

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JULY 25, 1977 #215 25c

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Chrysler workers say: "It's too damn hot to work in there!"

Chrysler workers across the country have been deciding this by the thousands in the past three weeks.

Temperatures in the plants are over 100, there's no ventilation, and the company does nothing about it.

Workers at Detroit's Lynch Road Assembly walked out four times in two weeks. Management responded by discharging three workers over the weekend—by telegram.

The Shop Committee called a rally at the union hall for Wednesday, July 20, to support the fired members. That day, the day shift walked out.

The union hall was packed with workers from both shifts, deter-

mined to back management down on the firings and the heat. They went to the plant and kept the afternoon shift out.

The next morning the day shift stayed out again.

By afternoon, radio and TV were broadcasting: "Lynch Road workers, go back to work. Signed, Chrysler management and Local 51 representatives." The UAW International had ordered the local to get the people back.

As Workers' Power goes to press Thursday night, many angry workers remain out.

For the full story of this and other Chrysler walkouts, see page 3.

Congress For Sale: KOREA, SOUTH AFRICA ARE TOP BIDDERS

A hundred or more Congressmen are on the take. A hundred Congressmen are on the payroll of the South Korean police state. Several more are in the pay of South African sugar interests.

The Korean government has been bribing American Congressmen with cash, campaign contributions, business donations, free junkets, expensive presents, booze and prostitutes. The word is out and the Korean scandal is turning into another Watergate.

News of the South African bribes came from the Justice Department last Wednesday. The racist, police state regime of South Africa allows these sugar growers to ruthlessly exploit Black labor.

Now these sugar growers are trying to buy into the U.S. market by paying off Congressmen on the House Agriculture Committee.

Mentioned among those accepting South African favors was House Ethics Committee chief John Flynt. Flynt was in charge of the investigation of the Korean scandal until recently.

It is no wonder that when Congress said it would clean up its own act, nobody believed them.

JAWORSKI AGAIN

So now they've called Leon Jaworski to do the job. Nixon selected Jaworski as special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal after firing Archibald Cox for probing too deeply.

Congress and the press have put out the rumor that Jaworski walks on water. While he may look better than Congressman Flynt right now, Jaworski was no saint in the Nixon affair.

When Leon Jaworski was Watergate special prosecutor in 1975, a grand jury was overwhelmingly in favor of indicting a sitting president, Richard Nixon, for his crimes. Jaworski begged, pleaded and strong-armed them out of it, saying that indicting Nixon would be a threat to the Presidency.

Thanks to Jaworski, Nixon kept his wealth and his freedom when he lost his job.

The most important thing for the Congress, and for the American political establishment, is not to find out the truth about the Korean bribes or how far the scandal spreads.

It is to restore the image of integrity that hides the real workings of Congress and other political institutions in the service of big business.

That image has been momentarily stripped away, and Jaworski is coming to Washington to put it back on again.

Leon Jaworski didn't complete the Watergate cover-up all by himself. He got lots of help from Congress, the courts and the media.

He would never have taken this new job if he weren't sure of getting even more help. He'll need it to cover up the new South Korean bribery scandal, the newer South African bribery scandal, and the others yet to come.

WIDOW'S PLIGHT REVEALS PROPERTY RIGHTS WIN

by Al Ferdnancé

On the front page of the Sunday edition of the Detroit News there was a huge picture of the tearful face of a mini-capitalist whose shoe store was looted in the New York blackout.

Mr. Louis Tuorto was quoted through his tears as saying, "They ought to kill the bastards."

On page 3 of the same issue there was another picture of a citizen. Mrs. Alice Mae Rogers, Black female. She was pictured sitting with her belongings in the parking lot adjacent to the Detroit apartment building she had just been evicted from.

This Tale of Two Cities and humans depicted in the two stories is repeated over and over in American history.

SCRAP HEAP

Here is what the Detroit News did not say.

New York's looted area will soon be declared a disaster area. This means that the teary-eyed mini-capitalist will be eligible for a government-backed loan to replace his business.

But Mrs. Rogers, a widow and only 49 years old, finds herself literally tossed on the scrap heap.

As socialists we say that Carter and his kind only consider working class people and the poor humans when they are button-holing you on the street corners, parking lots of the supermarkets and plant gates for your vote.

But as soon as they get in office, they don't give a damn about workers or their families.

As socialists we think Mr. Ted Jordan sums up the government response to human rights very well.

Jordan, Detroit public housing director, said, "We cannot be

concerned with what happens to people after they have been evicted. We are not in the eviction problem business.

"I don't think it's our responsibility to take care of them once they are out of the building." So much for human rights, as opposed to property rights.

SURVIVE

As for the Tale of Two Cities, any socialist can predict the government response.

The mini-capitalist will sit in his air-conditioned home and wait for

the bank to call him to come and get his government-approved loan.

The widow will not turn to the government. After all they are the ones who put her in the street in the first place.

She will try to survive the weekend, until Monday...when the Salvation Army opens.

Socialists believe that only the working class, who produce everything with their labor and do almost all of the dying in the wars fought over the profits of that labor, can really define what human rights are.

We think we are the majority. We know we are human.



These chained youths were among thousands arrested during New York's blackout. See page 12.

Con Edison Loots New York

Believe it or not: Thursday, July 14 was not the worst of days for the Consolidated Edison Corporation.

It's true, Mayor Beame was denouncing the utility for "gross negligence, or much worse" for failing to protect the city from a blackout and not getting the lights back on by noon, as Con Ed promised.

It's also true that Con Ed was running up a big overtime wage bill as crews worked to restore broken circuits and check equipment.

But, no big deal.

\$300 MILLION PROFITS

After all, the day before Con Ed shares were selling at over 25—their best price since 1973—on Wall Street.

First quarter Con Ed earnings per share rose from \$1.18 in 1976 to \$1.37 this year. The corporation even raised its quarterly dividend from 40 to 50 cents a share.

Total profits for 1976: over \$300

million. This was greatly assisted by Con Ed's \$675 million rate increases over the last 2½ years.

Con Ed shares and dividends, of course, are not owned by residents or even small businessmen in East Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant or the South Bronx.

Nor, by the way, will Con Ed or its shareholders have to pay even its own cost of restoring service, as tiny as that cost is in proportion to the total blackout damage.

A federal investigator asked Con

Ed chairman Charles F. Luce how the utility would meet these costs.

Simple, said Luce: the costs of overtime and equipment repair will be met by higher charges to Con Ed customers. Part of the cost of doing business, he coolly explained.

Actually, Con Ed isn't paying for the blackout any more than General Motors pays for people killed in automobile accidents.

Who says New York gets "looted" only when the lights go out?

A WORKERS' POWER

Morality Lesson

by Karen Kaye

President Carter says that welfare won't pay for abortions any more.



He says abortion is immoral, why should the government pay for something immoral?

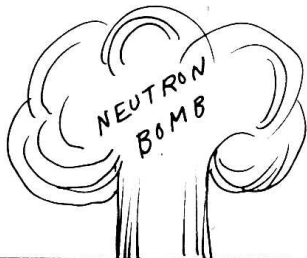
Balanoff to Address L A Unionists

LOS ANGELES—Clem Balanoff, national coordinator of Steelworkers Fight Back, will speak here July 30 as part of a west coast speaking tour. Balanoff will report on the latest developments in the struggle to get the results of the February 8 United Steelworkers election overturned.

Steelworkers Fight Back is the group of rank and file steelworkers that campaigned for Ed Sadlowksi in those elections.

Balanoff's report will be given at a barbecue sponsored by Los Angeles Steelworkers Fight Back. It will be held at 843 Kensington Ave., Los Angeles, at 3:00 pm.

All interested trade unionists are invited to attend. For more information, call 213-665-0665.

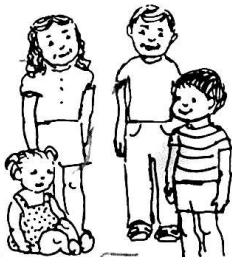
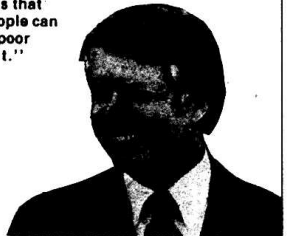


A reporter asked Carter,

IS IT FAIR THAT RICH WOMEN CAN STILL GET ABORTIONS?



The President answered, "There are many things that wealthy people can afford and poor people can't."



Here's another good example: Bart Lance, Carter's Director of the Budget, owns a lot of stock in the National Bank of Georgia.

When he took office, Lance promised to sell his stock in the bank so he wouldn't have conflict of interest.



But the price of the stock went down: He could lose \$1.6 million. He might have to get by on his \$57,000 Cabinet salary.



So President Carter asked the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee to let him wait to sell the stock so the price will go up.

This is one of many ways that Carter, himself a rich man, knows that "there are many things the rich can afford that the poor cannot."



"Government of the people, by the people and for the people."

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CHRYSLER WORKERS TOO HOT TO HANDLE

(Continued from page 1)

"EVERYBODY OUT HERE NEEDS MONEY. But why, should we suffer and work in heat to get our money to prove to them we can do the job, and we're dying? We ain't just got to run up under them. We know we're up under 'em, when we come in there.

"The main thing is, we're not just taking the day off and going home. We are gonna bust this place wide open."

The workers at Lynch Road Assembly refused to work seven times in three weeks because it was too damn hot to work in there.

They stayed out to support the three fired brothers.

But they also walked out and stayed out because they were sick of working like slaves and being treated like dogs.

"WE WANT TO be treated like men and women, not like a child, not like a boy and a girl."

Management at Lynch Road has had to be forced to do even the barest minimum to adapt to the heat.

"THEY DON'T HAVE no salt tablets. They don't have enough water fountains around. They don't have enough fans. They don't have nothing. And all this stuff was supposed to be taken care of."

"We have had to fight down the line—to get the heat shut off, to get windows opened; to get fans operational. Management has done nothing on their own."—Shop Committee leaflet

FEELING GOOD

It's a victory just to walk out and get away with it, just to get away from the wretched heat for a day. Workers felt really good the last two weeks because they were standing up.

