. What can I do?' Beyond saying we've got to pursue the political task, I have no answers, and sometimes the anguish in those letters brings me almost to the point of tears."

Michigan Governor Milliken recently admitted that some employers have been given access to police files on political activists. A suit filed by the Human Rights Party says that Ford and Chrysler have been among the companies getting information. Over 50,000 names are in the files of the Michigan "Red Squad," proving once again that the purpose of these files is to help those who really run this country weed out any and all "troublemakers."

The United Farm Workers union has signed a three-year contract with a citrus growers cooperative in California's Coachella Valley. The contract will raise farm workers wages to \$3.25 in the third year. The UFW has won almost 200 representation elections since last September. But this is only the ninth contract resulting from those elections, due to continuing grower resistance.

The leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Textile Workers Union have agreed to merge their two unions. Conventions of both unions must approve the merger in June. If it goes through, the merged union is expected to begin a new organizing drive against southern textile companies.

Shouting, "We want to eat!" five hundred trade unionists stormed Caesars Palace casino in Las Vegas last week during a two-week strike against fifteen hotels and casinos. Fifty-four pickets were arrested in clashes with the police. Lou Paley, president of the Nevada AFL-CIO, sent telegrams to national AFL-CIO leaders urging them to boycott Las Vegas until the strike was settled. Newspaper accounts did not indicate whether similar telegrams had been sent to the leaders of the Teamsters Union.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Labor Notes, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.



## An Ugly Policy -

## For An Ugly System



A Mexican youth waiting to cross the border.

It is no accident that repression against foreign workers comes at a time of large scale unemployment in the U.S. The history of immigration to the U.S. in this century clearly shows why. Booms have produced relatively lax policies towards workers without documents. Busts have brought about their most severe persecution.

The Great Depression witnessed the establishment of a police state terror in the barrios and fields of the Southwest.

One half million people were deported, including 200,000 U.S. citizens of Mexican descent.

Mexican workers and their families were arrested in street sweeps and taken to trains headed back to Mexico.

In the recession of the 1950's the infamous "Operation Wetback" resulted in more than one million deportations.

Finally, Operation Clean Sweep initiated in 1972, resulted in 200,000 being deported in the first four months. In 1974, 788,000 were deported.

The Southwest accounts for the largest number of deportations, usually of Mexican workers. But workers of many other nationalities are also affected.

In the East Coast, for example, this especially affects workers from the Caribbean countries.

### LIES

We are continually told lies that make workers without

documents responsible for every conceivable ill of this society. These workers are falsely blamed for unemployment.

Yet we are told nothing about how the multinationals invested \$78 million overseas in 1971 alone in order to avoid union wage rates and taxes at home.

As a matter of fact, workers without documents make a disproportionate contribution to the U.S. capitalist economy.

They are paid much lower wages than citizens or legal immigrants for the same work.

And a recent Labor Department study had to acknowledge they are paying more in taxes than they reap in government social benefits.

This study showed that more than 70% of workers without documents had federal income and Social Security taxes withheld from their pay.

But very few collect tax refunds or Social Security benefits, for fear of being found out.

For the same reason, only 1.3% of workers without documents received food stamps and 0.5% receive welfare payments.

While 44% paid hospitalization insurance, only 27.4% used hospitals or clinics.

We must ask why these workers come to this country in the first place.

Unemployment and poverty in Mexico, the Caribbean and many other areas force workers to come here. These workers make incredible sacrifices—leaving their families and friends, living in a climate and a culture they are not used to.

They do this to get a lousy paying job in the U.S.

They work in car washes, garment sweatshops, non-union construction, restaurants.

The unemployment and poverty in the countries they came from is not a natural phenomenon like an earthquake or hurricane.

It is created by their ruling classes with the strong and indispensable help of the U.S. government and corporations.

Then the U.S. government and corporations expel immigrant workers when capitalism here has no more use for them.

Ultimately, only international socialism can solve this problem by abolishing economic and underdevelopment, unemployment and the very idea of borders, visas, and "green cards."

### Workers' Power 154

Copyright © 1976 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Gay Semel. Production Manager: Kay Stacy. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty. Published weekly, except the first week in July and the last week in December. 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 Alternative Press Index and microfimed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.



# WHY THEY'RE STRIKING

by Gay Semel

DETROIT—Jim Taylor is a road driver for IML Freight here. Even before the official Teamster strike was announced, Taylor was ready to strike.

At a rally called here by Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC), six hours before the Master Freight Agreement expired, Taylor told Workers' Power:

**I'm going out because I'm mad. They don't give us shit. All they do is ask, ask, ask. We pay, pay, pay. And they take, take, take. And they don't give shit. No grievance procedure at all.**

"The pension fund is practically broke... They run the hell out of us. And you call the union and they say, 'well, we'll work on it,' and that's the last you hear of it."

Taylor isn't the only angry one. An office worker from Overlay and

Western said she is going out for better fringes, not wages.

"The hospitalization stinks. I'm a Teamster and so's my husband. And we still have to pay any time something happens."

A city drive from Central said he wants better "benefits, health and welfare." Most of all he wants paid sick days. Others said they want a decent pension plan.

All want a decent contract. That's why they are out. That is also why, if Frank Fitzsimmons has his way, their militancy will end in

IBT President Frank Fitzsimmons was forced to call a strike by the anger and organization of the IBT rank and file. But Fitzsimmons has no intention of fighting for the demands of the ranks.

As Steve Kindred, TDC organizer told the rally, "There's no sense in fooling ourselves. The companies are very clearly determined to bust us and to bust our union."

"They offered 13% over three years. They have nothing but contempt for the people sitting across the table from them in Chicago.

"They learned a long time ago, on the golf course, in the bars, in the fancy motels, and when they're lobbying with them down in Washington that these guys have forgotten how to fight."

The proof of Kindred's words is in Fitzsimmons' "Final Compromise" offered to the employers before the April 4 deadline.

It did not even mention most of the issues that Teamsters are concerned with: job security, working conditions, a decent pension plan.

The wage proposal would leave Teamsters with less real money in 1979 than today. Gene Fleszar, a Detroit TDC leader, told over 400 Teamsters at the rally why.

## LOST \$1.15

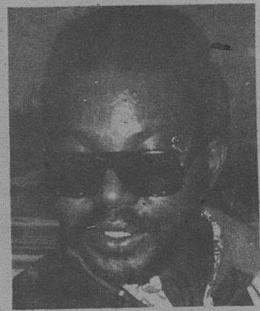
"We have lost roughly around \$1.15 in the last three years through the cost of living. If we don't have that \$1.15 initially, we're behind the 1973 contract right away."

