

# PROPOSED PACT—MINERS FURIOUS



Miners rallied at the U.S. Steel headquarters in Pittsburgh, February 6.

## WORKERS' Power

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United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller is carrying a pistol these days as he campaigns for the proposed coal contract in West Virginia. He needs it.

Appalachian coal miners are up in arms about the tentative proposal to end their nine-week strike. "It stinks," said one local union official contacted by Workers' Power. Another, the president of a large West Virginia local, said there is nearly "unanimous revulsion" against the contract.

Dozens of local unions have gone on record against the proposal, and even Miller supporters on the Mine Workers' executive board are against it.

All this means there will be no quick end to the coal strike, despite the intervention of federal government officials.

For the full story, turn to page 7.

# HEAT WILDCATTERS GET JOBS BACK!

by Paul Broz

**DETROIT—SIX MONTHS OUT OF** work, six months of waiting and worrying. In a closed-door session with United Auto Workers officials at union headquarters, Solidarity House, six of the Trenton 7 were told that they are getting their jobs back, without back pay.

The grievance of the seventh, Roger Elkins, was dropped as a condition of the others' reinstatement.

The six, who are returning to work in the next several weeks, received no guarantee that they would not be fired in the event that they must serve their jail sentences. Also up in the air is a request from the seven that the union file a brief in their behalf in court.

According to the UAW, Elkins was not reinstated because he had less seniority than the others (one and one-half years), because local union officials had written his grievance poorly, and because Chrysler had looked with disfavor on his several television appearances.

During the meeting, union officials claimed that activities of the Trenton Defense Committee had hindered the negotiations, delaying the return of the men. They were told of a meeting at Chrysler Headquarters one afternoon held at the same time as several of the

Last summer, when week after week of hot, humid weather raised tensions in Detroit's auto plants to the breaking point, thousands of workers walked out.

At Chrysler's Trenton Engine plant, in August, workers struck when six men who had participated in an earlier heat walkout were fired.

Their protest was successful—the six were brought back—but seven others were selected at random, fired, and charged with contempt of court. Each of these seven men, who have become known as the Trenton 7, has been sentenced to a week in jail. Their case is being appealed.

It's been a long, tough fight for the seven, who, fed up with excuses from a weak union leadership, organized their own defense committee, put out leaflets, and appeared on television shows to tell their story to the public and their fellow auto workers.

February 4, the UAW met with the long-suffered seven to announce that six would be getting their jobs back.

The accompanying article is based on interviews with the seven, conducted immediately after their conference with the UAW officials.

defendants were on a television talk show.

A handful of Chrysler officials "busted through the door and said, 'You guys are here trying to get these guys back, and here they are on TV, kickin' your ass, and kickin' our ass!'"

### PUBLICITY

At Solidarity House, the auto workers were asked, "The next time talking to the press, please tell them that we've helped you, that we're in there fighting for you."

They almost got that opportunity the

following day. Bob Smith, Trenton UAW Local President, scheduled an afternoon press conference, notified each of the Trenton 7, and ordered them to say good things about the union—or else they wouldn't be going back.

Reactions were heated, and the International was forced to step in and cancel the press conference.

The meeting at union headquarters was sometimes stormy, discussions ranging back to the first day of the strike. According to Roger Elkins:

"We asked them what would have happened if Chrysler hadn't been able to get an injunction. They said the

company would have refused to talk to us.

"'You mean to tell me,' I said, 'that they would have shut down the entire corporation just for a few men? We're just numbers to them—just numbers!'"

"We asked them where they were when it got too hot to work. They said that we should have gone through procedures. [Grievances for the Trenton 7 took twelve weeks just to go from the Local to the International level, six months in all.] I asked them, 'Can you work for 12 weeks in hot f—kin' weather while the grievance is being processed?' They just looked at the floor and changed the subject."

The reluctance of the union to intervene in the court case was used by the judge as evidence that "this is not a labor issue."

Though six of the seven are going back to work, all face another legal battle in the courts. They hope for help from Solidarity House—but know they can count on the aid of their fellow workers.

In reply to the judge, on the day of his sentencing, Roger Elkins said, "You misunderstand the meaning of the word 'union.' They were the ones who packed this court, the halls and the streets outside. Now, if you want to talk about the leaders of this union, that's another story." □

# LABOR REFORM BILL GAINS

## But Congress may outlaw "unofficial" strikes

by Paul Broz

Sometimes it's good business to violate the law. Especially if you're a businessman and your employees are trying to form a union.

It's cheaper, in the long run, to fire union organizers and sympathizers, to delay a union election for months and years, and in the event a union wins a representation election, to refuse to bargain on a first contract, than it is to allow workers to exercise their right to belong to a union.

These are some of the reasons major unions are pushing the Labor Reform Act of 1978 in the U.S. Senate. The Chamber of Commerce considers it such a threat that its president, Richard L. Leshner, declared that its passage would "triple union membership."

Leshner apparently assumes that only employers' illegal tactics are preventing a mass influx of workers into unions.

Workers should support this bill. Its passage would provide material and psychological boosts to workers who have wanted for years to organize a union where they work, but who have been intimidated by their employers.

But one part is very bad, an anti-labor provision, Section 13, which is designed to curtail wildcat strikes.

Some union officials as might be expected are supporting Section 13. Steven Schlossberg, chief legislative lobbyist for the United Auto Workers, addressing a meeting of the Industrial Relations Research Association, at Wayne State University, February 2, said that this section "... is aimed at stranger picketing. These occur in the coal fields and are wildcat strikes of the worst kind... Employers could obtain injunctions against stranger picketing when a strike is unauthorized... We have no objection to that!

### REVISIONS

Section 12 in the House version of this bill, in the Senate version it has become Section 13, and has been changed and expanded greatly.

The House bill would have allowed the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to obtain injunctions against wildcats only if the Board judged the strike to threaten "public interest."

National coal and Teamster strikes could conceivably be enjoined under this provision, but few others.

As changed in the Senate, however, an employer—not the NLRB—would get the injunction, whether in the "public interest" or not. Even a wildcat of as few as five workers could become the subject of legal action.

The way it works, if a contract contains a no-strike clause, or a [court] "inferred" no-strike clause, an injunction will be granted. It can be opposed only on the grounds that the strike is authorized by the union and the picket line maintained by the union.

Part of Section 13 is aimed at wildcats in the coal fields, which traditionally start from a dispute at one mine and spread as pickets move from one mine to another. The union would be required to sanction the first of a series of these strikes, or else give up the right to authorize the entire strike

further on down the line.

It is designed to force the United Mine Workers leadership to tighten its control over the rank and file.

Other parts of the bill, however, would help organize the unorganized. In its present form, it would

- set time limits for the holding of union representation elections
- allow the NLRB to more quickly enforce its decisions
- provide access for union organizers to company property, in some cases

- increase back pay and shorten reinstatement time for workers fired as a result of organizing activities, prior to the formation of a union
- and compensate workers for wages and benefits due to an

employer's refusal to bargain on a first contract.

The Labor Reform Act, without Section 13 would be a very good bill. But even in its present form its passage should be supported. □



While outlawing the miners' "stranger picketing" (right), the labor law reform bill would facilitate organizing shops like J.P. Stevens (left).

# ABOLISH SLAVERY IN NYC!

NEW YORK CITY—Workers enrolled in this state's Public Works Program met here in January and adopted a strategy to fight the "enforced servitude" conditions under which they must work.

The program, begun in 1977, forces some 7000 New York City welfare recipients to work off their checks in municipal agencies to continue to receive their benefits.

Finding jobs for welfare recipients who can work is a fine goal—but this program amounts to slave labor and union-busting.

### NO RIGHTS, BENEFITS

Public Workers Program (PWP) workers work at the pay rate of regular city employees—but just enough hours to work off their checks. They can't work longer to supplement their low welfare income and get ahead.

Because the program says they are not workers, but welfare recipients, PWP workers get no paid holidays, no sick leave, unemployment insurance or health insurance other than the Medicaid they get under welfare.

They have no right to organize a union, bargain or strike.

The PWP workers who met plan to organize in the agency buildings where PWP workers are assigned: hospitals, parks and recreation, and courts. They want to force the state and city to follow their own rules.

According to these rules, PWP workers must be provided with a written job classification. They are not supposed to do the work of any regular city workers, but to "assist."

In reality, they often replace, or perform the work of, the regular city employees.

In at least one case, PWP

workers are substituting for an entire department—inspection of public housing for window guards to protect children.

### UNION RESPONSE

City unions recognize that hiring workers at substandard wages and conditions is an attack on unionization.

Last year, AFSCME, a municipal workers' union, took a similar program to court charging that using welfare recipients to replace regular civil servants was illegal. The court upheld the program.

In Massachusetts, where there is a similar program, a coalition of unions including AFSCME and SEIU are campaigning to overturn it.

For the same reason unions oppose programs like PWP, they are becoming increasingly popular with politicians.

The national welfare reform bill now in Congress would impose programs like this nationwide.

In many cities, welfare costs are skyrocketing and city revenues shrinking as employers move to the South and the suburbs for the cheap labor and tax breaks that spell higher profits.

In the last decade, New York City has lost at least 500,000 jobs in private employment.

Local city governments are left to take up the slack. PWP-type programs save them money on labor—the unionized workers are expected to absorb the loss.

