

# Workers' Power

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## Asbestos Workers: SENTENCED TO DIE

by Elissa Clarke

AS MANY AS 11 million workers have been exposed to deadly asbestos dust.

This week, Joseph Califano, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare announced that half of those workers will contract deadly diseases caused by asbestos poisoning.

It is impossible to calculate the number of men, women, and children who have been exposed to fatal levels because their husbands and fathers brought the deadly dust home on their clothes, or because they have breathed it in air polluted by the erosion of brake linings, air conditioning ducts, floor tiles, etc.

More than 4.5 million shipyard workers were exposed to extremely high levels during World War II.

For decades, the government has known that asbestos is a deadly killer. But the danger was ignored. It wasn't until 1971 that regulations were established for the amount of asbestos dust permissible in the air.

"There's evidence of asbestos causing lung disease 20 or 30 years ago. Even in the '40's there was some evidence," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe, Director of Ralph Nader's Health Research Group, in an interview with Workers' Power.

"But workers were not warned that it was dangerous."

As late as 1974, a whole town—Manville, New Jersey—was coated with a fine covering of the white dust generated by the Johns-Manville Corporation.

Exposure to high levels of asbestos causes asbestosis, a kind of scarring of the lung tissue which can be fatal. Exposure to lower levels causes a variety of cancers, including lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the abdominal wall. One Manville, New Jersey physician described the disease: "The cancer gets bigger and bigger and bigger and crushes anything in the way. On autopsy, you open up and see cement-like white mass obliterating the organs."

The diseases caused by asbestos can take one, two, three or even four decades to appear. One woman died at the age of 44 of mesothelioma. Her father had worked for a year on the day shift at the Union Asbestos and Rubber Company in Paterson, New Jersey, thirty years earlier. She took him a hot meal every evening, waiting

outside the plant for her father to pick it up.

Dr. Irving Selikoff, Director of Mount Sinai Hospital's Laboratory of Environmental Sciences, stated that he feared an "epidemic" of mesothelioma because "what we are seeing today reflects the size of the work force in the 1930's and 1940's when asbestos production was one-tenth what it is today."

Current regulations are inadequate. "There is no evidence that any level of asbestos exposure is safe," said Dr. Wolfe. "The fact that no level is safe is reflected in how rapidly they've gone from originally 12 fibers to two to one. They keep going down because the delusion that there are safe levels keeps vanishing."

### DEATH SENTENCE

This week, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare instructed the Surgeon General to send an "advisory letter" about the effects of asbestos to the nation's 400,000 doctors.

To say the program is too little, too late would be a gross understatement. For thirty or forty years the government knew asbestos was deadly and did nothing. This amounts to a death sentence for millions.

The fanfare surrounding this announcement is a sickening delusion. The program makes no effort to track down workers who were exposed to asbestos, nor does it offer any diagnostic services or special compensation to the victims of this mass poisoning.

More horrifying yet is that the disaster goes on.

Capitalism continues to kill millions of workers and their families through asbestos poisoning. "As far as we know there is grossly inadequate enforcement by the Labor Department of existing regulations," Dr. Wolfe said.

"I mean, you can set good standards and everything, but unless they are rigorously enforced they become a cruel joke on the workers who think they're being protected."



## Report from Portugal: a new workers' organization

MARINHA GRANDE, Portugal—Three weeks ago, more than 1000 delegates gathered for the largest and most important congress in the history of the Portuguese revolutionary left.

They founded a new United Workers' Organization [O.U.T.]. It represents the best potential for uniting the powerful revolutionary workers' movement in Portugal and defeating the offensive of the fascist right.

For a first-hand report by Joel Geier, turn to pages 6 and 7.

## Jury says Teamster leader murdered p.5

# Woman's Right, Child's Need

## Working mothers organize for day care

by Elissa Clarke

"I HAVE TO BE in my work clothes and ready at 7:00, so I wake my kids up at 5:15 every morning," a young woman told Workers' Power.

"They hate it."  
**If you're a woman, trying to hold a job and raise a family at the same time, life isn't easy. If your children are not in school, it can be a nightmare.**

More than 13,500,000 mothers work. Five million of these women have pre-school children.

Although precise figures are not available, the overwhelming number of children—about half—are cared for in private homes, usually by a relative.

Another third are cared for in someone else's home, and about 5% in group day care centers. What happens to the rest of the children is not clear. Some mothers adjust their schedules so they can share child care with their husbands. Some children take care of themselves.

"The whole situation makes me feel real bad," said the woman quoted above, a steelworker. "In the morning, my four-year-old says, 'Can't it be Saturday. I want to sleep some more.'"

### IN THE WORKFORCE

The issue of child care in this country cannot be separated from the role of women in the workforce. When women are needed in the workforce—as we were during World War II—child care centers suddenly spring up.

When unemployment is high, women are not encouraged to leave their young children and find jobs.

**But today women are demanding a place in the workforce.**

High prices, inflation always going up, smaller families, more single parents, have all combined to force mothers into the workforce in greater numbers than ever before.

The growth of day care in licensed centers and private homes has not kept pace with the increasing numbers of women in the workforce. At last count, there were only 905,000 spaces for children in these facilities—and well over six million pre-schoolers with mothers who work.

### BABYSITTING PROBLEMS

Ann Jones, an auto worker, told Workers' Power: "I have two children, Damon who's three and Asenath, who is five.

**"At first my mother-in-law was keeping them, but when my father-in-law died, she had to go out and get a job. Then I was stuck with a babysitting problem.**

"I have to be at work by 6:20 a.m., but I could not find a nursery school that opened at that time. I ended up finding one that wasn't open, but the lady had started her route picking up kids at 5:30.

"I had to get my kids up at 4:00 in the morning, take them over there. She in turn would have to put them on the bus and take them on the route with her.

"That didn't work out too good. They were all irritable and everything.

"Now my sister is living with us," Ann concluded. "And she's on an afternoon shift. She gets the kids up and puts them on the bus."

**Ann Jones, a member of United Auto Workers Local 140, is working**



Child playing at the Stride-Rite Corporation's day care center. Director of the center, Miriam Kertzman, observed that one woman turned down a civil service job rather than take her child out of the center.

through the UAW Women's Council to establish a child care center for members of UAW Region 1. She is chairperson of the Region 1 Women's Council Child Care Committee.

"When we got our Women's Council established, we wanted to know why we wasn't getting the participation we thought we should. Especially the younger women said that they had a problem with babysitting," Ann said.

"That's how the idea originally came up. It's just a group of working women that got together and said, Hey, let's do something about this."

Only a handful of company-sponsored day care centers exist today. In the early seventies, both the

Labor Department and the Ford Foundation surveyed industry-sponsored day care. The studies found only a dozen or so on-site centers run by private industry, as well as some 200 centers run by hospitals, health-care clinics and other non-profit organizations.

### FOR INDUSTRY

For industry, day care centers mean a stable work force, and a reduction in absenteeism by as much as 20%.

**In addition, the company's expenses for child care centers and services are tax deductible!**

The Revenue Act of 1971 permits businesses to deduct the expense of "acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, or rehabilitating" prop-

erty for use as a child care facility.

And in 1973, the IRS ruled that a company can deduct the costs of child-care payments for the pre-school children of their employees as a business-related expense.

**Certainly, this puts unions in a strong bargaining position to demand day care centers for their members. But only a handful of unions have responded to this need.**

### PIONEERS

Pioneers in the field of company-union day care centers is the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA). The ACWA runs the largest private day care system in the entire country. Six day care centers, serving 1400

children between the ages of two and six, have been established by the union.

The centers are financed by a 2% levy on the companies' gross payrolls. Parents pay \$1 a day to use the centers.

Sol Brandzel, Vice-President of the ACWA, said: "The job of any trade union is to help provide a better standard of living, a higher and fuller quality of life. One of the reasons our union has become involved in the establishment of day care centers is because industry encouraged women to enter the workforce, but did nothing to meet the problem of caring for the children of the mothers they encouraged to work."

Eighty percent of the employees in the garment industry are women.

Only a couple of other companies have joined the garment industry in sponsoring day care centers: the Stride-Rite Shoe Company in Roxbury, Massachusetts, as well as a number of hospitals which find that on-site day care centers cut down on absenteeism and facilitate shift rotation. The Polaroid Corporation in Cambridge, Massachusetts offers co-payments to employees for care in private centers, thus avoiding the capital investment of building their own centers.

Director of the Stride-Rite Day Care Center, Miriam Kertzman recalls a key punch operator who turned down a Civil Service job she had sought for years rather than take her child out of the day care center.

**For mothers, and for children, the benefits of quality day care are immense. The steelworker quoted above told us: "If I could see my kids at lunch, I'd be on top of the world!"**

"If they would have day care here at the mill, I'd see more of the kids. Just being together means a lot to me."

As women today demand equal participation in the work of work, day care is an issue that will be on the agenda. Women have to organize to put it on the bargaining table too!

# When they say it can't be done, tell them about the Kaiser shipyards



The Kaiser day care center. During World War II many corporations built day care centers to attract women workers to jobs in the defense plants.

1943. The men were at war. The women were building planes, tanks and ships in defense plants across the country.

But what about the babies? No babysitters, sick children, school holidays. These problems were driving the employers mad.

**At the Kaiser shipyards in Portland, Oregon one-third of the 12,000 women employees were mothers with no place to leave their children. Child care became the issue that determined whether the Liberty ships would move out or not.**

Edgar Kaiser decided to solve the problem by building child care centers at the shipyard. He convinced the U.S. Maritime Commission to foot the bill for two child care centers, one at each entrance to the shipyard. Each had a capacity to care for 375 children, aged 18 months to six years.

**Local social workers and teachers were extremely critical of the new project, so Kaiser set out to prove them wrong.**

The finest teachers were hired. A separate infirmary was staffed by a full-time nurse with a doctor on call. Children with colds were separated from the others.