Shutdown for model change was scheduled for August 2, and production was already way behind. In the plant, everyone was saying, "We've got them by the balls."

"THIS IS THE FIRST time that this plant has ever did anything, especially on the day shift. This man here's been here 14 years and he can't tell you the time right now that they walked out on days. There hasn't been a time."

But when management escalated the situation by firing three workers, the walkouts became bigger than the heat.

"AIN'T EVERYBODY OUT here just to lollygag, we're out here for a reason. We told the president,

More Chrysler Locals Go Out

Lynch Road is not the only Chrysler local where workers are rebelling against the summer heat. The walkouts are getting support from opposition groups in the locals.

At Chrysler's DODGE TRUCK UAW Local 140 in Warren, Michigan, 12 workers were fired and about 350 were given warnings for several heat walkouts during the week of the Fourth of July.

Four hundred Local 140 people attended a sub-unit meeting on July 19. Members wanted fast action on the firings and discipline. On Wednesday the first shift walked out again.

The chief stewards and the Shop Committee unanimously voted for strike action, both to get the fired workers back and to get something done about the heat. The strike vote will be taken next week.

"The union wants more overhead exhaust fans and a better heat policy. They want the government Bloomfort index—a combination of heat and humidity—to be used either to lower line speed, provide more relief time, or send people



Striking workers raise fists at Wednesday rally.

Tony Janette, that we are not going to suffer any more of this jive.

"We are willing to back the union because the union is the people, right? Cause they can not run the plant if they don't have the people."

SHOP COMMITTEE LED

The heat walkouts were spontaneous. But when management retaliated by scapegoating three members, the Shop Committee stood behind them.

It led the rally, the march that kept the afternoon shift shut down on Wednesday, the decision to stay out again on Thursday.

It is more usual in the UAW for union officials to try to prevent wildcat strikes. If pressure from management and the membership gets too intense, they may start something, but they're afraid to follow through on it.

The Lynch Road Shop Committee went through the motions of trying to get the people back to work Thursday afternoon. The International's pressure was strong: But when they met with the workers who didn't go back, members of the Shop Committee agreed to go along with whatever the workers decided.

At least for a while, the Lynch Road Shop Committee acted like a real union. This was because Local 51 has been changing in the last few years. The changes are being

made by a group called the United Coalition

About four years ago Lynch Road hired almost a whole new second shift, mainly young Black workers. Most weren't interested in the union because they didn't intend to stay at Chrysler. But people slowly began to realize that they were staying and they did have a stake in what happened at the plant.

The United Coalition began to grow strong at Lynch Road in January 1975, after it led a demonstration of 150 workers demanding government "TRA" money that was due them.

The Coalition stood for taking on management—and it went after union office so it could be in a better position to fight.

The United Coalition has won

three out of five positions on the Shop Committee. They are not angels or supermen. But they are the result of the Lynch Road workers demanding that Local 51 act like a union.

CHRYSLER SCARED

Chrysler management is terrified of a local leadership that stands up for itself. It will try to combine with the International Union to squelch the initiative that has been shown.

One of the fired members, Bill Parker, is a leader of the United Coalition. Management would like to use the walkouts as an excuse to get rid of him, as well as to weaken the whole union.

At the rally Wednesday, Bill said,

"IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM that

conditions in the plant are the way they are. Management has to pay for them. We can't leave every day. There has to be a solution to the heat."

The union has two demands: 1) no firings, no write-ups, and 2) do something about the heat now.

They are willing to discuss a policy of automatic heat passes, additional relief time, better ventilation.

As Workers' Power goes to press, there are rumors of hundreds more firings and write-ups. It is too early to tell what the outcome of the strike will be.

But this strike is only part of the Lynch workers' growing feeling that they will not live and work for 30 years under the conditions their parents did.

Jenny Singer

Walkout At Missouri Truck Plant

ST. LOUIS—Workers at Chrysler's Missouri Truck plant walked out Monday, July 18, in response to the firing of two committeemen and two stewards.

John May is a member of the Rank and File Committee, a caucus in United Auto Workers Local 110. He told Workers' Power, "At 8:00 there was just a mass exodus from the plant."

"Chrysler got an injunction right away. When the afternoon shift came to the plant, our local president, Cletus King, was out there reading this injunction.

"Five hundred people told him to just ram it. The afternoon shift didn't even go in.

"They always say how the court docket is so full, but when they wanted this injunction, they were in court within two hours."

MONEY-MAKER

The Missouri Truck plant is one of Chrysler's biggest money makers. The vans and light trucks it produces are very popular and very profitable. It has been on a 6-day, 10-hour schedule for two years.

A 30-day strike over the local contract cost Chrysler 22,000 vehicles in May and June. The workers there are in an extremely powerful position.

But the local leadership, which May called the "laughingstock of Chrysler," has refused to take advantage of its opportunities.

Then at the ratification meeting June 2, they tried to filibuster by reading every line of the 27-page local agreement. It was voted down over 3-1 in a stormy meeting.

Rather than risk another ratification meeting, the leadership mailed out copies of the proposal the following week and conducted an all-day walk-in vote the next Saturday.

According to May, this was a

violation of the UAW Constitution which calls for a ratification meeting to be held. The contract was ratified by a narrow margin.

But the membership felt that the union had not gotten enough. The June union meeting voted "200 to a handful" to protest to the International and demand that the ratification vote be re-taken.

The Rank and File Committee took the motion into the plant as a petition, and sent it to President Fraser.

To add insult to injury, the local leadership also violated local

by-laws in the steward elections held in June. The by-laws require that candidates be nominated at the May union meeting. But the May meeting had been cancelled!

The officers held walk-in nominations and went ahead with the elections anyway, over the protests of the Elections Committee.

The truck plant workers are in a very strong position to win concessions from Chrysler. And the membership knows it. But they are stymied at every turn by a leadership which, in May's words, is "so reticent, so backward."

The International Socialists' 1977 Workers' Conference

August 13-14

"People should go to the conference to learn something about themselves and politics. There will be many classes for them to participate in. They will also get to meet people from other parts of the country. You can learn a lot from the struggles they are going through. And we can let them know about what's going down in the South Bronx."

—Big Ed



For more information: Contact your local Workers' Power salesperson or write: I.S. Workers' Conference, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Mich. 48203, or call 313-869-3137.

Rhodesia: Up Against The Wall!

by Dan Posen

THIS WEEK IN ZIMBABWE (Rhodesia), the racist Prime Minister Ian Smith dissolved his all-white Parliament and declared new elections for August 31.

This is Smith's last-ditch effort to gain support for what he calls an "internal settlement." He still wants to defeat the Black freedom fighters, the Patriotic Front, by making a deal with so-called moderate Black leaders against the liberation fighters.

Two of these "moderates," Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Rev.

Ndabaningi Sithole, have already denounced the Zimbabwe guerilla fighters they once claimed to lead.

Sithole was allowed to return to Rhodesia from exile last week. But when he spoke at a rally declaring himself the only true leader of Zimbabwe's six million Black majority, only 1500 people showed up to hear him.

Meanwhile, the Rhodesian economy is collapsing. Last year's drop in production, officially 3.5%, will be greater this year. Over 1% of the white Rhodesian population is

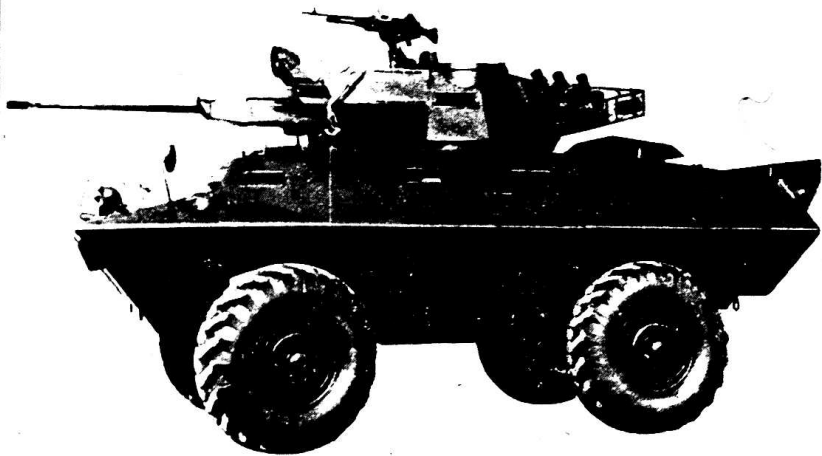
fleeing the country every three months.

And in South Africa, thousands of English-speaking whites have left, or are planning to leave. They do not want to fight a war against Black freedom forces, who in the long run are sure to win.

But the racist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa will not give up power. They intend to go down fighting.

They also intend to kill as many Black Africans as possible, before they are overthrown, with weapons sold to them by the western powers.

Southern Africa: how many millions will American arms kill?



SOUTH AFRICA HAS a \$3 billion stockpile of sophisticated weapons. It was the United States and other western countries who gave the apartheid state the capacity to launch a holocaust throughout southern and central Africa.

These facts were revealed in testimony by an expert researcher on southern Africa, Sean Gervasi, before the House International Relations Subcommittee last week. According to Gervasi: "Great Britain, the United States and Italy

Africa since 1963. The United States supposedly supports it. But the embargo has been massively violated by American and European arms manufacturers and merchants.

Gervasi's research, coupled with earlier information compiled by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, shows that South Africa has received everything from sophisticated tanks and radar to

subsidiary firms in Italy. This is the kind of equipment that enabled South Africa to launch a blitzkrieg invasion of Angola in late 1975.

It is this same equipment that allows South Africa to fight a major, nearly secret war in Namibia.

And as Sean Gervasi points out: "Independent African nations may well expect heavy long-range raids into their territory, raids mounted with western aircraft and armor."

The United States government claims not to support the South African government's racist policies. Does South Africa get these weapons because the U.S. government is unable to stop it? Nonsense.

It happens because the U.S. government doesn't want to stop it. The United States government wants a South African regime that will defend western investments and capitalist profits.

