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# SOUTH AFRICA

**These Children Live Under Apartheid's Death Machines—**



**—American Business Pays the Bill**

**JIMMY Carter announced Thursday that the United States will "strongly support" a United Nations resolution against arms sales to South Africa.**

Carter also said sales of American weapons and military spare parts to South Africa would be prohibited.

**So what else is new? American military sales to South Africa were supposedly ended in 1963.**

Yet in those years South Africa has become one of the world's major military powers, with a massive arsenal of western arms—many of them American.

The South African racist police state spends \$450 million a year in arms sales abroad.

**Human Rights?**

That money comes from the investments and loans made by hundreds of U.S. corporations and banks in South Africa. That American money finances South African military and police terror.

Jimmy Carter won't cut off that business lifeline. It's time to build a mass movement that can.

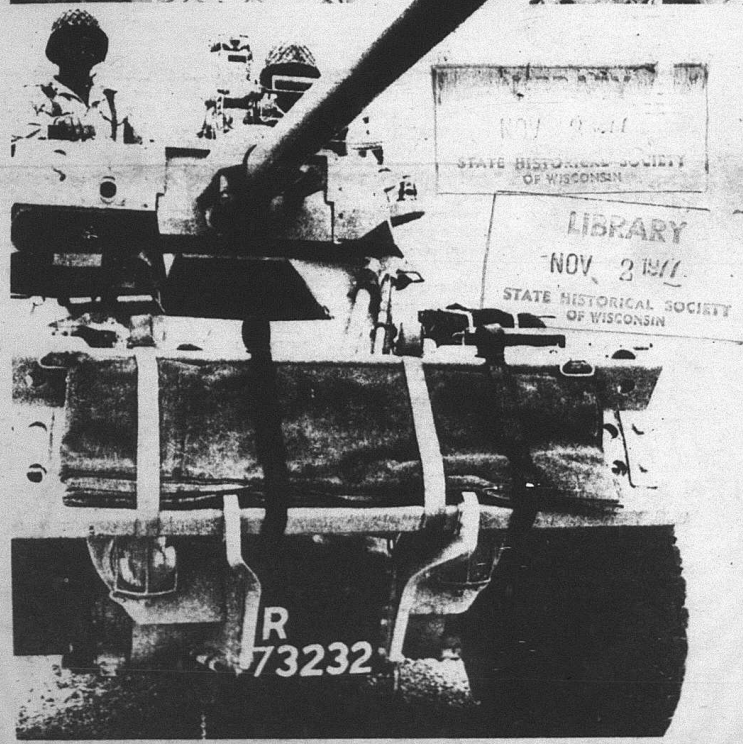
(Coverage of the South African liberation struggle on page 4.)

**Secret Shipments**

Here is just a brief list of a few of the already "prohibited" weapons supplied to South Africa by American military producers.

- Hundreds of V-150 Commando personnel carriers, from the Cadillac Gage Company of Detroit.
- 25 U.S. Iroquois helicopters.
- 40 Lockheed Starfighter fighter/bomber aircraft.
- 100 Patton main battle tanks.
- Over 1000 other assorted U.S.-made tanks, armored cars and personnel carriers.
- 250 105-mm and 155-mm self-propelled guns.

All this and more, delivered secretly during the years after U.S. weapons sales to South Africa supposedly ended.



# FASCISM: NEVER!

**DETROIT**—The annual Focus Hope walkathon was held last Sunday. This event is held every year to raise money and support for community programs in Detroit.

Cool, blustery weather and a threat of rain didn't stop over 500 people and marching bands from walking the eight-mile route to the rally at the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

**Suddenly we saw a big black and**

**white banner coming through—with slogans like "Brotherhood yes, Communism never" and something else about praying to Mother Russia.**

This was Breakthrough, a group of local fascists who regularly attempt to disrupt and intimidate anti-fascist activities in this area.

This time they were trying to hide their racism behind black and white signs, to get in and disrupt

the Focus Hope rally. Unfortunately for the Breakthrough thugs, they were immediately confronted by the Red Tide and 15 or 20 Focus Hope young people who rushed to stop them.

**In the struggle the Breakthrough pigs were totally smashed by the angry Black and white young people. Finally they ran out of the park and over to their friends, the police.**

The police told them that, under the circumstances, they shouldn't come back.

We returned to the rally, happy that Breakthrough hadn't had the chance to disrupt the Focus Hope rally.

**Red Tide, Detroit**

[The Red Tide is the revolutionary youth organization of the International Socialists.]

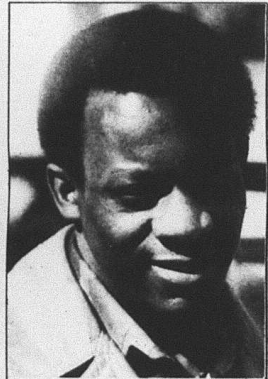
# Carter In Detroit

# ALL NO JOBS — SMILES —

by Jim Woodward

**DETROIT**—When Jimmy Carter swooped down on this city for a three-hour visit October 21, he said he came as "a student." He said he wanted to learn from the poor what should be done about unemployment and other city problems.

As the 400 dignitaries and selected poor emerged from the meeting with the President, Detroit's Congressman John Conyers was furious. "When are we going to stop all this bullshit?" he was heard to ask. "It's about time someone levels with the people. You can't meet in a city like this and say things are getting better."



## WHAT I THINK OF CARTER: TEN MONTHS LATER

**HANK WILSON** is president of the Dearborn Assembly unit of United Auto Workers Local 600. As he stood outside Detroit's Veterans Memorial Building waiting for a glimpse of the President, he reflected the sense of betrayal that much of the Black community is coming to feel about Carter.

I'm confused. I expected so much more of the guy. I don't feel his visit served any meaningful purpose other than to try to improve his image. Now he's going on a campaign swing—flash a smile, tell a lot of funny jokes and hope the people forget his promises. He talked to the [Congressional] Black Caucus and had everybody laughing. Hell, Richard Pryor could do that. I worked my ass off for the guy on the basis of his platform which called for full employment. My message to Carter would be, change your act. You wonder how long this system can last like this with so many people being out of work.

Carter's visit here was part of a nationwide tour aimed at boosting his slumping image. If the Detroit visit was typical, the tour was like last year's campaign: one big publicity stunt.

His purpose was to get headlines. The newspapers obliged. "Carter Listens to the Poor," proclaimed the next morning's Detroit Free Press. The evening paper said, "I'm listening, Carter tells jobless poor."

"The Poor" was a carefully-selected panel of 13 persons. Heading the list was Lawrence Doss, president of New Detroit, Inc.

New Detroit is a coalition of some of the metropolitan area's wealthiest businessmen, politicians, labor leaders and some Black community leaders. It was set up after the 1967 Detroit riots and dedicated to saving the city for big business.

A New Detroit spokesman refused to disclose Doss's salary. But Doss works closely with the top executives of the auto industry, several of whom have served one-year terms as New Detroit's chairman.

### WHITE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Gloria Brown of the Detroit Welfare Reform Coalition was upset that Doss was on the panel. "Larry Doss represents the white business community and shouldn't try to pass himself off as a representative of the poor," she said.

Other panelists included 20-year-old Courtney Matthews, a Black unemployed high school graduate, who reported that the White House had called him four times asking if he had any grievances against the President.

Another panelists didn't need any prompting from the White House. Emma Molina, a \$7800-a-year poverty program worker, told Carter, "You are the hope of the poor people."



"I don't think anybody could make a better speech," the President replied, flashing his smile.

But after the President and his smile had come and gone, after the secret service and 200 reporters and curiosity seekers and politicians and panel members and invited guests were gone, one fact stayed behind—Carter had not explained what he intended to do about unemployment.

"I asked him what programs he was planning," said Romelia Carter, a Youngstown, Ohio youth worker. "All he said was he was planning something. I'm not exactly dancing a jig over that."

### BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT

"I hope you will look on me as your prime lobbyist in Washington," the President had told his audience.