Cost was no object. Kaiser had a cost-plus government contract; the cost of child care was simply added to the taxpayers' bill.

The centers were open 24 hours a day, just as the shipyards were. They cared for up to 1000 children a day.

Hot meals were served three times a day to the children, and the centers provided dinner for the workers to take home at the end of the shift, at cost.

Immunizations shot were given. Dentist appointments were made. Seamstresses repaired the childrens' clothing.

### HIGH PROFITS

The benefits to the mothers and children are obvious. But the company also benefited. Kaiser got a stable work force and increased productivity—no small potatoes during the wartime bonanza.

**However, when the war was over, the jobs ended for the women, and the child care centers were shut down. Not just at Kaiser, but across the country.**

Today, child care is an issue again as women demand a permanent place in the workforce.



# FIREFIGHTERS PRISONERS IN THEIR OWN STATION

by Candy Martin

"I can't take my youngest daughter who's 18 months old to see my husband because she doesn't understand why he can't hold her and why he's behind that glass door.

"I take my son who's eight and my daughter who is five.

"They get to talk to him, but they're on the other side of a glass door and there's a little telephone. There's no touching or anything...just like a regular prison."

*"There's two Deputies guarding the station house. The men aren't allowed to talk to anyone, they're not allowed to leave. Wives take food in, they may get to sneak a few words, but they don't get to really visit."*

—Captain John McAtee

That's how Pam Dawson and her family have been living for well over a month.

The visits she describes take place in the Normal, Illinois fire station where her husband, who is President of the local fire fighters union (L.U. 2442) is held under armed guard with about half of the rest of the department.

They are let out only to fight fires.

When they leave with the fire engine, they are followed by a Sheriff's Deputy.

Every other day they switch places with the other half of their workmates, in order to serve the alternate days of their 42-day sentences in a full-fledged jail cell.

Their crimes: that they took up picket signs on March 21 and

struck for their first union contract —while continuing to go out to fight fires when the community needed them.

"We always went out and fought the fires," Captain John McAtee told this reporter, "we were just not actively on duty.

"This strike is a strike against the City Administration, not a strike against the people."

But when the union set up a picket line after six months of stonewalling in bargaining by the city, the union's action was too much of an affront for the Administration. So the city obtained a court injunction, which went unrecognized by the strikers, and then a contempt citation.

The decree then handed down in the lofty halls of justice was that 18 of the fire fighters would continue to fight fires as they had been doing all along, but for the rest of their time, they would be kept under lock and key.

Another four of the strikers have been ordered to stay in the jailhouse full-time where they "negotiate" through the bars of their cell with a City Administration that has never been interested in bargaining on any turf.

The government knew enough not to put all the fire fighters in jail all at the same time. While it won't recognize the value of the strikers' work when it comes to giving them a fair contract, the city knows it might all burn to bits without the fire fighters' labors.

## ONLY UNION

Pam Dawson isn't happy that since Judge William Caisley handed down his ruling on March 31, her family has been divided by armed guards and glass walls.

But when she received a letter from the city urging an end to the strike on city management terms, it had little effect. "I just thought it was another union busting tactic," she told Workers' Power. "They

*"The city put out a press release issuing a phased threat — after additional days on strike you get progressively more days off until you're discharged. When that didn't work, they gave their final final FINAL offer — that was last week. They said if you don't accept this, you'll be fired. It was rejected twenty-three to nothing.*

*I think they're afraid to fire anyone, they really are. You can't just replace a professional fire fighter and it takes a year to train a new employee."*

—Dale Perry  
Local 2442 Attorney



Wives bring food to strikers locked in firehouse.

think the wives are stupid and don't know what's going on."

**They thought wrong.** "Our union is the only one in Normal," Pam explains. "We are the first, there's no other union at all in Normal except us.

"What we're doing here is, if our union goes through, well then others can go through, and maybe it won't be so hard on them as it was on us.

"The city people here in Normal are just trying to break our union so there won't be any other unions."

*"Ours is the only union in Normal. The city people here in two are just trying to break our union. So there won't be any other unions."*

—Pam Dawson

A lot of the strikers' wives felt the same way Pam Dawson did when they received the city's propaganda in the mail. They decided to do something about it.

"Since they involved us, we felt we had a right to vote on the contract proposal. So we voted at the City Council meeting up in front of all the Council people.

"The Chambers were lined with policemen. I don't know if they thought we were going to cause a riot or what..."

**That was on April 17th. The vote was 23 to 0.**

The wives went further. They organized a canvass of precincts in the city, which has a population of 34,700. Within a few days, the women had gotten 2500 signatures on petitions supporting the strikers to present to the City Council. That was a thousand more people than had voted in the last city election.

But regardless of how the citizens feel, the Normal City Council and appointed City Manager Dave Anerson are determined to prevent the union from getting a contract.

"This is a non-union town and they want to keep it that way,"

explained Dale Perry, attorney for the local union. "That's the whole issue here."

The city has hired a large, slick, Chicago-based legal firm by the name of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson—a respectable outfit with a national reputation for union-busting.

According to Perry, the firm sells a program based on "Boulwarism"—anti-labor tactics named for the general counsel for General Electric during the '30's who devised them.

The original Boulwar plan (no longer allowed by the National Labor Relations Board) involved developing what the company considered to be a "fair final offer," throwing it on the table, and then refusing to bargain. Then management would circumvent the union negotiating committee by using threats, propaganda, and coercion directed at rank and file strikers, their families, and the public.

**There have been repeated threats by the city of Normal, says Perry, that the fire fighters will be fired if they vote to reject each time the city comes up with another "final" offer.**

"They go from oral threats to telegraphed threats to written threats, to actual filing of discharge papers.

"They're using coercion because they want docility and subservience.

"And they say to the men: 'if you want a union, we'll make you pay for it by making you give your benefits up.'"

Captain John McAtee concurs. "They've been using union-busting tactics right from the start.

**"But our feeling is, if we don't have a contract by the end of the 42 days, we'll just pick up the picket signs and start all over."**

## CAPTAINS

None of the strikers are allowed to talk to people on the outside, as one of them told this reporter over the phone from the station house.

John McAtee is the only one who can. By chance, he was on vacation the day the judge issued the first citation and contempt ruling.

And John McAtee knows as well as anyone the importance of the union in this strike.

For the single most important issue is the bargaining unit itself, and whether McAtee and two other captains may be members of it. The city wants the captains to be outside the bargaining unit, and the fire fighters want the captains in.

*"They want the captains to be, in quotes, 'supervisors'. I don't want to be. The city has consistently lied to us over the past years about salaries and benefits and we don't feel comfortable outside the bargaining unit. We want to be covered by the terms of a written agreement."*

—Captain John McAtee

**City Attorney David Miles explains that city management will only agree to let the captains stay in the union if they take \$2700 cuts in pay.**

City management wants the captains to be considered supervisory personnel. But the captains would be doing the same jobs they do now—risking their lives fighting fires alongside their workmates, without the power to hire, fire, or promote.

## WHAT NEXT...

The big question is what will happen in another two weeks when the 42-day sentences are up.

City Attorney Dave Miles says management has several options—including discharge proceedings. But professional fire fighters are not easy to come by.

"Or we could simply let nature run its course," says Miles, "let them remain on strike—they've made a public commitment to the community that they'll continue to respond to alarms—and simply let them do that without pay."

Union lawyer Dave Perry says if it comes to that, "we'll have to remove the government." Proceedings have begun to change the less-responsive, appointed City Manager form of government in Normal to an elected Alderman-type structure.

For the union members' part, they are ready to begin their picketing again.

And support in the community and from surrounding area unions is building day by day.

Last week, 150 fire fighters joined a caravan to Normal from their 1978 Convention site 50 miles away to demonstrate their solidarity.

If Pam Dawson's feelings are any indication, the union is going to win.

"I've supported them all the way through, and I'll keep supporting them till it's over. We're all very strong. We're all together.

"The wives are behind their husbands 100%."

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# Anti-Nazi League Fights Growing Menace

# BRITAIN'S NAZIS: THE 'NATIONAL FRONT'

by Dan Posen

This Sunday in Detroit, hundreds of unionists, community people, members of Black, Latin and Jewish organizations will join a motorcade and march, vowing to "Keep the Nazis Out" of southwest Detroit and stop them from opening up elsewhere.

That same day, in London, England, some 20,000 people will be celebrating a day-long "Carnival Against the Nazis."

Some of Britain's top rock bands will perform. Buses will bring people to the carnival from over 30 cities. Many of these will be contingents from factories and other workplaces.

The "Carnival Against the Nazis" is part of a long-term campaign to stop the British Nazis, who use the name "National Front."

□ □ □

It may be hard to understand how an organization spewing out principles of Nazism could gain any ground in Britain.

After all, wasn't London itself bombed almost to rubble by Hitler's Air Force in the second World War?

Yet the National Front, organized and led by men like Martin Webster—conscious Nazis who are direct descendants of Britain's "blackshirt" fascist gangs in the 1930's—is actually growing more rapidly than any other political party in Britain.

The National Front is far better organized and more effective than the small Nazi-type groups in America today. But this Nazi movement in Britain is also a sign of things to come in America—unless American Nazis and Klansmen are stopped now.

## MODEL

Studying the British Nazi movement is important as the closest thing to a model of what a serious fascist, or extreme racist movement would look like in America.

Unlike the loose collection of squabbling misfits, kooks and basket cases who inhabit Nazi offices in American cities, battling each other for the title of mini-fuehrer, the British National Front has developed leaders with sophisticated political skills.

The National Front has hidden its swastikas, taken the pictures of Hitler, Himmler and Hess off the walls, and put forward a clean, new patriotic image.

