

## Carter Anti-Inflation Hits At Workers Government Targets Upcoming Contracts

If prices continue to climb the way they have so far this year, double digit inflation will once again cripple our ability to buy food, pay bills or put gas in our cars.

Jimmy Carter recently announced that the fight against inflation, which is expected to hit 15% this year, is his top priority. But no economist in the country thinks Carter's plan will have any significant effect in stemming inflation.

Despite obvious inadequacies of his plan, top business leaders liked it. They were in "total agreement" with Carter, according to his new inflation czar, Robert Strauss.

And no wonder—it is aimed directly at the working class. If implemented, it will reduce wage increases to next to nothing. This measure, coupled with unchecked price hikes, will push workers' living standards straight down.

Did our top labor leaders call out Carter's fake anti-inflation plan as the attack it is and oppose it? No. AFL-CIO head George Meany, while refusing to commit himself to "formal guidelines" made it clear where he stood. He said, "Labor, I'm sure, will cooperate with the President of the United States and with our authorities here in Washington in trying to fight this matter of inflation.

The heart of the administration's

plan is to cream workers on some dozen contracts in major industries which will expire over the next year and a half. They are haunted by the spectre of the recent coal contract when, to bring the rank and file under control and make a stab at curbing the miners' militancy, they were forced to give a 37% increase over 3 years.

### CARTER SAYS LOW INCREASES

Carter proclaimed he would "break the chain" between the coal pact and upcoming contracts and targeted post offices, railroads and truck drivers for model sellouts.

He pointed to federal employees, who are mainly without unions and have no right to strike, as examples of how the slaughter will be committed. "Let me be blunt about this point," said Carter on April 11. "I am asking

*continued on page 20*

## California Taxquake Shakes The System But Proposition 13 Makes Promises It Can't Keep

Taxquake! Shockwaves are spreading across the country from the landslide vote for California's Proposition 13, although the masses of people will suffer more than they benefit from the new California law.

The tax revolt, overall, is an angry response to a government which soaks people more and more and provides less and less in the way of services. It is a significant tear in the long established fabric of American society.

Proposition 13 will cut property taxes in California to 1 percent of their assessed 1976 value and restrict new hikes to 2 percent of that.

Its immediate effects are becoming clear. There will be sizeable tax savings for most homeowners, but two-thirds of the \$7 billion in cuts will go to the biggest landowners in the



Tax bill will benefit businessmen like Gavin and Jarvis, its authors, above.

state—business and commercial real estate speculators. The gap will grow—taxes are reassessed after a property is sold and houses change hands more frequently than businesses. And despite the imaginative promises of the bill's backers, there is no sign that tenants are having rents reduced as their landlords cheerfully pass on the benefits of the lower taxes.

With so much revenue lost, the state and local governments are slashing social services wholesale. For the first time since the Depression there will be no summer school in California. Towns and counties, the main recipients of property tax revenues, are planning library closings, park and recreation facility shutdowns, fire service cutbacks, the elimination of public trash collection and so on. Over 20,000

*continued on page 16*



Rank and file drivers kept the heat on public officials, like at this \$50-a-plate dinner for County Executives.

## Milwaukee Transit Workers Bounce 3 Straight Sellouts

Punctuating a tumultuous 40-day strike which brought the rank and file to the forefront, Milwaukee transit workers accepted a fourth contract offer on June 16. Three previous offers had been rejected, with a third one voted down only five hours before the final offer was announced.

During the strike Local 998 members stood up against bus company and County officials, the local media, which unleashed a propaganda barrage against the strike, and their own union leaders.

Local president James Heidenreich had tried to sell a three year contract on the 14th, only to meet the righteous anger of the men who jumped to their feet, shouting out their disgust.

The Vice President James Brown grabbed the mike. Up to that time he had stood with the Executive Board's unanimous recommendations of the first three sellout agreements. But then he said, "We'd be crazy to accept this when we're so close to a two year agreement."

Hours after that contract was rejected, the company came through with a two year pact. The wage increase is only 70¢ over the life of the agreement above the present base pay of \$6.50 an hour. The 1,150 Milwaukee drivers rank second to last in pay of the country's fifteen largest transit systems.

