

# WORKERS' Power

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# Rubber Workers Shut Down Big Four



by David Katz

**DETROIT**—"You know how they put a yoke on a cow's neck?" asked a rubber worker here. "That's what this is," he said, waving at the Uniroyal plant across the street.

Sixty thousand members of the United Rubber Workers (URW) are on strike across the country against the four major tire companies. They feel they've gotten a raw deal over the last three years, and they've got good reason to think so.

Until three years ago, rubber workers had wage parity with auto workers. But without any cost-of-living allowance in their last contract, rubber workers have fallen \$1.65 an hour behind auto workers.

So the most critical demands in this year's negotiations are a catch-up wage increase and unlimited cost-of-living for the future.

No one can argue that this is not what rubber workers deserve. But the companies' offers have been nothing less than insulting. Typical was Firestone's: 60c the first year, 30c the second, and 25c the third. Goodrich's cost-of-living formula would pay a maximum of between 4c and 10c a year. That barely qualifies for cost-of-starving.

But already the union leadership is hinting that it might be willing to settle short again, as it did three years ago. Our "feet aren't buried in cement," was the way URW President Peter Bommarito put it, referring to the union's wage demands.



## G.E. Workers Strike

At midnight Monday, April 19, IBEW Local 2249 struck the GE refrigerator plant in Bloomington, Indiana. At issue are two grievances deadlocked at the third step of the procedure. The grievances concern crossing job classifications.

Quality control workers of grade B-20 were called in for Saturday overtime and told to do the work of a B-24 (a higher paid grade). On Monday management made the B-24's, who should have been called in the first place, recheck them all. The B-24s grieved for the missed overtime pay, and the B-20s grieved against the extra work load.

Similar problems, company violations of upgrade and transfer rights, triggered a wildcat here last month. A systematic management attack on all liv-

ing conditions has provided the steam behind the strikes.

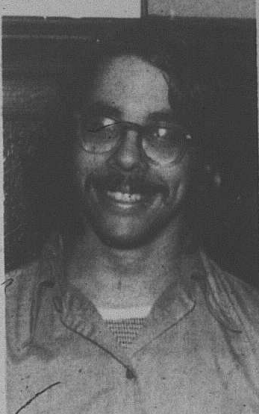
As one picketer put it, "I'm on strike for myself too. Everybody's being treated like shit and we've got to show them we won't take it."

The wildcat produced over 250 new union members, to put the total at almost 900 of a possible 1100.

Management is waiting a few days to judge the strike's effectiveness before opening negotiations. Parked in the back of a rented truck behind binoculars and telephoto lenses, they haven't liked what they've seen.

A potluck lunch on the first day brought out hundreds, and around the clock pickets have turned away any Teamster-driven trucks. The strikers have kept out all but about 50 of the regular workforce.

## Autoworker Tells "Why I support the rubber workers"



Bill Parker, UAW Local 51

The newspapers have been full of hints that everyone else will suffer because of the rubber workers strike. In particular, they say auto workers will be hard hit by layoffs if the strike continues long. Workers' Power feels that all working people will benefit if the rubber workers win, and lose if they are defeated. We asked one auto worker, Bill Parker of UAW Local 51, for his comment.

Right on to the rubber workers. Really they are round two in this contract year, following the Teamsters. If they get their demands for a cost-of-living same as ours, it will make it nearly impossible for Chrysler, GM and

Ford to do what they want—and cut ours down.

The auto companies want us to sacrifice more. But we read the news. Booming sales of autos means good times for the rubber companies.

This is the year we all have to move ahead. A lot of auto workers in Detroit went ~~out~~ to the picket lines to support the Teamsters strike. And we'll be behind the rubber workers as well. Their contract will affect ours so their fight is our fight.

### OTHER ISSUES

Although money is the most critical issue, it is not the only one. Pensions are another important topic, since no one can afford to retire.

Another grievance is speedup. One worker at the Detroit Uniroyal plant said, "The company is throwing it down our throat over there. People are doing two men's jobs."

Another worker, Ed Gaskell, explained that the situation had worsened when the company changed from bias-ply to radial production. Since there was new equipment, production standards were revised upwards. "They're forcing the cost of the new equipment on us," he said.

### CONTRACT ROUND

The importance of the rubber strike goes far beyond the tire industry. These negotiations are part of a major round of bargaining that covers workers in most major industries in the country.

The Teamsters were first. And while their settlement was largely a sellout, they won significant wage gains. If that's followed up by a big wage breakthrough in rubber, it could reverse the pattern of declining real wages that all American workers have suffered during the last five years.

The rubber workers could be on strike for a long time, but we all have a stake in their victory and a responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that victory.

# Behind Every President Stands A Watergate

AMERICAN DREAM

Gay Semel

Ford condoned Nixon's cover-up by granting him a pardon!

## Past Presidents

### Kennedy's Bugs

The official crime of Watergate was that under the direction of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, Democratic Party headquarters were broken into. The purpose of the break-in was to get information on Democratic Party candidates.

Nixon's crime was that he knew about it. But Nixon was not the first president to spy on his political opposition.

John F. Kennedy—the liberal President—had the following people bugged:

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Lloyd Noriman, Pentagon and Military Affairs consultant for Newsweek magazine.
- Robert Amory Jr., former no. 3 man in the CIA.
- The law firm of Surrey and Kavasik, which had lobbied for Dominican Republic sugar interests.
- Bernard Fall, the late French historian who had been in contact with Ho Chi Minh over a period of years.
- The chief clerk to the House Agriculture Committee.
- Lyndon Johnson had done the same.

## Future Presidents

### Humphrey's Limousine

The real frontrunner for the Democratic Party Presidential candidate is the non-candidate Hubert Humphrey.

Humphrey's closet is chock full of skeletons.

• According to Robert Maheu, former aide to Howard Hughes, in 1965 Humphrey accepted \$100,000 from Hughes in illegal campaign contributions. The money was delivered to Humphrey personally by Maheu in \$100 bills neatly stacked and packed in an attache case. In true undercover fashion the exchange took place in a speeding limousine.

• Humphrey's former press secretary, Norman Sherman, copped a plea for aiding and abetting illegal corporate donations to Humphrey's 1972 campaign. The amount involved was \$82,000.

## NIXON'S FINAL DAZE

In his last several months as President of the United States Richard Nixon came unglued.

He rarely came to "work." He was often drunk—often early in the day.

At night he was seen wandering the halls of the White House talking to the pictures on the walls.

By day he would call people on the phone or summon them to him for no apparent purpose. He would babble on, changing subjects and getting nowhere.



He flew into rages. He was paranoid and suicidal.

### GRISLY DETAIL

How do we know this? The whole story, in grisly detail, has been brought to us by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the two Washington Post reporters whose investigative reportage helped unravel Watergate.

The attention given their new book, "The Final Days," rivals that given to Watergate itself.

Even before publication, Newsweek published two lengthy condensations in succeeding issues; Time published excerpts, the national press ran the highlights and everyone vaguely connected to the Administration or the news media gave their opinion.

Why has the breakdown of one man caused almost as great a stir as the breakdown of the system?

Because Woodward and Bernstein and the furor surrounding the book would have us believe that the slime of Watergate is the product of one deranged mind.

They are wrong—Nixon's acts were no worse than those of Presidents before him—just sloppier.

The one crime Capitol Hill cannot tolerate is public exposure of its incompetence and corruption. Because Nixon was incapable of keeping his underhanded dealings quiet, he was hounded from office, treated like a criminal and held up for public ridicule.

### TAKING THE HEAT

The men who ousted Nixon were no better than he, but unless some one person takes the heat, the whole system starts to shake.

Today, nothing is changed: Anyone of the gang now running for President will do or has done things as terrible as Nixon did.

Keeping American capitalism afloat demands the continued plunder of the economies of the underdeveloped countries and political control of their governments. It demands wars, the CIA, the vicious junta in Chile.

It also demands bribery and political maneuvering in the advanced countries.

At home it means 10 million unemployed, the brutal oppression of blacks and other minorities.

In short, making profits for America's rich and powerful demands that the U.S. government do all the things it says, as a "democracy," that it is against.

So all those things must be covered up and hidden from the American people.

That is what Watergate, the bribing, the elaborate bugging equipment and the total political corruption was all about.

Nixon was not the first. He will not be the last.

### Reagan's Rip-off

In his 1970 re-election campaign, Reagan received \$100,000 from California Public Utilities Commission (PUC)-regulated corporations. In return, industries regulated by PUC were allowed gigantic rate increases, including over \$193 million in telephone rate increases.

### Jackson's Pipeline

Jackson is chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, which oversees things like the building of the Alaskan pipeline. This didn't stop Jackson from accepting \$250,000 in campaign contributions from Amerasia Hess, a large oil company with a large stake in Alaska.

## CARTER'S STINK TANK

Running right behind Humphrey is the ever-grinning Carter. Perhaps he's grinning over all the things he's gotten away with.

• Carter maintains the formal support of much of the black leadership within the Democratic Party. Even after his "ethnic purity" speeches.

But Carter's racism is more than words and political maneuvering. There are deeds. One reeks with the stench of Watergate.

As part of Carter's campaign machine for governor of Georgia in 1970 he maintained the "stink tank." Its purpose, like that of Nixon's plumbers, was to do the campaign's dirty work.

Carter was running against Carl Sanders for the Democratic Party nomination. Sanders was part owner of the Atlanta Hawks basketball team.

On one occasion, the stink tank printed a leaflet with a picture of Sanders getting a victory campaign shampoo from two black members of the Hawks. The leaflet was mailed out anonymously to white Baptist ministers throughout the state of Georgia, and others likely to be receptive.

• Then there is Carter's relationship with Lockheed. Lockheed's bribes to foreign dignitaries have recently become an international scandal.

Less publicized is Lockheed's domestic bribery. When-and-if that scandal breaks open, Jimmy Carter's name will be up there.