Before that regime is finally overthrown, Washington's military policies in Africa may cost tens of thousands, even millions, of African lives to be lost.

The complete list of South Africa's major arms imports, 1950-1975, is included as part of the excellent book "Black South Africa Explodes," the account of the Soweto uprising.

It is available for \$2 from Sun Distribution, 14131 Wpward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

Here is one example of how secret arms transfers work.

In its 1974-75 edition, the International Institute for Strategic Studies stated that South Africa had over 100 special armored personnel carriers, called the V-150 Commando APC, in service in Namibia.

The V-150 Commando APC is also listed among South Africa's major arms imports, in a register compiled and published by the Transnational Institute.

According to this list, these tanks were imported from France in 1973-74.

There is only one catch. Neither the V-150 Commando

APC nor anything like it is manufactured in France.

The V-150 Commando APC is manufactured in only one factory: the Cadillac Gage Corporation in Warren, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit.

Last year, officials of Cadillac Gage and its parent corporation, Ex-Cel-O, categorically told Workers' Power there was "absolutely no way that 100 of our cars could get to South Africa without our knowledge."

It looks like another piece of the jigsaw puzzle has been put together. Somehow the Cadillac Gage armored personnel carrier gets listed on the books as being imported from France.

appear to have been responsible for the bulk of military sales to South Africa.

The United Nations has had an embargo on military sales to South

self-propelled guns.

Other researchers, such as Michael Klare of the Transnational Institute, have shown how U.S. aircraft corporations like Lockheed and Avco-Lycoming transfer war plans to South Africa through

He Robs A Nation And Calls It Peace

A "PEACE PLAN"?

That's an odd name for the proposals which Israel's right-wing Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, presented at his first meeting Tuesday with Jimmy Carter.

According to Begin, bringing peace to the Middle East isn't hard. All the Arabs have to do is:

• Agree to permanent Israeli occupation of almost all the Arab territories seized by Israel in 1967.

• Give up any demands for the rights of Palestinians driven off their lands and homes during and after the 1948 war.

• Give up any demand for any kind of Palestinian homeland, even a tiny mini-state on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

This peace plan, if that's what you call it, differs only in small details from plans proposed by Israel's previous, supposedly left-wing Labor Party governments.

It might even be a real peace plan, if only one other condition could be satisfied; namely, if the Palestinian Arab nation would somehow magically disappear.

But three million Palestinians, who lost their homeland in the 1948 war, won't disappear. They live in Jordan and Lebanon, under Israeli military rule, and in other Middle Eastern countries.

The Palestinian struggle for self-determination is the critical issue behind the whole Middle East conflict.

DRESSED UP

American papers are dressing up the so-called Begin peace plan by describing it this way:

"Mr. Begin's over-all peace plan provided for territorial withdrawals by Israel from much of Sinai captured from Egypt and the Golan Heights seized from Syria in the 1967 war, and some kind of local autonomy for Arabs living in the occupied West Bank but not a return of the land."

This means that Israel intends to permanently occupy parts of Sinai and the Golan Heights.

It also means that "local autonomy" on the West Bank will not include the right of the Palestinian Arab nation to control its own borders, its economy or its own security. That would be done, according to Begin, by the Israeli army aided by the Kingdom of Jordan.

Begin's proposal is based on the assumption that the Palestinians have no national rights or homeland. It isn't a peace plan at all. It is a war plan, a step toward the next round of military conflict and destruction.

The greatest threat to the security of the people of Israel does not come from so-called Arab terrorists. It comes from their own leaders, from Zionist policies which justify land grabs and military occupations in the name of Israeli security.

Those policies force Israel into ever-greater reliance on the military power and economic aid of United States imperialism. That dependence is now greater than ever. And those same policies prevent any chance for ordinary Arab and Jewish workers to live together in peace in the Middle East.

- Dan Posen

Human Rights: Carter's Lie

Jimmy Carter's stand on human rights applies to prisoners of injustice and oppression everywhere. Right?

Not exactly. Take the case of Namibia, for example. Namibia, occupied by South Africa, is a mineral and uranium-rich country where a million Blacks are ruled by 100,000 whites and the South African police.

The Carter Administration is calling for South Africa to agree to some kind of Black government for Namibia.

But under South African rule, there are hundreds of Black political prisoners being held in

Namibia for the "crime" of fighting for independence. One of them, Filemon Nangolo, was hanged less than two months ago.

So obviously, the first thing Jimmy Carter will do is call for the release of victims of human rights violations in Namibia, right?

No. The U.S. government proposes that prisoners in Namibia remain in prison. It says a future Namibian government, however many years from now that might be, can decide whether to release them!

Jimmy Carter's claim to support human rights is the world's biggest lie.

Racism Continues— On The Gallows

A white South African political prisoner, Breyten Breytenbach, was recently on trial after being held in total solitary confinement for two years. During this time, he was kept next to a death cell and saw more than 200 Black prisoners being marched to the gallows.

A lawyer named Martin Garbus was an observer at the Breytenbach trial for the International League for Human Rights. He reported that part of the testimony at the trial covered conditions in the death cell as well as Breytenbach's detention.

"The wardens told, on cross-examination [by Breytenbach's



lawyers], how even in their last moments Blacks were discriminated against. If a white man was hanged, he would get a new rope.

"But for the Blacks, the same ropes were used over and over again, even though many of the ropes were full of vomit and saliva from the previous hangings."



Coleman Young chats with aides in front of the Mayor's mansion.

Detroit city unions refuse to fight

by Kate Stacy

DETROIT—Maggots and politicians have a lot in common. Hot weather and a threatened garbage strike are bringing them both out strong in Detroit this week.

City worker contracts have expired, but the union's leaderships have both collapsed with the heat.

Because they are part of his re-election machine they have refused to force Mayor Coleman Young to deal with the difficult issue of a sanitation strike during the July heat wave.

That heat could nail the City to the wall until it agreed to decent contracts.

Nineteen American Federation of State, Council and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) locals, led

by the city's AFSCME District Council 77, are now negotiating a second contract offer.

The first contract was rejected after the District failed in an open and clumsy attempt to steal it.

The 4% annual raises did not come until the end of each year, rather than at the beginning where raises belong.

The announcement of the first agreement ended a one-day strike by AFSCME, but the agreement's collapse has not led to a resumption of the strike.

And a second agreement announced by the two sides is now in trouble. The Mayor is denying that he actually agreed to pay the raise at the beginning of the contract as the union claims he did.

voted up. But very, very few workers receive anywhere near the highest rates.

RESISTANCE

Some of the resistance appears to be coming from white workers who are in the minority of city employees and very resentful of the Black leadership which now runs city affairs.

But the core of the resistance to the sellout are against it because it is not bringing them enough money to keep up with living costs.

Young is campaigning for the fall election on the "economic rebirth" that he has engineered for the city's business community.

City workers have seen the Mayor get money for downtown shopping malls, public fountains, a subway line, a "people mover", a sports stadium, and other fancy projects. Recently fat raises were announced for the Mayor's staff as well.

Young's strategy is to rebuild Detroit through attractions that will bring white middle-class people back into the city. It is not to rebuild the neighborhoods that Black people live in or improve the living standards of the city's workers.

As a result the AFSCME and Teamster workers have not seen an "economic rebirth" in their pocket-books or on their streets or in their kids' schools.

The AFSCME District leaders will not even embarrass the Mayor with hot air about his refusal to give equal resources to their members' needs.

But the local union leaders are apparently unable or unwilling to go back to their members with a hard sell for the District leadership if the new offer does not give them some immediate money to argue with.

TRUCKERS TOO

The truck drivers for the city, represented by the Teamsters, are also working without a contract.

Mayor Young is insisting that the AFSCME contract is the pace-setter. The Teamsters' leadership has blown a lot of hot air about that not being good enough, and took members on a one-day strike.

But the local officials have now accepted a seven-day extension on contract talks because of the "health hazard" caused by the heat.

Detroit is a labor town and so city politics are deeply involved in the contract struggle. The AFSCME District officials are working very hard for the Mayor's re-election. They are even publicly stating that the union can't expect much money because "we are already very highly paid."

This is simply nonsense. The highest classifications would have received as much as \$14,000 yearly if the first contract offer had been

Teamster ranks run candy strike

by Dan La Botz

CHICAGO—A wildcat picket line of thousands of angry Teamsters is still up in front of E.J. Brach Candy factory after nearly a week. The strike has gone on despite police attacks, management intimidation, and the union's refusal to sanction the strike.

The membership of IBT Local 738 rejected a contract offer by 80% two weeks ago. But the union extended the contract despite that vote.

So the workers walked out July 15.

In the eyes of the employees' committee that is leading the

strike, it is as much against the Teamsters union officials as it is against the company.

Marshall Hill, a spokesman of the strikers said, "The union and the company are in this together. They want the members to accept whatever the company has to offer.

"But we aren't going to listen to them. We have no intention of listening to them.

"We intend to stay out till we get what we want."

DEMANDS

The wildcat strike is over five demands:

- Guaranteed 40 hour work week. Many workers are currently working about 35 hours a week. The company has offered 37 1/2%.

- Wage increase over three years of \$1.75. The company is offering \$1.20.

- Twelve sick days. The workers currently have none.

- Full insurance. There is currently a very poor plan.

- Stop police brutality. Police arrested 13 strikers in the first few days of the strike and roughed them up.

Thursday the union will announce the results of the mail ballot. The Brach committee plans a mass meeting to respond. □

International Women's Year - meetings sabotaged by right-wing

1975 was International Women's Year, which kicked-off International Women's Decade. It's a bad joke when you look at the recent defeats that women have suffered in this country, and around the world.

In the United States, women are holding state women's meetings, mandated and funded by Congress in response to the International Women's Year "World Plan of Action."

The state meetings are supposed to identify priorities for women's

rights which will then be discussed at the National Women's Conference in Houston this November.

It sounds innocent enough, right?

Yes—until the right-wing took the offensive.

Conservative women from the anti-ERA movement, and the anti-abortion movement, have begun to stack these meetings. In some cases, they have defeated proposals in favor of the ERA and

izers of the convention.