But the last offer topped the first one by including fully paid health insurance, retroactive pay for the two

*continued on page 19*

### INSIDE



**INDIANS LONGEST WALK P.15**  
**COAL WILDCAT P.5**  
**BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT P.4**  
**AFRICA CENTERFOLD, P.12,13**

# Editorials

**Union busting.** This month's Worker is full of articles about attempts by different companies around the country to destroy unions. So was last month's Worker. And the month before that. Delavan, Connecticut Foundry, Essex, Hussman, JP Stevens, Coors Beer, the Washington Post, the New York Daily News, Iowa Beef—these are just a few of the many companies, from huge corporations to little sweatshops, which have tried to keep out a union, kick out a union, or reduce it to a hollow shell.

Driven by the economic crisis, many bosses have launched a war against our unions. In newspaper and meatpacking, for example, companies are out to drive unions completely out of the industry. A firm called Advanced Management Research Products conducts seminars on the latest methods for stopping union drives. The National Association of Manufacturers has formed the Council for a Union-Free Environment. Partly as a result of such attacks, AFL-CIO membership is down by 500,000 and the percentage of workforce organized into is the lowest in over 25 years.

The bosses tell us they are trying to protect "their workers" from the greedy union officials or to protect our "right" not to be "forced" to join a union. They tell us that "big unions" are what's ruining the country.

In fact, the problem with our unions is that they are run, especially at the top levels of the Internationals, by officials who are more interested in building cozy relationships with the bosses and their politicians than with fighting in the interests of the workers.

Serious though these problems may be—and it's hard to get more serious than having enemy agents in control of your forces—unions are still a barrier to the bosses' attacks. And we need them now more than ever, when employers are trying to cram every contract full of "givebacks," undisguised hatchet jobs on our living standards and working conditions.

**Union busting and takeaways.** That's how the bosses aim to drive us down and keep their profits high. But around the country, workers have met this attacks with a strong defense. This has meant hard-fought strikes, some longer than a year, often with little or no strike benefits, fighting scabs and the police, the courts and even backstabbing union officials. Lately, seeing how much is at stake in these superficially unrelated battles, workers have supported their brothers and sisters in the fight, with donations of money and food, with big rallies and mass picket lines. A defeat for any of these union busting onslaughts is a victory for the whole working class.

## Letters

### NYC Contracts "All Takeaways"

**New York**—The newspapers say that poor Mayor Koch is crying in his beer about the "takeaways" he didn't get in the new union contracts. Well, let him pass that beer back to us—we paid for it anyway—since the whole damn contract is one big takeaway.

The two 4 percent annual raises are equivalent to one raise of 5-5½% for the next two years, while the rate of inflation is running over 10 percent annually. If that's not taking away our money, I don't know what is.

Instead of the cost of living adjustments of the last contract, we now get two annual "bonuses" of \$790 each. This is actually less than the previous COLA, which was running close to \$900 at the end of the last contract. The \$68 million the city saves is a takeaway out of our pockets.

The two weeks pay that was stolen from tens of thousands of city employees in 1975 (supposed to be returned in 1978) isn't even being discussed. This is particularly outrageous for all the city workers who got fired that year and ended up paying the city two weeks severance pay!

We haven't yet seen a dime of the stingy raise negotiated in previous contracts—even though inflation hasn't waited for the EFCB to rule, and even though productivity increase of that contract are breaking our backs, and more people die or quit or are laid off, the worse it gets every day.

Will someone please tell me what in this contract is *not* a takeaway? This is a contract between the whores and the whoremasters who are laughing in their

12-year-old Scotchies, not crying in their beers. But the garbage in the paper about nice little "responsible" workers doesn't get over on any of us, and it won't keep us from organizing against the city bosses and EFCB and their bedmates who now run the unions.

