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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS DECEMBER 20, 1976 #189 15c

FIGHT SOUTH AFRICAN RACISM IN U.S.!

Pickets Rid New York Store Of Krugerrand

by Steve Burns

NEW YORK CITY—Opponents of apartheid won a victory this week: Abraham & Strauss, one of New York's largest department stores, agreed to stop selling the Krugerrand, South Africa's gold coin.

They didn't give in because they hate racism, though. They gave in because they had to.

The previous Saturday 30 members and supporters of the American Committee on Africa, Workers' Power, and the Red Tide picketed the Brooklyn A&S store. Over 300 people, black and white refused to shop at A&S.

The racist government of South Africa has been conducting a big advertising campaign in this country to sell Krugerrands for Christmas gifts. "An ounce of pure love," they call it.

The demonstrations in New York are the first in a series against the Krugerrand which Workers' Power and the Red Tide are participating in across the country. They will demonstrate against a Detroit bank December 18.

Sales of the Krugerrand help to support South Africa's apartheid system. Each one was sweated from the labor of the 20 million black people the white regime lives off of.

HIT THEM WHERE IT HURTS

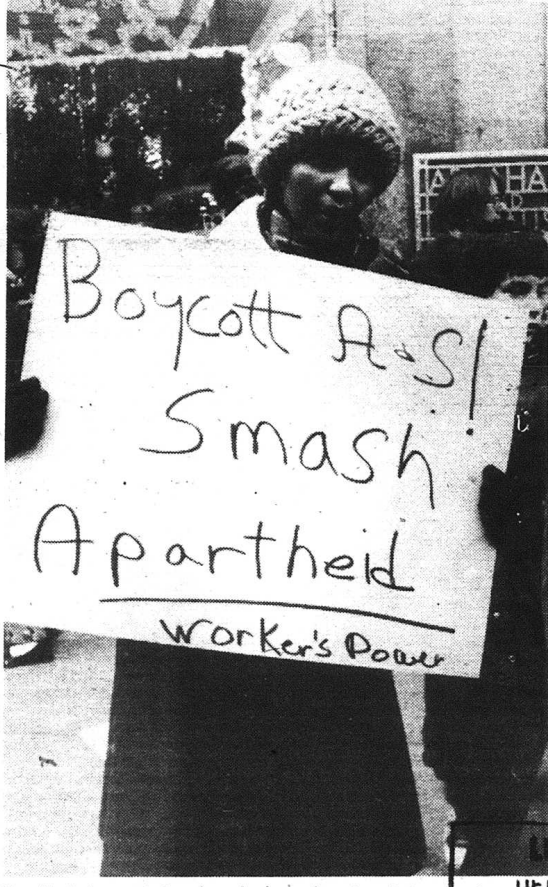
The demonstration hit A&S where it hurts them most—in the pocketbook.

All department stores depend on Christmas for 35% of their entire yearly sales. To lose even one percent of that would throw off their projected profit margins.

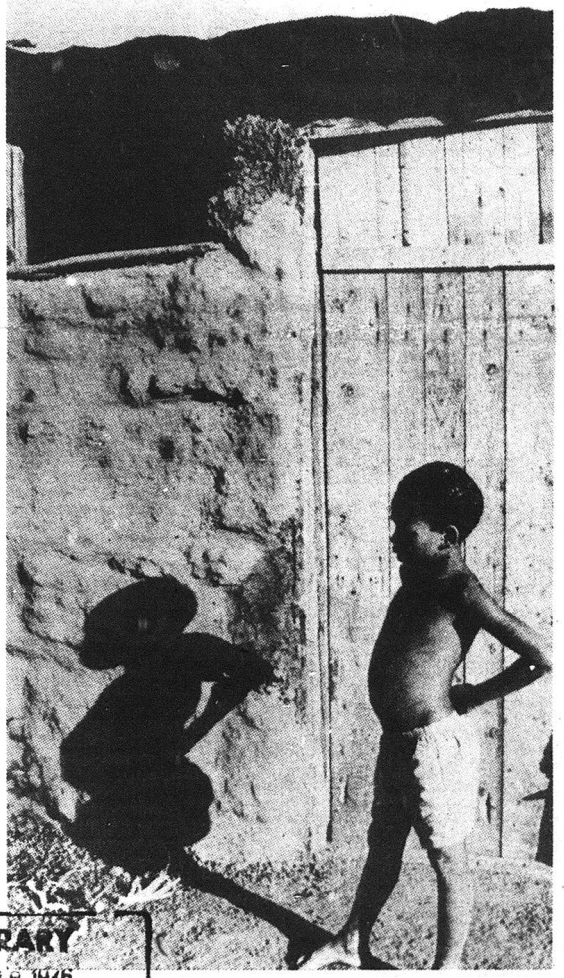
As New Yorkers aren't buying loads of goodies this year anyway, the boycott threw a real scare into A&S in one day. They couldn't afford to keep hearing angry customers say, "Forget it! I'm gonna shop at Mays down the street!" And they had heard lots of people saying just that.

After four hours of boycott and lost revenue, A&S management announced that they would "gladly be meeting with your representative on Wednesday." But the boycotters didn't take management's promise of a meeting as reason to let up the pressure.

The next Tuesday, one day before the "negotiations," the boycotters picketed A&S again.



New York demonstrators forced a large department store to stop selling the racist South Africa's gold coin, the Krugerrand.



This South African child suffers from malnutrition because capitalist powers like the U.S. government support the South African regime.

New people participated—black community college students who had read about the demonstration in Workers' Power, and others from the last Saturday's action.

The group persuaded about 100 people not to enter the store. One man returned all the gifts he'd just bought when he heard about A&S and the Krugerrand.

At the negotiations, A&S management was very pompous, very

incensed, and very legitimate. We have contracts with our coin department. There is nothing illegal about selling goods from South Africa."

But at the end of the talk they agreed: (1) the ads won't be run anymore, (2) the stock is being liquidated, and (3) "We promise not to purchase any more Krugerrands."

The manager had the nerve to claim, "We are doing this not

because of your pressure, but voluntarily to show good will to the community we serve." Most of their customers are black.

Right. Exactly one week after the first picket line A&S had removed that racist gold from their display case.

Members of the boycott know better than to stop at A&S, impressive as the victory was. As Rudy, one of the real fighters in this struggle, said: "When people

know how bad things are in South Africa they'll demand an end to this kind of stuff at A&S and everywhere else." He and others are planning to demonstrate against NBC's advertising of the Krugerrand.

Appropriately, NBC headquarters is located in Rockefeller Center. Members of the Committee to Stop the Krugerrand know where the struggle against South Africa leads! □

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'76 IN REVIEW

1976, the year of bicentennial hoopla, is almost over. Workers' Power presents a year end review of the highest and lowest points of the last year.

In a year that seems particularly undistinguished, we would like to remind you of some of the good things that happened—and some of the bad.

First, the good news. . .

THE GOOD NEWS

• The most important was the victory of the national liberation struggle in Angola. The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) defeated U.S. and South Africa-backed puppet movements. Next year at this time, we hope to be featuring the liberation of Zimbabwe and revolution in South Africa.

• American rank and file workers took some big steps forward. Leading the list were the national miners' wildcat strike, and the struggles in freight and parcel which led to the formation of Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

• In defending political prisoners, the two biggest gains were the struggle that won a new trial for Hurricane Carter and John Artis

and the movement to free Gary Tyler. But there's still a lot of hard work ahead—Carter, Artis, Tyler, and thousands of other frame-up victims are still not free.

• 1976 produced a bumper crop of scandals that exposed capitalism in all its glory. First prize is awarded jointly to the Lockheed bribery scandal—which brought down the governments of Italy and Japan—and the South Korean CIA. The South Korean government, you'll recall, has been caught bribing U.S. Congressmen, trade officials and high government figures.

Close behind these was Frank Fitzsimmons' Teamster Pension Fund scandal, which started to expose how IBT leaders take members' money and hand it over to the Mafia.

We can't pass on without giving honorable mention to Wayne Hays' Congressional sex scandal. As we predicted, Hays was bounced out of power but won't face any charges or a prison term. We were, however, cheered by the news that he got run over by a bull. There is some justice after all.

THE BAD NEWS

• The CIA had a very good year in some parts of the world. In Thailand, U.S.-backed right-wing military officers seized power. Hundreds of students, trade unionists and left-wing activists have been killed. Thousands more are in prison or hiding.

• In Argentina, too, the military is in power. Strikes are banned, and gangs of thugs and off-duty police are kidnapping and killing dozens of people every week. The Chilean secret police, who operate in this country with full U.S. government knowledge, carried out the murder of former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier in broad daylight in Washington, D.C.

• The Nobel Prize for economics went to Milton Friedman, who designed the economic policies of the Chilean junta. Forty percent of the people of Chile now suffer from malnutrition.

• The United States Supreme Court issued decisions which robbed hundreds of poor and black defendants of their legal rights, denied women workers the right to paid maternity leave, and restored the death penalty.

• Large sections of American workers have taken a hammering. Especially where rank and file organization was weak, contracts signed in 1976 were very poor.



Terror in Thailand

New York City workers have seen their contracts, job security, and pensions torn to bits by the New York banks with the blessing of the city and federal governments. Union leaders have done nothing.

Auto workers had to strike Ford Motor for five weeks, just to get a contract that didn't take away previous gains. The UAW leadership forced it through by changing the established procedure for counting the vote.

Rubber workers had to stay out four months because their union officials didn't know how to organize a winning strike.

United Parcel Service workers saw their union leaders give UPS more openings to destroy the full-time work force by shifting to part-timers. In bitter Central and Eastern States UPS strikes, union leaders did everything to prevent effective action against continuing UPS operations.

Union leaders got together with the companies to help them fire militants for union activity. Two examples were the firings of Teamster carhauler activists in Michigan and Ohio and of UAW Local 15 members who went to the defense of their local union leadership.



Victory in Angola



We felt certain very special people, and events, deserved their own awards.

• MISCELLANEOUS GOOD NEWS: Gerald Ford losing the Presidential election.

• MISCELLANEOUS BAD NEWS: Jimmy Carter winning the Presidential election.

• MISCELLANEOUS BETTER NEWS: Half the people didn't vote in this year's election.

• POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL AWARD: This prize goes to Patty Hearst, who is back at home with her parents on Nob Hill, while her fellow bank robbers—who don't have money—spend the rest of their lives in prison.

• DEAD DICTATOR OF 1976 AWARD: First prize to the fascist ruler Franco of Spain, who finally rotted away after 36 years in power. Spanish workers have responded with a year of escalating class struggle.

• QUICK CHANGE OF LINE AWARD: First prize goes to the bureaucratic ruling class of China. For ten years they hailed Chiang Ching, Mao's wife, as the authority

on politically correct movies, plays and art.

Within three weeks after Mao's death Chiang Ching was transformed into a "counter-revolutionary Shanghai gangster." We are now told she not only tried to murder Mao, but actually loved decadent Western cinema and secretly imported pornography for her own pleasure.

• TURNING OVER IN THE GRAVE AWARD: This prize goes to the great American revolutionary socialist and union leader, Eugene Debs.