They claim to represent British, national and even democratic ideals.

But their real message remains the same. The Front campaigns for the forcible deportation of hundreds of thousands of Black, West Indian and Asian people living in Britain.

Their strategy is to prey on white workers' fears about unemployment—just as American fascists are beginning to do.

## GROWING INFLUENCE

When the National Front takes power, its leaders promise, immediate steps will be taken to ensure the "strength of Britain's national stock"—code words for "racial purity."

The Front directly encourages gangs of white toughs to invade Black and Asian communities, beating up isolated young people on the streets and breaking up community meetings.

An Asian teacher in London was assaulted by students chanting "National Front!"

The menace of the National Front is best shown by the degree to which it has begun infiltrating other organizations and influencing British politics.

Last week, a branch of the Labor Party (the political party of British unions) in Nottingham, suddenly discovered 20 of its own members handing out National Front leaflets outside the Labor club!

The American Ku Klux Klan leader, David Duke, recently visited Britain illegally, as a guest of National Front members.

Duke somehow "slipped past" immigration authorities—the same



[Above] National Front marches into Lewisham last August. [Below] Moments later thousands of anti-fascists begin to drive the Front off the streets.

authorities who have repeatedly blocked Asian people from entering Britain to be reunited with their families.

Duke appeared as guest on an evening feature interview on the government-owned TV network.

Most important, the National Front can now present its policies as the logical extension of what the major, respectable political parties are calling for.

The large big business party, the Conservative Party, has begun a vicious national campaign against immigrants. Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher wants immigration stopped, saying "The British character might be swamped by people with different culture."

## FIGHTING BACK

But every time the National Front has attempted to parade its strength and "Master Race" ideology on the streets, it has been met with massive and militant counter-demonstrations.

The largest of these demonstrations have been organized by the British Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the largest revolutionary workers' organization in Britain.

Last August, a Front march was broken up when thousands of anti-fascists massed in Lewisham, South London and literally drove the marchers off the street.

The police, as they always do, intervened to protect the fascists and arrested 21 anti-Nazi demonstrators.

Kim Gordan, a Black member of the SWP arrested at Lewisham, has been sentenced to six weeks in prison.

John Lockwood, a teacher, is serving a three-month term and faces firing from his job. There are many other examples.

The Labor Party leadership, the government, the police and British press have tried to destroy the anti-Nazi movement by labelling the confrontations as "fascists of the right battling fascists of the left."

This is an effort to discredit the



SWP and other revolutionary socialists.

## ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE

Members of the SWP and other anti-Nazis have responded by organizing the Anti-Nazi League.

The League, which is a broad-based, rapidly growing organization with the single aim of politically exposing and destroying the National Front, is off to an extremely promising start.

Unionists, representatives of political organizations, entertainers and sports figures are among its endorsers and members.

The April 30 "Carnival Against the Nazis" will be its largest mass activity so far.

Equally important, the ANL is becoming an organization with branches throughout Britain, confronting Nazi propaganda and activities in factories, housing projects, communities and local elections.

The beginnings of a similar kind of movement—smaller today, to be sure, but equally important—may have been laid by the struggle to drive the Nazi scum out of southwest Detroit.

There is little doubt that American anti-fascists will have as big a job to do, if not bigger, than our brothers and sisters in Britain. □

# Zimbabwe: down with the sellout

Several hundred Black university students in Salisbury, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) marched to protest the deal between white Prime Minister Ian Smith and several Black puppets.

This is the first public Black demonstration to be reported from an urban Black community against the "internal settlement."

The students carried signs supporting the Patriotic Front, the Zimbabwe liberation movements that are continuing the war against Smith.

After marching two miles from their campus, the students were blocked by police and their signs confiscated.

So much for all the Rhodesian government's rhetoric that the "internal settlement" is bringing democracy, civil rights and free speech to Zimbabwe.

Unfortunately for the racists and their Black puppets, taking the freedom fighters' guns away is another matter entirely. □

—D.P.

Ad for Anti-Nazi League carnival.



# WENDEL MURDERED, JURY SAYS

by Duane Hammill

DETROIT—When Otto Wendel was found with two gunshot wounds in his abdomen on December 12 on a lonely road in Livingston County, many Teamsters believed someone had tried to kill him.

When Wendel died on December 24, without ever talking, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department ruled his death suicide.

But Wendel's widow demanded an inquest.

On Thursday, April 26, the

inquest jury returned a verdict of "Murder by a person or persons unknown at this time," after seven hours of deliberation.

Jury forewoman Gayle Taylor stated that "of the sixty witnesses called to testify during the 12-day inquest, too many said that anything was possible in Wendel's death."

"ANYTHING POSSIBLE"

The situation that makes "anything possible" was Wendel's

position in Teamster Local 299.

Ever since Jimmy Hoffa (whose home local was 299) was sent to prison there had been a slow moving shift of loyalties. Hoffa put Frank Fitzsimmons at the top of the IBT thinking he was fairly harmless and would do nothing but be a caretaker for the union. But Fitz had other ideas.

As new boss Fitz needed to change the loyalty of his bureaucratic constituency. He threatened Hoffa's loyal supporters with their jobs. Eventually there were only

two choices: loyal to Hoffa—you're out; loyal to Fitz—you're in.

Wendel was always known for his loyalty to Hoffa. When Dave Johnson, a Hoffa man, resigned as president of Local 299 in the summer of 1976 and the Fitz forces became much stronger in the local, it was much harder for Wendel to maintain his position.

Wendel had a great deal of control over the purse strings as Secretary-Treasurer. He was also well aware of the financial transactions of the local over the years.

Finally, Wendel threw his hat into the ring of the contested local elections last December. One week before he was shot, Wendel withdrew as a candidate for president and resigned as Secretary-Treasurer.

Wendel wasn't part of the "in crowd" of Fitz supporters. Nor was he allied with either of the rank and file slates (Teamsters for a Democratic Union and Concerned Members) in the elections.

A DEAL

In all likelihood, Wendel made a deal. He would resign quietly, the Fitz crowd would have a better shot at reelection, and in return, Wendel would take the job of lobbyist for the Teamsters in Lansing, Michigan.

Unfortunately for Wendel, he was never a party to the full deal—his own death.

He simply knew too much.

- Similar to Hoffa, who disappeared two and one half years ago, Wendel had the knowledge of goings on that would, if let out, blow the Teamster investigation now going on side open.

- Wendel reportedly kept a diary of Teamster Local 299 activities that he once told a friend would make "the Godfather look tame."
- On the day he was shot, Wendel's widow claims that there were several large manila envelopes in the car. None of these were reported found by the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

- Wendel had been "warned" previously to keep quiet. His barn was burned by unknown arsonists several years ago and his boat had been sabotaged in 1977.

- The progress of the inquest seemed like someone or a group wanted the suicide rap to stick and the case closed. The two professional witnesses, a psychiatrist and a coroner, both tried to make this point.

EVIDENCE

- Local 299 President Bob Lins put forward his feeling that Wendel's death was "an obvious suicide."

- But the evidence just didn't bear this up.

- He was shot by two point blank shots to the abdomen—a difficult and uncertain way to commit suicide—the bullets did not penetrate the car seat.

- There were three Salem cigarette butts in the ashtray. Wendel didn't smoke and his car had been recently cleaned.

- Wendel's CB antenna was down. Wendel always had it in place.

- The car was driven eight-tenths of a mile toward home, after the shooting.

- Wendel's blood-stained handkerchief was found outside the car by the rear tire, opening up the possibility that he was trying to flag someone down.

- Before he died, he wrote a note to a nurse which the Sheriff's Department claims it can't decipher. Wendel's widow believes it reads "Mealy Mouth Roxy," a reference to a political foe, George Roxburgh. After writing the note, "Wendel patted his stomach where his wounds were."

- When the nurse asked Wendel if he was indicating who had shot him, "He nodded his head 'yes'."
- There was no question in my mind he was shaking his head 'yes,'" she testified on Tuesday, April 11.

- Prosecutor Frank Del Vero is reopening the investigation. Somebody out there shot Otto Wendel and we're going to have to go out there and find him."

- But if the investigation of Hoffa's disappearance is any indication of what will happen, don't look for any breakthroughs soon.

- Meanwhile Wendel joins a long list of bloody executions in the violent history of the Teamsters Union.

## Shannon quits pension post in IBT power struggle

by Dan LaBotz

CHICAGO—Daniel J. Shannon has been forced to resign from his \$135,000 a year position as executive director of the Teamsters Central States Pension Fund.

The man responsible for Shannon's resignation is Roy Williams, head of the Central Conference of Teamsters—the largest and most powerful regional Teamster organization.

Williams is locked in a bitter struggle with Jackie Presser, head of Ohio Teamsters, for control of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Frank Fitzsimmons, current IBT president, is not expected to serve out his term, which expires in 1981. Presser and Williams are fighting for his job.

Control of the Central States Pension Fund with \$1.6 billion in assets, its bureaucracy, its important connections to both gangsters and employers, and its influence on local officials makes it key to taking over the IBT.

Williams was able to force Shannon's resignation because when 10 new pension trustees were chosen last year, Williams hand picked four of the five union trustees. He is also a close associate of one of the five employer trustees—giving him half the votes.

Williams' employer ally is Thomas O'Malley, head of Central Wisconsin (CW) Transport, headquartered in Wisconsin Rapids. O'Malley's wife works for Roy Williams as a receptionist.

REFORMS

Daniel P. Shannon was hired as executive director of the Central States Pension Fund in 1973, under the pressure of federal investiga-

tions.

Shannon is the son of Peter Shannon, former Mayor Richard J. Daley's personal accountant and auditor for the Cook County Central Committee of the Democratic Party in Chicago. Daniel Shannon had been president of the Chicago Park District, but had fallen out of favor with Daley due to political maneuvers to further his career.