The Coalition captured over a third of the Texas delegate seats to the National Women's Conference to be held in Houston in November.

The Coalition succeeded in passing a nine-point resolution which expressed support for the ERA; demanded more women, especially minority women, in high government posts; and recognized the civil rights of lesbians as a legitimate women's issue.

The only "feminism" represented in the conference organizers was the type that called for more women bosses. In contrast, the Coalition felt that women need

legal abortion.

In Utah, for example, the Mormon Church took over the state International Women's Year (IWY) meeting. As a result, the meeting went on record against the ERA, against abortions, sex education, and wider availability of contraceptives.

Here, a Workers' Power correspondent describes how the Texas IWY meeting repelled an attempted take-over by the right-wing.

increased services and benefits, abortion and equal employment rights, and freedom from rape, violence, and forced sterilization.

One woman from a small farming community in Texas summed up the success of the Coalition when she said:

"I'm a farmer's wife, and I've been up here talking to lesbians and straight sisters. We are all simply striving for truth and honesty.

"Energy needs to be spent. I think, trying to get the laws that we now have that guarantee women's rights enforced."

Christy Nichols



Austin: Boycott Split Rail!

AUSTIN, Tex.—This was part of the scene July 6 at the Split Rail honkytonk, when the bar's owners Martin Wiginton and Bobby Nelson assaulted several striking Split Rail workers on a picket line.

Wiginton (right) is shown here spitting at picketing Split Rail worker Robert Schmitt.

Split Rail was founded as a cooperative by its workers. Nelson and Wiginton, two lawyers with radical reputations, used their credentials to cheat the cooperative and gain the title to the business. The night after the scene shown here, club-swinging thugs hired by Nelson and Wiginton attacked and seriously injured several picketers.

Picketing at Split Rail continues several nights a week. Besides filing assault charges against Nelson, Wiginton and bartender David Apke, the striking cooperative members are taking steps to have Bobby Nelson expelled from her membership of the National Lawyers Guild.

Photo for Workers' Power by Alan Pogue.

"In the history of this country, every ethnic group has something. We had the post office."

—Herman Blade, President, Oakland Local of the Black-controlled National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees.

More than any other major industry in the U.S., the post office has traditionally been an employer of Black workers. But today, the rights and conditions Black postal workers won are being challenged at every level.

The attacks range from individual harassment

every day on the work floor to a major attempt to destroy a Black-controlled union.

In this, the second of a four-part series on the post office, Workers' Power goes into the historical background of Blacks in the post office, discusses current conditions, and presents a strategy for fighting racism in the post office.

By Paul Roose

Ex-postal worker and former editor of Rank and File Postal Worker



BLACK POSTAL WORKERS FIGHT

"There is no place in the Government service in the South for the Negro, a Negro's place is definitely in the cornfield."—A Georgia public official, 1913

Black post office workers in 1913 were up against enormous odds. Under the openly racist President Woodrow Wilson, the climate was bad to begin with.

Many Blacks in the post office worked on the wooden railway mail cars. It was a dirty and dangerous

job. president of the American Postal Workers Union, was from a segregated white local in Baltimore.

Although Blacks could get jobs in the post office, they were excluded from many job categories. According to Herman Blade, president of the Oakland local of the Alliance, Blacks used to work only "behind the walls, as mailhandlers and custodians, lower-paying jobs. The main thing was to keep you out of the public eye." Even today, there

are major cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Oakland.

The year 1970 marked a turning point for Black postal workers. That was the year of a nationwide wildcat strike, which won a 14% across-the-board pay hike. Blacks played an important role in the strike. And it was the year of the Postal Re-organization Act, which set up the postal "corporation" and "modern collective bargain-

ing." Not only was the Alliance excluded from contract bargaining, it was not permitted to take part in the grievance procedure.

At the time of this rip-off, the Alliance was stronger than several of the other unions. It had won representation elections in some local areas. The exclusion of the Alliance was a case of racism, pure and simple.

The 1970 Postal Re-organization Act also shafted Blacks in a

building the Bulk Mail Centers well outside the urban centers. Thousands of jobs have therefore been moved into the white suburbs, making them less accessible to Black workers.

"It may have been planned," it may not have been planned," says Black Pittsburgh mailhandler Edgar Payne, who led a fight in 1975 against forced transfers from downtown Pittsburgh to the new suburban Bulk Mail Center. "But the fact is that it moved the jobs away from the underprivileged."

This racist construction policy has compounded a general problem for Blacks—loss of jobs. As the economy tightened up in the mid-'70's, and since postal pay was now comparable to industrial pay, competition for jobs stiffened.

In addition, the postal job application exam includes a great deal which has nothing to do with whether you can do the job. People with better formal educations—which usually means whites—have a big advantage.

THE FACTS ON RACISM

Racist discrimination at the post office today is often very subtle. In fact, many white workers believe it is they who are the victims of discrimination. But the facts show otherwise.

The chart shows that as of 1973 the percentage of Blacks in the post office was about 20%, much higher than their 12% figure in the population as a whole. But it also shows that they are trapped in Levels One through Nine, and hold almost none of the top spots.

Levels One through Nine include everyone from custodians to foremen and general foremen. At top, they make \$20,000 a year, in contrast, Levels 32 through 40 pay up to \$66,000. In 1973, there were 53 whites and one Black at these levels.

And things have not changed in four years, either. Today, there is not a single Black among the top 30



Pittsburgh postal workers protest moving the bulk mail center to the suburbs. The Post Office's policy of moving out to the suburbs makes jobs



inaccessible for Blacks. Workers who live in the city are forced to travel many miles to work every day—or give up their jobs.



job, but better than most jobs available to Blacks.

When the post office was forced to introduce new safer steel cars, the job became more desirable, and Blacks were threatened with exclusion from these jobs.

Around the same time, the Railway Mail Association, a major postal union, amended its constitution to "prohibit all Negroes from joining." The other postal unions often had separate Jim Crow locals for Blacks. The Black workers had nowhere to turn for protection.

In response, the National Alliance of Postal Employees (the Alliance) was formed by a group of Black railway mail clerks in October 1913.

For ten years, it was a union for Blacks only. In 1923, it opened its doors to any postal employee. But to this day it remains an overwhelmingly Black organization, led and controlled by Blacks.

Racism was a persistent factor in the post office. Jim Crow union locals were widespread until 1962. The late Francis Filbey, recent

are relatively few Black letter carriers.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

The civil rights movement swept across the nation in the 1950's and 60's. In the post office, where there already were significant numbers of Black workers, this movement resulted in access to the more desirable jobs.

There was not much competition from the white workers for postal jobs in the 1960's. Whites had other options open in private industry. And the post office paid notoriously poor wages.

"The post office was a graveyard for Blacks," says Herman Blade. "Blacks who had a college education came to the post office because they couldn't get a job elsewhere."

Blacks also began to get access to supervisory positions. As of 1973, Blacks were better-represented than whites in low-level supervisory posts. Blacks have won appointments to Postmaster in

ing."

The strike had obvious benefits, but the Re-organization gave postal management an excuse to attack the gains made by Blacks.

The first and main blow was the racist exclusion of the Alliance from any representation rights. Under the Re-organization Act, all the existing unions were to have equal rights in an interim period until the workers could choose their bargaining agents.

But this never happened. Instead, the Postal Service, the National Labor Relations Board, and several unions conspired to reach an agreement that excluded the Alliance from any official role as a postal union.

The National Association of Letter Carriers, the Mailhandlers division of the Laborers' International Union, the Rural Letter Carriers' Association, and several craft unions which soon merged into the American Postal Workers' Union, were designated "exclusive" unions—without an election by the rank and file!

different way. One of the reasons for the formation of the "postal corporation" was to allow postal management to borrow money to finance a major construction project—the Bulk Mail System.

The idea was to build a network of about 20 modern mechanized parcel-sorting centers to compete with United Parcel Service.

Postal management insisted on

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE POST OFFICE AS OF MAY 31, 1973

Pay Level	Total Full-time Employees	Number Black Employees	% Black Employees	Number White Employees	% White Employees
Level 1-5	558,167	114,131	20	423,138	76
Level 6-9	45,424	11,400	25	32,050	70
Level 10-12	8,712	746	8	7,781	89
Level 13-16	35,062	3,563	10	30,639	87
Level 17-19	14,683	725	4	13,709	93
Level 20-22	5,623	280	5	5,262	93
Level 23-25	1,937	97	5	1,812	93
Level 26-28	559	30	5	520	93
Level 29-31	134	5	3	127	94
Level 32-34	42	1	2	41	97
Level 35-37	10	0	0	10	100
Level 38-40	1	0	0	1	100
Total	670,354	130,978	19.5	515,090	76.8

Source: 1973 Minority Group Study, United States Postal Service

Inside The Post Office Part 2



FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

postal bureaucrats.

Discrimination continues at all levels. Frederick D. Hogan, an official of the St. Louis Alliance, told Workers' Power about a case of a couple of years ago.

"They were promoting Level 5 clerks to Level 6. I processed a case and we brought in an investigator. He said that thirteen of the Blacks who applied for the job were better qualified than the whites that got the jobs. When he said this, we

first place to look for a fight against postal racism is to the workers' organizations, the unions. Any good union knows that racism must be defeated because it is the main weapon management uses to keep the workers divided and down.

But the record of the major postal unions is not good.

The two largest unions, the Letter Carriers and American Postal Workers, are heavily white-

and about 50,000 members.

But the problem of fighting postal racism goes beyond the survival of the Alliance. It will take organization by all postal workers—Black, white, and brown—to turn it around.

The great majority of postal workers are in the "craft" unions, not the Alliance. Because these unions negotiate the contract, and have official grievance representation rights, they will continue to attract most workers. Union membership is voluntary in the post office.

The major unions must be transformed, from top to bottom. Their own rank and file have the power to elect more representative leadership. A movement is needed to make the unions serve the needs of all the members, not postal management.

The postal unions should fight to keep postal jobs in the urban areas. They should investigate bias in the postal exams.

The craft unions should welcome the existence of the Alliance, not fight it.