But a lot of people weren't buying this talk. One was Congressman Conyers, who noted that unemployment in the Black community is at its highest level since World War II.

"After 14 years, I am tired of the crap that comes from the people that I have to elect," Conyers told a meeting later in the day. "It was frankly an insult to come into my district and ask my constituents what he should be doing and not talk about the major bill [to reduce unemployment], H.R. 50."

H.R. 50 (the Humphrey-Hawkins bill) is aimed at cutting unemployment to 4%. In its original form, despite many weaknesses, it would provide government jobs for persons who wanted to work and were not able to find private employment.

Conyers also noted the reason Carter avoided mentioning this



Congressman John Conyers is not exactly poor himself, but in this case he's got the goods on Carter.

"By the time the meeting ended," he said, "I must confess I was absolutely furious. For him to come here and produce that kind of a spectacle is an insult to my intelligence..." Conyers' remarks show the extent to which Black Democrats are trying to distance themselves from the Democratic Administration.

legislation. "The President is trying to win the confidence of the business community, which does not want H.R. 50," he pointed out.

From Detroit, Jimmy Carter flew off to Des Moines, Iowa, to learn about the problems facing farmers.

## And Just In Case The Poor Weren't So Friendly...



Detroit police and a secret service agent stand guard against anti-Carter demonstrators.



# U.S. DOLLARS PAY FOR THIS TERROR

## Carter's "arms embargo" fraud

by Dan Posen

The world found out this week exactly how much Jimmy Carter's commitment to racial justice in southern Africa is worth.

All Black opposition papers and organizations were closed last week by a South African government order.

As of now over 150 Black leaders have been arrested.

The Carter Administration made a big show of being upset.

To make it really look good, the Administration on Tuesday revealed to the New York Times that:

"The United States has decided in principle to support a proposed move in the United Nations Security Council to impose a mandatory embargo on all arms sales to South Africa."

But behind the fake show of concern, the Carter Administration has done everything to protect its relations with the apartheid state.

South Africa's government ministers must be laughing themselves sick. They could have written the script for every empty gesture the American government has made.

### DIPLOMACY

Immediately after South Africa banned the Black Consciousness movement and smashed the moderate Black press, the U.S. brought its ambassador to South Africa "home for consultations."

This is a meaningless diplomatic gesture. It is exactly what the South African government knew in advance Carter would do.

Next, Carter's U.N. ambassador Andrew Young began consulting with African delegates about a resolution to condemn South African repression.

This, too, is exactly what the South African government knew would happen.

### ARMS CUTOFF FRAUD

But what about the United Nations resolutions? Doesn't American support for a "mandatory arms embargo" mean the Carter Administration is at least moving in the right direction?

Answer: the proposal for a so-called "arms embargo" is the biggest fraud of them all.

And the rulers of South Africa understand that best of all.

Supposedly, U.S. arms shipments to South Africa have been cut off since 1963. As the Times reported:

"The United States has voluntarily banned American arms shipments to South Africa since 1963, but has previously resisted all efforts in the Security Council for mandatory sanctions."

So a U.N. resolution would have no effect on American arms, which supposedly stopped going to South Africa 14 years ago.

But during those same years, when U.S. arms to South Africa were supposedly banned, South

Africa has built up a massive arsenal of western arms estimated at \$3 billion—many from the U.S.!

Lockheed Aircraft, Cadillac Gage tanks and a fantastic assortment of other weaponry—from Colt pistols to the technology for atomic bombs—have been secretly transferred to South Africa by American based manufacturers.

### NO SANCTIONS

In fact, there are two reasons why the Carter Administration negotiated with Black African governments for an arms embargo resolution.

First, the U.S. wanted even this resolution to be as weak and meaningless as possible: "Officials said (Tuesday) that the Administration hoped to persuade other Security Council members to set an initial time limit on the arms embargo."

In other words, let the South African government know in advance that the so-called "sanctions" will be lifted!

Second, even more important, the U.S. wants an "arms embargo" to avoid having to impose economic sanctions.

United Nations resolutions calling for an end to investments in South Africa would weaken the confidence of American corporations and banks which have a \$2 billion stake in South African capitalism.

Andrew Young at the United Nations is desperately looking for formulas to protect the security of those investments. He is still pushing the ridiculous idea that American money in South Africa means better lives and political reforms for the Black majority.

And he will keep doing so, no matter how many more South African Black prisoners are tortured, mutilated and murdered.

### OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Economic sanctions, a real boycott of the apartheid state by the nations of the world, would be a tremendous assist to the Black freedom struggle.

But the western powers led by the U.S. will simply veto any attempt to seriously hurt South Africa.

But there is a form of pressure that can be built up against South Africa—not by the American government, but by the American people.

A movement is growing in many cities and colleges in this country to force American corporations and banks out of South Africa.

A growing number of unions, student groups and other organizations are joining the effort.

Every struggle to stop American investment in South Africa should now be re-doubled. It has never been clearer that U.S. business and government are full partners in the slow starvation and murder of 20 million Black South Africans. □



South African police in action against African demonstrators in Cape Town. James Kruger, Justice Minister of the all-white government, says, "I frankly do not think the security police would beat a man."

According to official government figures, 40 Black prisoners have died while being questioned in prison. The latest was Steve Biko, founder of the Black Consciousness movement.

## Black Consciousness Lit The Torch - Repression Can't Kill The Flame!

How will the new wave of repression affect the struggle in South Africa itself?

The impact is certainly severe. The entire Black Consciousness movement, including all the organizations which built powerful chapters in Soweto schools, has been outlawed.

Any communication between the banned leaders of these organizations is a crime. Any of them can be thrown in prison, held without trial, and tortured to death like Steve Biko.

Organizations like SASO (South African Students Organization) and BPC (Black People's Convention) also built effective links between students and the Black working class.

The education and community programs which built those links are now officially illegal.

### WORKERS' ACTION

But for the overwhelming majority of the Black workers of South Africa, the new crackdown doesn't change conditions of life much at all.

They have always had to live, work and struggle under the most

incredibly difficult conditions.

Organizing on the job for wages, conditions or the right to bargain in South Africa has always meant risking dismissal and starvation, or arrest.

Strike action has always meant the threat of immediately being deported to a bantustan, or shot.

Less than a year ago all the leaders of union education programs for Black workers were banned.

Yet trade union organizing, demands for higher wages and strikes have taken place in South Africa. They are no more illegal, and subject to no more brutal police action, than they were before.

South African Black workers' struggles will continue.

So will the community struggles and the organizing in the townships—even if it is much harder to see from outside.

For example, the mass strike of Soweto students against racist education has not been broken.

### CONNECTIONS

With the banning of the legal Black Consciousness organizations, underground nationalist parties,

the African National Congress and Pan-Africanist Congress, might become stronger.

But the most important question will be whether the Black radical organizers, under the new repression, can maintain and extend their connections with workers' struggles.

There is little sign that ANC or PAC so far have built effective organizations to give a lead to workers' demands and protests.

The Black Consciousness movement appears to have been more successful. That is why South Africa's rulers decided to destroy it now.

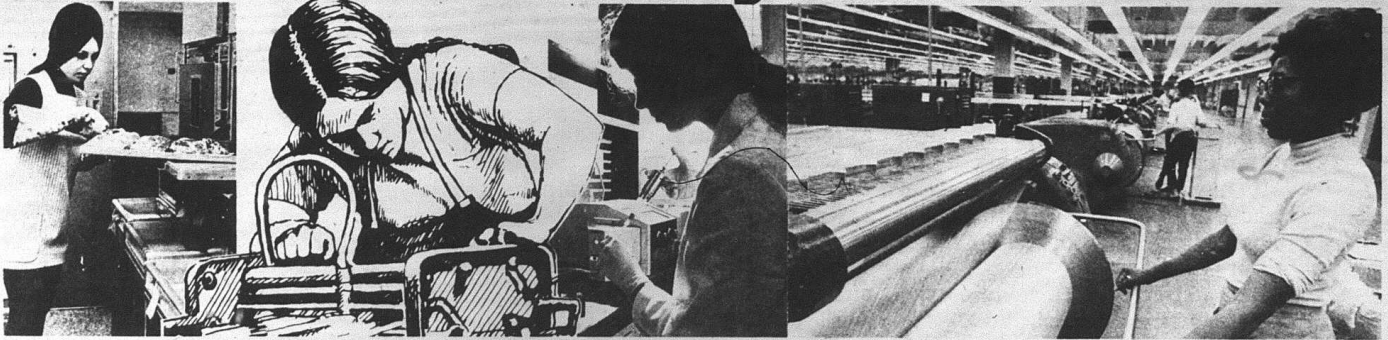
It may even look like they're succeeding—for a while.

