

No Contract-No Coal MINERS ANSWER GOV'T STRIKEBREAKING

Sunday, March 5 the results of the coal miners' vote were reported. They had turned thumbs-down on the BCOA's lousy "final offer" by a margin of better than 2 to 1. On Monday, March 6, President Jimmy Carter announced that he was "disappointed that this agreement was not approved," and said he intended to force the striking miners back to work with the Taft-Hartley Act. As *The Worker* goes to press, the miners are saying they won't be forced back to work without a good contract by anyone, and the government is preparing new attacks on the miners.

The longest coal strike in the nation's history has entered a new stage. The powerful unity of the rank and file has withstood for three months the onslaught of the coal bosses, the treachery of their own top union officials, the attacks of the police, the slanders of the news media and the interference of the politicians. Now they are facing the full might of the owning class' government itself — its courts, its cops, its armed forces. The government has entered the battle on the side of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) to do what coal owners themselves could not — break the resistance of the miners.

THE LINES ARE DRAWN

From the start the opposing forces have stood out clearly. On the one side are the coal companies, mostly owned and run by corporate giants like U.S. Steel and Exxon. Since the energy squeeze began they have been smelling big, big profits in coal and to cash in, they have to increase production and productivity. It soon became clear that if the coal bosses can't guarantee a large, steady supply of coal and keep prices well below that of oil, customers will look elsewhere for fuel and power. It's no wonder the BCOA is so desperate to bring the miners to their knees, to force more production out of them and break their tradition of striking against unsafe conditions and bad treatment. Desperation is not the only thing driving the owners. Like wolves following a wound-



ed animal, they scent blood in the traitorous leadership and internal turmoil of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). They see a golden opportunity to reduce the union to impotence and institute a new era of total company domination in the coalfields.

On the other side of the battle line stand the miners. Their interests are 100% opposed to the operators. They do dirty, grueling work under horrible conditions, constantly threatened by explosion or collapse of "soft top," daily breathing dust that produces Black Lung disease. For miners, like all workers, "productivity" means more suffering and hazards, and "stability" means limiting their ability to fight back.

And just as the government has swung into action on behalf of the operators, the miners have found a wave of support building for them among the working people of this country despite the efforts of politicians and the media to portray them as greedy and irresponsible. Collections of food and money, letters and telegrams, support resolutions, have poured into the coalfields. Car caravans, plant-gate rallies and demonstrations have shown that there is sympathy and

solidarity with the miners in every industry.

The terms of this battle are clear. One class against another. The owning class wants to crush the miners. The miners need, deserve and are starting to get the support of their class brothers and sisters everywhere in this battle.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CONTRACT OFFER

The contract the miners rejected stank (see accompanying box for details). Nevertheless, this deal got quite a hard sell. President Carter made a speech about it: "This agreement serves the national interest as well as your own interest and those of your families. If it is not approved without delay, time will have run out for all of us and I will have to take . . . drastic and unsatisfactory legal action . . ." UMWA president Arnold Miller dipped deep into union funds to "do a better selling job" than he had on the previous sellout he negotiated. This "selling job," costing over \$40,000, included buying radio and TV time, ailing out "explanations" with the contracts and a big push by union of-

ficials to put it over in the locals.

The miners responded by holding meetings to discuss the contract and how to proceed in light of Carter's threats. A common feature of these meetings was the burning or ripping up of the proposed sell-out. Undismayed by the continued treachery of their top leaders, miners continued stopping scab coal and demonstrating against the attacks on them. And they prepared themselves for the storm of struggle that was sure to break out when they turned thumbs-down on the proposed contract.

The "No" vote capped a month of the most intense struggle in the coal fields. Throughout the entire 90 days of battle, there have been many different social forces maneuvering on the battlefield — the BCOA and other mineowners, the police, the federal government and different state officials, different levels of leadership within the UMWA, the working class as a whole, the news media, the top hacks in the AFL-CIO, even the farmers. But the center of things all along has been the rank and file miners. Their powerful unity and militant determination has been the pivot around which events have turned, the force that has determined how all the other social forces have moved.

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DAVIS CUP

1,000s To March Vs. S.Africa

On March 17th-19th in Nashville, Tennessee the Davis Cup matches will pit the best tennis teams in the world against each other, but the real confrontation will occur between the sponsors of the event and the tens of thousands of demonstrators protesting the presence of the South African team there. The protest is part of a wave of growing mass opposition to apartheid, as people are mobilizing to isolate and attack the outlaw regime in South Africa and to expose U.S. support for the oppressive system there. Nationwide preparations for the demonstration have generated such heat that on February 15th, Dr. Richard Lapchick, head of the American Commission for Equality in Sport and Society (ACCESS), and one of the protest's most active organizers, was viciously beaten in his office at Virginia Wesleyan College. ACCESS and other groups across the country, ranging from the NAACP and the National Urban League, to Faculty Action and the Revolutionary Student Brigade, have joined with students and faculty at Vanderbilt University, where the matches will be held, to help build the demonstration.

Since Vanderbilt students and faculty took up the battle against the presence

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Strikers Speak

Six friends from western Pennsylvania, four coal miners and two steelworkers, talked with *The Worker* about the strike. We are reprinting part of the interview, which took place before the "No" vote and the imposition of Taft-Hartley.

THE WORKER: WHY IS THE STRIKE SO TOUGH THIS TIME?

DAVE (MINER): Damn coal companies trying to take too much away from us.

JACK (MINER): I don't think we're asking for too much. I don't see why the companies don't just settle up. They're the ones holding back.

ROD (MINER): The companies knew the strike was coming. Right before the strike they called back guys laid off from before the [Johnstown] flood. They called them back 3 weeks before the strike so they couldn't collect unemployment.

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Rebellion Grows In Nicaragua

At least 22 persons were killed and many more injured between February 26 and March 2 as demonstrations escalated against the brutal regime of General Anastasio Somoza, whose family has run the country for 42 years. The National Guard, which functions as Somoza's private police force, fired machine guns from armored cars and helicopters on an Indian uprising February 26, killing 12. On February 28th they fired automatic weapons into the air and tear gas into a crowd of thousands, killing ten, injuring 50, and

arresting hundreds. The thousands were responding to Somoza's announcement that he would not resign until his term ran out in 1981, (when his son would step in and continue the family's dictatorship).

Forced to appear in public behind a bulletproof glass since 1974, Somoza's speech was greeted by cries of "Death to Somoza!", "Somoza Resign!", and "We Want Democracy!"

The protests have been carried on by

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Letters

The Worker welcomes letters from its readers on any subject. Our address is: The Worker, 4409 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53216.

Set the Record Straight

We are a group of Art Steel Workers who are writing to *The Worker* to set the record straight on what happened in our strike and our fight against the company since then. Like any other capitalist, Art Steel is a vicious boss, paying lousy wages in sweatshop conditions to 500 workers, mostly Dominicans and Puerto Ricans. But there's been years of resistance to the company's attacks and in the strike we organized ourselves turning all our resistance and anger into a fist to fight the enemy.

From the very first days of the strike we saw that we needed an organization to pull together the most militant workers to plan how to fight this battle. We knew from other strikes that the stewards couldn't fight alone. Using our experience from the struggle in the plant and the spirit of unity we gained from the NUWO convention in Chicago, we formed a Strike Committee that became the backbone of the strike.

We constantly looked for ways to unite the workers from the 2 plants, which are a few miles apart, so that as many gains as possible could be made during the strike. Our Committee's storefront on 233 St. was a center of activity, strengthening the strike as young and old workers, Black, white and Latin workers, shared experiences and built that unity and militance we need in every battle against the bosses. To get out the news of the strike and build support in the neighborhoods around the plants, the Committee and the NUWO organized a march up Broadway and it was greeted very enthusiastically. The Committee was in the front of the fight against the cops doing the bosses dirty work, trying to bust up the picket lines and march. A real high point of the strike came at the dinner organized by the Committee and the NUWO. Under a big banner that said "Build the Unity of the Working Class" more than 40 of us and our families, and many NUWO members, joined together for an evening of celebration of the advances we had made so far in the strike and talked about what should be our next steps in this battle. Many of us got up and spoke about why we had come to the dinner, what we had learned in the battle so far and how we saw moving forward. One of our wives, part of the organizing committee for the dinner, spoke of our families pride in how we had fought so far and how they were determined to fight as long as necessary. A member of the NUWO from Eagle Electric spoke about their 5 month strike and how important it is to bring the unity and organization of the strike back into the plant to fight the bosses. Songs were sung of the struggles here in the U.S. and other countries. That dinner, like many parts of the strike, gave us a taste

of the power of our class when we unite to fight.

Despite their vicious attacks they weren't able to crush us. We were organized to fight them and we made some advances in the contract. It wasn't everything we want and need for our families but we forced them into doubling their original offer. We were able to go back in the plant with our heads held high, proud of our fight and more prepared for future battles.

Throughout this fight our union leadership, from DC 65 was usually standing on the side of the bosses, doing everything they could to keep the strike in their hands and make the workers weak. Every move these guys made against the rank and file only strengthened the company. They only came to the picket lines to spread lies and confusion. They constantly tried to divide us up—NUWO members against other workers, Puerto Ricans against Dominican, old against new. Eventually they held negotiations with only the sellout representatives there. The bosses and union misleaders were able to put through the final contract because of many things—the confusion they had created, the rotten weather and the fact that Christmas was coming and we were all broke. But even with all that we still had a large and well organized no vote.

As the strike ended DC 65 President David Livingston was heard to say "Art Steel is like a cancer in this union." Well, he said a mouthful, and for once it was the truth. The cancer he is so scared of is the rank and file running the union

and yes, he can be sure it's spreading in DC 65 and every other union.

We knew when we went back into the plant we would be facing many attacks from the company. Right away they fired a worker who was defended and got his job back. The company called the immigration department into the plant to try and scare and divide us up. Bob Farrell, the plant manager, was pointing out people to them who should be harassed. But this attack had just the opposite effect from what the company wanted—it united us more closely against them. We demand that the union take a stand against the raids and defend its members.

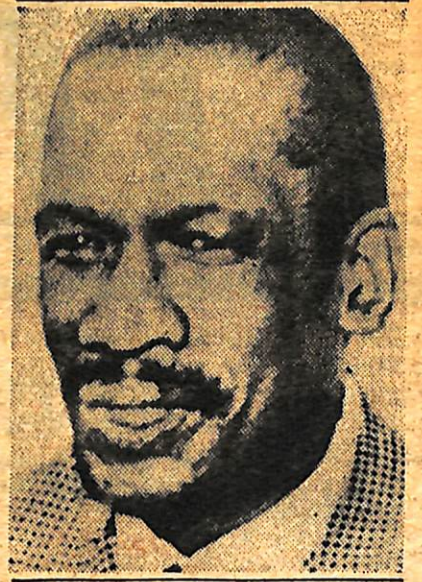
We face more important battles in the weeks ahead. We demand that the contract gets signed now. We're checking to see if the company has been discriminating against Dominicans in hiring and if they have, we're going to put them against the wall about it. In the course of these battles we're going to be building the Art Steel Workers Committee as the militant leader of our struggles in the plants.

We've learned a lot about who we're fighting and how to fight. The Art Steel bosses line up with the rest of their class, like the mine owners and the strike breaking rulers down in Puerto Rico. The only road forward is the same road of the miners and the Puerto Rican UTIER strikers—we have to mobilize our fellow workers to take things into our own hands and fight against the company and all our enemies.

A group of Art Steel workers



Unity, built in actions like this dinner with the NUWO, helped the Art Steel workers win advances in their contract struggle.



In Memoriam ROBERT SOBUKWE

On February 26th, Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, the President of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa) died of cancer at the age of 53. In Africa, and all over the world, supporters of freedom mourn the loss of this great leader of the struggle for liberation in southern Africa.

Sobukwe was President of PAC from its founding in 1959. In 1960, he led the first major actions against the apartheid rule in South Africa, protesting the law requiring blacks to carry passes. The government brutally attacked the demonstration at Sharpeville, killing 69. Since then, the white supremacist government has feared Sobukwe. He was arrested under the brutal Terrorism Act, and jailed for 3 years. While he was imprisoned, the government rewrote the laws, passing what came to be called the "Sobukwe clause" to keep him in jail without a trial. Sobukwe was imprisoned for 6 more years under this law, and when he was finally released, he was put under house arrest until his death. During this time the government prevented Sobukwe from receiving decent medical treatment and did not allow him to travel abroad for treatment.

In the face of these conditions he was still able to help lead the Pan Africanist Congress, which despite savage repression has grown into a large force leading political, economic and military struggles of the Azanian masses.

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe was buried in his native town of Graaf Reinet on the very eve of a major effort by PAC, the International Year Against Apartheid, beginning March 21, 1978, the anniversary of the demonstration and attack at Sharpeville. Commenting on the death of Azanian student leader Stephen Biko last fall, Sobukwe called for mass support and action. "They aim to finish us of one after the other," he said. "We must turn our grief into strength." His own words serve as the best epitaph for this heroic fighter.

Action Saves Job

Dear Worker,

I'm writing this letter to let you in on this incident at Cerro Wire and Cable out in Maspeth, Queens in NYC.

Recently there's been a wave of petty harassment by our 1st shift supervisor. One of his mad-dog foremen got a copper worker fired by saying he left 2 minutes early for his 20 minute lunch break, even though they had a relief operator running the machine.

That day there was talk about doing

something to get the guy's job back. So, the next morning all but 3 workers in the copper department didn't punch in. A group of them went into the Personnel Office to fight for the guy's job and demand an end to the constant b.s. by this company dog.

The outcome of this has been a real victory. Although this worker was suspended for 2 weeks, he was re-hired and none of the others was written up or docked for the job action. Meanwhile the foreman has calmed down some. He's probably licking his wounds and trying to figure out how to deal with this new situation.

The NUWO put a short article about

this in the Electrical Committee's newsletter, describing what happened and pointing out how it really shows that we can get together, fight Cerro, and win.

Although small, this victory is important and shows what we really need to do around here. Most of the time people say things like that can't happen, and that nobody will stick together. A lot of the time we don't stick together or just do things by ourselves, one at a time. But when something gets bad enough, folks draw a line, say enough is enough and fight back together!

The newsletter created a big buzz when it was pasted to machines in some

departments and to the walls and on the locker room bulleting board. It united just about everybody in their hatred for a particularly obnoxious foreman and a supervisor who would try to fire you for a few "wrong" words. It kind of spoke for all of us, and really took some stabs at those 2 guys on the floor and the whole damn company.

There are many differences between the miners strike that still is going on now and this job action here, but there's at least one thing in common. There's a lot of inspiration to draw from workers standing up like men.

A worker at Cerro
in Maspeth, Queens, N.Y.

N.Y. CITY STILL ON THE BRINK

City Set To Rob Workers Blind

New York City—Contracts for 225,000 city workers are expiring this spring and summer. On March 31st the contract covering city transit workers, members of the Transport Workers Union, runs out, opening a 6 month period of labor negotiations that will in a big way determine the future of the city for the next few years. On July 31st contracts expire for most other city workers, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37, the firemen's union, the sanitation workers union and others. In September the United Federation of Teachers contract is up.

At the first negotiating session on February 27 the city put it straight to the unions: The city is broke, there is no money for anything.

No wage increase. No increase or improvements in fringe benefits for the life of the 2 year contract. And the negotiators didn't stop there. They "offered" takeaways of benefits totalling \$400 million including increasing the work week from 35 to 40 hours, abolishing night shift differentials, paying straight time for overtime (rather than time and a half) eliminating 2 paid holidays, and increasing employee contributions to the health and pension funds. If this contract goes through, it will drive city workers back 20 years.

At the same time Mayor Koch and the local media have been running a heavy propaganda campaign against city workers. They paint a picture of an overpaid, underworked work force who is ripping off John Q Public. City unions have held the city hostage for years, they claim, and now it's time to turn that around. These gross distortions and lies are designed to turn public opinion against city workers and limit their potential for mounting a powerful fight for decent contracts.

But the facts speak otherwise. City workers have received no raises for 3 years, and they have lost 16% of their buying power to inflation. Congressional fact-finding commissions have proven that wages and benefits for NYC workers are not out of line with municipal workers from most other major U.S. cities, despite what the press propaganda says.

Over 60,000 city jobs, 20% of the workforce, have been eliminated in the last three years, leaving the remaining workers tremendously overworked. The result has been a rapid and steady deterioration of working conditions and morale and a wholesale destruction of city services. In one six month period last year doctors conservatively estimated that at least 25 patients at one city hospital had died as a direct result of staff shortages. Fire response time has doubled and fire-related deaths have skyrocketed. Twice last summer fires were allowed to burn themselves out because there were no trucks and men available. Sanitation collections are down from 3 to 4 times a week to once or twice a week in most city neighborhoods. Thousands of trees died in city parks last year because there were no workers to care for them.

The unions countered with their own demands, centered around a 12% per



year wage hike. "We will not come away from the table with nothing!" is the tough public stand of Victor Gotbam, head of D.C. 37, the largest city union, and chairman of a coalition including most city unions.

These contracts are a crossroads for both those who run the city and those who live in it. The capitalists are hoping to deal a crushing blow to the city workers, paving the way for a new wave of cutbacks. A defiant struggle by the workers will blow a hole in the ruling class plans to force the people to shoulder the burden of the crisis and

strengthen further resistance to cuts.

The "Big Apple" is in a real bind. If Mayor Ed "Tough Guy" Koch presses forward with his vicious proposals, he will provoke a strike. On the other hand the city really is in financial crisis and any wage increase at all will only make matters worse for the ruling class.

The union leaders are also caught in this bind. For the past three years they have increasingly become open junior partners of New York's capitalists. They have tied the unions into every scheme that the rich have devised to try and

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City Crisis 1978 Style

First the Senator sneaks into town to inspect things. Then he returns to Washington to say he is not sure New York City needs any federal aid. Unfair, scream the Mayor and the Governor. Help us or we will go under and take all of you down with us. All eyes turn to the President. Surely he will help. The New York City Crisis goes to Washington again. Last time, in 1975, it was bald Senator Proxmire and midget Mayor Abe Beame and Governor Hugh Carey and President Gerry "Drop Dead, NYC" Ford. This time the actors are a little different—Senator Proxmire got a hair transplant, big bad Ed Koch sent Abe Beame into retirement, Carey is still around, and Jimmy Carter lusted after the New York vote enough to say that he loves the Big Apple.

The debate over what to do about New York has returned to the seat of power in Washington again. Once again, thick reports with big numbers fill the TV and newspapers, sub-committee votes are reported with great solemnity,

A WORKER ANALYSIS

and the White House has something to say every news conference. And once again, the terms of the debate don't speak to the actual concerns and problems of the people of New York or all the other big cities and states who are going under financially. The debate does not deal with unemployment, crumbling housing, dirty streets, or lousy schools.

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SNOW VICTIMS FORCE RHODE ISLAND TO COUGH UP AID

Providence, R.I.—A march through the snow right into the State House won significant victories for Rhode Island's working people during this winter's crippling storms. This was in one of the hardest hit states in the country, where the city of Providence was placed under martial law, thousands of cars were stranded on the freeways, and a young black man was shot in the back by police, who claimed he had been "looting." Life is hard enough as it is, but the policies adopted by the government made conditions under this "natural disaster" all the harder to bear. The government and other mouthpieces of the rich always brag about how the world was barely able to function, as most cities were saddled with old broken equipment to deal with the snow and people just didn't have, and couldn't get, the cash, food, or heat to get by. Rhode Island was in the same boat.

As the digging out began, it became clear that most would miss more than just one day's work. When martial law was declared, the National Guard and State Troopers were called out, and they patrolled especially hard in minority and high-unemployment neighborhoods. It was here that they made a lot of noise about "preventing looting." And it was here that a young black man was shot in the back by a cop as he walked near his girlfriend's house. Others were simply dragged off the streets and kept in jail a few days.

As the politicians flew around in helicopters and told everyone to be cool and bear with them, peoples' anger mounted. Radio stations were flooded with calls for help — someone stranded who needed heart medication; people without heat and oil trucks couldn't make it in; people who needed milk for their babies. And the complaints poured

in about the "legal looters" — the stores charging twice the standard price for hard-to-get milk and bread.

CALL TO ACTION

In the midst of all this, a call to action came from the Providence chapter of the National United Workers Organization and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee. A march to the State House in Providence was called, to make the Governor listen to the peoples demands. 1. Unemployment benefits to all who missed work due to the storm, without the 1-week waiting period or other qualifications. 2. Food stamps for all who need them, and 3. No utility shutoffs, no evictions, and fuel for those who need it.

Starting from different neighborhoods, UWO and UWOC members walked through the snow-filled streets, talking and leafletting. Getting petitions for the demands signed. Several hours later, the short march swelled from a few dozen to around 100, and marched right inside the State House. There they were stopped by State Troopers, with not a politician in sight who would come to deal with the anger and demands of the workers. Finally, a governor's aide came and was presented with petitions with the demands and hundreds of names. His response was to tell people to "Stop Complaining," and let the government deal with the "real" emergencies. At this, people's anger poured out. "It's bad enough getting by every day, never mind under these conditions." "How do you expect us to live?"

Before they left, the demonstrators demanded an answer within two days.

As the demonstrators left, they ran into U.S. Congressman Ed Beard, who brags about being the only worker in the

whole House of Representatives. He tried to duck the demonstrators, but they blocked his jeep. He started by calling them "ungrateful bastards" for not seeing how wonderful he is, but quickly backed off in the face of people's anger. Not only did he agree to support the demands, but UWOC forced him to find food for two unemployed families who were without food or cash, and housing for an unemployed man who had been evicted.

And two days later, the governor held a press conference and outlined a four point program which dealt directly with the issues the demonstration had raised, most importantly agreeing to give unemployment benefits to those who missed work. Also in the pan was financial help for rent and mortgages, heat and the like — food stamps and financial aid for towing charges and damages to cars. The average amount of damage to cars in Rhode Island was \$500!

The Governor's program was clearly a response to the demands and anger of Rhode Island's working people, which the demonstration had helped to focus and publicize. The media was trying to portray a picture of unity in common suffering, because of Mother Nature's whim. But high unemployment, inflation, and low wage jobs means living hand to mouth on the sunniest days. And an emergency situation like the blizzard drives home more clearly how the profit system we live under can never meet our needs in "ordinary" times, let alone in a natural disaster. People in Rhode Island are finding that it's a fight just to get the benefits the Governor already agreed to give, as the various agencies are hassling people who go to apply for help.

Unemployed Demonstrate In D.C., Oakland JOBS FIGHT MUST BE AIMED AT CARTER

Washington, D.C. and Oakland, California—On February 18, 1,000 people marched in Washington, D.C. demanding jobs. The large turnout of workers of all nationalities, many coming from community groups and organizations, underscores the anger and concern people are feeling about unemployment these days.

A few weeks earlier on January 21 over 300 workers marched through the streets of Oakland, California, demanding "Union Jobs at Union Wages" and "Stop All Attacks on Unemployment Insurance." The demonstration, initiated by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) was timed to coincide with Carter's State of the Union address. It hit at the President's plan to reduce unemployment by forcing unemployed workers and welfare recipients into slave-wage jobs. (See article page 5.) A demonstration of workers from the East Coast and Midwest planned for Washington, D.C. the same day was cancelled due to heavy snows which made transportation impossible.