THE ALLIANCE AS A BLACK CAUCUS—It is the continuing presence of racism and discrimination that makes an organization like the Alliance necessary. The Alliance is still the organization to join for Black workers who want to stand up for their rights.

The Alliance has clear weaknesses. It allows Black supervisors and even local Postmasters to retain memberships.

This policy leads to a conflict of interest, and allows considerable pro-management influence into the union.

The policies of equality that the Alliance stands for are needed today within the major craft unions. This need is held back by the Alliance's policy of discouraging its members from joining the other postal unions.

Many Black activists hold memberships both in the Alliance and in their craft union. "I'm a member of the Alliance," says Pittsburgh Mailhandler shop steward Edgar Payne. "At this point, it would be more effective if the Alliance came into the other unions."

An organized Alliance-led movement in the major unions could have a tremendous impact. It could force the unions to take up discrimination issues. It could shake up the union hierarchy and help return the unions to the rank and file.

There are about 120,000 Blacks in the post office today. As an organized force they could smash racism on the job, and bring the fight into the communities as well. They could support the equal education movement, or organize solidarity for freedom struggles in southern Africa.

In 1970, postal workers flexed their muscles in a wildcat land won big wage gains. It will take the same kind of muscle to win the war against racism. □

Six Reasons Why Women Should Get Maternity Benefits

by Elissa Clarke and Candy Martin

Picture this: A woman works in a small shop. She gets pregnant. She looks in her health plan to see what kind of coverage she will get. She finds out—nothing.

A man working in the same shop wants to get a vasectomy. He looks in the health plan to see what kind of coverage he will get. The plan covers his surgery, and he will get 60% of his wages for as long as he is out.

It seems unfair, but the Supreme Court ruled last December that excluding pregnancy from health insurance packages is not discriminatory.

However, many people feel the Supreme Court was right. Workers' Power talked with some steelworkers in Pittsburgh. Here is what they had to say about pregnancy coverage—and how we responded!

"IF A WOMAN gets pregnant, it's her own fault. She should pay for it herself. Pregnancy isn't a disability or an illness. It's a privilege!"

Only half the people in this society can have children—women. But women give birth to society's children. We all need the future generation. If women were to decide that they were tired of shouldering the burden of giving birth, caring for their infants, raising them into adulthood, and sometimes supporting them too—society would cease.

Of course, that's not likely to happen, but you get the point. Capitalist society has put the burden of raising children on women, but that doesn't mean it's right. Then the ruling class tries to "prove" it's right by saying that women were meant "by nature" to

and having a family. Women who support their families have no choice; they have to work. Women have the right to work! What you are saying is that women should either give up having babies, or raise their children in extreme poverty.

"WELL, IF YOU'RE hurting financially so much already, then you shouldn't have kids anyway. You're not being responsible to the kid. That's not the company's fault."

Yes, it is the company's fault. They are the ones who pay us so little that we cannot survive but week to week. They are the ones that will not provide jobs for all.

They make plenty of money off the women they employ. But they want to do nothing to make our lives fulfilling. What do we need all this steel for if we can't have human relationships?

"I THINK YOU want the company to go under. Maternity leave would cost too much. When a man gets a vasectomy, it takes a few days and he's back at work. When a woman has a baby, it takes months and months."

There's plenty of fat on the capitalist system to provide paid maternity leaves and plenty of other improvements, too.

Apparently, many Congressmen, Senators, and Jimmy Carter himself agree with Workers' Power since they support the Williams-Hawkins bill, now pending in Congress. The Williams-Hawkins Bill would reverse the Supreme Court decision. It would force companies with health insurance plans to cover pregnancy.

Every time the working class wants some improvement in their contract, the bosses say, "We can't afford it." The fact is, they can only



Herman Blade (right), President Oakland Local of the Alliance. "Either they kill off the Alliance, or join in. We're not going to give up."

said, "well, the case is won." But they said no.

"So we sent it to our highest place of appeal! The Board of Appeals supported us, and then the Postmaster overruled us. The Postmaster General is not subject to appeal."

SOLUTIONS

EEOC—Most Black postal workers now turn to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) when they want to file a discrimination complaint.

At its best, the EEOC is painfully slow. There is a tremendous backlog of postal EEOC cases, a result of inadequate funding and staffing.

At its worst, EEOC is a pro-management cover-up for the real abuses that take place every day. Many EEOC counselors are also postal supervisors—a direct conflict of interest.

MORE BLACKS IN MANAGEMENT—Including more Blacks in management would be a step forward, because it would cut down the possibilities of racist harassment of the workforce.

But it can't end discrimination altogether, which starts from the very top and permeates the system. And Black supervisors, like white ones, must still enforce the same postal policies of speed-up and disciplining the workforce.

THE UNIONS: FIGHTING RACISM OR SUPPORTING IT? The

dominated at the upper levels.

The Letter Carriers have the lowest proportion of Black members of the major postal unions because of racist hiring practices. The union has done little about this, and it is not a major focus of Black demands.

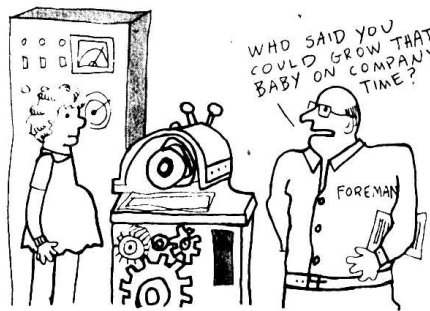
The APWU does have the most important Black union official—Executive Vice-President Dave Johnson.

Groomed by the late Francis Filbey as a new young leader, Johnson has never been known as a fighter for human rights. "He's interested in a little moolah, money," said Herman Blade. "Filbey's the one who brought him up. You think he's gonna go against Filbey?"

Even so, Johnson was too much for the other APWU officers. When Filbey died this May, the executive board elected white Industrial Relations man Emmet Andrews—not Johnson.

The Mailhandlers Union has a majority of Black members and officials. But in 1968, it merged into the huge Laborers' International Union, a white-controlled syndicate-connected—union. The Laborers' officials control the Mailhandlers' with an iron hand.

THE ALLIANCE—The Alliance is the only one of the unions clearly committed to the fight against racism. Despite the attempts by management and the other unions to kill it off, it still has 134 locals



rear children—and they exclude women from jobs, they refuse to provide child care, and now they are even refusing to provide abortions for poor women.

"BUT IT'S NOT like it used to be. In this day and age, a woman should use contraceptives if she cannot afford a child."

Who is it that cannot afford children? Usually Black women, Puerto Rican women, Indian women. Poverty grows out of racism in this country. If poor women should not have children, that would lead to genocide of minorities.

"WELL, MAYBE SHE should get a leave, and no loss of seniority, but I still don't think a woman should get sick pay for having a baby."

You are arguing that a woman should choose between working

afford what we force them to give up. Every year, they have record profits, and we are still in debt.

If we just said "okay" every time the bosses claimed they couldn't afford something, the labor movement would have gotten no where.

"I JUST DON'T see how we can win paid maternity leave. We can't even get the company to clean up the washrooms here."

The fact is that we will win both maternity leave and clean washrooms in the same way—by fighting for them.

That's one reason why the bosses have chosen to fight over the issue of pregnancy—because it divides the working class. Women support it, men don't. If they can keep us fighting among ourselves, they won't have to give us anything. But if men and women join together in a united fight, we will win! □

July 1967:

REBELLION

by Kate Stacy

"A long hot summer." Ten years ago, those words did not mean record-breaking temperatures.

In the violent summer of 1967, Detroit, Newark and more than forty other urban ghettos became the scenes of bloody conflicts and community uprisings.

Detroit was the bloodiest. There were 41 known dead, 347 injured, 3800 arrested, 5000 homeless. Thirteen hundred buildings burned to the ground. Twenty-seven hundred businesses were ransacked. Final property damage was set at \$75 million.

The Detroit uprising was the biggest. The size of the Black community here gives it a strength and ability to organize that few other Black communities have.

When the Great Rebellion began, it took the combined might of the US Army, the National Guard, and the city and county police to crush it.

That is why Detroit was so bloody—because the government deliberately set out to do more than "restore order." It set out to crush the mightiest and most political Black community which rose up in anger.

For three summers, since Watts, Detroit's power structure was afraid of an uprising. And when the Rebellion began many of them, including the police commissioner, really believed that the Revolution had come.

These fears were not entirely groundless. The civil rights movement had a big impact in Detroit.

In the early sixties the entire Detroit chapter of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was expelled. They were advocating direct action against racism in the North as well as the South.

TRADITIONS STRONG

In June, 1963 Bull Conner's police dogs in Birmingham, Alabama provoked a march to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the first Detroit uprising.

125,000 people marched down Woodward Avenue, Detroit's main street. It was, according to Rev. Franklin, march organizer, "a warning to the city that what has transpired in the past is no longer acceptable to the Negro community."

In 1963 a Black nationalist group called UHURU began organizing against police brutality. UHURU's founders formed "Freedom Now," to "mobilize the masses of Negro people into an independent Black political movement."

In 1964 the Freedom Now party had the strength to win ballot status and ran Reverend Albert Cleage for governor of Michigan.

Cleage's church was on Twelfth Street, the heart of the Rebellion.

The Negro Action Committee, the Revolutionary Action Movement, the Medger Evers Rifle Club, and the Fox and Wolf Hunt Club all organized on Detroit's west side.

And Black Power figures such as Stokely Carmichael, H. Rap Brown, C.L.R. James, and James Boggs were frequent visitors with real impact among young Black Detroiters. Nationalist Robert Williams corresponded from his Cuban exile.

H. Rap Brown spoke in Detroit at a four day "Black Arts Conven-



The Great Rebellion, Detroit 1967. A leaderless outpouring of anger.

tion" at Cleage's church a month before the Rebellion:

"Let white American know that the name of the game is tit-for-tat, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a life for a life.... Motown, if you don't come around, we are going to burn you down!"

POWERS NERVOUS

These kinds of meetings and activities made Detroit's white power structure very nervous indeed.

The night after the Rebellion actually began they believed that the disturbance would quickly break out of the ghetto areas. They stationed police and National Guard forces to turn back an assault on the General Motors Building and on auto and other production plants near the Detroit River.