"So when they're talking about \$1.25, they're referring to this as new money; they're not even considering what we've lost."

"A dollar and a quarter is not satisfactory; it definitely won't do, because all you'll be getting then is roughly about 10c over the next three years of new money."

"And I know that inflation is going to go up a lot faster than that 10c. That 10c will be eaten up so fast it's unbelievable."

To further confuse things, as soon as Fitzsimmons called the strike he offered the companies a way out—the "Interim Agreement." Fitz offered that any employer willing to sign would not



Jim Taylor

## IT CAN BE DONE

What would you think if you heard that the Teamsters Union somewhere else is fighting for a bigger wage increase over one year than Fitz is demanding for freight in a three-year contract?

How about if someone told you the employers there have already offered more in one year than they're offering over three years in freight? And that the Teamsters have turned that down and walked out on strike?

## ALL TRUE

Well, it's all true. And the Teamsters involved are not some fancy Caps Canaveral rocket technicians that the union's advertising agency keeps putting on billboards. No, they are truck drivers. In British Columbia, Canada.

The Teamsters Union in British Columbia is the same Teamsters Union that freight workers in this country belong to.

The union is demanding \$1.40 increase in a one-year contract. By an 83% vote, the 4500 drivers and warehouse workers rejected an employer offer of \$1.05 the first year and 90c the second.

And on March 24 they walked out on strike. Amazing, isn't it, what the Teamsters Union can do if it wants to.

be struck.

On the surface, the money in these "Interim Agreements" looks good and is better than the "Final Compromise." It includes an increase of \$1.75 over three years and no cap on the cost of living.

## THE CATCH

The catch is in the word "interim." The agreements will be superseded by any subsequently negotiated national agreement—better or WORSE!

What these agreements add up to is the Teamster officials are letting the trucking companies buy out of the strike for a little more each week than the regular salaries they pay. And cost of living over a few weeks amounts to next to nothing.

Like the "Final Compromise," the "Interim Agreement" says nothing about the issues of fringe benefits, job security and working conditions that brought over 400,000 Teamsters out.

As we go to press, all noises from the negotiating table indicate that Fitz will come back with another sellout offer shortly. Rank and file Teamsters must be prepared to turn it down.

Teamsters for a Decent Contract has put forward a minimal bargaining proposal. They are calling on all Teamsters to reject any contract that does not include the following:

- \$2.00 an hour
- Full Cost of Living
- 12 sick days
- job security—end casualization
- voluntary dispatch after 40 hours
- no flexible workweek
- right to strike-over grievances
- right to vote on supplements

Said Ken Paff, TDC National Secretary, "We say, let's strike for what we want—not what Fitz wants!"



TDC Organizer Steve Kindred (above) speaking to enthusiastic Teamsters at pre-strike rally in Detroit's Patton Park (below).



## STRIKE ON

Continued from page 1

employers."

The effect of this strategy was clearest in Chicago, where union officials refused to join the strike. The Chicago locals—including the Chicago (Independent) Truck Drivers Union (CTDU)—are technically covered by a separate agreement.

In fact, they bargain in conjunction with each other. But Ed Fenner of the CTDU and Louis Pelck of Teamsters Local 705 claimed they could get Chicago employers to sign the interim agreement and so kept out of the strike. In fact, as of Thursday night, the major Chicago employers were refusing to go along with this scheme.

Another threat to the strike will likely be a Taft-Hartley anti-strike injunction. Fitzsimmons is expected to seize on Taft-Hartley as a ready-made excuse to halt the strike.

There is just one way to win the strike; and that's with continued rank and file organization. TDC's efforts are what got the strike called in the first place. And even though it's an official strike now, Fitz will take the first available opportunity to sell it out.

That's why the rank and file has to stay continually involved and active—keeping the strike solid and strong, and ready to fight the sellout Fitz is sure to come up with.

## FIGHT TAFT-HARTLEY!

For days, the news media has been spreading the word that the government will end a Teamster strike with a Taft-Hartley anti-strike injunction.

Labor Secretary W.J. Usery confirmed on the first day of the strike that such a step was being considered.

According to one plan reported to have come from the National Security Council, the government intends to get a Taft-Hartley injunction on the fifth day of the strike.

This plan also included the possible use of the National Guard and Army reserves against the strike.

A Taft-Hartley injunction is a major weapon the employers have against a strike. But there's one way to stop it cold.

A Workers' Power reporter was discussing Taft-Hartley with a road driver for Gateway just after the strike had begun.

"This is our strike and we'll go back when we get what we want," the driver said. "The injunction is only a piece of paper."

That's the attitude that can beat Taft-Hartley and any other anti-strike injunctions the employers can obtain.

If the rank and file is strong

enough to stay out and win, they're strong enough to beat an injunction. It's a question of power.

Teamsters for a Decent Contract is urging Teamsters to send telegrams to the White House, stating their determination to win a decent contract, Taft-Hartley or no Taft-Hartley.

Other workers can support the Teamsters through their rank and file organizations and local unions.

Get these groups to pass resolutions opposing use of Taft-Hartley against the Teamsters, and to send that message to the White House in telegrams.

## MASS PROTESTS HIT WAGE FREEZE, LAYOFFS

**JAMAICA**—Widespread strikes and demonstrations met the government's new economic measures here.

Prime Minister Manley announced increased taxes and a \$10 a week limit on wage increases.

He cited an expected decrease in revenues from the sugar and bauxite industries as the reasons for the measures.

These two pillars of the Jamaican economy are suffering from dropping prices.

The argument didn't go over very well with Jamaican workers.

One of the largest food packers on the island dropped its offer from \$15 to \$10 after the new policy was announced. Workers remain on strike for \$25.

### UNEMPLOYED PROTEST

Unemployment is on the rise, especially among bauxite workers. Two plants have closed and 500 were laid off at another.

The unemployed are not accepting the situation either.

For two days, unemployed workers stormed the Ministry of Labor offices, demanding work.

Riot police were called in. On the third day, the protesting workers were put on the government's "Crash Programme."

They are given work such as sweeping streets, and paid a few dollars more than the starvation level minimum wage.

Prime Minister Manley has said the "Crash Programme" is necessary to "prevent revolution in this country."

Manley's People's National Party government is being challenged by an even more pro-capitalist, pro-imperialist party, the CIA-backed Jamaica Labour Party.

One of the reasons for Jamaica's economic chaos is that employers who support the JLP are trying to sabotage the economy to throw out the PNP and install the JLP. □

# LEBANON

## It's A War For Equality

by Dan Posen

Fighting in Lebanon has left 20,000 dead, maybe many more. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat claims that 16,000 of his forces and their left-wing allies have been killed.