Actions like these are a sign that a movement of workers, unemployed and employed, is growing to take on this heavy attack on the working class. Unemployment has been the number one issue facing workers for a number of years now. But despite the sweet-sounding campaign promises of President Carter and other public officials, the government's answer to the demand for jobs is to cut back the unemployment insurance system and set up phony jobs programs.

The February 18 demonstration initiated by the National Fight Back Organization, (which is led by an outfit called the CP[ML]) was in one sense a significant showing of workers determined to fight the attacks. A delegation of activists from UWOC, a mass nationwide organization of unemployed workers, took part in the march. Carrying signs and banners and militantly chanting "Benefit Cuts, No Way—Union Jobs at Union Pay," UWOC targeted the fight to where the attacks are sharpest at this time.

UWOC's presence and the outlook it brought were particularly important, because the demonstration itself failed to focus on the actual nature of the current government offensive and fell short of offering a way to carry on the struggle. The most frequent chant was "We're Steaming, We're Hot—We Can't Be Stopped." While enthusiastic this does not exactly point the way to fight. Speakers ran down a lot about the rotten conditions facing the unemployed and repeatedly stated the demand "We Want Jobs," but this was not enough. The organizers of the demonstration failed to aim its potential power at the center of the present attack. They did not hit at Carter and his administration's plans to rip the unemployment insurance system to shreds and force millions of workers into low wage jobs. Just issuing general calls for jobs and failing to hit at Carter's particular policies plays right into the government's hands. Carter will talk about jobs all day and claim he's producing them to boot.

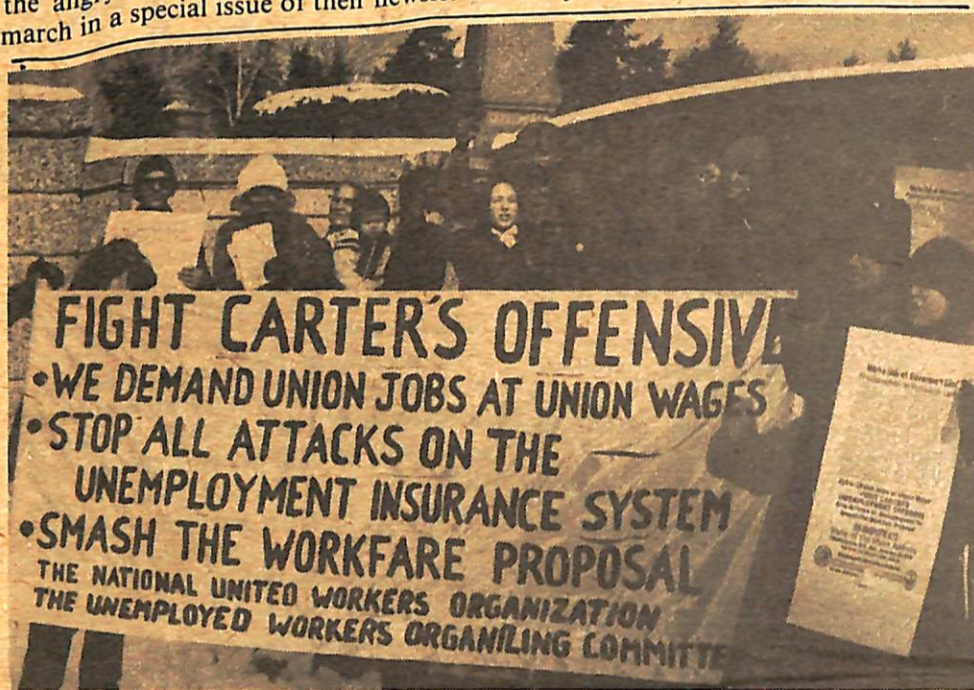
This failure was emphasized by the fact that the organizers led the demonstration in a march away from the White House to a rally site some distance off. This is in sharp contrast to the consistent stand of UWOC to militantly take the battle straight up against the source of the main attacks any time. On March 5 last year UWOC led a demonstration of 1000 unemployed and employed workers straight to the gates of the White House where they posted a written challenge to President Carter, daring him to come out and face the angry crowd. At this February 18 march in a special issue of their newsletter,

the *Unemployed Organizer*, UWOC put out its general plans to meet the latest attacks head on:

Jobs or Income is a battle cry. For the bosses and their government it's a cover for attacking us. They twist our just demands into policies which stab us in the back. That's why it's essential for us to raise not just the demand for jobs or income, but to take on these guys exactly where they're attacking us. . . .

In the unemployment centers, communities, and the factories we have to organize and hit them when they attack our unemployment insurance and push their union-busting jobs programs. And when the time is ripe we have to pull together nationally and hit back with powerful mass demonstrations.

We believe that the focus of the fight for Jobs or Income at this time is fighting against the government's unemployment policies. If we don't focus our struggle on the sharpest attacks we don't have a chance of a snowball in hell of not only beating back the attack, but forging a powerful movement for Jobs or Income.



UWOC members at Jobs or Income demonstration aim the battle at the Carter Administration's attacks.

PHILLY MAYOR RIZZO PREPARES ASSAULT ON BLACK COMMUNITY Wide Support For MOVE

At 3 p.m. March 7th, Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo made his most terroristic move since the notorious raid on

Black Panther headquarters in 1971. He is ordering the blockade of a whole community in Philadelphia to actually starve

out a "back-to-nature" commune called MOVE. He openly declared, "Surrender or die!"

Rizzo first sent the cops to evict MOVE, whose members are mostly Black, last May. The cops were met at the door, however, by armed MOVE members, who promptly put the city officials on notice that they were prepared to defend themselves from further harassment and eviction attempts. Since then, Rizzo has put them in a low level state of siege.

For the last two months the community residents have demanded an end to police occupation of the racially mixed community of Powelton Village in West Philadelphia. Rizzo's response? MOVE's water and utilities have been completely cut off by the city and the entire community is under constant police surveillance.

The major daily newspapers have been playing up that MOVE is a terrorist organization, that they want to annihilate Philadelphia. In the March 7 edition of the Philadelphia Daily News, Kitty Capparella, a well-known reporter and good friend of Rizzo's, went so far as to claim that MOVE wanted the A-bomb to carry out their terrorism.

But the actual background of MOVE and Rizzo's campaign to attack them shows a different story about who's out to get whom. In 6 years MOVE members have been arrested over 600 times for opposing police abuses, school cutbacks and for openly calling on the people to rise up, and rebel against the rich and their buddies like Rizzo. They have been beaten, harassed and their children have been injured and killed by cops. These children are a special target for the police who have been trying to abduct them, charging MOVE with child abuse. Rizzo needs to get the kids out of their

house if he is to go through with his plans for an all-out armed assault. MOVE members have refused to give the children up.

This is one more example that the issue from the beginning has been Rizzo, the cops, and their vicious rule—not MOVE.

Mayor Rizzo is in a tight situation. He doesn't like the idea of this commune rejecting his dictates or the courts or the cops. But he's facing growing outrage over the whole affair. Newspapers recently reported that the city's taxpayers have already had to foot a bill of \$1.5 million for Rizzo's massive 24-hour-a-day stake-out on MOVE's house. His cops have beaten MOVE members, then turned around and charged them with assault; they have killed their children and call them child-abusers. And what disturbs him the most is the tremendous support they've been getting from all over Philadelphia. From March 1 through March 7, there was a constant parade of people bringing them food, clothing, money and other supplies to help them hold out against Rizzo and the cops.

Even though a lot of people don't agree with some of MOVE's ideas, what they do know is that Rizzo, the Philadelphia warlord hated widely particularly by minorities and workers, is attacking the people once again. And they're supporting MOVE because they are militantly standing up to this attack.

Now the mayor is moving in with the latest plan—a starve-out blockade. Premeditated murder is all you can call it. MOVE members are holding strong on their demand to be left alone and their support in Philadelphia is growing with every move Rizzo makes.

SUPPORT MOVE! DOWN WITH RIZZO, THE MURDERER!

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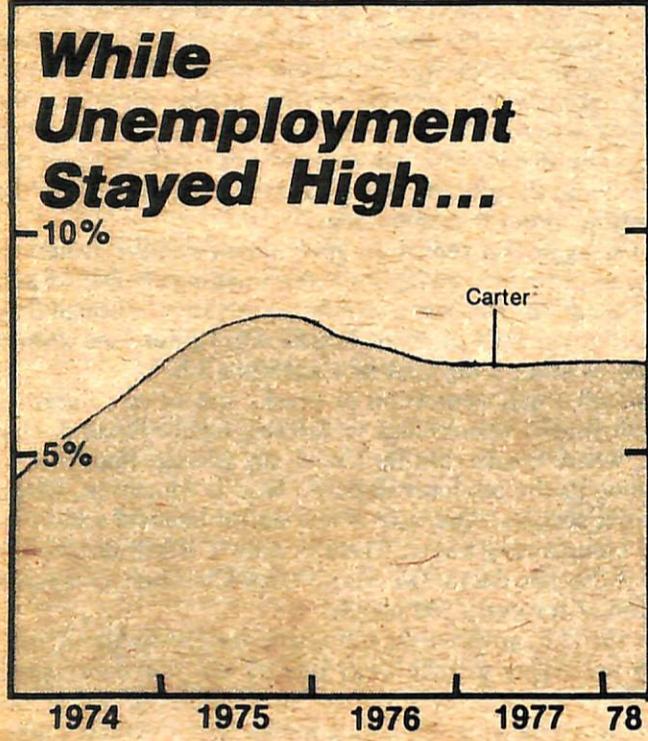
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'WORKER' INVESTIGATION REVEALS Major Gov't Attack On Unemployment Insurance

Since Jimmy Carter took office, over one million jobless Americans have been thrown off unemployment insurance. The whole unemployment insurance system is under attack. An investigation by *The Worker* has revealed it is being dismantled, benefit period by benefit period, until it may be reduced to 16 weeks. This is the heaviest attack on unemployment insurance since it was created in the 1930s to answer the demands of hundreds of thousands of workers who petitioned, demonstrated and fought for it. Undercutting unemployment insurance means breaking down the most important buffer between being without a job and being penniless.



Official Unemployment Rate (Bureau of Labor Statistics, actual figure is about double)

This attack has been overseen all along the line by the same Jimmy Carter who as a candidate piously proclaimed "I see an America with a job for every man and woman who wants to work," who never tires of saying how concerned he is about unemployment. He has tried to keep up this front now that he's President with some small-time jobs programs which are being painted as the big solution to unemployment. But the facts show that behind the sly smile and concerned words, Carter is quietly carrying out a major attack on behalf of the wealthy few he really serves.

CARTER SLASHES BENEFITS

In a little over a year Carter has slashed both of the federal programs which extended the time period during which people could collect benefits. Before Carter took office, many states granted 65 weeks of benefits. Now there are only nine states left which even provide them for 39 weeks—all the rest are down to 26.

The Federal Supplementary Benefits (FSB) program was set up in 1974 by President Ford when public anger grew as a result of unemployment climbing to the then outrageously high level of 5.6%. It provided an additional six months of benefits, after the first 39 weeks had elapsed. During 1976 when it was in full swing, an average of 785,000 people every week collected Federal Supplementary Benefits. But in 1977, although the unemployment rate was well over the 5.6% that made it necessary, in the first place Carter pushed through legislation which phased the FSB program out entirely.

At the same time Carter and Congress have been chipping away at the government's Extended Benefit (EB) program. This program, which provided checks from the 26th to 39th week of joblessness in states with high unemployment, has been in operation for 16 years. But despite continuing high unemployment, Emergency Benefits have been permitted to lapse state after state so that only nine are left. 290,000 more men and women were just cut off the EB program on January 28.

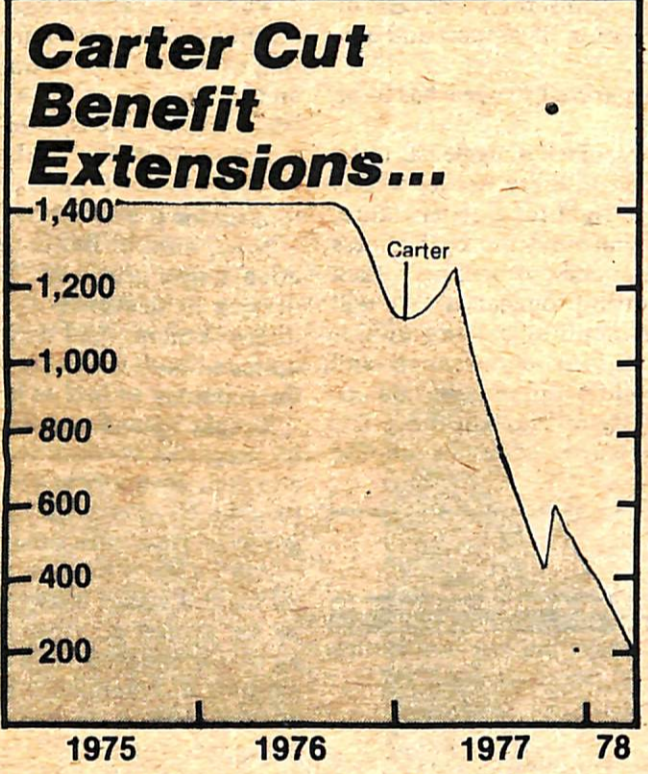
The result of these attacks, shown in Chart 2, is that there are more than one million unemployed workers who would have been eligible before these cuts who now aren't receiving checks, one million workers who have to take any rotten job they can find because they can't afford to look for a decent one. As Chart 3 shows, the percentage of unemployed workers collecting benefits has been almost halved. The cuts have saved the govern-

ment \$4 billion dollars, and they are sharing this windfall with the individual capitalists by cutting their payments into the unemployment insurance fund.

THE EXCUSE AND THE REASON

The administration's excuse for these attacks is laid out in the *Economic Report of the President—1978*. It says that unemployment insurance "leads to an increase in both the duration and frequency of spells of unemployment." It goes on, "In the past two decades, liberalization in coverage, benefits and benefit duration have caused the officially measured unemployment rate to increase." In other words, workers don't want jobs, they just want to bum off of unemployment benefits. No proof is offered, because none exists. In fact, a Brookings Institute study made for the government around the time Carter took office showed the exact opposite: workers on FSB were actively seeking jobs and those who couldn't find them continued searching after their benefits expired. The logical conclusion from this situation should have been extending benefits further, not cutting them!

What's really behind the government's attacks? Carter's *Economic Report of the President* for 1978 provides a few clues. It says "Despite our ignorance



Number of Persons Receiving FB or FSB Checks (in thousands)

about many specific parts of the process, there is no question but that low unemployment rates imply a high degree of labor market tightness and that this eventually results in a strong upward pressure on wages." This point is made at least 5 times in the report. The conclusion the government has drawn is clear—to keep wages down, make sure there is a "loose" labor market, that is, plenty of jobless workers competing desperately with one another for unemployment, no matter what the conditions or pay. And this great group of jobseekers (called in political economy "the reserve army of labor") is used as a club by the owners of the mines and mills, the stores and offices, over the heads of employed workers. Who hasn't heard a foreman say, "Stop griping. If you don't like it here, there are others who'd be happy to get your job."?

The government's current campaign to drive down wages and conditions by making workers compete for jobs has already born fruit. It is partly responsible for a worsening of union contracts in recent years.

The average contract signed in 1974 provided a 7.3% pay increase including all cost of living clauses over those signed the year before. In 1975 it was 7.8% better than in 1974. But in 1976 the average contract was only 6.4% and last year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics admits, it improved by only 5.8%.

Carter has done a pretty slick job on unemployment insurance for his capitalist bosses. Not only was he creating these profitable conditions, but he did so with remarkably little publicity. Instead the media focussed on his various jobs programs, helping him play on the real desire of the unemployed for good jobs at good wages. But this was just a shuck, too. The biggest program the current administration has come up with is the expansion of a public employment program, CETA,

which funded 415,000 "new jobs." A recent government study, however, showed that fully 49% of this already inadequate total was actually previously existing jobs that merely had their funding shifted to the new program. So much for Carter the job-creator!

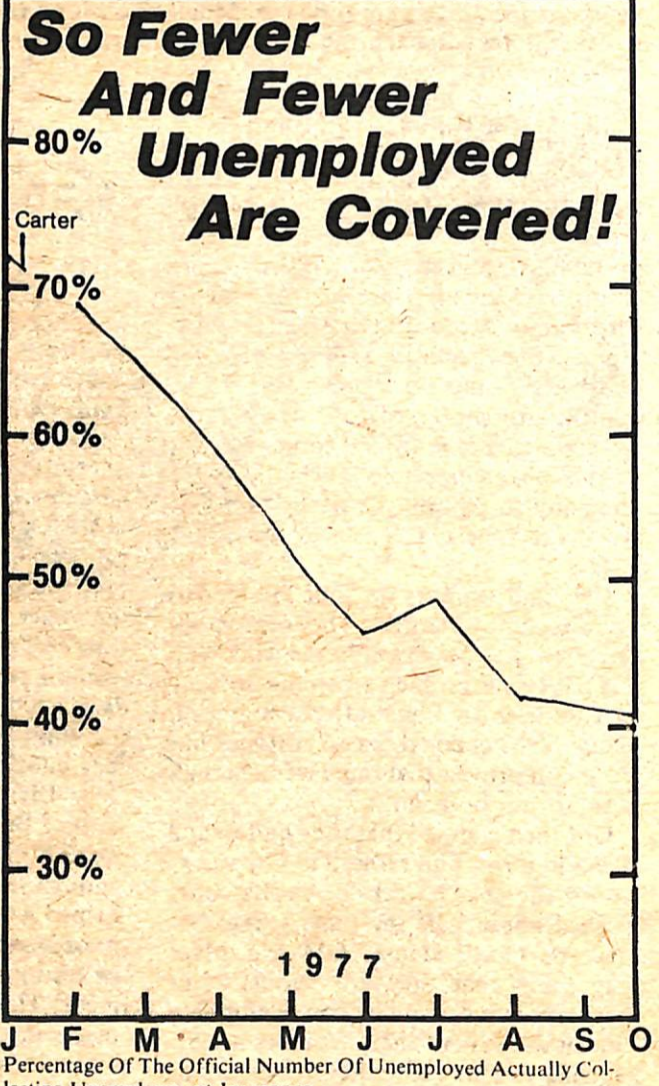
CARTER'S PLANS: MORE OF SAME

All of this has also demonstrated one more sorry time that the top leadership of the AFL-CIO has more in common with the rich than with the workers they claim to lead. They have gone along with Carter's attacks on the unemployed and fallen in behind his phony jobs hoopla as well. In particular they have spent three years and millions in dues money pushing the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, which plays right into Carter's game. This bill would "guarantee"—on paper—a job to every American. But it contains not one single provision that would produce a real job. It would join other laws "guaranteeing" every worker a job which have been on the books since as early as 1946 and have produced no results.

Carter did put forward last August a more concrete plan around jobs—the Better Jobs or Income Bill to "reform" the welfare system. This will cut welfare benefits to millions of people and institute a "workfare" program which will force more than 1.4 million welfare recipients into minimum wage jobs for the government or private industry. The purpose of this is to further step up the competition between workers for jobs; to use the contradictions between employed and unemployed to force down the pay, the working conditions and the living standards of all workers.

And the next stage in the attack was laid out by Secretary of labor Ray Marshall several months ago at a meeting in Detroit. He told the delighted businessmen present that he hoped that unemployment insurance would be reduced to 16 weeks!

Carter's attacks must not go unopposed. They must be dragged out in the open where all working people can



see them for what they are. And they must be fought every inch of the way. The demand for jobs is a real one, but to fight for jobs means actively fighting all Carter's policies and demanding union jobs at union wages. Until such jobs are won, the government must be forced to provide unemployment insurance. The campaign for union jobs at union wages has been taken up by the National United Workers Organization and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee. In local union resolutions, petition campaigns, small actions and mass demonstrations, workers, employed and unemployed alike, are taking notice and taking part.

Down with Carter's Unemployment Policies! Jobs or Income Now! Union Jobs At Union Wages!

Editorials

STAND WITH THE MINERS!

The coal miners strike is still on. 160,000 UMWA miners are waging the hardest fought and biggest labor struggle in many years.

They are fighting to win and just doing that sets this strike apart from the usual national contract battle, where the top union leaders tie the workers' hands and then just go through the motions of a fight. Not in the coalfields. The coal miners have gone up against cops and scabs and armed company thugs. They have rolled right over the UMW top leadership and their sellout contract deals. They have stood firm in the face of all the rich man's TV and newspaper slander which blames them for all the country's troubles. And they have told Jimmy Carter to take his Taft-Hartley law and shove it back down where it came from. Let Taft mine the coal and Hartley haul it, because UMW coal miners are not working without a decent contract.

Today, the coal companies are out to drive the miners down, down to the level of the mules who hauled the coal in the old days. Down to the level their fathers and grandfathers fought so hard to rise above. Productivity and stability are the bosses' watchwords. Every worker has seen it in the shop. Speedup and no wage hikes. Contracts filled with takeaways of hard won benefits. Runaways. No strike deals. 160,000 coal miners are standing up to this. They are refusing to be the victims of the companies' profit drives. To every boss crying for coal, their answer is so simple that even a foreman can understand it—No Contract, No Coal.

The three month determined strike of the coal miners is a rallying cry for the working class of people today. The miners have overcome all obstacles, and continue to fight strong and united. The miners are showing that it is possible for workers to get together and fight for our just demands. The miners are showing that the AFL-CIO top leadership, with their constant call of "what's good for the bosses is good for the workers" is not the voice of the working class. And they are showing that the rank and file can make their unions fight the employers.

The coal miners' strike means that every working man and woman can hold their heads a little higher. Many workers are following the events like they were in their own unions. Every blow the miners deliver is another blow against the whole class of bosses and their bought-and-paid-for government. Every action of support and unity means the working class is beginning to fight together.

But unity and moral support are not enough. Active, organized struggle has to be beginning to fight together.

But unity and moral support are not enough. Active, organized struggle has to be built. Without organization, unity is just a good idea. Today, every worker who is fed up with the way things are, every worker who wants to fight for a better future, has one big task—build a powerful fighting movement around the coal miners strike. By organizing our working class to stand with the miners, we will strengthen the strike. We will defeat the owners' divide and conquer propaganda. We will spread the real word and win over even more supporters. And by building up this movement around the miners strike, we can advance our organization and strengthen the working class to fight against every abuse, all the exploitation and oppression that is coming down harder and harder on working people these days. The working class and the exploiting class have nothing in common. Stand With The Miners!

AUTO

Last month GM stole \$300 each from about 3000 workers at the GM Assembly Plant in Linden, NJ. Workers lost a lot of time because of the recent snow storms. They should have been paid for this because there are provisions in the contract for short week pay when workers are sent home by the company. But there is also a loophole which allows the company to pay only 2 weeks in a row when the time off is due to an act of God.

GM paid workers for time lost due to the first snow storm. The next week there was a snow storm in the Mid West and GM saw problems coming so they sent both shifts home after 4 hours on Friday. GM claimed parts shortages but the union proved that there were enough parts to run both shifts.