A New York City Worker

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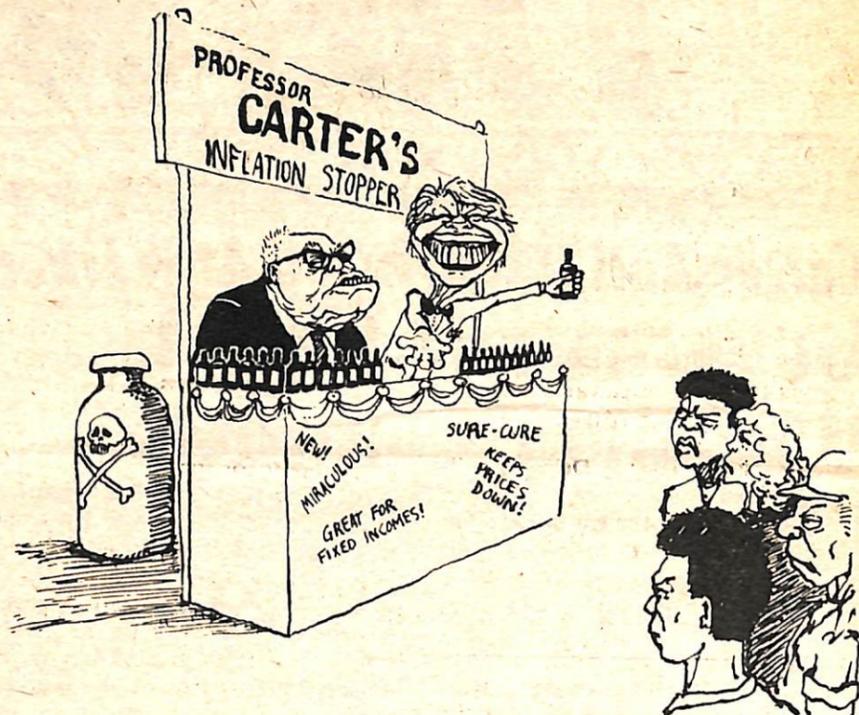
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## THE WORKER

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SECCION EN ESPAÑOL

*The Worker* is a newspaper by and for workers. It stands with working people in every fight against the bosses, in every fight against discrimination and oppression, against everything that keeps us down.

As workers we need our own newspaper. We need a paper that tells the truth and tells it from our point of view. We have nothing in common with the bosses except a common battlefield where it's us against them.

Daily the abuses at work and in our communities are heaped on us by the owning class, and more and more we see the need to build a movement against them. A workers' newspaper is a weapon for our movement. The nation's daily papers, owned and operated by the same class of rich capitalists who own the companies where we work, are used against us. They print lies and distortions about our strikes, our interests, our lives.

We need to know the truth, the victories and defeats of our class, the working class, and everyone else battling the same vultures we are—here and around the world. We need to spread the word, to share the lessons—We need to change the world for ourselves and our children.

*The Worker* is published by the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters, a communist organization. The RWHq joins the shop floor militants, the oppressed minorities, the people throughout this society who want freedom, and we see the need for our movement to be a revolutionary one, which will rip down capitalist rule and replace it with socialism, the rule of the working class.

*The Worker* currently comes out once a month. It is paid for by sales and contributions from working people. As its circulation grows, it will be published more often, to better serve our movement in a bold and timely way. This paper is distributed nationwide and seeks to include every major battle of workers and all others who are fighting for a better life and to analyze the major developments in society and the whole world from the viewpoint of the working class. Read, write for and sell *The Worker*.

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# Thousands Mobilize To Back 225 At Delavan Iowa Strike Becomes Showdown Over Union Busting

West Des Moines, Iowa—"We're not just fighting for ourselves, we're fighting for our children and grandchildren" is the way an older worker, who had suffered a heart attack in the course of the strike, summarized UAW Local 552's battle against union busting. The strike is going on now at the Delavan plant here in Iowa, a heavily unionized state.

As the strike enters its second year, the company is having the scabs inside the plant petition to decertify the UAW as the workers' bargaining agent. By giving legality to Delavan's scab operations, this would greatly weaken the position of the 225 strikers.

At the same time, as Delavan pulls out all the stops to break up the union, the trade union movement in Iowa has raised the banner of solidarity. This was shown most recently when 1500 workers turned out at the Iowa State House May 27th to rally the strikers on. For although the battle involves only 225 workers, it has become a symbol of the workers' fierce resistance to the bosses' escalating union-busting offensive.

