

# WORKERS' Power

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## RACIST POLICE TERROR RULES CHICAGO SUBURB

## Malcolm X - A Memorial Tribute

# Cops Nearly Kill UAW Member Local 6 Organizes Defense

by Ted Draper and Mike Slater

CHICAGO—At their February 13 union meeting, workers from the International Harvester plant in Melrose Park, Illinois voted to set up an official defense campaign to aid Benny Lenard, a black worker at the plant who was the target of a vicious and unprovoked attack by two white Melrose Park policemen.

As a result of this attack, Lenard, who has over 10 years seniority in the plant, received a fractured cheekbone and may have suffered permanent loss of vision in his right eye. He is still in the hospital undergoing treatment.

This is not the first incident of racist harassment suffered by blacks in Melrose Park, a western suburb of Chicago. Because of its notoriously racist police force and the fact that the syndicate has enormous influence there, many blacks at the plant have long been worried about their safety when they drive through Melrose Park to get to work.

claimed that Lenard had assaulted her. And without hearing what Lenard had to say, they handcuffed him and threw him into the back of the police car.

In the car, the police made sure that Lenard was properly "reprimanded" for "assaulting" the white woman. While screaming

racial epithets at him, like "got you now, nigger," they beat his face to a pulp with their nightsticks.

### SADISTIC

At the police station, the police continued their brutal and sadistic treatment. It was not enough that they had already beaten him unconscious and broken his cheekbone. They threw Lenard into a cell, stripped him naked, opened the window (temperatures were sub-freezing at this time), and poured cold water over him.

He was left to lie like that for nine hours.

Finally, they called his wife and sent him to the hospital. He is still there today, almost three weeks after the police attack.

When word of what happened reached the plant, it created quite a stir. Over two hundred attended the next union meeting.

By a stand-up vote they put the issue at the top of the agenda. Then the official defense committee was set up by an almost unanimous vote.

Around \$400 was raised to start the defense fund off. The motion was passed that the police involved in the incident should be fired.

The defense committee, which held its first meeting this week, has set itself two major aims: to raise money for Lenard's legal and medical expenses, and to organize public demonstrations of support.

A number of stewards have begun collecting money among workers in the plant. They also plan to pack the courtroom with Lenard's supporters when he comes to trial.

The police officers involved in the incident, by the way, are still out on the street. Preserving law and order, of course. □

**Benny Lenard's car was hit by a white driver. He reported it to the police. They beat him to a pulp—and after three weeks, he's still in the hospital.**

### ORDEAL

Lenard's ordeal began on January 31. When he got off the midnight shift (11 pm to 7 am), his car wouldn't start due to the cold weather. Finally around noon that day, he was able to get his car started and left the plant parking lot.

After driving only two blocks, his car was hit by another driver.

While exchanging information Lenard told the driver, a white woman, that he was going to call the police so that the accident could be reported. She urged him not to do that; she didn't have a license, and was worried she would get in a great deal of trouble.

Lenard called the police anyway. When they arrived, the woman



In 1958, Malcolm X led a Los Angeles demonstration against police killings. Today, his ideas are as important as ever.

See Page 8

# Eating more PBB...

## but enjoying it less?

by Elissa Clarke

PBB IS SHAPING UP as Michigan's hottest political scandal. Two weeks ago, the United Auto Workers demanded the resignation of B. Dale Ball, director of the state Agricultural Department.

UAW Vice-President Doug Fraser charged that Ball had made a "tremendous mess" of the PBB episode, and said that the Agricultural Department had ignored "shocking health effects known to be associated with PBB."

Michigan farmers are now circulating a petition, demanding Governor Milliken's recall. Milliken's political career may well fall due to his cover-up of the PBB scandal.

PBB is a fire retardant that was mixed with Michigan's cattle feed in 1973. It killed thousands of cattle, chickens, and pigs, and poisoned tens of thousands more. PBB contaminated a large part of the food produced in the state. Farm families who came into contact with the feed and ate large quantities of PBB-contaminated food, have suffered debilitating illnesses, and probably will never recover normal health.

U.S. Congressman William Brodhead has also called for Ball's dismissal. "The people of Michigan are literally being poisoned and we must put a stop to it immediately," said Brodhead on Tuesday, February 15. "If the governor made up his mind he wanted to get rid of Ball, he would be cleaning out his desk at the end of the week."

### STILL SOLD

Ball maintains that there is no danger in low levels of PBB, and is still allowing diseased animals to go to slaughter and be sold in supermarkets.

Meanwhile, neighboring Canada has refused to buy any more Michigan beef.

Due to public outcry, all political figures in Michigan are now working hard to cover their asses, including Brodhead and Milliken. Even the UAW came out with its criticism four years too late.

On Tuesday (Feb. 15) the five-man Agricultural Commission, appointed by Governor Milliken to study the PBB problem, announced that it would support legislation to lower the level of PBB permitted in Michigan food. This is a reversal of its previous position.

Commission Chairman David Diehl said, "I personally don't think there's a good reason for lowering it [PBB guidelines]. All

this does is let the public think there's no danger, even though there's none now."

The scientific evidence that PBB does cause severe damage to the central nervous system, and could cause cancer, seems to make little difference to Diehl and other politicians. Now they are falling all over each other to go on record against the current FDA guidelines for PBB only because they are looking ahead to the next elections. PBB is sure to make and break a few careers in Michigan.

But as of now, the old guidelines still stand. Any cattle with levels below the .3 parts per million guidelines set by the Food and Drug Administration are considered fit for consumption, and are still being sold in Michigan supermarkets.

There is presently no state compensation program for farmers whose cattle were poisoned by PBB. Last year, Governor Milliken vetoed a bill which would have aided farmers. Another such bill was proposed last week by State Representative Francis Spaniola.

Right now, chaos still reigns for farmers whose lives have been turned upside down by PBB.

Each farmer must battle the Michigan Farm Bureau, a private association which sold the contaminated feed, for settlements. The state's refusal to quarantine cattle with low levels of PBB has made it very difficult for farmers to win claims.

### NO EVIL

State officials have a see-no-evil, hear-no-evil policy on PBB. Agriculture Secretary Dale Ball says, "I just can't believe that many of them [cattle], as bad as they describe, are getting by our meat inspectors."

One farmer, Bob Geering of Falmouth, Michigan debated Ball on television. On the program, Ball denied that low level, but obviously sick cattle, were being sold at meat auctions.

A short time later, Geering sent four cattle to market. Two had open, running sores. One was seriously underweight, and one's milk production had dried up.

"They went straight through slaughter, and Wednesday I had my paycheck," said Geering. "You'd have to be awful damn blind to pass them."

Geering later sold 57 more cattle that he considered unfit for human consumption.

Many other farmers have been put in the same position as Geering; the state literally forces them to sell cattle that they would not consider eating themselves.

Michigan farmers are in a



Some farmers were forced to slaughter their own cattle because the state refused to admit they were sick from PBB and quarantine them.

no-win position. On the one hand, they cannot get the state to quarantine their diseased herds, they have no hope of winning compensation. Their choice is either to sell their cattle or go bankrupt.

The strategy of the state government has been to cover up the PBB scandal as much as possible. Instead of quarantining and destroying the diseased cattle, they denied the problem was serious, and denied that cattle with PBB levels under .3 ppm were sick.

So instead of meeting the problem and cleaning it up, the problem grew. PBB-tainted meat, eggs, milk, butter and chicken are found on grocery shelves, even today.

And every person who has lived in Michigan since 1973 has PBB in their bodies. PBB is an extremely persistent chemical—it takes decades for it to decompose, and the effect of PBB is cumulative. That is, the PBB that you eat today is simply added to the PBB already in your body.

PBB is being passed on to the next generation by mothers breastfeeding their infants. Women who live on farms are encouraged by state health officials not to breastfeed their infants, and women in the rest of Michigan are offered free tests to determine the PBB level in their breastmilk.

Jennifer Partaka, a two-year-old, is a baby who has been poisoned by PBB. Even though the Partaka's stopped eating contaminated food before Jennifer was born, she was poisoned through her mother's breastmilk. Jennifer lives on a farm in Minden City, Michigan. She has PBB levels in her body higher than the family's 160-pound St. Bernard, who died from PBB poisoning in 1974.

Jennifer has been sickly since she was five months old. Her mother is scared and angry. "I

don't give a damn about the cows," said Mrs. Partaka. "What about the people?"

### BEND THE RULES

The Agriculture Department seems to think that they can get rid of the PBB problem by selling all the contaminated cattle for slaughter. They are so anxious to get them to market that they have bent their own lax rules. For example:

- In some cases, the Agriculture Department has released a portion of the cattle from otherwise quarantined herds.

- In other cases, the Department has lifted quarantines entirely after a farmer has agreed to destroy one or more high-level cows—whether or not the rest of the herd has been tested.

- The state has refused to accept lab tests from private labs to determine PBB levels—even though their own labs cannot keep up with the demand for tests. Many farmers are skeptical about the results of the state lab tests—which often get lower results than the private labs.

The cattle that were destroyed by the state were all buried in Kalkaska, Michigan. Concentrations of PBB in Kalkaska are so high that the land should be forever banned as farm land. The same is true of land where farmers were forced to bury their own cattle because the state would not quarantine them. The PBB that is in the ground will remain toxic for decades—perhaps for hundreds of years, and if the land is used to grow food or raise cattle, the PBB will be recycled in a chain that may never be broken.

### NEW BILL

Last week, State Representative Francis Spaniola introduced a bill into the state legislature that would

lower the PBB guidelines to .02 parts per million. If passed, the bill would require most of the remaining cattle with any detectable level of PBB to be destroyed.

It would also provide for compensation for farmers of up to \$950 per cow. The farmers would still be able to sue the Michigan Farm Bureau if they believe their cattle were worth more.

This bill may finally clean up the PBB contamination. No legislation at this point could cure all the tragedies caused by PBB. But action four years late is still better than no action. The bill reportedly has the support of Governor Milliken.

Michigan farmers and other residents have learned one thing from the tale of PBB, and that is that the government cannot be trusted to provide safe, wholesome food. When presented with the choice, government officials thought it was much more important to go on with business as usual, not to upset food sales in the state, than it was to protect people from serving up heaping portions of a highly toxic fire retardant. □

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# WILL U.S. STOP BUYING RHODESIAN CHROME?

by Dan Posen

News Item: On February 10, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance announced the Carter Administration will make "an all-out drive" for Congress to stop imports of Rhodesian chrome into this country.