GM then claimed that they had paid 2 weeks in a row and refused to pay workers for the next 2 weeks when they only worked about half the time, using that "Act of God" clause. GM executives may think that they are "gods," but they will have trouble convincing the Linden workers of that. Workers are organizing to make sure they get the money that is coming to them.

Besides this robbery, GM has launched a general offensive against the workers, preparing to bring in the top of the line luxury cars. They have suspended a number of the better committeemen and they give anybody who tries to file a grievance a hard time. They have also been going crazy with their quality control program, QIR, trying to convince workers that it is in their interest to work harder. After stealing \$300, the company held a free drawing for 300 hams as an incentive. The workers responded by

taking up a slogan put out in a leaflet, "Can the hams, we want our \$300!"

* * *

American Motors, number 4 in the auto Big 3, recently announced it is discussing some kind of arrangement with a foreign auto company. They have since denied that a merger is in the works, but they clearly need some help. AMC now sells fewer cars in the US than some foreign companies and another round of indefinite layoffs was announced in early February. GM, Chrysler and Ford have been helping to keep AMC afloat by making parts for them and more recently by letting AM get part of the bus building business. AM General, the new bus building division, is, along with the Jeep Division, all that is keeping AMC afloat. But with auto sales going down instead of up, this help hasn't been enough. And, of course, the Big 3 have helped AMC not out of any kindness but in order to avoid any possible anti-trust or restraint of trade suit by the government. There are already a lot of nameplates in the auto graveyard, and it remains to be seen if AMC will be the next. One thing is definite. Relations with a foreign company will not help AMC's workers. The auto companies have always used any change forced on them to try and make things worse for the workers, like the way they used the changeover to smaller cars to automate and speed-up the lines.

* * *

On February 12, 2700 workers at the Ford Aerospace and Communications plant in Cornersville, Indiana, members of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), settled an 83 day strike.

SMASH THE BAKKE DECISION!

The U.S. Supreme Court is on the threshold of the most important and controversial civil rights decision since the 1954 desegregation ruling. It will affect the lives of the millions of minorities in this country. The case unfolds around the claims of one man, Alan Bakke, that he was discriminated against because he is white. But the implications of the Bakke case go far broader, and unlike the 1954 decision, the lines have been drawn well in advance with a growing popular movement to beat back the Bakke decision and all that it stands for.

The facts in this case are clear. Bakke was not discriminated against. He was turned down for medical school because there are too few places, not because some 16 out of 100 slots were reserved for minority applicants. A dozen other med schools turned him down, and many whites admitted to the U of Cal at Davis had lower scores than he did. Bakke was also beaten out by the children of several rich alumni who get special placement by the Dean.

If the issue was just one guy getting into med school, thousands of people would not be marching and demonstrating against the Bakke decision. If the issue was just Alan Bakke, people across the country would not be taking sides in a historic debate.

The basic issue is the discrimination and oppression that Blacks and all minorities in this country face. In the 50's and 60's, millions of Blacks and other oppressed nationalities turned their anger and desire for freedom into a storm of action that shook this country to its foundations. The struggle of millions won many advances—Jim Crow laws in the south were wiped out; affirmative action programs for minorities in education and jobs were won; millions saw the nature of discrimination and the demands for liberation by Blacks were just demands; and people of all nationalities joined in the demand and the movement that said the government and the owning class better do something about discrimination.

It was this mighty storm of struggle that forced the government and the owners to develop some affirmative action programs, giving some few openings to Blacks and other minorities in jobs and education. This was a significant advance—though they were often poorly funded, and often used to divide Blacks and whites, and always were too few and far between to make a big dent in discrimination.

The basic issue of discrimination and oppression of Blacks and other minorities has not ended. Not in unemployment, where Black joblessness is more than double that of whites. Not in wages, where Blacks earn far less on the average than whites, and the income gap is widening as the economy declines. Not in education, where Black schools are still the worst schools. And sure as hell not in medical schools—which is what this Bakke is complaining about. There is only 1 Black doctor for every 3,800 Blacks, and only 1 Chicano doctor for every 30,000 Chicanos, compared to a national average of 1 doctor for every 700 people.

Now, with the Bakke case, the U.S. government is trying to take away the affirmative action programs. They are trying to take away one of the few concessions offered to minorities that did something, even though just barely, about actual discrimination. And they are accompanying this with a media blitz to create public opinion that it is just not "worth it" to be concerned about discrimination, not with the economy as bad as it is.

To take a stand against the Bakke decision is to take a stand against cutting minority programs in education and employment. It is to take a stand against the owners and their government who say that enough has been done about discrimination. It is to stand up against the attempts to divide working people—of all nationalities—and get us to fight each other for decent jobs and schools.

April 15th is the day when thousands of people throughout the country will be taking this stand. Nationwide demonstrations on this day will be the most visible of all the protest activities and organizing. Real gains were won in the battles of the 60's—for minorities and for all working people. They must be defended. Racism and national discrimination are not friends of the working class. They are tools of the owning class to weaken the people and strengthen their rule. The Bakke case is a challenge, a test of strength on this key battle line. It must be defeated.

THE WORKER

The Worker exists to build the struggles of the working class and the masses of the American people against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It aims to forge links between the struggle in this country and the battles people all over the world are waging against the same enemy.

The Worker puts forward the political stand of the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters on the major questions and struggles facing the workers. *The Worker* states openly that the working class can only liberate itself by overthrowing the capitalists,

establishing working class rule, socialism, and going on to build communism, worldwide classless society. In doing so the working class will liberate all of mankind and bring into being a new world.

The Worker needs and welcomes the correspondence, criticisms and suggestions of its readers. Write for *The Worker*, sell it and contribute to it. In this way, it will become the most valuable possible tool for the working class in its historic struggle.

The Worker
4409 W. North Ave.,
Milwaukee, WI. 53216

The new agreement moves toward parity with the UAW Big 3 contracts. This goes against the Big 3's attempts to split off the supplier plants and widen the gap between workers' wages and benefits in them and in basic auto.

Wages will go up 20% in the first year and 5% in the second and third. There is a cost of living clause with no cap. The settlement also includes payment for 8 holidays the strikers missed during the walkout. This is important since the

auto companies try to get deadlines set before holidays and then use the threat of loss of holiday pay to pressure workers to take lousy contracts. The workers also won a new dental program, retirement after 30 years, improved overtime provisions and shift premiums, and increases in major medical and life insurance. And they know that they have their own unity and militancy to thank for their victory.

J.P. Stevens Retreats to Co. Town

ANTI UNION FIRM TRIES TO DUCK PROTESTS

For the first time in its 165 year history, J.P. Stevens, the giant textile company, is holding its annual stockholders' meeting out of the Northeast. The meeting will take place in Greenville, South Carolina, a Stevens company town.

J.P. Stevens is notorious for its criminal anti-union activities and its barbaric working conditions and low wages. It is a stronghold for reactionary labor practices in the South, and has earned the hatred of working people across the country. Large numbers of textile workers and workers from other industries are rallying against Stevens, making the union organizing drive by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union against Stevens a key battle, especially in the South, where conditions are worse than in the rest of the country. Many forces, from rank and file workers to local unions to civic leaders and civil rights leaders like Coretta King, have gotten involved in the



Stevens workers demand a union in Roanoke Rapids, Va., Labor Day

fight against Stevens.

J.P. Stevens is just one of many firms that closed shop in the Northeast and ran to greener pastures in the South. Now it wants to make sure its operations

in the South remain good. Good for J.P. Stevens means blatant racial discrimination in hiring and job assignments, pay, layoffs and recalls. It means unsafe working conditions, including lack of

guards on machines and cotton dust levels way above safe levels—which causes a disabling respiratory disease known as "brown lung" which threatens all textile workers.

These conditions are "good" for raking in profits, and they depend to a great degree on keeping the workers unorganized. At this time, breaking through at Stevens is a key front in the battle to organize the entire South. Stevens has viciously resisted attempts to organize. Only 7 out of its 85 plants are unionized, and in these Stevens refuses to negotiate with the union. The company has dozens of NLRB cases against it, and writes off any fines from these cases as necessary business expenses.

Last year, the stockholders' meeting was held in New York, and it was met with a picket line of 3,000 people. This year, the demonstration would have been bigger. That is why Stevens fled to the South, to a town the company has in its pocket. But this retreat will not mean that Stevens can escape the spotlight. The union drives are going on, and more people around the country are looking at them and supporting them.

POST OFFICE

Contract negotiations begin in April for over 600,000 postal workers of all crafts, nationwide. The old contract expires July 21st. This contract is coming up at a time when postal workers continue to be under severe attack on many issues—job security, working conditions, work rules, grievance rights, seniority, wages and pensions. Under the weight of ten billion dollars in accumulated debt owed to private capitalists, investment firms and large banks, USPS managers have made massive cuts in the number of workers and the level of postal service provided to the public. 70,000 postal jobs have been eliminated in the last few years (and this is even with a no-layoff clause). The cost to the public has soared—13 cents for a letter now, maybe 16 cents soon, with no end in sight. By law, postal workers are forbidden to strike, denied this weapon to stand up for what they need and resist being driven down. Several times, like in the 1970 wildcat strike, rank and file anger has broken through these restrictions. Postal workers are now getting prepared to wage the upcoming contract fight in the face of severe threats and proposed take-aways from USPS management for the upcoming contract.

USPS management has taken an open position to eliminate the cost of living provision in the present contract. They have continued their drive to eliminate jobs through attrition—many of these eliminations have been forced through due to changes in scheduling, work places, etc. Faced with this takeaway USPS posture and a deadend "let's legislate ourselves to heaven" approach from the top national union officials, postal workers have a hard but necessary fight on their hands. The key demands focus around job security, wages and benefits, better working conditions and the right to strike.

★ ★ ★

Postmaster General Bailar resigned recently to head up a private corporation in Chicago at higher pay and much less public exposure and criticism. Bailar's replacement will have the job of continuing to implement Bailar's plan to place the burden of the non-profitability of the postal service on the backs of postal workers and the public. In the past, Postmaster General was a political plum—a cushy kind of job that usually went to some big donor to the party in

office. Bailar's appointment was somewhat of a break with this, as he was much more a businessman, efficiency-expert type. President Carter has now appointed former assistant Postmaster General Bogler to replace Bailar. Bogler is a further break with the traditional type of postmaster—he is a career man, the number one hatchet man for Bailar's plans, and has a reputation as a hard-line USPS management creep. Whether Carter will let him stay on after the contract is negotiated or replace him with a more traditional political type, it looks like Bogler is just what the USPS management wants to force through the contract attacks that are currently on the drawing board as well as consolidating the takeaways already implemented.

★ ★ ★

In February over 337,000 people in New York City applied to take the government exam to get a job in the post office. The city-wide total of possible job openings is 3,100 over the next 3 years.

In cities throughout the country, tests were given in the recent past. In Houston, last summer, 19,000 took the carrier test for a maximum of 1,000 jobs. This well-publicized application process was not only a cruel hoax on the tens of thousands who applied for jobs that they will never see—but was clearly directed to tell present postal workers to keep this contract period cool because there's a hundred people waiting for each job. The USPS is eliminating jobs right and left—while at the same time coldly taking piles of applications, to try and pit postal workers and the unemployed against each other.

★ ★ ★

N.Y. Metro area local American Postal Workers Union elections will be held in April. A group of rank and file activists have been nominated for positions as President, Vice Pres., and Director in opposition to current Pres. Morris Biller and his machine.

Among the issues in this campaign will be "Mo" Biller's past record of super-militant talk followed by outright betrayal, and his current version of the same thing. The rank and file slate intends to make the election an opportunity to hammer out a fighting plan for the contract and the postal workers' struggle in general.

UTILITY WORKERS STRIKE IN P.R.

Gov't Out to Bust Key Walkout

Sixty two hundred members of the Union of Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers Union (UTIER) are entering the third month of their strike as *The Worker* goes to press. The papers of Puerto Rico have been filled with sensational news of this strike for weeks—bombings of water lines and power lines, union organizers arrested, tortured or found killed in the rain forest, and charges of communist

Police and National Guardsmen are on around-the-clock alert against the strikers now. The government is trying to create an anti-union atmosphere in the press, and is using the recent murder of an American businessman anti-labor expert to crush other unions supporting UTIER. Teamster organizer Manuel Cabrera and two others were arrested and charged with his murder and another, Juan Rafael Cabrero was



2,000 people took to the streets of San Juan to back the UTIER strikers.

subversion. This struggle, along with the bus drivers strike in San Juan, are important ones for the workers in Puerto Rico.

This is far from just another strike. It is led by a militant union of public service workers, which is being targeted by a government which does not want to see more unionization of its employees. There are 200,000 public service workers in Puerto Rico, and they account for a full quarter of the workforce in the country. Many of them are starting to organize into unions, especially UTIER, even though they generally have no right to strike—and in many cases are even forbidden to unionize. All this is taking place at the same time that the U.S. is continuing to try to keep Puerto Rico a low wage environment for super-profits by the large corporations. UTIER members average \$7,000 yearly now, and this is above the average for workers in Puerto Rico (a country where prices are generally higher than in the U.S. for many necessities).

found dead in the jungle after disappearing in police custody. And the Governor is attacking the president of UTIER, a member of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, saying he caused the strike on purpose to cause political unrest and is not interested in the lives of the workers. So far, these slanders have utterly failed to convince any of the UTIER strikers to give up their fight.

The UTIER workers face a tough battle and one that American workers can understand from their own battles. It is a struggle that has become a key battle for the whole working class in Puerto Rico, just as battles like the Milwaukee Meatcutters 1975-6 strike against union busting or the miners strikes have been in this country. Furthermore, the UTIER workers are battling the same enemy—not only is the Puerto Rican government run by the U.S., but the bonds of the Water Resources Administration are held overwhelmingly by big U.S. banks. Their fight is our fight. Victory to the Utier Strikers!

200,000 REBEL AGAINST THE SHAH OF IRAN

The vicious regime of the Shah of Iran has been undergrowing attack at home and around the world over the past year. The struggle reached a new peak with

two days of rioting in the northern Iranian city of Tabriz in mid-February that was too big for even the Shah's repression and censorship to hide.



Iranians, masked for protection from the Shah's secret police, demonstrate against his reactionary regime.

On February 18th, over 200,000 Iranians in the largely Moslem city of Tabriz exploded with anger against the Shah and his regime. In two short days they overran the city police and burned down every bank in the city, set fire to the headquarters of the Shah's recently formed Resurgence Party, the only legal political party in Iran, and stoned other government offices. The choice of targets was clear—the Shah and his regime, including its big money backers. An extra measure of fury was reserved for the hated anti-insurgency police, notorious for the terror against all dissent. A number of these stormtroopers were killed by the demonstrators.

The demonstrations continued for two days, and before they were through, the Shah had to send in tanks purchased from the U.S. and declare martial law. At least 5000 Iranian demonstrators were killed by the Shah's government. When a measure of relative quiet was finally restored, the Shah's government downplayed the events, calling them a small disturbance incited by a handful of "Islamic Marxists" which led to a few deaths.

But the truth about Tabriz was too big to hide. This was one act of resistance following upon scores of others. Most of them have been small, and are covered up and savagely repressed. The Tabriz uprising took place at the end of a 40 day period of mourning for Iranians who had been killed in battles with the Shah's forces in the city of Qum on January 4th. That even followed demonstrations across Iran protesting Jimmy Carter's visit to Tehran for a lavish New Year's Eve dinner, while Iranian farmers can't make enough to feed their families.

Iran is the single largest customer for U.S. arms and military hardware. The Shah uses it to keep the people of Iran in poverty and conditions of life straight out of the middle ages. In return for all the arms, the Shah protects U.S. monopoly interests in the Mid-East, especially in the Persian Gulf area. He has generally been a force in OPEC holding down the price U.S. oil companies have to pay for the oil they take from the Middle East. And the Shah has

used his U.S. arms to attack liberation movements in the small Persian Gulf countries, Oman and Qatar. All this is accompanied by a full scale public relations blitz worldwide, portraying the Shah as a decent and responsible ruler who has used his oil money to improve the life of the Iranian people and "bring them into the 20th century."

The riots in Tabriz and Qum are part of the response of the Iranian people to this. Around the world the Iranian Students Association has built demonstrations against the Shah and his secret police, the Savak. Here in the U.S., when the Shah went last fall to visit Carter at the White House, he was met by a demonstration of thousands of Iranian students and supporters. They routed the Shah's hired welcome demonstration, and battled police in full view of international television, as the Shah tried to wipe the tear gas out of his weeping eyes. After the riots in Tabriz, the Iranian Students Association around the world publicized the Shah's attacks and the people's struggle and led demonstrations and hunger strikes in many world capitals, all aimed at building more international support for the growing struggle in Iran against the Shah.

STEEL

Steelworker support for the striking miners has grown steadily as the strike has progressed. Many locals have held collections, sent food, and organized support rallies. The McBride crew in Pittsburgh has been noticeably absent from the support movement. There have even been petitions and demands by the rank and file USWA members sent into Pittsburgh from several locals, calling for the International treasury to send large sums of money to the miners. These demands have remained unanswered as of press time.

What better use could be found for part of the \$27 million strike fund which the USWA has piled up with the no-strike ENA in effect. The money taken from steelworkers when the right to strike was robbed could go to help build the fight of others to resist the coal companies attacks on their right to strike. All USWA brothers and sisters should take this up in the locals and start stoking the flames under the Pittsburgh hacks.

The right to strike is a key demand of the working class. It is clear that the companies are against this right, because it weakens their ability to attack their workers. In steel this was one of their big aims, and finally the Abel-McBride team helped them get rid of the strike weapon. In addition to getting behind the miners, and supporting their fight to resist company attacks, this struggle can be used in steel to push forward the struggle to kick the no-strike ENA deal the hell out of the union.

A big step in this direction can be taken by getting behind the call put out by the *Steelworker* newspaper and the steel section of the National United Workers Organization to launch an organized rank and file movement around the demands: 1. win contract ratification rights in the USWA, 2. smash the ENA no-strike deal, and 3. stop the USWA International's sabotage of strikes. These demands will be taken out broadly to the rank and file in the union, and can form the basis of a program of struggle on which to elect delegates to the coming 19th Convention. This will challenge the right of the steel companies to bring their poison into the very conventions of the Steelworkers Union.

VICTORY TO THE MINERS. DEFEND AND EXTEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE!

WALKOUT AT PABST- Wildcat Hits Blue Ribbon Productivity Drive

Milwaukee, Wisconsin—Workers at the Pabst Brewery here started walking out the gates at 3 A.M., Friday, February 9. The suds stopped flowing at the world famous Milwaukee brewery as hundreds of workers milled around the gate, on wildcat strike against layoffs and harassment. And when some of the union stewards told the men to return to work or they would be canned, the crowd roared a unanimous NO!

In the course of that one week, two wildcats took place at Pabst, lasting four days all told. They broke out in response to attacks coming from the company for several weeks. The bosses' campaign of job eliminations and layoffs had wiped out 165 jobs by the point of the last walkout, and workers were furious about the harassment campaign started by "Hitler" Jordan. This guy was specially brought in by the company to crack down, and he even hollers at his own foremen when he catches them chewing gum!

Even though the layoff campaign was an open challenge to Brewery Workers Local 9, the union responded by sending letters to wildcatting workers telling them to return to their jobs. But the workers stayed strong and the suds stopped for four days. Delivery trucks were behind, and many local taverns couldn't

get a delivery. Finally Pabst had to run to Federal court and get an injunction against the walkout.

After four days, the brewery wildcat won a partial victory. They forced the company to agree not to retaliate against workers who wildcatted. They cancelled plans to lay off 55 guys. And Pabst was forced to begin discussions about the job combinations in arbitration hearings. The wildcat was a big defeat for the plans Pabst had to drive down the brewery workers in Milwaukee. Pabst is on the move against the workers trying to fight its way back up from the number four in the brewery industry behind Schlitz, Miller, and Bud, after it had been number 3 for years. The competition in the industry is fierce, and thousands of jobs have been lost through automation and plant closings. For example, New York City, which once was the brewery capital of the USA, saw its last brewery close in 1977. Millers got to number two only after being bought by Phillip-Morris, an enormous conglomerate that was able to invest millions in automating its breweries. Schlitz was indicted for kickbacks it gave to big customers through distributors to try to get ahead. Bud forced a strike in St. Louis to gut the union there. And Coors is engaged in an

all-out union busting attack (for which it is being boycotted by organized labor). In the face of all this, Pabst has to step up its attacks on the workers as the main way they will be able to automate, increase their profits, and keep up with the competition.

So the struggles at Pabst are far from settled. Brewery workers and others in the Milwaukee area are waiting to see what comes of the arbitration. More walkouts to fight these attacks are a strong possibility. If the layoffs and job combinations continue, the bosses may find the Pabst blue ribbon knotted around their necks.

Blue Collar

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you're out the theater door.

"Blue Collar" on the other hand shows what working people have to go through to produce the great wealth the bosses take.

"Blue Collar" is very well done. The acting is great. It tells the truth. It makes you laugh and it makes you angry. Don't miss it.

—By an alternate delegate
to the 1977 UAW National Convention

New Breed Of War Movies

Show Depth Of Vietnam Impact

The Vietnam War is back again. Only this time it's in the movies. Over the past several months three movies have opened up dealing with the war: "Heroes," "The Boys in Company C," and "Coming Home." And there's no light at the end of the tunnel, either. A bunch more are being shot and should be hitting the theaters before the end of the year.

This is certainly a turnaround from the past. Only John Wayne's "The Green Berets" came out of Hollywood about Vietnam and that was over ten years ago and as welcome and respected as a dose of the clap. But Hollywood movie moguls are taking the plunge again to make money, for sure, but this time the movies reflect the time they portray. Gone is the flag waving of "The Green Berets." The movies show the war in Indochina to be unjust; a sentiment shared by the great majority of Americans. The war battered the image of the U.S. government as millions of people openly went against it. The turmoil and the social upheavals of the '60s and early '70s changed people's lives and outlooks. The anti-war movement developed along with the struggle of the civil rights and Black liberation movements, women were no longer content to stay home and bake pies; schools were engulfed in the rebellion of students rejecting the way things were. No longer could movies portray the war like the old WWII films had and the new Vietnam movies certainly show that. While they don't have a full-blown summation of the times, they do take a step in a positive direction because they characterize this turmoil and its effects on the characters in them.

The best of the three is "Coming Home." It stars Jane Fonda and Jon Voight. Both of these actors were outspoken anti-war activists, and made a number of contributions to the struggle in the late '60s and early '70s. Their views come through pretty well as each gives a great performance. Fonda plays a woman who goes through changes of outlook, through her relationship with Voight, a paraplegic Vietnam vet, and her husband (played by Bruce Dern) who goes from a gung-ho Marine Captain to a man who destroys himself, being unable to deal with the grim reality that the war is not a noble mission of self-sacrifice and benevolence on the part of the U.S. ruling class. What he sees in Vietnam is too brutal for him to handle.

Particularly good in this movie is the idea that it was through the course of coming straight up against the war, that people changed. For most of us that is how it happened. The brutal war against

the Indochinese people opened a lot of eyes about U.S. imperialism and its drive to maintain itself at the expense of the Indochinese, the American people and the GIs who fought it.