The strike began at Delavan, which manufactures nozzles for jet aircraft, in June 1977, after a move planned by the company. In the preceding years lay-offs had hit over 400 workers as the company subcontracted to non-unionized shops. It reached the point where a striker with thirteen years seniority was third from the bottom of the seniority list!

## ALL OUT UNION BUSTING

A month before the contract expired Delavan sent all the workers letters saying that in the event of a strike, "the plant will continue to operate at full production." They signed it "Goodbye and Good Luck!" But the company got a shock when all but one of the 225 workers began picketing the plant and refused to go back to work as scabs on their own union.

In the past few years Midwestern states have been plagued by company attempts to break established unions. Unable to keep their profits high, the bosses' only solution is to grind workers even farther into the dirt, and breaking unions means weakening the workers' ability to resist. Iowa Beef Products workers recently faced a similar union busting attack, and held out in a 14 month strike which saved their union although at the cost of several "takeaways" in the contract (see May-June *Worker* article). Rath, another major meat packer, has announced plans to close its plant and lay off all 1900 workers unless they accept huge wage cuts. In Sioux City, Zenith has just closed its plant to move overseas where labor is cheaper.

A leading force behind these attacks on workers are capitalist organizations, like the National Association of Manufacturers, and its Iowa affiliate, the Iowa Association of Manufacturers. Unsurprisingly, Delavan's Chairman, Robert Sandblom, heads up the latter outfit.

## MASS SOLIDARITY

In the face of this powerful and organized assault, the Delavan workers and their supporters are forming the kind of mass movement it will take to stop union busting from spreading even further. The Des Moines Labor Coalition, a group of labor unions and community residents, has led such actions as the demo at the State House and a series of mass arrests for violating anti-picketing injunctions, planned in order to give publicity and

gain support for the strikers.

At one mass bust in May, fourteen different locals from around the state were represented. So far the campaign has gathered tens of thousands of dollars for the strikers. Even students have become involved and the Revolutionary Student Brigade has helped out by taking strikers to as far as 100 miles away to speak and gather support for the strike.

From the start, the strikers held militant pickets which shut the plant down several times. The company responded by dragging the courts and cops into the act with injunctions and arrests. When the picket lines started being swelled by supporters, the company went for new and harsher injunctions. They even got one enjoining 13,000 union members from all over Central Iowa.

Although the mass arrests built support and publicity, they couldn't continue indefinitely without turning into a handicap, taking up too much time and money. The strikers have switched to hitting scabs in the nearby parking lots which don't have injunctions covering them yet.

While the main battle centers on hindering scabs and production, the strikers and their supporters are also using other tactics. They are in the process of planning a mass withdrawal of

funds from the Des Moines National Bank, on whose board sits Robert Sandblom, Delavan's chairman.

While the local union and rank-and-file are doing all they can to help the strikers against the company and its scabs, all the top UAW leadership has done is to tell the workers: "We'll take care of it—don't rock the boat!" This has meant the UAW big shots oppose mass picketing at the gates, and even refuse to defend UAW members arrested for picketing!

But the Delavan workers have stood up for themselves and all workers, to build a powerful mass movement in the face of enormous difficulties. Although only 225 in number, their effect is multiplied by the many other plants being inspired to follow their lead in standing strong to defend their unions. The movement to bust the union busters has busted out in Iowa!



Scabs escorted by cops face militant picket line at year-long Delavan strike which has galvanized Iowa workers.

## Anti-Nuke Movement Mushrooms



Anti-nuke protesters, Rocky Flats, Col., where people have radiation sickness from nuclear accident. Present were survivors of Hiroshima.

Seabrook, N.H.—Anti-nuclear power protesters came under heavy fire as their planned demonstration on June 24th grew closer. New Hampshire's government and power companies moved against New England's Clamshell Alliance, determined to stem the burgeoning "No Nukes" movement. Resistance to nuclear power plants has mobilized a broad range of people across the country, from long-time activists to concerned citizens politically involved for the first time.

State politicians have harassed Clamshell members in various ways, from "reassessing" one woman's property taxes to instituting anti-camping ordinances in the area.

Under added threats that their oc-

cupation would be met by tear gas, dogs, fire hoses and even bullets, the Clamshell finally agreed to hold the demonstration on 18 acres of land off the Seabrook site, one of several pieces of land offered by a Clamshell sup-

porter.