But arresting hundreds of organizers cannot break a mass movement of hundreds of thousands.

The future of South Africa will be decided in the townships, the factories and the mines where Black labor produces the white rulers' wealth.

The South African Black revolution will explode into the open again. When it does, it will pick up where the battles of Soweto township have left off. □

# Which of these jobs is hazardous to your health?



# ALL OF THEM!

by Elissa Clarke

You got a new job. You have to buy work clothes and safety glasses. Maybe a uniform, or get a TB test.

But would you consider getting a hysterectomy or tubular ligation? Outrageous? Yes. But that's what many women are being told if they want jobs in certain hazardous industries.

"The only way we could get in the plants any more was to have papers from the doctor saying we could not have children," explained Vicky Read, a young woman who worked in the roaster department at St. Joes Mineral in Monaca, Pennsylvania.

In the roaster, lead is used to produce zinc and acid. Lead can cause miscarriages or damage to the fetus in the first three months of pregnancy.

So companies like St. Joes Mineral are forcing women out.

Not only pregnant women, but all women in their "childbearing years." Vicky Read and sixteen other women were transferred out of the roaster to the labor pool, where they were assigned to janitorial and yard work—at reduced pay.

"They told us," Read said, "that if we wanted to have our tubes tied or have a hysterectomy or something like that, that would be perfectly all right and we could stay where we were."

## MEN TOO

But lead poisoning also causes headaches, high blood pressure, convulsions, kidney failures... and death. These symptoms do not discriminate by sex.

There is a battle shaping up. It is a bizarre confrontation between women's right to work—and the right to a safe job. As women begin

to get jobs from which they were previously excluded, questions are being raised about the hazards from certain chemicals.

There are 19,000 toxic substances in industrial use. Over 2400 of them are known to cause cancer. All chemicals that enter a pregnant woman's bloodstream cross the placenta and enter the fetus. Some of them cause birth defects.

To every problem there is a solution, right?

The solution that the bosses are suggesting is: Kick the women out. Transfer them, lay them off, force them to take leaves, refuse to hire women in their childbearing years.

The bosses claim this is the humane solution, a measure of their concern about the future generation. But are they really so humane or so concerned?

No! But they are scared of lawsuits from deformed children. One Dow Chemical official said, "We'd rather face an action by the

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission than a deformed child."

And they're not too concerned about women workers keeping their jobs. With unemployment at 7%, why worry?

There is increasing evidence that many of these toxic chemicals affect the male's ability to produce normal children. There have already been reports of men becoming sterile from working with toxic chemicals.

## BENZENE, VINYL CHLORIDE...

Lead is only one of the chemicals now considered off limits for women workers. Exxon and Dow Chemical will no longer hire fertile women for jobs involving exposure to benzene.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommends that "no woman who is pregnant or who expects to become pregnant should be employed directly in vinyl chloride monomer operations." Vinyl chloride is the substance used in plastic bottles, blister packaging for meat, and plastic wrapping.

There are a great number of women working in jobs which include primary exposure to vinyl chloride, such as meat wrapping and assembly line packaging. Vinyl chloride causes a rare liver cancer which has killed 32 workers. When fed to rats, vinyl chloride causes this liver cancer in their offspring.

Vinyl chloride causes cancer. In men and women. It has killed 32 workers! It leaches into the food it is supposed to be protecting. It causes liver, lung, and brain tumors. Disease of the spleen. It also causes birth defects.

The question is: Is it okay to continue the use of a chemical so dangerous? Don't men have the right to protection too?

Hazardous chemicals are hazardous to men, to women, and to unborn children. Excluding women from hazardous workplaces is no solution. The solution is to clean up the workplace.

Yes, it will be difficult. Yes, it will be expensive. But don't we all have the right to a job that won't kill us, or maim our children?

## EQUALITY?

In the state of Georgia, a couple's home belongs only to the husband—even if the wife earns the wages, supports her husband, and pays for the dwelling. The husband can sell it or burn it down, and she can do nothing about it.

## DANGER EVERYWHERE

So why don't women just take safe jobs? Let's look at a few of the traditional 'women's jobs' and see how safe they are.

- NURSES, ANESTHETISTS, and DOCTORS who work in operating rooms are exposed to anesthesia. The anesthesia causes spontaneous abortion, at rates double the rest of the population. Congenital abnormalities among the infants of these women are also double.

- A recent survey of anesthetists revealed a cancer rate three times as high as expected.

- Over 125,000 women work in LABORATORIES where they are exposed to radiation, drugs and chemicals such as mercury, known to be hazardous to the fetus.

- TEACHERS and DAY CARE WORKERS. Sounds like a safe job. But these women are repeatedly exposed to rubella and other viruses that damage the fetus in the early stages of pregnancy.

- HAIR STYLISTS have twice as many symptoms of lung disease because of exposure to hair spray. The chemicals used in hair dyes are also hazardous.

- TEXTILE WORKERS are often the guinea pigs for untested chemicals, like Tris. Tris is a flame retardant that was used in children's sleepwear until recently when it was discovered to cause cancer. But not before millions of textile workers handled it, and millions of children slept in it.

- Textile workers are exposed to as many as ten different chemicals, including trichloroethylene, a dangerous solvent used to dissolve plastic basting thread, and chloroprene and styrene used to spray on the edges of the cloth to keep it from unravelling.

- Textile workers are also exposed to cotton dust, which causes brown lung.

- The heat and humidity in clothing plants can cause the chemicals applied to fabrics to oxidize and release formaldehyde.

- FLIGHT ATTENDANTS. What could be more glamorous? But flight attendants suffer from kidney ailments, menstrual disorders, and a mysterious nerve condition resembling multiple sclerosis. DC-10's and other big jets fly at a three-to-five degree angle, causing severe leg and back pains from constantly walking uphill or downhill.

Women workers have many problems. A safe job is one of our concerns. There are many others. If you're a woman and you'd like to discuss these issues with other women, come to the Workers' Power Women's Conference.

This conference will give us a chance to talk about the problems we face, how we are fighting back, and how we can win.

A lively agenda is planned for a two-day conference. See a slide show. Hear a panel discussion from women active in their unions and their communities. An inspiring film. Party with women and listen to women's music. Participate in workshops designed to begin solving our problems. And find out how socialism will liberate women.

The Workers' Power Women's Conference will be held in Cleveland on December 3 and 4. For more information, contact your Workers' Power seller, or write to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan. Or phone 313-869-5964.



# Steel Bosses Double Union Pals

by Terri Ferguson

The Steelworkers' Union has gotten caught with its pants down.

It has been working hand in hand with Big Steel to support the industry's call for import controls.

But earlier this month, top industry spokesmen, including the chairman of U.S. Steel, did a turnaround. They came out against import quotas on foreign steel.

It was all part of a game of maneuvers and blackmail to use with the government and the public. What the steel magnates really wanted through it all was an

agreement that would divide up the American market between domestic and Japanese companies. Since both would have a guaranteed share (they want to peg Japan's share at a fairly high percentage: 15-18%), both could work together to raise prices at will.

But the United Steelworkers of America, who didn't even know the companies were going to reverse their position, is left to play the perfect fall-guy for Big Steel.

## When Does A Union Look More Like A Boss Than The Boss?

First, the union bought the companies' line that jobs have been lost to foreign steel. Japanese workers are to blame, they were quick to agree, not productivity drives and our own pro-company policies.