In 1972 Jimmy Carter went to Brazil, supposedly to promote the state of Georgia and to arrange for an annual exchange of private citizens.

In case you are wondering why the state of Georgia needed to be promoted in the brutally vicious and repressive, semi-fascist state of Brazil, that is not the real reason.

Carter went to Brazil to sell airplanes—Lockheed airplanes. Lockheed paid for most of the trip, and we don't yet know for what else.

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# BOSTON - ON THE EDGE OF RACE WAR



Boston's racists. Organized and deadly.

Report to Workers' Power by Mike Hirsch

**BOSTON**—The racial crisis here has deteriorated into a virtual war. The city is on the brink of disaster, with the situation worsening every day.

## VIOLENCE SPREADS

Racial violence has been in the news every day. Now, however, it is so widespread that attacks which don't result in serious injury are no longer seriously covered by local papers.

Early Saturday morning, April 17, a group of South End white youths attacked two black bus drivers. Three white drivers who came to the aid of their fellow workers were attacked and beaten as well.

A black person who may be caught outside all or mainly black neighborhoods is literally in danger of being beaten to death. Since the City Hall beating of black lawyer Ted Landsmark two weeks ago, this danger has systematically and steadily escalated.

Racist violence is openly encouraged by the South Boston Marshals, white vigilante organizers of an earlier violent Fathers March. They are now patrolling the streets of South Boston, 350 strong. "We're organizing against people straying over here," commented James Kelly of ROAR (the racist anti-busing umbrella organization).

South Boston is in what the Marshals call a "defense perimeter posture." Its residents will probably go outside the community to retaliate against blacks, in Kelly's opinion. He blames busing for the violence.

## RACISTS PROTECTED

As organized white gang vio-

lence escalates, black youths in Roxbury have begun stoning cars and attacking whites. Richard Poleet, a resident of nearby Jamaica Plain driving through Roxbury, was dragged from his car unconscious and almost fatally beaten with bricks and rocks. He remains on the critical list with massive brain damage.

In no way can these acts of violence, despite their tragic consequences, be considered the same. Young blacks, unorganized and powerless, are responding to racist attacks by turning on immediate, random targets.

By contrast, the white racists are organized, calculating and deadly. They are also well protected by the behavior of police and the nature of press coverage.

The media reported large-scale stoning of cars by blacks in the racially mixed Mattapan section. But only black radio station WILD reported that a little earlier, carloads of whites had come into the area randomly firing buckshot at homes and blacks.

The police officially say the level of violence is beyond their control. But their response has been massive deployment of patrols to occupy black neighborhoods.

## DEFENSE

One largely black community organization, the Roxbury Multi-Service Center, has attempted to provide a degree of protection and security by organizing a 24-hour "Crisis Information Watch" to intervene in potentially violent disputes in Roxbury.

This level of violent racial terror and lynch-mob organizing has not yet come to most other American cities. It did not have to come to Boston. But no one should be fooled. It can. And it might. It must be stopped.

## Teamster Ranks Lose Contract Suit

The Teamsters Union will conduct ratification of the national Master Freight Agreement as usual this year. That means each of some 40,000 Teamsters will vote on the national agreement and on all of the 32 supplemental agreements as one big package.

The supplements are local agreements in geographic areas or specialized agreements that cover steel haulers, office workers, or other groups. Three members of Teamsters

for a Decent Contract (TDC), along with four other Teamsters, had filed suit in federal court asking for a separate vote on the supplemental agreements.

That suit was thrown out by Federal Judge William Bryant after a hearing in Washington, April 20.

The suit asked that members vote only on the national contract and on their particular supplement.

The Teamsters Union sent its top lawyer to argue against that

position. He was supported by an attorney representing TEI, the employers association, and by a brief filed by Labor Secretary, W.J. Usery.

The employers argued separate voting on the supplements would lead to more strikes and larger settlements.

Usery claimed the separate vote would impede the delivery of milk and food to supermarkets—even though milk and grocery drivers are not part of the freight contract. □

## What We Think

# Self-Defense - The Only Answer

The anti-racist movement was badly set back Wednesday by some of its own leaders. Organizers of a planned "March On Boston to De-segregate the Schools and Stop The Racist Attacks," scheduled for April 24, cancelled the march in the face of the deepening confrontation.

The march was cancelled because of the collapse of its leaders' political strategy.

The organizers of this march—the NAACP, the Socialist Workers Party, black Democratic politicians and liberal organizations—had one, and only one, tactic in building and protecting the planned march. They have only one political program to protect blacks in Boston. That is to call for police protection.

### RESPONSE NEEDED

This planned march was in no way an adequate response to racism in Boston, but it was the only one planned.

At the very moment when a massive, organized, disciplined—but militant and tough—response was needed to answer the racist scum in the streets of Boston, the organizers backed down.

The march was to begin in an integrated neighbor-

hood, continue through Roxbury and end up in a downtown government building area, picking up supporters along the way.

The march organizers state they fear the march could not proceed safely in the face of the lynch mobs. Of course, the physical safety of people is a real concern in any kind of action.

But the organizers have claimed for months that they would draw upwards of 10,000 or more people from all over the East Coast. Given the real balance of forces today, no march of anywhere near that size, properly organized and marshalled, could be stopped by right-wing forces.

In-reality march organizers feared they would not be able to control their supporters if a racist attack occurred. Few of the angry Roxbury blacks who were likely to join the march's ranks believe the police will protect them.

They are organizing independently to subject black people to racial terror.

The escalation of racist brutality has forced black people to respond in a direct, unorganized way. In black areas such as Roxbury, the stoning of white-driven cars and beatings of individual whites are occurring. The attack on Richard Poleet is the most widely publicized example.

These unfortunate incidents leave the white thugs who perpetrate the racist attacks untouched. They occur because there is no organized defense.

That is what's needed to drive racist thugs off the streets and out of the black community. Racial violence subsides when the black community deals from strength, not weakness.

### DEFENSE STOPS VIOLENCE

There is a history of black self-defense that proves this. In 1961, in Bogalusa, Louisiana, the Ku Klux Klan was on a rampage. An armed, militant black movement called Deacons for Defense organized to protect the community.

The racial violence subsided. The Klan quieted down. And no innocent white citizens were in any way harmed.

The same story was repeated in Monroe, North Carolina when the NAACP under the leadership of Robert F. Williams armed itself for self-defense. The armed black community kept the racist night riders off its streets. And it disciplined itself to prevent random attacks by anyone on innocent passers-by.

That is the kind of movement desperately needed in Boston, right now. □

# labor notes

by Jim Woodward

Miners at Blue Diamond Coal Co.'s Justice Mine in McCreary County, Ky. have voted for representation by the United Mine Workers (UMW). The 126-57 vote came shortly after 26 miners were killed at the Scotia Coal Co.'s #1 mine in Owen Fork, Ky. Scotia is also owned by the Blue Diamond Coal Co.



The Teamsters Union in Vancouver, B.C. (Canada) appears to have lost its strike against the trucking companies there. But it really depends on how you look at it. The final settlement is a 95c wage increase in the first year, plus 20c fringe benefits; the second year it's 90c plus 20c. That's closer to the employers' original offer than the union's demand of \$1.40 in a one year contract. So Canada's teamsters didn't do so well. But if you're covered by the national Master Freight Agreement in the U.S., you might be wishing the Teamsters could lose one like that here.

When office workers employed by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) went on strike several months ago, we suggested that the union officials forced the strike to win approval of a dues increase at this year's CWA Convention. Turns out we were right. The CWA's latest proposal (rejected by the office workers) would grant cost-of-living increases "contingent on a per capita dues increase being approved at the 1976 CWA Convention."

Bernie Frye, president of United Steel Workers Local 3489 in Terre Haute, Ind., won reinstatement after being fired by Strand Steel. Strong rank and file pressure got Frye's firing changed to a 60-day suspension. He is likely to win re-election soon as local president.

In Nekooska, Wisconsin, three members of Paperworkers Local 52 were overcome by hydrogen sulfide gas while working on a sewer in a paper mill. They all died, but the fourth member of the work crew escaped because he had an air pack. He was the supervisor.

Guess who's printing free advertisements for one of the largest employers in the country? The United Rubber Workers union. In its April issue, the union's newspaper reprints, "as a public service", an advertisement that U.S. Steel Corp paid thousands of dollars to place in other publications. In the ad, George Meany praises the steel industry's no-strike agreement with the United Steel Workers.

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

## Unions Protest U.S. Tax Money In Chile

The powerful Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has secretly laid plans to offer insurance for investments of U.S. multinational corporations in Chile.

OPIC is a U.S. government-controlled, taxpayer-financed agency. OPIC insurance for investments in Chile is a move to strengthen U.S. support for the fascist dictatorship that has murdered and tortured tens of thousands of Chilean workers.

Officials of two world labor organizations have joined an effort being made in the U.S. to stop these plans.

Jean Bruck, the Secretary-General of the World Confederation of Labor (WCL) and Herman Rebhan, the leader of the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), have both sent communications to the U.S. on the matter.

Bruck has protested the forthcoming decision of OPIC by sending direct letters to the OPIC board, a dozen or more Congress people and an appeal to others to join in the protest.

Rebhan, whose 12 million member IMF is based in Geneva, Switzerland and operates in 65 countries, has sent a communication to six affiliates of the IMF in

the U.S. to alert them to the OPIC action so protests can be made.

The six U.S. affiliates are the United Auto Workers, the International Association of Machinists, the International Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, the Marine & Shipbuilding Workers, the Steelworkers Union and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The leadership of the AFL-CIO has not joined the protest over the OPIC move, although some U.S. unions are beginning to move on the issue.