Shannon used his connections with Ray Schoessler, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 744 IBT, and later international secretary-treasurer, to get the post as executive director of the Pension Fund.

Between 1973 and 1975, Shannon had little influence in the Pension Fund.

But as the press, the feds and the Teamster rank and file groups like PROD and Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) continued to turn up the heat under Teamster officials, Shannon was able to carry out some reform measures.

One of the most important moves by the federal government was a threat by the Internal Revenue Service was to remove the Fund's tax exempt status unless it complied with the Pension Reform Act.

MOB CONTROL

So in 1977, Shannon actually began to make some moves that would have reduced the influence of Allen Dorfman and Anthony Spilotro and other syndicate figures in the Pension Fund.

Management of the Fund's assets was turned over to Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S. and to Victor Palmeri Company. This took direct control of the Pension Fund out of the hands of the five union and five manage-

ment officials who had previously controlled it.

Then, again last year, a Labor Department investigation forced the resignation of the Central States Fund's ten trustees, including President Frank Fitzsimmons.

It looked as if the mob might actually be losing a little influence in the Central States Pension Fund.

However, several incidents then coincided to reverse the trend:

- Last year Shannon testified before a congressional committee that the Central States Pension Fund was underfunded, and that without further employer contributions the fund would go broke within twelve years.

- This testimony put Shannon on the outs with Fitzsimmons and the trustees.

- About the same time, the battle for control of the IBT between Presser and Williams heated up. Roy Williams allied himself with Allen Dorfman and his mob connections. In January of 1976, the Health and Welfare Fund trustees (some of whom are the same as the Pension Fund trustees) voted to give Dorfman a new three year contract with that fund. That contract was extended in January of 1978.

- At the same time, the star of Anthony Spilotro, Dorfman's partner, was rising in his organization. Anthony J. Accardo, head of the Chicago mob, was forced by illness into early retirement from a long life of crime. And his successor, James "Turk" Torello, by the way a trucking company owner, found out that he had serious cancer—taking him out of the running for head of the mob. This means Spilotro is the likely candidate to take up the mantle of Al Capone from Tony Accardo.

## Pension Fund's Long Dirty History

Before 1973, the Central States Pension Fund was dominated by Allen Dorfman—son of Paul and Rose Dorfman—important figures in the Al Capone gang. Allen Dorfman ran the Fund in close cooperation with Anthony Spilotro, a kingpin in the Chicago and Las Vegas syndicates.

Dorfman had originally been brought into the Central States Pension Fund by Jimmy Hoffa.

Under the Dorfman-Spilotro regime, as much as \$700,000 of the money of rank and file Teamster members set aside for their old age was stolen from the Fund, according to federal investigators.

Several factors combined to cause the Dorfman-Spilotro team to lose some power in the Pension Fund:

- Hoffa, who supported Dorfman, left the Teamster presidency to go to jail in 1969.

- Nixon, who supported both Hoffa and Fitzsimmons, left the presidency in 1974. When Hoffa went to jail, Fitzsimmons made a deal to give political support for the Nixon wage freeze and the Nixon war in Vietnam and other Nixon policies in exchange for Nixon's promise to keep Hoffa out of the union and the fed's noses out of the Pension Fund.

- Labor and Justice Department investigations showed that as much as \$700,000 was missing from the Fund due to its investment policies including an extraordinarily high number of real estate loans, many of them to syndicate-connected figures.
- Newspaper and magazine articles in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and Overdrive magazine showed how millions of dollars in pension money were being used for salaries for officials and administrators, being siphoned off for "finders' fees," attorneys fees, and kickbacks and being lost due to the syndicate loans which were often not repaid.

- In 1974, the Pension Reform Act—ERISA—passed the Congress providing for stricter controls on Pension Fund financial deals.

But today it looks as if the mob is again consolidating its control over the Fund. □

## Carter—hands off Mob?

IN A RELATED news event, Peter Vaira, head of the Justice Department's strike force in Chicago, said that union corruption in Chicago is the worst in the country.

Vaira also said that the Department of Labor has refused to cooperate in investigations of organized crime.

The implication is that Carter is continuing the hands off policy of Richard Nixon regarding the Teamsters.

Bert Lance, one of Carter's crooked cronies, accepted a deposit in his Georgia bank of several

hundred thousand dollars from the Central States Pension Fund during Carter's candidacy.

It is not known whether Carter is obligated to Teamster officials in other ways. It is possible that Carter is prepared to trade a hand-off policy in the Pension Fund for a non-inflationary Master Freight Contract from Fitzsimmons.

Williams' apparent ability to control the Pension Fund at a distance and his alliance with Dorfman and Spilotro who continue their pilfering and Vaira's statement of union corruption in Chicago

go all point to the futility of government attempts to clean up the Fund.

The only realistic solution to the corruption in the Teamsters union is that which has been proposed by Teamsters for a Democratic Union—a rank and file movement to dump Teamster officials in union elections, and the demand for rank and file elected trustees, accountable to the members—rather than the mob or the employers.

Williams and O'Malley, Dorfman and Spilotro may be winning today, but the Teamster rank and file will win tomorrow. □

# New Organization Will Fight For Workers' Unity At PORTUGAL: STRUGGL

"This Congress represents a turning point in the history of our people, and the long road we have had to travel for the liberation of all the oppressed and exploited of our country.

"This Congress represents another step in the march of the workers to taking power and erecting a socialist society."

—Mouta Liz, of the bank workers' union, opening the founding Congress of the United Workers' Organization (O.U.T.) of Portugal.



One of the greatest potential bases for O.U.T. are the farm workers. The Congress was attended by over 100 farmworker delegates. In 1975 farmworkers occupied 2.8 million acres in great plantations owned by absentee landlords. They turned this land into farm cooperatives run under workers' control.

Under the Socialist Party government, so far, 150,000 acres have been returned to the landlords. Armed bands of National Guard have been sent in to dispossess the unarmed farmworkers, often meeting great resistance.

From the Union of Co-ops in Vimiero, 30 delegates came to the Congress. One of them, Josue Fortia, was elected to the O.U.T. Central Committee. Fortia explained why there were so many delegates from Vimiero:

"Agrarian reform is the keystone of the Portuguese revolution. If it's destroyed, Portugal will be destroyed. But now we have a reactionary government which is against all of the Alentejo workers. Farm credits have been cut to the co-ops. The landlords are returning. At this time we need an organization to provide solutions to our problems and to halt the advance of the landlords. That's why the workers of Vimiero are here.

"Many of our comrades have believed the lies of other parties. Now their eyes are open. They have an organization now, the O.U.T., to defend them. And so when the landlords show up, we won't give back one fist of our land to the landlords. Do you understand?"

by Joel Geier

On April 7, 8 and 9, 1400 delegates and observers met in Marinha Grande, Portugal to found a new organization, the Organizacao Unitaria de Trabalhadores (United Workers Organization, or O.U.T.).

For the first time, Portuguese workers may have created the united, mass revolutionary socialist organization which is needed to finish the job of the Portuguese Revolution—the taking of power by the working class.

This week is the fourth anniversary of the democratic revolution of April 25, 1974, which ended Portugal's 48-year fascist government.

But today, the threat of a return to fascism in Portugal is greater than ever.

"WE WILL FIGHT"

The danger of a return to fascism is the overriding issue that brought the delegates to the O.U.T. Congress. It has created the impetus for their efforts to organize a mass



Alda Silva raises nine children in a shantytown shack of 48 square meters. She is a leader of the Lisbon shantytown movement and on the Tenants Commission of the Quinta da Calçada, a shantytown of 1500 people. Alda is a member of the O.U.T. Central Committee, and believes that Quinta da Calçada will be a stronghold of the new O.U.T.

In her speech at the Lisbon rally, Alda said: "They want us to be a nation of idiots. They are starving us. They won't give us the bread, milk, and cheese that our children need. We won't let them get away with it.

"There are empty houses, but people still live in the streets. Why can't we have those empty houses. Our kids need schools, lawns, playgrounds, just as theirs do.

"The O.U.T. will bring us unity against the right. Divided we will fall, but together we can make a socialist revolution.

"Women, don't stay in your houses. Don't be afraid. Get out into the streets and fight for the socialist revolution."

revolutionary organization.

The delegates recognized, in the words of a trade union leader from Porto, that defeating the offensive of the far right in Portugal would "come not through Parliament, but through an armed struggle. A fascist coup is inevitable.

"It will fall only if we are prepared to meet counter-revolutionary violence with revolutionary violence. The going ahead of us will be rough, but we are going to fight. We have no other alternative."

The theme song of the Congress was Grandola, the hymn of the April, 1974 Revolution.

Present at the Congress was the symbol and organizer of the April Revolution, Otelo de Carvalho, whose experiences in the revolutionary process have led him to support a socialist workers' revolution.

The Congress was held in the historic town of Marinha Grande, where workers rose up in 1934 to briefly set up a workers' republic.

DISCIPLINE

But while the symbolism of past revolutionary struggles inspired the Congress, the driving force behind it was the crisis in Portugal today.

The delegates adopted a program calling for socialist revolution and workers' power: rank and file control of workplaces and neighborhoods by working people, and a new state based on organizations of popular power.

In its debate on structure, the Congress adopted democratic centralism and revolutionary discipline. A worker from Gaia explained why:

"We want an organizational structure that can be the cadre for an armed insurrection, not that of a parliamentary party."

ECONOMIC DISASTER

The Portuguese government is a coalition of the Socialist Party (SP) and Communist Party

(CDS). The CDS is a party of big business, landlords and old fascists.

This SP-CDS coalition is supported by the U.S. government.

The Portuguese government is committed to capitalist recovery and stability. But it has been unable to solve the disastrous economic crisis of Portugal.