Second, the union figured its job was to help and protect the industry. So the union decided to pave the way for bigger profits and price increases by fighting to eliminate foreign competition.

Next, the union decided to out-do the companies by running an all-out propaganda campaign of its own for imposing import quotas.

**"Sorry, Boys"**

So what happens? Surprise! The Chairman of U.S. Steel gets up and says, sorry boys, that wasn't really

our position at all. We're not for import quotas after all. It's called bargaining, see. We start off saying we want quotas so we end up getting higher prices. Quotas would cause trade wars and a depression. No one in their right mind really wants them.

And wouldn't you know—the union is left out in far-right field, with a harder-nosed pro-company position than the companies themselves.

U.S. Steel Chairman Edgar J. Speer admitted that he may have "undercut friends and supporters" of the industry by admitting he didn't really want quotas.

Maybe now U.S. Steel's friends and supporters in the union will finally figure out you can't trust the company—not even when you take up their side. □

Workers' Power wrote in issue #226, Oct. 10, that the fight for import controls was just a cover for the industry to get higher prices.

Now the industry admits it too.

Last week, Carter's Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal said that the administration would expect something in return for government action on imports. In exchange, the steel industry would have to give assurances that they were not going to raise prices sky-high.

That's why Edgar J. Speer, Chairman of U.S. Steel, and other top company spokesmen, are coming out against import quotas.

One steel executive explained clearly the reason for rejecting quotas—and what the industry is really after—to the Wall Street Journal: "I wouldn't want anything from the government that gave them control over how I price my product." □

Edgar J. Speer, Chairman, U.S. Steel (left) leaves his peevish buddy, Lloyd McBride, President, United Steelworkers of America (right) out in the cold.

Meanwhile, steelworkers like these (below) are forced to rely on their own strength to defend themselves.



## Literature Every Union Can

Steelworkers' district 15, run by Paul L. Lewis, a down-the-line McBride/company man, recently put out its answer to the companies' propaganda on imports.

It is a slick, four-page pamphlet called "Monster At Large" that is nothing but racist slanders and blatant lies.

At least two full pages are devoted to setting American workers against their Japanese counterparts, accusing the Japanese of absolute regimentation of society, manipulation, and "dirty pool." (See cartoon if you're not already

convinced.)

The pamphlet calls for discovering "a new national purpose"—which means joining with the corporate bosses to protect their profits.

And finally, there's a lot of bunk about "Buy America" campaigns.

### No Answers

District 15, in Pennsylvania's Monongahela Valley, is just next door to Youngstown Sheet and Tube and Johnstown, where thousands of steelworkers have been thrown out of work. Somewhere in

the pamphlet Lewis realizes that "the secret is full employment."

But not a word about lowering steel prices to create more demand for steel to create more jobs. Not a word about cutting out the union's productivity (speed-up) committees that cut out jobs. Not a word about a shorter work week, or the right to strike so we can protect jobs.

### Guaranteeing Jobs.

The literature implies that we should resent Japan because there is much less unemployment there. But not a word explaining that the

reason Japanese companies could not lay off steelworkers for years was that an extremely strong and militant labor movement would not allow them to.

**The question is full employment, all right.**

But the big question is how you get it. Whether you join management—which can never mean full employment—or you come up with a program to unite workers to fight management and win more jobs.

The Lewis' and McBrides have made their choice clear.

The rank and file in basic steel

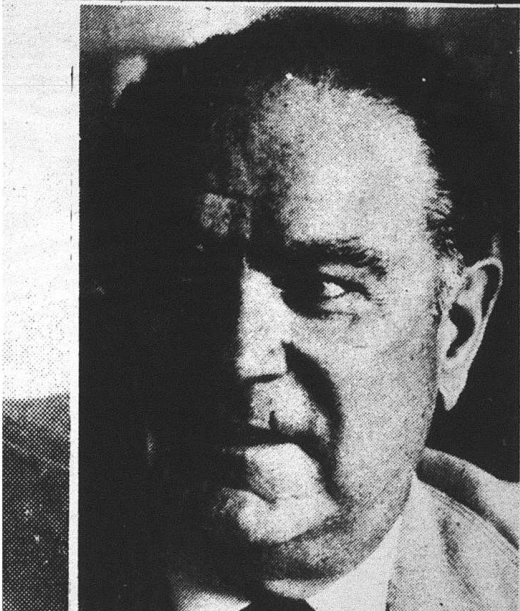
who supported Sadlowski in the last election, have chosen to fight.

### The Choice

A sharp contrast to Lewis' District 15 is Balanoff's District 31 in Chicago-Gary. Jim Balanoff was a Sadlowski opposition candidate for District Director (like Lewis was McBride's). District 31 is the largest and most powerful section of the union.

The District 31 program, passed at a District Conference this month, opposes import controls. It calls for increasing jobs by increasing the

# THE "BUY AMERICA" TRAP



## FOOL OF THE WEEK AWARD

by Dan Posen and Terri Ferguson

A Democratic Congressman from Pennsylvania, Joseph Gaydos, is sponsoring legislation for steel import quotas.

The Gary Post-Tribune reports that Gaydos outlined his proposals to a public officials' group this way: "Gaydos noted that Congress enacted legislation in 1929 to keep foreign nations from engaging in unfair trade practices."

1929, of course, was the year of the stock market crash and the start of the tariff and trade wars of the Great Depression with millions of unemployed throughout the world.

Congratulations, Mr. Gaydos. For this brilliant observation, you are the winner of this week's Look-How-Well-It-Worked-Before Award.

### WHAT IF?

What if steel union leaders got their way and imported steel was banned? Suppose this happened on a world scale?

When one country sets up import embargoes, with sharp competition raging, others follow suit. Soon tariffs are set on one commodity after another. The result is bitter trade wars.

Escalating trade wars often have one conclusion — physical world war.

When they don't end that way, there's only one other possibility: world depression.

### World Crisis

While American steelmakers complain about Japanese "dumping" steel on the U.S. market (allegedly selling below production cost), the Japanese, believe it or not, complain about European steelmakers "dumping" steel in southeast Asia!

Japanese steel imports are already restricted in Europe, making the competition for the rest of the world market more bitter.

The problem is, demand for steel in the world isn't growing fast enough. The crisis is international.

With every major country throwing up steel import barriers to "protect its own industry," what

happens if new steelmaking countries like Mexico can't sell any?

Steel import barriers by some countries could bankrupt some of the smaller producers. That means, among other things, a weaker market for U.S. machinery and other exports.

### Another '29?

A depression would loom over a steel import fight because it isn't just a question of steel.

Basic steel is the commodity around which the rest of world production revolves.

There's sharp world competition in car exports, for instance. Not just the U.S., Germany, and Japan—but new producers like Brazil, Iran, and South Korea.

We already know there's a bitter struggle over other products, like textiles. And the U.S. has set up tariffs (import fees to raise prices) on imported shoes. The result? 15% of the workforce in Brazil's shoe-making area, the Sinos Valley, are out of work.

### Retaliation

And what happens as Brazil, and then one country after another, replies to American import quotas and tariffs with its own measures against American goods?

The vast unemployment in Brazil's Sinos Valley will seem like a drop in the bucket. American workers—and workers the world over—will lose their jobs not by thousands, but by millions.

### Bread Lines

Then, the results of working people from one country fighting against the working people of another, instead of joining together to protect their class interests against bosses who play the same game in America, Japan, or Brazil, will be clear as day. Standing in the bread lines, Americans will feel those results in their bellies.

And over steak dinners and martinis, the Rockefellers, Mitsubishis, and Jet-set international millionaires will feel the same results in theirs.

In the end, protectionist, "Buy America" campaigns mean trade wars and world war or world depression. In the end, supporting the corporations' profits by protecting their position in their market means millions of dead or millions of unemployed. And it won't be the bosses' sons who starve or get sent to die. □

# Be Ashamed Of

demand for steel. This would be done by lowering steel prices, and a program to re-build our decaying cities.

That program would be an enormous stride toward full employment. It is based on fighting for the membership's needs, both in the workplace and in the community.