They were wrong. Despite the sympathy that many people had for the arguments of the Black nationalists, the Rebellion was leaderless.

Black nationalism accurately reflected the anger and frustration, and the refusal to tolerate racism that Black people felt. But the nationalists had no direction to take that anger, they had nowhere to lead it.

They were as overwhelmed by the rush of the Rebellion as the police were.

But the establishment's belief in the political level and organization of Detroit's Black workers—and the establishment's extreme and vicious racism—led it to crush the Rebellion with as much violence and brutality as could be mustered.

The National Guardsmen believed themselves to be in "hostile territory" engaged in a domestic

guerrilla war. Their weapons were loaded and they discharged them frequently. Accidentally, or at street lights, or across the fronts of cars.

Each shot led to return fire by other Guardsmen stationed a block or so away. And each volley by one Guard led to terrified reports from another of being "pinned down by sniper fire."

Next, the tanks, the artillery, the

machine guns were brought in—and used on homes, buildings and people. The myth of widespread sniping was just the excuse the military took to shoot up the streets.

Where the more disciplined Army forces were stationed reports of "sniper fire" all but ceased.

In addition, hundreds of fires were being fed by ten to twenty mile an hour winds. Only one-sixth of the thousands of buildings burned were purposely set afire.

By Tuesday the city looked like a World War II scene.

ARMY LIES?

The Army command later claimed that it ordered the Guard to unload their weapons—but the order, if it ever existed, never made it to the troops.

That was the attempt by the local and federal government to destroy the political consciousness of a people—not just their hopes and neighborhoods.

The attempt was a failure. In particular, to many young Black workers the Rebellion was the spark that pushed them into greater and much more effective political organization.

Just nine months after the Great Rebellion, 4000 Black workers, led by the Inner City Voice group, a new and very radical newspaper, shut down Chrysler's Hamtramck Assembly plant. The Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement was born.

DRUM and the League of Revolutionary Black Workers were born, from the lessons Black workers had learned on the streets of Detroit the previous summer—and on the shop floor each and every working day.

DRUM's spirit was the spirit of

the Rebellion, and the spirit of the new society that its members were determined to create.

The government had failed completely in its attempt to smash Detroit's Black revolutionaries. Instead it had helped to create a whole new generation.

The impact of the 60's movement on city politics was phenomenal. Over the next decade the Black community gained tremendous social power. But that power is not wielded by Black workers, it is controlled by the middle class and professionals.

Black politicians and Black city officials run the day-to-day affairs of the city.

The highest levels of the police and fire departments, the school board, the local union officialdom, all are Black or well-integrated.

The business and commercial community, led by Mayor Coleman Young and Henry Ford II, are experiencing a financial rebirth.

Yet day by day, the city becomes more and more of a ghetto. Living conditions are worse, more oppressive, more dangerous than they were ten years ago.

Joseph Alexander, who lives near the burned out buildings and weedy lots where the Rebellion began says:

"In some ways it was better then. At least then we had decent places to shop. What's there now? A big hole in the ground."

The traditions and history of political understanding and organization are deep in Detroit, but they have not been used for some time.

It is time the community put those same tools to good use again, to solve the serious problems we face.

“We are still working, still working too hard, getting paid too little, living in bad housing, sending our kids to substandard schools, paying too much for groceries, and treated like dogs by the police.”

—Inner City Voice
October, 1967

Carter Says He'll Back Labor Law Reform...

by Kim Moody

The "leaders" of labor didn't ask much from Jimmy Carter, and they got less. Or maybe they didn't get anything at all.

But they're happy anyway. Jimmy, they say, is once against a "friend of labor."

President Peanut has agreed to support a larger increase in the Federal Minimum Wage than he originally wanted.

He has also gone on record for some changes in the National Labor Relations Act, the basic Federal law concerning labor-management relations.

These changes would set deadlines and strengthen enforcement mechanism for union representation elections and discourage victimization of union members.

They would make it easier to organize unions where they don't exist.

This would especially affect the South. There companies like J.P. Stevens, the textile giant, have repeatedly fired and intimidated pro-union workers, constantly ignored Labor Relations rulings, and gotten away with it.

Two of the demands that Labor dropped would have done even more to organize the unorganized. These were a provision to certify a union when over 50% of the employees have signed cards, and the repeal of Section 14B of the

Taft-Hartley Act.

Section 14B allows states to outlaw the union shop, and it has helped keep Southern wages well below the rest of the country.

COMPROMISE?

Carter also agreed to support a larger increase in the Federal Minimum Wage than he had originally wanted.

Labor had wanted \$3 an hour in 1978 (and eventually 60% of the average manufacturing wage). Carter had wanted an increase of 20 cents, to \$2.50 (and an eventual 50% of the average manufacturing wage).

The "compromise"? \$2.65 an hour, eventually 53%. Hard bargaining pays off, huh fellas?

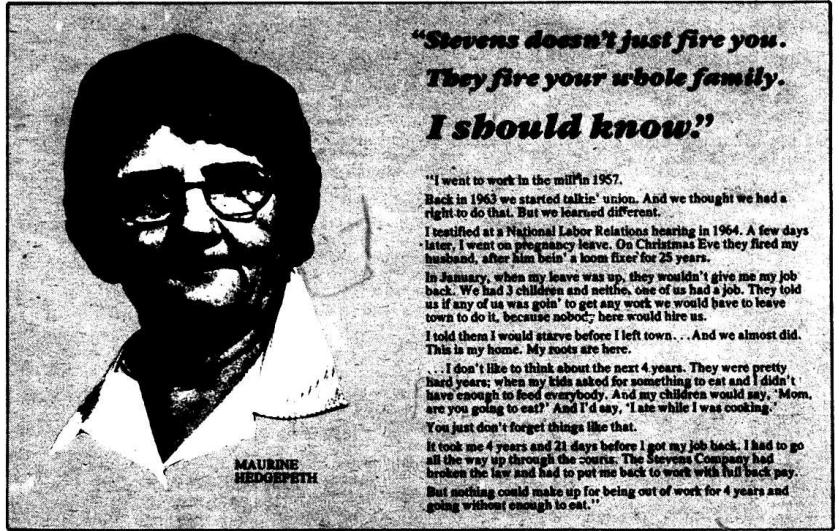
The problem with all this (besides the fact that it isn't very much): will it actually become law?

Labor still has to get these bills through Congress. And right now, that doesn't look too easy.

For one thing big business plans to spend around \$2 million to stop them. Most of America's top corporations and business associations have created the "National Action Committee" which is twisting a lot of Congressional arms.

WEALTH AND POWER

Business knows how to use its



How easy is it for employers to get around present labor laws? Ask a J.P. Stevens worker.

wealth and power to get what it wants. But the leaders of the AFL-CIO will refuse to use their power—the power of organized labor.

You can bet they won't call demonstrations to pass the laws.

And certainly not a strike—heaven forbid—to force Congress to act. Instead, they will use \$800,000 of dues money for films and newspaper ads.

In private, supporters of the changes are not optimistic. Despite

the overwhelming Democratic majorities and the support of Carter, it seems unlikely the reforms will pass both Houses of Congress this year.

The "leaders" of labor will have no one to blame but themselves. □

...But Can A Leopard Change His Spots?

is concerned with losing jobs to the non-union south and southwest.

While the likes of George Meany do not overly care about the real needs of the workers, they do care about their dues base.

These reforms will help them organize non-union sections of the country, and, to some extent, prevent the drift toward non-union labor in industries like construction. A worthy goal, even if their motives are not the highest.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

What Carter and the employers most desperately need is a successful and prolonged economic recovery. To make this recovery work, business must be able to reap big profits and to believe that inflation can be controlled.

From the employers' point of view, the solution to their problems of profits and inflation are the same—hold down wage increases and get more productivity out of their workers with the least investment.

For the government and the employers to be able to plan on low wage increases and concessions on working conditions, they must have the cooperation of the labor leaders.

We believe that Carter has gotten such assurances from the most important of the top labor leaders.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Indeed, the first steps toward implementing this policy have already been taken—very quietly.

About a month ago, Carter asked former Labor Secretary John Dunlop to set up a conference committee composed of top business and labor leaders. This committee has no official status, but it was the work of the Carter administration.

Co-chairmen of the committee are George Meany and Reginald Jones, chairman of General Electric.

Other leading lights on the committee are Doug Fraser of the United Auto Workers, Lloyd McBride of the Steel Workers, Edgar Speer, chairman of U.S. Steel, and Irving Shapiro, chairman of DuPont.

According to A.H. Raskin of the New York Times, the purpose of this collection of top capitalists and labor bureaucrats is to work out

long-range policies on inflation, productivity, energy, and other related issues.

Like all such labor-management committees, the ground rules will be those of big business—what's good for General Electric is good for the nation. They will not suggest controlling inflation by reducing prices or by accepting smaller profit margins for the major corporations. They will consider limiting wage increases and changing work rules.

"SOCIAL CONTRACT"

In Europe this sort of set-up is called the "social contract." British workers have been living under a more advanced and open "social contract" for some time.

In the name of economic stability, British trade union

leaders agreed not to ask for wage increases big enough to keep ahead of inflation.

What did British workers get out of it? Inflation of 18% (and increasing), a rise of unemployment to its highest rate in years, and a drop in real wages of more than 5%.

We don't have the "social contract" in America yet. But the recent horse trading between the Carter administration and top labor leaders has produced a step in that direction.

For the rank and file it is a rotten deal. The way to fight it is to keep up the pressure for decent contracts.

Don't let your wages, your working conditions, and even your job be the first victims of a "social contract" in America. □

Gays Fight For Union Protection

NEW YORK CITY—Over 300 gay people and their supporters met at Columbia University here July 15-16. This meeting was called by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, a new coalition of groups organized to give the Florida Sunshine Girl and her crew a real run for their (substantial) money.

Gay people attended from Boston, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Chicago, and elsewhere.

The conference endorsed a demonstration for gay rights August 20 at the United Nations building in New York city and a national march on Washington, D.C. this fall.