### WANT RIGHTS

PWP organizers don't want to undermine the gains of union workers. In fact, they feel they deserve them too, if they are working for the city. Thus, PWP organizers plan to demand job rights like paid holidays and sick time.

PWP workers are organizing for a people's solution to this crisis: to build an organization to smash these slave labor schemes and demand real jobs at decent pay.

And isn't it about time? Didn't we fight a war to abolish something called slavery over 100 years ago? □

## Report: Equal Rights, Abortion



### Four thousand strong in West Virginia

"We no longer approach the Assembly, bonnet in hand to beg for equality. We demand that the Equal Rights Amendment be passed!" said a statement by Virginians for the ERA (VERA).

The 4000-person march and rally gained the support of a wide range of trade unions, many of which had never expressed more than lukewarm support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) before.

But today there is a real danger that the ERA will go down in defeat. Many people who sat at home before are marching and demonstrating to push the ERA over the top.

### ABORTION

January 22 marked the fifth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortions. But it is not a happy celebration. This year the anti-abortion forces succeeded in getting legislation that cuts off federal money for Medicaid abortions.

Groups all over the country marked the day with demonstrations, teach-ins, and rallies to defend the right to abortion.

Events were held in Washington, D.C., Boston, New York, Columbus, San Francisco, Hartford, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Kansas City and elsewhere. □

E.C.

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# Essex Strikers Host Rank & File Conference

## Organizing For Victory The Next Time Around

**Auto workers from Locals 1663, 92, 163, 248, 180, 235, 1612, 47, 869, 15, 422, 813, 160, 600, 662, 51, 140, 879, 72, 1183, 882, 3, 685, 1226, 110, 325, 212, 227, 1139, 900, 663, 579 met in Anderson, Indiana on February 4.**

by Elissa Clarke

ANDERSON, Indiana — More than 100 people from 30 different UAW locals attended a rank and file conference on February 4 sponsored by United Auto Workers Local 1663.

Coming out of a smashing defeat at the Essex Wire Corporation in Elwood, Indiana, the conference analyzed the defeat and began organizing for victory next time around.

"This conference is the starting point of a more rank and file union. A starting point of where we control what happens to us," Sue Vautaw said in an interview with Workers' Power. Sue is the editor of Local 1663's newspaper.

Auto workers came from as far away as Atlanta, Georgia and Framingham, Massachusetts. They also came from Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Minnesota, and Indiana.

Local 1663 is a small local located in rural Indiana. The International union wanted them to remain isolated, the story of their defeat buried on the pages of Solidarity magazine.

But auto workers said, "No!" UAW members rallied from all over the country to support this strike. "I was really surprised that everybody came here from so far away," Sue said. "This right here is the change that has to take place in our union."

Sue is right. Key to winning strikes like the one in Elwood is breaking out of the isolation.

Although five other UAW Essex plants negotiated contracts during the strike in Elwood, the UAW made no effort to link them up.

In an opening address to the conference, Paul Couch said: "The UAW is a 1.6 million person union. You shouldn't have to fight them." Couch is president of Local 1663.

Local 1663 members were on strike for eight and a half months. The company hired armed strike breakers to beat them up and shoot



[Left] Sue Vautaw, Editor of Local 1663's newspaper. [Center] Ann Yates, Co-editor. [Above] Paul Couch, President of Local 1663 addresses the conference.

them. One young mother was crippled.

The strike finally ended when the union's top leadership forced them to accept contract terms worse than the company's original offer. They went back with 119 scabs in the plant. The wage settlement gave them 61c over three years, leaving them only pennies ahead of the minimum wage at the end of the contract.

### UNION

But the members of Local 1663 still believe that union organization is key to improving their conditions. Couch said: "We're not anti-union. We fought for justice.

"But the resistance that we ran into from the union leadership—why in God's name, why in hell did we have to take on the Region when all we asked for was economic justice from a rich corporation?"

Couch called on rank and file militants to provide leadership in turning around the defeatist strategy of the International. "We call on you—the leaders of yesterday

and the leaders of tomorrow—and say, we have to come up with an answer today."

### ORGANIZE!

To that end, the conference passed a resolution calling for the UAW to set up an Essex Council that could negotiate all the UAW-Essex contracts together.

The conference demanded that the UAW organize the unorganized Essex plants. There are 115 plants; 30-40 are unorganized. Only nine are organized by the UAW.

According to figures from the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department, the UAW has lost ten elections at Essex plants since 1971 in Michigan alone!

Seventy of the Essex plants are organized by the Machinists, the Teamsters, the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Allied Industrial Workers and the Steel Workers.

The conference passed a resolution calling on the AFL-CIO to reactivate the Essex Coalition, a coalition that existed between all

these unions to work on a united strategy in dealing with Essex.

These resolutions will be brought in front of the UAW Independent Parts Supplier Conference when it meets in Indianapolis in March.

### SOLIDARITY

Although the Essex strikers suffered a terrible, tragic defeat, they have not given up. Today, they are as determined as ever to fight on.

Ann Yates, the co-editor of the Local 1663 newspaper, told Workers' Power, "I'm more of a union person now than I was before. All of us are. We know that we need each other, and that's how we're going to help each other is through the union."

The two women pointed out that even the defeat of the strike was an act of solidarity. Sue explained why she voted for the sell-out. "I didn't know if I was going to vote yes or no until I got up to the ballot box. I bent down, and I thought, Now what do I mark?"

"I thought of June and Nellie, that's all that I thought about.

"We had to talk them out of suicide. I mean literally talk them out of killing themselves. One of the ladies, when her furnace broke down, nobody would fix it. She couldn't pay.

"My head said vote no, but my heart voted yes because I didn't want to see anything happen to them."

## Atlanta city workers - turning the union around

by Jack Bloom

ATLANTA—February 7. With the AFSCME officers election only four days away, all indications are that a victory is shaping up for the challenger to the incumbent president of the city workers' union.

Workers from all sections of the union are flocking to the banner of James McKinney, running against incumbent Cleveland Chappel.

McKinney has received the endorsement and enthusiastic support of almost every chief steward in most major departments in all three chapters the local represents.

They have promised to deliver their departments to him and there is every reason to believe they will come through.

### JOIN THE UNION

Frequently during the campaign, workers have told McKinney, "If

you're not elected, I'm quitting this union." However, McKinney has used his campaign to convince people to join the union. In several instances he was successful.

Some workers have refused to join—yet. "If you're elected, I'll join," has also been a common refrain.

Tommy Mapp, chief steward at the Hill Street Streets and Highways Construction Installation, is one of the most respected members of the union. He explained why he is supporting McKinney:

"We don't have enough whites participating in the union. Getting them in will make a stronger union. I like what he stands for and the way he's going about it."

In the right-to-work, open shop Atlanta, AFSCME is mainly Black. McKinney, a Black man, believes that the future of the union depends on developing unity be-

tween white and Black city workers.

McKinney's successful campaign is affecting the whole atmosphere within the union. There is a good chance that some members of the old executive board, and some who hoped to join them as allies, will be swept away in this election. This means that McKinney is likely to get a board that will be sympathetic to his policies.

### BUILD UNION UP

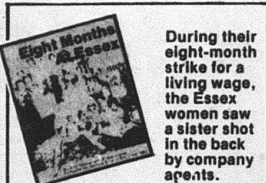
McKinney has been promising a dynamic, aggressive, militant union run by the workers. At the same time, he has been telling them the truth about the situation they face: "We're not talking about any strike. We can't go on strike. Not until we build this union up. "They beat us on the [working

outside in] cold weather policy this year. We can forget about it this year. We have to organize and plan so that next year we have a chance to beat them."

McKinney is not only getting support, he is capturing people's imagination. Carl "Cowboy" Tyler, a chief steward at the Board of Education, described his feelings: "I feel like a kid with a new toy. I can't wait until Saturday [election day] so we can get started!"

They only thing that could affect the outcome now is the turnout. Unfortunately, polling is taking place on a Saturday, not a work day. And it is being held downtown, far from many of the worksites, and very far from any of the workers' homes.

A light turnout is likely to favor the incumbents. But it will probably affect only the margin, not the outcome itself.



The true story of a small UAW Local in rural Indiana that took on a vicious corporate giant. Their fight—and how they lost—and why.

With a foreword by Georgia Ellis, UAW Local 1663

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# NICARAGUA

## Mass strike ends, but the revolution's just begun

by Marilyn Danton

For the past two weeks a massive general strike demanding the ouster of dictator Anastasio Somoza shut down the country of Nicaragua.

Fourteen people died as mass demonstrations, riots and street fighting shook the capital of Managua and other cities in the north.

Polling places were practically deserted last Sunday as workers and peasants boycotted the municipal elections outside of Managua.

"No one is voting. It's this way all over the country," observed one opposition leader.

Big business interests in Nicaragua originally supported the strike because they too wanted an end to the Somoza regime. But now they are beginning to fear the consequences of a growing workers and peasants movement.

The first phase of the Nicaraguan revolution is coming to an end as class contradictions come to the fore.

The strike was called on January 23 to force the Somoza regime to seriously investigate and solve the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, a leading oppositionist and editor of the opposition newspaper, La Prensa.

### ONE SOMOZA TOO MANY

Anastasio Somoza is only the latest of three somozas to run Nicaragua like a family business.

In power since 1933 when Somoza's father seized power in a coup, the family owns Nicaragua's only airline, one of three major banks, one of two daily newspapers, as well as a number of smaller businesses in agriculture, manufacturing and commerce.