These include the machinists, the UAW, the United Mineworkers and the Steelworkers. Other reports indicate that the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of America, with 500,000 members, may join the protest. Support on the protest against OPIC is being organized by the Union Committee for an All-Labor AFLD, a group that is probing CIA ties to the AFL-CIO's International Relations Department. They have emphasized that rank-and-file and local labor efforts are greatly needed.

Rodney Larson  
Research Associates International

# AUTO MOTION

## First of a Series

For 25 years, the United Auto Workers Union has been dominated by a powerful political machine. This machine has total control of the UAW International Executive Board. It has a close working relationship with the managements of the giant corporations.

It effectively strangles democracy in the union. Favors, threats and punishment keep the membership in line. The machine demands total loyalty from anyone interested in winning or keeping any union office—all the way down to the stewards or district committeemen.

Only those with strength and courage openly oppose policies of the top leadership and provide a new political direction for the union. The price these "renegades" pay is steady and unrelenting pressure

by Jack Weinberg

The UAW bureaucratic machine appears today as strong as ever. But for years, just beneath the surface, it has been rotting away. It will soon crumble.

This machine was built by Walter Reuther, and is now headed by Leonard Woodcock. In the next 14 months it is likely to fall apart like a house of cards.

In June, 1977, Woodcock retires and a new president will be chosen. It is an open "secret" that the International Executive Board is sharply divided.

So long as they can face the rest of the union with a united front, the old machine can live. But once the thieves openly fall out, the internal life of the UAW will quickly change.

### CLOSE PARTNERSHIP

Today, management policy is to put the screws to the membership. Speedup and layoffs are the easiest way to protect their profits.

The top UAW Leadership's policy is to permit only the most half-hearted and ineffective membership defense against management attacks. Officials fear that more forceful defenses would interrupt their close working relationship with management.

This relationship is built on the union leadership's commitment to the economic health of the industry.

These top officials no longer feel able to run the union without management's cooperation. They fear breaking with management much the same as a junkie fears breaking with heroin.

But for local union officers, it is becoming harder all the time to honestly defend the policies of the UAW leadership to the membership.

Lacking convincing arguments, most become hacks. They respond to the membership's legitimate concerns with meaningless double-talk, with lies, and with outright intimidation.

### CORRUPTION

In this kind of atmosphere, it is often the most corrupt and self-seeking individuals who flourish—at least for a while. But it doesn't take long for the membership to see through the corruption and doubletalk.

At first, many of the best union members get discouraged and demoralized. Change seems hopeless, particularly when the union hacks paint the finger of blame

and harassment from both the UAW hierarchy and corporate management.

This week Workers' Power begins a column for UAW rank and file militants. It will help prepare and arm us for the struggle ahead. It will provide background information on the companies and bureaucracy and their control of the UAW. It will show why conditions are now ripe for the membership to take it back. It will discuss past struggles of the membership.

This column will analyze and discuss immediate issues facing the UAW membership, strategies and tactics for building a rank and file movement.

We can return union power back to its membership.

directly at other workers—women, blacks, or apathetic fellow unionists.

Some conclude that the best thing to do is to kiss up to management. But management keeps squeezing, and the membership is forced to resist in order to survive.

Slowly but surely, this membership resistance is tearing apart the bureaucratic machine that controls the UAW.

### DAYS ARE NUMBERED

The Woodcocks, the Frasers, the Greathouses know their machine's days are numbered.

Either the membership will effectively rebel. Or sections of the present local leadership machine, under pressure from the membership, will break away. Or both.

International policies grow more and more out of line with membership needs. It gets harder and harder for them to continue demanding total loyalty from the locally elected leadership.

Under pressure now from the membership to fight for job and income security and from management to back off, the top leadership is being torn apart. When the companies had lots of profits to grant contract gains, the UAW executives were in firm control, and worked together as a smooth team. Now that they can't deliver a decent contract, they have begun to fight each other and blame each other.

### PROMISE

This is one of the reasons that we are facing the most promising conditions in the past 25 years for the growth of a massive rank and file movement inside the UAW. And only a movement can return the union's power to the membership.

Only a rank and file movement can revitalize the union and defend the membership against growing management attack.

This movement is beginning in the fight for good UAW contracts in 1976. Already a UAW Coalition for a Good Contract has been formed. This Coalition, with other forces in the union, will be able to change the course of 1976 UAW bargaining. This Coalition will make sure that the needs of the membership don't get lost under the big table in 1976. But it needs active UAW members to be that force.

Strong membership participation in the fight for decent contracts, in turn, will be the final wedge to drive apart the divided top leadership. This will make possible even greater membership influence in the UAW.



Slowly but surely, membership resistance is tearing apart the bureaucratic machine that controls the UAW. This machine is now headed by Leonard Woodcock (above) and is soon likely to fall apart like a house of cards.



# Leonard Peltier - Another Victim of the FBI

Leonard Peltier is a Native American from North Dakota and a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM). He is being held without bail in an isolation cell in Okalla Prison in Vancouver, Canada.

Peltier was arrested on February 6 in Jasper, Alberta, Canada. He is wanted in the United States on two charges of murder. The U.S. government is trying to bring him back for trial. The extradition hearing is set for May 3.

Peltier was charged with murder after the June 26, 1975 deaths of two FBI agents at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. To avoid being railroaded into prison or even killed, he went underground after the shooting.

## SCAPEGOAT

The truth is that Peltier was not even in South Dakota at the time of the shooting. He is being used as a scapegoat for the FBI, because they cannot come up with any evidence concerning the shooting.

Peltier is a leading militant for Indian rights. It is part of a concerted effort by the U.S. government to undermine and destroy AIM.

Peltier was arrested by the Royal

"If you hear that I hang myself, don't believe it"



Leonard Peltier arrested in Alberta by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He must be freed.

Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The RCMP works hand in glove with the FBI in the campaign against the native movement. It operates its own policy of harassment and victimization of native

people in Canada.

Peltier has had two court appearances since his arrest. The appearances were surrounded by extremely rigid security.

All native people wishing to

attend the hearings were forced to undergo total body searches and stripping before being permitted to enter court.

Peltier has never been convicted of any crime. He spent some time in the U.S. Marines. He was given a medical discharge because of a partially-paralyzed face resulting from a beating by police.

In Milwaukee he spent time finding jobs and housing for native people. He moved to Seattle to become part owner of a native run auto repair shop.

There he set up a halfway house for native people until he could help them find employment.

A committee has been organized in Vancouver and is building a defense campaign for Peltier.

The committee is getting support in the U.S. from AIM and the Native American Solidarity Committee, an organization of non-native people.

The Leonard Peltier Legal Defense Committee is working to stop extradition proceedings and win political asylum for Peltier. This would allow him to stay in Canada as a free person.

Peltier's life will be in extreme danger if he is returned to the United States.

He has been quoted as stating,

"... by the treatment I am already receiving, they have already condemned and convicted me."

Peltier's immediate concern for his life has prompted a hunger strike. Since being placed in solitary, he will not eat the food given him.

The danger of poisoning is high. As he told a friend at the first court appearance, "If you hear that I hang myself, don't believe it."

The FBI is judge, jury and executioner in this case. If they are allowed custody of Peltier, he will most likely be killed.

The U.S. Government will go to any means to destroy AIM.

## SUPPORT

Peltier is innocent. He is being held for political reasons only. He must be freed.

Send telegrams supporting Peltier's right to political asylum and an end to the victimization of native people to the Federal Minister of Immigration, Andras, Justice Minister Basford, and Prime Minister Trudeau.

[Send contributions of money or materials to Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, 1855 Vine St., Vancouver, B.C., Canada, or telephone 736-8944.]

# STERILIZATION OR UNEMPLOYMENT

by Karen Kaye

A government agency has revealed that over a million women in the U.S. work in jobs that expose them to chemicals that could cause miscarriages or birth defects.

More than twenty dangerous substances were cited in a report by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) which was prepared for a congressional hearing.

Not all the substances were named, but they include anaesthetic gases, lead, benzene methyl mercury, and vinyl chloride.

Apparently, no recommendations came with the report. NIOSH director Dr. John G. Finke said that current regulations covering use and exposure levels of chemicals did not take into account the protection of women of childbearing age.

## GENERAL MOTORS

General Motors is one company with plants using some of these substances. Its battery plants expose workers to lead oxide emissions that could cause birth defects.

Instead of making the work safe, General Motors does not allow fertile women to work in its battery plants in the U.S. and Canada.

Six women who work for a GM battery plant in Oshawa, near Toronto, Canada were told recently that they must prove they cannot bear children, or be transferred.

One of them is Norma James, 34. The mother of four had herself sterilized in order to keep her job. "I need that job more than



Women face special dangers on the job.

anything else," she said. It pays \$6.50 an hour. Because it is night work it allows her to care for her children during the day.

"I know I shouldn't have done it" (been sterilized) she said, "because I know it's not right that they should tell you you're not going to have any more children or else you can't work here anymore."

## DISCRIMINATION

Four of the women have filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission. They are

charging discrimination by the company.

The president of their UAW local, Abe Taylor, said he considers the company's action an invasion of privacy.

He also stated that the union would take up the issue through a grievance procedure or in contract bargaining this summer.

The director of the UAW's GM department, Irving Bluestone, commented that he has instructed UAW-GM locals to protect the equities of women workers who face this situation.

He added that "in the meantime, UAW safety experts are investigating the problem in depth."

Details of the union's plans were not available.

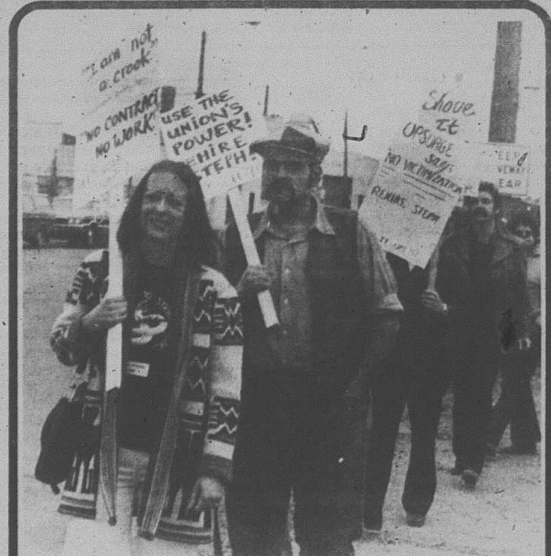
However, all the plans outlined by the UAW will take a long time. In the meantime, workers are daily being exposed to health threats, and women are being denied equal access to jobs.