The Lewis/McBride program is a sap. It means joining the companies in their attack on the union, far fewer jobs in the end, and dividing workers by peddling a lot of racist and chauvinist garbage. □

While the United Steelworkers-union's Treasurer, Frank McKee, was visiting Japan, glorifying the "respect and solidarity" between American and Japanese steelworkers, District 15 of the union ran this cartoon in a racist propaganda pamphlet.

"Steel Labor," official organ of the union, writes: "Mr. McKee was continuing a tradition of international trade union solidarity which has existed between the USWA and the Japanese Federation of Iron and Steelworkers' Unions for much of the past two decades. . . ."

According to McKee, "Our relationship is a long one. We of our union remember very well and appreciatively that it started in 1959 when our members in the basic steel industry were engaged in a long, bitter 116-day strike. At that time you offered us help, and we have never forgotten your assistance and your kindness." Japanese steelworkers may not think too much of this memento.



HAD ENOUGH AMERICA!

# POLICE: THE CRIME THAT'S REALLY ORGANIZED

by Al Ferdnace

In any discussion about organized crime the American citizen is besieged with a proliferation of reasons for it, and solutions to curb its effect on society.

However, in no instance is the citizen allowed to make the determination as to what actually constitutes a crime. Those who benefit the most from a profitable enterprise are also the ones most likely to form the definition. Organized crime is no exception.

Although the people in the working class are more than likely the victims in the majority of crimes, they are not permitted to organize against it. This strange set of circumstances loses the aura of mystery when we stop to consider what is a crime, and who is organized.

## WHAT IS ORGANIZED CRIME?

The loose federation of Mafia type families can in no way equal the true definition of an organization. Not when you consider the constant warfare, and regional conflict that is part and parcel of so-called criminal activities.

The really smooth and highly profitable "Organization" is the American Judicial System.

One need only look at the practices of our courts, Congress and the various policing departments.

Starting at the bottom (where the working class is), a policeman is galvanized into action at the sound of breaking glass. That action may well end with a teenager lying in a pool of blood, clutching a transistor radio worth \$4.95.

If the action of the police seems harsh, stop to consider the law. It says it is a crime to take a piece of property without paying for it.

Yet police all across America take the lives of citizens without paying for it.

This would imply that American



justice is based on the protection of property rather than life.

Contrary to popular belief, police are not "pigs" as some are apt to call them. Watchdogs would be closer to the truth. Ever see a pair of policemen walking a beat trying the doorknob on a piece of property like a store? Or driving around a building after everyone has gone home?

They're protecting property, not people.

They kill people to protect property. It does not matter to them that property can be replaced, but lives cannot.

The police get paid for protecting property.

But they seldom pay for the beatings and killings they commit in the process.

## LAWYERS

Next on the payroll are the lawyers. If the parents of the murdered child want to take their grievance to the courts, the courts deny you voice without an attorney.

So now the victims must pay the next part of the system.

Now the organization really gets into gear. Between the lawyer, the judge, and laws to protect property rather than people, the odds of the policeman receiving any penalty for his actions are about ten thousand to one.

That the lawyer and the judge will not be paid off, about a hundred thousand to one.

That throughout the entire organization the life of the teenager will be worth more than the \$4.95 for which he died, the odds are about a million to one.

Crimes against property are unforgivable. Crimes against the people are rarely considered crimes at all.

## WATERGATE NO CRIME

Nixon, accused of criminal conspiracy against millions of Americans, received no penalty at all. He never even went to trial. Those who did, are now about to be released.

Nixon staffers: John Mitchell, John Ehrlichman, and Bob Halde- man, who are at the moment residing in plush federal prisons, are having the sentences they received for their part in the Watergate affair reduced by Federal Judge John J. Sirica.

The Judge received tape recordings from the "Big 3" with messages of contrition: Mitchell is "truly sorry" for those actions that led to his conviction.

Ehrlichman argues, justice will not be served by him continuing his sentence.

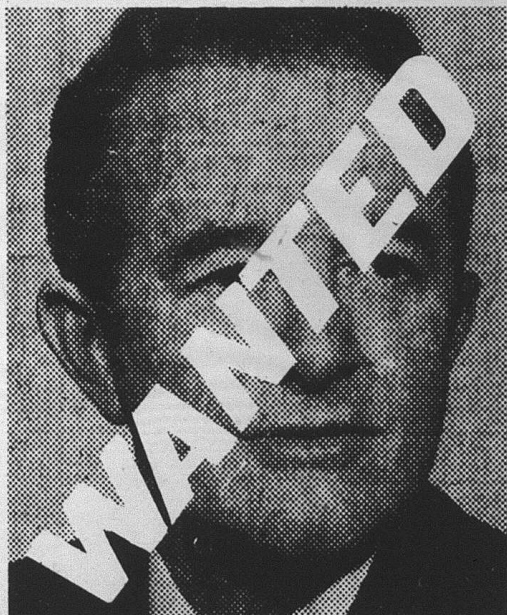
Halde- man is "bitter" because Nixon received no jail time at all. Their minimum sentences of two and a half years will be cut to one year. John Dean is already on the streets.

Mercy is reserved for those who commit crimes against the people.

It is "Organized" under the names of due process and the American judicial system. And it pays very well if you happen to be a member (or agent) of the ruling class. □

## ALL'S FAIR?

In the state of North Carolina a wife who murders her husband forfeits her life interest in their joint property. A husband who murders his wife retains it. □



Robert Beasley was a vice-president at Firestone until he ripped off a million dollars from the company.

## CORPORATE ETHICS: BRIBERY YES, EMBEZZLEMENT NO!

by Kim Moody

Every once in a while, some businessman gets caught with his hand in the till.

If it's not covered up, and he's not too important he may even spend a couple of years in the joint. After all, stealing from the company is a serious crime against property.

Robert Beasley got caught stealing a million dollars from the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Until last year, Beasley was a vice-president of Firestone.

Beasley had been making \$200,000 a year. When he retired last year he decided to improve his lot by walking off with a cool million. Now he faces a federal indictment.

But get this. The million that Beasley took was part of a company fund for illegal political contributions and bribes.

Since 1960, Firestone ran this illegal fund. Beasley was in charge of syphoning money from other

departments and covering up the whole deal.

Obviously such an illegal fund exists solely for the purpose of further corrupting the political process. It is, in short, a crime against people—the people of the United States.

So, neither Beasley nor the other officers or owners of Firestone are under indictment for that crime.

If Beasley goes to jail it will not be because Firestone was out to buy some politicians, but because he had the nerve to use this money, this company property, for his personal use.

It is well known that most, if not all, big corporations maintain such illegal slush funds. It is well known that these companies use this and other money to buy, rent and bribe politicians, judges and police officials.

In return, as is also well-known, these politicians, judges and police officials do not indict, try or convict the top corporate executives and millionaires who pay them.

Who says crime doesn't pay? □



# "Slave Rebellion" In New York Welfare

**SOUTH BRONX, N.Y.—New York welfare recipients have begun to organize against a new form of slavery called the Public Works Program (PWP).**

Several PWPers recently talked to Workers' Power about the program.

"The worst thing is that the State of New York, who is really our boss since by state law we are forced to work in the program, refuses to designate us as workers," said George, a leader in the PWP struggle.

"We recently confronted the city-wide director of the PWP program with our list of demands and asked him to define our status.

**"Are we workers or slaves?"**

"He replied that we are neither, but rather are participants in the program, or some kind of special 'category' under state law.

"If you're just a category, how can there be any incentive to work? Then again, there never is when you're forced to work like a slave."

## NO BENEFITS

Another PWPper, Emily, described the contradiction in the director's definition.

"What he said was, 'All I can say is that you are working for your grant.'

"When we told him that he just said that we were not workers, he told us we are really 'aides,' aiding other workers. But how can we aid someone who's not even there?"