The bankers and hotel operators who gave Beirut its appearance of glittering prosperity will probably never come back.

This war is confusing to most people.

The TV news gives the idea that Lebanon is being burned to the ground by gangs of machine-gun toting bandits so carried away by their orgy of destruction they've forgotten why they've started fighting in the first place.

Or, you're given the impression of a war between crazy religious fanatics who are simply too intolerant to live together in peace.

The truth behind the destruction of life and property is different.

The civil war in Lebanon is being fought over the kind of life most of its people have been forced to lead. A truce of a month ago failed to solve a single one of those issues, and the fighting began again.

### EQUAL RIGHTS

The war began a year ago because extreme right-wing Maronite Christian parties were determined to crush the movement of poor and working class Moslems for equal rights.

The right was also out to smash the bases of the Palestinian resistance movement in Lebanon.

These right-wing parties, especially the semi-fascist Phalangists, also wanted to tighten their own control in the Christian communities. Their armed militias hold considerable power there even though only a minority support them.

Moslems and Palestinians fought back, battling the right-wing armies to a stalemate.

Then the government of Syria stepped in as a "mediator." This move was warmly welcomed by most Palestinians and Lebanese Moslems.

Syria is known for talking a tough pro-Palestinian stand in Middle East debates. It even has a reputation as a left wing force.

It seemed to Lebanese Moslems only natural that Syrian President Assad would force the defeated Christian-dominated Lebanese regime to step aside, to allow them basic constitutional reforms and full political rights.

Instead, they found themselves being sold down the river. □

Syria's proposed "settlement" was not only to leave the economic and social structure of Lebanon unchanged.

### DISARMED MILITIAS

The Syrian regime even used Palestinian forces which it supplies to police Moslem neighborhoods, disarm radical Moslem militias and protect the palace of right-wing Christian President Suleiman Franjeh.

Syria's government took this position in the name of protecting a "united Lebanon."

In fact, Syria believed it could use its support among Palestinians and poor Moslems to prevent them moving toward social revolution.

Syria's government also wanted to win favor among Christian politicians by propping up their power.

The cease-fire then disintegrated, because of Syria's complete, brutal sellout of the most basic demands of Lebanese Moslem workers and peasants.

The Lebanese Army fell apart as Moslem soldiers and lower officers deserted. They left to form a separate fighting force to back their demands for equality.

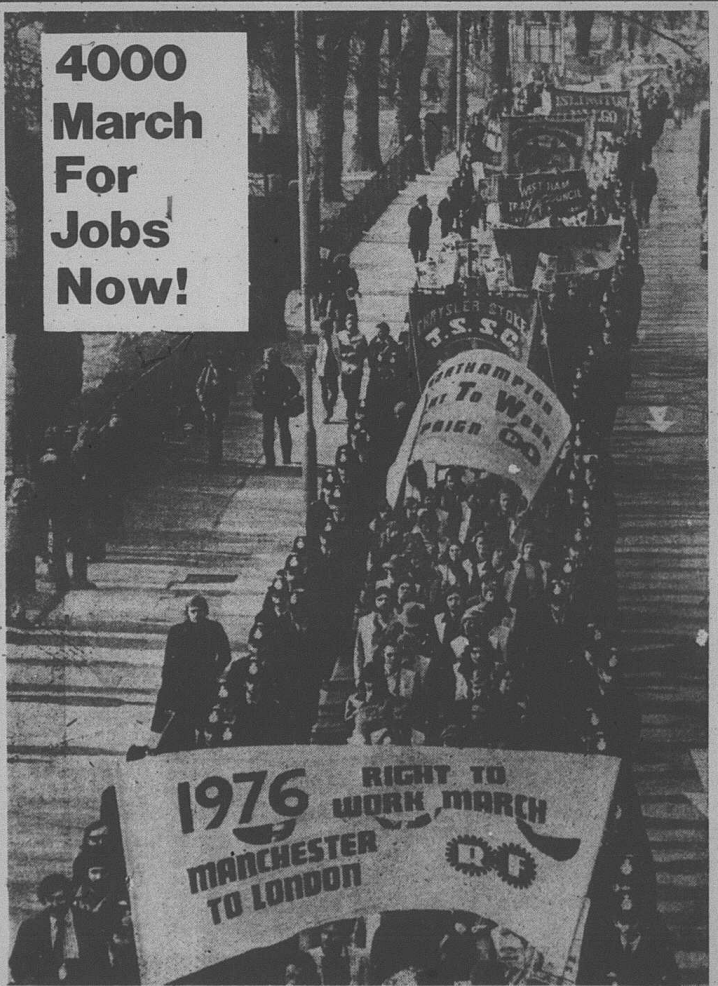
This time they are determined to finish the job they started, to smash the right-wing armies for good. They want to drive Franjeh out of power and take control of enough territory that the right cannot form a breakaway Christian splinter state.

That is the basis of the present raging struggle.

Real peace for Lebanon is far away. The economy is shattered, unemployment is staggering and there is little sign of independent working class organization in the midst of the civil war.

There are few promising prospects for the masses of Lebanese until the problems of the Middle East are solved by socialist revolution.

It is certain, though, that until the total defeat of the right wing armies of the Phalangists and their allies there can be no peace at all in Lebanon. □



Four thousand people packed London's Albert Hall March 20 in a mass rally against unemployment. The rally marked the end of the largest march against unemployment in Britain since the Great Depression.

The three-week march covered 340 miles between Manchester and London. Everywhere it went, it drew support that kept its size at about 80. Local groups of workers and trade union bodies sent delegations to join the march as it passed through their areas.

The marchers demanded no layoffs, a short work week at full pay, full trade union rights for unemployed workers, and other measures to stop skyrocketing unemployment.

The march and national campaign against

unemployment was organized by the National Rank and File Organizing Committee, with full support from the International Socialists in Britain.

It is the most successful action organized by socialists in the British labor movement in decades.

The day before the final rally, the 80 unemployed workers on the final leg of the march were viciously attacked by club-swinging police as they reached West London.

There were 35 arrests and several serious injuries. A young miner was knocked out by police clubs and remained unconscious for nearly three hours.

In response to this outrage, three thousand people joined the march from West London to the rally the next day. □

## Arab General Strike Rocks Israel

Six Israeli Arabs died at the hands of police in Tuesday's general strike of Arabs in Israel.

Israeli Arabs lived under military rule until the 1960's. Since then they have supposedly been "full citizens" of the Zionist state.