Before agreeing to this, they forced State Attorney General Thomas Rath to concede to eleven of their demands, including the right to conduct three days of rallies and to have free parking and other facilities for the protesters. The kingpin leading the harassment against Clamshell has been Governor Meldrim Thomas, who ordered the arrest of all 1414 of the occupants who sat on the site on April 30, 1977.

The 1977 sit-in was the first massive act of civil disobedience against nuclear power stations, and the tip of the anti-nuke iceberg. The "No Nukes" movement has exploded in the past two years like a chain reaction, and it is as deadly a menace to the big nuclear power companies as nuclear accidents are to the people.

The US movement has been catching up to Europe, which has been afire with massive and militant anti-nuke demonstrations since the early '70's. Sit-ins have become commonplace from San Luis Obispo, California to Barnwell, South Carolina. At least half of the nation's nuclear power plants now face organized opposition from twenty Clamshell-type alliances.

Just a year after Seabrook, on April 29, 1978, six thousand people took over a plutonium factory in Denver's Rocky Flats, 20 times the number of people who sat in there a year earlier.

The movement's forces have grown among people concerned with ecology

*continued on page 18*

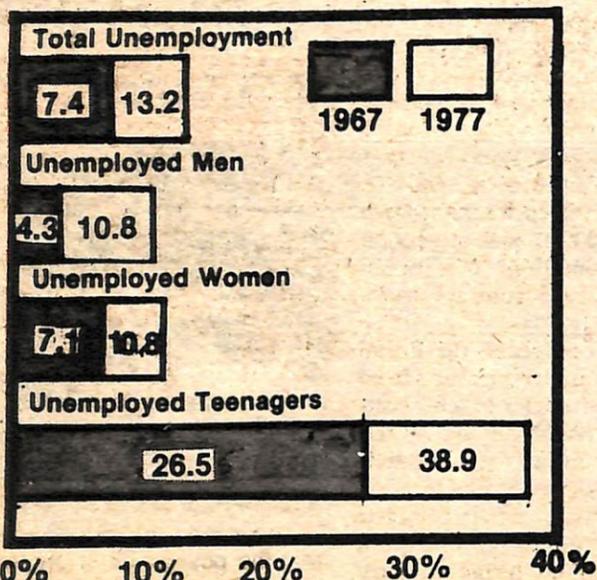
# Part 3 Of Worker Investigation

## Discrimination Keeps Black Unemployment Sky High

"Last hired, first fired." This saying has been used for generations to describe the situation faced by Black workers in this country. Today, politicians and the media mouthpieces of the rich try to paint this as a thing of the past. They go as far as to say that no special effort is needed to deal with unemployment in the Black community because of the gains Black people fought for and won in the 1960's means that they have basically won equality.

Nonsense! The fact is, as a continuing *Worker* investigation of unemployment and government policies shows that Black unemployment is about twice as high as it is for whites, about twice as high as it was ten years ago and about twice as high as the government claims it is. "Last hired, first fired" is alive and well. It is kept that way by the capitalist rulers of this country

GRAPH 1



OFFICIAL BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT because discrimination is beneficial to the steady flow of their lifeblood-profits.

Let's look at the facts. As Graph Number 1 shows, even by official government statistics, both the rate of Black unemployment and the actual number of unemployed are far higher than they were a decade ago. The average number of adult Black men without jobs has almost tripled. These figures are the highest since the government started keeping separate statistics.

What's more, the official figures mask the real extent of the problem. For both Blacks and whites real unemployment is about double the official amount, as shown by Table 2. To be counted in official rolls a person must be jobless, actively seeking work, and have no other responsibilities. This definition excludes millions, who for example, work part-time but are looking for fulltime work, or who have given up looking for non-existent jobs, or who must watch their children when they are out of work. In 1977 there were 16 million people looking for work, but the government only recognized 6.9 million.

While unemployment remains a serious problem for everyone, since 1975 white unemployment has declined by nearly 2 million while Black joblessness has increased by 30,000.