One of these businesses, a blood bank, takes blood from the Nicaraguan people at a pittance to sell overseas at a whopping profit.

In addition, through direct control over the government, the military, and a large slice of the private sector, Somoza and his gang are key to deciding what the other two main business groups get.

In 1977 it was estimated that the Somoza family owned or controlled \$150 million of Nicaragua's wealth.

Meanwhile, most of the country lives in total poverty and misery.



Nicaraguan National Guardsmen hurl tear gas at women demonstrating in Managua.

The 2.5 million population ranks in the lower third of all Latin American countries in life expectancy, literacy, infant mortality and nutrition.

### U.S. AID

Until recently the U.S. has backed the Somoza dynasty with military and other financial aid



equal to 14% of the Nicaraguan government's expenditures.

In return for the aid, the U.S. could count on Nicaraguan support internationally in the United Nations and the Organization of American States for its imperialist policies.

But with the growing widespread opposition to Somoza, the Carter administration is reconsidering how useful this ally is.

Suddenly the Administration is publicizing the Somoza regime's violation of human rights. Behind all this talk of human rights is the fear that if the dying dictatorship isn't replaced soon with a more effective, but friendly government, Nicaragua could become another Cuba—or worse from their point of view.

### WHAT THEY FEAR

The Nicaraguan businessmen no doubt hoped that the Carter administration would step in and push the Somoza regime out in an orderly fashion. But with the U.S. government officially proclaiming neutrality, at least until the debate over the Panama Canal treaty is over, the bosses wanted out.

The Carter government and its Nicaraguan business friends have reason to fear what is happening in

Nicaragua. Opening up the country for the first time in over 45 years after years of struggle and a growing revolutionary movement has the potential of going beyond the bounds of capitalism to working class rule.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front, a radical anti-Somoza guerrilla movement, is active in northern Nicaragua and carried out a number of actions against the government during the general strike.

But the success of the future mass struggles in Nicaragua will depend on organizing a strong revolutionary left inside the Nicaraguan working class. □



Anastasio Somoza

## British Torture In Ireland

by Sandy Boyer

TORTURING PRISONERS has now become an everyday part of the British Army's war in Northern Ireland.

Anyone who is suspected of belonging to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) is picked up, taken to the police barracks and tortured until they sign a confession.

• Brendan O'Connor, a Catholic teacher, was interrogated and beaten for over eighty hours.

• Edward Rooney "fell" from a third story window in a Belfast police barracks.

• Sixty-four-year-old Peter McGrath broke down under torture and had to be taken to a mental hospital.

These are only a few of the best known cases.

The publicity about this torture has driven even the Association of Police Surgeons to lodge a formal complaint against the brutal beatings routinely given suspected IRA members.

### POLITICAL PRISONERS

The prisoners are demanding to be recognized as political prisoners by refusing to wear prison uniforms or work.

Until last year IRA prisoners were allowed political status. They wore their own clothes and did no prison work beyond keeping their areas clean.

The protests began when Roy Mason, the British Cabinet-Minister who governs Northern Ireland, revoked political status.

Over 220 men are in solitary confinement with nothing to wear but blankets. They are permitted no visitors, books or newspapers, and no writing material.

The torture and mistreatment of political prisoners in Northern Ireland is not a case of isolated excesses by policemen or soldiers.

It is a conscious policy of the British government.

They hope most people will find torture and solitary confinement too high a price to pay for continuing their resistance.

Instead, anger is growing in the Catholic community over the prisoners' treatment. Constant protest demonstrations in the past year in Belfast and Derry, Northern Ireland's largest cities, were organized mainly by the prisoners' relatives.

In Belfast recently, whole shops had to close down when protesters walked off the job to join a protest march down the Falls Road in the heart of the Catholic ghetto.

Torture and oppression are the only way the British Government can maintain its hold over Northern Ireland. They will not end until the Irish finally force Britain to get out. □

# Russia: workers want a union!

AT A RECENT public news conference in Moscow, a group of Russian workers announced they have formed their own union, "Trade Union in Defense of Workers."

There are reportedly 200 members across the Soviet Union, with membership growing as the word spreads.

Initially, they are protesting firings and other reprisals against workers who report unsafe conditions, financial ripoffs, kickbacks and other grievances.

The speakers at the press conference included a worker from

a bus factory, an engineer, and others.

The fact that the leaders of this new movement were willing to risk the consequences of a public news conference indicates they feel they have a base of support among rank and file workers.

Nevertheless Vladimir Klebanov, a leader of the group, was held for two weeks by the secret police after meeting with reporters. He first ran afoul of the Russian ruling class in 1969 when he tried to organize an alternative union in the coal mine where he worked.

In the Soviet Union the only legal "unions" are state-run machines

which are responsible for controlling workers, not organizing to defend them.

Genuine unions, independent workers' organizations, are not allowed.

### JOB BOOKS

Russian workers are required to carry "character" booklets with them. These are a permanent record of job performance, and are used just like personnel files in the U.S. to weed out "trouble makers."

However, American workers don't have to carry their "report cards" with them. Not yet, anyway.

One might wonder how such abuses can exist in a state supposedly controlled by the workers.

The answer is quite simple. In spite of all property being owned by the state, the political and economic institutions of that state—including the unions—are controlled by a class of bureaucrats who are not accountable to the millions of workers.

This class came to power under Stalin by defeating the gains made by the Russian Revolution.

It acts just like any other ruling class: it perpetuates itself; it grants exceptional privileges, luxuries and

salaries to itself and its families; it operates as an imperialist in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

It lives off the labor of the working class, and oppresses minorities with the same tactics of divide-and-conquer as the most sophisticated American boss.

While we know little about the workings of the "Trade Union in Defense of Workers" and the other similar groups which undoubtedly exist, we welcome these signs of struggle.

The fight for workers' power is being carried on by our brothers and sisters in the so-called "socialist" countries. □

# The Great \$700 Million Teamster Robbery

by Mike Kelly

Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons and friends may have to put a few bucks back in the till.

After 20 years of investigation by the Labor Department, the Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service, the government has filed a civil suit against the Teamster President and 18 others for massive looting of the union's Central States Pension Fund.

**Teamster officials, trucking company employers and organized crime stole between \$400 and \$700 million from the fund over a 20-year period, according to Federal Government estimates. The money rightfully belongs to working union members, retirees, and their widows.**

The government is demanding that those sued give back some of the money.

A press release from Teamsters for a Democratic Union, a national organization of rank and file Teamsters, "welcomed the announcement of the suit" and commented that it took place "after many delays, and after receiving thousands of letters and postcards from Teamster members calling for action."

## BIG SHOTS, BIG PAY

The nine Teamsters sued by the government hold some 34 Teamster positions of power. Seven of them make well over \$100,000 per year from union dues. Five sit on the International General Executive Board, the highest body of the union.

The others named in the suit are management or Fund officials. [For details, see accompanying box.]

In further comments on the suit, TDU stated that "this step, by itself, however, is not sufficient."

**TDU pointed out that while those sued had been forced to resign from their Fund offices, they had personally appointed their successor trustees.**

TDU called upon the Secretary of Labor "to use Section 409 of the ERISA to sue for an election among rank and file Teamsters and retirees to choose the union Trustees of the Fund. Only in this way can the chain of control by the same persons who have looted our pension fund be broken."

## CONTROL UNION

TDU pointed out that these individuals control the entire IBT, and called for suspension from all positions of power within the union of those involved in the suit, pending trial.

**"It remains the job of the rank and file Teamsters to pursue the task of cleaning up both our pension fund and our union itself," the TDU press release stated.**

The case is sure to drag on for years, if not decades, and cost the Teamster membership thousands of dollars more in taxes spent on court costs for the lengthy litigation.

The government may be using the case to put more pressure on Fitzsimmons to resign and disqualify two of his possible successors to the IBT presidency.

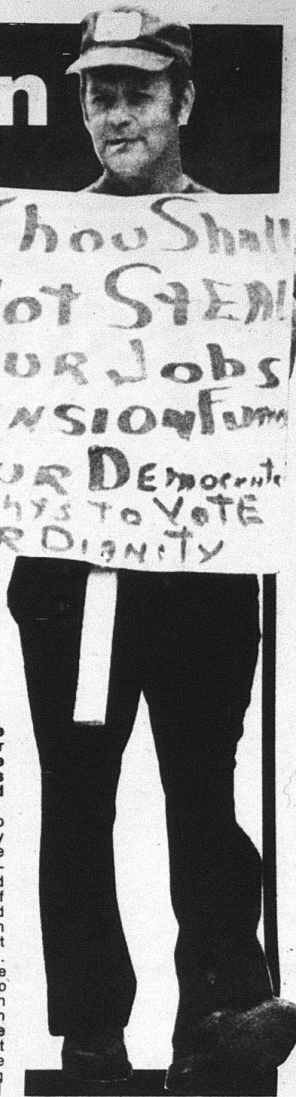
The two, sued as former Fund Trustees, are Jackie Presser, a big wheel in the Ohio Teamsters, and Roy Williams of Kansas City, a kingpin of the Central Conference.

## Father-Son Act In Trouble

**THIS IS the second time in the last few months that the Labor Department has caught up with one of the Teamsters' most notorious father and son teams, William and Jackie Presser.**

William Presser was forced to resign from the Ohio Highway Drivers Fund, a health and welfare fund covering 27,000 Ohio Teamsters. The Labor Department found that Attorney Robert C. Kneese Jr. of Dayton, Ohio, had taken one and a half million dollars in fees from that fund in 1974-5. It decided that he had been overpaid by \$560,000.