But there can be no "full citizenship" for Arabs in a state which claims the right to seize Arab land, expel its occupants and hand their possessions over to settlers.

### LACK RIGHTS

Israeli Arabs cannot bear arms or serve in the military. Except for a tiny group that loyally serves the Israeli state machine, they are treated as fourth-class citizens.

Their rights to housing, education, jobs and culture are trampled on as a matter of course.

Now, like the Palestinians in

Israel's occupied territories, Arabs in Israel itself are in full-scale revolt.

They are part of the same national resistance struggle as the Palestinians fighting Israeli police in Gaza and the West Bank.

In Nazareth, East Jerusalem and other heavily Arab towns, massive police and military occupations may put down the immediate wave of protest.

But Jewish Israeli workers can not afford to believe the government's lies that Arabs in Israel are "well-treated," happy, and generally loyal.

They must soon begin to realize that Israel's only hope for survival is the total dismantling of Zionism and the end of a state that claims exclusive rights for Jews.

Politics in Israel will never be the same again. □



# HEALTH CARE - OR PROFITS?

Portland, Oregon's Emanuel Hospital is expanding. The over 60-year-old facility will become a large medical complex. But instead of bringing hope and comfort to area residents, the hospital's plans are stirring up resentment and anger. Why?

"Urban renewal has long meant: 'urban removal,' most surely of black people, from property they hold which has suddenly become valuable or useful to the institutions of white people," said Mrs. Leo Warren of the Emanuel Displaced Persons Association.

The hospital is located in the inner city. In the 60 years of operation up to 1972, the facility's school of nursing had graduated only one black RN.

Black employees are still concentrated in the lower-paying house-keeping and nurse aide department.

The expansion has been in the planning for eight years.

In 1968, the Portland Development Commission (PDC) approved a plan for Emanuel Hospital to acquire "19 surrounding blocks of acutely substandard housing."

In the next two years, residents formed the Emanuel Displaced Persons Association to protect themselves.

The EDDA researched the plans for relocating the people whose homes would be destroyed.

They discovered that while the plan made no provision for the special needs of blacks, it specifically extended special consideration to the "non-blacks (who) are in the minority" of the neighborhood.

## CONDEMNED

They found that the list of housing available for relocation included dwellings that were condemned, and some that were already occupied.

By 1972 it was quite clear who the hospital considered its community.

The hospital president boasted to civic groups of Emanuel's decision to stay in Portland's "core area."

At the same time, he was begging these businessmen to provide easy access ramps off the freeways so rich white people

could use Emanuel without having to drive through the ghetto.

Another insult to the community came when the building which housed the Fred Hampton Free People's Health Clinic was bulldozed.

A spokesperson for the clinic asked for a guarantee of 20% minority hiring in construction of the new wing.

The hospital replied that they had neither the time nor the money to "look for minority employees or create new jobs."

## POSTPONED

In April, 1973 came the big surprise. After destroying a community, the hospital "postponed indefinitely" the building of the wing because of a curtailment of federal funds.

An EDDA spokesperson commented, "...this would never have happened in a white neighborhood. The hospital would have had the money first before putting people out of their homes."

In late 1974, the hospital began construction again after issuing bonds and obtaining loans. They are now receiving \$17 million in guaranteed loans from government agencies.

However, all this money will be frozen if Emanuel's affirmative action program is found wanting.

That is why the hospital administration is trying to silence the Black Employees' Committee. (See accompanying article.)

The new wing will have 98% private rooms. How many welfare patients will see the inside of this wing? How many area residents? □



Building for the rich, tearing down for the poor.

by Karen Woods

## TWO SUSPENDED FOR FIGHTING BACK

PORTLAND, Ore. — Two nurses at the inner city Emanuel Hospital here have been suspended indefinitely in connection with their activity in the Black Employees' Committee.

The Committee has been organizing for an end to race discrimination in hiring, promotions and patient care since March.

Recently, four new black employees have been hired. But the hospital continues to harass BEC activists.

The nurses were originally suspended for only ten days to supposedly serve on a hospital "fact finding committee," to investigate the charges of the BEC. But they were effectively banned from the hospital.

Employees report that the "fact finding" committee is not communicating with the BEC.

The nurses have stated their intent to return to work April 3.

### B.A. BANNED TOO

The hospital's non-professional employees are represented by SEIU Local 49.

The local's business agent, Dan McDermott, has been banned from the hospital premises except by appointment through the nursing service. McDermott has supported BEC.

Black and white hospital workers are publishing a newsletter, the Grapevine. It informs workers of their rights and of workers' struggles at the hospital.

The BEC and the Grapevine hope to make Emanuel a hospital that serves the needs of the workers and the community. (See accompanying article.) □

# Cincy - It's Your Turn Now!

The UPSurge has now hit Cincinnati.

On Saturday, March 27, 150 UPS workers met at the Holiday Inn in nearby Covington, Ky., to get things going.

They came mainly from Cincinnati, but also represented Dayton, Columbus, Lexington, Ky., and Louisville.

Ray Furnish, a Cincinnati steward introduced the first speaker, Vince Meredith, chief steward from Louisville, explained the importance of building for a strike April 30.

The UPS central states contract expires that day.

"Vote no on the first offer," he said. "We'll get a good contract on the picket line."

### BUILD A GROUP

Jim Reeder, the UPSurge steering committee member from Indianapolis, explained how the Indianapolis UPSurge had been organized.

He urged Cincinnati UPS workers to "build a group here in Cincinnati."

Charlie Teas, the steering committee member from Columbus, warned UPS workers not to fall for the company's red-baiting.

"A lot of people get scared when the company tells them there are socialists involved in this."

"But remember, socialists built this union, so let's let the socialists help us clean up the mess to get a decent contract."

John Jaspers, the UPSurge steering committee member from Columbus, had already set UPS back a step.

The week before, he called the workers on his shift in early to explain the union's contract demands, which he received from UPSurge.

But a supervisor interrupted the meeting, which was held in the lunchroom, off the clock. The foreman discharged Jaspers.

But Cincinnati UPS ran into a "little efficiency problem" that night. The company was forced to call Jaspers back, with apologies.

John Urso brought greetings from Detroit Metro UPSurge and told how UPSers were organizing throughout Michigan.

### SUPPORT FREIGHT

Finally, Anne Mackie, editor of UPSurge, called on all UPS workers to support the freight strike.

She said there was no way UPS could force anyone to cross picket lines.

"They can't force us to work in unsafe conditions," Mackie said.