Blacks and other minorities won many gains through

the struggles of the 60's. These gains came not at the expense of other workers but largely through the new jobs which were available due to the expansion of the economy. Now in the 1970's, recessions are deeper and economic recoveries weaker than they used to be. Even with more hiring going on, Blacks are losing ground. The average seniority for Black workers is 4 years, 17.5% below the average of white workers. The average duration of Black unemployment is 15½ weeks, 10% above the average white duration. Thus Blacks lose jobs quicker and spend more time between jobs than do whites.

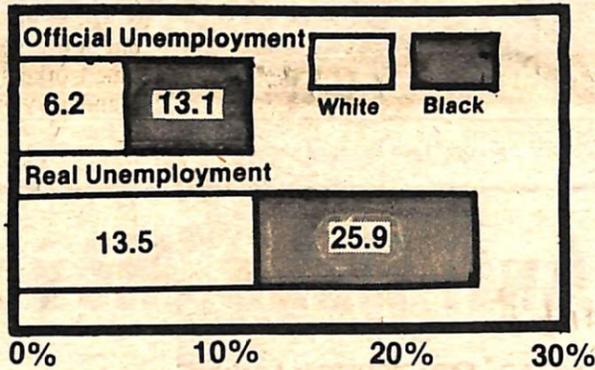
### DISCRIMINATION IS THE PROBLEM

The main reason for this is straight out discrimination. The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission gets tens of thousands of complaints every year and for every complaint that is filed, there may be a dozen or more which are not.

Blacks are concentrated in the jobs with high unemployment. There are relatively few Blacks in such job categories as sales, managers, craft, professional and technical, and clerical. These five categories had an average unemployment rate of 4.6% in 1977. Blacks are concentrated in the categories of laborers, operatives, and service workers. These jobs account for 54% of minority employment, compared to 32% for whites. For these categories the average unemployment rate was 9.4%, more than twice as high. Many companies still either don't hire Blacks or only hire them for low-level jobs.

Even in industries where many Black workers are concentrated, laboring side by side with workers of all nationalities, their unemployment rate is significantly

GRAPH 2



OFFICIAL AND REAL UNEMPLOYMENT

higher than the average, as shown in Graph 3.

Nor is direct discrimination in hiring and firing the only way that the national oppression of Black people fuels unemployment. Schools in Black neighborhoods frequently provide the poorest education, handicapping kids from the start in finding jobs—especially skilled or white collar jobs.

Furthermore, much of the Black population is concentrated in urban ghettos at a time when businesses are fleeing the cities, especially Northern and Midwestern cities. They head for the suburbs and the South for cheaper land, new facilities, lower taxes and non-union labor, leaving soaring jobless rates behind.

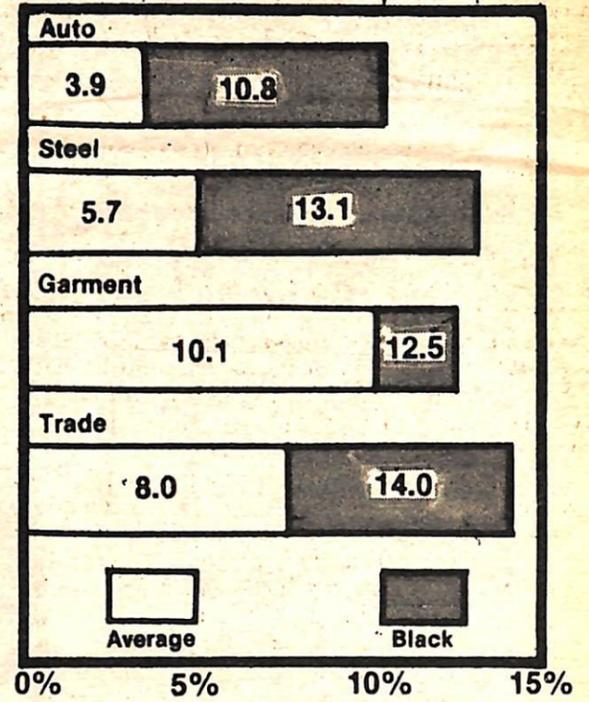
National oppression of Black people and discrimina-

tion have been built into American society since the days of slavery. The government helps perpetuate this situation because it is of great importance to the survival of the capitalist system as a whole.