In a consent decree between the Labor Department and the Ohio Fund, Presser was forced to resign and Kneese pay back the more than half million in overcharges. The consent decree in Ohio and the suit filed in Washington may kill the chance of Jackie Presser replacing Fitzsimmons.



## The Gang of Thieves

**Named as defendants in the suit were:**

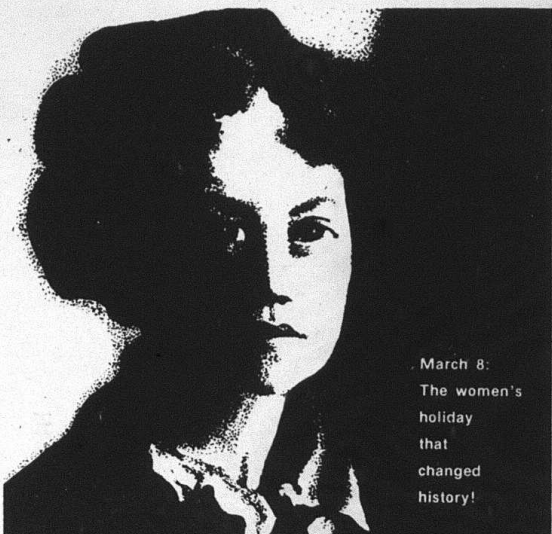
**Teamsters:** IBT President Frank Fitzsimmons; Jackie Presser, high official in Ohio Teamsters; Roy Williams, Director of the Central Conference; Joe Morgan, Director of the Southern Conference; William Presser, President of the Ohio Conference; Robert Holmes, President of the Michigan Conference; Walter Teague, President of the Georgia - Florida Conference; Don Peters, President of the largest local in the union, #743, Chicago, and Frank Ranney who was a fund trustee, member of Central States Drivers Council

and International Trustee of Local 695 in Milwaukee.

It was Roy Williams and Joe Morgan who appointed the replacement Trustees on the Fund.

**Fund Officials:** Alvin Baron, former Fund asset manager; Daniel Shannon, current executive director and the man who was supposed to be cleaning up the mess.

**Management:** Albert D. Matheison, Thomas J. Duffey, John Spickerman, Herman A. Lueking, Jack A. Sheetz, William Kennedy, Bernard S. Goldfarb, and Andrew G. Massa.



March 8:  
The women's holiday that changed history!

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Alexandra Kollontai

With an introduction by Elissa Clarke

Written in 1920 by a leader of the Russian Revolution, this pamphlet tells the history of International Women's Day—from a strike of New York garment workers demanding childcare and a union, through 1917 when Russian women's march for bread set the world on fire. This pamphlet is being reprinted by Sun Distribution in time for the 70th anniversary of International Women's Day. Order today and have your copy for March 8 this year. 50c postpaid from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

## USW District 31: 200 meet to organize for steel women's rights

by Val Dixon

**GARY, Indiana—Over 200 women, from steel locals in the South Chicago and Gary area, attended the first district-wide women's conference here sponsored by District 31 of the United Steel Workers.**

Representatives from the USWA, OSHA, and the UAW pointed out that women workers in industry have increased over the last 20 years. Yet the pay rate for women has not kept pace with that of their male counterparts.

The courts and the companies have rarely made active participation in the workforce easy for women.

Pregnancy leave is not covered by sick pay benefits. Unhealthy or unsafe working conditions often mean that women are simply not hired—not that the companies are forced to eliminate the safety hazards.

## ORGANIZE

Even the union and its leadership have not always been aware of women's problems or willing to back them when they fight.

"Women's place will not change

until women workers organize. We must organize, run for office, and put pressure on union officials to change the status of women," said one USWA attorney, summing up this section of the conference.

Addie Wyatt and Diane Gumolawski, chairwoman of the Local 6787 (Bethlehem Steel) Women's Committee, spoke about their experiences in majority male workplaces.

Gumolawski spoke about her experiences as one of the first women in the coke ovens, and in later organizing women in the mill. On the conference's second day, workshops discussed women workers and legislative action, health and safety problems, apprenticeship training, and using the union.

## RESOLUTIONS

Several resolutions directed at District 31 leadership came out of the conference.

They included support of the Equal Rights Amendment, for affirmative action and against the Bakke decision, establishment of childcare centers for working women and support of House Bill 995 (maternity benefits).

Also passed were resolutions calling for an annual women's conference, establishment of a District Women's Commission, and an International Women's Commission with national convention.

Delegates voted for the establishment of women's committees in the local with equal status to the civil rights commission, and for the establishment of local apprenticeship committees.

Finally, resolutions were passed to limit the probationary period to 30 days, to organize the unorganized, and to support the Pullman Standard workers now on strike.

The District 31 Women's Caucus aided District Director Jim Balanoff and the union in organizing the conference. Many of the resolutions were written by women in the caucus. T-shirts and buttons were sold and memberships in the caucus taken.

The overall success of the conference was summed up by Dorreen Labby, editor of the newsletter for the Women's Caucus, when she said, "This is a beginning for women in District 31. It brought women from all over the area to talk to each other and organize themselves."

# THE UNION BOWL:

# TOUCHDOWN FOR THE MINERS!

Story: Dan Posen Photos: Jim Woodward

PITTSBURGH—Somewhere, underneath about six inches of packed snow and a cover of rock-hard chipped ice, was a 70-yard by 50-yard real-life football field.

And on that field—if you could call it that—nearly two dozen teams, organized by rank and file unionists from workplaces throughout the area, spent a glorious Saturday afternoon in a seven-hour marathon touch football game to support the coal miners' strike.

It was the first, but hopefully not the last, "Union Bowl." The Bowl was organized by the Committee of Concerned Unionists, a coalition which picked up wide support from rank and file organizations and union locals.

Despite temperatures in the low 20's and unbelievable playing conditions, a total of nearly 500 people came to the Dean Field recreational center, either to participate in the game or to attend the movies and other events held indoors.

The field was divided into two 25-by-70-yard strips, allowing two games to go on continuously.

## J&L POWER

Teams from the United Mine Workers and United Steel Workers were matched up against teams from all other unions. Scores were recorded and added up cumulatively throughout the afternoon.

Unfortunately for the "all-union" side, there was little doubt about the final outcome after the very first game, when Steel Workers Local 1843 from Jones & Laughlin destroyed North Side Firefighters 32-0.

The very first touchdown of the afternoon, scored by J&L on a pass from Harrison to Bob Simic, gave the "steel-coal" side a lead that kept widening as scores piled up throughout the day.

The J&L team, coached by Local President Bob DeMeo, looked by far the best of all teams entered. Second best, by most accounts, was Teamsters Local 30 from United Parcel Service.



The J&L team. Said one of its members: "The steelworkers will challenge anybody! We put the fire to the firefighters!"

The final score, announced at the evening rally by Union Bowl organizer Larry Evans, was: steel-coal 105, all union 66.

One of the referees told me later he had forgotten to record a two-point safety scored by one of the steel-coal teams.

He said the final score should

actually have been 107-66.

There was no television replay available to confirm or deny this. Well, what with sideline and end zone markers flying through the snow all day, it was kind of an informal event anyhow.

In another footnote that will be totally unremembered in the annals of sports history, this reporter was drafted to play by the slightly short-handed Duquesne Steel Workers Local 1256 team—an experience which it survived. □



**THE ORIGINAL IDEA** for a football marathon to finance publicity and support for the miners was dreamed up by Larry Evans, a laid-off member of Steel Workers Local 1531 at McConway & Torley.

Besides the impressive show of solidarity by union members throughout the area, Larry was pleased that there were no injuries or fights—at least not major ones. "People took their games seriously, and the frozen field could have been brutal," he said. "But things never got out of hand."

"The important thing was that this is the first time anyone around here can remember so much rank and file participation to pull together for an event like this. "Members of TDU [Teamsters for a Democratic Union], other rank and filers and a lot of people who are on strike themselves, were what made this thing a big success."

"It shows what the possibilities could be, if we all get our heads together and make this Committee of Concerned Unionists good and strong." □



"I came to give my contribution. I couldn't let them down."

—A retired coal miner who saw a leaflet about the Union Bowl, and brought a \$20 contribution.

## Building Solidarity From the Ground Up

IT WOULD BE hard to list all the groups and locals that helped build and contribute to the Union Bowl.

Above and beyond the participating football teams, the builders of Committee of Concerned Unionists (CCU) and the Union Bowl included: Teamsters for a Democratic Union; "Union Coupler," the union newspaper at McConway-

Torley; Local 1397 Rank and File from U.S. Steel at Homestead; the rank and file paper Steelworkers Stand Up (SSU); Mailhandlers for Justice; and Yellow Fever, the taxi rank and file paper at Teamsters Local 128.

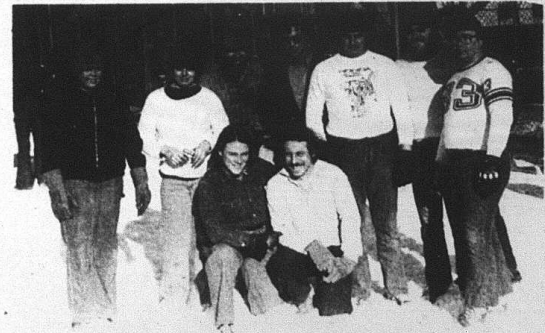
Union locals which played a big role included: UAW Local 1020, on strike at Wiegand; Steel Workers Local 7174, on strike at Mesta

Machine; Service Employees International #585, which put out a mailing for the Union Bowl; USW Local 1415, on strike at Pullman Standard in Butler, Pa., which contributed \$50 from their own Strike and Defense Fund; and USW Local 1537, on strike at Latrobe Steel.