In a workshop meeting participants discussed their success in getting union contract clauses that forbid discrimination against gays. Locals such as Teamsters 921 in San Francisco, United Furniture Workers Local 75A, and the Ann Arbor Transportation Union already have such a clause.

CONTRACT CLAUSE

District 65 national convention passed a resolution calling for this clause to be included in every new or reopened local contract that they negotiate.

The coalition has set up a trade union committee to specifically encourage and coordinate this kind

of action on the part of the labor movement. Support from the labor movement can add some real muscle to the fight back against the Florida Orange Sucker and the whole Backward Bryant bunch of right-wing fanatics.

To find out what you can do to help pass a non-discrimination clause in your local or to get your union or community group to endorse the coalition's planned marches for gay rights, contact the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, 17 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011.

All correspondence will be kept confidential. Support gay liberation. It's your liberation too. □

Jim Dawson



Apologies to Harry Patrick

Jimmy Carter's support for the compromise package of labor law reforms came after weeks of discussion with George Meany and other top labor leaders. We don't know what was said in those discussions. But we think we smell a rotten deal.

Ever since Carter took office, he has been giving labor a hard time.

Now, even while he is under intense pressure from big business not to do anything to undermine the present economic recovery, Carter takes a bow toward labor. Why?

It certainly is not because the AFL-CIO has used any muscle on Carter.

No, the evidence points toward a top level deal. A deal that gives each side something of what it wants, but doesn't really threaten the interests of big business.

Put crudely, the deal is this. Carter gives labor a few reforms that will make it somewhat easier for unions to organize. In turn, the labor leaders give Carter assurances that they will play a moderating role in holding down wage increases and will make concessions on working conditions and standards.

A deal like this would appeal to the labor bureaucracy because it is concerned about its shrinking membership base. In particular, it

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. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the work force 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

Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working class of those countries. Support from the entire working class movement will make the struggles of both—the oppressed and the working class 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. We support every fight of the working class against exploitation, and every struggle by nations fighting for independence from foreign rulers. We support every struggle for freedom—from the people of southern Africa against racism and western colonialism, to the struggle against bureaucratic rule and Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe. We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.

*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

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

LETTERS

FREE SPEECH FOR THE NAZIS?

Dear Workers' Power,

The article on the Nazi march by John Green (WP June 27) committed a serious political mistake. The article attacked the stand of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in defending the civil liberties (free speech and assembly) of fascists, racists and other scum.

The conclusion would appear to be that socialists should oppose free speech for fascists. This is a disastrous position to take.

It is true that the ACLU is a liberal organization which has many illusions in the system (though I doubt that they believe that the Nazis and KKK are merely harmless cranks). That is beside the point.

The real question is whether or not this government, a capitalist government, should legally have the right to restrict anyone's freedom of speech or assembly.

Many radicals answer yes—restrict the rights of the racists and fascists. But history has shown that when governments have that legal right, they will use it against the left, not the right. This should not be surprising since the threat to capitalism comes from the left, not the right.

To argue that a capitalist government should function otherwise is to argue that it cease to function as a capitalist government.

We must make it clear that we are against this government having the ability to restrict anyone's rights. This is the best defense of the rights of the left.

Let us not forget that the KKK got the right to organize at Camp Pendleton based on a ruling militants won to allow the Black



Panthers to organize there.

Does this mean we should allow the fascists to meet and organize? Of course not.

Green is quite correct when he says the best response to these scum is to "fight them whenever and wherever they attempt to

parade their colors."

It is the workers and oppressed minorities that will destroy the fascist scum, and not the capitalist government.

Comradely,
Michael Urquhart
New York

Bell: Royal Ripoff

Dear Workers' Power:

Your story on the phone company last issue was OK, but it didn't really show how super rich AT&T is nor how badly it rips off phone workers.

More recent figures tell it even better. Compared to the \$1.09 billion net profits you reported for the 1st quarter, AT&T raked in another \$1.16 billion the quarter ending May 31st.

They made \$4.2 billion for the 12 months ending on that date—up nearly 24% from the year before.

Check my wages as a phone worker. Up 24%? Hardly. The '74 contract gave me about a 3% increase this year, making it nearly impossible to pay my phone bills.

Even with my great discount, another example of Bell's royal rip-off tactics. We got 40-50% off our service charges and no discount on toll calls. Nothing compared to what Bell gets.

The company saves more money in tax cuts each year on their generous "employee concession" program than they spend on discounts!

They don't have to give us anything in wages or discounts next year, according to Bell officials negotiating our new contract. In fact, we're supposed to consider ourselves lucky if we still have our jobs a year from now.

A lot of us are dissatisfied with the "news" from CWA officials

so far.

Convention delegates and local officers are saying little that's concrete about priorities for the contract, or about seriously mobilizing for a strike.

The "big gun" seems to be a nationwide STRIKE VOTE by July 22nd to force a proposal from Bell by the August 6 deadline.

Does it mean they will call us out on strike? Who knows? Will it

Cesspool of Contradictions

Dear Workers' Power,

Last week at work a group of us were talking about why women need to work. One guy said, "What you need, honey, is a husband to keep you in line, not a job."

I explained that my paycheck was used the same way his was—not for pin money, or some extra cash. It is rent and grocery money that keeps me alive—just like the checks that the male steelworkers take home.

"But what about U.S. Steel?" another guy objected. "You say you want economic independence from your husband. So you go out and face the same crap from—and dependence on—U.S. Steel. Why don't you just stay home and wash the dishes?"

It was not easy to explain why women—independent of their husbands—should have the right to financial stability and responsibility...just as men do.

And this should be true not

only for wives who are forced to work because their husband is not paid enough. But also for those women who have made the decision to support themselves.

After all, having your life controlled by the company is no more "fun" or "easy" than the oppression that women face in the home: raising babies, washing dishes, and needing her husband's paycheck that she has no control in earning.

Working for U.S. Steel is no better than financial dependency on a single person (instead of a large corporation). But at least it is one tiny—but very important—step towards self-reliance.

But in the end of the discussion, I had to agree with the guy. This system we live under is one huge cesspool of contradictions and oppression—that we will never be free of until we smash the whole damn thing.

Angry Ohio Bell Worker

A woman steelworker
Gary, Indiana

Dick Anderson
San Diego

Dear Workers' Power,

In the June 27 issue of Workers' Power John Green criticizes the American Civil Liberties Union for thinking that Nazis have a right to free speech. "Workers have every right to stop the Nazis from spreading their poison," he writes.

Not so. The workers' movement has an interest in fighting hard to defend everybody's right to free speech. It's embarrassing to see a wishy-washy liberal organization such as the ACLU one step ahead of Workers' Power in this fight.

Being thugs, the Nazis do not mark the distinction between convincing people of their political ideas and bashing heads to intimidate their enemies. But socialists honor this distinction.

While defending even the rights of Nazis to put across their views through speeches and demonstrations, we stand ready to repel racist aggression with force, including deadly force if necessary.

It robs a person of simple human dignity to be denied the right to try to convince other people of one's way of thinking. And more important, squashing free expression is a deep sign of lack of respect for those confused persons who wish to hear Nazi propaganda, whom we should feel confident can eventually be won to the side of a socialist cause that fights aggressively and cleanly while scrupulously respecting people's rights.

Marx once wrote that socialist society will emerge from the womb of capitalism, and be stamped with the birth marks of the old society. Part of the meaning of this saying is that the kind of movement we build today limits the possibilities for the future.

As a rough rule, I would say the right to free speech should be upheld except in actual clear and present danger situations for the workers' movement, civil war situations like the one the Bolsheviks face in Russia in 1918.

To say this is not to underestimate the actual harm caused by extreme right-wing movements, Nazis, KKK, etc. They convince real people to commit real crimes against humanity. They must be stopped.

But we ought not to frantically pull any causal lever we can get our hands on to stop the Nazis and similar movements.

I'd like to see Workers' Power change its mind on this key issue. But I'd also like to see whatever position it has on socialism and civil liberties seriously defended. Where do you stand on free speech?

As John Green seems to imply, do only persons who are "harmless" have the right to free speech? What sort of rights will political opponents have under the early stages of socialism as you picture it?

Will right-wing and old-style "Communist" workers find their basic rights respected, if the International Socialists and their friends are running the show?

Mining Folk: High School Students Tell Their Own Story

HISTORY IS USUALLY about someone else, far away, long ago, and, at least when I had to study history in high school, it was extremely boring. We studied the ancient Egyptians, the Dark Ages, Lewis & Clark, and the history of Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania history was the worst, even though it was closest to home. You knew that what happened in Egypt was somehow important, despite not being very

Mining Folk. Northern Cambria High School, Barnesboro, Pa. 192 pp. \$4.00.

interesting. But Pennsylvania history was about second rate politicians who nobody would ever care about if you didn't happen to live in their state.

It doesn't have to be that way, folks. A bunch of high school students in Cambria County, Pennsylvania proved it by writing their own history.

"Mining Folk" is about coal miners, their wives and their children, as seen by the students of Northern Cambria High School. There are hundreds of short contributions, mostly personal accounts of some aspect or other of coal mining culture, methods, traditions, dangers, and its effect on the people. There are also pictures, drawings, poems, and stories.

Add it all up and you get a good feel for the lives of these people, who do the most dangerous job in the world.

Here's a sample, called "How Mining Affected My Life," by



"I think we woke Dad!" by Jay Cohen

Things are rough when Dad works "hoot owl" or night shift. "The house has to be completely quiet," writes one student. "You can imagine the condition of our nerves by the end of the week." Another student quotes her dad: "The first guy to stay up and work all night should have been shot at the end of the shift."

Craig Calvetti:

"My uncle Joe was working in Relly Shaft when it exploded and killed 87 men. Uncle Joe, Uncle Max, and thirty others were the only ones to get out alive.

"My mother grew up, married my father, and had four children when my father was hurt in the mines. I was born a couple of months later. My father had an operation on his back but was still crippled from the mine accident. He died when I was about three years old.