No union should allow its members to work jobs that expose them to dangerous chemicals. Union members charged with overseeing safety conditions should enforce this principle, with work stoppages when necessary.

Investigations and statements will not force companies to stop unsafe conditions, but loss of production can.

Jobs that pose dangers only to women should be made safe so that women are not denied equal work opportunities.

It is up to the unions and the vigilance of the membership to protect the life and health of workers on the job and of future generations.



## "Guilty Until Proven Innocent"

Members of Teamsters for a Decent Contract and UPSurge set up a picket line April 20 in front of a Detroit UPS hub in support of fired driver Stephanie Batey. Batey was discharged the week before, supposedly because of a \$9.94 C.O.D. payment she had overlooked. In fact, she was fired because of her activities in UPSurge. Management is trying to intimidate people in preparation for the Central States UPS strike, widely expected May 1.

One UPSurge member told Workers' Power: "I think Steph's firing really illustrates the fact that we need the grievance procedure changed. I think we need to have 'innocent until proven guilty.' It could be two weeks, three weeks, four weeks, who knows how long until the issue is settled. And in the meantime, she's out of a job, and she's innocent."

Joe Reddo, a TDC member, said he and other freight workers were supporting Batey "mainly because she's being made an example of. They had to find somebody to make an example out of, and with her support of UPSurge and TDC, she was the best example in the barn."

The informational picket line was set up while the first grievance hearing was in process. Batey brought in petitions signed by 300 UPS workers supporting her. The signatures had been gathered in only one day and represent 25% of Detroit UPS workers.

Nevertheless, the company refused to back off and the grievance hearing was deadlocked. The next step is the state grievance board, which will meet April 23.

April 25, 1976 marks the date of two years of revolution in Portugal. The Portuguese revolution began in Africa. Successful national liberation movements in Portugal's former colonies Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, brought down Portugal's tottering fascist government.

The fascist regime was overthrown by dissident military officers on April 25, 1974. People poured into the streets to celebrate. In a "revolution of flowers," they put carnations on tanks and inside soldiers' gun barrels. But for Portuguese workers, the revolution could not stop with pink flowers and vague promises of future freedoms. For 50 years they had suffered repression, torture, starvation wages.

Today Portuguese workers are under a sharp right wing attack. But the revolution is still very much alive. In hundreds of factories all over the country, workers are fighting to maintain and extend their control of production. They are still building a movement to take all of society into their own hands.

This Workers' Power special examines some of what the Portuguese revolution has taught us, and where it is going.

# PORTUGAL-TWO YEARS OF THE REVOLUTION

by Dan Posen

"Portugal is like a pressure cooker. The lid has been kept on for a very long time, and if some fool lets the steam out all at once the thing will blow up."

So said a Portuguese senior government official back in 1972, two years before the revolution destroyed fascism. The "steam" he was afraid of was simply people—people who were ready to explode after decades of the worst poverty in Europe and the most vicious exploitation.

The pressure was already building up in the years before fascism fell, even when strikes were illegal and a striking worker could get several years in jail.

In 1969, 70,000 workers went on strike. At the giant Lisnave ship repair works, 5000 workers seized the shipyards. These workers were developing powerful traditions of struggle and solidarity. They would be leaders of the explosion of working class organizing to come.

But this was only the preview. On April 25, 1974, the fascist government was overthrown—the lid was off, and the "steam" exploded.

## WHOSE DEMOCRACY?

Portugal's first revolution—the democratic revolution of April 25—was not carried out by workers.

It was made by middle-class army officers calling themselves

the Armed Forces Movement. They moved with the support of some top officers. These military commanders, like Antonio de Spínola, realized the country was being destroyed by the fascist regime's colonial African wars.

Behind them stood the most powerful families and monopolies in Portugal—the Champalimauds, Espirito Santos, the giant conglomerate CUF.

The old regime was so rotten that everyone from the factory worker to the biggest boss, from the lowest sergeant to the biggest general, could agree on overthrowing it. But that same fact made it practically impossible to agree on anything else.

The democratic revolution means something very different to a

# "Power



Last spring and summer, Portugal's "second revolution"—the struggle of workers to take power—began.

A huge wave of factory occupations, and workers' takeovers at Republica and Radio Renascença, spread throughout the country. Massive demonstrations were held to resist violent right-wing attacks and to solidify the support of rank and file soldiers for revolutionary workers.

group that was involved in it.

## OFFICERS

For the junior army officer, it meant no longer dying on the front lines of hopeless wars in Angola and Mozambique.

The monopolies hoped it meant a more open economy, a chance to build up internal markets and link up with western Europe. They also hoped to end the colonial wars, but keep economic control of the colonies at the same time.

But for workers, the democratic revolution meant something even more profound—the chance to breathe, to speak, to organize openly.

A worker at British-owned Plessey's corporation described the conditions they had lived under:

"Fascism means... that you have no information about what is going on in other factories or the world at large. You cannot speak freely. You have no right to hold meetings... no such thing as unions. There are spies every-

# "This Land Is Ours Now"

For generations, peasants (farmworkers) in the central and far southern regions of Portugal (Alentejo and Algarve) watched large landowners grow rich on their magnificent estates. Meanwhile the workers in the fields slaved away in misery, at even lower wages than those in the cities.

In two years of revolution, things have drastically changed. Peasants occupied the estates. Hundreds of agricultural co-ops were organized. They began farming long uncultivated land. Landowners ran away or were forced to accept the peasants' demands.

The successive Provisional Governments had no choice but to recognize the occupations, even though most of them were "illegal" under the timid Agrarian Reform Law. Before last November 25 troops refused to be used to throw out the peasants.

This year, land occupations and the whole land reform program are under attack. The government calls for an end to "illegal" occupations. Mean-

while the far right and the Catholic Church want to smash all land reform.

Workers' control of factories and peasants' control of the land have gone hand in hand in the Portuguese revolution. Both are being attacked by the same enemies.

In a situation of economic crisis, worker-controlled factories come under tremendous pressure because they cannot find buyers for their goods on the capitalist market. The same thing happens to peasants' agricultural co-ops—they are boycotted by the capitalist distributors and supermarket chains who want to crush them.

This crisis cannot be solved until a socialist revolution destroys the capitalist market and enables the working class to take over total control of the economy. That's the problem all workers in Portugal now face.

Like the industrial workers, farm workers intend to fight to keep the precious gains they have won at so much cost.





# To Those Who Work"

## ON THE BRINK...

The second year of revolutionary struggle in Portugal has been even more turbulent than the first.

The last twelve months have seen extreme political changes and fluctuations. Revolution and right-wing reaction have developed side by side, growing in response to each other.

Revolution, especially working class revolution, has no easy, straight-line road to power. It is an uneven process which faces many obstacles and inevitable setbacks.

In April and May, 1975, workers' pressure forced the government to nationalize over half of Portuguese-owned industry. Workers realized that capitalists' power and property must be totally broken to prevent the return of fascism.

This was the beginning of the conscious struggle of workers to take power. But in the summer of 1975, a coalition of pro-capitalist forces joined forces to attack them.

This is not surprising. Many of those who make the loudest, bravest speeches about revolution and freedom at the beginning of a revolutionary process turn up on the side of capitalist repression

when the exploited masses of workers step forward to solve their own problems.

This is exactly what happened in Portugal. The first stage of counter-revolution in Portugal last summer was organized under the banner of the Socialist Party.

The Socialist Party did not really exist in Portugal before the overthrow of fascism. It is a party organized and led by middle-class lawyers and politicians.

While SP politicians called for the state to crush workers' control in the name of "discipline" and "freedom," the extreme right used their cover to burn down union and left-wing political headquarters.

The SP's attack succeeded in bringing down one government and bringing in a more right-wing one. But it did nothing to break workers' determination.

Last September, October and November the advance of the revolution reached the point where workers taking power became a real possibility.

In September and October, the government lost control of the

army. Rank and file soldiers refused to accept discipline, would not be used to suppress workers and joined the working class in mass revolutionary demonstrations.

Many of these actions were led by Soldiers United Will Win (SUW), a revolutionary movement of rank and file soldiers.

Committees of popular power, the popular assemblies, began drawing together the struggles of workers, tenants, peasants and soldiers in common mass organization.

The government considered leaving revolutionary Lisbon and moving to the north. They also tried to move right-wing commando units into place to break up the most revolutionary army units.

For three weeks, or more, Portugal appeared to be on the very brink of civil war.

Then on November 25, 1975, the revolution was set back. The government carried out a successful coup. Left-wing units were broken up. Over 100 militants were arrested. Wages were frozen. The forces of reaction won their first big victory.

## The Struggle Continues!

The five months since November 25 have been a difficult time for the Portuguese working class. Its ability to withstand the disappointment of defeat and the shock of repression have been tested.

One small example shows how workers are trying to go back on the offensive. At the beginning of February, a majority of the 4000 workers at the Manises Goncalves textile plant, demoralized by the repression and economic crisis, voted to ask the old bosses to return and take back the running of the plant.

Now, two months later these same workers have changed their minds. They are waging a new struggle to throw the bosses-out again. This case is not isolated.

Economic battles have restored workers' confidence that they can defeat right-wing forces. The political struggle is once again as intense as the struggle in industry.

In the southern town of Beja, on April 3, a right-wing party called an election rally. Workers came out to protest, resulting in a major street battle.