The current President of the United Steel Workers, I.W. "No-Strike" Abel, received from some of his fellow bureaucrats an award named after Debs—for his services to the American labor movement! As Ed Sadlowski remarked at a meeting in Houston: "You know Debs must be turning over in his grave over that award."

• BIGGEST SWINDLE AWARD: We settled on the great swine flu shot campaign. We were especially impressed with the exciting controversy over what the disease itself should be called.

Pig farmers, of course, wanted to squash the name "swine flu" because it could hurt business. They suggested calling it "New Jersey flu," since that's where the disease first appeared. New Jersey state officials flipped out. To solve the controversy, there were some suggestions that it be called "bicentennial flu," in keeping with the theme of things this year.

We suspect that the drug companies, which got paid to produce 200 million swine flu vaccinations—with federally underwritten insurance—on the basis of one (1) reported case, have a different name for it. But they aren't talking.



• BEST MOVIE: We think the best was "Countdown at Kusini." Based in part on the struggle in Angola, it dealt with the conflict between national liberation and neo-colonialism. It also tried to deal with the relationship between African liberation and the black struggle in America.

• BEST RECORD: A double award here. One to Gil Scott-Heron and Brian Jackson's "Johannesburg." The other goes to the country hit "Convoy," which fantasized about truckers crashing through the National Guard.

• WORST RECORD: Henry Mancini's album of themes from television cop shows. Police Chief magazine advertised this album with the slogan: "Let your kid be the first one on your block with a police record."

• BEST TV COMMERCIAL: Tommy Heinson and Mendy Rudolph for Miller Lite Beer (That's it, Heinson! You're out of the bar!')

• WORST TV COMMERCIAL: The pitch for the Krugerrand, South Africa's gift of the sweat and blood of 20 million black people. □



Brock Adams

CARTER'S NEW FACES - WITH OLD POLITICS



W. Michael Blumenthal

If you were hoping for an exciting list of new faces and bright, shiny programs for the new Jimmy Carter government, all we can say is—too bad.

Carter's Cabinet appointments show his new government team is going to be carrying out virtually identical policies to the Ford regime. Even the super-military hardliner James Schlesinger may be brought back to the Defense Department.

W. Michael Blumenthal, just appointed to be Secretary of the Treasury, is the millionaire president of Bendix Corporation. The UAW, which campaigned all-out for Carter, has called Bendix a

corporation that "puts profits before people."

Brockman Adams, who will be Secretary of Transportation, is a retreat from the Kennedy Administration. (So are many of Carter's other advisors and appointees.)

Adams was once considered a dangerous liberal. But last year, when he was planning to run for the Senate, many members of the Business Council (top executives of 65 of the largest corporations) dropped around to contribute \$100 apiece.

SECOND CHANCE

Carter's other top-level appoint-

ee so far, Cyrus Vance, served under Robert McNamara as one of the architects of the Vietnam war. Unlike many GIs who went to Vietnam, Vance is getting another chance.

There is a strong possibility that the Agriculture Secretary will be Bob Bergland, a congressman from Minnesota with a liberal reputation.

If this happens, his deputy is likely to be a certain Michael R. McLeod. McLeod is the staff director for a Senate Committee headed by leading Georgia Dixiecrat Herman Talmadge. Talmadge is a leading spokesman for southern peanut and cotton agri-

business interests.

In other words, Jimmy Carter and his staff are busily constructing deals to satisfy big southern landowners (this wouldn't hurt Carter's own business, either).

NO PROGRAM

So far, Jimmy Carter has made three definite and clear statements about the economy:

• The economy is in worse shape than he or anybody else expected, but he's not sure whether or not it's a recession.

• He wants to stimulate spending, but he doesn't know whether to cut taxes.

• The pressing, crucial, immediate problem is unemployment but he doesn't know if he can afford to create any jobs.

In other words, after a whole year of campaign promises, Jimmy Carter now admits he has no real economic program at all. In fact, his only concern is making sure big business feels safe and comfortable.

This isn't hard to understand. The recovery of international capitalism from the 1973-74 depression is already slowing down. The recovery was too weak to do much good for the economy of underdeveloped countries. Even in the United States there is still a large amount of unused capacity.

Employers across the country are more interested in speeding up their workers on the job, than they are in hiring new workers or buying machinery.

No capitalist government can do anything to basically change this. Jimmy Carter isn't even trying. All he is doing is appointing a new crop of wealthy businessmen to Cabinet positions, so that the capitalists can be sure the country is run their way.

This assurance is the only reason that Carter's Cabinet appointments receive major news headlines.

Amidst all this, the "President of the people" have vanished. It's strictly business—Big Business—as usual.

None of this is surprising. All it means is that working people who voted Carter into office are getting screwed—again.

Louisville Teachers Gain In Militant 17-Day Strike

by Christina Blue

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Jefferson County's 5,860 public school teachers have returned to work after a 17-day strike of the national's 18th largest school system.

Militant tactics by the Jefferson County Teachers Association and strong community support resulted in a tentative agreement that promises improvements in teacher contracts.

School officials, the state government and the courts tried to smash the strike with injunctions, violence and back-to-work orders for non-teaching employees.

PAY HIKE

But indicative of the determined strike sentiment and active organizing that won out are the words of one striking teacher, who told Workers' Power during the strike, "The membership is committed to stay out until we hear the bottom

line, and we haven't heard it yet."

The tentative agreement includes an 8.7% salary increase for each teacher, a guaranteed duty-free lunch period of 20 minutes a day, two paid personal leave days a year and maximum class size limits of 25 in the first grade to 35 in High School.

The other major issue was the grievance procedure. Details were not available at press time.

The victory came as a surprise. Only a few days before the December 13 agreement, the board had sent a letter to all teachers telling them to report to work December 14. It implied that if they failed to do so their contracts would be terminated.

(Because JCTA is not a union, but an association that can negotiate certain items, teachers have individual contracts with the school system.)

At the same time, the District Court and the Governor raised the idea of hauling out the 1970 injunction against striking teachers on the grounds that it still held!

UNDAUNTED

But this threat did not daunt the teachers. JCTA President June Lee stated, "We went out in the face of an injunction (the 1970 one) and the teachers will not be stopped simply because they (the school board) go back to get another injunction."

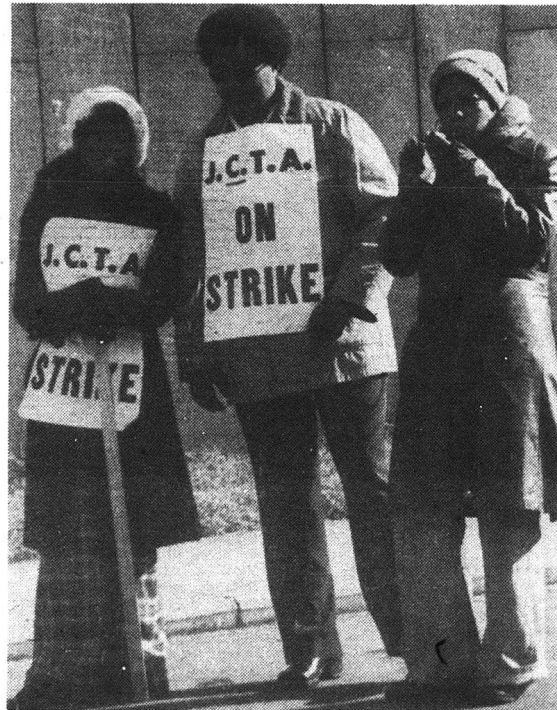
The striking teachers had already overcome several strike breaking attempts by the school board.

On December 2, some 400 teachers picketed the local school board building. Cars and trucks honked in support as they passed.

The next day, an injunction was issued limiting pickets to five per door. The injunction was not entirely honored.

A few teachers were hit by cars trying to cross picket lines.

On December 5, 3500-4000 teachers rallied to hear about



Louisville teachers on the picket line.

progress in the negotiations, to make plans for the strike and to build strike sentiment.

RETURN ORDERED

The next day the school system's 481 principals, assistant principals, counselors, and instructional supervisors were told to return to work.

At Western High School, pickets

prevented the counselors and assistant principals from entering.

At Moore High, two assistant principals and five counselors entered only when security personnel escorted them in.

Solidarity is the new watchword among Jefferson County teachers. In a time when many large school systems are imposing takeaway contracts, these teachers have won a victory through solidarity.

Spain: This Is Democracy?

The Spanish government held a fake referendum Wednesday to legitimize its new structure.

The new political system in Spain will be based on Francoists, right-wing middle class parties, and monarchists.

The Communist Party and left-wing groups are illegal.

During the referendum, hard-line Franco fascists were allowed to campaign for a "no" vote against any legal non-fascist parties. However, left-wingers who called the referendum a fraud, and called on workers to boycott the vote, were rounded up.

The international press says this set-up "brings Western-style democracy to Spain."

Maybe they aren't so far wrong, at that.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

This issue of Workers' Power will be the last until the new year. The staff wishes Workers' Power readers a happy holiday season. Publication will resume on January 10.

Workers' Power 189

Copyright © 1976 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Gay Semel. Production Editor: Karen Kaye. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty. Subscriptions: \$10 for one year; \$5 for six months. Introductory rate: \$1 for eight issues.

Published weekly, except the first two weeks in July and the last two weeks in December. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of Workers' Power, which are expressed in editorials.

Workers' Power is a subscriber to Liberation News Service and a member of the Alternate Press Service. It is indexed in the Alternate Press Index and microfilmed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.

Fight To Free Leonard Peltier



Leonard Peltier

Two hundred people marched to FBI headquarters in Washington D.C. December 4 to demand freedom for American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Leonard Peltier.

The U.S. government is trying to extradite Peltier from Canada to face charges for the murder of two FBI agents, killed in June 1975 when the FBI invaded the South Dakota Pine Ridge reservation.

Peltier, an Ojibwa Sioux, has been in solitary confinement in Oakalla Prison near Vancouver since his arrest on Indian land near Alberta last January.

Two Canadian courts have ruled that he can be extradited. Canada's Minister of Justice now must decide on the case.

The Washington demonstration began a campaign by AIM and its supporters to secure political asylum for Peltier in Canada.

Should Peltier be returned to the U.S., AIM expects the FBI will go to any lengths to convict him.

"The FBI is down to its last suspect—me," Peltier explained. Two other Native Americans indicted with Peltier were acquitted by an all-white jury last July.

"They will threaten witnesses, they will corrupt witnesses, they will manufacture evidence," he said.

Peltier and AIM also have reason to believe that his life would be in danger in the U.S.

MISTAKE

On September 10, 1975, six FBI agents broke into an apartment in Boulder, Colorado. The incident is detailed in sworn affidavits by Carmen Sanchez and Leroy Casados.

"One agent put a gun to my head," Sanchez says, "and another rushed Leroy with his gun out, yelling at him, 'Don't move or I'll kill you. Kill him, it's Peltier.'"

When the agents realized their mistake, one said, "If we find Peltier, we'll kill him." Another stated he'd "shoot on sight" or have Peltier imprisoned with bail so high "he'd rot in jail."

To urge political asylum in Canada for Leonard Peltier, write: Justice Minister Ron Basford, c/o House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, or Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Leonard Peltier said in a recent interview, "The enemy that I see is the capitalist system; they're the ones that have committed great genocide among my people, and the ones that have broken every treaty, every promise, and have massacred millions of native people."