No Typical "Deranged Vietnam Vets" Here

Like "Coming Home," "Heroes" shows the effects the war had. Henry Winkler plays a Vietnam veteran who lives an unsettled existence. The movie deals with his search for former army buddies in the war and the desire of his to start a worm farm with them. But unlike "Coming Home," the film portrays veterans as being deeply disturbed to the point of being a little crazy. While the Winkler vet is a well-liked guy he always seems to be running on the narrow edge. But the film's end, though, this is given some context, a shattering experience. And you are left with the sense that, with the help of a woman who has her own problems, he will come to grips with his war experience and make it through. This, too, is a reflection of how the war scarred veterans—for most it was a mind-opening exposure of the system that sent them off to fight and die in Indochina and that is no easy problem to deal with.

To date, most TV shows and movies that have featured Vietnam vets as major characters put out that they are all nuts; that the war turned them into dope addicts, psychopathic killers or victims of other disorders. While there is an element of truth in this—the rejection of the experience of being used to fight for an unpopular, unjust war and then cast aside "as used toilet paper" (as Jane Fonda says in "Coming Home")—what the vast majority of veterans returned home with was more a deep cynicism about the institutions and values that led them to Vietnam in the first place. Jon Voight, in "Coming Home" shatters the image of the crazy vet. Although the character he plays is crippled and in a wheelchair, he is the first fully-likeable veteran to come down the pike—and the most realistic. He understands what happened to him, and becomes a critic of the war, while at the same time putting his life in order.

The third film, "The Boys in Company C," in contrast, takes us through the process that produced the Voight

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A Film About Working Class Life

On the 'Plantation' - 1978 Style



"They pit the lifers against the new boys, the old against the young, the Black against the white..."

At the end of the credits for the movie "Blue Collar" is the following: "The filmmakers would like to thank Checker Motors Corp. of Kalamazoo, Michigan, for their help and cooperation in making this film possible. The conditions depicted in this film are not reflective of Checker Motors Corp., its employees, or its union." In fact "Blue Collar" is an exciting movie because it shows exactly what it is like to work in an auto plant and the kinds of problems auto workers, and all workers, face.

The movie starts with scenes of the plant—"That's just short for plantation," says assemblyline worker Richard Pryor, (Zeke). In the background is great theme music with a strong driving beat that really captures the rhythm of the speeding line, partly because one of the machines has been used as part of the rhythm section. The foreman, "Dogshit" Miller, is constantly on the workers' backs. The shop steward is a company man who does nothing to protect the workers. Off the job, the workers have to deal with the ever-growing gap between what they make and what it takes to support a family. It's a story familiar to every working man and woman in this country, but not one we are used to seeing shown from our point of view in the movies.

This movie really hits home. One worker, fed up with being ripped off by the vending machines, drives a forklift straight into one and smashes it (which looks a lot more satisfying than just kicking the damn things when they steal your money).

In another scene, Pryor gets fed up with "Dogshit's" harassment and chases him off. Pryor gets pulled into the office, but manages to get off, no thanks to the steward. As he comes back to the line, an old worker, who had called him a fool for standing up to the foreman, now congratulates him for his courage. Pryor gets angry and calls the old guy a 2-faced coward. The old worker answers, "What about my 18 years and my family?" Pryor yells back, "Your 18 years ain't no more important than my time. Your wife ain't no more important than mine. Your kids ain't no more important than my kids... Jesus Christ, I don't know why I'm yelling at you, it ain't even you I'm mad at."

Pryor really hits it on the nose here. We have all seen how they use this kind of thing to divide us, the young fed up with the garbage ready to do anything, older workers angry but worried about their jobs. And Pryor says, yes, we have to protect our jobs, but we have to stand up to them also.

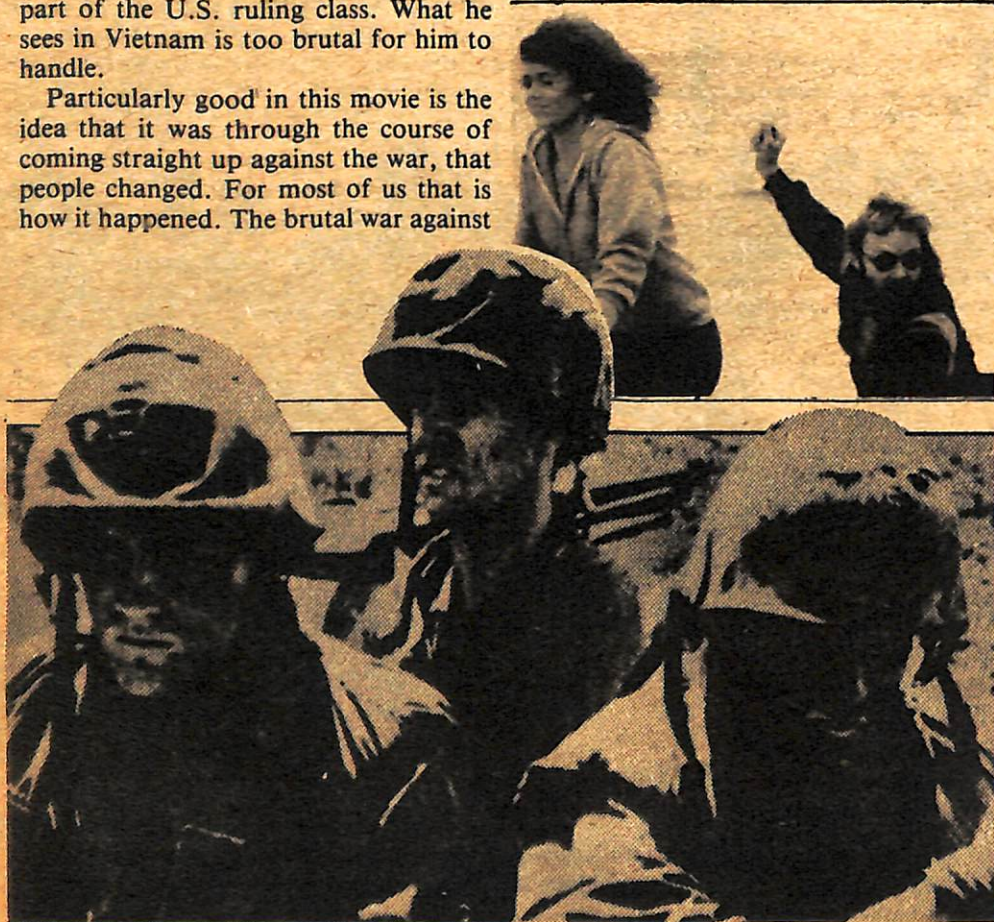
The movie shows a union very much like the UAW. The local President uses the union's militant fights in the past,

winning jobs for Black workers as an example, to avoid building struggle and to cover for selling out worker now. (How many times did my International rep talk about what a fighter he was in the old days and all the great things the union has gotten for us, just to beat down any action now?) The type of corruption shown is not typical of the UAW, but it can certainly be found in some other unions. But in the movie the workers' main complaint is not the corruption, but the fact that the union officials sell them out, something we can all understand.

The movie doesn't put forward any simple or easy answer to the problems working people face; Pryor and two buddies, Yaphet Kotto (Smokey) and Harvey Keitel (Bartkowski), try to solve their immediate need for cash by ripping off and then blackmailing the union. But this isn't another caper movie where a few good guys rip off the bad guys and get away with it. The plot fails, one of the Blacks is murdered and the other two friends end up at each others throats. As they jump each other the picture freezes and we hear Smokey's voice repeat his earlier warning: "Everything they do—the way they pit the lifers against the new boys, the old against the young, the Black against the white—is meant to keep us in our place." The power of the movie is that it shows the conditions workers, not just auto workers, face both in the "plantations" and in their whole lives. It makes no excuses for the corporations or their lackeys in union office, or for the cops and the FBI, and it shows the different methods they use to keep us down. "Blue Collar" makes you mad and it makes you think. It doesn't offer any way out of the bind it portrays, but that is not its aim. Workers around the country are finding the ways to fight back every day. Some work and some don't, but step by step, they are learning to stand together and fight back whether it's against one company or media slanders and government injunctions. In the millions of pissed off Zekes, Smokeys, and Bartkowskis, is the potential for a powerful workers movement that can threaten the rule of the mighty and turn this country upside down.

There is another movie making the rounds about the auto industry called "The Betsy," which poses as an expose of the secret lives of the auto tycoons. It shows them as being brutal and ruthless but it really tells you nothing about how they get the wealth which the movie shows them throwing around. The "inside look" at the auto industry it promises turns out to be just a little slick jive you can barely remember before

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MINERS ANSWER GOV'T STRIKEBREAKING

No Contract-No Coal

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EARLY FEBRUARY

Throughout the strike the BCOA has been counting on the strikers being weakened by the disunity of the top UMW leadership, which is splintered into rival factions vying for power. But the rank and file has not been splintered and this showed in their ability to turn back the first contract negotiated.

On February 7, Arnold Miller announced a tentative agreement which he said was "the best contract negotiated by any union in the last two years." It was certainly the best for the BCOA, which got everything it wanted. Carter's Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall urged its acceptance, saying it was "genuinely fair to both sides."

The rank and file thought otherwise. Outrage on the picket lines sent hundreds of lower level union officials and union members to the UMW's Washington, D.C. headquarters. As upwards of 500 rallied outside against the contract, 30 or so jammed into the offices. When a UMW lawyer tried to enter the building, the men angrily threw the guy onto one of the chartered buses and directed the driver to take him away. Miller hid out, carried a gun and refused to return to the office for days until he was sure they'd left town, but his problems wouldn't go away.

The rally showed that the miners would not ratify a company contract. The UMW council, the union's leading body, voted it down 33-6 that weekend. The demonstration was called, in part, by forces like Ken Dawes, president of the Illinois District and a member of the Bargaining Council. Dawes has played an outspoken role in a campaign to recall Miller, saying the current president is incompetent and ineffectual.

But the problem is not that Miller is an incompetent labor leader—but that he works for the other side! Miners hate Miller because he has joined the companies instead of fighting them.

When he was pressured by rank and file sentiment to build the rally, Dawes was acting in the interests of the rank and file, but he was also acting in his own interests. Which of these was primary became clear within a few weeks when he helped lay the foundation for the most recent sellout proposal.

THE TENTH WEEK

In addition to a 600 person march in Pittsburgh which showed the increasing solidarity of other workers with the strike, mass meetings were held in several places to oppose threats of government intervention and to protest any sellout. 2,000 met in Morgantown, W. Va. and 3,000 in Beckley, W.V. These meetings were led by the officials of militant UMW locals. These lower level union leaders have played a key role throughout the strike, as long as they have stayed with the rank and file and put forward the membership's views. They have resisted union higher-ups and provided leadership and coordination to the struggle.

When they stand against the will of the strikers (for instance arguing strongly for a bad contract) they lose much of their influence. At the same time, they themselves influence how the rank and file looks at questions. For example, many of them have felt all along that a government seizure of the mines will eventually result in the best deal for the miners. They feel seizure would at least take things out of the hands of the hated operators, although the government's current actions are starting to raise questions about whether this strategy will work.



Even these officials have played a basically good role so far, mostly because they have responded to and developed with the views of the active strikers.

At the start of the strike, miners had mainly picketed non-union mines in their own area, then moved on to stopping transport of scab coal produced elsewhere. Now they were no longer content to picket while the bigshots negotiated. They took direct action to sway negotiations and oppose government intervention. They fought publicity tricks like utility companies hiking their rates "because of the strike." In short, they were getting clear on who their friends and who their enemies were.

The effect of this was clear when at the end of the tenth week the BCOA made another "takeaway" offer. This time the Bargaining Council didn't hesitate at all before voting it down unanimously.

THE GOVERNMENT STEPS IN — SORT OF

What characterized this period even more than the increased activity among the miners was the indecision of the government. The pressure on Carter from the whole capitalist class to settle the long battle was growing. The *New*

York Daily News editorialized, "Union democracy has degenerated into mob rule." The *New York Post* clamored, "The country has a right to demand bold presidential leadership."

But Carter was in a bind. The BCOA first refused further negotiations, but getting them back to the table wasn't that difficult. The government's special trade representative Robert Strauss leaned on Bethlehem Steel and U.S. Steel by threatening that the administration would stop supporting anti-imports legislation they were pushing. Since this took priority over their coal interests, they pulled the other owners into line.

Even if he could persuade the BCOA to tone down their takeaways, the President still had to figure out how to get the miners back underground. The government had a number of legal alternatives to turn to. The Taft Hartley Act would force the miners back to work for an 80 day "cooling off" period during which the coal companies and their utility and manufacturer customers could rebuild their stockpiles. In addition the government could seize and run the mines until a settlement was reached or try and force binding arbitration.

The problem with all three was simple: How could they make miners work? "Let them invoke Taft-Hartley!" said a Pennsylvania miner, "Taft can mine the

WHY CONTRACT WAS DUMPED

After all was said and done, the coal miners voted down the contract for one damn good reason — it was no good. Opposition centered on three main points — health benefits, pensions, and the right to strike.

*** **Health Benefits.** For three decades, coal miners have had free health care for themselves and their families, with a joint union-company health fund running clinics and administering the plan. The contract offer wiped this out, and replaced it with a privately-run health insurance policy. Miners would have to pay the first \$700 of medical expenses — \$500 for a hospital stay, \$50 for prescriptions, and \$150 for doctor visits. This is nothing but a giant take-away. Miners called it an outrage, and turned it down.

*** **Pensions.** The miners were demanding that the pensions be equalized. Miners who retired before 1976 got pensions that were not enough to live on. Now, their sons and younger brothers and neighbors were asked to vote for a deal that kept things that way—with only \$25 by 1981 added to the pensions of the men who built the UMW and made millions for the coal bosses. This would bring their pension up to a top of \$275 a month, roughly half of the pensions of recently retired miners. The miners said no to dumping on

coal and Hartley can haul it!"

The government, ably aided by the newspapers and television, chose to first make an offensive on the public relations front. They set out to turn popular opinion against the miners. Threats of layoffs and cutbacks were consistently overestimated. A 30% cut in electric power threatened by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission became less than 10% when it went into effect. A big GM shutdown lasted one day. Still dire predictions continue. One federal energy official said if the strike isn't over by April 15, it'll be the New York blackout nationwide.

THE 11th WEEK

The refusal of the miners to weaken, let alone accept a sellout was having a profound effect. The huge stockpiles coal companies and big coal users had built before the strike were dwindling. A lot of corporations were worried they'd suffer serious losses. About one quarter of the country's total manufacturing is



Miners in southern Illinois block train full of scab coal with bonfire of railroad ties.

their parents and friends.

*** **Right to Strike.** The new contract contained a clause permitting the companies to fire any miner who "instigated" a wildcat strike. This sounds a little more subtle than the cause the BCOA originally demanded, which would have allowed them to fire any miner who even honored an unsanctioned picket line. But the end result would have been fine for the bosses. They would have a free hand to fire an active miner who stood up to bad conditions or a lousy deal from the foreman. As one miner put it, "The company can say any one of us instigated a strike, and out we go."

Even the highly-touted wage hike in this contract fell far short of the companies' early bragging about how generous they were. The fine print included a cap on the cost of living allowance, and the cost of living did not start until the second year of the contract. This would allow inflation to get a full year headstart in eating away the increase. The miners read the fine print, and this added to the powerful no vote.

The sellout contract included dozens of other lousy provisions, many aimed at grinding out higher production. Just one example—The company could remove members of the mine committee and safety committee who in their opinion were hindering production. In other words, if the safety committee did their job, the bosses could remove them.

done in the states most affected—Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. Losses were mounting—the Labor Department attributed 67,000 non-coal layoffs to the strike by the end of February. Indiana and West Virginia were declared "energy disaster areas," and GM and Chrysler threatened to shut down if crucial parts plants in Indiana were unable to operate. Jay Rockefeller, Governor of West Virginia said his state had already lost \$1.1 billion in production while the state treasury was out \$15 million in lost coal royalties.

Many capitalists with no direct stake in coal were starting to push the BCOA to rethink how much the miners could be beaten down in this contract. The BCOA, caught between their fellow capitalists and the rank and file, grew more desperate. But they knew what their bottom line was.

"The right to discharge miners who honor picket lines is an absolute must for us," declared one industry source



yesterday. "It's the only way to break the mentality of the pickets," he said, observing that miners have long considered picket signs to be "almost sacred." —The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 21, 1978

It was at this point that Miller's rivals, who by now dominated the Bargaining Council, showed that they were not much different from him. In fact they provided an opening for the government to pose as a neutral and even pro-miner force.

The key was an agreement negotiated by Ken Dawes, the Illinois District president with a medium-sized coal company, owned by Gulf Oil, which didn't belong to the BCOA. This deal was struck with the Pittsburgh and Midway Company whose negotiating was done by West Virginia Governor Jay Rockefeller a.k.a. John D. Rockefeller IV.

THE P&M DEAL BECOMES THE NEW SETTLEMENT

The BCOA, still hoping to crush the miners openly and utterly, denounced it bitterly and swore they would never accept it. This gave the federal government the opportunity to "pressure" the BCOA into going along with it. Rockefeller said if they took the P&M model, it would represent "submission" by the owners.

The union's Bargaining Council fell into place, too, with many top hacks claiming the BCOA opposition proved the contract proved the contract was fine. But the coal bosses soon said, well, they guessed they'd go along after all. And why not? The P&M deal gave them most of what they needed, in particular a weapon to use against wildcats—the right to fire anyone who "instigated" a wildcat.

Without the wildcats, the coal bosses

SUPPORT FOR STRIKE

February started with the coal miners forcing the UMWA Bargaining Council to turn down the bosses sellout contract offer. February ended with 160,000 miners getting ready to vote down the next sellout offer. In this one month, the mine strike grew, and support grew and spread far beyond the minefields.

Early in February, 600 miners were joined by 200 workers from other industries, mainly steel and electrical, in a march of solidarity in Pittsburgh.

In shop after shop nationwide, workers took up collections at plant gates to help the miners. Boxes of canned food and other necessities were collected, and many workers pitched in with hard earned cash. Resolutions of support were introduced in dozens of union locals and passed in many, and the support was expressed in terms of financial contributions. At Drake's Bakery in Brooklyn, 42 workers on one shift signed a support letter and donated \$86 dollars. At the Gary Works of U.S. Steel in Indiana, workers kicked in \$108 at the gate and bought of the 120 "Victory To The Miners" buttons the National United Workers Organization (NUWO) put out to build the fight. At Masterlock in Milwaukee the plant collection put pressure on the union local, and they coughed up \$100. The UE local at Westinghouse Airbrake in Pittsburgh set up a car caravan to a mineworkers local meeting hall to deliver canned goods.

Many local chapters of the NUWO have been active in strike support activities like these, and have taken a number of steps to spread the real word of the strike, including demonstrations in Gary, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York and Newark, among others.

In Pittsburgh, the NUWO joined with lower level union officials from the Steelworkers, the Machinists and the Postal Workers to pressure higher officials into holding a support press conference on February 23rd. In Providence, Louis-

ville, New York and other cities, the UWO has gotten on tv and radio talk shows and responded to demands of the miners and their strike.

As the strike grew sharper, solidarity and support grew more widespread. Striking farmers from 17 states contributed wheat, flour and other foodstuffs, which were brought in a big car caravan to Kentucky where hundreds of miners rallied to greet this gesture of solidarity. In Baltimore, the city AFL-CIO and a number of locals held a support rally of 1000 workers who all pledged to support the miners right through to the end. 700 people attended a benefit concert in New York. And in dozens of places, support actions large and small took place every day.

As the determination of the miners to vote the contract down became clear, and the threat of Taft Hartley became a reality, the pressure on the top union officials grew. The AFL-CIO bigshots have done nothing to support the miners, with George Meany actively working against them. After many auto locals around the country kicked in cash and food for the miners, the UAW brass got the message. They felt obliged to differentiate themselves from Meany and his sort, and dug into the strike fund to contribute \$2 million to the miners. Auto workers felt good that their strike fund was finally helping a strike, especially since the UAW brass had sabotaged their efforts to go out for a good contract last time out.

On Saturday, March 11th, various organizations including the NUWO and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee are joining with rank and file miners in mass demonstrations in Washington, D.C. and Indiana to meet the government strike breaking head on and call for victory to the miners. Solidarity activities of all kinds are planned for responding to the Taft Hartley injunction and whatever force, including troops, that the government might use to back it up. The longer the strike goes, the more it is becoming a call to all workers to join in. Victory To The Miners!

WHO OWNS THE MINES?

The poor helpless coal owners. They're being driven down by the mob rule of the striking workers. They're being dragged around by a U.S. government hellbent on forcing them to sign an exorbitant contract. This is the picture TV and newspaper reporters paint. They tell endless stories of the small operator around the bend who is just making ends meet and on the verge of calling it quits—all because of some unreasonable miners. But who really makes up the Bituminous Coal Operators Association?

Listed below below are the top ten operators in Kentucky:

OWNER (and subsidiary)	COAL ACREAGE
1. Occidental Petroleum, Los Angeles, Cal. (Island Creek Coal Co., Lexington, Ky.)	91,678
2. Williams Energy, Newmont Mining, and Equitable Life, New York, N.Y.; Bechtel Corp., and Fluor Corp., San Francisco, Cal.; Boeing Corp., Seattle, Wash. (Peabody Coal Co., St. Louis, Mo.)	84,514
3. Kentucky River Coal Corp., Lexington, Ky.	84,012
4. Bates Manufacturing Co., Lewiston, Maine (Virginia Iron, Coal & Coke Co., Roanoke, Va.)	81,000
5. Trusts for heirs of Justin Potter c/o Commerce Union Bank, Nashville, Tenn.	75,309
6. Norfolk & Western Railway Co., Roanoke, Va. (Pocahontas Land Corp., Bluefield, W.Va.)	72,884
7. Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tenn.	71,601
8. Stearns Coal and Lumber Co., Stearns, Ky.	69,554
9. The Chessie System, Cleveland, Ohio (Western Pocahontas Corp., Roanoke, Va.)	57,971
10. Aluminum Co. of America, Pittsburgh, Pa.	46,883

Among those who couldn't quite squeeze into the top ten but made the top twenty-five are Reynolds Metals, Gulf Oil, U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, the Continental Oil Company and Ford Motor Corporation.

knew they won't lose the 2.3 million man-days of production and the 20 million tons of output that strikes cost them in 1977. They won't have to put in the expensive, modern safety equipment, which would cut into the soaring profits of the "coal boom" of the last few years have brought them, because the miners won't be able to refuse to work under unsafe or unhealthy conditions. The coal bosses won't have to worry about having a lower output of coal per worker now than they did in 1971, because the miners will be far less able to fight job combinations and speedup.

But on February 25, the day after the P&M agreement was accepted by the BCOA and the UMWA Bargaining Council as the model for a new agreement, the P&M miners voted it down. They said No! by 356 to 163 because this contract would have meant submission to the owners and because they didn't want to be separated from their union brothers and the fight for a national contract. This was the first nail in the coffin for the sellout. The rest were driven in one by one the next weekend as each local reported its tally—3 to 1 against, 2 to 1 down, 4 to 1 No, and 3 to 2, 5 to 1 and so on. The second sellout was smashed.