Inflation has run wild, totalling 25% in the last three months alone. Living standards for both working class and middle class people have been slashed to below 1974 levels.

Most workers make \$50-\$60 a week. An adequate food budget for a family of five is estimated to be over \$60 a week, without taking into account other expenses.

The middle classes have moved drastically to the right. Sa Carneiro, leader of the liberal middle class party, the Popular Democrats, recently set up alliances with the fascist underground.

He openly calls for a coup to abolish the Constitution and the gains achieved by workers since the April Revolution—nationalization, workers' control and agrarian reform.

FAILURES

The traditional organizations of the working class have failed to put up any effective resistance to the growing offensive of the fascist right.

The Socialist Party's policies for capitalist recovery have lost its support in the labor movement, and caused it to split. Much of the SP's trade union support has now gone to the revolutionary left and the new O.U.T.

The Communist Party, the largest force in the unions, proposes that the Revolution go no further, that the status quo be maintained. But it is this collapsing status quo which is ruining workers, and pushing the middle classes into the arms of the fascists.

In practice the CP has adopted a policy of concessions to the right, hoping that moderate right wingers

will somehow be persuaded to form an alliance with the CP against the extreme right.

FIGHT FOR UNITY

A Lisbon trade unionist summed up the situation in describing the political forces dividing the workers:

"The Socialist Party is trying to divide the unions. We fight for a united, strong trade union movement as a part of our fight against fascism and capitalism.

"To be effective the unions have to be elected and controlled by the rank and file. The unions, however, have not done what they should to halt the advance of the right.

"They are prevented from doing so by the undemocratic control over them by the Communist Party. The CP considers the revolutionary left to be the main enemy.

"Despite that, we have to remember at all times that for us the main enemy is the fascists. The CP is not our main enemy, despite its undemocratic methods."

GRASS ROOTS UNITY

Portugal's workers are the most revolutionary and class conscious in the world. However, they have no mass revolutionary organization, to unify workers and lead the revolution to completion.

Previous efforts to unite the revolutionary left were based on accords between the left parties. They failed to overcome the sectarian divisions and infighting between leaderships of these parties.

There are good grounds for believing that this new attempt will be successful. O.U.T. represents a grass roots effort at unity, among workers who have agreement on fighting the problems facing them in their workplaces.

The cell structure built up in the factories has already proven how successful this rank and file unity is. The Congress showed that these workers also have a remarkable

## COMICIO DE ENCERRAMENTO

Com a presença de

# OTELO




Delegações de organizações revolucionárias da África Austral América Latina Europa Est. Unidos Médio Oriente

**CAMPO PEQUENO, SÁBADO 15 DE ABRIL - ÀS 21 HORAS**

Call for rally of new O.U.T. workers organization. Otelo de Carvalho, pictured at left and symbol of the Captains' revolt of April 25, 1974 which overthrew fascism, is banned from participating in politics by the current government. He lent the enormous prestige he commands among Portuguese workers, soldiers and left wing officers, to the O.U.T. by solidizing himself with its objectives in attending the Congress.



# nd Socialist Revolution

# THE GOES ON!



Scene from the founding Congress of the O.U.T.

degree of political unity.

O.U.T. also has the potential of reviving the broad based popular power movement of factory committees, tenants' associations, and soldiers' committees.

Its membership consists of active cadres of these organizations and of the trade unions. Its leadership, the 150 member Central Committee, has an excellent social composition of industrial, agricultural, and white collar members who are leaders in the unions and popular power organizations.

**The support the new organization receives from Otelo de Carvalho, the organizer of the April 25 revolution, is also very important to Portuguese revolutionary workers.**

Otelo is recognized as the most outstanding spokesman for the popular movement, as well as left-wing officers like himself who have come to realize that the anti-fascist April Revolution can be preserved only if it is carried forward to a working class socialist revolution.

## LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS

O.U.T. is supported by the three parties on the revolutionary left: the Proletarian Revolutionary Party



Americo Duarte, shipyard worker at the Lisbon ship yards is a former member of the Maoist Popular Democratic Union and was its representative in the Constituent Assembly which in 1975 drew up Portugal's Constitution. He is now a member of the O.U.T. Central Committee.

In a speech at the Congress Duarte stated: "The April 25 Revolution failed to end capitalism because it lacked proletarian leadership. The parliamentary road has led us nowhere. We have to organize to struggle to take power." □

(PRP), the Popular Socialist Front (a left split from the Socialist Party three years ago), and BASE, a revolutionary syndicalist group with roots in the left Catholic tradition.

It has also received the support of many independent revolutionaries, smaller groups and former members of the SP and CP.

Many workers, disillusioned with the other political parties, are waiting to see if the O.U.T. is a real alternative.

A worker from the Setnave naval yards summed up the sentiment among his workmates: "We've had it with the SP and CP. But we've also had enough leaflets and resolutions.

"We want to see some concrete action. We want a solution. If the O.U.T. provides that, well, then we'll support it."



Joel Geier, addressing the Congress on behalf of the International Socialists. One significant feature of the Congress was the large number of foreign delegations. Many came from national liberation movements in Asia and Africa, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman; Fretilin (from East Timor); Polisario (from Western Sahara); and the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front.

Others represented resistance movements from Latin American dictatorships, such as the internal section of the Chilean Socialist Party. A large number of Spanish revolutionaries were there, to see if this alternative would also be a solution to the problems of the Spanish left. Proletarian internationalism was one of the themes of the Congress and its first public rally.

O.U.T. faces many problems. It has been organized late in the Portuguese revolution, while the resurgent right wing is consolidating its positions.

There is little time for the O.U.T. to carry out the great tasks in front of it. It is still a pre-party formation.

**It must quickly build up an organizational structure for its new, large membership which is currently organized only on a factory unit basis, as well as defining its political positions.**

O.U.T. hopes to achieve this, and prepare to take part in Parliamentary elections when the government falls. It expects this will be in the fall.

O.U.T. must also prove its effectiveness as an alternative to the right, as well as the traditional workers' parties. It believes that in



The Congress sent greetings and voted its support to liberate Afonso Sousa, an imprisoned revolutionary militant. Afonso was sentenced to 13 years in jail in a police frame up, a victim of the growing fascist repression in Portugal's law courts. His only crime is that he belongs to the PRP, one of the groups which supports the new O.U.T.

In a visit to Afonso Sousa in jail, Afonso told me that he felt the O.U.T. was the last great hope, not only of political prisoners but of the Portuguese Revolution. "The O.U.T. represents the potential of uniting workers for the socialist revolution. It may have the ability to reactivate many workers who have been demoralized by the reformists, but who will join a mass alternative which can provide a revolutionary solution."

organizing concrete acts of resistance to the advances of bosses and landlords, it can prove that revolutionary socialist politics and methods of struggle are that alternative.

Zeca Fonseca spoke for the O.U.T. leadership at its first public rally of 5000 people in Lisbon's bull ring. He said:

**"We are going to transform the O.U.T. into an effective instrument for the taking of power by the workers. Our initial success has led us to believe in victory.**

"Now it is up to the militants to join, to struggle with us, to recognize that this organization is vital to the working class if it is to take power and institute socialism." □



Lisbon, July 1975: Demonstration calling for revolutionary councils. In many factories workers kicked out the fascist bosses and began organizing production under their own control. Demonstrations like this one called for these committees to join together to establish workers' control throughout Portugal.

# Speaking Out

What We Think

## ON THE HEELS OF THE MINERS

In a San Francisco Postal Service bulk mail center, the personnel manager sent all supervisors a memo complaining about the large number of work days lost because of injuries.

Instead of asking that safety conditions on the job be improved, he complained that first level supervisors hadn't been harsh enough with workers—hadn't issued enough warnings and taken adequate disciplinary action.

Negotiations have just opened between the Postal Service and a union bargaining council composed of representatives of the four postal unions. The contract, which expires July 20, promises to challenge the Carter administration's economic policy.

Carter's "inflation fighter," Robert Strauss, said recently that postal negotiations were a main target of the administration's efforts to keep wage increases down to 5.5%.

When there are problems with the capitalist system, when profits fall and inflation rises, the employers' solution is to attack the living standards of workers. They are helped along by the government, newspapers, and television, who, while accepting the sanctity of profits as god-given, do not flinch from calling for wage restraint.

If postal workers do not negotiate a good contract, the costs of mailing will be lower, and business profits higher. Business is the largest user of the mails, particularly second and third class mail.

Employers should be happy with these changes already made in the Post Office:

- Since 1970, productivity has risen 14%, despite a drop in the workforce of 74,000 people.

- Jobs have become more dangerous and nerve-shattering. Carriers have had their routes lengthened. Automation has created jobs where people are little more than machines.

- "Casuals" have been hired to do the work of regulars, at lower wages, with fewer benefits.

- Mandatory overtime—often 10 hours a day, six days a week, for months on end, has worn workers to the bone and adversely affected personal lives.

- Harassment by supervision seems to have become normal operating procedure.

- Working conditions are so poor that the accident rate is two and a half times that of other federal employees. Injury compensation was more than half a billion dollars last year.

- Suits involving violations of the Fair Employment Standards Act by postal management are expected eventually to cost the Postal Service about \$1 billion.

And the pay for enduring life in the Post Office? Not much at all.

The government has just set its "intermediate" standard of living for a family of four at \$17,943. A mailhandler earns \$13,062. A "level 5, step 12" employee earns \$16,182.

As the contract deadline approaches, government, and the media, are sure to call for restraint on the part of postal workers, in the name of "public interest."

But "public interest" is not guarding high profits for the handful of rich who receive them, it's that there be decent, safe, well-paid jobs for all.

Strikes of postal workers are illegal. With the miners' strike still fresh on everyone's mind, Labor Secretary Ray Marshall is warning that the Carter administration would seek a court injunction against a postal strike.