JAMAICA

CIA Coup Plot Loses One Round

by Dan Posen

THE CIA EXPECTED a big victory in Wednesday's national election in the West Indian country of Jamaica. Instead, it got handed a stiff setback.

The People's National Party, headed by Prime Minister Michael Manley, was returned to office. The PNP will control about three-quarters of the seats in the Jamaican Parliament.

The CIA threw its support to the big business party in Jamaica, which is absurdly called the "Jamaica Labor Party." The JLP is headed by Edward Seaga. Jamaican workers call him "CIAga."

CREATE CHAOS

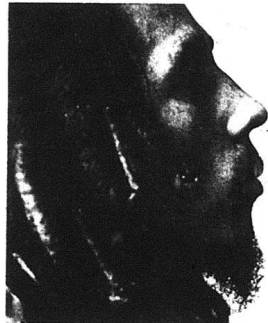
In the past year the CIA has supplied money, arms and press cover for JLP thugs, in a campaign to create massive chaos throughout Jamaica. One well-planned coup, called "Operation Werewolf," was discovered when a JLP politician was found carrying the plans.

On two separate occasions, shipments of badly needed flour and rice were found laced with the deadly poison parathion.

Heavily armed JLP gunmen have attacked PNP headquarters and residential areas.

The International press has then blamed the attacks on the "chaos" supposedly produced by Manley's policies.

A week ago Saturday, reggae singer Bob Marley, his wife and three members of his band were shot and seriously wounded in their



Bob Marley—shot for political stand.

own home. They were planning a free benefit concert for the PNP.

What's behind this terror campaign?

The PNP was first elected, with a large majority, in 1972. The PNP is a mildly left-wing, social democratic party which promised social reforms in Jamaican capitalism.

Manley's government imposed royalty payments on bauxite, one of Jamaica's main raw materials and essential to the American aluminum industry. American and other international capitalist businessmen responded by closing plants, throwing thousands out of work.



Prime Minister Michael Manley's government is under attack by CIA.

American travel agencies published a series of mass leaflets headed "Jamaica Goes Communist," and re-routed tourist cruises past Jamaica to throw whole areas of the island into economic chaos.

Foreign investment was cut in half. Jamaica's own ruling class, called the "21 Families" of plantation owners and industrialists, shipped half a billion dollars out of the country to accounts in the U.S. and Canada.

The whole campaign to "destabilize" Jamaica and crush the PNP is coordinated by the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

These tactics blew up on the CIA—this time. The PNP won a big victory. But the struggle is just beginning—and Jamaica could still go the tragic route of Chile.

In Chile, between 1970 and 1973, the Popular Unity reform government won election after election, with bigger and bigger votes—until the CIA-sponsored fascist coup.

Like former President Allende in Chile, Manley tells Jamaican workers to trust him, not to take the factories and make their own revolution. But revolution is what's needed if the CIA is not to succeed the next time—or the time after. □



Southern Africa News

The so-called peace talks at Geneva, over the future of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) have been recessed till at least mid-January. For more information and the news about the liberation struggle see pages 6 and 7.

Nine black student leaders in South Africa have been convicted of holding rallies. In South Africa, this is called "conspiracy to endanger law and order."

The nine are leaders of the South Africa Students Organization (SASO) and the Black People's Convention (BPC). They face a minimum of five years in prison.

They were first indicted in September, 1974, when SASO and BPC held rallies to celebrate the victories of the national liberation movement FRELIMO in Mozambique.

The government of South Africa spent \$300,000 on the trial, in an effort to outlaw the whole Black Consciousness Movement. One of the counts of the indictment was that the black students asked American corporations to get out of South Africa and stop oppressing their people.

The convictions were actually on only two counts of a 13-count indictment. Eleven counts, including "conspiracy to bring about revolutionary change by violent means," were thrown out.

This is not a step toward liberalization by the South African courts. It's just that they

recognize, after this summer's rebellions, that if all black organizations are outlawed, violent guerrilla warfare will begin even sooner.

A wave of murders is being committed against black prisoners in South African jails.

Wellington Tshazibane, a black mining engineer, died in jail hours after his arrest. A government pathologist said Tshazibane "hanged himself in his cell."

George Botha, a school teacher, fell six floors down the stairwell at Port Elizabeth police headquarters.

Eleven people have now officially been reported dead while in detention this year. Last year the

official figure was 92.

In every case there is a similar pattern: either supposed suicides, illnesses, slipping in the shower, or "falling from high windows during interrogation." Most people who die from "illness" are dead within two days of arrest.

Every one of these people has been murdered by the police and prison authorities—and no one knows the number of unreported cases. □

Portugal Election Results

The December 12 municipal elections in Portugal produced gains for the right-wing, capitalist parties.

However, there is still no right-wing majority. In fact, the biggest gains were scored by the Communist Party. It regained the 15% strength it held in the Parliamentary election last spring.

The main reason for the CP advances was the failure of the revolutionary left. The "Popular Unity Movement," which represents the committees called GDUPs received only 2.42% of the vote.

In the Presidential election in June, when the GDUPs campaigned for Otelo de Carvalho, the vote for the far left was 16.5%.

Most of the GDUPs are no longer independent revolutionary groups. They have become largely a front for the Maoist organization UDP (Popular Democratic Union). As a result most of their support from those revolutionary workers who aren't members of parties has disappeared.

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The so-called Socialist Party, which has been officially running the capitalist government since July, remained the largest single party, getting 35% of the total vote.

The SP is trying to make Portuguese capitalism work by

using austerity measures and repression. It is trying to do this and at the same time maintain some support among working people. But large sections of workers have begun fighting against the government's efforts.

In this election the openly capitalist parties—the "Social Democrats" (formerly "Popular Democrats") and the "Center Democrats"—became stronger. The SP government is in an even tighter squeeze between the workers and the right wing.

In our next issue when we have fuller information, we will take a closer look at what the next few months of struggle in Portugal will be. □

SELLOUTS KILL!

Worker Dies, Local 47 Rejects Contract

by Neil Chacker
UAW Local 47

Workers at Chrysler's Detroit Forge voted down their local agreement December 15. Anger over unsafe and unhealthy conditions expressed itself in the 3-1 No vote.

Four days before, welder Charles Kingston had fallen off an unsafe platform into a vat of hot oil and died. It was the main topic of discussion in the plant.

Some departments have been working seven days a week for months, which contributes to the high rate of injuries. Kingston's death occurred while he was working overtime.

The workers were disgusted that Local 47 had done nothing to keep management from imposing unlimited overtime. Even worse, the local collaborates with management's efforts to discipline workers who take days off.

The local failed to win union safety reps on the second and third shifts. Instead they settled for management's agreement to make foremen responsible for safe working conditions.

The present Safety Rep, Marvin Varner, was close-mouthed about the accident. When Workers' Power called him about Kingston's death, he refused to release any information without Chrysler's permission.

MORE IMPORTANT THINGS

While Forge workers were working in unsafe conditions, the



local was bargaining for more important things. The membership was not impressed that management agreed to buy eight more hi-lo's. All this means is less down time when they run out of stock.

They were also unenthusiastic about management's offer to provide snow shovels for workers whose cars get buried by blizzards in the parking lot.

As one angry worker said at the day shift meeting, "All you've come back with is more promises from management, and they haven't kept the ones they made last contract."

A rank and file group was organized a few weeks ago when it became apparent that another sellout was shaping up. Several members had been involved in the

Coalition for a Good Contract's campaign against the national agreement.

They put out a leaflet spelling out what was needed in the local agreement and calling for rejection if the proposal didn't measure up. Clearly it didn't.

The group is now preparing to deal with any slick tricks the International may try to pull. □

Ballots Stuffed At Local 595

Instead of voting on the new contract at ratification meetings, this year the United Auto Workers (UAW) held "informational" meetings to sell the agreement. Voting was held later in the plant or at the local.

These informational meetings were usually run by an International Representative from out of town—someone to take the heat from the membership and then leave town.

The atmosphere created was that it didn't matter what inadequacies were revealed about the new contract, it was going to be bullied through anyway.

Workers' Power received this report of one information meeting from an auto worker at the Linden, New Jersey, General Motors plant.

On Sunday, December 5, UAW Local 595 held its "informational" meeting to discuss the local and national GM agreements.

However, the purpose of the meeting was not information—it was to ram the contracts through... with both the local and International UAW officialdom doing the dirty work.

The meeting was arranged so only a small percentage of Local 595 members could attend. Both shifts had worked the day before, and the meeting was scheduled for Sunday morning. Consequently only hundreds—instead of thousands—showed up.

The International Reps jive-talked about the national contract for over an hour. But nobody ever saw the agreement. Instead of allowing us to see the national agreement, all we got was a "report." The report was a slick advertisement that would put Madison Avenue to shame.

RAISED ISSUES

But the 595 members spoke out about the conditions in the plant, how union members' rights are trampled upon by management, and why the contract failed to turn things around.

Issues like COLA on pensions, forced overtime, improper seniority procedures, and a shorter work week were raised. The International reps bluffed their way through—but they didn't come up smelling too good.

The explanation of the local contract was even worse. The Shop Committee had raised 40 demands, and only 7 were settled favorably for the union.

The Local 595 Executive Board refused skilled tradesmen the right to vote separately on the local agreement, even though they have the right to do so according to the UAW Constitution. The local president refused any challenges to the balloting.

We voted two days later. When the returns came in, it was clear the vote was stolen. The local claimed that the membership had voted up both contracts by a 9-1 margin! But one worker who checked the ballot boxes 15 minutes after voting began reported that they were already full. Who's kidding whom?

Local 15 Officials Squash Protest

DETROIT—The November meeting of UAW Local 15 voted to hold a demonstration at UAW headquarters. The December meeting voted not to.

Wishy-washy? Confused? No, the local officials just finally managed to get their act together.

The local had been torn by dissension since 10 rank and file members were fired and over 400 disciplined for a wildcat strike in August. Committeemen called the strike; then the local officials denounced it and forced the membership back to work.

The UAW International took over the disciplined members' grievances and settled them in favor of the company. The membership turned out in force to demand the union get the jobs back.

Local officials, while claiming to disagree with the International's action, would do nothing to challenge it.

For three months they vied with each other to see who could give the most convincing appearance of being on the membership's side while stabbing them in the back.

At the November meeting several officials supported the idea of a mass demonstration at Solidarity House. The stated purpose was to show discontent with the national agreement and to get support for local negotiations, in particular the attempt to get the penalties for the wildcat removed.

These officials wanted to embarrass others who didn't support the demonstration.

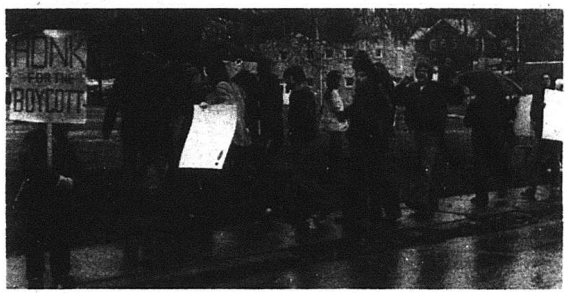
Both sides knew, however, that the demonstration would never happen. Not one of them was willing to brave the wrath of Solidarity House. Not one really wanted the fired members to get their jobs back.