Warning: Don't hold your breath waiting.

This is the second time, in less than a year, that an administration has announced it would seek repeal of the 1971 Byrd Amendment.

Under this amendment, the United States classified chrome as an item "essential to national security." This country imports the metal from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in violation of international sanc-

tions against the racist regime there.

## BROKEN PROMISE

When Secretary of State Henry Kissinger visited southern Africa last year, he got big headlines and warm welcomes from African states by pledging to repeal the amendment and stop the import of the chrome.

That was the last that was ever heard about it. The imports continued, uninterrupted.

Now the new Democratic administration has revived the same promise. The announcement coincided with another trip to Africa, this time by newly appointed Ambassador to the U.N., Andrew Young.

The Democratic Party has controlled the U.S. Congress ever since the Byrd Amendment was passed in the first place. It could have repealed it last year, or any other time.

The Democrats and Republicans have worked together to give the racist rulers of Rhodesia and South Africa the economic backing they need to stay in power.

## NEEDS TIES

There is the possibility that this time, the government will carry through on its pledge to stop the imports of chrome from Rhodesia.

For one thing, the argument that these imports are a necessity for

strategic purposes has collapsed. The government has 230,000 tons of it sitting in stockpiles.

But there is a much more basic reason. The stakes in the struggle for Zimbabwe are much higher now.

The U.S. government is desperate to restore ties with a number of black African countries. It also wants to make sure it has access to the mineral riches and potential investment opportunities in Zimbabwe—after black majority rule is established.

If the Carter Administration and the Democratic Party keep their promise to stop importing Rhodesian chrome, it will not be because they suddenly support the freedom

fighters who are struggling for the liberation of Zimbabwe.

It will be because they know that in the end, nothing the U.S. can do will stop that struggle from winning. Sooner or later they have to have relations with the winning side.

But the United States has still not given up on buying time for the racist settlers of Rhodesia. For many years the Mobil Oil Corporation has secretly, and illegally, supplied oil to Rhodesia through carefully disguised transfers from South Africa.

No Mobil executive has been charged with any crime for this. And you can be sure none will be. □

# TRANSIT WORKERS SAY: NYC CUTS ARE A CRIME!

NEW YORK—About a year and a half ago, the Transport Workers Union (TWU) called a demonstration at City Hall. It was spurred by the proposed fare increase, cuts in services, and attacks on jobs and wages.

It was a terrific demo—a few thousand workers marched round City Hall with contingents from Postal, Teachers, Musicians, and a half dozen other unions.

After a few strolls around everyone was herded down a side street to hear Matty Guinan, International President of the union, and Paul O'Dwyer talk tough and threaten a strike if they didn't get their way.

Well, since then the K and EE lines have been eliminated. There are fewer cars in off-hours and all trains running less often. Token booths are shut. The workforce has been reduced. There has been a

fare increase, with another supposedly in the works. And the only wage increase won in the new contract is a cost-of-living tied to productivity, hardly a gain.

Despite all the hot air last year the union hasn't done a thing, till now. They called another demonstration.

While Guinan and John Lawe, the local president, would only give lip service to fighting all the cuts

that had gone on before, they clearly intended the demonstration to pressure the city into rehiring the transit cops.

While the issue of crime on the subways is important, the union is trying to build up a fight campaign to get what they want, and are playing very much on racist fears. But it was quite apparent that the ranks were concerned about more

than just safety on the trains.

Fully half the signs were hand-made and said things like "Stop the Cuts," "MTA has Broken Contract," "Remember 1966" (the last big strike), and even a poster of James Connolly saying "For a Workers' Revolution."

## ANGER AND BITTERNESS

The anger and bitterness on the faces of the workers wasn't there last time.

As the rally was beginning, each time that a new contingent marched down the street, the speakers were drowned out by chants of "Stop the Cuts." And as soon as Matty Guinan mentioned the strike, the whole crowd erupted and drowned him out for half a minute.

It's clear from the past actions of the union leaders that they have no intention of calling a strike. If they planned to, why didn't they when the contract was up and the ranks had voted for the strike? Just the same, the workers are more than willing to go if told to.

Though all the workers know they must strike to defend the lousy conditions they now have, let alone win back what they had before, they are still pretty much behind the union leadership.

So the union can call all the demonstrations and talk all the strike talk they want to and by itself that won't do much good. Any real pressure for a serious fight will only come from within the rank and file of the union, and they are learning that the hard way. □

David Dugan



New York transit workers—ready for a fight.

# Part-Timers Lose Dollar An Hour In UPS Southern States Pact

by David Katz

The last major Teamsters contract for United Parcel Service workers has been ratified. It covers 11,000 drivers and inside workers in the South-eastern states.

Although in many ways the Southern contract follows the pattern negotiated earlier for the Central states and then for the Eastern states, in a few critical areas it falls short of that pattern.

The differences can be attributed to the rank and file activity that existed through the UPSurge organization in the Central and Eastern states during the contract bargaining. That sort of independent rank and file activity was

largely absent in the South.

That cost Southern UPS part-timers \$1 an hour. They did not get the extra \$1 an hour catch-up which Eastern UPS part-timers won over and above the \$1.65 increase everyone got.

## PART-TIMERS

In both the East and the South, part-timers' wages are well below those of full-timers. Because of UPSurge's pressure before and during the 13-week Eastern strike, that wage gap was narrowed in the East. In the Southern states, where there are, considerably more part-timers, that wage gap remains unchanged.

In another development in the South, a new employment category was added: "driver's helper."

That category is mentioned only in the wage scale and not in the contract itself, so it's not clear exactly what a driver's helper will do. But the wage scale makes one thing perfectly clear: a driver's helper will get \$2.00 an hour less than the driver.

In other respects, the Southern contract is similar to the Eastern contract: same cost-of-living; same right for part-timers to bid into full-time jobs; and the same guarantee to protect full-time inside jobs, although there are very few of these left in the South.

One other provision is the same

as the Eastern and Central states contracts: the expiration date is April 30, 1979. This re-affirms the company and the union's intention to negotiate a nationwide UPS contract when the present regional contracts expire.

National bargaining in 1979 is a step forward in that it will strengthen the union's power at the bargaining table. There would not be separate, easily isolated regional contract strikes.

But national bargaining will also make it harder for the rank and file to exert control over the union negotiators—unless they are able to build UPSurge into a more powerful, national voice of the rank and file by then. □

**Scheme  
Aimed at  
Liberation  
Fighters**

THE UNITED STATES government may be plotting a new maneuver to stab the Zimbabwean liberation movement in the back.

Last week, American and British ambassadors in South Africa met with the Prime Minister, John Vorster. Vorster had just finished meeting with Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith.

Smith and Vorster have reportedly agreed to a scheme for holding a so-called referendum in Zimbabwe, which would lay the basis for negotiations between Smith's government and a puppet black figure.

Such a referendum would be held under the guns of the white army, and the control of tribal chiefs who owe their positions to supporting Smith.

The idea for this kind of fake vote might very well have secretly come from the U.S. Government. But Washington could never take responsibility for it. To do so would destroy Jimmy Carter's efforts to rebuild ties to countries in black Africa. □

**Ireland**

**Court  
Sentences  
Irishmen  
To Life**

Last week a British court sentenced four Irish men to life in prison for IRA bombings. The four refused to recognize the court and heard the sentences from their jail cells.

The sentences came just as a new wave of Provisional IRA bombings was starting in London.

The sentences also came shortly after the fifth anniversary of the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry, Northern Ireland. On that Sunday thirteen people were murdered when British paratroopers fired into a civil rights march.

The same British government which sentenced the four men in London to life gave the officer who commanded the paratroops on Bloody Sunday the Order of the British Empire, one of its highest awards.

The truth is that the British government can end the bombings in London and Northern Ireland as well any time it wants to. All it has to do is declare its intention to pull out of Northern Ireland and set the date for that withdrawal.

The Provisional IRA has repeatedly said that as soon as this is done they will end all military action immediately.

It is the British government, which piously talks about peace and an end to the violence, that is responsible for the war and the violence.

If there were no British troops in Belfast and Derry there would be no IRA bombs in London. □

Sandy Brown

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Church Opposes Apartheid--  
But How Far Will It Go?**

The Catholic Church of South Africa is strengthening its stand against apartheid (forced racial segregation). The result could be a serious political crisis for the rulers of that country.

Last month the Church began opening up its white parochial schools to black children.

This move reportedly affected fewer than 100 black children. The only ones who could directly benefit come from the very tiny minority of black families who can afford several hundred dollars tuition per year.

This move was important, however, because the government did not feel strong enough to crack down immediately against it.

The Church authorities, and parents who participated in integrating these schools, are clearly defying South Africa's laws of total segregation and white supremacy.

The Church has now followed up by promising to desegregate hospitals, hotels, orphanages and other institutions it runs. It has also



A few black students have been admitted to previously all-white Catholic schools in South Africa.

pledged to carry out systematic campaigns against racial oppression in South Africa.

There are several reasons for this

policy. For one thing, there are 1.8 million Catholics in South Africa— and 1.5 million of them are black! Last year's rebellions showed

how powerful the black masses of South Africa can be. It is also now clear to everyone that they totally reject white rule and the apartheid system.

**LOSE SUPPORT**

If the Catholic Church continued to accept that system, it would lose its own strong base in the black communities.

But the Catholic Church also appears to be determined to use that base, to build a movement for racial reforms in South Africa.

In other words, the Church is putting itself on the side of the black struggle in South Africa. However, it is doing so in the hope that it can push that struggle in a liberal direction, instead of a revolutionary one.

Important sections of South African big business, especially English-speaking industrialists, also want to see the apartheid system modified.

They realize that in its present form, that system cannot continue without bringing a black revolution that will destroy South African capitalism.

They want to find a way to stop that revolution, at all costs, so long as they can keep their investments and go on exploiting black labor.

**SUPPORT**

These business have money, international connections and control of much of the South African press.

But up to now they have had no effective political organization or base. The white liberal opposition parties are divided, ineffective and pathetically small.

The Catholic Church hopes it can supply that organization, by becoming the organizing center for a multi-racial reform movement. Most of all, it wants to make that movement a significant force by providing it with a large black base.

Such a movement will push for lifting some aspects of racial segregation. It can remove segregation in Church institutions, and perhaps modify some of the wage and job color bars in a few industries—as long as the white government tolerates this.

But no reform movement in South Africa can do away with the pass books, the secret police, white control of the land and the factories.