She added that if the government broke the freight strike with a Taft-Hartley injunction, UPS workers would have to be prepared to lead the way for everyone, by shutting down the central states in May and winning a decent contract.

After the meeting, a Cincinnati UPSurge was established.

Already the group is collecting signatures for the UPSurge petition and money for the fighting fund.

A delegation is planning to attend the UPSurge demonstration at the site of the negotiations in Chicago on April 10. □

# Arbitration Flops At UPS

Recently the leaders of New York UPS Local 804 IBT and New Jersey Local 177 IBT have tried to use arbitration to stop the company. Both attempts have failed.

In New Jersey, the issue was the firing of 11 drivers for appearance standards—long hair, goatees, moustaches, and sideburns.

In New York it was the involuntary transfer of all the full time inside workers from the 43rd hub in Manhattan to the Massp

Hub in Queens.

### REINSTATED

The New Jersey arbitration reinstated the fired drivers without back pay and ruled that goatees are acceptable. Beards, moustaches below the lower lip, long hair or sideburns were ruled unacceptable.

But the company is violating the decision. They are sending drivers

home, claiming that they have "beards" not "goatees." The company refuses to explain the difference between a beard and a goatee.

UPS has sent all full time workers a letter claiming it now has the right to enforce its full appearance standards.

The letter says, "Except for moustaches described above, employees shall be clean shaven." It doesn't even mention goatees.

This isn't the first time New

Jersey UPS has done this.

In the past, Local 177 won an arbitration decision permitting not only goatees, but long hair, sideburns, and moustaches below the lip.

But UPS refused to abide by the ruling, claiming it applied only to the two individuals whose cases were won.

### TRANSFERS

In New York the arbitration has approved the transfer of all full time inside workers from the 43rd St. hub to Masspeth.

This will leave only one major New York hub with any full timers working inside.

It's no secret that UPS wants to get rid of all the inside full timers and replace them with part timers as soon as possible.

Two years ago Local 804 lost a strike aimed at stopping the inside jobs from becoming all part time.

These decisions make it clear UPS can't be stopped by arbitrated decisions. Even in the rare cases when it loses, it just violates the ruling.

UPS workers in 804 and 177 are going to have to force their leaders to stop the relying on arbitration.

As UPSurge, the national rank and file UPS workers' paper says, they must start "using the union's power." □

# THIS IS "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"

Do you believe the Supreme Court protects your individual rights?

Not if you are gay, it doesn't.

On Monday the U.S. Supreme Court upheld state laws under which people can be arrested and sent to prison for homosexual activity in their own homes.

If you aren't gay and think this doesn't concern you, many of these same state laws in Virginia and 34 other states also prohibit forms of heterosexual activity, which 19th century lawmakers decided to label

"obscene."

### ENCOURAGES MARRIAGE?

Virginia argued for its law to be upheld on the grounds that "prohibiting homosexual conduct has an effect encouraging heterosexual marriages."

The Supreme Court's decision has nothing to do with an "interpretation of law." It is a political act.

The decision is aimed at killing the gay liberation movement's

aggressive struggle for a ban on anti-gay discrimination. It aims to force gays to return to lives of secrecy and fear.

It is also part of a long-term, growing attack on various decisions protecting individual privacy and civil rights for persecuted minority groups that were won years ago.

No one should think that court decisions in this country are "gradually widening democracy and personal rights."

This assault on the rights of gay people is an attack on everyone. □

**WORKERS' POWER**

**If The Teamsters Win  
We All Win...**

**SUPPORT THE  
TEAMSTERS'  
STRIKE!**





# SKILLED TRADES WAR AT LYNCH ROAD

by Enid Eckstein, UAW Local 51

DETROIT—Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly management has declared war on skilled tradesmen, members of UAW Local 51.

In the last few months management has taken away all their seating in their work rooms. Numerous safety violations have caused injuries to a number of tradesmen. The violations have gone uncorrected.

Skilled tradesmen are angry and have threatened to walk out a number of times.

The last straw came March 19 when a fire broke out in the paint shop at 11:00 pm.

At 12:29, with one minute left to the shift, management put all the millwrights on notice that they would have to stay as long as necessary to repair the damage.

They were told that it could be as much as thirteen hours.

The millwrights claimed that there was not that much work and besides there is a third shift that could easily repair the minor damage.

And so, most of the millwrights punched out, with the full understanding of their steward.

## STEWARDS ON NOTICE

The following morning Labor Relations informed the skilled trades steward, Malechi "Mel" McCree that he was on notice for violating the overtime sections of the contract.

That afternoon management upped their threats by also going after the alternate.

For the next few days, management continued their threats against a number of skilled tradesmen but never took any definite action.

And every day skilled tradesmen spread the word that if management messed with their steward, they would walk out.

Finally on Thursday, March 26 skilled trades held a meeting at the local hall with several representatives from the Region and the International present.

Skilled trades sent a message to Lynch Road management by extending their meeting well into quitting time.

But little was settled at the meeting other than a number of promises for follow-up action.

In 1973 many auto workers thought they had won voluntary overtime in the contract. This has been proven to be a farce.

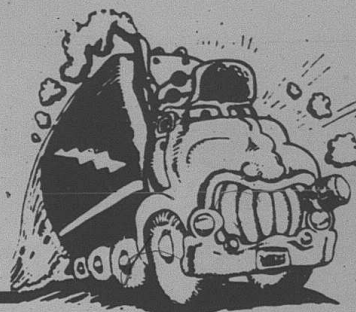
As it stands now, management can make employees work as long as they damn well please if they declare an emergency.

## DEFINE "EMERGENCY"

What is desperately needed, and what the union should be fighting for, is a clear, written definition of "emergency" so management can not call overtime at their convenience.

This is not the first time this problem came up. Back in 1973 Lynch Road workers fought for strong wording in their local agreement on this question.

Hundreds of people will now be fighting for this in the 1978 agreement. In the meantime, skilled trades have made it harder for management to do as they please, because they have told management that they mean business.



# Movin' On

by Kim Moody

## Teamster Strike: Dollars & Sense

Chances are that by the time you read this, tens of thousands of Teamsters will be on strike. As the final days before the expiration of the National Master Freight Agreement approached, strike sentiment mounted. At hundreds of local union meetings last weekend, Teamsters voted almost unanimously to authorize a strike.

And it's no wonder. This year's contract bargaining is the crowning touch to a determined attack by the employers. The employers' "final offer," which the membership rejected, was nothing less than a deliberate insult.

### EMPLOYERS' PROPOSAL

In money, the employers offered only 85c over three years. The cost of living clause was one of the worst proposed at any major contract negotiations in recent years. There would be no COL for the first year, and a 15-25c increase for the second and third years.