When police arrested workers, a crowd surrounded the prison where

they were held.

Workers' militancy won over half the troops who were sent to guard the prison. They came over to the demonstrating workers—bringing their guns with them.

This was the first major case of soldiers violating right-wing military discipline since November 25.

### BETRAYAL

The Portuguese working class has missed one chance to take power. The revolutionary situation that existed for nearly a month last fall ended on November 25.

However, the defeat of one revolutionary situation—a crisis in which an insurrection and the seizure of power is possible—does not mean the end of the general revolutionary period that has existed in Portugal for over a year.

The working class failed to take power in November for one major reason, above all. Its struggles, and those of the soldiers, were sabotaged by the Communist Party.

The revolutionary workers' party, PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat) threw its resources into preparing the working class, the workers' commissions, and the popular assemblies for the insurrection that was needed to win power.

However, the Communist Party remained by far the largest organized force among the working class. To keep its control of revolutionary workers in its own ranks, the CP put itself at the head of gigantic workers' demonstrations. It kept alive the hopes of tens of thousands of its members, that it would lead an assault on the capitalists' power.

But the real aim of the Communist Party leaders in November was to increase their influence in decisions of the capitalist government.

They also hoped to provoke an

unprepared clash in which the revolutionary left would be smashed by the military command and the government.

When the government staged its coup against the revolutionary army units on November 25, CP supporters were among those arrested and jailed.

Yet the Communist Party remained in the government. It is still there today, and hopes to have more seats in the new government following the April 25 elections.

In recent weeks the CP, which leads key sectors of the powerful national unions, has sabotaged nationwide strikes on the pretext they would disturb the election.

### ROAD TO VICTORY

The key element in the future success of the revolution rests on the need to politically defeat the Communist Party. This means winning thousands of its militant worker members to the revolution, to the revolutionary party which fights for workers' power.

In the last few months the PRP helped organize a strong anti-repression movement. At the same time it has worked to build workers' economic struggles and to create the chance for those struggles to go back on the offensive against capitalist rule.

The struggles of the Portuguese workers in two years have shaped the PRP, from a small underground revolutionary group to a revolutionary workers' party.

The growth of the PRP, in turn, depends on how rapidly the most militant workers re-gain their confidence that a new revolutionary offensive can succeed.

In four months the Portuguese working class struggle has survived the test of repression and revived its strength. Soon, it will face even more decisive battles.



On June 17, a demonstration for workers' power mobilized 40,000 people, called by the Revolutionary Councils of Workers, Soldiers and Sailors. A month later on July 19, revolutionary soldiers in uniform—and in tanks—showed up to support a rally of workers' and tenants' commissions. Then on August 20, 150,000 workers marched through the streets of Lisbon in support of the struggle for popular power and against reaction.

where. It is terrible... a complete isolation where you cannot even talk to other workers freely."

Those conditions had held most workers' wages under \$30 a week, for 45 or more hours of work.

To Portugal's workers democracy meant freedom to change those conditions, to get revenge on the factory spies, the fascist managers and the secret police. It was like a powerful fresh breeze blowing through a choking swamp.

### HEATING UP

At first everyone seemed to love Portugal's new freedom. But the capitalists and senior military officers soon had second thoughts.

They were delighted to see cheering crowds with carnations, the symbol of the democratic revolution. But when huge strikes broke out for \$240 a month living wage—in the post office, electronics and textiles plants, in hotels and transport, and in the shipyards—that, the capitalists thought, bordered on "irresponsible adventurism" and "anarchy."

The factory owners were for democracy—as long as its result was more investment and black ink in their account books: As soon as workers' freedom began cutting into profits, the factory owners changed their tune.

From May 1974 on, it was the tremendous activity of the Portuguese working class, unleashed by the overthrow of fascism, that pushed forward the struggle for democracy. The working class fought for democracy with mass organization and direct action.

They elected workers' committees to lead rank and file struggles, in local factories and throughout whole industries. They organized masses of workers for a unified union movement. They began cleaning right wing editors out of the papers and radio stations.

In the army, rank and file

soldiers and lower officers forced out top officers who were known fascists.

The struggle heated up rapidly. Within a few short months, the capitalist ruling class was trying to stop the struggle for democracy that its own anti-fascist coup had unleashed.

### THE SECOND REVOLUTION

In the first 11 months, the capitalists tried two right-wing coups. The first was on September 28, 1974 and the second on March 11, 1975. Both failed. Each time workers poured into the streets, built barricades and broke the back of right-wing forces.

America and western Europe began an economic blockade of Portugal. Banks and industries inside Portugal began shipping their money out. Workers responded the only way they could. They occupied factories to save their jobs.

The struggle for democracy rapidly began turning into a second revolution—a working class socialist revolution.

Hundreds of workers' commissions began setting wages, deciding working hours and figuring out how to sell products. Many bosses simply ran away or stopped all investment.

At the government level, the tremendous upheaval forced the senior military officers out and forced the middle-class Armed Forces Movement officers to take power early in 1975. To hold their own base together, the MFA had to make fantastic concessions to workers' control.

After a year of struggle, no one talked about carnations any more. The issue was power. Workers were rapidly learning they had to take it—or be crushed. In summer 1975, the working class went into the streets again—this time calling for the socialist revolution.



Since last November 25, armed right-wing police have again appeared on the streets to break strikes and attack demonstrators.

# CITY COLLEGE WORKERS STAGE SICKOUT

by Chris Richards

NEW YORK—Employees of New York's City College held a two-day sickout April 19 and 20.

Three hundred secretarial, custodial, and maintenance workers, members of ten locals of AFSCME District Council 37, had voted overwhelmingly the week before to stage the action.

The action was taken in opposition to the Board of Higher Education's (BHE) plan for four-week payless furloughs and forced vacations.

Workers are boiling over at the threat of a month without pay, and then having no vacation time left for the summer.

This comes on top of the wage cuts, loss of short summer working hours, and speedup already suffered by all city workers.

Victor Gotbaum, Executive Director of DC 37, has done nothing to stop the attack.

Following last week's sickout vote, Local 384 President Dorine Julius visited City Hall and announced that management could do as they wished and the sickout would receive no union backing.

## REAFFIRMED

But at a meeting the next day, the members reaffirmed their decision.

Workers at Hunter College and Queens Borough Community College supported the sickout. Meetings were held at other schools, but rebellion was squashed by union Executive Board members loyal to the leadership.

Meetings are being held this week to build for more effective actions in the future.

The problems BHE employees face are tied to those of all city workers.

A newly formed committee, the Public Workers Action Committee, intends to argue for the need for strike committees in each work location and union local.

A general strike by city employees will be necessary to smash the wage freeze and protect jobs and services.

The confusion and demoralization which followed Gotbaum's disastrous sellouts of last year are being gradually replaced with a new determination to fight back. □

## Steel Festivities Stymied

GARY—Steel workers protesting a loss of union jobs, succeeded in defeating the high time planned by U.S. Steel. The company was celebrating the 300 millionth ton of steel poured at Gary Works.

Company officials and Indiana politicians were greeted by a picket line set up by the United Steel Workers as they entered the plant to take part in the festivities.

At issue was the transfer of clerical jobs from Gary to company offices in Chicago. Thirty members of USW Local 2695 face layoffs or demotions because of the transfer.

What most concerned the steel workers on the picket line was that clerical work done in Chicago was non-union. They couldn't see losing union jobs to the company.

About a dozen politicians refused to cross the picket line, including Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher. The politicians that did go inside heard U.S. Steel Midwest Vice President William Haskell say how fitting it was that the 300 millionth ton was poured during the bicentennial.

We think it was more fitting that the 300 millionth ton was celebrated with a picket line by the people who produced it. □

# MAY DAY The Fight For The 8-Hour Day

by Barbara Winslow

May 1 is May Day—the international workers' holiday.

In the United States, May Day began in the struggle for the 8-hour day, a hundred years ago.

In the United States, the labor movement arose immediately after the Civil War.

A catastrophic economic depression in 1873, left millions unemployed and impoverished.

That, along with a savage assault by both employers and the government gave birth to a militant working class movement.

In the 1870's there was a wave of strikes in textiles, mines and among railroad workers.

In 1877, striking railwaymen and their wives and families, along with unemployed sympathizers took over towns and cities in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia in an attempt to win better wages, working conditions and unionization.

In all three strikes, the employers and the government united to fight against the working class.

## UNIONS ILLEGAL

Trade union members and labor leaders were blacklisted. The courts decreed that unions and unionization were illegal. State legislatures passed vicious anti-labor laws.

In spite of this, the strike wave invigorated the working class.

A national labor organization, the Knights of Labor, was formed. It was dedicated to labor solidarity.

Thousands of workers became socialists, formed socialist organizations, organized Labor Parties, unemployment demonstrations and ran as labor and socialist candidates in elections.

By the 1880's the working class began to organize for a labor holiday and for the 8-hour day.

On September 5, 1882, the first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City.

Over 30,000 women and men, black and white seamstresses, bricklayers, furriers, freight handlers, cigar makers and others

## WORKMEN'S HOLIDAY

How May 1 Was Observed Throughout the Country.

### MANY BIG DEMONSTRATIONS

Everything Passed Off Peaceably and Without the Slightest Friction.

### DEMANDING AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Carpenters Indicate Strikes in Several of the Large Cities.

### AWAITING THE OUTCOME IN CHICAGO

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 1.—"Special" greatest parade of org. a Louisville...

Newspaper report of mass May Day actions, 1886.

Rise like Lions after slumber  
In unvanquishable number.  
Shake your chains to earth like  
dew  
Which in sleep had fallen on you.  
Ye are many, They are few.

Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1815

workers] wanted everything else that the craziest socialist or maddest anarchist could suggest."

Other newspapers warned that the 8-hour movement would hurt the economy.