The Church will be forced to preach that black people should seek peaceful change within a system that is based on white supremacy and enforced with racist violence. It will preach that they should rely on liberal business allies instead of organizing their own revolutionary movement.

This program cannot succeed. The Nationalist Party government will not tolerate meaningful reforms. And 20 million black people in South Africa will not wait for someone to liberate them from above.

However, the Church policy has thrown a real scare into the government. When an institution as conservative, and as tied to property, as the Catholic Church goes into active opposition to the law, it is a sign of how far the base of support for the system has crumbled. □

**EGYPT**

**Strikers get life in prison**

THE EGYPTIAN government of President Anwar El-Sadat has pushed through a new law which is supposed to prevent new food riots and other protests.

The law makes strikes or sit-ins, as well as unspecified acts of "sabotage," punishable by life in prison at hard labor.

The government claimed that over 99% of the people of Egypt voted for this law in a national referendum. Needless to say, the government is not about to release the ballots to let the people of Egypt check the results for themselves.

Despite its claims, the rulers of Egypt know very well there is no popular support at all for their anti-strike repressive measures.

Students openly defied Sadat when he spoke at a school, on live national television, and warned them they must "keep politics off the campus." The students turned him down flat—and organized a march to prove their point.

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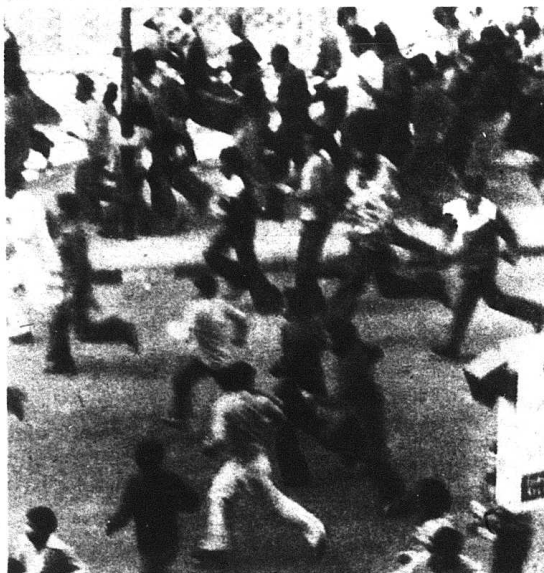
And the government discovered in last month's massive food price riot that its own police force would not break up workers' demonstrations. Instead, a special elite group of security police had to be called to shoot the demonstrators.

But the best proof that the government knows how weak it is, is that the price increases which touched off the January 18 upheaval have been cancelled.

Those increases, which would have cut food subsidies, meant adding about 10% to the budget of an average urban worker. That meant pushing millions of people over the line between hunger—and starvation.

All this in order to save the government about \$400 million a year and make it more attractive for desperately needed foreign loans.

The workers of Helwan and Cairo rioted because they knew that



Egyptian workers flee riot police during food price protests.

unless they risked being shot now, it meant certain death by starvation later.

Because the workers were well-organized, the government has put the blame on extreme left underground groups such as the Communist Workers' Party. But this, in itself, only shows that the appalling crisis of Egyptian capitalism has created conditions for a strong revolutionary working class movement.

That movement has begun to rip apart Sadat's claim to leadership of the Arab masses. While he spends

\$2 billion a year on weapons, pretending to defend the Arab people against Israel, his own workers are so desperate they are rising up against him.

That's why the food rioters chanted this simple, bitter Arabic rhyme: "You live in style and we live seven to a room; you change clothes three times a day and we change once a year..."

That's also why Egypt's class struggle promises to get even hotter now. □

Dan Posen

# AFTER SADLOWSKI SLATE DEFEAT

# WHAT NEXT FOR STEELWORKERS FIGHT BACK?

by Dennis O'Hara

GARY, Ind.—Representatives of Steelworkers Fight Back stated last week that steps are being taken to maintain the Fight Back groups in at least a dozen cities. They also stated that a monthly national Fight Back newspaper is being planned.

Steelworkers Fight Back is the campaign organization set up around Ed Sadlowski's bid for the United Steel Workers presidency. Despite the fact that Sadlowski lost the election, his victory in the basic steel section reflected the widespread discontent steelworkers feel with the present union leadership.

It was a strong repudiation of the no-strike deal (ENA) and a vote for more union democracy, particularly the right to ratify contracts.

## DISTRICT 31

Although the national Fight Back slate was not elected, Jim Balanoff was victorious as the Fight Back candidate for District 31 Director.

Continuing the Fight Back organization will be necessary to defend this victory. Harry Piasecki, who backed McBride and ran



A Steelworkers Fight Back meeting in Ecorse, Michigan during the campaign. Now that the election is over, Fight Back should organize a fight against the ENA.

second to Balanoff, has announced his intention of filing for a re-run, although there seems to be no evidence of fraud.

Ordering another election in District 31 would probably turn into

a disaster for the Piasecki-McBride forces, however. Many people would see it as a totally undemocratic maneuver.

Moreover, a re-run might end up strengthening the Fight Back

organization in District 31, which was already one of the strongest in the campaign. This possibility might be enough to scare off McBride from a premature challenge.

But eventually, in one way or another, McBride will challenge Balanoff, who represents the Fight Back opposition to the union machine. Continuing the Steelworkers Fight Back organization can meet this challenge. But it will also be an important step in building a rank and file movement in the United Steel Workers.

The history of the workers' movement has always shown that we learn our lessons from defeat as well as victory, and that the lessons learned in today's defeat provide the ideas for tomorrow's victory.

The failure to build Fight Back in 1974-76 after Sadlowski was elected Director of District 31 was one of the key reasons for defeat in this year's elections. But the election campaign has opened the door to building a real Fight Back.

A good mechanic knows that if you only take a car out of the garage and drive it every four years it won't function properly. Fight Back is a car, the vehicle by which rank and file steelworkers can go forward to reform the union and take on the steel corporations. If we want it to stay well-tuned and powerful we must keep it in motion.

What can Fight Back do? First, there is this year's steel contract. Fight Back can begin a campaign to keep the ENA out of the new contract.

Workers in basic steel, by voting for Sadlowski, have already made clear their opposition to the no-strike deal. "End the ENA" petitions, local resolution drives, demonstrations and rallies can make sure Abel and McBride do not miss the message.

## NEXT CONVENTION

Another national focus for Fight Back should be the next convention. McBride has already served notice that he may try to stop future challenges to the union machine by doing away with the membership referendum vote on top union officers. He wants them to be elected at a convention instead, where the union leadership controls most of the delegates.

Fight Back can make sure this change does not make it through the next convention by organizing a campaign against it before the delegates are elected.

Candidates for convention delegate must be forced to take a position on it. That would give the local union membership a clear choice in the delegate elections, and also help bind the delegates to the will of the rank and file.

These are only two examples of how a national Fight Back organization can continue the struggle. Local Fight Back groups can organize around the local contracts or on other issues of concern at a particular mill.

The Sadlowski campaign demonstrated that there are large numbers of steelworkers who are dissatisfied with the present union leaders and their cozy relationship with the companies. The message in the Sadlowski campaign slogan is no less important now that the election is over: "It's Time To Fight Back."

# ENERGY COMPANIES WIN

by Kate Stacy

AS EXPECTED, the entire power structure of this country is now helping the energy monopolies blackmail the rest of us. From the cloakrooms of Washington, D.C. to the Editorial Boardrooms in New York City, resistance to raising prices and eliminating federal controls has disappeared.

Today, the government cannot do anything about the fuel crisis without raising prices. It could if it were willing to attack the right of the energy monopolies to make a huge profit. The government could begin to bring a particle of sanity to national energy policies if it were willing to declare the rich natural resources of this country public property.

But the government supports the profits, the special interests, and the privileges of big business. It isn't about to start challenging them over the fuel crisis.

So, while there are as many variations as there are sub-committees in Congress, nearly everyone is united on a basic energy policy: sharply higher prices and new "energy usage" taxes.

**PRICES:** The government will free oil and gas prices from substantial regulations. Liberals would end government pricing policies over a three or four year period to "cushion the blow to the consumer." Conservatives favor rapid decontrol.

**Natural gas will thus rise from between 29c and \$1.44 per 1000 cubic feet to a minimum of \$2.00. Oil prices would rise from \$8.62 per barrel to \$12.50.**

Economists unashamedly admit that both consumers' bills and energy corporation profits would rise astronomically. But, never a group to challenge the pursuit of profit, they lamely state, "Well, that's the only way to encourage heavy investment."

**TAXES:** New and stiff taxes on energy use are another hot item in the program.

The Carter Administration leans heavily on the Brookings Institute for brilliant thought. The

Institute's director of economic studies, Joseph Pechman, would like a 50c per gallon tax on gasoline. That would cut consumption by 25% in five years.

It would also raise the price of a gallon about 80%, to well over a buck a crack. Harvard Professor Otto Eckstein would like that levy to cover oil, gas and coal as well.

While liberal politicians say there will have to be a big rebate to the poor to help them meet higher living expenses, that will probably be confined to those on fixed incomes or those way below the poverty line.

The point of the tax is to cut consumption drastically by making fuel too expensive to use.

## SUBSIDIES

There will be plenty of federal subsidies, however—for the energy conglomerates that started this whole mess in the first place by cutting production until

..... with government blessings



the country practically froze to death.

Among the plans being floated are federal tax subsidies to stimulate coal production in the west, and promises that environmental controls will not become obstacles to commercial success there.

Other subsidies for the coal companies include tax dollars to purchase rail cars for shipping!