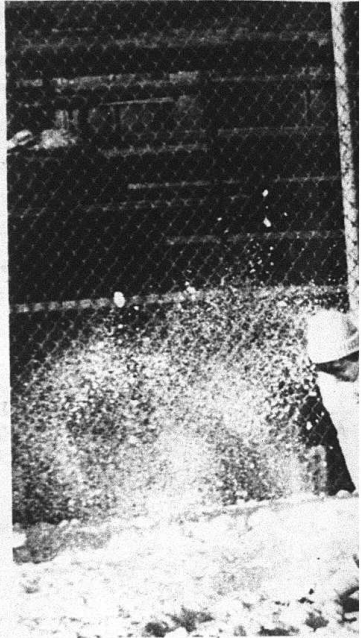
Contributions from locals included: Teamsters Local 250, \$100; Firefighters Local 1, \$200; Bakers Local 12-A at National Biscuit, \$50; Pa. Social Services Union, \$50; and Teamsters Local 249 Executive Board, which supplied the hall for the post-game party.

Among the most important participants of all were two mine workers' locals: UMW Local 1980 from Dilworth and Local 6321 from Robena.

Mel Packer, of CCU and Teamsters for a Democratic Union, told Workers' Power: "For the moment the sole aim of CCU is aid to the mine workers. But there are already increasing demands from other strikers that it be kept together as an ongoing rank and file coalition to aid all strikers. "I believe there is a good chance CCU will continue, under rank and file control." □



A steelworkers' team, mainly from U.S. Steel's Duquesne Works.



# "If the li want y

**THE REAL FINAL score** in the Union Bowl was: well over \$1000 raised by the Committee of Concerned Unionists to publicize and support the coal miners' side of the two-month-long strike.

That was the total reached when the organizers finally finished adding up:   
• The \$1 donations paid by everyone who attended the Union Bowl.   
• Proceeds from a bake sale held at the gym indoors.   
• Proceeds from a raffle where

the prizes donated to Namath.   
• Donat the Pittsb   
• A col evening r: last of tl come in t had wat "Harlan "

CO!

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Cindy United P



Mike Sirilla, UMWA Local 1980

# Miners' Anger Blowing Up Coal Deal

by Jim Woodward

THE TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT of the nine-week-old coal miners strike is in big trouble.

"It stinks," said Bill Bryant, a local union official in West Virginia. "If this is ratified the union is out the window. It'll just be a dues collection organization."

Bryant added that everyone he'd contacted was opposed to the proposal. "It looks to me like it's the companies' proposal from when they started off negotiations," he said.

Another UMW official told Workers' Power his membership is "nearly unanimous against" the proposal. Only days earlier, this same miner had suggested the membership might reluctantly approve the contract. But, he said, "people didn't realize how bad it would be. Now they're beginning to see. There's almost unanimous revulsion against it."

## FINES, FIRINGS

Some of the provisions of the tentative proposal include:

- Miners engaging in unauthorized strikes can be fired, including miners who simply refuse to cross a picket line.
- Striking miners will have to pay \$20 a day to the Health and Retirement Funds for the first ten days of a strike. After ten days, their health benefits will be cut off.
- Only a token increase of \$25 over three years in pensions paid out under the 1950 pension plan.
- The 1974 pension plan would switch over to a company-by-company plan. Miners could lose pension credits if they change companies, or perhaps lose pensions entirely if the company goes bankrupt.
- Seven-day operations will now be permitted. No overtime will be paid for Saturdays.
- New hires will have no union protection for the first 30 days.
- The training period will be cut from 90 to 45 days, creating an enormous safety risk.
- The health plan will include something like a \$325 deductible.
- Job bidding will be frozen for 1½ years, rather than six months.
- Wages will go up \$2.35 an hour over the next three years.

## ANGER

Few miners are objecting to the wage settlement, but there is widespread anger over the other major provisions.

The provisions for firing and fining strikers are called the "labor stability" clause. According to union and management negotiators, they are aimed at cutting down on wildcat strikes.

But from the moment the contract was announced, United Mine Workers president Arnold Miller has had trouble with these sections.

"People in my district would hang me if I ever ratified something like that," said one member of the union's bargaining council. A second said, "If what I hear is right, my people would go broke every time there was a strike. I won't buy it."

Vernon Massey, International Executive Board member from District 17 and until now a Miller supporter, is now saying there's no way he can support the contract.

## VAGUE SUMMARY

The UMW bargaining council, which must approve the contract before it is sent to the membership for ratification, refused to vote on the contract when a summary was presented to them February 7.

According to one source, the summary was very vague. When the council fistfisted, by a 32-7 vote, to see the complete contract, negotiators had to return to the bargaining table to work it out. That is expected to take at least several more days. One member of the bargaining council



reported that if a vote had been taken, the proposed contract would have been overwhelmingly rejected.

This bargaining council action was a serious blow to the government officials who, increasingly frantic, are pressing for a quick end to the strike.

President Carter intervened February 3 to urge a delay in a scheduled bargaining council meeting, and West Virginia Governor Jay Rockefeller joined Arnold Miller at a press conference to announce his support for the contract.

## GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

In the words of New York Times reporter Ben A. Franklin: "It appeared that the urgent 'end-the-strike script,' composed by Federal mediators, was coming apart . . ."

"Strategically, the recess of the balking bargaining council created precisely the situation that the negotiators here had hoped to avoid—a pause, in progress toward final settlement, that opened the contract terms to scrutiny and attack."

In less polite language, what the federal mediators are trying to do is "get the contract passed before those damn miners know what they're voting for."

Many miners feel that's what happened in 1974, and they don't want an encore.

On top of that, the screams and howls, coming from many eastern utilities and businesses have convinced the miners that at last they have the upper hand. After two hard months on strike, no one is going to be rushed into a bad contract.

The miners feel that the power is now in their hands—and they're right.

## J&L STEEL PLAYS 'HIDE AND SEEK' WITH ITS COAL

PITTSBURGH—While power companies in Western Pennsylvania clamor for government intervention in the coal strike, steel companies have reacted in their own way.

Jones & Laughlin Steel has big coal stockpiles sitting right near the coal-shed Duquesne Light Company's power plant in Elizabeth, Pa.

Fearful that this metallurgical coal might be appropriated to run Duquesne's generators, J&L began calling back its laid off riverboat workers early in January. Their task: to haul the coal downstream to Hazelwood and Aliquippa.

By running the coal far enough downstream to make the cost of returning it prohibitive, J&L hopes to safeguard its supplies against appropriation.

As one J&L deckhand told Workers' Power, "They don't mind if people freeze in the dark, as long as they can keep their mills running."

Let 'em get warm in front of a blast furnace, huh?



# lights go out, we t you to know why"

the prizes included a game jersey donated by pro football great Joe Namath.

• Donations from union locals in the Pittsburgh area.

• A collection taken up at the evening rally at the gym, after the last of the football players had come in to thaw and the audience had watched the documentary film "Harlan County, USA."

## COMPANIES ATTACK

The hour-long rally featured a series of speakers who talked briefly about struggles ranging from Pittsburgh, to the coal fields, all the way to Puerto Rico.

John Brosnan, Steel Workers Local 7174 at Mesta Machine: "Mesta is trying to break our union. We've been on strike four months."

"Last year, they made their biggest profits in history, and now they're using those profits to try to destroy our union."

Bill Ehman, Vice-President of USW Local 1537 at Latrobe: "We've been out since August 1. We've always had the same wages and conditions as basic steel. Now, the company has made a total of 22 demands to force us to take standard grievance and seniority procedures."

Brad Fairbanks, a Vice-President from United Mine Workers District 2, talked about the struggle that has gone on in Indiana County, Pennsylvania where miners have been subject to violent attacks during the strike.

Cindy Klink, a shop steward at United Parcel Service, Teamsters

Local 30, discussed how Teamsters for a Democratic Union is working to organize shop floor organization and unity among rank and file Teamsters.

## LIGHTS OUT?

The loudest cheers of the evening were reserved for two of the speakers near the end.

One was Mike Sirilla, from UMW Local 1980 at the Dilworth Mine. "Right now I have to say to you that the mine workers signed a bad contract in 1974. If we sign a bad contract in 1978 it might be the demise of the United Mine Workers."

"If the lights go out in Pennsylvania, we want you to understand why."

The second was Miguel Cabrera, a speaker for the Trade Union Committee Against Repression in Puerto Rico. A delegation from TUCAR is touring several U.S. cities this month to speak to unionists about their struggle against repression of Puerto Rican unionists, including a police "death squad" set up by the colonial government which murdered Teamster shop steward Juan Rafael Cabellero Santana.

Cabrera, who is facing frame-up murder charges in the death of a CIA agent in Puerto Rico, was introduced by Danny Kablack of Teamsters Local 250. Kablack announced that in the next few months there will be a campaign to build solidarity with the Puerto Rican unionists.

Miguel Cabrera told the rally: "We are here with you tonight to

salute the coal miners.