The New York Times said that "strikes to enforce the demand for 8 hours work a day may do much to paralyze industry, depress business and check the reviving prosperity of the country..."

However, the working class refused to listen to attempts at patriotism and red baiting.

Rather, as a popular song went:

We mean to take things over  
we're tired of toil for naught!  
But bare enough to live on: never  
an hour for thought

We want to feel the sunshine; we  
want to smell the flowers.

We're sure that God has willed it  
and we mean to have 8 hours

We're summoning our forces from  
shipyard, shop and mill;

Eight hours for work, eight hours  
for rest, eight hours for what we  
will.

And on the first May Day over 350,000 workers in over 11,500 places went out on strike.

## CLOSED DOWN

In Chicago, according to one newspaper, "Every railroad in the city was crippled, all the freight houses closed and barred, and most of the industries in Chicago were paralyzed."

Eleven thousand marched in Detroit, and 25,000 in New York City.

It was estimated that of the 350,000 who marched, over 185,000 workers got a shorter work week as a result of this agitation.

But more important, the fight for the 8-hour day, and for a workers' holiday, led thousands of workers to organize into unions.

Thousands of others learned to fight racism and build labor solidarity.

And finally it helped build labor and socialist organizations that would help the working class in their greater struggles in the future. □

marched through New York City.

They carried banners which stated "Labor Must Be United" and "We Must Crush Monopolies. Let Them Crush Us."

Two years later, the New York Central Labor Council led all workers to join together in other labor day.

"No distinction of color will be made; race prejudice will be ignored; religious differences will be set aside."

## DEFY THEM!

Other labor organizations, such as the Minneapolis Trade and Labor Association, called upon the working class to organize.

"...we call on you to show that we defy them; that you will organize; that you have organized; that the day of deliverance is approaching."

In every one of these demonstrations, the leading slogan was "8 Hours a Day to Constitute a Days' Work."

The government, the church, the employers and the press did everything they could to prevent the 8-hour movement.

They tried red baiting. One newspaper said that the 8-hour day was "Communism, lurid and rampant."

The Chicago Mail wrote in 1886, "In addition to the 8 hours [the

# Boycott Budweiser and Michelob

ST. LOUIS—Bottlers are striking Anheuser-Busch here and at their eight breweries throughout the country.

The members of Local 1187 IBT have been out for 55 days. They are striking for changes in the work rules and the grievance procedure.

Supervisory personnel, their wives and "office boys" hired within the past few weeks have been operating the plant. Management is claiming production of 60% normal capacity.

The strike has remained solid, but local members have complained about lack of support from the International.

## INJUNCTION

An injunction limiting two people to a picket line has enabled beer to move out of the brewery.

Before the injunction, management attempted to move beer out by railroad. Several hundred bot-

tlers stopped it.

For the past ten days, beer drivers and helpers Local 133 IBT, have also been on strike, against the St. Louis beer wholesalers association. No beer moved in St. Louis except for scab operations.

On April 20 Lohr distributors

brought beer to its terminal and sold package goods from its stocks.

Tavern owners crossed the picket lines and picked up beer. Picketers asked the owners to honor their lines, but most owners did not. There was no violence.

The IBT International has called

a boycott of all Anheuser-Busch products. They are Budweiser, Michelob, and Busch-Bavarian.

One striker on the line at the St. Louis brewery told Workers' Power, "All we want is a decent wage to work and to win our grievances." □

# TDC Pushes By-Laws Change

DETROIT—The Detroit Metro chapter of Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) has published the first issue of a newsletter. Called "Detroit Metro CONVOY," it will be distributed to members of Teamsters Local 299 here.

One of the most important issues in Detroit now is the resignation of Local 299 President Dave Johnson. Johnson quit shortly after he proved unable to control the membership during a two-day wildcat strike protesting the nation-

al freight settlement. His resignation is effective July 1.

The logical successor would normally be the Local's vice-president. However, Vice President Dick Fitzsimmons, son of the International President, is one of the most unpopular members of the Local. If Fitzsimmons were appointed to succeed Johnson, the result would certainly be chaos.

TDC is campaigning for a new election to replace Johnson. They

are circulating a petition, asking for a vote on a by-laws change which would require a new election. The petition also favors two other by-laws changes. One would provide for election of Business Agents. The other would mandate monthly membership meetings.

Another important issue in the local is the national contract. TDC is urging Local 299 members to vote no, and will hold a rally against the proposed contract at the local hall on April 24. □



# A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Dear Workers' Power,

I thought the article on abortion by Dorreen Leitz and Karen Kaye in issue #152 was very good.

It started me thinking about a pregnancy of mine that ended in abortion before abortion was legalized anywhere in this country.

Because I knew a sympathetic doctor, I was given the name of a retired obstetrician who did abortions at \$200 each. His office was in a large city over a five-and-ten.

It was surreal to walk through aisles of merchandise to buy back my own body. In those days unmarried women couldn't get reliable birth control.

In the waiting room with its

one-way mirror were mostly nervous white women like myself.

The doctor had a grey-haired black assistant, who was courteous but not exactly friendly. Her sisters, after all, were raising their mistakes.

My heart sank when he said it would cost not \$200, but \$600. In cash. After the third month it would be too dangerous to do at all. My man and I struggled to earn and borrow money soon enough.

Finally I came back with the money and was strapped to the table in a tiny room. They told me there would be no anesthetic, because that was more dangerous than the operation.

It was the old-fashioned D-and-C abortion, which took about 45 minutes. (The new thing takes about 10.)

I got through it, I think, because that black woman, that sister, sat beside me and held my hand. I felt she didn't like me because I was white, but she loved me because I was female.

She held my hand real tight, like she was pumping into me centuries of woman-strength, tempered by enduring because there was nothing else to do but endure.

Women have had to endure childbirth when too young, have had to endure raising too many babies too close together, and have had to endure seeing mothers and sisters die birthing their last child.

Now, after years of the women's movement, abortions are legal, and much cheaper, though not cheap.

And along come these right-to-

life people, mostly funded by the Catholic Church, who care little for the living, but profess to care a lot for the unborn, claiming to "speak for the unborn."

While I don't profess to be able to speak for them, I can speak to the unborn:

"We cannot always bring you into the world through our bodies, if it is not possible for us to do right by you. Some of us will have our babies later; some of us have to have as our children the babies of others and the babies of tomorrow.

"We want a world in which all parents can tell their children, 'We wanted you with all our hearts.'"

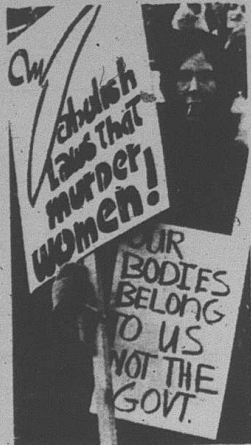


If birth control were developed to be safe and effective, instead of profitable and either unreliable or harmful, there would be no need for abortion as a back-up method of contraception.

Let's don't let them push us backward to illegal abortions.

We should do away with abortion only by making it unnecessary. Until then, we have to fight for all of our sisters, for free abortion on demand.

name withheld on request



# We're All In Prison - Ain't None Of Us Free

Dear Workers' Power,

I just finished reading the article on the murder of George Jackson in the last issue of Workers' Power.

I must congratulate you for raising this issue. Many people don't understand why there is all the fuss about the brothers and sisters who are locked down.

But the Jackson case, along with many others, shows that it's not just a matter of guilty liberals feeling sorry for those less fortunate than themselves. But rather, it's a question of working class solidarity.

The capitalist system uses us all. Those of us who work are exploited. But a large section of us can't even get jobs; we don't have the right to be ripped-off.

The system makes criminals out of us. Then it comes down with all its force and might upon us. 99% of all people in prison are from the poorer sections of the working class.

Many of the brothers and sisters in the pen are realizing that the system puts them there, and like Jackson, they become revolutionaries.

That's when the system really gets freaked out. They can't have people running around telling the truth about the ruling class and its system of "justice."

They send their boys out to get

rid of these "deranged" trouble-makers. They'll do it to any of us who refuse to crawl through life on our knees, kissing ass.

The rulers of this country look upon those of us on the inside as animals and those of us on the outside as just about the same.

For example, several months ago I went to the trial of the San



At the trial of the San Quentin 6, everyone was a suspect. A youth is searched (above) by a Marin County Sheriff's Deputy before he's allowed to enter courtroom.

Quentin 6 with the Oakland Red Tide. The "Six" were comrades of Jackson's in San Quentin prison, who the state is also trying to do away with.

Just for coming to see "justice" in action we were treated like criminals.

We were frisked and warrant checks were taken on us. We had to go through two metal detectors. Mug shots were taken of us.

Then a cop comes and gives us a lecture on showing respect for the judge and how to conduct ourselves.

About five cops then take us into the visitors room where we can barely see the "Six" who are chained and shackled to their seats which are bolted to the floor.

We can barely see them because we are separated from the whole thing by a two-inch piece of bullet-proof plastic.

The rich pig judge is taking no chances from the "riff-raff" elements of society.

It's just like one brother said: "We're all in prison if we're working class. Some of us are in maximum security (inside) and some of us are in minimum security (outside)."

But ain't none of us free!

For Revolution in Our Life Time,  
F.R.  
Oakland

## Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

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

But please be brief.

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

Letters

to

## Workers' Power

# We're The Plumbing Out Here

Dear Workers' Power:

I work in a warehouse. It's like warehouses usually are: concrete floors, cinderblock walls, tin roof, noisy, dirty, cold in winter, hot in summer.

Today I went "up front" to the company's offices to fill out an insurance form. This company has its front offices attached to the warehouse.

I knocked on the appropriate door and walked into a different world.

First of all, I sank into the carpet. I was surrounded by music I could actually hear; not some drowned-out radio on a worktable.

The secretary I dealt with had on clean clothes. And she had clean hands.