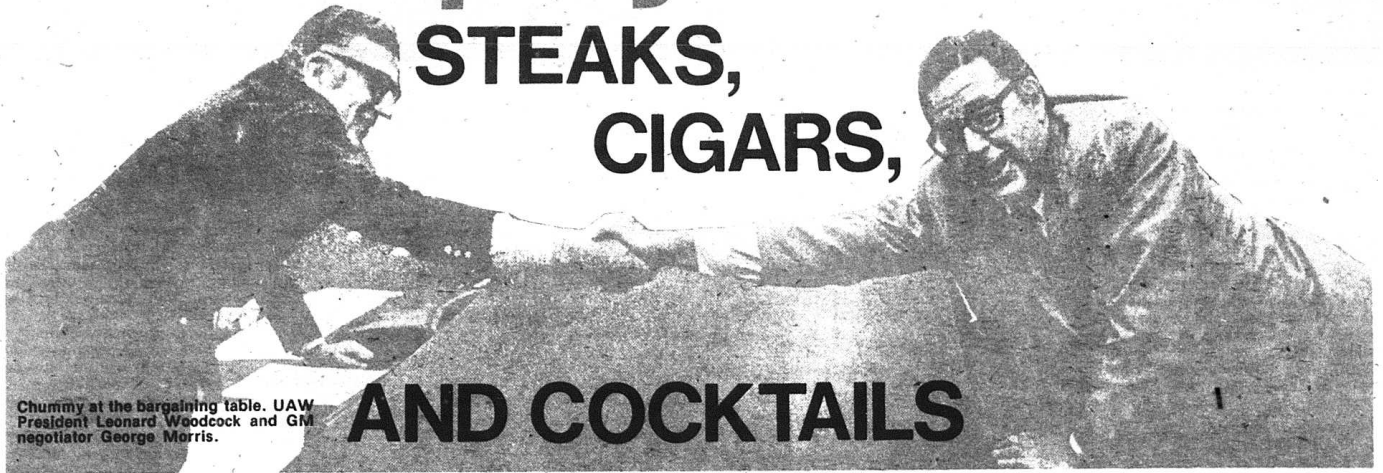
While the government is coming around to the industry's way of thinking, more and more reports are surfacing of vast untapped fuel reserves that are

not producing even though demand is high. The fuel monopolies were well aware of these—and many other reserves. They chose not to develop these resources because the profit margin was not bloated enough.

Among the hidden reserves reported in this week's issue of Time magazine alone were a 16-million-acre oil field in New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania—three of the states hardest hit by the "shortage," and 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in a non-producing reservoir on federal territory.

# The Company & The Union

## STEAKS, CIGARS,



Chummy at the bargaining table. UAW President Leonard Woodcock and GM negotiator George Morris.

## AND COCKTAILS

DETROIT—Top officials of the United Auto Workers and General Motors sat down last week at the St. Regis Hotel over steaks, drinks, and cigars, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their first contract.

That contract was signed in Flint after a bloody sit-down strike that lasted 44 days.

The GM executives were delighted with the gathering, while the UAW leaders seemed to realize that the situation called for some embarrassment. President Leonard Woodcock refused to answer

questions about the shindig.

GM executives were quick to come to the defense of their UAW partners, however. Vice-president George Morris insisted that the UAW didn't sell its members out. There is no reason, he said, why labor and management should be "in constant battle."

GM Chairman of the Board Thomas Murphy explained that the dinner was just a sign of the two parties' constructive relationship. "They really don't think we're dirty bastards, and we certainly

don't think they are," the Wall Street Journal quoted him.

### BOYCOTT

Murphy praised "Leonard" for helping the companies argue against stricter emission control standards. He noted that the UAW has begun taking responsibility for society at large, not just its own members. (Society at large presumably includes both people who breathe and GM stockholders.)

A few UAW bigwigs were uncomfortable with the party. Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey boycotted it. Some thought it would have been wiser not to advertise the chummy relationship.

Outside, demonstrators carried a banner reading "Company unionism won't kill real spirit of Flint sitdown."

Although the company and the union split the bill for the dinner, it was GM which proposed it and made all the arrangements. Their purpose was apparently to gloat

over and glorify the fact that the UAW leadership has dropped any pretense of fighting the companies.

GM's Murphy even invented a new term for the tamed UAW "fire-eaters." He hailed the new era of "the labor-management statesman." Statesman Woodcock (we're supposed to call him "Brother") was presented with a "small but meaningful" plaque as a token of GM's esteem. The meaning was clear to all.

Jenny Singer

# ... but where was the UAW when

## this contract was negotiated?

# Forge Rejects Again

## PHILLY NEWS STRIKE RESISTS UNION BUSTING

PHILADELPHIA—On Tuesday, February 8, reporters and clerical workers for this city's two largest newspapers walked off their jobs. Members of the Newspaper Guild struck the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News demanding higher wages and company payment of Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

Then the courts intervened with an injunction limiting the number of Guild pickets at the Bulletin building, and ordering the Bulletin's Teamsters back to work. The Guild agreed to remove its pickets entirely, enabling the Teamsters to obey the court order.

CUT BACK ON BABIES —BUT DON'T BOTHER THE BOMBS

A Health, Education and Welfare Department plan to funnel money earmarked for day care assistance into emergency utility subsidies has been abandoned. An eager junior official figured \$200 million could be taken from the day care budget without the quality of care falling below that allowed by law. Which shows you how bad the law allows child care to be. HEW Secretary Joseph Califano halted the plan, apparently because of the bad publicity factor. But Department administrators are still looking for more social service funds that could be diverted. So far the Department of Defense has not announced a similar search for "unused" or "excess" funding to help ease the fuel bill pinch.

by Neil Chacker UAW Local 47

Workers at Chrysler's Detroit Forge plant have again decisively rejected the local contract negotiated for them by the UAW Local 47 leadership.

The Forge workers first voted down the tentative agreement 3-1 in December. The union refused to accept the rejection, supposedly because only 210 of the plant's 1650 workers had voted.

Naturally they would not have objected if the small turnout had voted in favor of the contract.

The local refused to ask the International for a strike deadline. They came back on February 15 with the same agreement that had been rejected in December. This time over 700 workers voted, turning it down by a margin of almost two to one.

The turnout might have been even larger if half the midnight shift had not been sent home early that night, before the polls opened.

The Local 47 leadership is now in a spot they will find it hard to squirm out of. They have been telling the International that most of the Forge workers were satisfied with working conditions and only a handful of dissidents were making all the noise. They will have trouble explaining the latest vote.

### COALITION

Much of the credit for the rejection goes to the Coalition for a Good Local Agreement, a group of rank and file members that has

been organizing for several months. The Coalition has put out a series of leaflets pointing out where the tentative agreement falls short.

They have demanded improvements in health and safety, working conditions, and protection from management harassment. They called for no more forced 12-hour days and 7-day weeks, and abolition of the absentee control program.

The Coalition also circulated a petition calling on the International to set a strike deadline. It was signed by over 600 workers.

The Local 47 leadership has red-baited the Coalition and collaborated with management in harassing Coalition supporters. This has only discredited them further in the eyes of the membership.

## UAW Sets Strike Deadline At Local 869

WARREN, Mich.—The UAW finally set a strike deadline on Warren Stamping Local 869's negotiations with Chrysler Corp., for Tuesday, February 22 at 10 am.

David McCullough, who is running for vice-president of the local, informed Workers' Power of an error in our Feb. 7 issue. We said a 20-minute strike at Local 668 in January had set a record for mini-strikes.

Not true. In 1973, Local 869 struck for 2½ minutes over the local contract.

Detroit Forge is a critical plant that produces parts for a number of other Chrysler shops. Instead of using this leverage to get the most out of the company, the local uses it as an excuse to let management do whatever it wants. Some of the local officers seem so concerned with the needs of the corporation you would think they were stockholders.

One Coalition leaflet said, "A strike here would mess up the whole corporation. The bargaining committee should be able to bring back the plant manager's gold watch and chain if we send for them."

The local officers are being reminded that they work for the membership, not for Chrysler. If they can't deliver what the workers need, the workers will find another set of officers who can.

"The strike was over before we got to the time clocks," McCullough said.

This time the story may be different. Management is acting like it wants a strike. They have been systematically violating the national and local contracts this week—eliminating jobs, adding work to others, and violating job classifications.

They used this same tactic to intimidate workers into accepting the national agreement last fall.

# NO BREAD FOR BAKERY WORKERS

by David Fitts

LOUISVILLE—The Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) has been successfully undermining the Bakery and Confectionary Workers International.

Several years ago A&P was operating 33 bakeries across the country, most of which were organized into the B&C. It now has only 10 bakeries in operation.

This company had a good profit rate. Because their bakery products were sold in their own stores, the middleman's profit stayed at A&P.

If the bakeries were profitable, why close them? A&P's history of being against union organizing may provide an answer.

I am a steward in B&C Local 213.

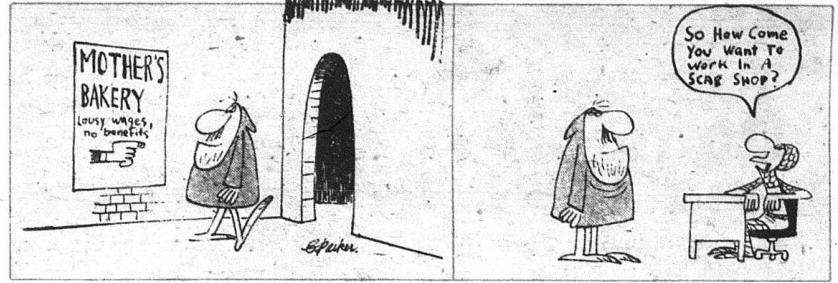
Louisville and Cincinnati. On February 5, the A&P bakery in our local closed its doors after a long series of lay-offs and cutbacks.

This shutdown threw 70 people into the streets. Seniority of those 70 ranged from 15 to 40 years.

Only four were eligible for their pensions. This bakery had been one of the largest in the area prior to the layoffs.

The company is now attempting to pay severance pay in monthly installments which are just enough to keep the employees from drawing unemployment benefits. This is how A&P shows its gratitude for their years of service.

The bureaucrats of this union are letting it all happen. What should



they do? They should call a strike at the 10 remaining plants until A&P agrees to pay the severance money in one lump sum.

They could press it even further and try to force A&P to re-open the plant, but given our spineless union officials, that's not even realistic.

Our Business Agent said that he had been warning the people at A&P for two years that the plant might close. In other words, don't get too militant around contract time and scare the company.

Last month's B&C International newspaper ran a picture of the same B.A. and the local president presenting the first \$500-a-month pension check to a retiree.

The caption under the picture bragged about this major victory and how these officials had won this pension for the people at A&P.

In less than a month's time, one of these officials is blaming the "greedy" employees for the plant closure. He did this in front of the company I work for during a recent grievance meeting.

This is known as playing both

sides of the fence.

For its cookies and similar products, A&P now has a contract with Mother's Cookies.

Mother's is owned by the huge conglomerate Beatrice Foods and organized into Teamster Local 783, notorious for doling out sweetheart

contracts. The average wage for the 400 people in the plant is \$3.60 an hour. The net profit of Mother's Cookies for 1975 was around \$12 million.