We support the right of postal workers to strike, just as we support the right to strike for all workers.

The miners, defying Taft-Hartley, proved the power of their labor, and won a better contract.

Postal workers, to improve their lives, may very well have to do the same.

### Fighting Words

"Slaves are generally expected to sing as well as to work."

—Frederick Douglass

As I See It

## GAS SHORTAGE IN OIL COUNTRY?

by Barracuda

Going to the grocery store the other day I saw a bumper sticker on a car: "Let the bastards freeze in the dark." This is a popular sentiment here in Texas, a response to those "Yankees" who are believed to pay less for oil and gas.

Texas is the largest producer of domestic oil and gas in the U.S. and is the seat of the oil companies who have the whole country in their pockets. How did they manage to get the whole country in their pockets?

It all started in Texas. The oil companies took over a consumer commission, called the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates oil and gas as well as railroads. They accomplished this by insisting that only those who were familiar with the oil companies could control them.

Using this commission, they deregulated the price of oil and gas in Texas. According to their argument, this was supposed to lead to competition and hence reduce prices.

This did not happen; the prices went up and the Texas public screamed. The Railroad Commission was then given the power to dictate the amount of oil and gas the companies could produce.

The oil companies came up with a catchword: CONSERVATION. They produced papers and documents showing that oil reserves in Texas were being exhausted. They demanded the Railroad Commission start conservation by limiting the "allowables," the amount of oil and gas a company is allowed to produce.

This resulted in a perpetual shortage in Texas. With demand greater than supply, the price of oil and gas escalated and Texas workers paid hell.

### COMPANIES PROSPER, WORKERS PAY

The oil companies blamed federal interstate regulation, and those "damned Yankees" who control it, for the higher prices. The slogan "Let the bastards freeze in the dark" was popularized to appease ordinary Texans. Meanwhile the oil companies got richer and richer, and invested their money

in refineries, utility industries and banks that bought up gas stations all over the country.

In New York, Detroit, and all over America, workers also paid hell. All the oil companies had to do to achieve this was transfer their loss from federal regulation to the consumers—by increasing refining cost, utility bills and the cost of a gallon of gas at gas stations.

To pacify everybody else in the country, the oil companies screamed about Arab oil, OPEC, foreign imports, and asked for more money to invest in exploration.

Tax breaks, a depletion allowance, depreciation allowance and exploration incentives, have not brought the prices down. In fact, the prices are now escalating at an alarming rate. The way I see it, this company-profits-merry-go-round will continue at our expense until workers organize and stop it.

### 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 exists—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.



# The Socialist View

IS THERE A CONFLICT?

# Socialism & National Liberation

by Sandy Boyer

Someone once asked me why a group that calls itself the International Socialists talks so much about defending national liberation. We had been talking about socialists supporting the IRA's efforts to free Northern Ireland from British domination, the movement for Puerto Rican independence from the U.S., the fight against white minority rule in Rhodesia and South Africa; and the overthrow of Portuguese colonial rule of the African nations Mozambique and Angola in 1974 and 1975.

My friend felt socialists should be trying to unite workers in different countries. Stressing national liberation struggles, he felt, pits the workers of the colonial country against workers in the imperialist country. How can "workers of all countries unite," as Karl Marx instructed, if they are trying to form new nations?

But to the International Socialists, that is like saying Black and white workers in this country should unite by ignoring racism.

People whose country is being occupied by another have the same right to resist that Black people have to fight back against racism.

Any time people organize to fight back against oppression of foreign control, it is a victory for workers everywhere because it encourages others to do the same. When the Vietnamese defeated U.S. imperialism, it inspired people all over the world.

## IN OUR INTEREST

We also realize that the U.S. government and multi-national corporations which suck Puerto Rico's riches into their own coffers, and which subsidize minority rule in Southern Africa, are also behind the growing economic attacks on American workers.

American working people have a real stake in supporting struggles against U.S. imperialism. It is working people who will be sent to fight and die in any new Vietnams. Today, in Puerto Rico, the U.S.-backed colonial government is trying out strike breaking techniques that can be used on American workers next.

The colonial government has introduced legislation outlawing industrial unions for public employees—only craft unions would be permitted. Another bill would impose binding arbitration for public employees' wages, seniority, pay scales and working conditions—effectively eliminating collective bargaining. The government has locked out 6200 electrical workers in an attempt to break their union. Their employer is a semi-public agency owned by U.S. banks. The British Army already has contingency plans for using



Socialists support national liberation movements, such as in Puerto Rico (top, left), Northern Ireland (center and lower left), Viet Nam (center), and Angola (background).

brutal crowd control methods it developed in Northern Ireland—including rubber bullets and CS gas—against strikes or riots in Britain.

Socialists believe the real way to unite workers in

different countries is to organize against imperialism—in our case, especially American imperialism.

Ordinary Americans have no stake in keeping Puerto Rico a colony or keeping South Africa's apartheid regime in power. On the contrary, as long as American corporations can get away with paying starvation wages in these countries, our jobs are in jeopardy.

## WHAT ABOUT TERRORISM?

Another argument against national liberation movements is that they sometimes use violence or terrorism for their cause.

But supporting the struggle for national liberation doesn't mean we automatically support everything the liberation movements do.

We're against terrorism, but not because it's violent. Imperialism is ten times more violent than any terrorists could ever be. But terrorist acts don't help build a movement that can actually free colonial countries.

Bombings, hijackings, and the like are the work of tight knit, conspiratorial groups. They leave the masses of people to be passive spectators who at best applaud the heroic actions taken on their behalf.

When terrorist acts kill innocent working class people, as they often do, it can weaken the liberation movement. For example, recent Provisional IRA bombing of a suburban Belfast restaurant killed twelve innocent people. It resulted in a backlash against the IRA even in the Catholic ghettos of Northern Ireland where the IRA has their main support.

But socialists still defend terrorists when they are arrested or imprisoned.

We have helped build movements to free Provisional IRA members in British prisons and members of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party imprisoned in America.

We say that no imperialist government has a right to imprison anyone for fighting for their country's freedom. How can the American government, which slaughtered hundreds of Puerto Rican nationalists at Jayuya, Puerto Rico in 1947, condemn other Puerto Ricans for trying to assassinate the U.S. President? The British government, which cynically planned the 1972 "Bloody Sunday" massacre in Derry, Northern Ireland, shouldn't be allowed to imprison and torture IRA militants.

If these governments really care about ending the violence, all they have to do is free their colonies.

But it will take a tremendous mass movement to force them to do that. And socialists in the U.S., the world's leading imperialist power, have a special responsibility to do everything we can to build that movement. □

## Letters

# Reader Supports Boycott of Spain's Union Elections

Dear Workers' Power:

The article in the March 13 Workers' Power on the union elections in Spain contained a number of inaccuracies.

It is true that the Workers' Commissions, controlled by the Spanish Communist Party, received a plurality of 38% in the elections, with the General Union of Workers (UGT), controlled by the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, running second with 31%.

However, you fail to point out that over two-thirds of Spain's workers failed to vote in these elections. In other words only 12.5% of the workers actually voted for the Workers' Commissions.

Given the ferment in Spain right now, this isn't just apathy. On the contrary, the anarcho-syndicalist National Confederation of Labor (CNT) has called for a nationwide boycott of the union elections.

The CNT's boycott campaign included mass meetings of tens of thousands of workers all over Spain.

The union elections are simply an attempt by Spain's ruling class to maintain the class-collaborationist bureaucratic system of the old fascist National Union Center (CSN), but in a "liberalized" form....

By contrast, the CNT is the only

union to support the mass movement in recent years known as the "Assembly Movement." There have been mass strikes involving hundreds of thousands of workers in recent years, where decision-making power rested in the hands of mass meetings of all the workers in the shop....

The workers' assemblies have conducted militant struggles in opposition to the bosses, the cops

and the bureaucrats of the CSN and the Workers' Commissions, like the major strike at Roca, a metal fabricating plant in Catalonia. The strike was sabotaged by the Workers' Commissions, but supported by the CNT....

The superior militancy of the UGT and CNT is reflected by the fact that the UGT and CNT are dominant in areas that have witnessed the greatest recent upsurge, or where the revolutionary traditions are strongest: Asturias, the Basque area, Catalonia and Valencia.

The Workers' Commissions are numerically dominant in Estramadura, Leon and Castille, areas with a more conservative labor tradition....

The police and the right-wing have been engaging in a lot of acts lately, aimed at discrediting the CNT so as to give a pretext for outlawing it.... All the more reason to print the full truth here in America about the revival of the largest revolutionary labor movement in the industrialized capitalist world.

Tom Wetzel  
Milwaukee

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

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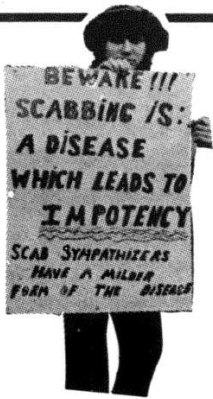
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# Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate a bill to reduce the work week for **fire fighters** at Defense Department and other federal installations from 72 to 56 hours. The House passed the bill by a vote of 241-129, despite objections from the Carter Administration.



Nearly ten years ago **Consolidation Coal's Farmington, W. Va. mine** blew up, killing 78 miners—almost everyone who was underground at the time. Nineteen bodies are still there, and on April 19, the company announced it would stop searching for them. "This is the second blackest day of my life, after November 20, 1968, when the mine blew up," said Sarah Kasnowski, head of a committee of widows. Consolidation Coal plans to seal the mine and put up a monument to the missing miners. "The [coal] reserves that will be lost in there are minimal," a company spokesman said.