In Days To Come

With their defiant rejection of the sellout, the miners thrust the struggle into a whole new stage. Now they face the biggest test yet.

The administration is not stupid. Carter had a good idea that the rank and file might refuse to honor Taft-Hartley injunctions and go back to work. Taft-Hartley is only the spearhead, the focus of a wide ranging assault. The administration is already preparing legisla-

tion to submit to Congress which will enable Carter to seize the mines and hold them under government control whenever he sees fit. At the same time, the government has announced it will cut off food stamps and other social services to miners who won't knuckle under. With strikers' pay and benefits cut off and no strike pay, this is an open effort to try and double the hardships they face, in order to starve them back to work.

In the coal fields, things are getting tenser. Small scab mines have been turned into armed fortresses, and are starting to operate again. Coal is being transported to areas where shortages had developed by convoys guarded by huge contingents of state troopers. Miners on the picket lines are in a stepped up war, a war both psychological and military.

And of course, the propaganda offensive about how the miners are selfishly causing layoffs, power cuts, economic crisis and severe damage to the "national interest," is going full steam ahead.

This is the most important contract battle in many years, not only for the miners but for the working class as a whole. Support has been growing especially recently, as the accompanying box reports. And the miners deserve and need every bit of support working people and others can give them. The solidarity of their class brothers and sisters means added strength for the miners when they need it most. Along with the unity and determination that has brought the miners this far and the experience and understanding they have gained over the last three months, this solidarity will help the miners push on to victory.

CARTER'S 'AMNESTY' FOR 'ILLEGALS' A PHONEY

Marches Set Nationwide

President Carter's so-called "amnesty for illegal aliens" bill has been proposed to Congress and already run into stiff resistance from the people. Chicano and Latino organizations from one of the country to the other have stood up and begun organizing to oppose its passage. Demonstrations in at least 12 cities are being called for March 18.



Immigration police round up workers near Orlando, Fla.

Carter has painted the bill as a lenient, humane solution to the problem of "illegal aliens." However the actual content shows something different. This amnesty plan only benefits a handful of undocumented immigrants while paving the way for the government to clamp down and harass immigrants even more.

The plan divides illegal immigrants into three groups—those who have lived in the U.S. continually for more than 7 years, those who came between 1971 and 1977 and those who arrived in 1977 or after. The first group can become citizens only if they can prove they were here continuously, paid taxes, got in no trouble, and are in good health. But many of these would be eligible for immigrant status anyway under the present rules. Even government estimates say that less than 3% of all undocumented workers in the U.S. would qualify for this amnesty.

Those who came after 1971 are supposed to voluntarily register and they may be given 5 years temporary resident status. But they would receive no social services even though they would be required to pay taxes! They would be virtually without rights and constantly under the threat of deportation—an employer's dream.

The third group, recent arrivals, are to

be deported unless they can be included in government seasonal work projects. These projects, similar to the *bracero* programs of the '60s, would be re-established under Carter's bill. They were widespread in California and the southwest and existed to provide cheap foreign labor for agribusiness.

Mexican nationals were allowed in the U.S. only as long as they agreed to be shipped around from field to field under government supervision, usually getting paid below the minimum wage.

A FEW MORE CATCHES

the bill also includes provisions for the shoring up of the notorious Immigration and Nationalization Service by adding 2000 more INS agents to patrol the Mexican border.

One provision would encourage U.S. investments in Latin American countries supposedly to create jobs in these countries and slow down immigration to the U.S. But the aid will surely end up going to serve the interests of the same U.S. corporations that have ravaged these countries, stolen their resources, and created the conditions that have driven people across the border in the first place. 75% of all foreign investment in Nicaragua for example, is from U.S. companies. Far from changing existing conditions, this aid would only give U.S. corporations more political and economic power to reap more profits

from them.

To cover these undisguised handouts to business with the appearance of evenhandedness, one section of the bill makes it illegal for employers to hire undocumented workers. However, the other provision calling for a seasonal work program in agriculture will already be officially legalizing superexploitation and freeing many employers from any legal problems. Besides, how many of those 2000 INS agents are about to go around busting bosses? To the limited extent it is enforced, the inevitable result of this law will be the blacklisting of any worker who looks like he or she might be an "illegal." This could make it even harder for all "foreign-looking" workers, especially Latinos and Asians, to find work.

Ever since it was announced, opposition to the plan has snowballed. Despite Carter's pious speeches, immigrants without papers are almost unanimously against it. Most will oppose it by simply refusing to cooperate. The demonstrations on the 18th are aimed at hitting back at the government's attempt to expand their ability to hold their ax of deportation over the heads of immigrants and to become the official slave-labor traders for the big farm owners. Hispanic organizations also point out that provisions in Carter's bill will also increase discrimination and harassment by government agencies and employers of all Spanish surnamed workers.

Carter has been promoting this bill as another way to deal with growing unemployment in the U.S. Illegals cause unemployment, he claims. But the real problem is that businesses are laying off or closing up because they're not making enough profits, whether they hire illegals or not. Carter's unemployment policies and now this immigration bill are his answer to the problems of employers—driving workers off unemployment rolls and forcing unemployed and immigrant workers to accept low-wage labor, to jack up the profits for business. Even now employers pay undocumented immigrants an average of only 2.71 an hour. This bill would only be another tool to keep wages down.

These policies are being unmasked as Hispanic organizations, workers and others join forces to smash Carter's bill and demand an end to deportations. The March actions will be a beginning step toward stopping all attacks on undocumented immigrants, fighting discrimination, especially against Mexicans and other Latinos, and to build unity between workers and people of all nationalities.

Shipyard Union Elections 1 VICTORY, 1 LOSS WORKERS GAIN IN BOTH

Newport News, Virginia and Quonset Point, R.I.—Shipyard workers who have been struggling to organize into the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) have made significant advances in the last few months.

In Newport News, 9093 votes (54% of the total) won the fight for USWA representation. The company is trying to stall off contract negotiations by raising an objection to election proceedings. The election itself was a victory over strong company attempts to keep the "Peninsula Shipbuilders of America" (PSA), a longtime company union that hadn't even held a membership meeting for over five years! It was a victory over the anti-union "right to work" laws in effect in Virginia. And it represented the anger of the thousands of black workers at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, a subsidiary of the giant Tenneco conglomerate, against the blatant racism the company has practiced since it was founded.

Designers at the Yard had to fight a long strike last year after they were refused a decent contract. They were already in the Steelworkers, and the company prolonged the strike to portray the USWA as "strike happy" and convince the workers not to join it. The company waged an extensive campaign of press ads, TV and radio spots, and a phony "citizens committee" against the union. And the company made it clear that they were urging a vote for the tried and true PSA, which they preferred even more than no union! But their whole campaign backfired, and now the 16,000 workers at the Virginia shipyard are represented by the USWA.

The representation election went the other way the Electric Boat company plant at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, where the Steelworkers received only 28% of the vote. Although this was a setback, a number of important advances were made during the organizing drive. One of the main factors in the low

vote for the union was the fact that the plant is only four years old and most of the workers are pretty young and had little or no previous job or union experience. As a result sentiments like "we should give the company one more chance," and "I'm not into it because I'm not going to be stuck in this dump forever," were pretty widespread even among people who actively fought the company over particular grievances.

The Steelworker's official campaign only played into this. They did not explain what a union is, and why it's important, or answer the company's lines about how the union just wants dues or how union officials just want to call strikes all the time (a ridiculous charge to make against the Steelworkers with their notorious "no-strike" Experimental Negotiating Agreement"). Instead they just talked about how a union would win higher pay for the workers and distributed no-content leaflets with little drawings of smiling workers. Although the leaflets talked about how "Everybody should pitch in and do his or her part," the union's organizer did not try to mobilize the rank and file as a fighting force.

Despite these difficulties, the organizing drive saw a number of advances, the very fact that it was going on forced a number of concessions from the company, including an improved vacation pay policy, airflow respirators to cope with the hazardous dust and welding smoke and the right of laid-off clerical workers to bid into plant jobs. The layoff of 1000 white collar employees last fall spurred the organizing drive and forced the company to agree to favor them in hiring.

In the course of the struggle, some of the most active workers formed their own organization, the Electric Boat United Workers Organization, part of the Providence chapter of the Rhode Island chapter of the National United Workers Organization. The

E.B.U.W.O. became the core of the union organizing drive and published a regular bulletin, *The Shipyard Fighter*, that became the real voice of the organizing drive. The E.B.U.W.O. was far from crushed by the election returns—it drew 25 people, the largest number ever, to its meeting to sum up the drive. The E.B.U.W.O. has been and will continue to be active in other battles of the working class, like support for the miner's and fighting the annual assault on the Rhode Island law which permits strikers to collect unemployment insurance. And they are already planning to use and sum-up the experience of their co-workers in the yard with the company to build for a new organizing drive in 1979.

The struggles in both these shipyards will continue in the coming months. Workers in the Virginia yard now have a stronger hand in fighting the company's racism and attacks on the job with union protection. And the workers in Rhode Island have learned valuable lessons in how to fight the company and won some concessions. The shipbuilders will out for more now, but the shipyard workers are better able to fight for what they need.

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Iowa Beef Strike Passes 1 Yr. Mark

Workers Rally, Vote to Keep Going

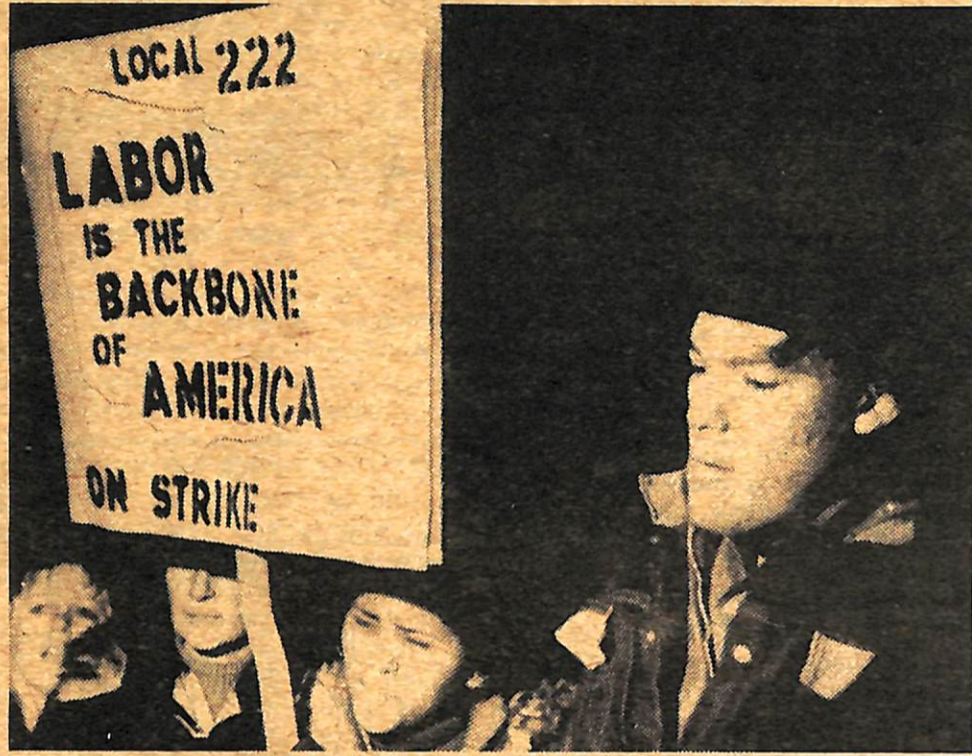
Dakota City, Nebraska — Iowa Beef Processors. Two thousand workers on strike in Dakota City for over one year! And the workers there, members of Meatcutters Local 222, are still determined not to go back for any ram job sellout.

On Saturday, February 11, 2,000 workers from several unions in the area massed at the IBP plant gates. Machinists from Zenith, meatcutters from other packing houses, postal workers, strikers' wives, and their kids were among those who massed in support of the strike. They were loud and furious at the company. As the rally was ending, a scab tried to drive through the crowd, hitting two pickets. The crowd dragged him out from behind the steering wheel, and his skin was saved only by Nebraska State Troopers, who waded into the crowd, spraying mace everywhere.

But such intimidation tactics have not cowed the strikers. The day after the support rally, 1,500 strikers met to vote on the latest company "offer"—which included the firing of 500 strikers. The younger workers who make up the bulk of the local were near unanimous for stepping up the fight, and the contract itself was rejected by a 97% vote.

Iowa Beef Processors is counting on a

favorable ruling from the National Labor Relations Board to wipe out the union's unfair labor practice charges, thereby declaring the way for a decertification election where the scabs could vote the union out. And some



Fighting the company, scabs and the cold harsh winter, Iowa Beef workers are carrying on a key fight against union busting in the packing industry.

workers speculate that the Teamsters are waiting in the wings to sign a sweetheart agreement like they already have done at plants in Amarillo, Texas and Pasco, Washington. IBP, the world's largest beef slaughterhouse and the pacesetter in the packing industry for job eliminations and union busting, is out to keep its slimy record intact.

But the 2,000 strikers know they have already cut into IBP's Dakota City profits by \$30 to \$40 million. And they have under their belts the experience of two earlier long and militant strikes during the past ten years. They have stood strong for a year this time, through sub-

zero winds, for the last few months, drawing only \$65 a week strike pay. The Iowa Beef workers are more determined than ever to go back in with their union and their unity intact.

AGAR VICTORY SPARKS MORE STRUGGLE

Chicago—Last month workers at Agar, a large Chicago meat processing plant, won two victories against the company in their continuing struggle against speedup and productivity drives. In the canning department the company tried to send home a worker with over 20 years seniority for not making enough production. In response, about 50 workers, over 90% of the department refused to go back to work after lunch and forced them to put her back to work. By the time of the victory, workers in the nearby converting department had heard about the situation and were prepared to back up the canning workers.

Word of this spread and the following week when a government inspection team had the cafeteria closed and half the break period for the artery pump department was over before it was reopened, the workers went ahead and took the full fifteen minutes from when the doors opened. The company threatened to dock them, but they had organized themselves and everyone stood firm. They said "you don't give us full pay and we don't go back to work." For the second time in as many weeks, the company was forced to back off and the workers got a taste of what united action can mean.

Soviet Workers Form Rebel Union

KGB SEIZES LEADERS

A group of workers in the Soviet Union have formed the Free Trade Union of the Soviet Union to protest corruption and unsafe working conditions and to fight for the rights and interests of working people. Leaders say the group has about 200 members. There has been a lot of publicity in the American press about Soviet dissidents, but up to now it has focused on intellectuals and Jews and other religions and nationalities. Now for the first time in the Soviet Union, which claims to be a workers' state, workers are openly organizing against the government.

This is no surprise, for the Soviet Union is no longer a workers' state. In 1917 the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union rose up and threw out the old Czar and the system of oppression he represented. They did away with the rule of the rich and powerful and their rights and established rights for the masses of people—for example the right of everyone to a job. Through their sweat and blood they built up the Soviet Union from a poor backward country. But about 20 years ago a small group in the leadership of the Communist Party, headed by Khrushchov, usurped control of the U.S.S.R. and restored the rule of profit and all that comes with it—unemployment, inflation, war, riches for the few and poverty for the many. Just at the end of February the Soviet government announced huge price increases on coffee, gas, and other commodities, all the while claiming that there is no inflation in the U.S.S.R.

The members of the Free Trade Union are dealing with the reality of conditions for workers in the Soviet Union. Speed-up, harassment, unsafe conditions, and the risk of being fired if you stand up against these attacks. Several members

of the union, which includes miners, railroad workers, locksmiths, and others, have been fired. Nor has the government left it at that. Five leading members of the group have disappeared after being arrested, and two others are known to be confined in psychiatric hospitals, a common KGB method for dealing with dissidents.

It's not surprising that the Soviet government is moving quickly to crush these dissidents. They represent a new and in many ways far more serious danger for the rulers of the U.S.S.R., unrest among the working class, the most numerous and powerful class in Soviet society. The potential is shown by the fact that the Union, after only a few months of existence, is larger than many of the older groups.

In fact, so far some of the other dissidents have tended to adopt an arrogant and anti-working class attitude toward the union and refuse it support. Andrei Sakharov, who got the Nobel Prize in 1975 for his "defense of human rights," said that the workers didn't understand the risks of open dissent and that he doubted their commitment to individual liberty.

To the contrary, the risks are greater for ordinary workers than internationally known scientists and writers, but the formation of the Union has shown clearly that workers in the U.S.S.R. are more than willing to undertake risks to fight oppression and exploitation. The working class of the U.S.S.R. waged a long revolutionary fight at the head of peasants, intellectuals and others which finally overthrew Czar Nicholas II in 1917 and the time is surely coming when they will do the same to the New Czars who ride their backs today.

War Films continued from p. 9

and Winkler characters — boot camp and Vietnam. It is the story of five marines and their experiences in the war. While the movie tries to compress too much in a short amount of time, and therefore only superficially deals with a lot of things it raises, it too provides a good picture of how GIs reacted to actual combat in Vietnam. There are a number of fine scenes. Particularly striking is the scene where a Marine captain starts yelling at a Black GI that the Vietnamese people are the enemy. The GI, in utter disgust, shouts back, "They're not the enemy, you are."

What's good about this film is that it smashes trash like "The Green Berets." Through a number of vignettes it shows how many GIs developed their basic understanding even further than just being confused as to who the actual enemy was. One GI calls it a civil war and says that the US shouldn't be there. Others develop a great hatred for the corrupt, slimy Saigon officials and the military. And others come to like the Vietnamese people and don't see them as the enemy. It also makes clearer to non-veterans the basis for many, so many GIs coming home and actively opposing the war.

All these films have something in common. They all give a partial glimpse of the war — good, but yet incomplete. They all have their strong points and are worth seeing. But what is lacking in each and what seems to be emerging as a pattern is the absence of any portrayal of the mass movement that was a major factor in the late '60s and early '70s.

These years were marked by massive demonstrations by the American people. Millions of people walked in the streets and protested in various ways against the US ruling class — from Vietnam veterans throwing away their war medals at the Capitol Building steps to over 2 million people demonstrating on one day in 1971. And these were the years when the Vietnamese and Cambodian people as a whole fought with an unconquerable determination to rid themselves

of U.S. imperialism and domination of their countries. None of the movies brings this out.

And while this is a drawback — that the characters and the situations are developed in isolation from the mass movement — the films do make the war in Vietnam a question to be considered again.

Because no matter how much the ruling class would like us to think that Vietnam is behind us, an unfortunate blot on the noble record of their rule, the truth is that the legacy of Vietnam is still with us and we should not forget that capitalism is the main culprit for its happening.

Voight and Winkler as two veterans of that war attest to the fact that Vietnam can't be pushed under the rug, and shouldn't be. Fonda as the woman who grapples with the reality of her situation represents a lot of people who through their own experiences began to see the devastating effects of capitalism on our lives, even though it's not so clearly defined.

Today, people have little faith in the politicians and the government. The striking miners embody the workers' growing struggle against the employers. The unemployed are demanding jobs and people are still struggling to survive in the face of economic decline. All these indicate a growing unrest with the way things are. A lot of the basis for this dissatisfaction was laid during the '60s and early '70s when the rule of the capitalist class came into sharp contradiction with the lives of the great majority. And this unrest is surely in part an outcome of the organized anti-war movement. The effects of the war and the struggle against it are with us today. These movies about Vietnam reflect that sentiment and that's partially why people are enthusiastic about them. They're worth seeing, and continuing to keep Vietnam and its lessons fresh in our minds will help us to give a direction to go in order to continue the struggle for a better life and a better world.

—By a Spec. 4, 9th Infantry Division, Mekong Delta, 1967-68, now a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW)

INTERVIEW continued from p. 1

OWEN (STEELWORKER): I don't really think they're striking for \$100 a day like the rumor going around. They don't want to give up the right to strike or the pensions for the old guys who helped build the union.

THE WORKER: WHY IS THE RIGHT TO STRIKE SO IMPORTANT?

ROD: If you can't strike, you don't have nothing. They have this grievance procedure. They say we'll take it [a safety grievance to arbitration . . . you can get killed before that comes back. . . . The right to strike is the number one thing because without it, the rest of the contract is like the '74 one. It ain't worth the paper it's printed on. It'll be arbitrated right away from you. The companies own the arbitrators, the arbitrator review board and the courts. If the companies own these people, you're not going to win.

HENRY (STEELWORKER): If they don't get it, they don't got no power against the company. You know we lost ours in steel and look where the hell we're at now. We got all these guys laid off, no job security. After the shutdown they [the company] just do as they please—no seniority, doubles all the time, bosses doing the work.

THE WORKER: THERE'S BEEN A PROPOSAL THAT THE CONTRACT SHOULD SAY THAT IF THERE'S A WILDCAT, THE FAULT OF IT WILL BE ARBITRATED. AND WHOEVER'S AT FAULT MUST PAY DAMAGES.

OWEN: All the time the unions going to say, "Oh, it's the men's fault." It ain't never gonna be the company's fault. Just like when there's an injury in the mill they say it's the men's fault.

HENRY: Yeah, you placed yourself in an unsafe position.

THE WORKER: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO STOP NON-UNION COAL?

ROD: If you didn't stop non-union coal, you could strike till your tongue hangs out and you wouldn't ever get a settlement.

JACK: I think what we should see in the next three years is to get more of these non-union companies into the union.

THE WORKER: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION?

WILL (MINER): If they drive us back to work, those mines will be a mess. We'll tear them apart . . . [Federal Seizure] is good for the companies. The companies sit back and let the government step in. Then they say, "hey we didn't mess with you" but the government is just carrying out their dirty work.

DAVE: I wouldn't want to be a guardsman. You get a call from Uncle Sam to get off the picket line, put on your uniform and go and bust the heads of guys you work with. And what about when the strike's over?

OWEN: They say they're going to order the men back to the pits. Let someone else crawl into their pits! The miners don't sit around for their money; they work hard.

JACK: I think big business runs this country. I bet Carter has non-union people working for him [on the peanut farm]. He's not gonna help the union!

THE WORKER: WHAT ABOUT "HURTING THE NATIONAL INTERESTS"?

DAVE: What would we be doing if we went back to work where we can't make a decent living or a decent wage?

JACK: Who's hurting the national interest is the big companies . . . Whenever we go on strike, the miners are hurting the country. Nobody talks about what the companies are doing.

THE WORKER: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PEOPLE SUPPORTING THE STRIKE?

JACK: I think it's good—we should stand with them too. I think what we really should do is have all workers go on strike.

DAVE: My dad's a steelworker. He says if the miners can't make it then nobody can. He says everybody looks to the miners to carry the fight.

Rhodesian Deal Settles Nothing

In February an agreement was signed which supposedly will bring majority rule to Rhodesia (known as Zimbabwe to its people). In fact the agreement, signed by Prime Minister Ian Smith and three "moderate" black leaders, puts a thin Black cover on the continued domination of 6.7 million blacks by 263,000 European settlers. The agreement was an attempt to split the African people's liberation struggle led by the Patriotic Front. In fact the Zimbabwean people have pledged to intensify their struggle for control of their country, and sepped up both political and guerrilla activity.