The December meeting was unusual in one respect—a large number of committeemen attended. With this majority the officials closed ranks and passed a motion calling off the demonstration. Since the wildcat strike began,

Local 15 rank and filers have had to fight the company, the International, and the Local. The company has taken advantage of the union's willingness to roll over and play dead by firing more "trouble makers," overloading the jobs, and scheduling more overtime than the

contract allows.

The International is now hated by Fleetweek workers even more than in other UAW locals. The national contract received only a 64% yes vote by production workers, as opposed to 87% nationwide. □



COCA COLA LOCKOUT

BLOOMINGTON, Indiana—Last March workers at the Coca Cola Company here refused to take a 25% wage cut. Management locked them out of the plant.

The company has since refused to negotiate a contract with the locked out workers' union, Teamster Local 135, although the workers had reluctantly agreed to a 12% wage cut in order to save their jobs. Coca Cola is clearly trying to bust the union.

The 21 striking workers have an average 16 years' seniority. While they have manned the picket lines for the last nine months, living on \$50/week strike benefits, the Local 135 officials have remained virtually silent.

Through the initiative of the Bloomington I.S. branch, students and other residents have joined the fight by forming a local boycott committee.

Bloomington is a college town, the site of Indiana University. The Bloomington Boycott Coke Committee has put pressure on Coca Cola by distributing leaflets that expose the University's cooperation with the union-breakers.

The University is run on tax money. University property is used to transfer scab cargo and harbor Coke trucks. The University now provides over 50% of Coca Cola's business by selling local Coke products on campus.

The Boycott Committee is beginning a "Coke Off Campus" campaign to cut the company's major market.

The union bureaucrats have been only too willing to conform to the anti-labor laws.

The strikers and boycotters are learning that only the organized rank and file can effectively fight for the rights of working people. □

One UAW Local Stands Up

DETROIT—Members of United Auto Workers Local 227 have set an example of solidarity that Solidarity House should learn from.

At the McCraw Glass Plant, 15 quality control workers and engineers, members of Local 412, walked out Friday, December 10 when their contract expired. They set up a picket line at the main gate.

The other 800-900 workers at the plant are members of Local 227. When the afternoon shift arrived, a large percentage of the workers refused to cross the picket line.

The picket line stayed up and production was crippled again Monday morning. The bargainners came back with a contract late Monday night.

WILDCAT

This is the same local 'hat took on the International Union last month over their local agreement.

Local 227 members who work for Chrysler Export were angry that the expiration date of the local contract had been postponed indefinitely.

They wildcatted Friday, November 5, before the deadline of the Chrysler national agreement. All weekend, they maintained a 24-hour picket line. They were attacked by police and nine were arrested.

The strike held solid through the following Monday. The UAW International stepped in and threatened that the workers would be fired if they didn't go back in. After the strike was broken six members were discharged. The International has taken charge of the grievances, and the members still do not have their jobs back. □

ZIMBABWE WILL V

"The people are already learning methods of warfare, even within the protected villages."

EDDISON ZVOBGO is Deputy Secretary-General of ZANU [Zimbabwe African National Union] and the Editor/Publisher of the official ZANU magazine, Zimbabwe News. He was the chief legal counsel for ZANU at the Geneva conference. In this interview with Workers' Power he discusses ZANU's history, its policies toward the negotiations and its attitude toward the future of Zimbabwe.

Some sets of initials should be explained. The armed freedom fighters of ZANU are referred to as ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army). In recent months, these forces have been fighting alongside other militants, including members of the other main nationalist organization ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union).

This joint military organization is called ZIPA (Zimbabwe People's Army), and has bases and training centers in Mozambique. Very recently, there have been reports that ZAPU supporters may have left ZIPA and moved to Zambia to carry out their own guerrilla actions. At the same time, a number of ZANLA military leaders who were held prisoner by the government of Zambia have been released and have rejoined ZANU forces now in Mozambique.

If this information is correct, it is quite likely that the initials ZANLA and ZIPA both refer to the same group of freedom fighters, the guerrillas who are waging the struggle from bases inside Mozambique. This is not the only body of Zimbabwean liberation fighters, but it is probably the largest and best organized.

which is not in being at this moment."

GENEVA PROPOSALS

One of the proposals at Geneva is that the black majority-rule government, which will take control in Zimbabwe from the Smith regime, should redeem national defense bonds. The white government is selling these bonds to commit genocide on the people!

A "bill of rights" is proposed to guarantee non-expropriation of property. It would mean white settlers and multi-national corporations will not lose economic control of Zimbabwe.

"Perhaps one of the most incredible items being proposed," says Zvobgo, "is the item of pensions for past and present white government officials, including Ian Smith."

"Ian Smith and his regime, who have lived their entire lives off the sweat and blood of black people, expect Zimbabweans to agree to pay him a sizeable yearly pension for the rest of his life."

"And not only does he expect to be paid by the majority black government he has been fighting against for so long, he also is proposing that the army and police forces remain in the hands of the white settlers so they can protect their property."

ZANU's answer to these negotiations is clear. They are continuing guerrilla warfare in Zimbabwe.

Intensive political debate and education goes on in the camps in Mozambique.

AMERICAN INFLUENCE

American corporations are directly and indirectly involved in the exploitation of Zimbabwe. Some U.S. companies claim to be separate from the companies in Zimbabwe because they are subsidiaries.

Ford Motors in Zimbabwe is Ford Rhodesia, a subsidiary of Ford Canada. However, Ford Canada is a subsidiary of Ford U.S.A. All over Zimbabwe interlocking subsidiaries pay low wages, maintain racist divisions in the work force, and make fantastic profits off of black labor.

"These corporations are the lifeblood of the Ian Smith regime. He could not have survived had it not been for the determined defiance of international sanctions by private U.S., British, West German, etc. corporations."

Their support has kept the racist regime from going under.

MILITARY STRUGGLE

"Ian Smith's forces can go anywhere in the country," says Zvobgo, "but they are viewed as an army of occupation by the people. The objective of the party has been to politicize the civilian population."

ZANU claims it has now established political control over most of the rural area, which includes 89% of the African population.



Zimbabwe freedom fighters.

needed supplies. This destruction is viewed by the Africans as banditry on the part of the army.

"The second is collective punishment. An entire community is subjected to punishment, such as confiscation of livestock, just because one guerrilla was heard to have been seen in the vicinity and was not reported."

"Villagers who see their fowl, goats, and cattle driven off by the army, slaughtered, and fed to the soldiers have become more and more hostile toward the regime."

Finally, the government's so-

There has been fighting within 12 miles of the capital, with guerrilla warfare all over the country.

When the Smith army comes into an area, they are not greeted. No one gives them water or food, nor answers any questions.

The army and the Smith regime have further politicized the African population by making three blunders.

"The first blunder has been the destruction of all African-owned shops on the basis that these shops could be giving the guerrillas

called "protected villages" are really concentration camps.

"Right now there are over 100,000 people in protected villages. This was done to deny ZANU access to the people but that is not the case at all.

"ZANLA cadre are being put into those camps and transported from one area to another in government trucks.

"Therefore, the people in those camps have become so politicized that they are already learning various methods of warfare even within the protected villages." □

ZANU: A BRIEF HISTORY

ZANU was formed in August, 1963. Its main aims were to organize the party throughout the country, send young men out of the country for military training, and wage armed struggle to overthrow the present government.

The organizers of ZANU had tried the methods of peaceful demonstrations and resistance, with such humble requests as allowing blacks to be in the cities after dark. Even during this peaceful resistance repression was severe: their parties were banned, their leaders arrested.

Edison Zvobgo said: "The first ZANU group was sent to Ghana in 1963, came back in 1964 to start guerrilla warfare, were arrested upon their return and sentenced to 15 years in prison."

"The few who were not captured started guerrilla warfare in the eastern district; but the formal start of the armed struggle did not come until 1966 when more cadre returned from the socialist countries to set up camps in Tanzania and Zambia. So in March-April of 1966 the armed struggle began in earnest."

"Most of the Central Committee members of ZANU were already in jail by the time fighting broke out in earnest. However there were four leaders kept out

of the country at all times, so that when ZANU was officially banned on August 16, 1964, there were members still free to continue the struggle outside the country."

POLITICAL GROWTH

The organization was fully prepared for this ban and immediately went underground in Zimbabwe. Soon, however, ZANU leaders realized they were far from being an effective political party.

People in the camps were very disorganized, morale was low, and there was no really clear idea of what they were fighting for.

The organization had to enter a second phase—political growth, along with growth in the number of fighters.

Cadres in the camps began reading and discussing revolutionary literature, having debates and education. The imprisoned Central Committee members of ZANU also maintained direct communication with the organization even while they were in prison.

As a result of ZANU's political development, it has developed clearer ideas about the African revolution. ZANU believes that other African countries such as Ghana, Nigeria or Zambia have

not yet had revolutions.

Those countries' nationalist leaders went to Britain to Constitutional conferences, and came home with constitutions in their pockets.

"They simply moved into the houses of their former masters and began presiding over the borrowed capitalist structures from the West. It will be up to the new generation, the youth of these countries, to carry out their socialist revolutions," Zvobgo told Workers' Power.

Conditions for waging the liberation struggle have improved dramatically since 1974-5. Now that the liberation movement FRELIMO has defeated Portuguese colonial rule in Mozambique, ZANU fighters can cross safely over Mozambique's 800 mile border.

Over 2000 people join the freedom fighters in camps in Mozambique every week. Trained fighters return to Zimbabwe to take up the armed struggle.

"The ZANLA forces are now close to 30,000, while ZAPU's size is 2000 by their own admission. There is no other organization waging any kind of guerrilla warfare in Zimbabwe," says Zvobgo. □

WIN!

Britain's Real Role In This War

The white racist Rhodesian regime declared itself independent from Britain 11 years ago. Recently the press has portrayed Britain as a neutral or friendly force toward black Zimbabwe. But while Britain formally refuses to recognize or deal with the white regime, its actual policy is silent support for the white racists' authority.

Here is one example. This report was broadcast by the radio station in the capital of Mozambique, Maputo (formerly Lourenco Marques):

...

Salim Desai is an 18-year-old student who lives in Zimbabwe, but is the holder of a British passport. When the Rhodesian racist regime announced its new call-up regulations recently, Salim Desai became liable for service in the Rhodesian terrorist force.

He contacted the British Embassy in Pretoria (South Africa) about getting into Britain so he would not have to betray his country. However, he received no reply.

Still determined not to betray his country by fighting for the illegal regime against the people of Zimbabwe, Salim Desai got on a plane for London, no doubt believing he would be warmly received by the British government for having set such a fine example for his fellow Britons in Zimbabwe.