"The four of us grew up living on Social Security and Miner's Welfare. If my father hadn't been in the union, we wouldn't get through the month. We have the Miner's Welfare Card that pays for all medical bills. My father worked hard and long and lost his life in mining, but with the UMWA, we're making it."

UNUSUAL

In three short paragraphs, this story tells more than many entire American history textbooks about what life has been like for many American workers and their families. And as a guide to understanding present-day events, it goes a long way towards explaining the wildcat strikes over cutbacks in the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Funds.

But it's very rare to have a book like this used, let alone written, in an American high school. Why?



"Daddy's Boy" by Lisa Frontino

Because school administrators and textbook writers generally believe that history is about the wealthy and the powerful, the kings and the politicians. Certainly not about ordinary working folks.

But history can be about us, as the students who wrote this book

proved. And you don't have to come from a mining family to appreciate what they've done.

You can get a copy of "Mining Folk" for \$4 by writing to Northern Cambria High School, Barnesboro, Pa. 15714.

Jim Woodward

THE BATTLES OF "RED EMMA"

by Bill Fravis

Emma Goldman was one of the outstanding revolutionary feminists in the United States.

Recently, I saw "Emma," a play based on the life of this anarchist. I was so impressed and moved by it that I felt everyone should know about the play, and about the

woman who inspired it.

Emma Goldman organized garment workers in New York. As a public speaker, she supported full legal and social rights for women and gays, criticized the conservative tendencies in the women's suffrage movement, and spoke on behalf of the labor movement and

all working people's struggles.

The play begins, appropriately, with a job action in a garment shop.

The women hear about a fire in another factory where the workers died because the boss had locked the door from the outside. He locked the women in to prevent them from taking any breaks from their work.

When they realized that the door to their shop is locked as well, Emma and her co-workers refused to work the machines until the foreman unlocked the door.

Emma. Written by Howard Zinn. Directed by Maxine Klein. Starring Geraldine Librandi and the Next Move Theatre.

During this period in history, the early 1900's, working conditions were practically unbearable. But there was also a strong workers' movement fighting for change. A mass movement of the working class demanded the 8-hour day.

In Chicago, four anarchists were hung. They were framed on charges that they had set off a bomb at an 8-hour day rally.

When news of the hanging reached Emma, she was deeply moved. She left her family and husband in Rochester to become an organizer and agitator in New York

City.

During the course of the play, Emma Goldman met and fell in love with Alexander Berkman, another leading anarchist of the time. But Berkman was imprisoned for fourteen years for attempting to assassinate Henry Clay Frick, chairman of the Carnegie Steel Company.

Much of anarchist thought glorifies individual acts of violence (or "terrorism" as the bosses' papers like to put it) for working class organization and action. Anarchists believe that such acts will inspire the masses to "spontaneously" rise up.

By the end of the play (when Berkman is released from jail), Emma and Alex no longer hold that idea, but neither do they see the need for a strong, disciplined organization of revolutionary workers to take a lead in organizing the struggle.

As a result, Goldman never organized or participated in groups that could carry on and fight for her ideas. This is where we as revolutionary socialists must part company with her.

INSPIRATION

However, Emma Goldman should be counted as a dedicated comrade and an inspiration to us all. Goldman dedicated her whole life to the workers' struggle. She went to jail on more than one occasion. In the play she was jailed

for "inciting to riot"—and she was also put in prison for distributing information to women on birth control.

"Emma" was written by Howard Zinn, himself an anarchist, and does not bring out the weaknesses of Emma's politics. But it does indicate that much debate went on between the Marxists and the "Bakunists" (or anarchists), and that both were involved in the organizing efforts of the day.

All socialists can appreciate the great line, "During the day, we are all in the factory together denouncing the capitalists, and at night we come here to Sachs' cafe and denounce each other!"

The play is directed by Maxine Klein, and performed by the Next Move Theatre. The acting was very good, especially Geraldine Librandi, who played Emma.

It's a shame that many Workers' Power readers in other cities may never have a chance to see this play. The play runs in Boston until July 31, and there are no immediate plans to tour it elsewhere.

This play is a valuable lesson in working class history. After seeing "Emma," I have a much better idea of the new dimensions that theater (as well as movies and television) will take on when we begin to run our own society and discover a new kind of "Roots": the roots of our class's struggle against the parasites who have ruled over us for so long.

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Workers' Power

SECRET REPORT REVEALS:

PHONE STRIKE COULD CRIPPLE BELL

IN THE NEXT WEEK, 500,000 Communications Workers of America members will vote on whether to strike the Bell System nationwide when their contract expires August 6.

Workers' Power has obtained a copy of a report commissioned by CWA. It proves conclusively that a strike of more than a few weeks would cripple the Bell system.

As we go to press, this report has not been released to the union's membership. CWA officials have used it only to try to convince the company to give in to its demands.

The report exposes the myth that AT&T can't be beaten. Much of what follows is contained in the CWA document.

In the past, whenever there was a strike in one part of the system, Bell moved management people in from other areas to scab.

During the 1971 New York strike, Bell imported 1500 management scabs, and were still not able to maintain prior levels of service.

A national strike would make this wholesale shifting of management impossible.

The union study reveals the depth of the reliance on unionized



"You know what a strike could do. I know what a strike could do. As long as he doesn't figure it out, we're okay."

workers.

"During an average month in 1976 employees of the Bell system installed 1.6 million telephones for new residential and business service," it says.

In the 1971 New York strike, installations ceased.

The report cites Bell figures on trouble reports: "each month 3.4 million subscribers reported troubles."

In a national strike, many of these customers would go unserved. This figure, combined with 1.6 million installations, means

that over 5 million people would be affected in the first four weeks of a strike.

During a strike Bell would concentrate its skilled management personnel in repair.

"Bell's annual reports show that each year's outlays for mainten-

ance run about 32% of total operating expenses. . . . This is a good indicator of how much this highly-automated system relies for its continued operation on the presence of workers."

ESS

The phone company claims that electronic switching systems (ESS) have made them immune to strikes. But only about 20% of the Bell System is using ESS.

Also, maintenance on these systems requires many highly-skilled workers who would not be working during a strike.

"Even with all the attention the system and its equipment now receive on a continuing basis from hundreds of thousands of skilled workers, breakdowns and service disruptions are not uncommon."

SNOWBALL

During a strike of more than a few weeks, problems would snowball.

One little-publicized aspect of the Bell System, which is vitally important, is data communications.

About 50% of all computers in use today require phone lines. From 1970 to 1975, the number of telephones grew 7.6% per year, but data communications grew 25-35%.

Computerized data is essential for bank operations, stock exchanges, airlines, hotels, credit checks in major department stores, and railroad freight car scheduling and distribution.

Granted, most of the time management does little of any use to anybody, but there are still not enough of them to keep things running during a prolonged strike.

LENGTH IS KEY

The key is the length of the strike. It can't be short, scattered, or sporadic, as in previous contract periods. It must be nationwide.

Phone workers have the power to shut down the system. Better lives are within their grasp.

In sight are voluntary overtime, an end to the inhuman absence control program, upgrades for traffic and clerical workers, 32 hours work for 40 hours pay to combat layoffs, COLA on pensions, and wage increases.

A strike can bring Bell to its knees. As phone workers get up off their.

New York City Blackout Who does the looting when the lights aren't out?

NEW YORK CITY—In the aftermath of "Blackout 77," politicians and the media want the public to believe that the looting of stores here was the act of "savagely law-breakers," or animals without any political or economic reasons.

But they can't hide the real looters. The banks which have looted the city treasury. Many stores, especially furniture stores exploiting the poor, Black and Hispanic communities in the Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick and Brownsville sections of Brooklyn.

Or the biggest looter of all: the system which has created massive unemployment and some of the worst slums in the world.

Between New York's first 1965 blackout and today, living standards have gotten worse. In every section hit by looting Wednesday, the lives of poor people have gone from simply bad to completely unbearable.

In fact, among the hardest hit businesses were grocery stores—as people took the opportunity to feed

their families for a few days. "Families got pampers for their babies, and the rest got a new pair of sneakers that didn't cost \$20. Everybody saw a chance to get what they needed."

That's how one South Bronx resident described the spontaneous break-ins that began minutes after the blackout began—the only actions open to people living in communities that are looted and raped, in broad daylight, by the capitalist system every single day.

REVENGE

It's amazing how capitalist technology can put men on the moon, but can be made helpless for 25 hours by a few lightning bolts.

But the system that couldn't keep New York's lights on or restore power for over a day, took out its revenge in its treatment of over 3700 people arrested during Wednesday night's actions.

They were thrown into 10 by 20 foot cells with up to 40 people per cell. Even the famous "Tombs,"

closed by a federal judge because of its "intolerable" conditions, was reopened.

Those arrested were given nothing to sleep on, no showers and no toiletries. Over half had still not been arraigned some four days after the blackout.

Knowing that many arrests cannot hold up, the courts consciously keep prisoners locked up to serve sentences "in advance." Most people were either denied bail altogether or it was set too high to make.

Many arrested complained that police refused them phone calls and wouldn't tell inquiring parents whether their sons or daughters had been arrested or where they were held.

In temperatures well over 100°, the New York Times described small cells packed full of people with literally no room to move.

The cops also got their shots in. A doctor at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York told Workers' Power that there were ten times the

normal number of emergency cases treated that evening, many with head wounds and gashes from police nightsticks.

Randy, a South Bronx resident, stopped at a liquor store on his way home from work the day after the blackout. He described what happened next.

"The cop told me to get off the corner and after I said I was just walkin', he chased me down with five other cops in a cab and beat me up with a nightstick. They just went crazy!"

The real situation was clearly expressed by a resident of the South Bronx:

"Why should we respect the storeowners. They'll get some help, but the people sure as hell aren't insured. There's no guarantee we'll even eat tomorrow. We don't have a choice but to loot when the lights go out."

Chris Martin

More Coverage of the Blackout See page two

Write For Your Copy Of The Report

If you can't get a copy of the CWA strike impact study from your local union officers, Workers' Power will send you one (text only).

Enclose 50c to cover costs of reproduction and mailing and send to: Workers' Power, (Strike Report), 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Mich. 48203.