Additionally, the employers demanded that wages of first-year employees be lower than the base rate.

Even Frank Fitzsimmons could not go along with such a proposal. He knew full well that he couldn't get it ratified. Forced by the obstinance of the employers on the one hand, and the pressure of the rank and file on the other, Fitzsimmons was forced to talk strike.

The employers' arrogance at the bargaining table, however, is the latest of their many attacks on the living and working standards of workers in the freight industry.

### CONSOLIDATION

Like every capitalist industry that begins as a competitive one, the trucking industry has become dominated by a relatively small number of big companies. Twenty years ago most trucking firms were small, operating only regionally. Today there are a number of big trucking companies operating on a national level.

Also, twenty years ago, trucking was regarded as a low profit industry. No more. Today profit margins in trucking rival those of any giant corporation.

This trend toward larger, more profitable trucking companies had a price, however. For many smaller companies it meant being gobbled up. More importantly, it meant the employers became strong enough to launch an attack on the working conditions and wages won by the Teamsters Union in its heyday



A nationwide freight strike is the Teamsters only chance to protect wages from inflation and gain decent working conditions.

during the prosperity of the 1950's and 60's.

Now economic prosperity has faded into crisis, boom and bust, and the trucking employers have become even more vicious in their attacks on the workers.

Drivers are forced to take out unsafe equipment. Road drivers can now be made to drive 70 hours in 8 days. Casual workers are replacing steady workers to give the employers greater "flexibility." And inflation has left Teamster wages 10% behind what they were in 1973.

### UNION WEAKENED

In the face of all of this, the leadership of the Teamsters Union has done nothing. Or, rather, they have gone along with the employers' attack. Grievances on working conditions and health and safety matters are given away in the Joint Conference Grievance system.

In 1970 Fitzsimmons actually gave up the right to a 24-hour strike

that Teamsters formerly had. Without recourse to the strike, rank and filers and honest stewards are defenseless.

Now, in 1976, Fitzsimmons has been forced to reject the employers' insulting offer. But his final compromise is little better.

His wage proposal is for \$1.25 over three years. This is little more than catch-up money for inflation losses over the past three years.

Fitzsimmons' cost of living proposal accepts the employers' 25c cap in the second year, and contains an inadequate formula for determining the amount of each increase. That guarantees a falling standard of living once inflation heats up again.

### WHAT TEAMSTERS WANT

What do Teamsters want? They want to win back what they have lost in the past three years. They want to stop paying the bill for the safe jobs with decent working conditions—and a grievance procedure that can protect them on the job.

The insulting offer of the employers and the pitiful "final compromise" put forth by Fitzsimmons may mean that the strike will have to concentrate on money.

Many Teamsters who thought very little of Frank Fitzsimmons at least thought that he could use the union's enormous power to get a decent wage settlement. A lot thought that Fitzsimmons would use a half-way good money offer to hide his failure to beat back the employers' attack on working conditions. But few suspected that he would collapse on all fronts.

With their wages down 10% in the last three years, Teamsters cannot afford to sit back and let Fitz negotiate in peace.

While guarding against any retreats in working conditions, the rank and file must force Fitzsimmons to fight for more than his puny \$1.25 and his paltry COL formula. The Teamsters for a Decent Contract are waging that fight.

In spite of the harassment and attempts at intimidation, plenty of signatures were collected and the petition submitted to the union.

A special meeting will be held soon for the sixth floor workers, at which time it is expected the committee, Norman Woolton, will be voted out and a new election called.

Fleetwood management will find that their obvious preference for Woolton to remain committee member will backfire. Perhaps the next campaign at Fleetwood should be to "recall" some mad dog representatives for us.

### UNION RIGHTS

The membership will not be pushed around. This vicious campaign will not intimidate the membership from using their rights as union members.

Fleetwood is not a plantation or concentration camp—and we will not let them chain us up, gag our mouths, or pick our union representatives for us.

Union, Foremen Gang Up At Fleetwood

Workers at the Fleetwood Fisher Body plant in Detroit are trying to get rid of an incompetent committeeman, and finding out he has an ally—management!

A number of workers on the 6th floor circulated a petition which called for a meeting to hold recall proceedings; in line with the UAW Constitution.

Two foremen tried to grab what they thought were petitions out of workers' hands. One foreman bodily assaulted a man who had previously been petitioning in his area.

The assaulted workers received 30 days off for "refusing a direct order."

Two others who had been active in getting signatures and keeping them away from the foremen received a week's suspension for "absenteeism."

All three have filed charges against the company with the NLRB, for interfering with lawful union activity.

The Fleetwood Reporter, a rank and file publication in the plant, said, "Management hoped that the suspensions of three people and





# WE NEED \$\$ TO DEFEND THE REVOLUTION

## Revolução



The International Subcommittee of the I.S. has decided to step up efforts to raise money for **Revolução**. **Revolução** is the weekly paper of the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat, PRP, in Portugal.

All I.S. branches will hold a fund-raising event such as a pot-luck dinner, a slide show or a meeting to help raise money.

Trade union rank and filers who have visited Portugal will be available to speak to rank and file groups, union locals, I.S. branches, colleges, community groups or anywhere else meetings can be organized.

The timing of this fund raising is important. Money must come in quickly. The PRP is under attack by the Portuguese Government which is trying to destroy **Revolução** and the PRP financially.

### WHY THE ATTACK

Last November 25, the Portuguese revolution was severely set back. The capitalist government organized a right-wing coup, and thousands of revolutionary soldiers were then purged from the Army.

Practically every organization on the American left reacted to November 25 by giving up on the Portuguese revolution.

The I.S. did not give up on the possibility of a successful revolution. We understood that the main organizations and fighting strength of Portuguese workers remained—and that the PRP was organizing to re-build the struggle.

In these last few months, the movement of Portuguese workers has dramatically revived. Within this new struggle, the PRP has made very important gains. Where there used to be close to a dozen organizations on the revolutionary left, only three or four remain as any kind of political force.

The PRP is emerging as the most important. The success of the PRP is the key to the victory of the Portuguese revolution.

The Portuguese government and the ruling class understand this, too. That is why they have launched an attack on **Revolução**.

The strategy behind their attack is to cripple the PRP financially. The first step was forcing the paper to post the sum of 100,000 escudos (\$4000) bail, charging that an article in **Revolução** called November 25 a "reactionary coup." In other words, **Revolução** had to post \$4000 bail money for telling the truth.