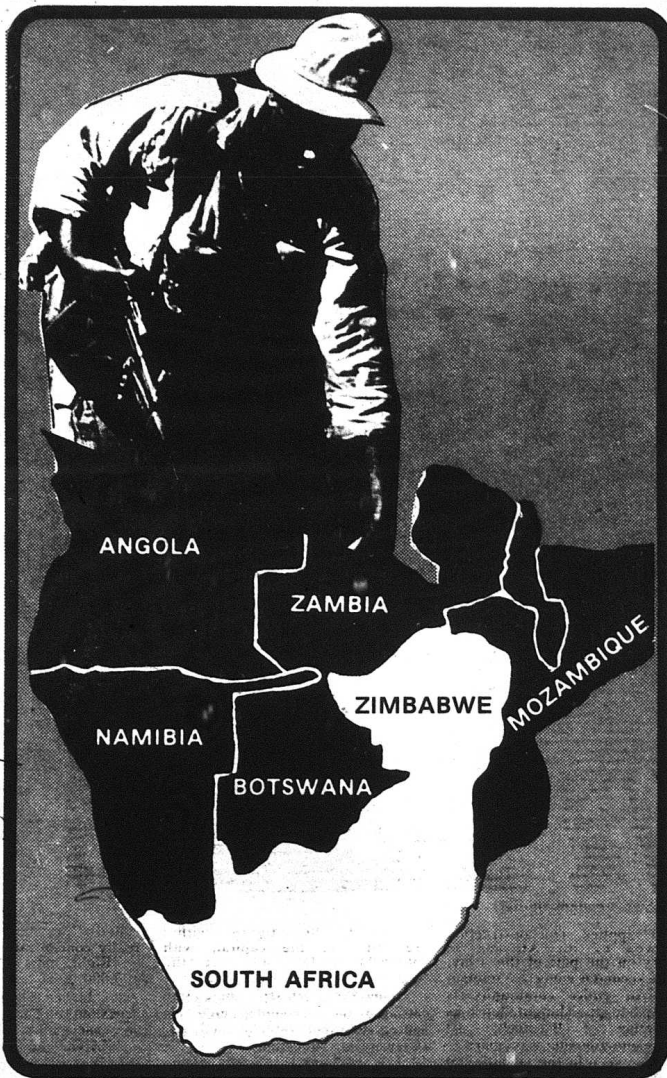
Unfortunately this was not to be the case. When he arrived at London airport Salim Desai was arrested. Of course he explained that he had a British passport and that he had been accepted as a student at a college in London. He also explained that his father was a businessman living in Britain... But that didn't do this young man any good at all.

The British authorities who are so powerless to overthrow the rebel regime (white Rhodesia), so powerless to stop British mercenaries joining racist and colonialist armed forces in Africa, suddenly became very powerful when this young man refused to be a mercenary in the racist army.

The British government decided he had no right to refuse. They detained him at the airport for seven weeks.

So what did the British government do? They decided to fly him back to Salisbury, where he would be forced to join the racist army of Ian Smith.

Salim Desai will be forced to put on the uniform of the terrorist regime of Ian Smith and will be forced to take part in the murder of Zimbabweans and perhaps the murder of the peoples of neighboring countries.



Racist Army - A Home For Psychotic Killers

BE A MAN AMONG MEN

The Rhodesian Army offers you an interesting and varied career with new allowances for fighting troops

For further details contact The Army Careers Officer Phone: 707087 Salisbury WRITE Phiso House, Gordon Ave. Box 8138 Causeway

A recruiting poster for the Rhodesian Army. This piece of filth is re-printed in the mercenaries' magazine "Soldier of Fortune."

by R.F. Kampler

What kind of man goes to Rhodesia to fight for the white racist regime? How about a young Canadian named Matthew Charles Lamb.

In 1966, Lamb walked out onto the streets of Windsor, Ontario, with a shotgun. Without any provocation he shot down four total strangers, including two women, killing two.

Doctors later speculated that Lamb had been acting out a guerrilla warfare fantasy.

This incident took place just 17 days after Lamb finished spending 14 months in jail for shooting at Ontario cops.

Previously he had done a month in reformatory for walking into a high school dance and punching a cop in the face with brass knuckles.

Even as a child, Lamb was in the habit of making unprovoked attacks upon his school-mates; as well as tormenting them more systematically.

Once he hid a dead crow inside a girl's briefcase. Another time he forced a smaller child to eat dog shit.

Lamb was found innocent by reason of insanity and spent seven years in a maximum security mental hospital. In 1974 he went to Rhodesia and joined the army.

One can imagine how Lamb must have reacted at being given a rifle and an endless supply of unarmed black civilians to act out his fantasies on.

What We Think

THE PEACE TALKS FRAUD

The so-called peace conference on the future of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) adjourned on Tuesday. It is scheduled to re-open in late January, after new bargaining positions are announced.

This conference has not produced the slightest hint of progress toward peace for Zimbabwe. In fact, during the negotiations the Rhodesian Army had opened up full-scale military operations against villages and border areas in Mozambique.

However, the peace talks may have successfully accomplished their real goal. That goal was not peace or majority rule in Zimbabwe at all. It was to give the white regime extra time, perhaps another year, to rule the country.

The United States and British governments want that extra time so that they can split and destroy the armed Zimbabwe liberation struggle. Then they will attempt to force the people of Zimbabwe to accept a government of right-wing, pro-western black politicians while the whites keep their land, their guns, their wealth and even most of their political power.

Washington has put intense pressure on the African states, who in turn have ordered the Zimbabwean delegations to stay at the hopelessly deadlocked Geneva talks.

The Rhodesian government has taken excellent advantage. Once again the privileged white settlers are confident that the west will ultimately step in to save them. The white government recently began construction of three new airfields which can handle heavy military transport planes. It also launched a domestic arms industry, with the manufacture of semi-automatic weapons—another indication it is getting ready to fight even harder.

Supplies of gasoline and money are once again flowing freely into the country. The United States and South Africa promised the racist Prime Minister, Ian Smith, that his supplies would be guaranteed if he agreed to the Geneva talks. Austrian and Swiss firms have also been named as trade partners with Rhodesia.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The Zimbabwe freedom fighters, especially the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA) based inside Mozambique, took part in the peace conference fraud.

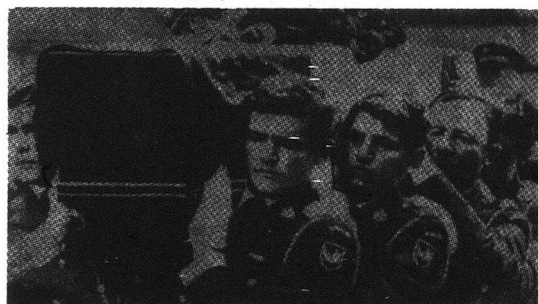
However, mainly because the African states committed themselves to these talks, ZIPA has not received anywhere near the full supply of weapons and support it needs. Hundreds of freedom fighters have been unnecessarily killed by Rhodesian raids, while various African Presidents pressure Zimbabwean politicians to keep talking in Geneva.

The rainy season, the season most favorable for an offensive against the white regime, is under way. A co-ordinated offensive by black African countries in support of the Zimbabwean freedom fighters could complete the liberation of Zimbabwe. The United States has spent tens of millions of dollars, and promised several billions more in aid projects, to prevent this from happening—so far, successfully.

Events between now and late January may be decisive. It is certain that the ZIPA fighters, and possibly other guerilla forces now based in Zambia, will step up both military activity, and intensive political organizing among the black population in the countryside. Already this week they derailed and blew up a railroad train near Bulawayo.

The freedom fighters' offensive will aim to make it clear that they, and the people of Zimbabwe, are through with begging the white racists for compromises. The ZIPA fighters are also through with any and all political figures who bargain away their future.

The United States government is celebrating its success in stopping the liberation war so far. It doesn't seem to understand that inside Zimbabwe itself, the political support among the black masses for any kind of sellout compromise with the white racists is rapidly disappearing. The U.S. can succeed in making the liberation war longer, harder, and bloodier than it should have been. But it cannot stop it.



Charles Lamb gets hero's funeral—here's one less killer.

The Rhodesian army either didn't bother to find out what kind of a nut they'd recruited, or didn't care. His fellow soldiers did say that he was obsessed with killing "Kaffirs" (niggers).

Some of the mercenaries fighting in Southern Africa are in it strictly for the money. Others are motivated by feelings of racism and anti-communism raised to the level of paranoia.

Still others are ex-soldiers who are too ignorant or immature to change their way of life.

Lamb was a fourth type: a sadist who probably got sexual release from inflicting pain; a killer for the sake of killing.

Lamb got wasted November 7 when he met some real guerrillas who could shoot back. The Rhodesians gave him a hero's funeral. It figures.



steelyard blues

DECISION TIME FOR THE UNITED STEEL WORKERS

SEE - IT'S IN THE CONTRACT!



FEBRUARY 8 - SAY "NO" TO NO-STRIKE!

Front page headlines in Pittsburgh newspapers last week carried the headline, "If Sadlowski wins, I quit, Abel says."

USW President I.W. Abel also formally endorsed the man he had unofficially backed all along, Lloyd McBride.

Under normal procedures, the newly elected president would not take office until June. In the meantime, Abel would head up basic steel contract negotiations. But Abel declared that if Sadlowski wins, "let him do the negotiating." Abel told the press that Sadlowski, candidate of the "Steel-

workers Fight Back" slate, has been running against his policies, and that a Fight Back victory would be "a vote of no confidence" in the Abel leadership. He went on to say that it would be "an indication that's what the membership wants, and they should have it."

CONFRONT ENA

By taking this move, Abel forces the Fight Back slate to confront—head on—an issue that up until now it has tried to fudge. Fight Back has been campaigning against the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), the no-strike agreement in basic steel which is the heart of Abel administration policies.

As Oliver Montgomery, Fight Back candidate for Vice President (Human Affairs), put it: "The right to strike is synonymous with the word union." Or in the words of Ed Sadlowski: "ENA is completely opposite to what the labor movement is all about. It's taken all of the bargaining muscle out of your arm."

But despite Fight Back's opposition to the ENA, their campaign literature puts forward no clear idea of what Sadlowski will do about the ENA if he wins the election. All Sadlowski has promised so far is a membership referendum on the ENA if he wins.

Probably the Sadlowski camp thought that the promise of a referendum was a clever ploy to win votes from union members leaning toward Sadlowski, but still confused or wavering on the ENA.

At the very least, it was an effort to blur the centrality of the ENA issue to the campaign. The promise of a referendum was an effort to give steelworkers the impression that making a clear decision on the ENA could be postponed until after the February 8 election was over.

In truth, the election itself will be the referendum that decides the union's attitude toward ENA and the other pro-management policies of the Abel administration.