Last year an attempt was made by the chief steward in our plant to organize Mother's Cookies into the B&C Local. It involved a lot of time and effort. The steward was successful in getting nearly every-one's signature on the petition for the NLRB election.

When he presented the petition to the local president, he quickly deposited the petition in the trash can, telling the steward that the matter had already been settled.

The Teamster International and the B&C International had agreed not to spend time and money trying to organize each other's territory.

Teamster officials gave their assurance that no reprisals would be taken against the people at Mother's who were involved in the attempt to change unions. They also said that they would do their best to win a good contract for the people there.

Not long afterwards, Local 783 posted a notice in the plant stating that the chief steward and several other stewards were losing their positions because of their involvement in the organizing drive.



# AMC THERE'S NO AGREEMENT LIKE AN OLD AGREEMENT

by Jenny Singer

United Auto Workers members at American Motors Corp. will continue to work under their 1973 contract until at least September 16, 1977. The agreement expired at the same time as the Big Three contracts, in September 1976, and had been extended day by day for

five months.

The two parties announced a tentative settlement hours before the February 15 deadline the UAW had set on bargaining. The UAW had said it would terminate the old agreement at 11 pm, but did not authorize a strike deadline.

The extension is not purely an

extension, however—cost-of-living increases for the third and fourth quarters of 1976 will not be retroactive. The extension is actually a take-away compared to the old agreement.

Art Shy, assistant to UAW Vice-President Pat Greathouse, explained to a reporter that the seven-month agreement is not so different from the Big 3's three-year deals. Many of their benefits, such as the Paid Personal Holiday Plan, don't go into effect until the second and third years of the contract anyway.

"We wanted to give AMC a breathing spell," he said.

Actually, Greathouse says, the AMC settlement should not be compared with the Big Three contracts, because it was "tailored to the particular situation with AMC. We have to find a way to get equity for union members without putting the company out of business."

AMC says it lost \$34 million last year because of poor small car sales. Layoffs have been heavy. Greathouse said he hoped that AMC's sales would pick up by September. Bargaining is set to resume in July.

## BAIL OUT

AMC workers were apparently not as willing to bail out their bosses as the UAW negotiators were. A member of the Kenosha, Wisconsin Local 72 told Workers' Power, "People didn't feel too sorry for AMC. Most of the people were willing to strike." Local 72's February meeting was cancelled "because of negotiations."

Voting on the new agreement will take place this weekend at the three AMC locals, located in Wisconsin and Ontario.

This is not the first time the UAW leadership has openly displayed its concern for the

companies' health, nor will it be the last.

In January 1975, during the last depression, President Leonard Woodcock bemoaned their "paper-thin profits." He said that the state of the companies' profit margins would affect 1976 bargaining demands.

In the 1958 recession Chrysler was doing the worst of the Big Three. To help Chrysler out, the UAW gave up its system of "blue button stewards"—a steward for every foreman. This made it much easier for Chrysler to squeeze more profits out of its workers.

AMC workers have not always had a substandard contract. They got real voluntary overtime—no forced Saturdays or nine-hour days—in 1967. Their steward ratio is 1:35, as opposed to 1:225 at Chrysler. Until this contract their wages were equal to Big Three workers'.

In the past the UAW used AMC's weakness compared to the Big Three to the workers' advantage, not as an excuse for a take-away.

## NEXT VICTIMS

The UAW stuck it to its AMC members this year. Chrysler workers can expect to be next. As the weakest of the Big Three, Chrysler is certain to ask for concessions from the union when the economy hits its next slump, probably in time for the 1979 contract. And the UAW leadership will be all too quick to grant them.

When the companies say, "We can't pay," the UAW leadership sees no alternative to accepting wage cuts and speedup. This is because they see no alternative to the profit system.

A union which wasn't hamstringing by this near-sightedness wouldn't think workers should be the ones to sacrifice when times are bad.

# Seattle Police Spy Ring Busted

SEATTLE—Last week about 200 people gathered at a special city council hearing to testify and hear examples of police harassment and investigation of organizations and individuals.

The Coalition Against Government Spying had pressured the City Council to hold such a hearing. The Coalition includes the National Lawyers Guild, ACLU, and the American Friends Service Committee, and is supported by many others.

In November of 1975 a local newspaper published a list of 150 groups and individuals which the police were investigating or had researched.

The list included newspaper reporters, peace groups, and minority and left organizations, including the Seattle International Socialists and several of our members.

The police claim that since then all those files have been destroyed.

Recent events have shown that the police operations are still in full swing. The Seattle police department currently spends \$200,000 a year and has at least 8-10 people on staff who spend their time gathering intelligence.

Police activity has not stopped at research.

A telephone worker told how his union president cooperated with the police in investigating suspected socialists involved in a rank and file group in the local.

A gay man spoke about how the police had called his employer. A woman described how the police forces of three cities collaborated on her files.

A lawyer told how a political associate of his once tried to drag him into a brawl with the police. Six months later the same man was seen on the beat in his Seattle police department uniform.

While the police see socialist organizations, women's groups, gays, and blacks as their main targets for surveillance, many others are investigated and harassed.

A few people at the hearings seemed to think that the worst thing about all this spying was the waste of tax dollars, and that the police could be doing more constructive work.

But the function of police is repressive—protecting the property of big money. The police cannot be reformed.

While working toward a society where the "order" isn't kept by a spying government and a repressive police apparatus, it is important that we fight to keep and enlarge all the rights we have won.

The Coalition is asking to see the files and to open the records up to the general public. The groups involved demand an end to the harassment and disruption of their activities and the work of others.

Scott Wagner

## A LESSON

In November, Mother's Cookies was struck over contract demands. When the strike started, the B.A. from the local went to Florida for a two-week vacation. Before he left, he told the people on strike to walk, till they got tired and let him know when they were ready to go back to work.

Since getting the A&P contract, Mother's has been doing some hiring. Many of the new hires will probably be people from the closed A&P bakery.

This is the kind of company that A&P wants to deal with, one that keeps wages low and a union that goes along with it to the point of undermining a legal strike.

A&P has taught an important lesson to the other companies who are paying higher union wages. You can beat the trade union movement without using non-union labor.

As long as there are unions willing to dole out the sweetheart contracts in any industry, as long as the union bureaucrats are willing to see it the company's way, then companies like A&P have nothing to worry about.

If we do nothing, these bureaucrats will continue to give our rights away to suit the needs of the company. We must organize. NOW!

Walter Buhl Ford III, heir to the auto fortune, and wife Barbara were divorced last week.

These things can be so messy. Among the dirty laundry aired in court, it was learned that:

- the Fords spent \$6000/year on freshly cut flowers for their home.
- they spent \$5000/year to show first-run movies at their parties.
- neither party could remember how much they spent on clothing, since they never looked at the price tags, but Barbara estimated that she spent roughly \$15,000.
- Walter testified that he had 80 shirts.
- Barbara won \$2000/month for each of her four children in child support. That's \$96,000/year, which should keep them in sneakers.

# MALCOLM X

## "You put the Democrats first - and they put you last"

Twelve years ago, on February 21, 1965 Malcolm X was assassinated while speaking in Harlem.

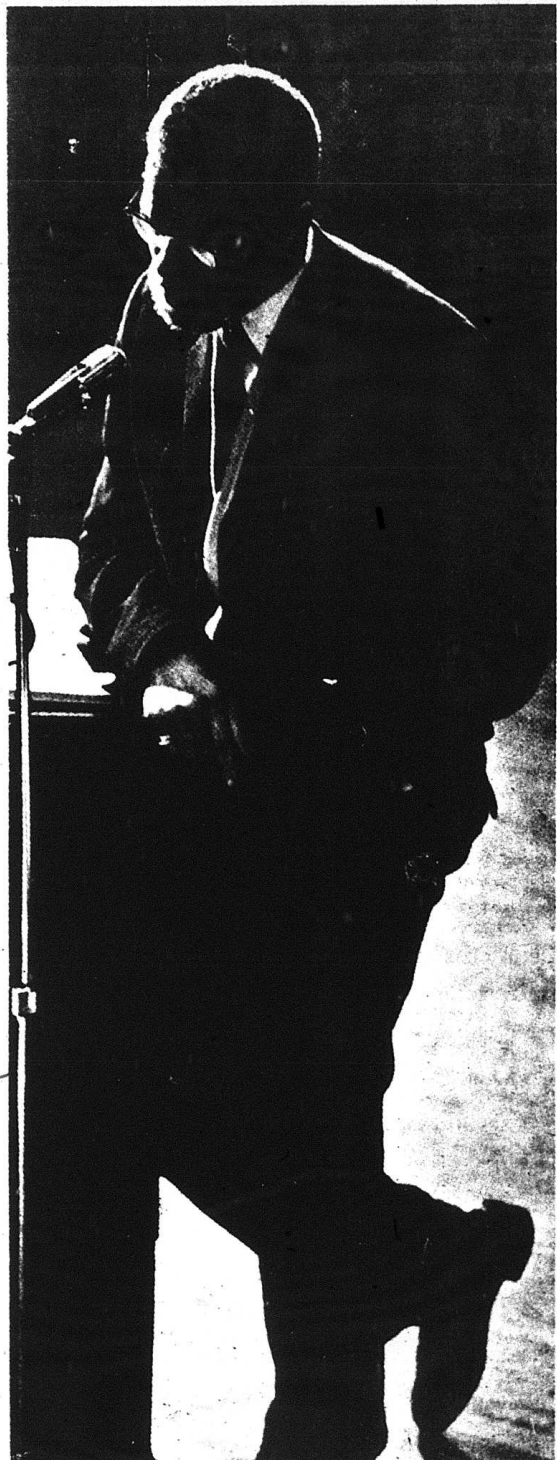
Malcolm was becoming a major revolutionary leader at the time of his murder. Tens of thousands of young black people had been moved by the civil rights movement—but were frustrated by the "go slow" politics of the movement's leaders. Tens of thousands more would rise up in explosive anger as the civil rights movement moved north and became known as

ghetto revolts.

Out of this motion by masses of black people determined to destroy racism came a demand for new, militant, uncompromising leadership.

Malcolm X began to provide it, and was cut down because of it—almost certainly by the U.S. government. Many people became familiar with Malcolm's politics after his death, through reading his speeches or his moving "Autobiography of Malcolm X," one of the finest books about America ever produced.

In memory of Malcolm X's contributions to the black movement, we are reprinting excerpts from a talk he gave in Cleveland in April 1964. The speech was called "The Ballot or the Bullet."