As recently as 1974, Smith had boasted their would be no majority rule in Rhodesia in his lifetime. The struggles of the Zimbabwean people have forced him to eat his words. The armed forces of the Patriotic Front, made up of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), have liberated large sections of the country and carried the war into almost every area. In the face of this struggle and the widespread world economic boycott of Rhodesia, the white settler community is in serious trouble. More than 1000 whites a month are leaving the country, knowing that there is a big change coming.

Smith hopes to disarm the opposition, both worldwide and in Rhodesia with this new agreement. But it is clear that he will not give up any more than a token amount of real power.

Whites make up less than 4% of the population, but, by terms of the new agreement, they will get at least 28% of the seats in the 100 member national assembly and 50% of the ministers in the government. They will also have veto power over any changes in the constitution. The agreement guarantees that the courts, the government bureaucracy, and especially the police and the armed forces will remain exactly as they are now, under total white control. Liberation fighters will be invited to join the army as individuals, and only once their own units are disbanded. 80% of the wealth and half the land are now in the hands of the white minority, and the proposed constitution guarantees their right to keep it all. The agreement is very concerned with preserving the rights of the Europeans, but says nothing about establishing real rights for the Africans. To cite just one example, the government now spends \$775 per white child for education, and only \$57 for blacks.

The agreement says not a word about changing this.

The ugly reality behind this agreement is brought home by the curfew that was recently imposed in rural areas of Zimbabwe. Orders were given to apprehend or shoot any adult who leaves his village area except between noon and six p.m. Children found out of their villages at any time are subject to being shot. This measure has been taken to try to keep the people from supporting the liberation forces. As in Vietnam, people have even been forced to leave their native villages and go into barbed wire-surrounded camps controlled by the army. Some majority rule!

The three "moderate" blacks who signed this agreement have relatively little support. Chief Jeremiah Chirau has been a flunky of Smith's for years. Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole helped to found ZANU but has since betrayed the group. Bishop Abel Muzorewa had the most real support in the past when he opposed Smith and called demonstrations against minority rule. But he is bound to lose that support now that he has abandoned the fight.

The U.S. and Britain have so far refused to support Smith's agreement and have insisted on the inclusion of the Patriotic Front in any deal. This is not because they have become great defenders of liberation. A New York Times editorial March 5 spelled out the outlook of the U.S. government: "The agreement would not only fail to bring genuine majority rule to Zimbabwe, but also jeopardizes the most important American interests in Africa. Those interests ride on a peaceful transition to black political power throughout southern Africa and the avoidance of conflicts that risk the involvement of outside powers." In other words, let's try and convince these guys we're their buddies and figure out some way to buy them off so we can keep plundering Rhodesia and keep the Soviets and the Cubans out. Africa has become one of the major areas of contention between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, both jockeying for power. Neither is interested in the liberation of the African peoples, only how they can use the situation to get wider control.

Smith's phony agreement is bound to be broken up by the struggle of the Zimbabwean people. The Patriotic Front has pledged to intensify the armed struggle until their country is truly free.

NYC Workers Face Contract Take Aways

continued from p. 3

solve the fiscal crisis. They have sunk over \$3 billion in pension funds into city bonds, at a time when other financial institutions are trying to quietly unload their "New York paper." Victor Gotbaum exclaimed proudly on this gambling with the future of thousands upon thousands of workers, "The unions are now bigger bankers for the city than the banks." They have representatives sitting in on meetings of the Emergency Financial Control Board, the bank- and corporation-dominated committee that has overseen the running of the city for 2½ years. And the union chiefs have gone alone with every cut and every layoff the EFCB has dictated.

These hacks don't want to jeopardize this new position of respectability and power, but they also have a wary eye on their seething membership. As Gotbaum

noted, speaking to a *New York Times* reporter: "The troops are restless. Union leaders are politicians just like political leaders, and while they can lead their constituencies somewhat, they cannot get too far out in front. The spectacle of the coal miners rejecting the contract that was negotiated for them is not lost on any union leader in New York."

Inside the unions the hacks are doing all they can to keep the rank and file confused and disorganized. At a Local 1549 meeting in one city hospital the union representative from DC 37 told the workers that even if the unions just hold the line but win no increase it would be a victory since the city wants to take away so much. And while the union chieftains assume a militant pose and hint at strikes and job actions, they are

doing little to prepare the workers for the battle. At one transit yard some workers from TWU Local 100 told *The Worker* that the union has not been telling them anything. In another city hospital, a local meeting was called without the membership being notified. Not unexpectedly, nobody showed up.

This has been the ugly method of the union leaders for the three years of the city crisis. They always talk tough, to the

city demands, but when it comes time for action they back off, selling the demoralized membership down the river. But after three years of militant posturing and active betrayal the workers are souring on their leaders. They have the potential to bust through the chains these hacks are holding on them and deal a mighty blow to the capitalists' plans to drive down city jobs and services.

City Crisis '78 continued from p. 3

The debate in Washington means two things—the problems of the cities are not going away, and the people who live there should get ready for more bad times ahead.

NEW YORK IS FALLING DOWN — FAST

Underneath all the talk about high living in Sin City, life for the 8 million people in New York is getting worse and worse. This winter has been a hard one. The snows hit week after week. But that was just snow. Shovel it away and the skeleton of the city showed through. A two year old girl burned to death

because the local firehouse was closed down in the first round of cuts in 1975. Five patients died in one city hospital in Queens because of overcrowding and staff cuts. Even the snow can talk, screaming an indictment of the city crisis week after week from huge dirty piles that must wait to melt because there are no sanitation workers to clean them up. And when the streets are being plowed, that means no garbage gets picked up, often for weeks at a time.

New York city was never paradise. Even before "the crisis," N.Y. was an old, decaying city, with high unemployment and services that strained the

budget to the breaking. Then in 1975 the crisis hit. Sixty thousand city workers fired, and an equal number of private industry jobs lost directly because of the cuts. Five large city hospitals have been shut down, along with dozens of firehouses and schools and other vital services. The slow decline of New York became a landslide, hitting hardest at the millions who need the city services the most—the poor and working people, the Blacks and Puerto Ricans crowded into ghettos with the oldest housing and worst conditions, the elderly trying to survive on Social Security. And the city workers, who have to try and keep things going, with insufficient staff and broken down equipment. They have not received a raise for three years and have

seen their pension funds mortgaged to the city for bonds to keep things afloat.

THE PLAN THAT DIDN'T WORK

Three years ago with New York City perched on the very edge of bankruptcy, the biggest bankers, government officials on all levels and union leaders put together a 3 year plan to save New York. Boiled down to its main points, it included: Federal loans to take care of the immediate financial problems of the city; huge cuts in city expenditures and huge layoffs and closings of services; selling new state backed Municipal Assistance Corporation bonds, mainly to city

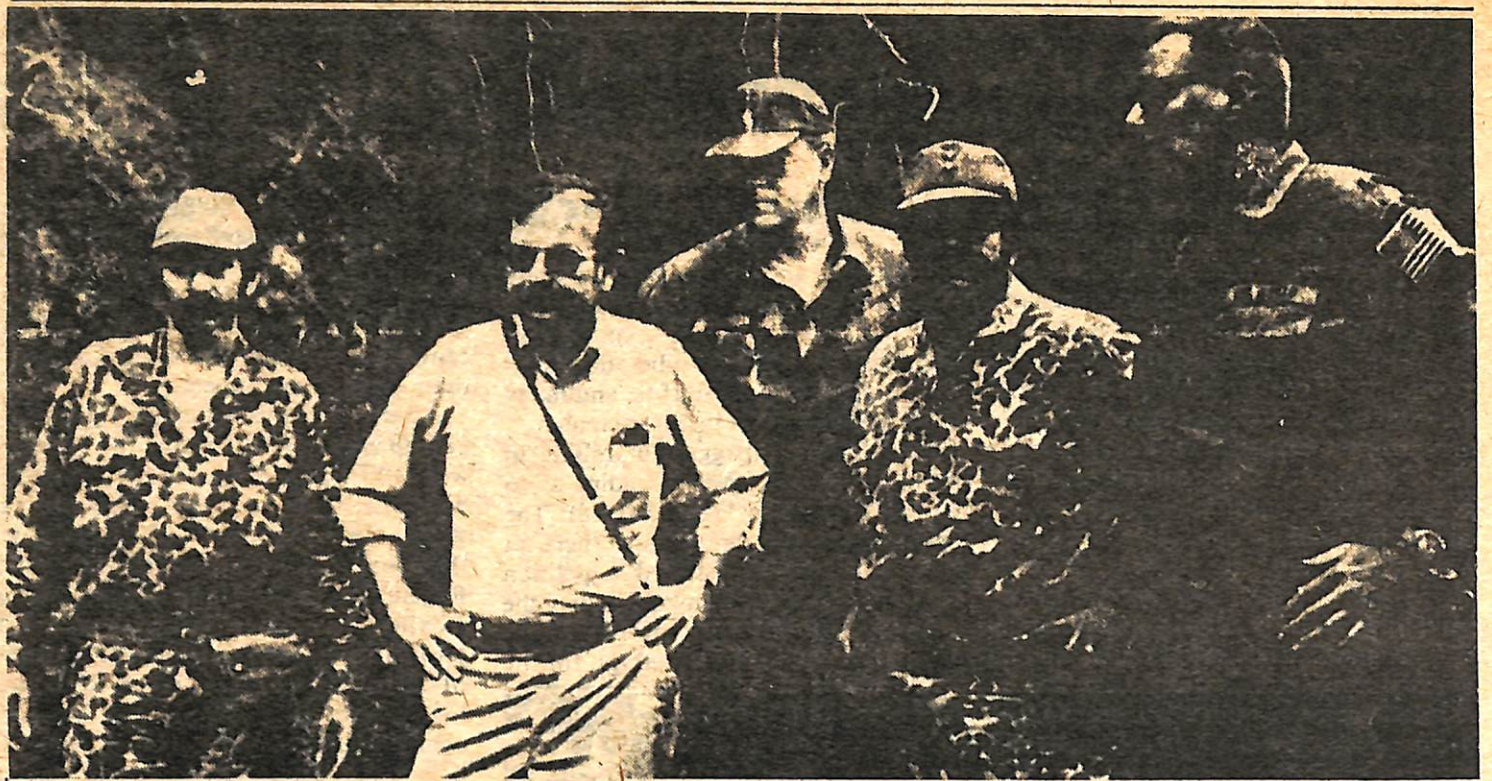
continued on page 15.

Mass Uprising Rocks Nicaraguan Dictatorship

continued from p. 1

virtually every sector of society, including peasants, middle-class city dwellers, progressive priests, and even some big businessmen who see their profits threatened by Somoza's corrupt leadership. The offensive against the government was begun in October '77, led by the Sandino National Liberation Front ("El Frente," named after an early Nicaraguan rebel), guerillas who have been waging armed struggle for 16 years, and who are aiming at the destruction not only of the Somoza family's rule but against the domination of Nicaragua by foreign imperialist powers, especially the U.S.

Huge demonstrations have rocked the nation since the December murder of opposition newspaper editor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro. A nationwide general strike called by business and labor leaders for January 10-17 kept going until the 27th because Nicaraguan workers, rebelling against living in what has been called Somoza's "personal plantation, prison and cemetery" refused to go back to work. A massive boycott of municipal



Who's behind the Somoza regime? Above, U.S. officers sent to bolster Somoza's dictatorship in Nicaragua.

elections also took place in January, as 52 of the 132 members of the Conservative Party, the only legal opposition part, run by the big landlords and capitalists, withdrew in protest. Despite offers of free food and liquor, the dirt-poor Nicaraguan masses proved their hatred of Somoza and their unwavering desire to fight him by almost totally ignoring the elections, with only 143,000 of 700,000 eligibles voting. On February 7th, El Frente successfully entered 2 major cities for the first time, conducting huge political rallies as an armed detachment held the National Guard in check. Since then, cities have been kept in an "atmosphere of agitation," with protesters and the National Guard having

running street battles daily. Youths burned buses and barricaded traffic on February 28, and on March 3 students occupied 2 private schools in the capital, Managua, at the same time journalists were teargassed for demonstrating against the closing of 2 radio stations and the murder of Chamorro. Other protest actions have included the burning of 3000 bales of cotton and 638 acres of sugar cane.

The United States government installed Somoza's father as a dictator in the 1930's and created the country's National Guard, which the U.S. still trains in the Panama Canal Zone. Somoza has a lobby in Washington bigger than that of many countries, bankrolled in part by

U.S. multinational corporations, which account for about 75% of foreign investment in Nicaragua. As part of his Human Rights propaganda, Jimmy Carter last year temporarily cut down some of the massive U.S. military and financial aid to Somoza's rule, but reinstated it, claiming he had learned that the political repression was "easing." The hundreds of thousands who have demonstrated against Somoza, despite the often violent presence of National Guard troops who have killed and injured scores so far, indicates that the Nicaraguan people are united that the only way they'll get the rights they're looking for is by dumping the Somoza dictatorships.

Crisis Analysis

continued from p. 14

unions; and setting up the Emergency Financial Control Board, EFCB, made up of top politicians and businessmen, to run New York tight. The whole package added up to over 9 billion dollars, and in three years, the whole mess was supposed to be cleaned up. It is now three years later, and the mess has gotten worse.

Why didn't the plan work? Two reasons. People fought like hell against every cut and layoff. While a majority of the proposed cuts went through, it was not what the rulers wanted. For example they hoped to wipe out the whole city hospital system, but the outcries of thousands in dozens of demonstrations stopped them for the time being. The constant fear of inciting mass, wholesale resistance did place a limit on how much and what to cut.

But the plan could never have worked because it never hit at any of the real causes of the city crisis.

For years, the big cities of the Northeast and Midwest have been going downhill. Companies leave town for higher profits in the South or overseas. The tax base shrinks, and more people go from wage earners to unemployment or welfare. Any new jobs are at minimum wages in sweatshop. All this speeded up in the early 1970s when the whole economy started declining, with the big recession of 1973-1975 sending unemployment up over 10% and cutting city and state revenues. The cities and states kept going by borrowing, floating bonds to the banks, to be paid back out of revenues later, when things were sure to get better and bigger. But they didn't. And the bills came due. New York City was the first to fall and in the past three years, many other cities and states have followed.

The Federal plan to save New York was a castle built on sand. The Federal government was going to reorganize

welfare, and take over the burden of payments. The Federal government was going to set up national health insurance, and take over the burden of hospital costs from the cities. The Federal government was going to create millions of jobs, which would swell the tax rolls. And the economy was going to recover, and grow.

But there was no recovery. In fact, the economy now looks like it is going to another downturn. There were no Federal jobs, but instead cutbacks in unemployment insurance. There was no reorganization of welfare and health. And the decline of the Northeast and Midwest has not stopped. So the city crisis did not go away in three years.

ANOTHER ROUND OF TROUBLE AHEAD

The New York City budget is as unbalanced as it was three years ago. Only now, the city has been stripped down. Each round of cuts hits closer to home, affects more people, drives the quality of life down further. And even when the cuts are temporarily stopped, as they were for the last year, the city still goes down. Not enough funds and not enough workers are left to maintain the current level of services.

The physical plant of the city is not getting any younger. The West Side Highway is falling down; the subway tracks are crumbling; the water mains are some 100 years old. Maintenance alone costs more every year. But all the rulers come up with is more cuts.

Mayor Koch has a plan for \$174 million more in cuts this year, and the elimination of another 20,000 city jobs. Plus he is demanding that the remaining 225,000 city workers give up benefits that total another \$400 million.

Federal loans are not going to stop these cuts. In fact 1975s federal loans



Publicity-seeking Proxmire hauls garbage before he adds his two bits in Congress on how to trash people of New York City.

were granted only on the condition that big cuts and layoffs be made.

The conditions for the new loans proposed in Treasury Secretary Blumenthal's plan are just as tough. The EFCB must become a permanent fixture, with no less power than the present board (due to expire in December). This means the power to order cuts and layoffs, tear up union contracts, shut down hospitals and daycare centers, and generally have total control over the city. The second condition is that the city have a real balanced budget by 1982, which means more cuts in the next few years. The federal loans themselves will only be a backup. If the city fails to meet a debt payment, the feds will pick up the tab. But the catch is that first they would cut back on some federal aid for services such as welfare or health care to secure

revenue for the loans. Any way it's sliced, the people are the ones who have to pay.

Overall, the plan isn't really about finances. It is about what kind of city the rulers see for the future. New York will have more layoffs and cutbacks in services until the level is driven down to a depressed area—low wages, weak unions, very low business taxes and an inexpensive level of services. And this New York model is for use in every big industrial or commercial center. The job of the politicians, like Mayor Ed Koch and President Jimmy Carter, is to preside over the shrinking of the cities and sell it to the people. That's what all the debates in Washington are about. They are creating "public opinion" for the boom to be lowered.

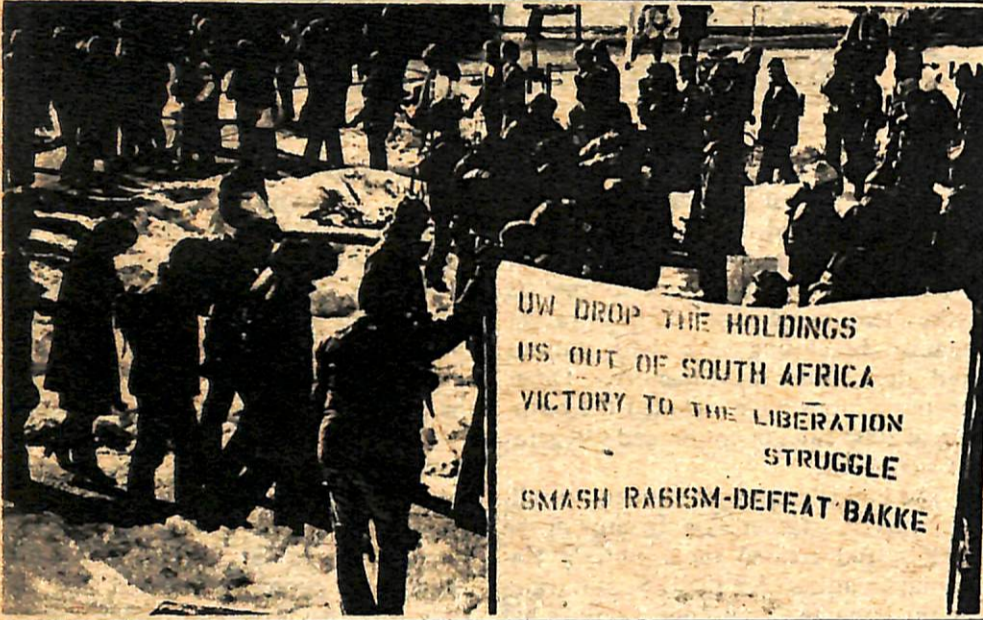
Revolt Vs. Apartheid

U. of Wisconsin Forced to Dump Stock

Madison, Wisconsin—On Friday, February 10, as hundreds of students picketed in the snow outside, a very nervous Board of Regents voted to sell the University of Wisconsin's holdings, over \$8 million worth, in companies with interests in southern Africa. The victory was the end result of a campaign by Madison students which began last spring. This is no isolated success but part of a growing tide of struggle in this country aimed at the apartheid system in South Africa and the U.S. banks and corporations who have over \$1.7 billion

invested there and help to keep the white minority settler government going. Along with students, local community organizations, African liberation support groups, religious outfits, and many others are taking part in this campaign.

The Madison struggle got rolling in spring, 1977, in the period leading up to African Liberation Day (May 28). The Revolutionary Student Brigade there set up a coalition and started a petition drive, calling for divestment—selling the stocks. When students confronted the Regents at one of their meetings, for the



Students demonstrate against University of Wisconsin's Board of Regents, Feb. 10.

first time, they tried to "stonewall." It was good, the Regents said, for corporations like General Motors and Mobil to be in South Africa because they provided jobs for black people and could use their "influence" to fight apartheid. With black workers drawing 32 cents an hour or less and oppression increasing daily, this is absurd. The student responded by briefly occupying the Chancellor's office and organizing for a campus referendum that came out better than 2 to 1 for divestment.

After summer vacation, the fight stepped up again. By November the Regents were still trying to ignore the students' demands. This proved pretty tough when a demonstration of 250 outflanked the cops guarding the building the Regents were meeting in by marching up 18 flights of stairs to the meeting and scuffling with the cops there. By the time of the February meeting the RSB had helped pull together an even broader coalition and the Regents started to back off. They agreed to an open forum so they could look "concerned" and "reasonable," but at the forum 600 students showed up and booed down the only anti-divestment speaker who had the gall to speak. The next day the Regents caved in in a lopsided vote.

DIVESTMENT STRUGGLES SPREADING

Other schools have been hit by demonstrations. In Eugene and Portland, Oregon, State System of Higher Education offices were seized January 25 by angry students demanding the State Board stop stalling and implement its two month old decision to divest. The occupation was broken up by riot-equipped cops who dragged 19

students out through a crowd of more than 50 supporters outside. Four in this group were arrested, too, but this vicious repression has just redoubled the students' determination to finish off the investments. At Miami of Ohio, a student referendum—itsself the result of a petition drive which collected over 2,300 signatures, was held on February 23 and the vote ran almost 3 to 1 for selling the school's stock. Harvard last month sold \$600,000 worth of stock in Citicorp and Manufacturers Hanover banks, but students are continuing to put pressure on the school to cut all ties with banks and corporations doing business with the racist regime in South Africa.

With students starting to chalk up significant victories, a number of colleges are trying to weasel their way out of the bullseye before the movement gets too strong. Some, like Columbia, and Stanford, are claiming that selling their stocks would result in financial losses and thus, so they say, if the students support the liberation struggle, they will only be messing themselves over by causing increases in tuition to make up the losses. Other schools, like Bryn Mawr and the University of Illinois, say they will vote their stock at corporations' annual meetings in favor of "prudent" resolutions calling for the companies to cut further investment in southern Africa.

ISOLATING THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME

The campus divestment struggles are closely related to anti-apartheid battles on other fronts, like the "Dump the Krugerrand" campaign. This has been very successful in cutting sales of the South African gold coin, which is an important source of income for the racist regime there. In 1977 alone, protests against the Krugerrand forced such businesses as the First National Bank of Chicago, May department stores in Cleveland and Carson, Pirie, Scott in Chicago to stop selling the coin and radio and television stations in Portland, Oregon, New York City, Boston and Chicago to stop carrying ads for it.

City councils in most of these cities and in Milwaukee, San Antonio, Dayton and Denver were compelled to pass resolutions against the Krugerrand. In late January of 1978 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, the country's largest stockbroker and the main agent in the U.S. for Krugerrand sales, quietly broke their arrangement with the South African government. They claimed, of course, that politics had nothing to do with it, it's just that the Krugerrand wasn't "profitable enough." In another development, a number of community organizations, trade union locals and religious groups are closing their accounts in banks with big financial ties to South Africa and organizing boycotts of those banks.

As the Krugerrand and divestment victories show, people in the U.S. can provide real aid to the liberation fighters in Southern Africa by crippling their enemies. These battles and the ones to come also serve to expose sharply the aid and support the capitalist rulers of this country give to their opposite numbers in South Africa. The more this happens the more difficult it will be for the U.S. government and business to keep backing white minority rule there.