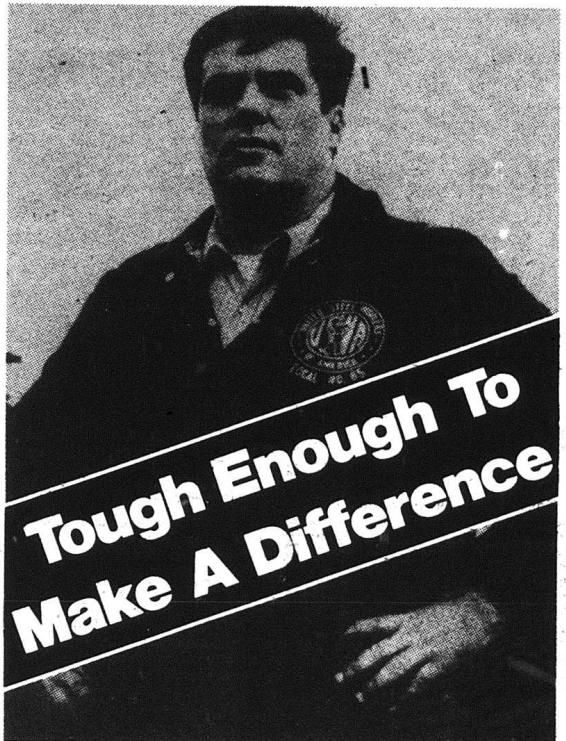
The Fight Back campaign leadership should have understood this and acted on it much earlier. Even during the nominating period, the campaign should have been turned into a crusade against the ENA.

For those who resisted that approach before, Abel's promised resignation should now make it clear that it's the only way to go.

BASIC STEEL NEGOTIATIONS

If Sadlowski wins, he must now be prepared to go right into basic steel negotiations. The very first issue on the table will be whether or not the ENA should be continued. And the shadow of ENA will hover over every other issue on the table as well.

Sadlowski will be forced to confront a hostile management bargaining team while legally



Sadlowski's campaign slogan is "Tough Enough to Make A Difference." It's time for him to prove it in action.

prohibited from calling the union out in a national steel strike. Management's tactic will be a vigorous takeaway policy designed to discredit Sadlowski and to teach proper respect for the pro-management policies of the old Abel machine.

If Sadlowski loses his shirt at the bargaining table it won't help him to come away crying that his hands were tied.

The membership will have voted him into office because they wanted results, not excuses. It will be too late to talk about referendums on the ENA—or to promise a real fight in 1980 when the union's hands are no longer tied.

Sadlowski must be prepared to follow a fighting policy in the 1977 basic steel negotiations—to bend or even to break the legal restrictions of the ENA if that is necessary.

REFERENDUM

As a reply to Abel, Fight Back should publicly declare the February 8 election to be a referendum on the ENA.

Abel promised to give the membership a referendum before he signed the ENA. But the referendum was never held because Abel knew he would lose it.

Fight Back should proclaim that it will regard overwhelming votes for its candidates in the basic steel locals as positive proof that the ENA was a fraud signed behind the membership's back and without its consent.

This kind of shift in the Sadlowski campaign would have dramatic results. After Abel threw down the gauntlet, Sadlowski will have to pick it up and run with it, or lose credibility.

It's no longer good enough for Sadlowski to run as a candidate who takes good stands on the issues. Steelworkers want to know: what will he do when he takes over?

Abel has just provided Sadlowski a beautiful opportunity to answer that question. Steelworkers will vote Sadlowski because they want to start fighting back.

Sadlowski campaigns on the slogan: "Tough enough to make a difference." It's time for him to start giving the kind of leadership that proves this in practice.

Steelworkers, however should not wait for him to do so. Their job is to use the campaign to organize a rank and file movement that puts the heat on Sadlowski to act, and that gives him the muscle to act with.

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The differential between men's and women's earnings has almost doubled since 1955, according to a report from the Department of Labor Women's Bureau. Even after allowing for inflation, the difference rose from \$1,911 in 1955 to \$3,433 in 1974. In 1974, in this, the land of equal opportunity, the report says that women had to work nearly nine days to gross the same earnings men grossed in five days.



A Congressional subcommittee has issued a report, making it official that the Scotia Coal Co. and the government's Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) are responsible for the 26 deaths in two Kentucky coal mine explosions last March. The committee said Scotia ignored federal mine safety laws, allowing dangerous conditions to exist, and that MESA allowed repeated violations of the law to continue. Surprise.

For some time, the National Right to Work Committee has focussed its attention on the Society of Professional Journalists. The Right to Work Committee, which is an anti-union organization, tried to persuade the Society to go on record opposing union shop agreements for journalists. The Right to Work Committee is opposed to all union shops, but claims that requiring a reporter to join a union is a restriction of the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press. The Professional Journalists decided that on the contrary, union membership did not restrict what a reporter could write. Instead, they noted that it is the employer who can reject or alter a story "for a variety of reasons, ranging from economic to political."

The National Right to Work Committee is funded primarily by contributions from employers. And they feel free to turn the truth upside down to suit their own purposes.

Workers' Power has often said that the McBride team, running for the top positions in the United Steel Workers union, is the voice of the employers. Recently, Joseph Odorcich, McBride's candidate for vice president, opened his mouth to prove us right. On a recent campaign swing through Chicago, he said he favored the plan to delay enforcement of new government restrictions on coke oven emissions until 1980. He said the "companies need more time to implement the standards." Coke oven emissions give certain coke oven workers a cancer rate 15 times higher than other steel workers face.

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

UPS Breaks Contract Before Ink Dries

No sooner was the United Parcel Service Eastern States contract signed December 9 than UPS massively violated it in northern New Jersey. Several hundred workers were told they were laid off as of Monday, December 13.

Most were at the Secaucus hub, where about 100 full-timers and 150 part-timers were told not to report to work. Fifty full-timers were recalled Tuesday and the rest of the full-timers were to come back Wednesday. To add insult to injury, there was mandatory overtime both Monday and Tuesday.

The Local 177 Executive Board claims the layoffs violate the contract. They say there was a verbal understanding that in the event of layoffs full-timers would retain the right to bump any part-timers working in the local's jurisdiction.

UPS claims the new contract only gives full-timers bumping rights within their own building. The local is filing a claim for pay for all the full-timers laid off.

The workers affected were very angry. At first many thought the layoffs would be indefinite or permanent. One laid-off full-timer said, "When I heard about this I wanted to go to IBT headquarters and throw Fitz out the window."

Local 177 officials were to meet with the International Wednesday to square away what the contract really means. Local 177 Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Porpora told reporters he fully expected the International to back him up.

However, UPS was given a free hand by the International to "do whatever is necessary to get the operation going" for the first two or three days. Part of the dispute is whether this free hand included seniority and layoff provisions.

These may be only the first skirmishes in a three-year long guerrilla war. UPS will try to exploit every loophole and vague part of the contract to win the concessions they didn't win in negotiations.

During these three years, it will be more necessary than ever to build UPSurge, UPS workers' organization. This is the only way rank and filers can prevent the contract from being used as a weapon against the workers.

Northern Jersey UPSers had voted against the new contract by a large margin. One steward said, "We were on strike for 12 weeks, but it seems like the contract is worse now than it was before." Another worker agreed: "Only time will tell how bad it really is."

Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You! Write: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203

LETTERS

"I Am So Impressed by Your 'Smash Apartheid' Poster."

Dear Comrades,

I am so impressed by your "Victory to the South African Revolution—Smash Apartheid" poster that I am asking you to send another. Would you consider payment the use of my freedom fighter on your poster?

Life in the art department at this end is hectic to say the least, so we are quite unable to compete with you!

Cheers,
Ollly Duke
Socialist Worker Litho
British International Socialists
London, England



"Smash Apartheid" poster is 23" x 28" with black and white lettering on a red background. Price: \$2.50 postpaid, 5 or more: \$1.80. Order from: Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

"Once They Get You Here They Plan to Keep You."

Dear Workers' Power,

I wrote to you back in August asking for a subscription to your paper. I informed you at that time

that I had five months remaining on a two year sentence here in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Since that time my captors have found it necessary to give me six extra months. I was busted for possessing contraband, which consisted of a cassette tape recorder and some tapes.

In addition to the six month extension, I was placed in the hole for ten days and denied any parole consideration. I have been incarcerated for 11 months and this is my first violation of any of their ridiculous rules.

Once they get you here they plan to keep you for as long as possible. One of these days I'll be out and then I plan to devote myself to a full time life of telling people what's really happening with this oppressive government we are living under.

If you publish this letter, would you just sign it with my initials so I won't have to fear any repercussions from the state of Missouri.

Yours in captivity,
(name withheld)
Jefferson City, MO



"I Guess the World Is Good —for Them!"

Dear Worker's Power,

Each week I take copies of Workers' Power into the steel mill where I work to sell. I thought you'd like to know what people's reactions are.

Last week, there were a few times when 10-12 people would be sitting around for lunch or break time. They'd have Sadlowski stickers on their hats. So I'd say, "Hey, are you guys supporting Sadlowski? Did you see that shit the International sent out promoting the no strike deal?" They'd say yeah. So I'd say, "Well check out Workers' Power. They really have a good answer."

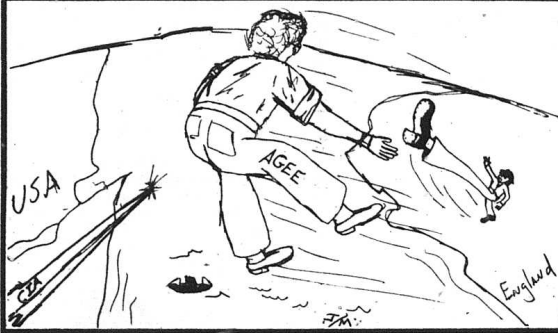
They'd read the steel coverage, and we'd rap about it. Usually it would start a conversation about the rest of the Sadlowski campaign, like, "Do you really think this guy can change anything by himself?" And we'd talk about what the campaign means for rank and file organization, and how a fighting union gets built.

Some people would buy a copy of the paper, and others would just look the rest of the issue over.

But what people really got off on was your decadence scale. Many of us had just been Christmas shopping, and spent an entire week's pay or more on a few presents. So there were a lot of sneers for people who can afford to buy \$40,000 "trinkets" at the drop of a hat.

One guy said, "You know they're always the ones to tell you the world is so good. Well I guess it is," he laughed, "—for them!"

Candy
Clairton, PA



"He's Ready to Bring Out the Truth."

Dear Workers' Power,

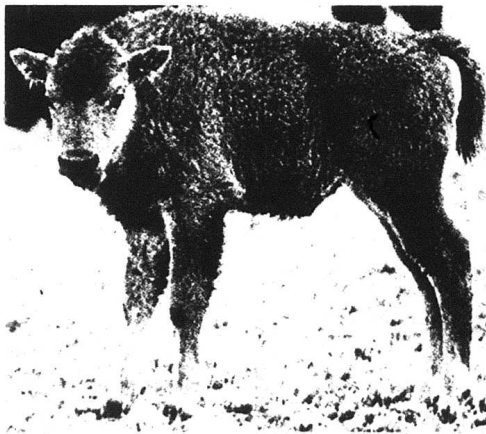
Enclosed is a cartoon I've

drawn up about my feelings towards the Phillip Agee case going on in England. I feel that we should stress this case because, on our side or not, he's ready to bring out the truth.

James Mitchell
Cleveland, OH

Workers' Power Sick Society Award

Give Them A Home On The Range



These buffalo are yours for \$11,750—no extra charge for the bullshit.

A READER FROM CHICAGO has submitted an All-American gift suggestion—a matched pair of baby buffalo. They're all yours from Neiman-Marcus for only \$11,750.

Perhaps your favorite 4-Her would like to raise buffalo for the next county fair. Or with the price of meat these days, it might be a good investment to grow your own.

In a family that wanted to economize but had its heart set on owning the only buffalo on the block, the husband and wife could give one calf to each other.