"Hopefully, on another occasion we can speak to you again, on the harassment and the strikes in our country."

"But before we go tonight we want to extend again our fraternal hand to you from your fellow workers in Puerto Rico. Your struggle is our struggle!"

As Cabrera received the biggest standing ovation of the evening, he was presented with the Union Bowl game ball as a symbol of CCU's solidarity.



Cindy Klink, Teamsters Local 30

# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# Labor Dep'ts "Good News": Millions Lose Jobless Pay

QUESTION: When is a fall in the official unemployment rate bad news?

ANSWER: When a drop in the rate means that the unemployed lose their unemployment benefits.

Yes, that's what just happened. "Jobless Figures Fall, Cutting Off 'Extended' Benefits for 290,000," headlined a recent article in the Wall Street Journal. These few simple words expose one of the crueler paradoxes of American capitalism.

Under federal law, extended benefits—up to 13 weeks over the basic 26 weeks of unemployment insurance—have now been cut off for workers in forty-one states.

### JUGGLING STATISTICS

The reason is that, by law, extended benefits are only payable when the official figures for the "insured unemployment rate" are at least 4.5% over a 13-week period.

What's the "insured unemployment rate"? Well, it's not the official nationwide unemployment figure. Last month, that official rate was still 6.3%.

And it certainly doesn't refer to everyone who is without a job—that figure is about double the official 6.3% rate, which only covers a narrow definition of "unemployed."

The magical "insured unemployment rate" refers to the portion of the 6.3% jobless who are legally entitled to unemployment insurance benefits.

Since that official statistic fell about half a percentage point in the 13 weeks ending January 7, extended benefits were stopped in all but nine states and Puerto Rico.

These benefits weren't cut back because the people receiving them got jobs—but because these mysterious statistics said there was no reason to continue unemployment benefits. Presumably because jobs were somewhere available.

The fact that official unemployment figures for certain sectors—Blacks, for instance, at 12.7%—are well above the

national average will not prevent benefits being chopped out there too.

Now, the 290,000 people whose extensions were cut off will join the over 4 million who are officially unemployed but were never even eligible for benefits.

And the approximately 6 million more who aren't included because technically they are not considered to be part of the labor force. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, if you are not in the labor force, then you can't be unemployed. According to capitalist logic, you just don't count.

### We have a different logic.

Every American deserves a job at decent wages. If there are no jobs then at a minimum we deserve real unemployment insurance—not pittance money which can disappear when some statisticians up in Washington play with figures and come up with a magic number that cuts benefits, putting more people out in the cold. □

## The Socialist View



Detroit Free Press  
Sydney J. Harris

### Another False Slogan From Big Business

A LARGE CORPORATION, which I will not name, has taken as its advertising slogan the phrase: "Working for You." This is obviously a lie, like most other new slogans of our time.

The business of business is to make a profit. Without a profit there is no business. The company is not working for you or for me. It is working for itself. It is working to make a profit. Period.

In the process of making a profit, the company may do things that please us or things that annoy us. It may provide us with essentials or trivialities, comforts or nuisances. But none of these is its aim. Its aim is to show a surplus every year.

THIS IS NOT a condemnation. It is a statement of plain fact. There is nothing inherently shameful in making a profit and nothing inherently honorable, either. It becomes sickening only under the pretense that the company is primarily interested in the welfare of the public.

We have seen more and more of this Institutionalized hypocrisy every year. Nearly every large corporation has come up with a theme song about its vast yearning to make life better for all of us, to protect us, serve us, and bend all its power to our slightest whim.

Nobody believes it. The incessant refrain only induces wider and deeper cynicism among the buying public. The money for these ads is wasted. The slogans lend themselves only to parody and disdain.

The profit motive in a capitalist society is tragically misunderstood, both by its adherents and its opponents. Its adherents mistakenly imagine it to be the most glorious incentive for human effort ever known. Its opponents suppose it to be the ugliest device for exploiting and oppressing the people.

Actually, it is quite neutral. Like the law, or medicine, or engineering, business is a function of society. It justifies itself when it performs its function efficiently and humanely. It disgraces itself when it performs its function greedily and cruelly.

Success cannot be its own justification, for the crooked lawyer and the quack doctor may be greater successes than their decent counterparts.

There is no need for business to pretend that its ultimate concern is the consumer or the public. Its concern is its own survival and prosperity.

If you have to cheat and lie and connive, you have a rotten business. If you tell the truth and do the best you can, you have a good one. By pretending to be better than its function calls for, business runs the risk of losing credibility for its real usefulness.

# Profits: Nasty or Nice?

by Jim Woodward

EVERY GOOD SPY has a cover story.

From the moment you swim ashore on some foreign beach, the story is ready. Should the local police become suspicious and haul you in, you steadfastly maintain your innocence. Endlessly, they work you over and torture you.

Finally you break. "Yes," you blurt out, "you're right, I am engaged in criminal activity. I've been planning to rob the Mud City National Bank." You provide them with all the details of your scheme.

"Aha," say the foolish police, who think they've just broken a big case. And off you go to prison to serve two years for conspiracy, rather than the 50 years you justly deserve as a spy.

• • •

Sydney Harris' column, reprinted here, should be read with cover stories in mind.

"Aha!" proclaims the foolish columnist. "I've caught the gosh-darned capitalists telling a BIG LIE! ITT says 'Our Best Ideas are the Ideas that Help People' but I know their only idea is to make a profit!"

And off goes the silly columnist, convinced that making a profit in itself isn't bad, it's just whether you're nice or nasty about it that counts.

• • •

Now consider a moment, folks. Is it possible to choose to be a "nice" capitalist or a "nasty" capitalist? In other words, can you make a profit without "exploiting and oppressing the people?"

Here's an example. Mr. K. is a medium-sized businessman, whose factory employs 100 people to manufacture broom handles. He pays his employees reasonably well, doesn't fire them if they make an occasional mistake or miss a day of work. His advertisements say only, "A good broom handle at a fair price." He goes to church, pays all his bills, sells his goods and has a few dollars left over for a modest profit. Clearly a good capitalist.

Now, what happens if Mr. K. gets some competition from Boss O.?

Boss O. is interested only in profits, as our foolish columnist says he should be, and sets out to take his profits at Mr. K.'s expense. He pays the minimum wage (or less, if he can get away with it) and demands superhuman effort from his employees. When a broom handle-maker gets into his forties and can't keep up with the younger employees, he's fired.

Boss O. cuts down trees for his broom handles with no thought for the forests he is ruining. His factories belch forth huge clouds of smoke, because anti-pollution equipment costs too much. But nasty Boss O. can make a broom handle for 48c, which it costs good ol' Mr. K. 72c. Boss O. takes his handles to market, priced at 65c.

Mr. K. has a choice. Be nice or nasty. If he's nice, he'll be driven out of business and get his reward in heaven. If he's nasty, he'll split more earthy treasures with Boss O.

Either way, the loser is us—as broom handle factory workers, or broom handle consumers. Along with our foolish columnist.

• • •

Say it isn't so? Say we're making it up?

Then take a look at the trucking industry, where bankruptcies, mergers, productivity drivers and union busting run rampant.

It's not because trucking company owners are nasty people. I once met one, and he was a real gentleman. It's the system that forces them to act like barbarians. They may not personally enjoy handing a layoff notice to a guy whose wife is in the hospital, but it's do or die and they prefer to do.

If you want to go back a few years, look at the last century when the big American fortunes were being made. The Rockefellers. The Morgans. The Duponts. The Mellons.

Go back to your eighth grade history text. These were the nastiest and most ruthless characters, who cheated not only common citizens, but their fellow capitalists as well.

The most ruthless of them survived. They laid the foundations of modern American capitalism. And your history text book will call them by their proper name, the Robber Barons.

They were, and are, a group of people that columnists should not tell cover stories for. □



Letters

# Is the Bureau of Prisons Beyond Murder?

Dear Editor:

There is a young man, presently a federal prisoner, who, quite possibly, is marked for execution by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Richard Petro, age 23, is now confined in the Federal Correctional Institution at El Reno, Oklahoma. He has been in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for the past two years.

During this time, Richard has instigated several law suits in the Federal Courts and has had several newspaper articles published attacking the inhumane treatment and conditions that prisoners are forced to live with.

In addition, he presently has petitioned the courts to award him in excess of \$1,150,000 for damages sustained during a brutal beating at another Federal Facility, and for the medical staff's failure to diagnose a tumor in his chest.

Last September, Richard was viciously attacked by four guards and kept in solitary confinement for three months.

And on another occasion he was threatened with a knife by a prison official, and told that if he continued filing complaints against the Bureau of Prisons that he would be signing his "death certificate."

Just three weeks ago, Richard was nearly assassinated. The prison officials, acting on "unofficial" orders from the Bureau of Prisons Central Office in Washington, D.C., made a deliberate attempt to have Richard murdered by his fellow prisoners; fortunately he escaped injury.

Two years ago, at the Federal Facility in Lexington, Kentucky, Richard was diagnosed as having a deformed rib. However, it was found two weeks ago that a mistake had been made and that instead of a deformed rib, he has a tumor in his chest. Although Richard has been demanding to be examined by a doctor that has no affiliation with the Prison System, the authorities refused.

Richard is scheduled to leave for the Federal Facility in Springfield, Missouri for surgery within the next week.

Springfield is a medical center for federal prisoners and also where the psychotic patients are housed. There is reason to believe that his may be another attempt by the Bureau to have Richard eliminated.