Thousands of people are becoming active and a genuine mass movement is developing. In addition to the Davis Cup demonstration called for March 18, the coming months will see heavy campus battles. For example, the Revolutionary Student Brigade at such campuses as Columbia University and Rutgers in New Jersey is working with coalitions which already have the schools' administrations and trustees under heavy fire to divest, and campaigns are just getting underway at dozens of other campuses.

Davis Cup Demo Serves to Isolate Racist S. African Regime

continued from p. 1

of an event with South African teams on their campus, the administration has tried to justify hosting it by declaring, "The folly of mixing athletics and politics would seem to be self-evident." Although the administrators may dodge the connection, the close relationship between politics and sports is evident to South African athletes such as Ray Moore, who recently dropped off the David Cup team because of the growing worldwide sentiment against apartheid. It is also evident to Cliff Drysdale, a tennis star who left South Africa seven years ago and moved to the U.S. because of his opposition to apartheid. While its backers are calling it an issue of "free speech" to let the South African team play, the blacks and other non-whites of South Africa are denied even the most basic human freedoms under a regime into which U.S. corporations pump a total of 1.6 billion dollars yearly. The team has one token non-white, Peter Lamb (by strange coincidence, a Vanderbilt student), who, we are supposed to believe, represents something every black and "coloured" South African can attain. Meanwhile under apartheid, non-whites cannot go from one place to another without passbooks, make an average of \$30.00 a month in foreign-owned mines and factories, and face possible death for attempting to form any kind of organizations. For years South Africa's government has been sending its teams around the world to legitimize its existence as a nation. Recently it has even "integrated" its teams to try and convince people that the situation is improving, while the massive rebellions at the risk of death by the country's blacks and coloureds, who call the nation by its real name, Azania,

attest that the opposite is true. While Carter speaks of "Human Rights" and U.S. corporations try to pass themselves off as forces for progress, their support of such things as the racist regime's sports teams makes it clear where their interests lie—not with the liberation struggle of the Azanian people, but with the system of white minority rule and apartheid, because it means superprofits to them.

Students and faculty at Vanderbilt have been mobilizing around the issue for months, with the Students Protesting Apartheid coalition in the lead. They have picketed the administration building demanding the match be cancelled, and have drawn up a petition, endorsed by Black Faculty and Black Administration groups and a range of departments from Business to Philosophy, saying that holding the Davis Cup at Vanderbilt would put the university in "the position of appearing to sanction apartheid." They achieved a partial victory when the NLT Company of Nashville, which was to have underwritten the \$88,000 cost of the matches, withdrew their sponsorship. University administrators, anxious not to lose the revenue the affair will generate, were forced to find other funding.

National building for the demonstration was heightened in response to the brutal attack on Lapchick. As head of ACCESS, a group of 26 civil rights organizations calling for boycotting of sports competitions with South African teams, Lapchick had been in the forefront of activity when 2 men entered his office February 15th, and beat and gagged him. At the same time they cursed him with racial slanders, and yelled, "Will you continue to do what you're doing? . . . You have no business in

South Africa!" The beating left him with both external wounds and internal injuries, which the Tidewater police medical examiner stated were "consistent with self-infliction"! The Justice Department and the FBI declared that they would begin to investigate the case—providing they determined it was of a racial nature! The incident only strengthened the determination of people to carry out the demonstration.

Demonstrations like these are part of a worldwide movement in support of the courageous struggle of the Azanians for liberation. Similar actions have occurred, for instance, in New Zealand against the tour by a South African rugby team. A massie campaign against apartheid is being waged by people around the world. Whether it is denouncing the Krugerrand—the gold coin that represents superprofits to U.S. banks and corporations, and superexploitation to South African laborers—or students demanding their universities divest themselves of stock in companies that do business with Southern Africa, the question is being asked: which side are you on? Those who stand with the Azanians in their fight against apartheid and imperialism take advantage of every opportunity to attack South Africa, to expose it as the brutal regime it is and to demand that no one recognize its legitimacy until the majority rules.

On March 17th-19th, and especially March 18th, thousands of people in this country will be demonstrating in Nashville to show which side we are on. By striking a blow at our rulers and their attempts to hold this charade we will aid the Azanians in their struggle and strengthen our own fight here. Come to Nashville March 18th and stand with the forces of freedom.

GUM FACTORY KILLERS WALK FREE

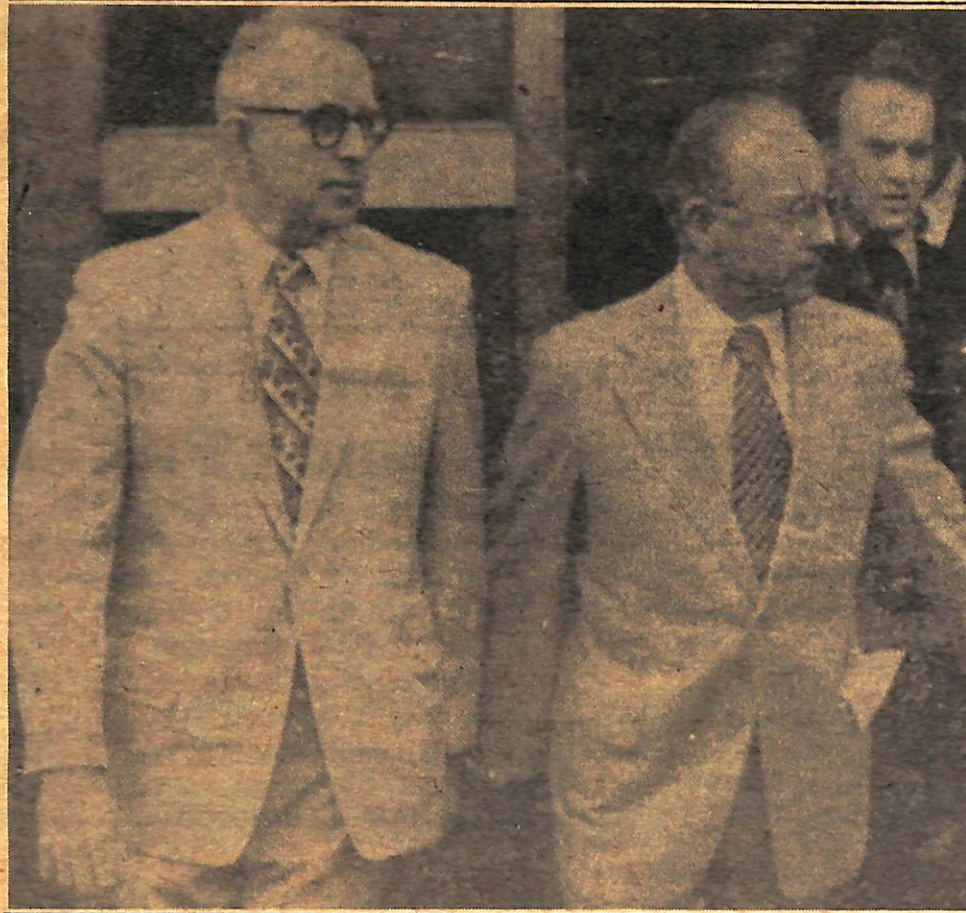
1976

Saturday, November 20, was like any other Saturday night at the plant. The night shift was working the usual overtime. Shifts of 48 hours or more a week are normal at Warner-Lambert. The machines are roaring away and the workers were toiling through the night, looking forward to the day of rest the next day and the upcoming Thanksgiving holidays.

But there were troubles in the Freshen-Up Gum section. This was a new product, and production schedules were even heavier in this department. Four machines were down for cleaning, blowing out the white dust thicker than usual. A fifth machine began vibrating and shaking violently. The workers complained, but the bosses turned a deaf ear. They allowed the broken machine to run for an hour. Suddenly a spark shot out of the machine, the white dust ignited, and a thunderous explosion rocked the plant, blowing out dozens of big glass and steel windows into the streets four stories below. Thick globs of molten gum were thrown through the air, and a flash fire swept through the floor.

Workers poured into the streets, running, screaming wildly, with clothes burned off, burned by the boiling gum and the fire. One witness said they looked like pictures he had seen of napalm victims in Vietnam.

The toll was heavy — 55 workers injured, many seriously with 3rd degree burns covering much of their bodies. Six workers later died from their burns. And



Two of the Warner-Lambert bosses under arrest in 1977. The bosses justice got them off in 1978.

in the days after the explosion, the whole story began to come out. An inspector at the factory had warned of the danger of the highly explosive white dust, but to no avail. The workers told of the grueling work pace, and the machine running for an hour with a broken drive shaft scraping the floor, and the highly flammable cleaning fluid, spread all over the floor, that ignited in the blast to turn the

department into a blazing inferno. The company was clearly to blame, and the injured dead workers join the long list of their many brothers and sisters over generations, murdered by the profit drive of the capitalists, a force that allows nothing, including life, to stand in the way.

From *The Worker* for the New York-New Jersey Area

1978

Four executives of the Warner-Lambert Company walked free on February 16. Manslaughter and homicide charges against them in connection with the murderous blast at the New York City gummaking plant were dropped. The judge ruled that although the bosses were well aware for many months that the dust that permeated the plant was highly explosive, they were doing all they could to correct the problems. The Warner-Lambert bosses who were out on bail and continuing to run the plant all along, bear no responsibility for the death of six workers and the maiming of 49 others.

What a travesty of justice! The blood is on the hands of these bosses as much as if they threw a stick of dynamite onto the crowded factory floor. But it seems that the rich and powerful, with their fancy lawyers, can buy whatever justice they wish. They are murderers, and yet today they walk free. They turned their factory into a tomb for six workers, and yet today they are still running it.

These stuffed-shirt, arrogant captains of industry and their assistants who own and manage the Warner-Lambert conglomerate were aware of the dangers for months, maybe years. But when measured against the production charts and the profit graphs, the dangers to the workers were dismissed as unimportant. A perverted sense of values, yet the capitalist knows no other.

Within 6 weeks after the fatal blast the plant was reopened and the dust in the air was significantly reduced. The technology was there all along to correct the problem. But only the destruction of \$9 million in machinery, the loss of two months' production, and the death of six workers convinced the Warner-Lambert bosses to install the safety equipment.

Another injustice has been wrought upon the working class. The six Warner-Lambert workers join untold millions of their class brothers and sisters who have died before them, in the mines, mills and factories of the capitalist bosses. How many more must die before the murderous profit system is brought to its final end?

steam. Both sides are squaring off to settle the issue. More and more people around the state of Minnesota, and from the other parts of the country, especially where small farmers are faced with similar situations, are supporting the struggle. And the farmers have supported others—for example the have expressed their solidarity with striking United Mineworkers members, because they see that all of them face a common enemy who is seeking to wreck both unions and small farmers in their drive for profit. Messages of support can be sent to the farmers at Lowry Town Hall, Lowry, Minnesota.



Troopers at Minnesota powerline site.

Farmers Battle Cops, Power Co. FIGHT NEW HIGH TENSION LINES

Lowry, Minnesota—A quiet rural section of Minnesota has become a battleground as hundreds of small farmers resist an attempt by big power companies to construct a major electric line across their land. Almost every day mass meetings of the farmers are held to guide the struggle. Two hundred State Troopers have been sent to occupy Pope and Stearns Counties. A campaign of intimidation against the farmers has started, complete with police roadblocks and over sixty arrests. And angry farmers carrying baseball bats mass at construction sites, impeding the work.

Farmers from at least three Minnesota counties are involved in this battle. Some of them are 70 years old and have poured their whole lives into the land and they are damn angry. Their anger is at the last straw of abuse they are faced with—the announcement that with government support the power companies were going to use strips of their land to construct lines that would spread electricity from new power plants built to take advantage of coal produced at non-union strip mines in Montana. Nobody ever came to the farmers and asked them about it. These farmers already have a tough time holding their farms together, and they have decided to take a stand against this latest attack, including many whose own land is not directly threatened.

The power companies didn't concern themselves with any of the vital questions of the farmers—like irrigation projects, planting and harvesting, or spraying of the fields. They don't care how the power line will affect any of this. For the companies, it is purely a question of what is the most profitable and direct way for them to construct the line.

So far, the authorities have been

shocked at the determination the farmers have shown in fighting back. For nearly two months farmers have gone out day after day, facing the cops and sub-zero temperatures. When surveyors have shown up farmers chase them off, using snowmobiles, and at one point farm machinery, even covering them with manure. At a construction site, after several days were spent assembling a transmission tower, farmers showed up with wrenches and took it apart.

Right now the only reason work on the line is able to go on at all is because of the cops. They are stationed at many of the sites 24 hours a day, to slow down what the farmers call "night work" which has already cost the power companies thousands of dollars. The cops have been maintaining a constant "aerial surveillance" using helicopter and planes, as large groups of demonstrators have moved from site to site to halt construction.

Since this struggle began a lot of people have changed their thinking about the police. When the cops first showed up farmers offered them coffee and asked state troopers why they were there. The troopers responded that they were "just doing my job". Most people, by now, can see that they were doing a job all right—as goon squads for the power companies.

Last week when demonstrators were blocking a cement truck that was bound for a construction site, cops knocked several people to the ground and thought they could get away with arresting, kicking and generally beating on people—hurting one guy badly enough so that he had to be carried off in a stretcher. The next time a group of farmers came with baseball bats, ready for the

cops, who backed off. More recently the state patrol, known for using mace on the farmers, got a taste of their own medicine when they were sprayed with a chemical fertilizer from a big tractor-drawn tank.

The state government has also tipped its hand in this struggle. Governor Perpich called in the state troopers and refused to grant a moratorium on construction. He never tires of calling on farmers to be "peaceful and reasonable." What he means by this is "sit peacefully at home and we'll reason this out once the line is built."

When well over a thousand farmers and supporters rallied at the state capitol, and went to see their so-called representatives, they found that not one was willing to propose any legislation to stop the powerline. In fact, many decided to take that particular afternoon off. The press for the most part has also done its bit in the service of the power companies, not only by portraying the struggle in a rotten light but also by raising the threat of an energy crisis. This completely ignores the fact that there are other places to put the line.

This powerline has come like a slap in the face to farmers, a segment of the population that already has a lot to be angry about. They work hard to grow crops, raise livestock, improve the land, and often find very little to show for it. Ripped off by agri-business and corporate farms, each year there are fewer and fewer family farmers. It is these conditions that have given birth to this year's widespread unrest in agriculture and a number of farmers who have been active in protesting the powerline have linked up with movements like the farm strike.

The powerline struggle is picking up

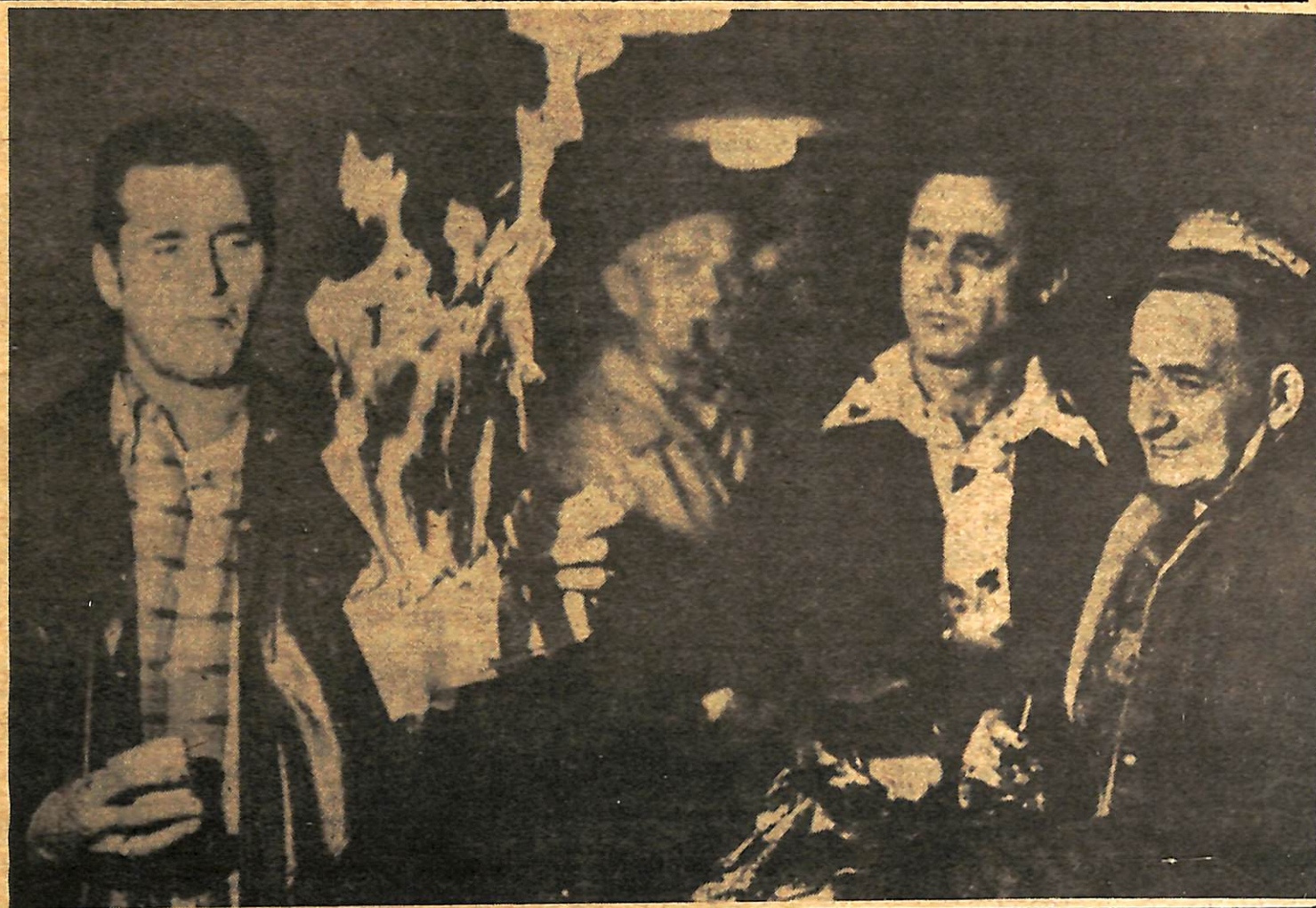
EN PIE CON LOS MINEROS

Editorial

Los mineros todavía están luchando. 160,000 miembros de la Union de Trabajadores de las Minas están en una de las luchas más duras y más grandes en muchos años. Ellos están luchando para ganar, y porque ellos hacen eso, es muy diferente que muchos otros contratos nacionales, cuando los líderes de las uniones paran la lucha de los obreros y, entonces ellos solamente hablan de como quieren luchar y no hacen nada efectiva. Pero eso no ha pasado en las áreas de carbón. Los mineros han luchado contra de la policía, contra de los esquiroleros y contra de los asesinos de las compañías. Los mineros han empujado aparte el liderato principal de la union y sus contratos vendidos. Ellos se han mantenido firmes, enfrentando las mentiras de la TV y los periodicos de los ricos, quienes quieren poner la culpa para los problemas del país en las espaldas de los mineros. Y los mineros han dicho a Jimmy Carter que él debe poner la ley Taft-Hartley donde él no la quiere. Que trabaje en las minas Senador Taft y que transporte el carbón Senador Hartley, porque los mineros no trabajan sin un contrato decente.

Hoy día las compañías de carbón quieren empujar abajo los mineros, al nivel de los mineros en el pasado, el nivel que sus padres y sus abuelos lucharon muy duros para mejorar. La productividad y la estabilidad son las lemas de los dueños. Cada obrero la ha visto en su fábrica. Rapidez en producción y ningunas aumentos de salario. Contratos que destruyen beneficios ganados por lucha. Fábricas moviendo al extranjero. Contratos vendidos. 160,000 mineros se levantan en contra de estas condiciones. Ellos rehúsan de ser víctimas para las ganancias de las compañías. Ellos tienen una contestación para la grita de los patronos por carbón — Si No Hay Contrato, No Hay Carbón/

La huelga determinada de 3 meses de los mineros es una inspiración para la



clase obrera hoy día. Los obreros han superado cada dificultad y ellos continúan la lucha, determinados y unidos. Los mineros están mostrando que es posible que obreros pueden unirse y pueden luchar para nuestras demandas justas. Los mineros están mostrando que el liderato de la AFL-CIO con sus gritos de unidad con los patronos, no es la voz de la clase obrera. Ellos están mostrando que los obreros pueden lanzar la lucha en las uniones contra de los patronos. La gente obrera tienen otra

alternativa—Debemos Levantarnos para Luchar Como Los Mineros!

Cada trabajador puede ser muy orgulloso de la huelga de los mineros.

Muchos obreros miran la huelga como si estaba en su propia union. Cada golpea de los mineros es otra golpea contra de

cont. en pagina 3

Utier en Huelga Gobierno Ataca

6200 miembros de la Union de Trabajadores de la Industria Electrica y Ridgo están entrando su tercer mes de huelga, como El Obrero va al impresor. Los periodicos de P.R. son llenos de noticias sensacionales de la huelga por muchas semanas—bombas en las líneas de agua y electricidad, organizadores de uniones bajo arresto, torturados o hallados muertos en el bosque, y cargados de subvención comunista. Esta lucha, junta con la huelga de los conductores de autobuses, son huelgas importantes para los obreros en Puerto Rico.

Esta es más que una huelga ordinaria. Se lanza por una union militante de obreros de servicios publicos, en contra

de un gobierno que no quiere la union más poderosa en sus obreros. Hay 200,000 obreros de servicios publicos en Puerto Rico y eso total es un cuarto de todos los obreros en Puerto Rico. Muchos de ellos han empezado organizarse en uniones, especialmente UTIER, aunque generalmente ellos no tienen el derecho de huelga—y, en muchos casos, se prohíbe que ellos se organicen. Todo esto pasa al mismo tiempo que los EE.UU. está continuando tratar de mantener Puerto Rico como un sitio con salarios mínimos para las ganancias grandísimas para las compañías grandes. Los miembros de UTIER averían \$7000 por año ahora, y esto es más que el promedio por obreros en P.R. (un país donde los precios (usualmente) son más altos que en los EE.UU. para las necesidades).

Policía y la Guardia Nacional están alertas en todas horas en contra de los huelguistas ahora. El gobierno está tratando de crear una atmósfera anti-union en la prensa, y está usando el asesinato reciente de un experto anti-labor Americano para tratar de aplastar el apoyo de otras uniones para UTIER. El organizador de la union Teamsters, Manual Cabrera y dos otros se arrestaron y fueron cargados con eso

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Resistencia Tembla Dictadura En Nicaragua

Entre el 26 de Febrero y el 2 de Marzo, por lo menos 22 personas fueron matados y mucho más heridos durante una serie de manifestaciones en contra de la regimén brutal de General Anastasio Somoza de Nicaragua. La familia del General ha dirigido el país hace 42 años. La Guardia Nacional, la cual funciona como la policía personal de Somoza, disparó, desde carros armados y helicópteros, con ametralladoras en contra de un levantamiento de Indios el 26 de Febrero, matando a 12. En el 28 de Febrero dispararon con armas automáticas y con bombas.