The ad doesn't mention whether the calves are male or female, but we would warn the prospective purchaser to look out for any bullshit that comes along with them. Perhaps they could both crop and fertilize the grounds of your estate? You wouldn't have to pay all those gardeners any more.

Because they're so cute, Workers' Power rates this matched set at only a 6 on the Decadence Scale.

If you can find something even more useless than the rich are giving each other for Christmas, submit it to our Sick Society contest. Try to include a picture. The winner will receive all the revolutionary posters produced by Sun Press for the next year.

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

10
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DECADENCE SCALE

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 other 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 class 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**
Socialism 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. 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.

Workers' Power
313-869-5964

Next Steps To Build The Struggle In Auto

by Jenny Singer

DETROIT—I.S. auto workers held a national conference here December 11-12. Auto workers from five cities attended.

The meeting was geared toward helping the members who have been auto workers for only a short time. It discussed the work I.S. members will do in their locals, now that the bargaining round in the Big 3 is over.

Some of the discussion centered on the Big 3 contract period. I.S. auto workers had spent much time organizing for a good national contract. They had hoped that a large movement of rank and file UAW members could be organized to fight the sellout planned by the UAW leadership.

The movement that existed among production workers was small, however. The I.S. had discussed the reasons for this: the demoralizing layoffs in 1974-75, the lack of a strong black liberation movement in the community, which would tend to stimulate in-plant activity. Most auto workers just did not believe it was possible to force the UAW to fight for a better contract.

As a consequence, the contract period did not result in ongoing groups that could turn to other fights after the contracts were signed. The Coalition for a Good Contract (CGC), which I.S. members worked to build, never became a strong organization.

LOCAL ORGANIZING

The job for I.S. members and other auto militants now is to build strong local organizations.

Enid Eckstein of Local 51 put it this way: "One of our jobs as revolutionaries in the plants is to build the class struggle around us. To do this we have two aims: to establish effective leaders in the fight against management and to build ongoing rank and file organizations in the locals. In reality, of course, things aren't divided that simply. Your success in building agitation on the shop floor is the groundwork to building an ongoing rank and file organization."

"In our agitation on the shop floor we want to involve the broadest possible number of workers around us in struggle over some particular issue, with the expectation that people can change things. Most auto workers feel it's impossible to fight city hall."

"Our primary job is to convince people that it's possible to do something, even in the most limited way, whether it's talking back to your foreman, refusing added work to your job, or actually taking on the local."

"We want to convince people that it is possible to fight back and actually make progress. We as revolutionaries and builders of rank and file groups have to be consistently pointing a direction for the people around us."

PLANT PUBLICATIONS

David McCullough of Local 869 discussed plant publications, going over all the things I.S. members have learned about how to make them popular, readable and helpful in building the struggle. He stressed that a publication, whether a one-shot leaflet or the regular organ of an established caucus,

exists to serve a purpose, not as an end in itself.

"One of the most important things we've learned," he said, "is that you have to distribute them openly. If you try to get things around secretly, management will know who's doing it, the union will know. The only people you might possibly fool are your fellow workers."

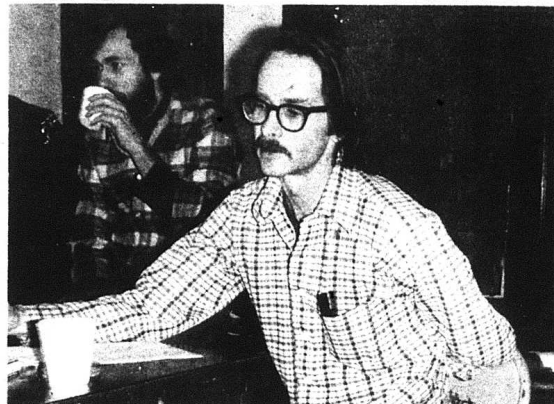
The problem of red-baiting and the importance of being open about socialist politics were discussed. McCullough suggested that Workers' Power is the best way to explain to people what socialists stand for.

I.S. UAW members function not only as trade union militants but also as revolutionaries. The conference discussed how to recruit auto workers to the I.S. and how to build up a larger following for it in the plants.

Holding events—forums, films, potlucks—which present many aspects of I.S. politics and which create a social atmosphere around the organization help auto workers get interested in the organization.

In Detroit, for example, after-work film showings for second shift workers have been very popular.

The UAW International would like very much to help the companies get rid of socialists and other militants in the union. Militants can defend themselves against victimization by showing how such attacks hurt everyone, not just the ones who get fired. The



David McCullough, UAW Local 869, explains the use of plant newsletters.

conference stressed that the defense has to be a collective one.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

A member of Local 212 outlined the structure of the UAW Constitutional Convention to be held next spring. I.S. members will be trying to form slates in each local to run in the delegate elections.

Several members of the Local 51 United Coalition told how an election campaign had helped their caucus establish itself as a force in the local.

Although the Constitutional Convention itself is tightly controlled by the UAW machine, the delegate elections can raise the issue of how the International union is run. For example, the way bargaining and voting were conducted, the skilled trades ratification process, or the undemocratic procedure for electing International officers may be issues at this Convention.

There was controversy over the reasons for involvement in the delegate elections and the Convention—whether the main purpose was strengthening rank and file organization in the locals or building a national campaign.

It was agreed that I.S. members who become delegates will undoubtedly be involved in a coalition of rank and file forces at the convention. The majority of the members felt, however, that it was too early to tell just what the issues at the convention were likely to be.

and that they were not in a position to initiate a national campaign around a program for the Convention.

SOUTH AFRICA

On Sunday the group discussed building support for South African freedom fighters among auto workers. Speakers pointed out that learning about South Africa can develop political consciousness because the need for a revolutionary solution is so clear.

Widespread sentiment in solidarity with black South Africa exists side by side with ignorance about the apartheid system and the imperialism that props it up.

By providing information as well as organizing actions, both large and small, the I.S. can begin to build a movement around South Africa. White workers should not be ignored as supporters of this movement.

The meeting was particularly valuable for members outside Detroit who have not been UAW members for long. They heard what more experienced members had learned in their years in the plants. Each delegate from outside Detroit met with a member of the steering committee to draw up plans for their local work.

The sessions on shop floor agitation and building caucuses will be transcribed for the use of auto worker members and other I.S. members in industry as well. □



Enid Eckstein, UAW Local 51, addresses conference.

Local Campaigns Set For Telephone Contract Fight

A successful meeting of I.S. members who work for the telephone company was held in Louisville the weekend of December 11-12.

The main order of business was to develop a perspective around the 1977 contract. The contract expires in August.

It was agreed that there isn't enough "contract fever" to make a national campaign realistic at this time. However, members in telephone will initiate local campaigns where they work.

Operators in several cities will use a nationally circulated petition as a vehicle for building a rank and file contract movement. The petition calls for upgrades and six hour tours for operators.

In New York, I.S. members along with other telephone workers plan to call meetings at various telephone company buildings and garages. The meetings will launch a petition drive around good pay and job security clauses in the contract.

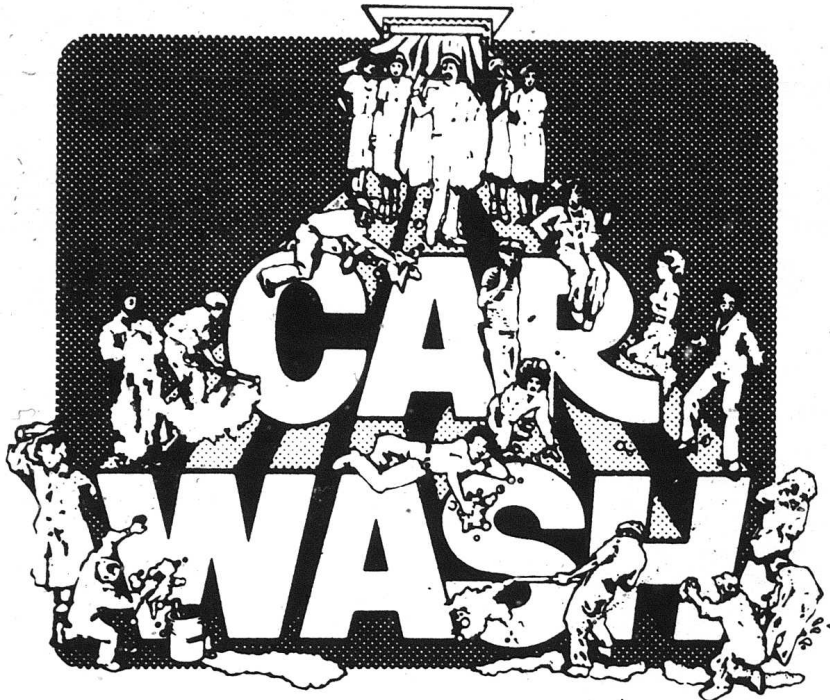
The other main topic of discussion was on building the I.S. through work in telephone. An I.S. pamphlet for telephone workers is planned, as well as increased Workers' Power coverage.

BUILD I.S.

In addition to the contract fight, phone workers can be attracted to the I.S. through all the other activities that the organization is involved in. These include forums, film series, and socialist education classes. □

VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

BOOKS MUSIC TELEVISION ADS MOVIES TRENDS BOOKS MUSIC TELEVISION ADS MOVIES TRENDS BOOKS MUS



"Work... and work, those cars never seem to stop coming."

by Retha and Tokula

This line from the theme song of Car Wash gives an idea of what this movie is all about.

Car Wash is a good movie about a typical day in a car wash. It takes

a look at a low-paying, tedious job and shows what it does to the people who work there.

Music plays a major role in the movie. It is like a drug to help everyone forget the boredom and rotten conditions they face every day on the job.

But the movie is more than a description of the job. It is an

overall view of the oppression that the working class is subject to. The movie shows the endless struggle to escape from a miserable job.

The owner of the car wash, Mr. B., is a capitalist who makes huge profits by making the employees wash the cars by hand instead of investing in machines like other establishments.

Car Wash opens with the various employees coming to work. They are all young, minority, or "society's outcasts," like the ex-con. The job is mind-destroying; they pay is lousy—the only people who put up with it are those who are absolutely broke.

SOCIETY'S OUTCASTS

The ex-con with a family can't get a raise which he desperately needs. Another man is losing his fiancée because she's frustrated that he's not making enough money to go to college.

Each worker has a gimmick or a plan to help them get by in such an oppressive job.

There is Abdula, a black man who is sullen, mean, and militant. He is portrayed as a frustrated burn-out. He is disliked by employers and employees alike.

Of course, rich people make these flicks. They ignore the positive aspects of Abdula's character because they want us to think that it's wrong or a bumner to be a serious revolutionary.

"Car Wash"
Starring Franklin Ajaye and George Carlin. Produced by Art Linson and Gary Stromberg.

The car wash owner's son is the one to watch. He's a spoiled hippie-type who drives his father's Cadillac to the car wash. He wears a Chairman Mao t-shirt, and carries Mao's "Little Red Book" in one pocket and several joints in the other.

He announces to his father that he "wants to be a worker." But one

day of hard work is enough to show him he'd rather spout revolutionary ideas than act on them. He returns to his comfortable world of living off his father.