Malcolm X.

# Labor Notes



by Jim Woodward

Beginning before 7:00 am on February 8, eight thousand jobless New York City workers showed up at the city's Human Resources Administration (HRA) offices looking for work. The HRA had announced there were 2700 jobs available under an emergency program to aid victims of the fuel crisis. Many waited for hours in the cold, only to find they were not qualified under the terms of the program. And those who did get jobs? When the emergency program runs out in three weeks, they'll be right back in the same position.

General Motors' profits for 1976 were \$2.9 billion, breaking the firm's previous record set in 1973. And they made more money last year even though they had fewer employees in 1976 than in 1973.

Last June Chrysler workers won a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) case that re-affirmed their right to distribute literature in their plants in non-work areas during non-work hours. On a complaint filed by John Ware, a worker at the Eight Mile Stamping Plant in Detroit, an NLRB official ruled that Chrysler had to post a notice in all its plants stating that it had violated the law. The ruling also revoked Chrysler's shop rules that inhibited employees from distributing literature or "soliciting on behalf of any labor organization."

Chrysler appealed this ruling, but the company lost again when the full NLRB in Washington upheld Ware last month.

Is your job safe? Do you work in one of these occupations: janitors, bakery, dairy, food and drink workers, or dental-lab technicians? Those are some of the jobs added to the list of occupations which cause lung cancer. The list is compiled by the University of California Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Some newspapers, among them the liberal Chicago Sun-Times, the Washington Post, and the New York Times, have refused to give government health researchers access to their press rooms. A research group from the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine is checking press rooms to see if the air contains toxic materials. Their work is being done for the government's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. The American Newspaper Publisher's Association says it is preparing a legal battle to keep the researchers out of the press rooms.

The newly-elected (without opposition) president of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) is William W. Wimpinger. He will take the leadership of the country's fifth-largest union in July. Wimpinger has a liberal reputation, and says he wants to "bend our union to the left." But management needn't worry. Wimpinger hasn't got the nickname "Wimpy" for nothing. One management man was recently quoted as saying, "Down deep in his heart, Wimpy really wants to change the system, but he is realistic in the way he goes about it." Labor arbitrator Theodore Kheel described him as "a militant member of the establishment."

The National Labor Relations Board recently ruled that workers who are directly affected by a hearing at the NLRB must be allowed to take time off from their job to attend the hearing. The only exception is if the employer can demonstrate an important "business necessity" to keep the worker on the job.

"The wages of sin. . ." The almost 3000 management and white collar scabs who kept brewing Budweiser beer during the long Teamsters strike last year are being rewarded. Each one will get \$357 and 22 shares of Anheuser-Busch stock.

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

I am one who doesn't believe in deluding myself. I'm not going to sit at your table and watch you eat, with nothing on my plate, and call myself a diner.

Sitting at the table doesn't make you a diner, unless you eat some of what's on that plate. Being born here in America doesn't make you an American.

No, I'm not an American. I'm one of the 22 million black people who are the victims of Americanism. One of the 22 million black people who are the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy.

So, I'm not standing here speaking to you as an American, or a patriot or a flag-saluter—no, not I. I'm speaking as a victim of this American system.

And I see America through the eyes of the victim. I don't see any American dream; I see an American nightmare.

These 22 million victims are waking up. Their eyes are coming open. They're beginning to see what they used to only look at. They're becoming politically mature. They are realizing that there are new political trends from coast to coast.

### BLACK VOTES

It was the black man's vote that put the present administration in Washington, D.C. Your vote, your dumb vote, your ignorant vote, your wasted vote put in an administration in Washington, D.C. that has seen fit to pass every kind of legislation imaginable, saving you until last, then filibustering on top of that.

And your and my leaders have the audacity to run around clapping their hands and talk about how much progress we're making. And what a good president we have.

They get all the Negro votes, and after they get it, the Negro gets nothing in return. All they did when they got to Washington was give a few big Negroes big jobs.

Those big Negroes didn't need big jobs, they already had jobs. That's camouflage, that's trickery, that's treachery, window-dressing. I'm not trying to knock out the Democrats for the Republicans, we'll get to them in a minute.

But it is true—you put the Democrats first and the Democrats put you last.

### WE'RE ALL POOR

No, look at that thing the way it is. They have got a con game going on, a political con game, and you and I are in the middle. It's time for

you and me to wake up and start looking at it like it is, and trying to understand it like it is. And then we can deal with it like it is.

You take the people who are in this audience right now. They're poor, we're all poor as individuals. Our weekly salary individually amounts to hardly anything.

But if you take the salary of everyone in here collectively it'll fill up a whole lot of baskets. It's a lot of wealth. If you can collect the wages of just these people right here for a year, you'll be rich—richer than rich.

When you look at it like that, think how rich Uncle Sam had to become not with this handful, but millions of black people.

You and my mother and father, who didn't work an eight-hour shift, but worked from "can't see"

in the morning until "can't see" at night, and worked for nothing making the white man rich, making Uncle Sam rich.

This is our investment. This is our contribution—our blood. Not only did we give of our free labor, we gave of our blood.

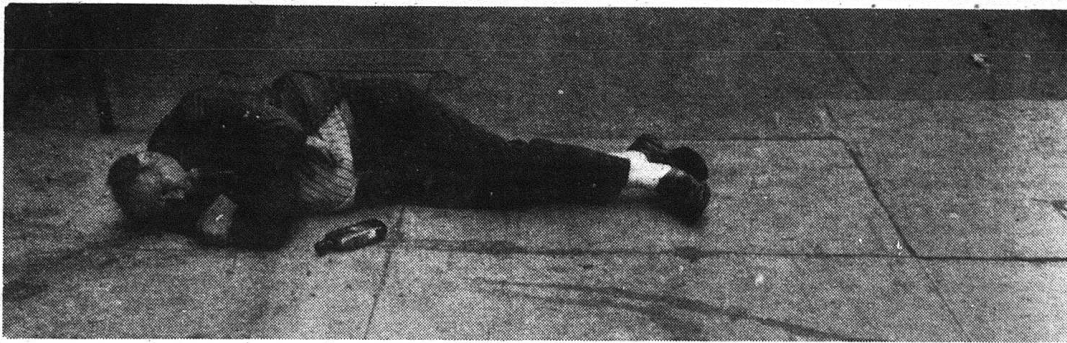
Every time he had a call to arms, we were the first ones in uniform. We died on every battlefield the white man had. We have made a greater sacrifice than anybody who's standing up in America today. We have made a greater contribution and have collected less.

Civil rights, for those of us whose philosophy is black nationalism, means: "Give it to us now. Don't wait for next year. Give it to us yesterday, and that's not fast enough."



# LETTERS

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



## "Seems like things are tough like they was in '32"

Dear Workers' Power,

Here's the lyrics of a song called "Tough Times" that John Brim, a blues singer from Gary wrote in 1954. Also here's a photograph I took on the lower east side of New York in 1976.

In the song Brim sings about how things was in 1932, 22 years before he wrote the song.

Well the picture I took 22 years after Brim wrote his song sure

has a lot to do with 1932 too. When are we going to do away with this fucking system once and for all?

me and my babe was talking and what she said was true seems like things are tough like they was in '32 you don't have no job our bills is past due so now tell me baby what we gonna do

chors:  
tough times, tough times is here  
once more  
now if you don't have no money  
people  
you can't live happy no more

I had a good job  
working many long hours a week  
they had a big layoff  
and they got poor me  
I'm broke and disgusted

in misery  
can't find a part time job  
nothing in my house to eat

I went down to the grocery store  
said get a little more food on time  
the manager wait a minute  
said how do we stand  
said I'm sorry to tell you  
you too far behind

David  
New York

## "I know I'm not as perfect as Kunta Kinte."

Dear Workers' Power,

There was much that was good in your coverage of the TV drama, Roots. But one thing bothered me.

A repeated theme of your review and of the readers' comments you reprinted is that Roots may be bad art but it's the historical truth, and truth is more important than artistry.

In fact, Roots was artistically weakest where it was historically weakest. One simple example of this is the stereotyping: under the Roots idea of slavery all whites were knaves, all blacks were sell-outs or noble flawless heroes.

If you must have phony stereotypes, the ones in Roots are better than what you find in "Gone With the Wind." But presenting caricatures instead of real people is historical and artistic bunk.

If ordinary folks like you and me believe history is made by great flawless heroes, larger than life, that reinforces our sense of passivity and helplessness.

In my heart I know I'm not as perfect as Kunta Kinte. If it takes great characters to make history, I can't be a history-maker.

This thinking gives rise to two tendencies, both bad: 1) the tendency to excuse our own inaction on the ground that we weren't blessed with great souls like the TV heroes, and 2) the tendency to look for great heroes and to allow ourselves to be manipulated and duped by those who claim to be heroic leaders, from Napoleon to Kwame Nkrumah.

Hero-worship is a serious enemy of the people's struggle for justice.

The real lesson of history is that ordinary people with their warts and character defects can sometimes act together to re-make their societies.

Nat Turner and other slave rebels had human foibles. The Paris Communards were not saints. The workers and peasants who made the Russian Revolution drank too much vodka.

One practical lesson of history is WE can do it too—we can learn to fight against racism and other injustices without being perfect like the TV heroes, and without putting all our faith in great leaders who claim to be what we know we are not.

In a sense it's fitting that the TV showing of Gone With the Wind was followed by the TV Roots extravaganza. What you have here is a replacement of white racist fantasies by black liberation fantasies.

The cause of black liberation is best served by no fantasies at all. As revolutionary realists, socialists should be the first to point this out.

Dick Arneson  
San Diego

## "It's not hard to see why people dig on Tony Kiritsis."

Dear Workers' Power,

Tony Kiritsis, the disgruntled Indianapolis land developer who held mortgage company executive Richard Hall hostage for 63 hours last week is fast becoming a local, if not a national, hero. Kiritsis struck a responsive

chord among many of his live TV audience as he explained how he had been screwed over by Meridian Mortgage for four years.

With a sawed-off shotgun wired to Hall's head, Kiritsis bargained immunity from prosecution. This he won only until he released Hall at which point Tony was hauled off to jail.

Since then a defense fund has been set up, and the prosecutor's office has been flooded with calls supporting Kiritsis.

Many folks feel that Tony was just another guy who was tired of getting ripped off by big business with no chance of getting "justice." So he just stood up and did something about it.

Then to top it off the government stepped in and lied to him. This more than anything pissed people off.