Lacrimógenas en contra de una multitud de gente, matando a 10, heriendo a 50 y tomando preso a cientos. La gente estaban respondiendo a la decisión de Somoza a seguir en su oficina hasta la expiración de su término en 1981. (En ese momento su hijo asumirá su posición para mantener la dictadura de la familia).

El discurso de Somoza, quien ha parecido en el público, desde 1974, solamente detrás de idreo en contra de balas, fue recibido con gritos de "Muerte a Somoza," "Somoza Renuncia," y "Queremos la democracia."

Casi todos los sedores de la sociedad han participado en las protestas, incluyendo los campesinos, los de clase media que viven en la ciudad, las curas progresistas y hasta algunos de los negociantes grandes que vean en la regimén

corrupta de Somoza una amenaza a sus ganancias. La ofensiva en contra del gobierno empezó en Octubre de 1977 y es dirigida por el Frente de Liberación Nacional Sandino. (Sandino era un dirigente revolucionario que el gobierno mató.) Los guerrilleros, quienes han luchado durante 16 años, están dirigiendo su fuego en contra no solo el reinado de la familia Somoza, sino también en contra del dominio imperialista extranjera de Nicaragua, especialmente el dominio de EE.UU.

Manifestaciones grandes han sacudido el país desde el asesinato en Diciembre del periodista de la oposición, Pedro Joaquín Chamorro. Una huelga general, llamado por dirigentes sindicales y líderes industriales para el 10 hasta la 17 de enero, duro hasta la 27 porque los trabajadores, luchando en contra de la opresión que sufren en "la plantación personal" de Somoza, rehúsan a volver a trabajar. Un boicot masivo en contra de las elecciones municipales ocurrió en enero, cuando 52 de los 132 miembros del Partido Conservativo el único partido legal de la oposición, dirigido por los terratenientes y capitalistas grandes, renunciaron en protesta.

A pesar de ofertas de comida y bebida gratis, las masas empobrecidas del país mostraron su odio para Somoza y su decisión de luchar en contra de él por ig-

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Cartas

"El Obrero" quiere recibir cartas de Uds. acerca de cualquier sujeto.

Nuestra direccion es: El Obrero 4409 W. North Ave. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216

Dicer La Verdad

Nosotros somos un grupo de trabajadores de Art Steel. Nosotros estamos escribiendo a *El Obrero* para hablar de la verdad acerca de nuestra huelga y nuestra lucha en contra de la compañía desde la huelga. Como cada capitalista, Art Steel es un jefe vicioso, pagando podridos salarios con condiciones malisimas a sus 500 obreros, por la mayor parte dominicanos y puertorriqueños. Pero habían años de resistencia a los ataques de la compañía y en la huelga nos organizamos apuntando toda nuestra resistencia y ira como un puño para luchar en contra del enemigo.

Desde los primeros días de la huelga vimos que necesitábamos una organización para unir los trabajadores más militantes para planear como luchar esta batalla. Nosotros supimos de otras huelgas que los representantes (stewards) no pudieron luchar solos. Utilizando nuestra experiencia de la lucha en la fábrica y el espíritu de unidad que nosotros ganamos en la Convención Fundadora de la Organización Nacional de Obreros Unidos (ONOU) en Chicago, formamos un Comité de la Huelga que se hizo la firmeza de la huelga. Constantemente, nosotros buscamos maneras de unir a los obreros de los dos plantas, que están separadas por algunas milas, para ganar tantas ganas como posibles durante la huelga. La oficina de nuestro comité en la calle 233 era un centro de actividad, fortificando la huelga, como obreros jóvenes y viejos, obreros negros, blancos y latinos, compartieron experiencias y construyeron la unidad y la militancia que nosotros necesitamos en cada batalla en contra de los jefes.

Para propagar las noticias acerca de la huelga y construir el apoyo en los barrios cerca de las plantas, el Comité y la ONOU organizaron una marcha por la calle de Broadway y fue recibido con mucho entusiasmo. El Comité estaba en el frente de la lucha en contra de la policia, que hacen el trabajo sucio de los jefes, tratando de romper la líneas de piquete y la marcha. Un elemento sobresaliente de la huelga fue una cena organizada por el Comité y la ONOU. Abajo de una bandera grande que dijo "Construya la unidad de la clase obrera," mas que 40 de nosotros y nuestras familias y muchas miembros de la ONOU se unieron por una noche de celebración de los avances de la huelga y para hablar de nuestros próximos pasos en esta batalla.

Muchos de nosotros nos levantamos y hablamos acerca de porque vinimos a la cena, lo que aprendimos en la huelga hasta el punto, y como avanzando. La esposa de un huelguista, miembro de comité organizador para la cena, habló del orgullo y el apoyo de nuestras familias en como habíamos luchado hasta el punto y como ellos fueron determinados de luchar tanto tiempo que sea

necesario. Un miembro de la ONOU del Eagle Electric habló acerca de su huelga de 5 meses y como es importante que se trae la unidad y la organización de la huelga adentro de la planta para continuar la lucha en contra de los jefes. Habían canciones acerca de las luchas aquí en los EEUU y en otros países. Aquella cena, como muchas partes de la huelga, nos daba un gusto del poder de nuestra clase cuando nosotros nos unimos para luchar.

A despecho de los ataques viciosos de la compañía, ellos no pudieron aplastarnos. Nosotros habíamos organizados para luchar las y nosotros hicimos unos avances en el contrato. Eso contrato no contiene cada cosa que deseamos y necesitamos para nuestras familias pero nosotros les forzemos a los jefes para doblar su primera oferta. Nosotros pudimos entrar en la planta con orgullo en nuestra lucha y mas listos para luchas futuras.

Por toda la lucha, los líderes de nuestra unión, Distrito 65, usualmente estaban al lado de los jefes, haciendo cualquiera cosa para mantener la huelga en sus propias manos y hacer los obreros debiles. Cada acción que se hizo en contra de los obreros por estos "líderes,"

solo fortaleció la compañía.

Ellos vinieron a las líneas de piquete para propagar mentiras y confusiones. Constantemente ellos trataron de dividirnos—miembros de la ONOU en contra de los otros obreros, los puertorriqueños en contra de los dominicanos, viejos en contra de nuevos. Finalmente ellos tuvieron negociaciones con solos los vendidos representantes. Los jefes y las engañadoras de la unión pudieron empujar el contrato final por muchas razones—la confusión que ellos crearon, la podrida temperatura, y el hecho que la navidad venía y nosotros no tuvimos dinero. Pero aunque había todas estas cosas, todavía tuvimos un voto grande y bien organizado en contra del contrato.

Al tiempo que terminaba la huelga, el presidente de Distrito 65, David Livingston, se oyo a decir, "Art Steel es como un cancer en esta unión." Pues, el dijo un bocado y, por un cambio, era la verdad. El cancer que le da miedo a el es los obreros organizando su fuerza, y si, el puede estar seguro que ésta está propagando en Distrito 65 y cada otra unión.

Nosotros supimos que cuando regresemos a la planta, nos enfrantaríamos muchos ataques de la com-

pañía. En seguida ellos botaron un obrero. El fue defendido y el no perdió su trabajo. La compañía llamó la migra para venir a la planta para darnos miedo y para dividirnos. Bob Farrell, dirigente de la planta, estaba apuntando su dedo a individuales para que la migra los molete. Pero el efecto de estos ataques era lo contrario de lo que quería la compañía—nos unimos más en contra de ellos. Nosotros demandamos que la unión tomé una posición en contra de los ataques de sorpresa y defienda sus miembros.

Nosotros enfrentamos batallas más importantes en las semanas que vienen. Nosotros demandamos que el contrato sea firmado ahora. Nosotros estamos investigando para ver si los jefes están discriminando en contra de emplear dominicanos, y si es verdad, vamos a empujarles asta la pared acerca de eso. En el curso de estas batallas vamos a construir el Comité de los Obreros e Art Steel como el liderato militante de nuestras luchas en la planta.

Nosotros aprendimos mucho acerca de los quienes estmos luchando. Los jefes de Art Steel son los mismos como lo demás de su clase, como los dueños de las minas y los gobernantes que en Puerto Rico están tratando de romper la huelga de los obreros de UTIER. Nosotros tenemos que movilizar nuestros compañeros obreros para tomar las cosas en nuestras propias manos y luchar en contra de la compañía y todos nuestros enemigos.

—Un grupo de trabajadores de Art Steel



EL OBRERO

El Obrero existe para construir la lucha de la clase obrera y el pueblo Norteamericano en contra del sistema capitalista de explotación y opresión. Tratamos de construir lazos entre la lucha en los EEUU y las batallas que el gente de todo del mundo están llevando a cabo en contra del mismo enemigo.

El Obrero expone la posición política

del Centro de Trabajadores Revolucionario sobre los eventos y luchas majeres que confrontan los trabajadores. Declara abiertamente que la clase obrera puede libertar se solamente por derrocar el sistema capitalista, establecer el reinado de la clase obrera, el socialismo, y avanzando hacia el comunismo, la sociedad internacional sin clases. En esa manera, la clase

obrera libertara a toda la humanidad y construira un mundo nuevo.

El Obrero necessita y pide la correspondencia, la critica y las sugerencias de todos ellos que lo lean. Escriba para El Obrero, venda lo, y haga contribuciones. En tal manera, El Obrero se pondra una arma mas poderosa para la clase obrera en su lucha historica.

Accion Gana Victoria

Escribo esta carta a Uds. para informarles sobre un incidente que ocurrió en la fábrica "Cerro Wire & Cable" en Maspeth, Queens.

El supervisor del primero turno ha iniciado una campaña de hostigamiento. Uno de sus "foremen" rabiosos despidió a un trabajador del cobre porque este salió para el almuerzo dos minutos temprano, aunque tenían un operador auxilio para la maquina.

Durante todo el día la gente discutieron la posibilidad de tomar alguna acción en contra del despido. En la mañana del día siguiente solo 3 trabajadores poncharon el reloj en el departamento del cobre. Un grupo fue a la oficina de personal para demandar el trabajo y para exigir que este perro rabioso termine con la basura constante.

El resultado ha sido una victoria. Aunque suspendieron al trabajador por 2 semanas, el consigue de nuevo su trabajo y no podía le compañía castigar a ellos que participaron en la acción. Mientras tanto el "foreman" se ha comportado mejor. Probablemente está tratando de encontrar una forma mejor

para controlar a la gente.

La ONOU publicó un artículo corto sobre el incidente en el noticiero del comité eléctrico. El artículo resumio la batalla para mostrar a la gente que se puede unir para luchar en contra de "cerro" y ganar.

Aunque la victoria fue pequeña, es un ejemplo de lo que tenemos que hacer en Cerro. Usualmente la gente dicen que no podemos alcanzar la unidad. Muchas veces esta es la verdad y todo el mundo se interesa solamente en sus propias problemas. Pero cuando las cosas se peoran tanto la gente dicen basta y luchan unidos.

El noticiero creó una conmoción en

los departamentos cuando lo pusimos sobre las maquinas y los puredes. Todo el mundo estaba de acuerdo y particularmente estaban unidos en su odio para esta "foremen" y un supervisor que trata de despedir a cualquier persona que dice algo que no le gusta el. El noticiero habló para todo el mundo y pego fuerte a estos dos hombres y la compañía entera.

Existen diferencias entre la huelga de los mineros que todavía sigue y esta acción que tomamos nosotros aquí. Pero hax por lo menos una cosa en común. Se puede tomar mucha inspiración de los trabajadores levantándose como hombres.

Crisis de NYC, estilo de 1978

Primero, el Senador Proxmire viene aquí para inspeccionar la situación. Entonces el vuelve a Washington para decir que el no esta seguro que NY necesita ayuda federal. "Injusto" gritan el Alcaldé y el Gobernador. "Si nos ayudan, nosotros barjaremos y haremos problemas para todo el mundo." Todo el mundo mira al Presidente. Desde luego el va a ayudar la ciudad. La crisis de NY va a Washington de nuevo. El debate acerca de NY ha vuelto a los poderosos alla.

De nuevo, el debate no habla de las preocupaciones o las problemas del pueblo de New York y las otras ciudades grandes que se empeoran financieramente. El debate no habla del desempleo, de viviendas desmenuzadas, de calles sucias, o de escuelas malísimas. El debate en Washington significa 2 cosas: las problemas de las ciudades no estan desapareciendo y el pueblo deben prepararse para tiempos mas duros.

New York Esta Cayendo—Rapido

La vida para los 8 millones del pueblo en NY esta empeorando. Un invierno duro les enfrento a ellos. La ciudad en NY nunca era un paraíso. Aun antes de la crisis, NY fue una ciudad vieja, con desempleo muy alto y con servicios publicos que casi rompio el presupuesto. Entonces en 1975 la crisis vino. 60,000 obreros de la ciudad se despidieron y el mismo numero en industrias privadas. 5 hospitales de la ciudad se han cerrados, y tambien muchas escuelas y muchas bomberos y otros servicios principales. La bajada despacia de NY ha dado golpes mas directamente a los millones del pueblo que necesitan los servicios—los pobres y la gente obrera, los Negros y los Hispanos en los barrios con los apartamentos mas viejos y las condiciones peores, y los viejos que tratan de sobrevivir con la Social Security. Tambien hay los obreros de la ciudad, que tratan de mantener los servicios con personal insuficient y equipo roto. Ellos no han recibido un aumento hace 3 años y sus fondos de pensiones se han usado para comprar bonos financieros.

El Plan Que No Funciona

Hace 3 años que NY casi se hizo ban-

carrota. Los banceros grandísimos, los oficiales del gobierno y los líderes de las uniones hicieron un plan para resolver los problemas de NY. En 3 años, este plan debía limpiar la situación. Ahora, 3 años mas tardes, la situación se ha empeorado.

Hay dos causas porque el plan no funciona. El pueblo luchaban contra de cada corto y cada despido. Por ejemplo los gobernantes quisieron destruir el sistema de hospitales publicos pero docenas de manifestaciones pusieron fin a sus planeas por un tiempo. Ellos tienen miedo de resistencia masiva y eso miedo pone un limite a sus planeas.

Pero el plan nunca habia podido funcionar porque no toco nunca las causas verdaderas de la crisis de la ciudad.

Hace mucho años, las ciudades de las áreas mas viejas, las partes Norte y Centro de este país, se han empeorando. Companias salen de las ciudades para mas ganancias en el Sur o en otros países. El base de impuestos se contrae y mas obreros estan sin trabajo y van en el desempleo o en el welfare. Los pocos trabajos son con salarios minimos. Las ciudades y los estados continuan tomar prestados con bonos a los bancos, que debian ser pagados mas tarde, cuando las coasa se mejoran. Pero la situación

no se mejoro. Y las cuentas se vencieron. New York era la primera ciudad que se cayo y en estos tres años, muchas otras ciudades y otros estados han seguido.

El plan federal era un sueño. El plan tuvo tres partes. 1—organizar welfare de nuevo y aceptar la carga de pagos; 2—empezar la seguridad nacional de salud y tomar la carga de las cuentas de los hospitales publicos; y 3—crear millones de trabajos para aumentar los reditos de impuestos. Y ellos dijeron iba a recubrir y iba a crecer.

Pero no habia recobre. No habian trabajos federales, y en su lugar habian cortos en la colecta de desempleo. Ellos no organizaron la welfare y la salud. Y la bajada de las partes Norte y Centro no ha parado. Pues, la crisis de la ciudad no ha salido en estos 3 años.

Otro Año De Dificultad Viene

El presupuesto de NY es tan desequilibrado como hace 3 años. Pero ahora la ciudad se ha empeorado. Cada nuevo corto efecte a mas gente y empuja de la vida.

La ciudad esta viejando. El "West Side Highway" esta cayendo, las vias de los trenes se peoran, las canerias de agua tienen mas que 100 años. Cuesta mas para arreglar todos estos cada año. Pero los gobernantes siempre estan propiando

mas cortos.

El alcalde Koch tiene un plan para \$174 millones de cortos este año y la eliminación de 20,000 trabajos mas. Tambien el esta demandando que las demas de los 225,000 obreros de la ciudad sometan beneficios de \$400 millones.

Los empréstitos federales no van a parar los cortos. En 1975 la ciudad recibio los empréstitos solamente porque muchos cortos y muchos despidos se hicieron. Las condiciones para los nuevos prestamientos son bastante duros como antes.

En verdad el nuevo plan de los gobernantes no esta acerca de las financieras pero acerca de que tipo de ciudad ellos quieren en el futuro. New York va a tener mas cortos y mas servicios hasta que el nivel de vida esta bajada como un área de crisis—salarios bajos, uniones debiles, impuestos mas bajos para los negocios y un tipo barato de servicios. Y el model de New York estara usado en cada centro industrial y centro comercial. El trabajo de los politicos, como Koch y Carter, es lanzar la contracción de las ciudades y vender el idea al pueblo. Eso es lo que que paso en los debates en Washington. Ellos estan creando un atmosfera para destruir las ciudades.

Los Huelguistas de Iowa Beef Mas Que 1 Año

Dos mil obreros en huelga en Dakota City por mas de un año, en contra de Iowa Beef Processors (IBP). Y los obreros allí, miembros de Local 222 de los obreros que trabajan los mataderos todavia estan determinados a no volver con un contrato vendida.

El sábado, 11 de febrero, dos mil obreros de varias uniones en la área se unieron en frente de la puerta de la fabrica. Mecánicos de Zenith, obreros que trabajan los mataderos de otros establecimientos frigoríficos, obreros del correos, las esposas de los huelguistas, y sus hijos vinieron para apoyar la

huelga. Habian fuerza y rabia contra la compañía. Cuando la manifestación estaba terminando, un esquirrole trataba de manejar el carro entre la gente, golpeando a obreros piqueteando. La gente le cogio detras de volante, y no fue muerto solo porque las tropas tiraron bombas de gas donde la gente caminaban el grupo.

Pero estas tácticas de intimidaciones no han infundido miedo a los huelguistas. El día despues de la manifestación de apoyo, 1500 huelguistas unieron para votar acerca de la última oferta de la compañía — lo cual incluyó el despido

de 500 huelguistas. Los obreros jóvenes que son la mayoría en la local era casi unanime acerca de aumentar la lucha y el contrato fue rehusando por un 6% de la gente.

La compañía IBP está dependiendo de una regla favorable de la National Labor Relations Board para destruir los acusaciones de practicas injusticias laborales asi prepararan el camino para una elección de decertificación. Y algunos obreros especulan que los Teamsters estan esperando para firmar un acuerdo "dulce corazón" para ellos, como ya lo han hecho en plantas en Amarillo Texas y Pasco Washington. IBP, el matadero mas grande del mundo y el "buen ejemplo" por la industria de empacadores acerca de eliminaciones de trabajos y rompiendo las uniones, quiere mantener su record viscoso intacto.

Pero los 2,000 huelguistas saben que ya han cortado las ganancias de IBP de Dakota Cit por casi \$40 millones y ellos tienen la experiencia de dos huelgas militantes y largas durante los últimos 10 años. Ellos se han mantenido fuertes por un año este vez, por viento abajo de zero y colectando solo \$65 cada semana de pago de la huelga. Los obreros de Iowa Beef están determinados a volver con su union y con unidad intacta.

MINEROS

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toda la clase de patronos y sus representantes pagados en el gobierno. Cada acción de apoyo y unidad significa que la clase obrera empieza luchar junta.

Pero unidad y apoyo moral no son bastante. Lucha, activa y organizada, debe ser construida. Sin organización, unidad es solamente un buen idea. Hoy cada trabajador que esta cansado de vivir así, cada obrero que quiere luchar por un futuro mejor, tiene un papel importante—construya un poderoso, luchando movimiento acerca de la

huelga de los mineros. Por organizando nuestra clase para levantarnos con los mineros, nosotros daremos mas fuerza a la huelga. Juntos nosotros venceremos la propaganda de los dueños. Nosotros extendremos la verdad y juntaremos con mas compañeros. Y como si nosotros construyemos un movimiento en apoyo de los mineros, nosotros podremos avanzar nuestra organización y podremos dar fuerza a las luchas contra de cada abuso, toda la explotación y toda la opresión que nos ataca mas cada día. La clase obrera y la clase explotanda no tiene nada en comun. De Pie Con Los Mineros!

NICARAGUA

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nora tambien la elección. Solamente votaron 143,000 de los 700,000 elegibles. En el 7 de Febrero El Frente llevó a cabo manifestaciones políticas por la primera vez, en 2 ciudades mayores. Los guerrilleros armados mantuvieron La Guardia Nacional bajo su control. Desde ese momento ha existido una atmosfera de agitación en las ciudades con batallas callejeras ocurriendo todos los días entre La Guardia y los manifestantes. Los jóvenes guemaron a 2 autobuses y pararon al tránsito en el 28 de Febrero y el 3 de Marzo. Estudiantes se tomaron 2 escuelas privadas en Managua, el capital. El mismo día periodistas fueron atacados con bombas

lacrimogenas en una manifestación en contra del cierre de dos estaciones de radio y el asesinato de Chamorro. Otras acciones de protesta incluyen la guema de 3000 pacas de algodón y 638 hectareas de caña de azúcar.

El gobierno de los EE.UU. hizo dictadur el padre de Somoza en los años 1930 y formó la Guardia Nacional del país, la cual ellos siguen entrenando en la zona del canal de Panama. Somoza tiene representación en Washington D.C. mas grande que muchos países. Esta representación esta pagada en parte, por las grandes corporaciones norteamericanas, quienes son respon-

sibles para 75% da la inversión extranjera en Nicaragua. Como parte de su campaña en favor de los "derechos civiles," Jimmy Carter reducio, el año pasado, su ayuda económica y militar al regimen de Somoza, pero ahora la ha aumentado otra vez porque dice que ha visto que la opresión política esta reducida.

Los cientos de miles quienes habian participado en las manifestaciones en contra de Somoza, a pesar de la presencia violenta de la Guardia Nacional, indica que el pueblo de Nicaragua entiende que la única manera de conseguir los derechos basicos es por medio de la derrota de la dictadura de Somoza.

UTIER

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asesinato y otro, Juan Rafael Cabrero, hallado muerte en el bosque despues de desapareciendo de la custodia de la policia. Y el Gobernador esta atacando el presidente de UTIER, un miembro del Partido Puertorriqueño Socialista, diciendo que el hizo la huelga para perturbar el orden político y tambien que el lider de la union no tiene interes en las vidas de los obreros. Hasta ahora, estas calumnias no han convencido ningunos de los huelguistas para someter al gobierno.

Los obreros de UTIER enfrentan una batalla dura y los obreros Americanos pueden entender esa de sus propias batallas. La huelga es una lucha que se ha hecho una batalla principal para toda la clase obrera en P.R., como la huelga de los cortadores de carne en Milwaukee in 1975-1976 contra de rompe uniones ó las huelgas de los mineros en este país. Ademas los obreros de UTIER luchan contra del mismo enemigo—no solo es el gobierno de P.R. controlado por los EE.UU., pero los bonos de la Administración del Recurso de Agua se retienen en la mayor parte por los bancos mas grandes de los EE.UU. Esta lucha es nuestra lucha. Victoria a los huelguistas de UTIER!