The disgusting role of women in the movie is one of its few drawbacks. All were either dumb or good liars.

The counter-girl at the car wash has an affair with the boss. She does it because he's rich and she needs money.

This is a typical situation for millions of working women who are forced, because of poor pay, to go to bed with gross, fat, rich capitalist bosses.

There are thousands of women who lose their jobs because they refused their bosses' sexual advances.

RIP-OFF ARTISTS

Car Wash shows the constant flow of rip-off artists that workers confront every day.

Daddy Rich, played by Richard Pryor, is a Reverend Ike-type character. During a good background song by The Pointer Sisters, Daddy Rich fleeces the workers. Abdula calls the preacher's bluff, and it becomes obvious that religion is just a cover for what is worshipped most in this society: money.

Car Wash is good for a lot of laughs, but it also carries a message. The boss, the Beverly Hills woman, the preacher, and the other rich folks all go parading through the movie, while the workers struggle just to get by.

The movie makes clear the sharp differences between us, the working class, and the rich bosses. □

[This review is reprinted from the December issue of The Red Tide.]

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 Chicago: PO Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Station, Chicago, IL 60611
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 Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109
 Springfield: PO Box 795, Springfield, MA 01101
 St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130

FREE THE PENDLETON 14!

Fourteen black Marines are in the brig at Camp Pendleton, California. They face conspiracy and assault charges for attacking seven white Marines November 13.

Officials at the base are making every effort to keep the motive for the attack from becoming public knowledge.

The intended target of the black servicemen was a Ku Klux Klan meeting, but it was being held in an adjoining barracks.

The Klan meeting had been advertised, despite regulations prohibiting such meetings on base.

At first, officials from the base claimed there was no Klan at Camp Pendleton. Now camp spokespersons deny racial tension exists at Pendleton, but the remarks of a KKK member from the base indicate otherwise.

WEAPONS

Corporal Dan Bailey, "exalted cyclops" of the Camp Pendleton Klan told reporters, "We have all the weapons we need. . . if the blacks start anything, we'll be

ready."

Clarence Pendleton, Jr., executive director of the San Diego Urban League, investigated. According to him, "a small arsenal" of weapons, including shotguns and 20 nightsticks, was confiscated during a search of the barracks where the Klan was reported to have met.

The sympathy of Marine Corps officials clearly lies with the Klan over the blacks.

The 16 suspected Klan members have not been charged with any violations. Membership in the KKK is not prohibited. The Marine Corps is reportedly investigating to see if a Klan meeting was held on the base.

Major Sally Pritchard, Camp Pendleton information officer, said she did not believe a KKK meeting had been held on base because the men had been questioned and denied it.

The Marine Corps' only action against Klan members has been to move them, including Bailey, to other bases or in some cases to other sections of Pendleton.

RACIST THREAT

By allowing the Klan to exist, the military brass is supporting the KKK's racist terror, and endangering the lives of all black servicemen.

A pre-trial hearing for the 14 blacks was held December 6.

The imperial wizard of the KKK, David Duke, 26, of Metairie, Louisiana, showed up outside the hearing with six followers.

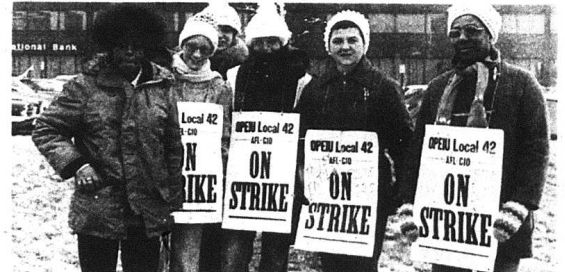
Also present was a multi-racial group of demonstrators supporting the 14, belonging to the Committee to End Racism.

They chanted, "Free the black marines, jail the Klan."

A demonstrator hit the imperial wizard over the head with a picket sign when he unfurled a KKK banner.

The night before the hearing, Duke called the transfer of the KKK marines to other bases, "improper and unwarranted—a revelation of how the service treats the white serviceman."

ON STRIKE AT CHRISTMAS



DETROIT—Since September 2, keypunch operators at the Tolley International Corporation have been working without a contract. On December 6 the final offer came down from management—and the women, members of Office and Professional Employees Local 42, hit the street.

One of the strikers said, "If this goes through, we might as well not have a union." Management wants to take away 8 of the 13 sick days, reduce maternity benefits, and grant a wage package of only \$15 a week over three years.

In addition, Tolley wants a no-strike clause and a clause that would virtually do away with

At the hearing, counsel for one of the defendants asked a military judge to appoint an assistant counsel. He said the government had "a battery of prosecutors."

A San Diego activist coalition, People United to Fight Oppression, plans a rally in Oceanside, near the base, in support of the black Marines. □

ON STRIKE AT CHRISTMAS

Women at another Tolley location are refusing to do any work that comes from the struck office. At this second office, the workers had less seniority and experience and the contract was pushed through.

The Local has sanctioned the strike but as yet no representative of the International has offered any help. The first meeting with management was scheduled for Thursday, December 16.

If management makes no concessions, the workers will spend Christmas on strike, as a reminder that it's better for management to give and the workers to receive. □

Pat Gallagher

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

Workers' Power

I.W. ABEL SAYS: ELECT SADLOWSKI, AND I'LL QUIT EARLY!

PITTSBURGH—Last week, I.W. Abel, President of the United Steel Workers union, told steelworkers to vote for Ed Sadlowksi in the upcoming election if they were dissatisfied with the representation they're getting from the union.

On February 8, members of the USW will choose between Sadlowksi and Lloyd McBride to replace Abel, who is retiring.

To be sure, those weren't Abel's exact words, but his meaning was clear. He formally endorsed McBride, as the candidate who would carry on his policies. And he said the election of Sadlowksi would be "a vote of no confidence" in his leadership.

What are Abel's policies? A whole system of collaboration with the steel companies, topped off by the Experimental Negotiating Agreement which gives up the union's most powerful weapon, the right to strike.

Abel's policies affect the whole union, from top to bottom. The reason most grievors aren't very energetic in defending the membership on issues that come up every day is that they accept this same philosophy of collaboration with the company. There is plenty of reason for the rank and file to return "a vote of no confidence."

That means electing Ed Sadlowksi, who opposed the no-strike deal

and company/union productivity committees, and who is for the membership's right to ratify contracts.

ELECT SADLOWSKI

Abel also promised that if the Sadlowksi slate were elected, "In all decency I would resign, and let them handle the [1977 basic steel] negotiations."

Not that Abel is anxious to quit early. On the contrary. He had originally promised to stay out of the election. Now he has endorsed McBride and is giving interviews and planning speaking tours to try to pull together the pieces of a crumbling regime.

Abel says he never intended "to sit quietly back and let Sadlowksi run wild." But there is only one reason he is stepping in now: the voice of the membership, particularly in basic steel, has been loud and clear.

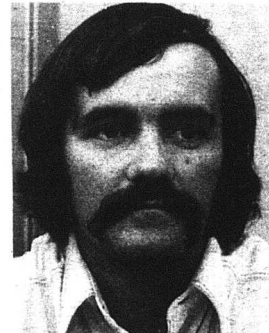
It has the steel companies' friends in the union running scared. And the drive must be continued until they are run out for good.

See page 8 for more on the Sadlowksi campaign and the fight against the no-strike agreement.

UPSurge: "People are aware it's a question of changing the union"

Twenty thousand United Parcel Service workers in 15 eastern states struck UPS for 13 weeks. They had to stay out that long, just to stop the company from destroying all rights for UPS workers to have a full-time job.

Workers' Power interviewed Rita Drapkin and Gary Lewellyn about the strike. Rita is a member of Teamsters Local 249 in Pittsburgh and Gary belongs to Local 110 in DuBois, Pa. Both are leaders of UPSurge, the rank and file UPS workers' organization. We asked them to talk about the role of UPSurge in the strike.



Gary Lewellyn



Rita Drapkin

GARY: It was more or less a defensive strike. The things we won were a certain protection for the present number of full-time workers, in that when a full-timer leaves he'll be replaced by another full-time worker.

Also, part-timers now have a company pension plan, and full health and welfare comparable to the full-timers. But a lot of the things we wanted we did not get—two of the most important being voluntary overtime and the new grievance procedure.

I think without UPSurge's pressure and organization, we would have done a lot worse than the central states did.

RITA: You know, many local officials even said to their people—kind of whispered to them—that if it weren't for UPSurge you wouldn't have gotten these things. We really believe the pressure we were able to put on these low level officials helped.

They didn't allow Fitzsimmons to send us back earlier with a worse contract, which we believe he would have tried to do.

ORGANIZING

From the beginning—back in April—UPSurge began bringing people together and forming a network. Even at that point there was pressure on these 25 local officials who were on the negotiating committee. They were certain to include all of UPSurge's proposals at the beginning.

At that point, UPSurge began growing in terms of its network. In the beginning we only had people in a few states, right in the center of the region. As time went on, we began getting contacts as far north as Maine and New Hampshire, and south to North and South Carolina.

Once the strike happened, UPSurge put a lot of pressure on the union to extend pickets.

All the way through to the end, the union's negotiating committee of 25 people kept coming back and getting flak from people and having to face demonstrations in their local areas and motions raised at meetings. Petitions from people from UPSurge, as well as mailgrams, went to the International demanding extension of the pickets.

GARY: We heard different reasons why the International wouldn't extend pickets. They mentioned that some of the vice presidents in the Central States were against it, as if Frank Fitzsimmons doesn't have the absolute power to call it if he wanted to anyway.

We met in Pittsburgh to discuss extension of pickets. Some areas were really hot and ready to go any time. A lot of other areas didn't want to risk it.

We were threatened with loss of strike benefits if an area extended pickets to the central states, and a lot of areas didn't want to do it if it wasn't sanctioned.

We felt that if we couldn't do it on a large scale, with a lot of people doing it at once, it would have a negligible effect.

Just on our own, we could probably keep them down for one or two days in the central states, and the effect may have been more demoralizing than constructive.

RITA: The reason the union gave for not extending pickets was that people would lose their benefits. They actually gave that as a reason.

Then they said the company would get an injunction. So we

showed through our legal counsel how that would not stand up.

The last thing they told people was that the government would invoke the Taft-Hartley Act, which is just ridiculous. UPS does not constitute a national emergency.

JOIN TDU

I think that what people realized during this strike, is that it wasn't that we couldn't beat UPS—but that the union didn't want to.

In the beginning, when UPSurge raised the idea of the extension of pickets, a lot of people were not convinced that it was realistic or that it would do anything. But by the end it became very clear that the union should have done it, and didn't do it.

For this reason I think people are pretty aware that it's not just a question of fighting UPS, but of changing the union. And UPSers can't do that alone. We're not a big enough force in the union. The only way we can do that is by working with other Teamsters and joining them in Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

There's one other thing I want to say about the next three years, because I think it's important. UPS is going to try to rewrite this contract over the next three years. They're going to try to interpret everything in their own way, which is why they left all those loopholes.

We have to build our network—through the paper UPSurge and by joining TDU—so that we can fight back, through grievances, through job actions, and make sure that contract is enforced in a way that's favorable to us.

WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

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Trade Union

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