The AFL-CIO has added its support to a **United Steelworkers' boycott** of Pet, Inc., due to a strike at **Pet's Hussmann Refrigerator** subsidiary. Hussmann is using 1000 scabs to replace 1500 strikers at its Bridgeton, Missouri plant. Meanwhile, the National Labor Relations Board has asked for a federal court injunction against the Steelworkers' boycott, charging that it is an illegal secondary boycott. The basis for this charge is Pet's claim that Hussmann is a separate company. That's a claim which we suspect Pet would discard when it comes time to count the profits.

The government's new "poverty level" for an urban family of four is **\$6200 a year**. That's up \$350 from last year, due to inflation. We might note that \$6200 a year works out to \$2.98 an hour for 52 weeks of full time work—or 33 cents an hour above the federal minimum wage.

Hotel and restaurant workers in Detroit are unhappy with their union, **Local 24 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees**. About 75 union members picketed the local's offices April 17, complaining about four-year standard contracts. "They took away too much in the last contract, things we have had for years," said one. Local 24 is headed by Herbert Triplett, who took over when Myra Wolfgang died in 1976.

President Carter calls an agreement between four major construction companies and most **construction unions** "a superb example of how business and labor can cooperate to the mutual advantage of both sides of the bargaining table and at the same time be of great benefit to our country." In the agreement, which applies to construction of **nuclear power plants**, the unions give up the right to strike and many work rules. The agreement is binding on local construction unions, although many will not like it. It is not clear what the unions got in return, other than a pledge that the employers will not resort to lockouts.

One of the funniest characters of all the criminals attached to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters must be **Chuckie O'Brien**. Supporters of the United Farm Workers' grape and lettuce boycott several years ago will remember him as the Teamster organizer who flew around the country making a fool of himself in public debates with UFW members. More recently, he's been linked to the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa.

Now a Teamster organizer in Florida, O'Brien is currently on trial in Detroit for using phony documents to get a \$32,000 bank loan to buy a condominium. Typical of O'Brien's ineptness as a crook are the results: he got the loan, bought the condominium, made what he says was \$10,000 worth of improvements in it, had it repossessed just before he was to move in because he couldn't keep up the payments, and is now facing a jail term for it all.

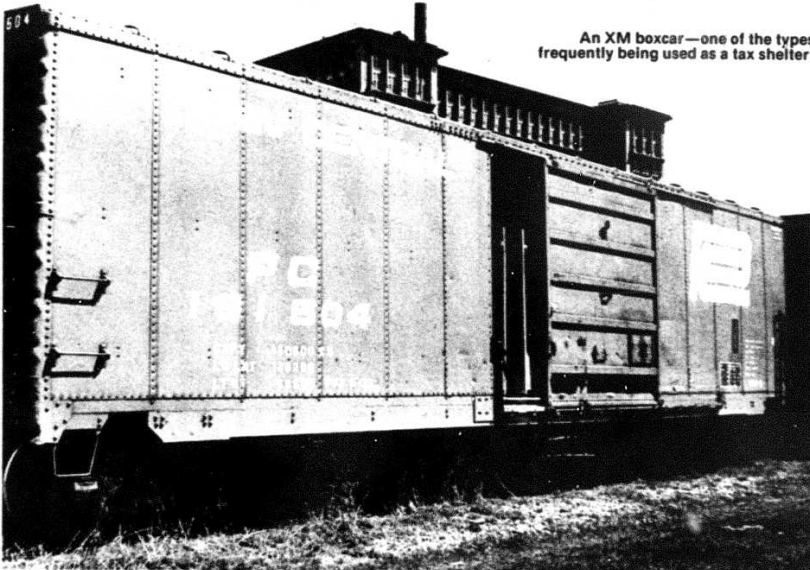
A more successful example than O'Brien might be **Joseph Bernstein**, head of **Teamsters Local 781** in Chicago. It was recently revealed that Bernstein has arranged for this local of some 10,000 warehouse employees and workers in small shops—mostly poorly-paid Blacks and Latinos—to give him \$600,000 in severance pay when he retires. This will be in addition to his pension, which could easily be in the range of \$100,000 a year.

## Pbgh Clinic Workers Strike

**PITTSBURGH, April 19**—About 100 supporters of the **National Health Service Committee and Hospital Workers Union 1199** gathered in the pouring rain to support the nine-week-old strike of 120 aides, orderlies and dietitians at **Western Psychiatric Clinic** here. The union has won recognition, but is now fighting for its first contract. The strike is being broken by scabs. Shouting slogans such as "Hey, hey, 1199 is here to stay!" the marchers in a spirited show of support demanded that the University of Pittsburgh, which runs the

Clinic, negotiate with the strikers. This demonstration followed by a couple of weeks the cornering of President Posvar of the University by the 1199 Support Committee, which trapped Posvar in an elevator demanding that he negotiate. The struggle of the 1199 strikers is an important step for organizing hospital and university workers in the Pittsburgh area. The University Board of Trustees, who have connections with the industrial powers in the city, are determined not to let the unions gain a foothold in the area's largest employer—the university. □

# SHELTER



An XM boxcar—one of the types frequently being used as a tax shelter.

by Jim Woodward

IT USED TO BE the only folks who used a boxcar for a shelter were hobos or the unemployed, riding the rails from town to town. Now boxcars are becoming the trendy thing in shelters for the \$100,000 a year and up crowd.

Not as live-in shelters, to be sure, but tax shelters. If you're in the 50% tax bracket, you might be interested in this exciting new possibility.

Key to understanding boxcars is a knowledge of this country's tax laws. Jack Parker understands the tax story as well as anyone. He's executive vice president of Railcar, Inc., an Atlanta firm which provides management services for people who want to invest in boxcars.

Parker explained that the best boxcars to buy are either the XM type, which hauls general commodities, or the XF boxcar, which carries food. These two are in particularly short supply, and can therefore command higher revenues.

### TAX BREAKS

An investor can buy a boxcar for around \$30,000 - \$35,000. Generally, he will put 20% down, and finance the rest through a bank or other financial institution. As soon as you buy a boxcar, you can take advantage of numerous tax breaks:

- A 10% tax credit. If your boxcar cost \$33,000, that's \$3,300. "That's a total write-off, not a deduction," Parker pointed out. You just subtract it from the taxes you owe. You get this credit because of a law Congress has passed relating to buying equipment of any type.
- A bonus deduction of \$2000 for yourself plus \$2000 for your wife, if you're filing jointly. If you itemized your deductions on your tax return this year, you're familiar with this sort of thing—it's like a charitable contribution to your church. Parker notes that since "we're talking about a man in the 50% tax

bracket, that's \$2000 [tax savings]."

• **Depreciation.** To figure this, we subtract the \$4000 in the last item from the \$33,000 purchase price, leaving \$29,000. Divide that by 12, and we get the annual depreciation of about \$2400. That's another deduction, and you take the first installment right away. In the 50% tax bracket, that's another \$1200 tax savings.

• Also deductible, Parker explains, are "any up-front management costs or lawyer's fees or anything that might be accrued in putting this package together. Assume \$500 tax savings here.

### WIPED OUT

When you add it up? "An investor's first year write-off will probably be right around \$7000. Boom, the second he buys that car," said Parker. "That's the tax shelter. Literally his 20% [downpayment] is wiped out by what he saves on taxes. This is the attraction to the 50% tax bracket man."

Boom. A lesson on how to buy something for nothing.

"From that point on," Parker continued, "that car has an income stream of about \$8000 a year." This income comes from rental fees averaging out to nearly \$25 a day whenever the car is on the move.

Since the XM and XF types are in short supply, the proud new boxcar owner can count on about 80% utilization, according to Parker.

But there's a catch. The car must be kept off its home railroad. The name of this line is painted on the side of each boxcar. It collects the rental fee only when it's being used by another railroad.

Here's where people like Jack Parker come in. For a 12% management fee, Parker will find loadings, provide profit statements, and look after insurance and maintenance for the owner.

And he has a simple trick for keeping the boxcar off its home railroad. "We [register] it on some

short line that may be 30 or 40 or 50 miles long," Parker explains. The car will then be marked "XYZ Short Line," but will be available to whatever railroad wants to use it. It will rarely, if ever, see its home line.

For the Wall Street crowd, this must be a comforting thought. If the stock market takes another dive, if all their other investments turn sour and they have to bail out in a hurry, there's no need to jump out the nearest window if they have their own personal shelter riding around out there, just waiting for them. □

## Problem: Not Enough Boxcars

According to people in the boxcar field, there has been a big surge of interest in this type of investment recently. "It's unbelievable," said one. "Tremendous interest," exclaimed another.

But, as with many good things, there's a problem. Not enough boxcars. The problem is the limited manufacturing capability in the United States for boxcar wheel and axle housings. "No one wants to get into this business because OSHA is driving them nuts," said one source who didn't want to be identified. "OSHA is saying you've got to get these guys [the workers who make the castings for these parts] in a pure, perfect environment—they're getting gases."

"It's driven down the profit in that industry so much that people are getting out of it. It's a sad situation."

So all of you out there working in castings factories with a pure, perfect environment and no gases, shed a tear for the poor investor who can't find a boxcar to take shelter in. □



# A jazz master is back

BLUES LOVERS, big band nostalgia freaks, mainstreams jazz followers—even adventurous country music fans in search of "roots"—should all be encouraged to hear this new LP by the long-neglected pianist Jay McShann.

**The last of the Blue Devils**, by the Jay McShann Septet, featuring McShann on piano and vocals, Atlantic SD 8800.

More than 35 years ago, McShann was the leader of one of the last great "swing" bands.

While most popular bands of that day were already degenerating into a stiff, formula-ridden routine, McShann's sound retained the open, loose and spontaneous quality of Kansas City or "southwest" jazz.

Write "western swing" band leaders such as Bob Willis borrowed and adapted this style of playing from Black musicians like McShann, Count Basie and earlier artists.