The PRP expects other charges to follow. The government in Portugal is much too weak, has too little support, to launch a full-scale crackdown on revolutionary organizations.

Its strategy, instead, is to force the PRP to drain all its resources into court cases and fines.

### SOLIDARITY

In less than two years, the PRP has made enormous contributions to the world revolutionary movement. Its work in building mass organizations for workers' power, and a revolutionary party, have helped make socialism a real possibility again for the first time in thirty years.

It has also provided lessons we will learn from for years to come.

Right now, it is our job to pay back some of the debt we owe the PRP.

A very large proportion of the money we have raised in previous Portugal Solidarity Fund appeals has come from I.S. members. This time, we must reach a wider base, for funds to raise money in a hurry.

We are sending appeals to organizations which have supported the Portuguese revolution to enlist their help.

Some of our readers have also responded generously to previous appeals. This time, we need to hear from more of you. We know that money is very short. But there has never been a better time for international solidarity. Every dollar sent today will help keep the voice of the revolution alive. □

## HELP US BUILD THE CAMPAIGN!

Contributions to defend the PRP may be sent to Workers' Power Portugal Solidarity Fund, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

All I.S. members and friends can help this campaign by explaining the issues to their fellow workers. Why not get a few people in your workplace to contribute a few dollars apiece to defend freedom for the workers' press in Portugal?

We have other ideas for raising money, and would like to hear yours. If you would like to know about events in your area or how you can help us, call at (313)-869-3137.

## ATTENTION WORKERS' POWER SELLERS

In the center pages of this issue you will find a large, attractive poster urging support for the Teamster strike.

In addition, bundles of a smaller

(8 1/2" x 11") of the same poster have been sent to each I.S. branch with this issue.

We want to get these posters out and up and visible. Here's how.

• Insert a copy of the small poster in every copy of the paper before you sell.

• Encourage buyers to post the large one where ever they can.

• The small one is a convenient size for posting on bulletin boards at work. Make sure it gets there!

• Every I.S. branch is receiving extra small ones, beyond the number needed to insert in the paper. Take them with you when you sell. Encourage people to post as many as they can.

The Teamster contract is the first of many to come up after three years of inflation. The outcome will affect those that follow.

Build support for the Teamster strike. If the Teamsters win, we all win!

**WORKERS' POWER READERS:** You can get extra copies of the small "Support the Teamster Strike" poster from your nearest Power seller or the I.S. branch nearest you. Or call Workers' Power at (313) 869-5964. □

## Where We Stand

### WE OPPOSE

#### • Capitalist Exploitation

We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.

#### • Capitalist Control

Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.

#### • Oppression

Capitalism needs inequality—because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there and justify it. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the workforce when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.

#### • Capitalist Government

The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying, and wars.

#### • Bureaucratic Communism

Russia, China and the countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working classes of those countries.

### WE SUPPORT

#### • The Rank and File Movement

The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.

#### • Liberation From Oppression

We support the struggles of every oppressed group to end its oppression: the struggle for equality and justice by blacks, women, native Americans, and all oppressed people. Support from the entire working class movement will make both these struggles, and that movement, stronger.

#### • Socialism

Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.

#### • Workers' Revolution

But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.

#### • Internationalism

The struggle for socialism is world wide. Nations fighting to throw out foreign rulers must have the support of the international working class as in Angola today. So must every struggle of working people to end their oppression, as in Portugal today, and in Russia and Eastern Europe.

#### • Revolutionary Party

The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.

#### • International Socialists

The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

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## JOIN US

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 .....

Union .....

# Things Ain't What They Used To Be

by Gary Adams

Hollywood has finally discovered the working class—and working women at that.

Laverne and Shirley is a big step forward compared to most comedy shows with women stars. While shows like *Mary Tyler Moore*, *Rhoda* and *Phyllis* revolve around the romantic problems of middle class, professional women, whole segments of *Laverne and Shirley* take place inside the factory—where most working people spend over half their waking hours.

Laverne and Shirley are tough, down-to-earth women. They make crude jokes and dream of marrying rich men, all the while knowing it won't happen.

And although some of the writing is mediocre, the humour is clearly working class. When was the last time you heard *Mary Tyler Moore* say "you bet your buns"?

Laverne and Shirley is several steps above the fairytale world of most programs. Most programs about the late 1950's and early 80's showed middle class students surfing during the day and dancing the night away at the beach.

Laverne and Shirley work eight hours a day in the factory. They

share the dreams, the hopes and the disappointments of most working women. They depict real life situations. They lose more than they win, yet they can still laugh at themselves.

"GOOD OLD DAYS"

The major weakness of the program is that it is set in 1959—when American capitalism was enjoying its most stable and

prosperous years.

Laverne and Shirley share all the naive hopes and beliefs of that period. Inflation and unemployment are totally outside their world. Like most American workers in those years, they feel confident and secure about their futures.

The show's theme song reflects those feelings: it includes phrases like "There's no stopping us"

and "We'll make all our dreams come true." This is no accident since *Laverne and Shirley* is a spin-off of a program called *Happy Days*.

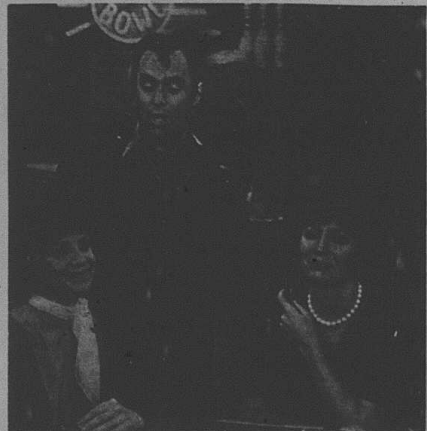
1970s WORKERS

With *Laverne and Shirley*, Hollywood has discovered the existence of the working class.

But Hollywood is afraid of discovering the working class of the 1970's, an angry and militant working class fighting the system.

That's why it has to set shows like *Laverne and Shirley* in 1959.

[Reprinted from *Workers' Action*, monthly newspaper of the Canadian International Socialists, available from I.S., Box 339, Station E, Toronto, Ontario]



Laverne and Shirley: A big step forward compared to most comedy shows with women stars.

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TEAMSTERS ARE  
TALKING  
ABOUT

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or more copies

# PUT RACISTS ON THE RUN

DETROIT—Members of Women Against Racism and the Red Tide confronted the Region 7 School Board on March 22 over the issue of school violence.

The week before the school board meeting, fighting between black and white gangs erupted at Denby High School. Several students were beaten up, and one was shot.

The school administration called out legions of cops to arrest mainly black students.