**The PWP program places workers in various city agencies like social services, housing authority, etc. and makes them work an average of 5-6 days every two weeks.**

This is just enough hours to work off their grant at a rate equivalent to the minimum wage. Prior to a recent court case, many PWPers had to work six to eight days every two weeks at a rate often equaling \$1 per hour or less.

Since PWPers do not receive a wage for their labor, they do not pay income taxes or social security and are not protected by unemployment insurance or workmen's compensation. They get no sick days, holidays or overtime.

One PWPper who works as a messenger for the social services department described how he has to make several long trips each afternoon for his job, frequently not returning until half an hour to an hour after closing.

**"But since I don't get a paycheck, or am considered to be earning regular time, they of course won't pay me overtime or time and a half."**

"And I'm supposed to be the assistant to the regular messenger, a full-time employee, but really do the same work, with no pay. This is an unbelievably degrading system, and there's no incentive to make you want to better yourself."

## DEMAND DIGNITY

Some of the immediate PWP demands are that they be given the same holidays as regular workers and sick days.

As it stands now, a PWPper explains, "If you are sick, with a legitimate doctor's note, and miss an assigned day, they force you to make it up and work an extra day.

"The same thing if a holiday falls on a day you are assigned and the agency is closed, you have to make up the day.

"I can't believe it. Christmas and Thanksgiving are holidays that belong to everybody."

**"But not to slaves," another PWPper added.**

They are also demanding that PWP workers have the freedom to "spend our hard-earned money the way we choose."

Now, since PWPers receive a welfare grant, the welfare department pays the rent and other needs and does not allow the workers to manage their own earnings or the dignity to control their own lives.

PWP workers have held several meetings to draw up their demands. Other demands include:

more access to CETA and other federal jobs for welfare recipients; the right to collective bargaining; and real full-time productive jobs at decent wages and benefits.

The organizing committee plans a mass leafleting campaign to reach other PWP workers at the various city agencies and build the

organization.

**"We plan to make them deal with us as organized workers, not as individuals," George states.**

"And everybody in the PWP program knows we are the most exploited city workers. We are treated as slaves and have nothing to lose but the shackles."



## Police Beat, Arrest Striking Miners

**THESE ARRESTS by the Kentucky State Police are one reason there is so much scab coal in Kentucky. Eighty-three miners and nearly two dozen of their wives were beaten and arrested for the crime of setting up a picket line.**

This summer, a court order limited to six the number of United Mine Workers pickets at the Blue Diamond Coal Co.'s mine in Stearns, Ky. Miners there have been on strike for 15 months demanding union recognition.

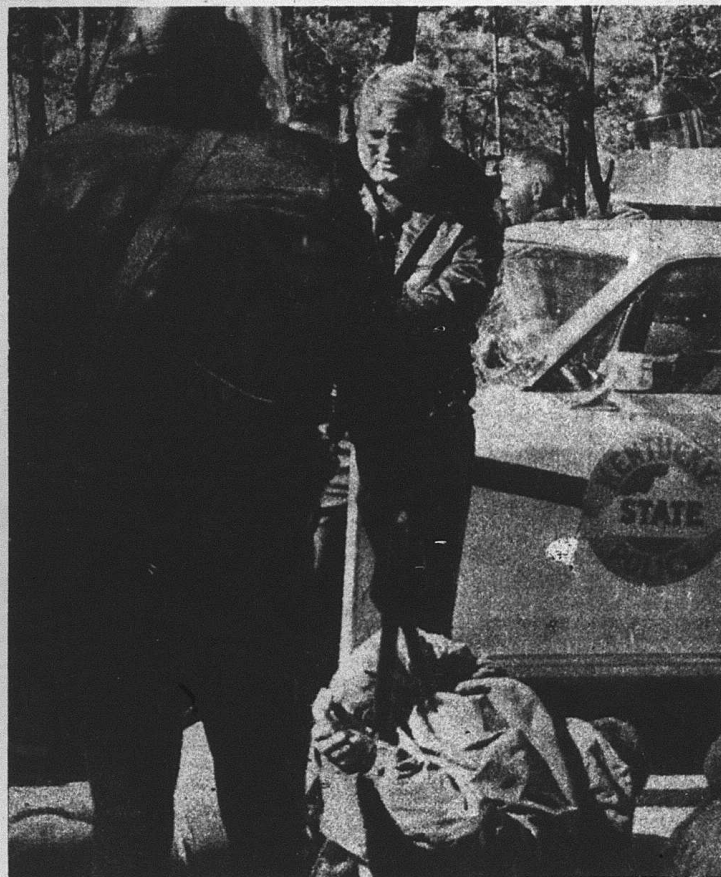
On October 17, the miners felt they had to ignore the anti-picketing order since they thought Blue Diamond was trying to resume mining operations.

The 100 miners and 40 wives who assembled in the early morning hours were prepared for a fair fight... but they were no match for the riot-equipped state police. While miners swung their clubs against police helmets, the troopers swung at bare heads... and spilled plenty of blood.

One woman who was eight months pregnant was taken from a private yard and arrested for calling the state police "strikebreakers." Said a witness, "They drug her across that road like she was just a damn dog."

A reporter from the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper, described this incident: "Hell no, it won't break the strike," shouted 23-year-old miner William King as he raised his bloody face from the gravel in the road. He then shouted an obscenity to an unidentified policeman who swiftly struck the handcuffed miner across the head again with his riot stick."

Said UMW organizer Lee Potter: "Every one of the 277,000 members of this union should be proud of these men for the way they fought back. I know the Stearns miners and I know they'll be back."



Photos: James Branscome/Mountain Eagle

# Double Tankers

## HOW MANY MORE WILL DIE?

Recent inspections by Michigan state police have proven what every truck driver knows.

**Double trailer tanker trucks are unsafe. Three out of every four examined—73% to be exact—flunked the test.**

Safety violations discovered include: defective wiring and exhaust systems, leaking tanks, worn tires, faulty fire extinguishing equipment, and defects in valves which are supposed to cut off the flow of gas when rigs overturn or catch fire.

A rash of tanker accidents this year stirred public anger and provoked government agencies to investigate tanker safety.

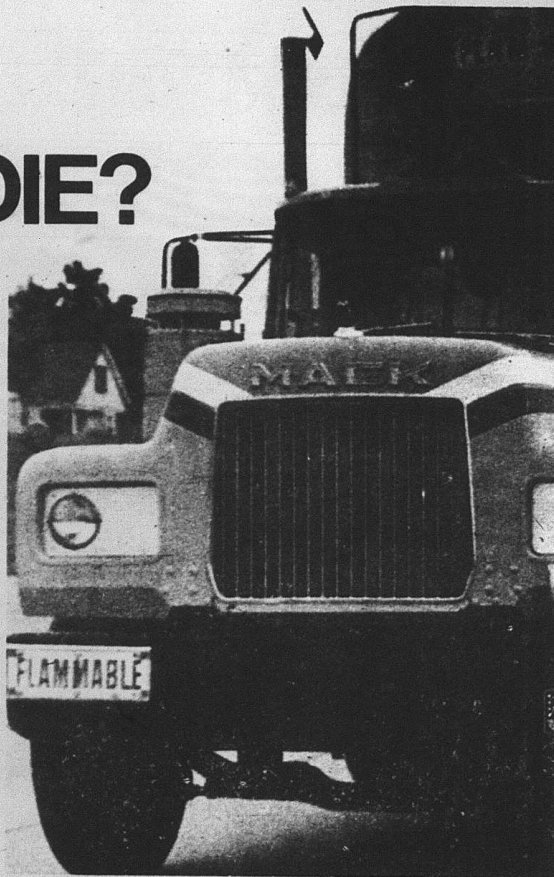
But what if all these violations were corrected? Double bottom tankers will still be unsafe.

No matter how good the driver, it is still difficult to control the second trailer.

**Big companies want double tankers, because they are more profitable. More cargo can be hauled with fewer drivers.**

Some state legislatures where doubles are legal are now considering bills to outlaw them. Meanwhile they are still on the road, endangering the lives of those who drive them, along with the rest of us.