Off through a side door I could see an inner sanctum: an executive meeting room. There were tall leather-padded armchairs surrounding a leather-topped table.

Table and chairs were sunk into a carpeted well in the center of a parquet floor. Every surface of the room was panelled or padded. In two corners stood gunracks filled with rifles.

I said, "Wow!" to one of the secretaries. With pride she said,

"Oh, that's nothing. You should see their offices. All the furniture in my house didn't cost as much as Mr. Blank's desk."

I said, "I wish they'd spend some of that money making life easier in the warehouse." She looked shocked and turned back to her typewriter.

I thought of a speech in which Malcolm X described house slaves and field slaves.

Out of the conference room came something soft and clean and panelled. He jollied the secretaries: "Well, well, what have we here?"

I figured it was time to leave. When I opened the door to the warehouse, the noise hit me first. I stood on the threshold comparing the two worlds.

They have carpet; we don't even have rubber mats. They have leather-lined chairs; most of us don't even have metal stools.

Their air is filtered; but they won't provide us with a vacuum we can use ourselves, much less janitorial service. I had the image of tapeworms on the inside of a dog, lying around in softness, eating the dog's nourishment and reproducing their kind.

Yet it was clear they considered us the Gammas of Brave New World.

When I was inside the warehouse, I looked back.

Above the office part were all the ventilation pipes to it: their heat, their air-conditioning, their dust were adding to our noise and pollution.

A fellow worker saw my expression and said, "That's really something in there, ain't it, Yvonne? We're the plumbing out here."

Yes, we are the plumbing. And we all know what happens when the plumbing stops working.

Yvonne  
St. Louis

## MAY DAY GREETINGS

Dear Comrades,

The National Executive of the International Socialists, Australia, send fraternal greetings to our American comrades on Mayday, 1976.

Congratulations on Workers' Power having gone weekly and congratulations on your magnificent reporting on the Teamsters' contract struggles.

The teamsters' strike proves that even in its stronghold, capitalism is a system of crisis and that everywhere, workers are forced to fight to defend their rights and their living standards.

Yours fraternally,  
Phil Griffiths

# "Blue Paper" Prints The Truth

In the past two weeks, Workers' Power sellers across the country have been distributing a special issue of Workers' Power.

This special Teamster issue draws out the lessons of the Teamster strike, and points out where the Teamster rank and file must go from here. Over 6,000 copies have been distributed so far, almost exclusively to Teamster drivers and dockworkers. Everywhere the special issue has gone, it has met a good response.

## THE BLUE PAPER

In Detroit, striking teamsters came to identify the "blue" paper as the one you can trust. Only the "blue paper" printed the truth.

A number of teamsters took bundles of the papers themselves to distribute.

Also in Detroit, at Dohrn Transfer, the boss saw fit to

come out and threaten the distributors. He called the cops and told them we were blocking traffic.

He then tried to use an injunction that had already

expired. Despite all of his harassment, the special got out to everyone coming and going.

In Chicago, over 500 copies have been given out at 15 UPS

bars. The same is true in city after city. Distributions have been made at Roadway, Interstate, St. Johns, Yellow, Consolidated Freightways, and a host of other major trucking companies.

Workers' Power has said in the past that it is the best working class newspaper in the country. This Teamster Special just goes to show why.

Workers' Power doesn't believe in just sitting back and writing about the news. Workers' Power gets out and helps build struggles.

If you are a teamster and you haven't already gotten your bundle of the Teamster Special, write in today.

Get 50 or 100 copies and pass them out where you work or in your union. There is no charge.

Send your requests to:  
Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

## ORDER NOW!

The next issue of Workers' Power, #158, will be printed on April 30. This is the day before the UPS strike is to begin. This paper is going to have a wide coverage of events within UPS and we expect every branch to vigorously sell the paper to UPS workers.

• Branches should order extra copies of WP for the UPS strike. Call the center early in the week and let us know how many more you will want.

For any copies over and above your usual bundle you will only be charged at 5c per copy. If you need to make special arrangements to get WP shipped to your city faster than usual, call us and let us know.

We are also printing 3 1/2 x 11 "Support the UPS Strike" posters. They will go out with WP #158.

• When you call about extra copies of this issue, also let us know how many posters you want.

## 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, gays, latinos, 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.

## MEET JULIAN

# Workers' Power Reader Of The Week

Meet Julian Brayboy, Occupation: United Parcel Service Supervisor on Special Assignment.

He had a "special assignment" during the freight strike. When many of the regular UPS feeder drivers were unavailable to drive, management told several supervisors to take out their trucks.

One supervisor ran down a fence in front of the UPS hub. Not to be outdone, Julian ran his trailer into a cement overpass.

But Julian has had another important assignment.

Every Friday afternoon since late last fall, he's been sent to the Workers' Power office to buy ten copies of the latest issue. He posed as a telephone worker.

We take this as a real compliment—that even though



management hates Workers' Power, they're so anxious to read each issue.

We're sorry to announce, however, that due to rising costs for printing, postage, and other materials, we must increase the price of the paper. But as socialists, we believe those who can afford to do so



should bear the greater financial burden.

So we are maintaining the same low price for our worker-readers, but raising it to one dollar per copy (or \$25 for a year's subscription) for management.

Workers' Power is also beginning a circulation campaign directed at UPS employ-

ees. For this purpose, we are sending all IS branches copies of a promotional leaflet to be distributed at UPS hubs.

The leaflet features UPS Supervisor Julian Brayboy, and should be well received by UPS workers.

We suggest that all branches make a major effort to gain more readers in the few days left before the Central States contract expires (April 30).

The leaflet can be easily used at hubs where Workers' Power is not regularly sold to solicit mail subscriptions.

Attach the current or recent issue of WP to the leaflet as a sample.

At hubs where Workers' Power is sold regularly, our regular workers should be urged to take a small bundle to sell to their co-workers or to buy subscriptions for their friends.

## I.S. Branches

- National Office: 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203
- Amherst: PO Box 850, Amherst, MA 01002
- Bay Area: PO Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604
- Bloomington: PO Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401
- Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02144
- Charleston, W.Va.: PO Box 155, Tyler Heights Sta., Charleston, W.Va. 25312
- Chicago: PO Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611
- Cincinnati: PO Box 16075, Cincinnati, OH 45216
- Cleveland: PO Box 02239, Cleveland, OH 44102
- Detroit: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Indianapolis: PO Box 631, Indianapolis, IN 46206
- Los Angeles: PO Box 1871, Lynwood, CA 90262
- Louisville: PO Box 70449, Louisville, KY 40270
- Madison: PO Box 725, Madison, WI 53701
- Mid-Hudson: PO Box 420, Rosendale, NY 12472
- New York: 30 E. 20 St., Rm. 207, New York, NY 10003
- Philadelphia: PO Box 8262, Philadelphia, PA 19101
- Pittsburgh: PO Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120
- Portland: PO Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208
- Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109
- St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130
- South Bend: PO Box 1223, South Bend, IN 46617

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## STOP THE MURDER OF GARY TYLER



Gary Tyler is a 17-year-old black youth framed for the murder of a white youth in Louisiana. Tyler is sentenced to be electrocuted May 5.

### DEMONSTRATE

Saturday, May 1st

12:30 pm at Grand Circus Park  
Detroit, Michigan



## "COUNTDOWN AT KUSINI"

### African Liberation And Black America

This movie is about today's revolution in southern Africa. That is what makes it worth going to see.

The climax of the film is a race to a lonely railroad crossing, to save an African revolutionary from mercenaries and traitors who have trapped him.

"Countdown at Kusini" clearly takes its inspiration from the war in Angola. Its theme is the struggle of a liberation movement in a southern African country where the last hold of Portuguese colonialism is being broken.

But this film is not just about Africa—it is also about the changing consciousness of black America.

What is probably most important about this movie is what it suggests about the impact of the struggle in Africa on the thinking of much of the black community in this country.

By most critical, technical standards, "Countdown at Kusini" is not exceptionally brilliant. It was professionally done by black American and Nigerian crews. But it had a low budget of just over one million dollars, most of it advanced by a black women's group.

#### ADVENTURE

The plot is rather thin adventure, and most of the characters are not very well-developed.



Ruby Dee, about to be poisoned by a traitor to the revolution.

There is, however, one really first-rate performance—by Ruby Dee.

She plays a dedicated, tough, modern revolutionary African woman who accepts the need for sacrifice, struggle and danger as a simple fact of life.

She also measures everyone around her by the same standard, including the American jazz musician Red Salter (Greg Morris), who becomes her lover.

As far as she is concerned, all of his macho and jive, even the physical courage he shows in protecting her don't make him a "real man"—not yet, but he will be," she promises.

She believes he must become a totally dedicated freedom fighter in the service of the cause—a full-time revolutionary like her, not a courageous but part-time adventurer between gigs.

Ruby Dee also symbolizes the connection between African liberation and the black liberation

struggle in America.

She plays an African revolutionary, but much of her strength in the film also reflects the power and confidence black women have gained in struggle here.

That is why she is very convincing when she makes it clear that the struggle for freedom is the only kind of life worth living.

The film revolves around Ruby Dee much more than around the movement's main leader, Motapo (Ossie Davis), who appears very little and is more of a symbol than a real character.

#### LESSONS OF ANGOLA

Aside from this, "Countdown at Kusini" shows how, under the impact of the war in Angola, many of the old, simple ideas about the struggle against white racism are being subjected to re-examination and forced to change.

One of those ideas is the old assumption that the oppression of

the black masses in Africa is a simple question of color—of white ruling over black.

In this movie, we see a young white British writer, a committed supporter of the struggle. He is explaining his commitment to a black American Red Salter, who is skeptical about revolution in the first place, and what any white European would be doing in an African liberation struggle.

Finally, exasperated over Salter's refusal to understand, the young writer breaks out: "Revolution, man, is when the working class finally starts kicking the shit out of the ruling class. Color—color has absolutely nothing to do with it!"