Kiritsis evoked such a favorable response, I feel, because his own case is just a bizarre example of what the rest of us experience every day. The wealth we produce at work is stolen from us by the boss.

We get held up at the gas pump by big oil companies. We come home to an unbelievable heating bill cause the utilities and gas companies want to get into the act. Then old Jimmy comes on the tube to tell us we should all sacrifice and work together, consumers and business alike, to get through the energy crisis.

It's not hard to see why people dig on Tony Kiritsis. Getting ripped off by big business and bullied by the government is an everyday occurrence.

What we need to say, though, is that Tony's current problem came from bad strategy.

One man against the government is a real big loser. But, if all of us got organized and decided to take business and government hostage we wouldn't need to worry about immunity. Because then we'd be calling all the shots.

Michael Connolly  
Indianapolis, IN

## "I don't need to pay \$3.50 to get depressed."

Dear Workers' Power,

Recently I saw the movie "A Star is Born" after reading your high recommendation of it in the review in issue #190.

This letter is to tell you that that review, in my opinion, was completely off the wall.

Never before has a single movie so thoroughly convinced me of the way the movie industry is out to make a buck off of anything they can.

"A Star is Born" was designed to play off of people's emotions. The fact that there was an incredibly thin plot could have been excused. And the fact that the "music" it was based on was more akin to noise than music could also have been excused.

But when I found myself getting more and more depressed because of the pain in the movie characters' lives, I could not help but ask, "What is the point of all this?"

The glamour of rock stars, the billions of dollars that could buy them anything, and the perfect, stary-eyed love the two stars shared, was designed to play off of the emptiness in the lives of the people in the audience. An emptiness caused by the shit we are forced to live with in a society that is crumbling around us.

I don't need to pay \$3.50 to get depressed. These days, along with no jobs and high prices, we get that without even asking.

W.C.  
Chicago, IL

## Yvonne Wanrow's Right to Self-Defense Challenged Again

by Wendy Casper

YVONNE WANROW'S freedom is once again being challenged. Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney Donald Brockett has announced he will seek a re-hearing of her case before the Washington State Supreme Court.

Wanrow's case has attracted the attention of women across the country because it involves a woman's right to self-defense. In 1972, Wanrow shot and killed a known child molester who was forcibly entering her home in Spokane, Washington.

In August 1975, the State Court of Appeals overturned the Colville Indian woman's conviction of second-degree murder and first-degree assault.

Wanrow won a victory on January 7, 1977. After an unsuccessful challenge by the prosecutor, the State Supreme Court upheld its earlier decision, reconfirming Wanrow's innocence.

The Supreme Court finally admitted that during the earlier trial, "The impression created that a 5'4" woman with a cast on her leg and using a crutch must, under the law, somehow repel an assault by a 6'2" intoxicated man without employing weapons in her de-



Yvonne Wanrow.

fense ... and, in the context of this case, violated the respondent's right to equal protection of the law."

### RACISM

Wanrow, an Indian woman, has been the victim of a racist and sexist society. Her case is important to all women, and their right to defend themselves and their children. Her freedom is not yet assured. The support and publicity she has gotten across the country has helped her win favorable court rulings so far.

Wanrow is asking that letters of support and appeals for dismissal of the case be written to Washington State Governor Dixy Lee Ray, State Capitol Bldg., Olympia, WA 98501, with copies sent to Donald C. Brockett, Spokane County Prosecutor, County-City Public Safety Bldg., Spokane, WA 99201.

Contributions for Wanrow's defense are tax deductible and can be sent to: Yvonne Wanrow Defense Committee, 411 Smith Tower, Seattle, WA 98104. □

# Red Tide Pledges: Five Hundred Shoes....



Red Walker

The Red Tide, the youth organization of the International Socialists, has pledged to raise 500 shoes for the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe. The shoes were requested by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) to prevent an infectious disease among the freedom fighters.

This statement from Red Walker of the Chicago

The struggle for liberation continues in Zimbabwe. The freedom fighters are training their people to take back their land from the racist government of Rhodesia.

ZANU, which is the strongest organization of the freedom fighters, said they will die before they will give up the struggle for freedom.

The Red Tide supports the liberation movement in Zimbabwe. We think the brothers and sisters should accept nothing besides freedom.

We also made a commitment to the liberation. We will raise 500 pairs of shoes. The freedom fighters in the struggle have to walk through bush and rock without shoes. There is a tiny bug

that lives in the swamps and causes an infection that makes their legs swell up.

In order to make the revolution you have to be strong. We say, if they're willing to take up arms and fight, we will help provide shoes to walk with.

### PEACE TALKS

The brothers and sisters knew all along that the so-called peace talks in Geneva were only a front used to stall the liberation movement.

The talks were set up by the U.S. government, which is trying to aid the bleeding regime. The U.S. says that they are in favor of majority rule, but the racist whites

Red Tide tells why the young people are committed to helping the struggle in Zimbabwe. Also printed on this page is a story about the Detroit Red Tide's efforts to collect shoes from high school students.

The shoes will be turned over to the South Africa Liberation Committee for distribution through ZANU.

should control the police and army for two years. During the two year period, they will make their armies and police stronger. The real strategy of the imperialist U.S. government is to put puppets in the government, which the racist whites will control.

The same police and armies that's been killing the Zimbabwe people tried to crush the revolution.

But the freedom fighters are not standing back listening. They have taken up arms. Already they have 30,000 guerrillas trained to overthrow the oppressing system.

A victory for the freedom fighters is a victory for us all.

Red Walker

## ... or bust!

DETROIT—"Don't educate the students near the school. Go educate them somewhere away from the school," said police officer Joan Williams as she arrested six members of the Red Tide.

The Red Tide is the youth group of the International Socialists. They were arrested for distributing literature in a park across the street from Western High School. The leaflets informed students about the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe.

Members of the Red Tide have been arrested 24 times in the last year in similar cases. They have never been convicted.

After repeated arrests, the Red Tide went to the Detroit Police Commission in November to try to get an understanding about the law. Deputy Chief of Police Bannon agreed that the Red Tide could pass out literature and sell their paper across the street from various schools.

### TIE UP

But it is clear that the purpose of the continual arrests is not simply in the interest of getting a conviction. The police are happy enough just to harass the Red Tide, to tie them up in legal battles, and drain their funds.

Larry Bradshaw, one of the young people arrested, pointed out, "It's obvious that they're not just out there trying to enforce the law. They didn't bust people who passed out Jimmy Carter literature a few months ago. When we asked Officer Williams why, she couldn't say. She just said it was different."

On Tuesday, February 15, the Red Tide went back to Western to distribute a leaflet telling the students there about the arrests. They invited the media to observe justice in action.

There were two police cars parked in front of the school, and another one at the corner. On the other side of the park facing the school, more police cars waited.

But the police did not arrest anyone that day. There were too

many television cameras around.

The Red Tide is very popular among Western High School students. "The pigs are afraid that students here will get ideas from the stories in our paper about how students are fighting and winning in other schools across the country," said Larry.

### FORKED TONGUE

Larry went back to Deputy Police Chief Bannon on Tuesday because of the new wave of harassment.

Larry told Workers' Power that Bannon had clearly given the word to get the Red Tide. "He said that our agreement still stands, but it doesn't matter what the agreement is, all they have to do is lie," said Larry. "The officers are disputing the facts now; they're saying we were on school grounds."

"One of Bannon's aides wanted to know all about the Red Tide. But whatever our politics are should be irrelevant to whatever the law is."

The Red Tiders have been selling their newspaper at Western and distributing literature about the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe. They are trying to collect shoes to send to the young people in Zimbabwe who are involved in the liberation struggle in that country. The Red Tide has pledged to collect 500 shoes.

Elissa Clarke



Detroit police officers Ochalek and Williams right before arresting six Red Tide members for distributing literature in a public park.

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## JOIN US!

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and  would like more information, or  would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

Name .....

Address .....

Union .....

# 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**  
Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.
- WORKERS' REVOLUTION**  
But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.
- INTERNATIONALISM**  
The struggle for socialism is world wide. Nations fighting to throw out foreign rulers must have the support of the international working class. 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

# VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

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

# NETWORK OF LIES

by Karen Kaye.

WHAT HAPPENS to someone who sells their soul to the devil for a comfortable niche in life, and the devil resells it to a bigger devil who repossesses the niche?

This knotty problem, as it applies to executives scrambling for success in a large corporation, is the story of the movie Network.

Network has been praised in many reviews for giving an inside look at the workings of the television industry. It's been called an indictment of the low level of American culture, with equal blame going to the networks and the viewers: the one for supplying what the other has the poor sense to desire.

To me, this is baloney. (Don't get impatient, I'll get to the review.) First off, when something really good is on TV, something truthful like Roots, people watch it in record numbers.

But the TV industry, a full member of the capitalist system, is afraid to put on too many shows that might move masses of people, since in this society, the truth often makes you angry.

## REALITY?

But Network is mainly about the news—the news department of a big TV network, UBS. News is supposed to be reports on reality. But if TV networks are afraid to have real drama, they're doubly afraid to tell all the important news. If people really knew what was going on, they certainly wouldn't accept their lives the way they are.

For example, when the Watergate story broke, people became much more disillusioned in government. But there are countless Watergates that are buried in the

## ... at the Movies



Peter Finch discovers one way of boosting ratings in Network.

media industry's files.

Network's accuracy in depicting the television industry served best to show how the upper levels of management in a typical giant corporation operate. They cynically betray each other while pursuing their careers and trying to please the next higher boss.

The film shows the "moral dilemma" of these executives. It's hard to have much sympathy for people who had already betrayed themselves, but it's a revealing view of how these folks operate.

Victim Number One is Howard Beale (Peter Finch), a veteran news

anchorman. His ratings are going down and he's going to be canned. Well, one night he announces on the air that he's going to kill himself on his next broadcast.

His major line is, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

He realizes that all his years of spewing out the TV news was mostly garbage and had little to do with the real drama and tragedies of the world, including his own. When he breaks with his cynicism about the news, it flips him out.

Second victim is the head of the news department, Max Schumacher,

played by William Holden. He's the head of the department that drove Beale crazy, and he's the hero of the film. Why?

Because he stands for the independence of the news department. His superiors want to combine the news department with the rest of programming, to make it more entertaining so the ratings will go up.

Schumacher is a typical liberal reformer, because he doesn't realize the news was already corrupt. He gets fired for his stand.