While lawmakers are balancing our lives against industry profits, how many more will die? □



## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

Some coal miners are skeptical about **United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller's** handling of contract negotiations. They note that in the 1974 contract, the union handed the coal operators a stack of demands one inch thick. This year, the UMW's demands took up only two pages.

**Dept. of Interesting Historical Facts:** The steel industry's campaign against Japanese steel imports brings to mind the fate of the late **Japanese coal industry.** What Japanese coal industry? you might legitimately ask, since there really isn't any to speak of now. Seems that back in 1960 there were some 243,524 coal miners in Japan. But by 1971, only 40,000 remained, their jobs wiped out by imports of cheap foreign coal, mainly from the U.S.

The **International Brotherhood of Teamsters** is doing its thing against internationalism, as well. This time, however, it's not a case of campaigning against workers in some far off country. The union is campaigning against some of its own members in pushing the "all-America" route for a pipeline to bring natural gas from Alaska. Under this plan, says the October International Teamster magazine, "The United States would have maintained total control of the gas and would have derived the income from taxes and other revenues. The Teamsters had judged it the safest, quickest way of guaranteeing the United States needs gas supplies." The story does not mention why Canadian Teamsters are considered less important than IBT members in the U.S.

Congressional investigators say that **Paul Fosco**, son of President Angelo Fosco of the **Laborers Union**, was bribed \$260,000 by a Beverly Hills insurance man. In return, the insurance agent allegedly got \$5.6 million worth of business from the union in Indiana.

When the **Sangamo Weston Company** announced plans on October 7 to close its Springfield, Illinois plant, it threw 935 employees out of work. Most are represented by the **United Auto Workers**. As a condition of keeping the plant open, Sangamo Weston had demanded that workers take a \$2.17 cut in hourly pay. Yet production pay scales range from only \$3.43 to \$4.90. Said one worker, "Even if we did agree to the pay cut, there's no guarantee the company won't pull out."

**Quote of the Week:** "The Sadowskis have temporarily won on the management side."—James Smith, an assistant to **United Steelworkers President Lloyd McBride**. Sadowski ran against McBride earlier this year, campaigning for a hard stance in fighting the companies. What Smith means is that now the steel companies are taking a hard stance against the union. For example, they are refusing to pay layoff benefits negotiated in the last contract for the thousands of steel workers recently put out of jobs in Youngstown, Johnstown, and Lackawanna. Perhaps that means its time to trade in the union's McBride for a Sadowski.

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



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# 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 for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom. 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.

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## Farmworker Struggle: Who Were The Thugs?

**Quincy: Medical Examiner.** NBC-TV, Fridays, 10 p.m.

by Elissa Clarke

**SELDOM ARE things as black and white as in the battle between the United Farm Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.**

The United Farm Workers (UFW) is a small, struggling union. It's staffed by idealistic people dedicated to "la causa". The union bureaucrats—one and all—make \$5 a week. The UFW is headed by Cesar Chavez, a man worshipped by his followers. A soft-spoken, religious man who preaches non-violent struggle.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, on the other hand, is the most corrupt, violent, gangster-ridden union in American labor history.

These two unions were locked in a struggle that lasted nearly ten years over which union would represent migrant farm workers.

That's the facts. That's the way life is.

But NBC has a better idea.

In an episode of "Quincy: Medical Examiner" aired last week, NBC took up the issue of the rivalry between the United Farm Workers and the Teamsters.

Only in TV Land, the Farm Workers are the bad guys. Funny how that happens on television.

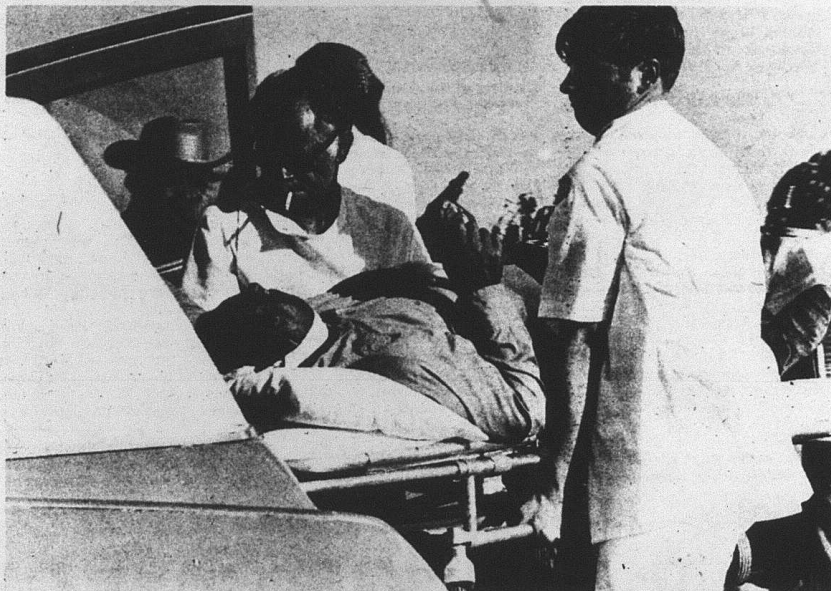
In the story, David, a young Chicano staffer for the Farm Workers' Alliance dies in his garage of carbon monoxide poisoning. The question for Quincy: suicide . . . or —murder?!? (That is the question for Quincy every week. The medical examiner, or coroner, is just a disguise for your basic cops and robbers show.)

To thicken the plot, there is a union election coming up. Who will win? The sincere, dedicated Farm Workers Alliance—or the mighty International Brotherhood?

If Quincy reveals that the suicide is really murder, it will throw the election. But which way?

Of course, it's as clear as day that the International Brotherhood did it.

# HOW TV REWRITES HISTORY



The way it really happened: Sixty-year-old farmworker Juan Hernandez is carried away with a fractured skull. He was beaten by Teamster goons in full view of a deputy sheriff.

The International Brotherhood thugs pick up Quincy and take him to their headquarters. There they suggest this scenario: that young David was murdered by the Farm Workers Alliance to get sympathy votes.

We finally find out that David was murdered by one of the Farm Workers Alliance staffers who was on the take. The guy was helping 'illegals' (Mexicans who do not have work papers) to get jobs and taking kickbacks from them. "At first they offered me money," he confessed. "And I would say, 'No'. Later I began demanding it."

David was offed because he discovered this corruption and threatened to spill the beans right before the election.

### DISTORTION

In reality, the entire history of the feud between the UFW and the Teamsters goes the other way.

Apparently, NBC thought it was important to clean up the Teamsters' image, and tarnish that of the UFW a bit.

In real life, plenty of farm workers have been beaten up, thrown in jail and even killed by the Teamsters. Field workers have been harassed and intimidated if they sign UFW cards.

There is enough true-to-life drama in the history of this feud to run a television series for eight seasons. The stories of the people who have dedicated their lives to building a union for migrant workers. And the stories of rank and file Teamsters who have stood up to their International leadership and lent support to the Farm Workers.

But TV never tells us that story. The real story of people just like us struggling to win better lives.

Because that story is far more dangerous than all the bad guys on Kojak, Baretta, Police Woman, Starsky and Hutch, Charlie's Angels and the Bionic Man and Woman put together.

They'd much rather tell us stories about how dangerous the world is and how we need the police to protect us than tell us the story of ordinary workers fighting—and winning. □

## A Finger Lickin' Good Flick

**Kentucky Fried Movie.** Produced by Robert Weiss.

An oil company executive in his polished suit comes on the screen. Against a back-drop of processing and refining machinery, he explains how the corporation is developing research to provide more energy for today's America.

The camera switches to the scene of a new development project—where millions of tons of new oil are extracted from the pimply faces of American teenagers. Then back to the executive, who explains: "We're working hard to keep your money."

That's the opening spoof from Kentucky-Fried Movie. There are several other brief and excellent satires on movies, news reports, commercials and television.

The shot of the dead-pan newscaster, for instance: "Russia in flames, missiles headed for New York. Film at eleven."

Or the spoof on the "science" movies you saw in high school. This one's about zinc-oxide and how it's part of all the things we use every day without realizing it.