Inside the school they held a meeting with the students where the students were told to police each other in order to maintain discipline at the school.

Members of Women Against Racism demanded an end to discrimination against black students in terms of suspensions and arrests.

Eliasa Clarke, a member of Women Against Racism, said, "Blacks have been bused into hostile neighborhoods, and this has caused problems.

"This is especially true in Region 7 where the racist anti-busing group, Mothers Alert Detroit, has been strongest.

RACISM CITED

"The fact of the matter is that members of Mothers Alert Detroit don't want blacks bused into their neighborhoods," Clarke stated. "This has created tensions which have broken out in major fights at Columbus and Denby schools."

The president of Mothers Alert Detroit, Carmen Roberts, is on the Region 7 School Board. She interrupted Women Against Racism speakers, and red-baited them.

"Women Against Racism is an offshoot of the International Socialists, isn't it?" Roberts said. "They represent socialists. But I represent Americans."

Roberts attempted to discredit Women Against Racism because of the group's reputation for taking on the racists, not only at school board meetings, but also by demonstrating against them.

Mothers Alert Detroit was dwindling in numbers and activity until recently. But an upcoming visit to Detroit by Alabama Governor George Wallace has given the group new life.

RED TIDE

Frank Runninghorse, a member of the Red Tide, spoke about the Red Tide's effect in calming the racial warfare at Denby. He pointed out that the heavy police security won't resolve the racial tensions.

"Look at the prisons," he said. "You can't get much more secure than that, but that hasn't stopped prison riots."

The Red Tide distributed a leaflet at Denby entitled, "Fight the Power. N\*\*\*\*r Each Other."

Said Runninghorse, "We were the only integrated group that did anything about the problem." □



# WORKERS' POWER

## UNITED ACTION GETS BIG VOTE IN NY CWA

by Steve Burns

NEW YORK—United Action (UA) has joined the leadership of CWA Local 1101 by winning a strong 30% of the vote in the recent convention delegate election. UA is a rank and file group of telephone workers.

United Action's top vote getter, Larry Scott, received over 1000 votes out of 3000 cast. Another opposition candidate came within 17 votes of beating an executive board candidate, with enough challenged ballots to affect the outcome.

During the campaign, United Action called on the membership to send the International a message that it is time to fight back. And that's just what the members have done.

It was clear from the campaign's outset that there was widespread dissatisfaction with the union leadership. Ilene Winkler, one of four UA candidates, said, "I found people turned on to what United Action was saying who for years

were afraid nothing could be done. But the downgrades and the union's do-nothing response really got people to look for a militant alternative."

### FREE BEER AND INTIMIDATION

As United Action's campaign gathered momentum, the local executive board responded with a "free beer" night and then by intimidation.

One UA candidate, Mike Urquhart, was threatened that he would have to "eat his leaflets" the next time he campaigned. But Urquhart refused to back down, he was supported by his co-workers. After that, United Action leaflets remained posted, and support for the UA campaign increased.

United Action fought the campaign around several issues—no overtime while there are layoffs; a shorter work week without loss of pay; no bargaining blackout on the '77 contract; and no contract—no work.

United Action candidate Larry

Scott, who is also a member of the National Black Communications Coalition, found enthusiasm for the United Action program "wherever I went—lunch meetings, on the shop floor, after work. People were upset that the union was doing so little to stop layoffs and downgrades. And they were burned up at AT&T's 'highest profits' publicity, too! People are really looking for alternatives—and they see one with UA."

### NEW CAMPAIGN

With the strong election results behind them, United Action is planning a campaign to gain overtime when layoffs occur, and to stop all downgrades.

The United Action newsletter is expanding its distribution network to keep workers informed on what's happening. Other meetings are planned for workers who want to learn how to organize and fight the company.

In short, the word is out in New York CWA: United Action lives by its name! □



Ilene Winkler, United Action candidate.

## Transit Union Set Back In New Pact

On Sunday, March 28, several thousand spirited transit workers rallied at Manhattan Center. They voted unanimously to strike to win a good contract. They made clear their unwillingness to bear the burden of the city's financial crisis. Spontaneous cheers of "no contract—no work!" "let 'em have it!" "strike! strike! strike!" and even "share the wealth!" broke out from the crowd.

Loud choruses of boos were reserved for Mayor Beame, President Ford, and the Transit Authority bureaucrats. There were cheers for every show of determination from the union leadership.

By Wednesday, March 31, the union had negotiated a last-minute dismal sellout agreement, trading productivity increases for a meager cost-of-living clause.

### REOPENER

No actual increase was won, but there is a reopener if other city unions do better.



Transit workers were ready to strike.

How did things deteriorate so far so fast?

A careful observer at the Sunday rally would have heard the union calling for "equality of sacrifice." They said that they recognized the city's difficulties.

The union leaders were shopping for a compromise they could sell to the membership. Now they have their compromise and the ranks will have to live with it for two years.

The key missing ingredient was the lack of rank and file organization. Without any organized opposition, President Guinan could say with confidence, "I'm sure the majority of our members will accept this contract."

The cost-of-living clause in the new contract provides for 1c for every .3 increase; in four steps over three years.

The strength of the COL plan

is that it has no cap. Its serious weakness is that it will not apply to new hires.

Details of the productivity arrangement have not been made final.

There will continue to be a need for rank and file action to fight the negotiated speedup that is coming.

As one transit worker said, "We have to find the hardest fighter, decide what we want, and go all out. Otherwise you can forget the whole thing." □

## UAW ENDS FORD STRIKE

United Auto Workers Local 228 at the Ford Sterling Heights axle plant voted two to one to end their six day strike over health and safety violations Monday.

Management agreed to hire 80 employees who will be at the disposal of the plant's joint labor-management safety committee.

Those hired will include 40 production workers, and 22 skilled tradesmen. The committee will meet weekly to assign them safety jobs.

The agreement also includes mandatory inspection of forklifts after every 200, 600 and 1,200 hours of use, and the keeping of daily logs on these vehicles.

### WAIVER

The most important part of the agreement won by the workers is the waiver of the usual procedures if there is any violation of the agreement within the next 60 days.

In the event of violations, the union can invoke a five-day strike notice immediately. The usual procedure can take up to four weeks to call a local strike over health and safety violations.

This part of the settlement adds teeth to the agreement.

There was no word on the 250 health and safety grievances that had built up in the plant, nor on the penalties given to the committee for calling a job action.

The Sterling Heights plant is the only plant that produces axles for Ford Motor Company. The strike had shut down the assembly plants in Metuchen, New Jersey and Dearborn, Michigan. These two plants will remain down the entire week. □