This became the basis for the elements of swing heard in much of modern country-and-western music.

The McShann band of the early '40's stood at a musical crossroads in more ways than one.

Besides preserving the sound of Kansas City Black swing, it launched the career of the revolutionary jazz modernist, Charlie Parker.

After the wartime draft and changing economic conditions forced the band to break up, McShann spent most of the next three decades in obscurity. The rise of rhythm-and-blues and rock-and-roll, both partly indebted to "Kansas City" styles, left Jay McShann and many others high and dry.

Under these conditions, it is unusual for a creative artist to be able to keep artistic ability intact. McShann, however, has not only done this, but in fact now plays better than ever.

In the past few years he has been "rediscovered," and begun recording again.

On this recording, several of his big band's best-selling blues hits are performed by a seven-piece group including Paul Quinichette (who worked for McShann in the '40's) and Buddy Tate on tenor saxophone, Joe Newman on trumpet and John Scofield on guitar.

On "Hootie Blues," originally arranged by Charlie Parker, McShann effectively uses electric piano to replace the background riff played by the saxophone section of the big band, giving it a new rhythmic feel as well.

As many music lovers know, nothing can really replace the sound of a full-size band. Listeners who enjoy this LP can follow up by tracking down recordings of the original McShann band, which are still available on Decca.

## MASTER PIANIST

But if the big-band sound is missed, McShann's piano more than makes up.

From a pleasant but relatively ordinary blues pianist, he has become a master.

Hopefully, McShann will be given much more chance to pursue the direction pointed to in the one solo piano feature on this LP.

Jay McShann's music, far from being a relic of a bygone era, has continued to grow for 30 years. But for most of that time, the recording industry wasn't listening.

"Last of the Blue Devils" documents how creative music, particularly Black music, manages to survive and develop in this society despite nearly impossible economic odds. □

Dan Posen

# REVIEWS— The Boys In Company C

by R.F. Kampfer

I might not be the best choice to review "The Boys In Company C", since I had my military experience in the Army, where it is an article of faith that Marines are not fit to be trusted with live ammunition.

Marines, on the other hand, all believe that soldiers sleep in their uniforms and never wash above the wrists. Nevertheless, I will try to be objective.

"The Boys in Company C" tells of the experiences of a group of Marines in training and combat in 1967.

It's a period that's starting to fade in our memories, and it makes you feel a little old to realize that there are young men of military age today who don't shudder at the mention of Khe Sanh or the Tet Offensive.

## The Boys in Company C, Columbia Pictures

It was a time of changing ideas and long casualty lists.

Some troops were starting to march in anti-war rallies, smoke dope and frag their officers, but others still supporter the war; and nobody knew which way we'd go.

We might be heading for a revolution or a full-scale war with China. Either way, a lot of us wouldn't come out alive.

The movie gives us a taste of what it was really like, but it can't catch the real feeling. We know now what the bottom line was in Viet Nam; back then it was still up in the air.

The civil rights movement was at its height, the ghettos were burning, students were shutting down another university every week, people were deciding that they needed a new life-style.

We were smoking grass, dropping acid and turning on to the greatest music of the century while we debated the future of the world.

The Beatles, Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Jimmy Hendrix, Simon and Garfunkel and Joan Baez were all telling us that some big changes were coming and we'd better get a handle on them.

You take a kid out of this



1965—First Marines land in Viet Nam.

environment and you put him in the Marine Corps, one of the most rigid and authoritarian institutions in the world, and you are going to set up some tensions. I don't know if any movie could make you feel what it was really like, unless you lived through it.

Instead, the movie teaches us some lessons that go back a lot further than Viet Nam. In fact, they could apply to the Greek army at the siege of Troy.

The first lesson is that troops at the front have to depend on each other above all else.

History is full of incidents where soldiers who had absolutely no hope of military victory and no belief in the war aims of their government have kept on fighting hard and well, purely out of loyalty to their comrades.

In fact, the movie repeats this

point so often that it practically drives it right into the ground.

The second lesson is that the best way to get along in the military is to tell the brass what they want to hear.

I can testify from personal experience that in the Army, forgery is a way of life.

Whether it's test scores, vehicle maintenance, or body counts—somewhere along the line, somebody gets out the magic pencil and changes the figures to whatever will make the high command happy.

The rule is that whatever the C.O. doesn't know won't hurt him.

The final lesson is that there are some things worth risking your

neck for.

In the case of Company C, they have the choice of collaborating with a murderous and corrupt Saigon official or being shipped off to Khe Sanh.

They find that every once in a while, you have to draw the line without counting the cost.

Originally, the movie made it clear that you have to pay the cost in the form of a post-script telling us what happens to the main characters after the end of the film. One dead, one a vegetable in a VA hospital, one in Canada.

However, the distributors found that this made the audience too depressed, so they cut it out. Such is Hollywood.



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# WORKERS' POWER

## NY Transit Workers Win First Round

by Mike Urquhart

NEW YORK—Rank and file transit workers won a stunning victory Tuesday in their fight to reject the tentative contract settlement.

In a surprise move, the Transport Workers Union (TWU) leadership agreed to throw out the existing ratification ballots and hold a new vote supervised by the American Arbitration Association.

In a related development, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, covering bus drivers and mechanics in Queens, voted by an overwhelming 739-157 to reject the same contract.

### TWO "MISTAKES"

The union's actions came as a result of a court suit by the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers.

On Monday, a judge had issued a 24-hour temporary restraining order against counting the ballots, and asked lawyers for the two sides to try to work out their differences.

The next day, John O'Donnell, lawyer for the union, admitted the union made two "mistakes" in the voting, and agreed to a new vote.

First, the vote included members covered by separate contracts with private bus lines, in violation of the TWU's local by-laws.

Second, the wording of the "no" line on the ballot read: "I reject and vote to strike." This may have been in violation of an injunction against taking any action that may lead to a strike.

The rank and file had argued that this wording was designed to intimidate members into accepting the contract. The union also sent letters out claiming that a "no" vote meant immediate strike, and that this would mean disaster for the union and the city.

The real pressure that forced the union officials to back down and call a second vote, was the anger shown by transit workers who organized a mass picket line of



New York transit workers gather at courthouse where they won an injunction against union's "intimidating" contract ratification ballots. City wants "givebacks" in contract.

1000 rank and filers at union headquarters.

Since then, other meetings have been taking place around the city.

Henry Lewis, a motorman and leader of the Coalition of Concerned Transit Workers, explained the actions they were taking: "We are not out here to cause a strike. We are out here to get justice."

"We want this contract voted down. The ballot wording ['I reject and vote to strike'] should be removed. It's an intimidation clause. They claim the whole city rests on our shoulders."

Opposition to the contract continues to center on the inadequate

wage increase and the introduction of 200 part-timers. In the last contract two years ago, transit workers got no wage increase.

Both union members and the city administration see the part-time issue as the opening wedge for future massive "give-backs" by the union.

A new vote will take about a month. This delay will further disrupt the city's attempt to get all its contracts settled in time to get federal aid.

While transit workers are working hard to reject the contract, Victor Gotbaum, head of AFSCME District Council 37, announced he

was willing to accept even less for his union.

Whether or not his members share his spirit of sacrificing them remains to be seen.

Transit workers have an opportunity to get an honest vote on the contract. They must now organize to make sure it is honest, and that it returns a massive "no" vote.

Meanwhile, other city workers are beginning to organize. A coalition, the New York City Workers Alliance, is being formed to build support for transit workers and fight for decent contracts for other city workers.

Robert Sherman, motorman with the Transit Authority, pointed out the significance of the increased activity by the rank and file:

"Hard licks and steady blows will change the mind of an elephant. We have got to stick together."

"The injunction [against counting the first ballot] shows what can be done if we stay united."

That is the most important lesson. The miners were the first to show it, and transit workers are adding their own chapter. Rank and file action and solidarity can move mountains and fight City Hall. □

## Local 869, UAW: Progressive Slate on the move

by Steve Phillips  
UAW Local 869

WARREN, Mich. — Here at Chrysler's Warren Stamping Plant, local union officers and committeemen are up for election.

For 20 years, this 3000-member local has been dominated by a group called the "Rank and File Slate."

They controlled the local on the votes of the white skilled trades and retirees. They also had the backing of the International.

In this election, it appears that the administration slate. The

Rank and File Slate, will be dealt a death blow.

For years they have alienated the production workers, who are the majority of the plant, but recently they have also failed to deliver to their skilled trades base.

Bill Sims, the shop committee chairman and production committeeman is running as an independent candidate for Local President. He should win overwhelmingly.

### PROGRESSIVE SLATE

Throughout 1976 and '77, hundreds of new people hired into the

plant. Three one-day strikes occurred in the same period, including a wildcat led by skilled tradesmen that won re-instatement of a fired apprentice.

The local contract was rejected twice by the membership in 1977.

This new militancy has given rise to the Progressive Slate, who got together last year during the contract rejections to run in the convention delegate and vice-president elections.

Dave McCullough, candidate for vice-president, won, despite a vicious red-baiting campaign against him.

In elections this month The Progressive Slate is running six people for the Executive Board, including McCullough for committeeman.

The slate is also fielding chief steward candidates in most of the non-skilled trades.

In a campaign leaflet, McCullough explains his goal is to be elected committeeman, in order to run for Plant Shop Committee Chairman, who is elected by the Shop Committee.

The Progressive Slate program is

simple: "To build a leadership team to restore democracy in our local and stop management from walking all over us."

In practice, this means a lot more, including: having line stewards, shift meetings, fighting speed-up, seniority rights, and democratically run union meetings.

Chrysler's campaign to cut costs at the expense of working conditions is running up against some stiff resistance here at Warren Stamping. If elected, the Progressive Slate will organize that resistance into a powerful in-plant union machine. □