### CHAOS

An all American housewife stands in her all American kitchen holding a bar of soap. The narrator explains that "without zinc-oxide,

you wouldn't be holding that bar of soap" and the soap disappears.

Next it's the curtain rods that disappear from the screen. Soon it's her brassier, the heat control on the Amana range, the fire extinguisher she grabs to put out the resulting blaze, and one thing after another until her home is in chaos.

All the while, through the whole catastrophe, the sweet background music and the narrator's unemotional voice drone on.

Other parts of the many satires don't come off so well. The spoof on Kung-Fu movies is way too long and begins to drag.

Problems like this one make Kentucky-Fried Movie less than excellent. But it's good entertainment. □

T. Ferguson

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# Workers' Power

## Union Leaders Urge

# SHORTEN THE WORK WEEK!

by Jim Woodward

**DETROIT**—A group of more than 50 local union officers from around the country met at United Auto Workers Local 22 here October 25 to form the "All Unions Committee to Shorten the Work Week."

"We are here today because for forty years the drive for shorter hours has lain dormant and we have ten million men and women in America who do not have jobs," said Frank Runnels, Local 22 president and head of the short work week group.

"It's a fact of life that we are not going to effectively combat unemployment until we commit ourselves to reduce the work week in this country," he added. "When I talk about shorter hours, I'm talking about shorter hours with no reduction in pay."

These remarks were supported by Bill Andrews, president of United Steelworkers Local 1010 at Inland Steel in East Chicago, Indiana.

"Workers in America need only look at the layoffs and cutbacks in steel today to see what is going to happen to every industry in our country if the hours of work are not reduced in such a manner that we provide everyone in America a job and an opportunity to earn a living

and live in dignity," Andrews said.

Andrews added that fighting for a shorter work week is a more effective approach to combatting unemployment in the steel industry than restricting steel imports, a position which the International leadership of the Steelworkers union has taken.

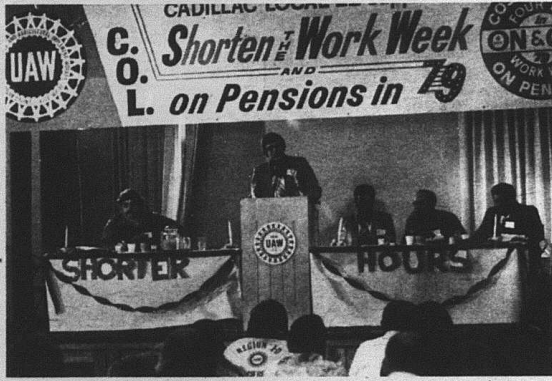
After the founding meeting, the group will spend the next several months organizing a major conference to be held in Dearborn, Michigan April 11.

### OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Other officials involved in the short work week group include: Frank Rosen (President, United Electrical Workers Dist. 11, Chicago); Russel Woodrick (Business Agent, Machinists Union, Waterloo, Iowa); Charles Barton (President, Meatcutters Local P500, Chicago); Lou Antal (President, Mine Workers Dist. 5, Pittsburgh); Henry Foner (President, Fur Workers, New York); and Hank Oginski (Financial Secretary, Auto Workers Local 599, Flint, Mich.).

Other unions represented include the Furniture Workers, West Coast Longshoremens, Service Employees, AFSCME, and Retail Clerks.

But at this stage participants are all middle level union officials—



Leaders of the Short Work Week Committee (left to right): Woodrick, Runnels, Andrews, Rosen, Barton.

mostly local presidents. There are no rank and fillers involved.

When asked, Runnels said he felt it was vitally important to involve the union membership on the shop floor. But he did not offer any indication how the group plans to do this.

International union officials are not yet involved directly either. But the group is actively courting them. Runnels stressed that the committee is "not a maverick organization. It is in the mainstream of the unions we represent."

"We are no threat to anything [the labor leaders] are doing," he said. "We will not let this group become involved in union politics."

He added that Auto Workers President Doug Fraser and other

international union leaders will speak at the April conference.

### OVERTIME

The group does not intend to settle on a specific number of hours as a goal for a shorter work week. We want to reduce it "from 40 hours to zero unemployment," Runnels said.

He also seemed to avoid dealing with the problem of overtime. Although the standard work week is now 40 hours, many employees regularly work 45, 50, 60 or more hours because of mandatory overtime.

"It's no sense of doing away with the short work week if we're going to come up with undermining

factors," said one delegate. "Regardless of what we do on the short work week, we must attack overtime."

Runnels said he agreed, but added, "Now's not the time." He said a specific approach to overtime should be left up to each individual union. That attitude has been miserably unsuccessful in fighting mandatory overtime in the past.

The short work week group says it will pursue its goal on two fronts: by negotiating shorter work week provisions in union contracts, and through legislation to be prepared for Congress.

### EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Speakers said the meeting was "an historic occasion," kicking off the movement for a shorter work week.

In any case, it was a start. But for the movement to be successful, it would do well to follow the example set by the eight-hour day movement.

That movement began with a general strike on May 1, 1886. Through strikes, demonstrations, and other mass action, it eventually achieved its goal.

No group of union officials who quietly lobbied their Congressmen could have done it. No unionists who were afraid of antagonizing some top level officials could have done it.

If a shorter work week is to be won now, the "All Unions Committee to Shorten the Work Week" should organize broad activities that involve the rank and file of their unions. □

## Teamster Elections

# LOCAL 299: THINGS CAN CHANGE!

Some people say things never change. But look at the line up in the upcoming elections in Detroit Teamster Local 299.

The Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) is running three candidates. Pete Camarata for Vice President, Walter Ruff, a 26-year dockworker, and Dennis Wade, an 11-year car hauler, for trustees.

Also running on a program of democratic change in the local is a slate headed by Pete Karagosian, who is widely regarded as the most aggressive Business Agent. The slate is backed by a group called Concerned Members, which includes many active rank and file militants.

For years, 299 was the fiefdom of Jimmy Hoffa and later Frank Fitzsimmons. Local politics was a closed door affair. Opposition was rare. People never ran on the issues.

Even after Fitz and Hoffa broke ranks, they patched together an unopposed "coalition slate" in the 1974 elections.

All this is no more. Consider these facts.

### LITTLE FITZ

Dickie Fitz, the Local Vice President and son of Frank, is not even running.

The current President, Bob Lins, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Otto

Wendell, are opposing each other for President. Wendell is being charged with using the union mailing list to campaign before he was a candidate. Similar charges are reportedly pending against Lins.

While these bureaucrats battle, the members will have a chance to vote for real change. What made this possible?

In November of 1975, TDU leader Pete Camarata met with groups of Teamsters who were building the TDC fight for a decent national freight contract.

During the next six months, the TDC grew to be a force in Detroit. It transformed coffee shops gripes about the grievance procedure, dispatch rules, casuals, etc. into action.

Delegate elections to the Las Vegas IBT convention followed immediately. The flunkies and BA's lost. Oppositionists carried the day. Pete Camarata, the top vote getter, went an important step beyond the others.

### STANDING UP

He set a standard of actual performance, not just promises. He alone stood up and made the proposals for democracy that he had been sent to do.

Though there are many active militants in Concerned Members,

the group backing Pete Karagosian's slate, it also includes some people who have no particular record of rank and file activity. Some who went to the Las Vegas convention failed to stand up for the members.

In September when the Teamsters for a Democratic Union was formed, the Detroit TDU chapter began publishing a regular rank and file paper, informing the members and exposing the officials.

During the winter and spring TDU initiated a campaign to amend the local's bylaws to provide for election of BA's, stewards and local committees and other changes. While the campaign fell short of the necessary 2/3 vote, it transformed sentiment for change into the beginnings of a concrete program.

As well as defining the issue, this two year process has built up the awareness, confidence and organization of the membership.

TDU is running independently to insure that whatever the outcome of the election, the executive board will include proven fighters who will back the ranks—no matter what.

The election in Local 299 will be the real start of change in Local 299—not the finish. It is just a step toward rank and file power, but it is a crucial one. □