Victims Number Three are the very people who are in charge of combining the news department into the rest of programming: Diana Christiansen (Faye Dunaway) and Frank Hackett (Robert Duvall).

Their plan involves hiring some radicals of the SLA-type (Patty

Hearst's group) to have a show, "The Mao-Tse Tung Hour." They also give Beale his own show, to spout his ravings about how angry and frustrated he is.

These two shows take sources that started out with at least their integrity, if not their reason intact, and make them impotent and ridiculous, as TV so often does. But the shows are popular because they express sentiments of anger at the system.

## THE BIG BOSS

But Diana and Frank get theirs when the big boss steps into the picture.

The big boss, head of the company that owns the network, converts Beale over to his own ideology, which is explicit defense of the virtues of capitalism. When Beale starts talking this garbage, the ratings drop.

Diana and Frank are in a quandry. The big boss killed their god—ratings. And they thought ratings were his god too.

So what to do? A palace plot—against Beale. They hire the SLA-types to shoot him to death during his show. Which is a pretty silly thing to do, but I guess they didn't have much brains left anyways after so many years of being a loyal part of management.

Yes, it's rough being a corporate executive; it can be hard to live with your conscience, if you have any left. Especially when you're being fired after being a loyal kiss-ass for years.

So executives will probably identify with this movie, even if it makes them rather uncomfortable. For the rest of us, the film is very well done, and a good look at the inherent malfunctions of the capitalist system. □

## ...and at Home

THE AMERICAN daily papers often hide the truth about what's going on in southern Africa.

Two weeks ago, for example, the killing of seven Catholic missionaries in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) was reported with headlines blaring, "Nuns, Priests, Murdered by Rhodesian Guerrillas." The stories blamed the killings on black guerrillas from the Zimbabwe People's Army (ZIPA).

However, it was immediately obvious to anyone who knows the situation in Zimbabwe that the murders had all the earmarks of the Rhodesian Army's special mercenary unit, the Selous Scouts.

## DESPERATE

The white Rhodesian government is desperate to retain control of the country. It has been known before to use black soldiers, disguised as freedom fighters, to commit acts that will discredit the liberation movement.

A soldier from the Selous Scouts, Edward Kazembe, who deserted and joined ZIPA,

reported that one of the unit's tasks was "to kill the local people."

The world press should have been alerted to the possibility that the Rhodesian government was responsible for the murders of the missionaries, who are sympathetic to the black independence struggle.

They especially should have considered this, since a similar incident had occurred December 7. On that date, a bishop, a nun and a priest were killed in a machine gun ambush. Immediately, Rhodesian Security claimed guerrillas were responsible.

## LEADERS SPEAK

But one of the victims, Bishop Schmitt, 71, was the priest who officiated at the wedding of Joshua Nkomo, a Zimbabwean nationalist leader. Another victim, Father Possenti, was also a friend of his family.

Nkomo made it clear that only the Rhodesian government would commit such an act.

Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National

Union (ZANU), himself a Catholic, agreed. "Any operations of this nature could never be ascribed to the guerrilla movement."

Finally, the murder of 27 tea plantation workers in Zimbabwe last December, first ascribed in the press to guerrillas, was soon proved to be the work of the Rhodesian government.

So why is the U.S. press so blind to all this evidence?

The daily papers and the other major media are owned by people who serve the interest of the U.S. government. They want Americans to think that African liberation movements are led by cutthroat murderers.

U.S. corporations have a lot invested, not only in the Rhodesian economy, but also in maintaining the white minority regime. And the government certainly doesn't want black Americans to know about the courageous armed struggle of the ZIPA freedom fighters.

So we can expect to see more headlines about "another senseless murder by terrorist guerrillas." For the real story, read Workers' Power. □

# WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

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# Workers' Power

## S.U.B. THREATENED AS STEEL CONTRACT TALKS BEGIN

### Abel Give-Aways Possible In Exchange For "Lifetime Security" Scheme

by Jim Woodward

CONTRACT BARGAINING began February 14 between the United Steel Workers union and the ten largest steel companies.

Valentine's Day was certainly the appropriate time of the year to kick it off. It looks like the two sides will remain sweethearts despite what at first glance seems to be a major new union demand.

Union president I.W. Abel is retiring after these negotiations, and wants to win something new and spectacular as his parting gift to the labor movement. The issue he's chosen is what he calls a "lifetime security plan."

Steelworkers remember Abel's other gifts—most notably the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) which gave away the union's right to strike. They have a right to be more than skeptical about this plan.

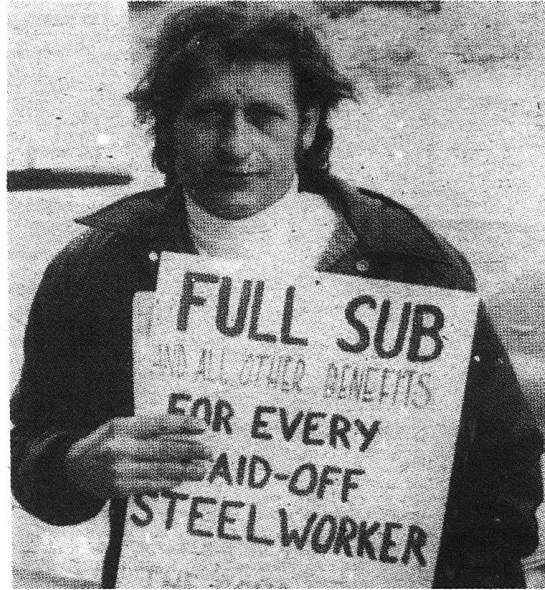
The idea behind "lifetime security" is quite simple. And on the face of it, it's a good plan. It says, in Mr. Abel's words, that a steelworker should have a "job for life with a respectable income for life." Reasonable enough. Steelwork-

ers are not to blame for periodic recessions and depressions which plunge hundreds of thousands into unemployment. Nor have they done anything to deserve losing their jobs because their company buys some new equipment that will eliminate several hundred jobs. Why should they then have to suffer unemployment because of events that are beyond their control?

#### ANOTHER QUESTION

So far so good, but ask another question: Why should the steel companies voluntarily agree to an expensive proposal like this without the possibility of a strike or even the threat of a strike hanging over their heads?

The unfortunate fact is that by the time the negotiators get finished making qualifications on who is eligible and trading away other benefits, "lifetime security" is likely to be little more than another cheap gimmick—one designed to make I.W. Abel look good, given to him as a goodbye present by steel companies grateful



Supplemental Unemployment Benefits were not easy to win, and even now they are limited to steelworkers with two years seniority. There are indications that I.W. Abel may be willing to trade away some of the S.U.B. benefits in exchange for his "lifetime security" scheme.

for his services over the years.

Details of the plan have not yet been released. But there has been enough comment from both the companies and some high union officials to give a general outline of what it will involve and, more important, what the union might give up to get it.

An article in the February 11 Wall Street Journal indicates that these are the likely qualifications on the "lifetime security" plan:

• It will probably be limited to the workers with most seniority, giving those workers a guarantee of a certain number of hours work per year. One union official is quoted as saying, "You're not going to give a guy hired yesterday a lifetime job guarantee."

But giving only old timers this job protection is, relatively speaking, giving away little. They've already got the most protection since they've got the most seniority. Younger workers, who are the ones who most need job protection, are likely to get nothing out of the "lifetime security" scheme.

#### CUT S.U.B.?

• Existing benefits, such as the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) plan, may be reduced. This would be devastating to the younger workers who are most often hit with layoffs.

The Journal says reduction of present benefits may be the "real sticking point" in the bargaining, but adds that on this subject, "Mr. Abel appears to understand the industry's concerns. He said in a recent interview that existing

proposal "could work," but only if the union is willing to make "realistic trade-offs," such as those outlined above.

A spokesman at the United Steel Workers headquarters in Pittsburgh, when asked about Abel's "lifetime security" plan, told Workers' Power that the details were not worked out. But when pressed on whether the union might trade off some SUB protection, he replied, "I think we'd have a very hard time doing that."

They may have a hard time, but they gritted their teeth and did it with the right to strike four years ago.

If the union does in fact trade off some SUB benefits or other existing protection, that would be the first casualty of the recent union elections. Lloyd McBride, who is the apparent winner, campaigned against giving steelworkers the right to ratify their contracts.

Ed Sadlowski, who carried the basic steel section while losing in the union as a whole, campaigned for membership ratification. Losing some SUB pay may be the price some steelworkers have to pay for ending up with McBride.

But if the union does try to win Abel's "lifetime security" plan at the expense of SUB, they'll still have a lot of difficulty on their hands.

When asked for his reaction to this possibility, John Barbero, vice president of Local 1462, told Workers' Power, "I would say we'd have a lot of trouble with that because these younger workers aren't even covered [by SUB] until they've been there two years, and so this would be even worse than that."

"That's why we're for ratification," Barbero added, "so this stuff can be put to us first."

At this point, cutting SUB and making other concessions are only possibilities under discussion—not certainties. But Abel badly wants to get some sort of "lifetime security" plan to put his name in the history books.

How much he's willing to give away for it depends on the sort of reaction he gets before the April 7 deadline for ending negotiations. □

#### "REALISTIC TRADE-OFFS"

Steel company executives reportedly feel the company "lifetime security"



Steelworkers voting in Local 1358, February 8. They may pay for Lloyd McBride's victory with some of their benefits and working conditions in this year's contract.

## UAW Strikes GM Bearings Plant

THE UAW STRUCK General Motors' bearings plant in Clark, N.J. over the local agreement Thursday, February 17.

GM's New Departure-Hyatt Division has two other bearings plants. The Sandusky, Ohio plant has a February 22 strike deadline, and the Bristol, Connecticut plant is set to go out February 28.

#### MORE ON AUTO

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Jimmy Zareilo, Shop Committee Chairman at Clark Local 736, told Workers' Power that the bargainers at all three locals were dissatisfied with the staggered deadlines finally granted by the UAW International. "We wanted a simul-

aneous date," he said.

He emphasized that they had been negotiating since July and that the contracts had expired September 14.

Negotiations at the Clark plant concentrated on working conditions, including inadequate ventilation and heating systems. The union was demanding more manpower for housecleaning.

They were also asking for stronger language on temporary layoffs. The present language says that layoffs of less than five days need not go by seniority, and management manipulates this to its advantage. Workers laid off less than a week receive no unemployment compensation.

Management recently laid off 270 workers out of seniority, claiming it was because of the fuel shortage. A class grievance won the affected workers SUB pay. □