Do you still believe the Bureau of Prisons are beyond committing murder? Ask Whitey Hurst, Gypsy Adams, and Paul X.

Duhart, who were all jail-house "lawyers" and contested prison conditions.

All of these men supposedly committed suicide; but I and others know better.

Ask Charles Alfano who was taken to Springfield for minor surgery, and was carried out in a pine box.

In an attempt to save this young man's life, I appeal to the public for their support. Letters should be addressed to:

Hon. Birch Bayh  
United States Senator  
416 Federal Building  
46 East Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

demanding that Richard's safety be guaranteed, and that a full investigation be lodged. Also letters for support can be sent to:

Mrs. Kathryn Anderson  
c/o Richard Petro  
1934 S. 48th Court  
Cicero, Illinois 60650

Remember, it may be your letter that allows this man his right to live.

George E. Blue  
Chairman, National  
Prisoners' Association  
El Reno, Oklahoma

## Essex Striker: Apologies To Taxpayers

Editor:

I am writing this letter to apologize to the taxpayers of this country. (Of course, I have been a taxpayer myself all my working life.)

Working at the Essex Plant here in Elwood many of us were eligible for food stamps because Essex does not pay you enough to live on. When you retire, the taxpayers have still got to support you because there is no pension plan at Essex.

After nine years of work I will get \$155 per month social security when I retire at 62 years of age. There is no way that you could live on that, and no way that you could save on the money that we were earning.

The taxpayers are subsidizing the Essex Corporation and Mr. Harry Gray, chairman of United Technologies, which owns Essex. Mr. Gray is one of the highest paid executives in the United States.

We struck for nine months for better pay, better conditions, and a pension plan, but we did not have the power to win these from Essex.

If people are going to work for Essex, I feel the government should offer them combat training, as I was shot at for one afternoon and one night at the strike site.

Because of this, I felt it was time for me, as a U.S. citizen, to march in front of Essex's gate carrying the American flag and a sign that said, Essex, this is America."

I was afraid, I waited for the government to come to my rescue. Instead, the state police came and escorted non-union workers through our picket lines. Our strike was lost.

Essex has got me beaten down now so I want to apply for Federal aid, because I am tired of trying to survive on five to six thousand dollars a year.

I was taught to believe that government assistance was a disgrace, but now I am beginning to understand that it is more to the benefit of corporations than people like myself.

Yours very truly,  
Lola M. Green  
Member, UAW Local 1663  
Elwood, Indiana

## Arnold's New Caddy

Dear Workers' Power,

I've just read in Jim Woodward's column in Workers' Power where Arnold Miller has up and got himself a new Cadillac for union business.

Wasn't he the very same one who said he was gonna get rid of all the UMW's fleet of caddies way back when he was just a candidate for president?

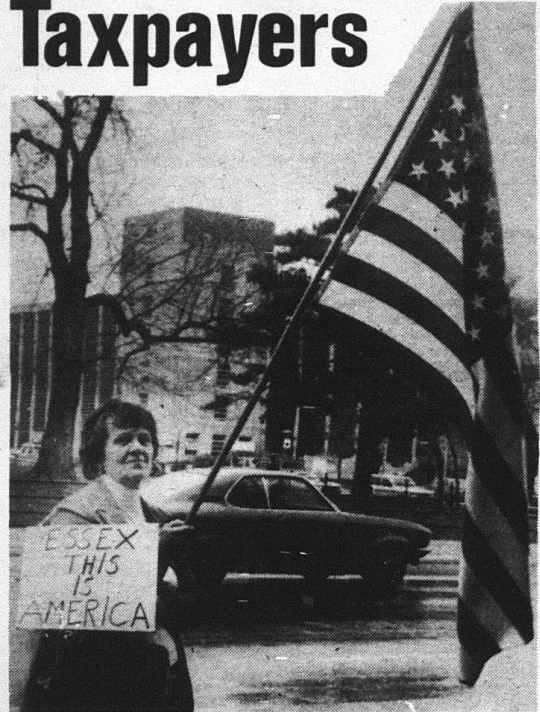
Yeah, I thought he was. My, my, the pressures on a man to sell out. Now, with such a cheap price on his soul as a new limousine,

what will his soul be worth next year? Will it depreciate like the car? Or will it grow in value to the buyers as he gets more entrenched in power?

He said the \$400 a month the union members are paying will let him travel in "dignity." Hey, Arnold, you want dignity, you just stand up straight and stick up for the membership. Or else the ranks will make you start walking, Arnold.

Maybe we weren't listening, folks. Maybe back then he just said he didn't want the union to have a fleet of OLD limousines.

Yours for equality of transportation,  
Toni Hawk  
Austin, Texas



## JOIN US!

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

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## Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exist—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

# LOS ANGELES:

# CALL FOR UNITY TO STOP POLICE ABUSE

by John McLonsky

LOS ANGELES—Three hundred people, mostly Blacks, Latinos, and trade unionists, attended a spirited conference to fight police abuse.

The conference was sponsored by the Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA).

As Larry Williams, keynote speaker from the Greater Watts Justice Center, pointed out, "... the police are not here to protect and serve—the police are here to protect the status quo, and whenever the masses in the barrios and ghettos and the working people get out of control, then the police come in."

In a series of workshops following the main session, strategies for fighting police abuse were put forward.

The labor workshop, attended by many unionists, discussed carrying the struggle against police abuse into the unions, a conference goal.

One rank and file group was solidly represented, the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

## LABOR LAW

Sharon Cottrell of L.A. TDU spoke about why rank and file union groups need to fight police violence. In any union struggle, and particularly in strikes, the law

is stacked against the workers, she pointed out.

Because the law is written to protect property, effective tactics that win strikes, such as physically stopping scabs and product shipments and conducting secondary boycotts, are all illegal.

And, employers can always get an injunction against mass picketing.

In the face of a growing employer's offensive against workers, workers must turn to these tactics to win wage gains and improve working conditions. "For those of us in the rank and file, we don't have any choice," Cottrell declared.

Because workers will be forced to break anti-labor laws and immediately run up against the police, it is important for rank and file groups to fight police abuse. L.A. TDU plans ongoing work with CAPA.

## COMMUNITY

At the community organizing workshop, Assaka Umoja, keynote speaker for CAPA, explained that women face special oppression from the police.

"How long must we be arrested for prostitution while waiting at bus stops? ...How many women have been raped in the back of police cars?"

The workshop resolved to set up an ongoing committee to deal with the special problems of women. After some debate, the workshop further decided that neighborhood defense committees should be set up for community protection from police violence and to end people's dependence on the cops.

These proposals were put forward when the conference reconvened. The movement to fight police abuse has started the new year strong and united.

However, CAPA's hesitancy to unite with the strong gay movement is a weakness. Gays, who face constant police harassment, are valuable allies in the struggle against police abuse.



## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The labor movement won a major organizing victory in the South last week when 19,000 workers at the Newport News shipyards voted to join the Steelworkers Union. The shipyard, owned by Tenneco, Inc., is Virginia's largest private employer. Workers there had previously been represented by a company union, the Independent Peninsula Shipbuilders Association. The company and the Association plan to ask the NLRB to hold a new election.

Also in the South, 500 persons turned out on a snowy night in Birmingham, Alabama for a rally supporting the J.P. Stevens organizing drive.

The Democratic Party, that well-known friend of working folks, held a \$1,000-a-plate fundraising barbecue for Congressional candidates recently. The fat cat Democrats who attended were treated to Coors beer, which is on the AFL-CIO boycott list because Coors is trying to break the union.

A strike at Ford Motor Company's refrigeration products plant in Connersville, Indiana forced the company to close three of its assembly plants for one week. Ford's Atlanta, Louisville, and Oakville, Ontario plants were shut because of a shortage of air conditioning parts. The Connersville workers ratified a new contract February 6, and a Ford spokesman says there should be no further plant closings "unless there's a bubble in the pipeline."

**Quote of the Week:** "We can't have accommodation when business wages class warfare."—a labor leader quoted in the Wall Street Journal, complaining about the tough anti-union stance taken by business groups on the labor law reform proposals in Congress.

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



# Cop Pulls Gun To Protect Detroit Nazis

IF YOU HAVE any doubts in your mind as to what side the state is on when it comes to fascism or socialism, go down to Detroit's fourth precinct. They'll tell you in a minute.

As one policeman put it, "When it comes to socialists or fascists, we'll take the fascists any day."

On Saturday, January 28, one cop proved his loyalty to the Nazis by arresting two members of the Red Tide.

Police officer Shyloff made it clear that he was for protecting the Nazis and harassing the Red Tide.

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

Shyloff and his partner came screaming to a halt in front of a group of Red Tiders who were standing on the street in front of Southwestern high school talking quietly.

The Red Tiders were there to warn people that an anti-Nazi demonstration was postponed due to the blizzard.

## THREATS

The Red Tiders had received threatening phone calls from the Nazis all week long. The Nazis promised that they were going to attack the demonstration and cause a "bloody riot."

So a number of the anti-fascists came equipped with sticks to defend themselves from any Nazi attack.

The Nazis drove by and screamed, but did not stop when they saw that the anti-fascists were prepared.

Jumping out of the squad car with a billy club in one hand and the other behind his back, Shyloff told one Red Tide member to drop the "big stick" he was holding.

The Red Tider did not immediately see the connection between a "big stick" and the little chair leg he had in his hand.