Even more convincing is the fact that the most vicious enemies of the struggle for freedom are equally divided between white and black.

The film has two major, authentic villains. One is a white officer who has butchered an innocent village of women and children. He is now on the payroll of a giant multinational corporation, trying to track down and kidnap Motapo.

The other villain is his main henchman—Motapo's nephew Yola, a student who has spent all his money on high living in Paris and turns traitor for money. In simple terms, Yola represents a figure like Jonas Savimbi.

Jonas Savimbi created an organization called UNITA, as his own so-called Angolan "liberation movement" with public relations offices all over Western Europe and America.

Because he was more interested in himself than in the liberation struggle, he wound up on the payroll of the U.S. and South Africa in the Angolan war.

#### STRUGGLE

There is no doubt in "Countdown at Kusini" or in real life, that the liberation struggle in

Africa is of, by and for black people.

But Angola has shown that there are also class divisions among black Africans, and the movie reflects this well.

The African middle and upper classes are shown living a life of idle leisure, while the masses in villages and slums wage a resistance war against colonialism.

Some blacks risk their lives to get a few precious guns; while others become wealthy selling them for high profit.

This kind of movie probably could not have been commercially made ten years ago. The African masses are no longer portrayed as helpless, primitive people hopelessly enslaved by ignorance and superstition.

The reality of their struggle for liberation is having its impact on the thinking of the whole world. □

Dan Posen



Red Salter can't quite decide if the revolution is really his bag.

# This Record's An Education



Education drives me insane. I can't recall all the facts on my brain... Education's doing me in...

The beauty of this new album by The Kinks lies in its unmistakable mockery of high school "education."

The entire album focuses on being in high school. It's written by someone who has been out of high school for a while, and who is now looking back on his experience.

He realizes what a destructive trip school lays on students. He also recalls the good times he had with his friends.

Both the music and the words were written by Raymond Douglas Davies, a member of The Kinks.

#### GOOD MUSIC

Not only are the lyrics excellent, but the music is first-rate as well. Some is soft rock, some is hard rock, some is mellow, some is loud.

All of it is well-written and well-played. The Kinks really outdid themselves this time.

The album starts with a song called "Schooldays." It says, "When I was a schoolboy, I loathed regulations and rules... And teachers were always disobeyed, but I'd go back if I could only find a way."

The song recognizes that things are really messed-up in school, but it's not the fault of the students. The song suggests that the students, by sticking together, can fight the real problem: the system that created the lousy schools we have today.

Other songs include "Jack the Idiot Dunce," "The First Time We Fall In Love," "The Last Assembly," "Headmaster," and "The Hard Way."

"Headmaster" and "The Hard Way" are about getting in trouble with the principal and teachers. These songs show that the things they yell at students for are really petty.

The central theme song is

"Education." It's all summed up here: It starts with a caveman who discovers Education. As he learns more and more, he ends up saying:

Teacher, teach me about nuclear physics  
And teach me about the structure of man  
But all your endless calculations  
Can't tell me why I am...

Thank you sir, for the millions of words  
That you've handed me down and you've told me to learn  
But I've got words in my ears and my eyes  
I've got so many facts that I must memorize

Education drives me insane  
I can't recall all the facts on my brain...  
Because Education's doing me in...

Wendy Casper

# WORKERS' POWER



Anne Mackie, editor of UPSurge, talks to Workers' Power

## "I expect to be on strike May 1..."

### UPS Success Story May Hit The Rocks

by Jim Woodward

United Parcel Service (UPS) is by far the biggest and most successful trucking company in the United States. In one sense, it has been too successful for its own good. Because what that success is based on is leading directly to a major strike against the company May 1.

Throughout the entire trucking industry, the last ten years have seen a rapid acceleration of the trend towards consolidation. The big and rich companies have become bigger and richer.

Those that didn't become bigger and richer became bankrupt or were swallowed wholesale by the fat fish of the trucking industry.

To survive, then, meant to expand. And to expand required increasing profits—and therefore a general offensive against the workers in the trucking industry to get more productivity at lower cost.

UPS is the most successful because it has been best at driving its workers at an inhuman and intolerable pace.

Anyone who has seen a UPS driver literally jump from his brown truck and run into a building to make a delivery has seen the top of the UPS iceberg.

#### MILITARY STYLE

Below the surface, there are military-style dress regulations, petty harassment, never-ending hours of forced overtime for some, all aimed at intimidating the work force and speeding up the pace of work.

The fact that there are relatively few older UPS employees indicates how UPS' policy affects its workers.

The key for UPS in recent years has been its successful introduction of part-time workers. Part-timers are now used extensively for most inside jobs.

In most places, the company is able to get away with paying

part-time workers considerably less than full-timers. They also save by not having to pay many of the benefits.

And generally, the company can work its part-timers more intensely. Often, for example, they are allowed no breaks during a four-hour work shift.

Finally, since most part-timers consider themselves only temporarily employed by the company, they are not as willing to fight for better conditions as are full-time workers who consider their jobs permanent.

All this has weakened the union and divided the work force, saved UPS considerable money, and increased productivity.

Freight companies have learned from this experience, and have begun innovations that have a similar purpose. The growing use of casual labor in the freight industry is one example.

If events are allowed to continue at their present course, working conditions at United Parcel are the future for the 435,000 employees in the freight industry.

What UPS has done to regiment and speed up its work force is now the goal of the freight companies.

#### UPSURGE

But for management—and for the top leaders of the Teamsters Union as well—there is a problem. The intolerable working conditions at UPS have produced a rank and file revolt of enormous proportions.

In the last six months, the UPSurge movement has crystallized the anger and discontent that UPS employees have always felt.

UPSurge has put a real scare into UPS management. It has also applied great pressure to the union leadership.

UPSurge has forced the union negotiating team to adopt a relatively militant set of bargaining demands.

And it intends to use its strength to prevent the kind of sellout that Teamster President Frank Fitzsimons delivered in freight.

In addition to this direct pressure, UPSurge is exerting on the bargainers, there is also an extremely significant indirect pressure on the union to fight this time.

In the past, the officials of the Teamsters Union have not been too concerned about UPS.

As long as wage rates were patterned after freight, the union pretty much ignored UPS to introduce whatever innovations in working conditions they wanted.

Now that has to change. Teamster officials can no longer afford to ignore UPS.

They are afraid that the rank and file revolt in UPS will spread into freight as the freight companies try to introduce UPS-style working conditions.

The Teamster officials therefore cannot let UPS get too far ahead of the freight companies in its labor relations innovations. That would create more incentive for the freight companies to adopt these same policies.

And the union leadership fears that the working conditions which produced a rank and file revolt in UPS will do the same in freight. With a vengeance.

The union leadership fears that revolt because they cannot control it. And they have already seen it begin in freight, as the Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) upset their original plans for a peaceful settlement of this year's Master Freight Agreement.

Much as they may dislike it, the Teamsters Union knows that it has to fight UPS this year, if it wants to prevent conditions from developing that will lead to an even bigger rank and file movement in freight.

And that is part of the reason why the union will probably call an official strike against UPS in the Central States May 1.

I expect to be on strike May 1. The strike votes will be this weekend, April 24 and 25. I'm sure the membership will vote to strike.

Still, the strike is just the first step, possibly the easiest.

At this weekend's meetings, we are demanding three things. We want rank and file strike committees. We want regular... twice a week... strike meetings. And we want to vote on any new contract, at the hall, before we return to work.

I know that a sellout is possible.

Three weeks ago, Frank Fitzsimons called the first national trucking strike. Nevertheless, with the exception of Detroit, everyone was back on the job in less than a week, and the settlement was still a sell out.

They might even keep us out longer than freight, a week or two, just to let the steam off, and wear us down.

I think they're playing with fire, though. UPSurge has been organizing for months now in the central states. The rank and file is informed and well-organized.

Also, many people understand it's now or never at UPS. If UPS wins again, it's hard to say how bad things will be three years from now.

Most important, we have to stay out until we have the new contract in our hands, and until it has been ratified, not just in one place but in the Central States.

#### NO CONTRACT, NO WORK

We have to stick by the union's demand, "No contract, no work." That means we negotiate in the best place... on the picket line.

We've already heard that they have hired a professional strike-breaking firm. They also have a small army of supervisors.

They may try to break this strike, even if it's official.

They'll get judges and injunctions against us. And they'll try to buy us off.

Still, they can't deliver packages with injunctions, and if we are unified nothing can stop us. If we have the numbers, the support of

the rank and file, even UPS will not be able to afford this strike.

They will also try to scare us back, one at a time. They fired Stephanie Batey in Detroit. They fired John Jaspers in Cincinnati. They've already started.

They want to single out individual militants, so that others will be frightened into submission.

#### NO VICTIMIZATION

That's why we have to stick by the resolution we passed unanimously in Indianapolis... no victimization. No one goes back while there are militants on the street.

John Jaspers already has his job back, his crew wouldn't work without him. And we'll get Stephanie back.

In Detroit, after two days on a wildcat strike, the TDC agreed to go back to work, but only after the companies had agreed that no one would be fired. We have to do the same thing, and it can be done.

We are also counting on freight drivers to keep an eye on our supervisors. After all, no one has to work along side a scab.

We are also demanding at the meetings this weekend that the union enforce a nationwide ban on struck goods, goods coming from the central states.

It'll be difficult to maintain production in the east, while we're on strike in the Central States.

I can't say we'll win everything this time. We cannot underestimate this company. They'll try to break us. The union will not stand by us.

#### WE CAN WIN

But if we have the numbers and the solidarity, we can turn this situation around.

We have to stick to our pledge to go out together and to go back together, no matter what. No tentative agreements. No separate agreements. No back to work movement while people are fired.

If we don't let strike-breakers split us up, we don't let red-baiting break us up, we can win this strike. We can't afford not to.