Whipping out a gold plated gun from behind his back and cocking the trigger Shyloff repeated his order. The two Red Tiders who had sticks dropped them immediately.

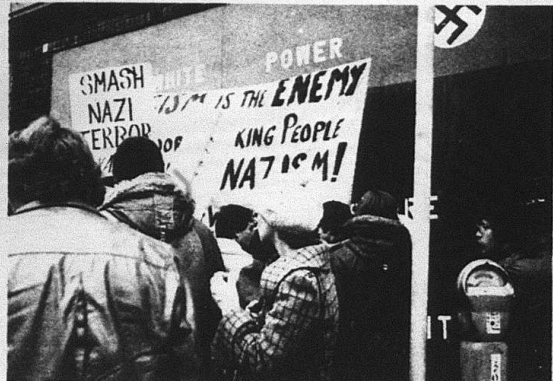
The police then arrested and handcuffed both members saying that more than five people carrying sticks was illegal. Shyloff handcuffed Frank Runninghorse so tightly that it left bruises.

While still handcuffed Runninghorse had his hands snatched behind his back and his face smashed into the car door.

Later on in the jail cell he was pushed around and choked by Shyloff.

Realizing his charge wouldn't hold water, Shyloff changed it to "loud and profane."

Retha Red Tide, Detroit



Demonstration against Nazi headquarters.

# REVIEWS

# The Battle for Chile

by Michael Urquhart

"The Battle for Chile" is one of the most exciting and important documentary films ever made. Covering the last ten months of the Allende "Popular Unity" government in 1973, the film provides graphic evidence of the failure of the peaceful, "parliamentary" road to socialism.

The reality of the class struggle is brought vividly to life as we see the capitalists' preparations for the coup d'etat, and the workers' attempts to defend themselves and the Allende government.

The film almost provides a blueprint of capitalist strategy for organizing a coup d'etat. First they try to disrupt the economy through hoarding, black market activities and cutting back production.

**The Battle for Chile**  
Directed by  
Patricio Guzman

Through boycotts and impeachment procedures against Allende's ministers, they paralyze the government. They organize right wing student riots.

Finally they prepare the army to fight against the people.

The U.S. government's and CIA's involvement in these activities is clear.

The workers respond in the only way they can: by taking matters into their own hands.

To defeat hoarding, they organize their own food distribution system, seizing the supplies. To keep production going, they take over the factories and run them. And they organize mass demonstrations in Allende's support.

## DEBATE

After the first, unsuccessful coup attempt, a debate over strategy develops in the working class. The film brings this debate to life.

Director Guzman explained its importance: "...the interesting thing was to represent all points of view within the left. The same ideological battle then going on in Chile could occur in France or Italy, for example, in a very similar way."

On one side were Allende and the Communist Party.

They favored moderation, relying on pro-government army officers, and trying to make a deal with the more moderate of the right wing parties, the Christian Democrats.

They refused to arm the workers and argued for returning many of the factories to their owners.

On the other side were many workers, sections of the Socialist Party, and the Movement of the



[Above] The people control the streets during a pro-Allende rally. [Below] The government controls the streets following the coup d'etat.



## Revolutionary Left (MIR).

They favored more direct action by the working class, extending the occupation of the factories and farms.

And in meeting after meeting, they called for arms so they could defend themselves against the army.

When the coup finally came, Allende called for resistance. But the unarmed workers were no match for the army. Thousands

paid with their lives. The peaceful road to socialism had been crushed.

## COURAGEOUS FILM CREW

The production crew also suffered casualties.

In one chilling scene, cameraman Leonardo Hendriksson actually films his own death.

In November, 1974, after the coup, cameraman Jorge Muller and actress Carmen Bueno were arrested by the fascist secret police,

DINA. They have since disappeared. The government denies any knowledge of their arrest.

A campaign to demand their release has been organized by the Emergency Committee to Defend Latin American Filmmakers, 339 Lafayette St., NY, NY 10012.

This film will never make it to your local movie theater. It can be rented however, from Tricontinental Films. By all means, get it and show it.

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## Settlement ends Euclid Cadillac UAW strike

Speed-up is the name of the game and the rules haven't changed.

Now, according to union negotiations, General Motors is claiming that since sales are down and stocks are up, they are willing to take a strike rather than give in on production standards at the General Motors Fisher Body plant in Euclid, Ohio.

The 1272 members of UAW Local 1045 are on strike here.

The Euclid plant makes interior trim for the Cadillac model. The strike has shut down the Cadillac and Fleetwood plants in Detroit.

The walkout, sanctioned by the International, came after local

contract negotiations broke down January 25.

At issue is paragraph 78 of the contract, production standards. UAW Local President Andrew Kocerka said "working conditions have worsened since production of the '78 model began last July."

## WRITE-UPS, GRIEVANCES

Two people doing a job that a year ago took three. That's the story for production workers in the sewing department. Refusal to go along with these changes means a write-up, as does low productivity. The union has responded with a

flood of grievances. Before contract negotiations broke off, hundreds of these grievances had yet to be settled.

Before the walkout, nine-hour days and six-day weeks were common.

The strikers realize that speed-up when sales are down means layoffs aren't far behind.

As a result, support for the strike is solid. Plant workers voted 875-402 to strike.

Even in the cold weather, the picket lines have been solid.

At press time a tentative settlement was announced, but no details were available.

# SKOKIE, ILLINOIS:

# Supreme Court OKs Nazi March

by Dan Posen

Stating "one man's vulgarity is another man's lyric," the Illinois State Supreme Court ruled last month that American Nazis have a First Amendment right to parade through the streets of the predominantly Jewish village of Skokie.

According to the Court: "The display of the swastika... is symbolic political speech intended to convey to the public the beliefs of those who display it."

Skokie, where the Nazis intend to hold their "display," is 60% Jewish—including many survivors of Hitler's concentration camps.

## ACLU

The Court's decision was greeted as a victory for free speech by the American Civil Liberties Union, which defended the Nazis in court against Skokie's ban on the planned march.

Nearly one third of ACLU members in Illinois have resigned in protest.

Between 15 and 20 percent of ACLU members nationally have quit. The ACLU also recently defended the right of racist marines to organize a Ku Klux Klan chapter which provoked violent confrontations with Black marines at Camp Pendleton.

Until last month, the ACLU was also defending the Klan's right to

hold a cross-burning rally at a Mississippi public school.

Klan leader David Duke openly boasted, in a letter to supporters, that the Klan deliberately duped the ACLU and caused it to lose support over the issue of Klan "rights."

Tragically, the Nazis in Chicago can now make the same boast.

**ACLU leader Aryeh Neier concedes that the ACLU has suffered such large losses in members and**

contributions that it is unable to take the City of Chicago to court over massive school segregation in the city.

The incident is further proof that it's simply not possible to defend the right of the Black community to be free of racist terror, while simultaneously supporting the so-called "right" of fascists to organize for the murder of Black people and other minorities. □

# Workers' Power

## Detroit Labor Coalition Demands:



# NAZIS OUT!

by Candy Martin

**DETROIT**—There was standing room only at Sammy's Pizza Hall on West Vernor Avenue here last Monday night.

The back dining room was filled to overflowing by 180 members of various local unions, high schools, and the surrounding community. Among the labor unions represented were United Auto Workers, AFSCME, United Steelworkers, and Teamsters.

**They met to form a united, labor-based coalition that will staunchly oppose the group of Nazis who recently opened up headquarters a few blocks away.**

Members of the community explained during discussion that they have received repeated threats since voicing their opposition to the Nazis' presence. Residents have been told, they said, that they had "better not walk the streets" of their neighborhood.

**Those present vowed that, not only will they continue walking their own streets, but they will ensure that the Nazis do not.**

## LOCAL 600

The coalition was called together by the powerful 33,000-member United Auto Workers Local Union 600 here.

Paul Boatin, a Local 600 retiree and chairman of the newly-formed coalition, explained that its goal will be an "organized, active, and massive response" to the Nazis.

The absolute importance of mobilizing the labor movement against the fascists was made clear by Mike Rinaldi, Local 600 president, when he spoke:

"I can recall," Rinaldi said, "in the early days when General

Motors was being organized—and it wasn't too different then. At that time it was the Pinkertons' organization that GM hired to beat up the organizers, to beat up the membership, in the sit-down strike in 1936.

**"This organization [the Nazis] is no different from organizations that tried to prevent us from organizing in the 30's."**

## ACTION

Policy "to organize and lead public, massive opposition to Nazism," and to make "special efforts to get the thousands of members of organized labor to play a leading role" was voted overwhelmingly at the meeting.

The group voted to involve the media, various groups and agencies, and for "full mobilization of all the people."

Measures were also adopted to change the fact that "innocent school kids are being recruited by the Nazis to distribute racist, violence-inciting bulletins showing crematoriums, loaded guns, and skulls and cross bones."

As the meeting adjourned, two Nazis were discovered eating dinner in another section of the restaurant. An enraged crowd gathered around them, chanting "Nazis Out!" and "No Platform for Genocide!"

**The two known Nazis were able to finish their meal only because a police cordon formed between them and the chanting crowd.**

It was a small taste of what the Nazis can expect as a broad-based labor coalition is built and mobilized against them. □

(Below) The huge turnout was an important step for newly-formed anti-Nazi labor coalition. (Top, left) Hank Williams, President of Local 600 Dearborn Assembly Plant, addresses crowd during discussion period.