Under capitalism there is always a large pool of job seekers, the reserve army of the unemployed. Their desperate search for work tends to lead them to accept jobs at low pay or with bad conditions and is used to threaten employed workers when the bosses think they are "getting out of line".

The fact that Black men and women make up a disproportionately large section of this reserve army enables the rich to promote and profit from divisions and hostility. Blacks are told, "You have no jobs because white workers have them all". Whites are warn-

GRAPH 3



### INDUSTRIAL UNEMPLOYMENT

that Blacks are out to steal their jobs.

The continued existence of high Black unemployment is a situation which is utilized and intensified by the government as a conscious policy. In the 1978 *Economic Report of the President*, there is a big call for equal employment opportunity. The reason? "As the economy moves toward high employment, employers try to fill jobs vacancies from those of workers with substantial training and experience [read: white workers]. Wage rates are bid up and prices follow, while large numbers from other groups [read: Black workers] are still looking for work."

"To reach high levels of employment while maintaining reasonable price stability, we must take effective and adequate measures now to increase the employment opportunities of the disadvantaged."

In other words, it's fine to hire white workers first, but when the unemployment rate drops a point or two, better start hiring on some Blacks too, so workers can't use the relative scarcity of labor as a lever to win higher wages.

### RULING CLASS MYTH MAKING

The fact the government has no real interest in fighting unemployment and discrimination is also clear from the current wave of attacks on affirmative action.

Such programs were won during the civil rights movement and the Black liberation struggle in the 1960's. The first step was winning laws against Jim Crow and discrimination, winning equal opportunity.

continued on page 17



# Coalfield Wildcat

## 10,000 Miners Join Fight For Strip mine Contract

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*—In the first major wildcat since the national coal contract was signed in April, miners on a contract strike at a western Pennsylvania strip mine fanned out over two counties with roving pickets and shut down other mines, involving up to 10,000 miners. The week-long wildcat brought the same forces into the fight who battled out the national pact: the miners united and determined on one side and their own union leadership joining with the mine owners on the other.

At the end of May contract negotiations stalled between the United Mine Workers Local 1880 and the North Cambria Fuel Company, one of very few unionized strip mines (most non-union coal in Pa. comes from strip mines).

The Local demanded at least the provisions of the national contract, but the owners refused to sign. The miners moved to shut down other mines in District 2 to get the larger companies, which are under the national agreement, to pressure North Cambria to settle. North Cambria is not part of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association which signed the April pact.

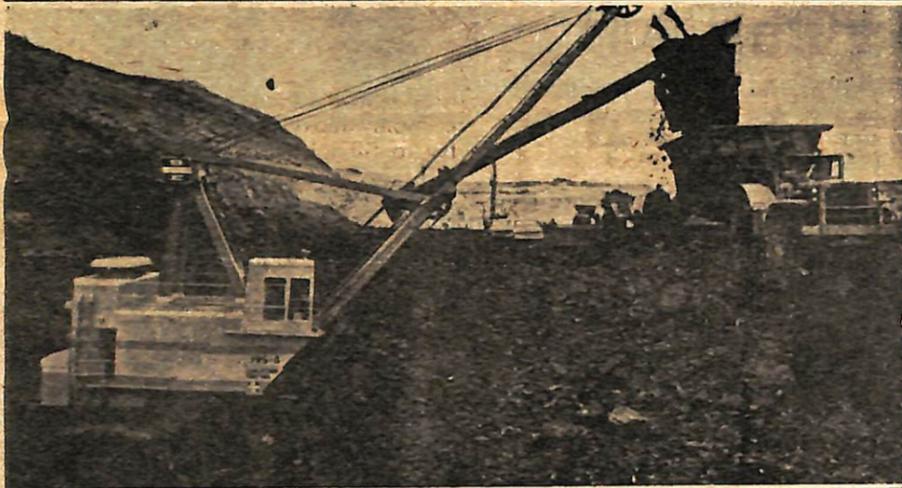
Still angry from the operators' attempts to crush and divide them during their 110 day national strike, miners rose to stand with their union brothers. Rapid response to the roving pickets

and the mines remained shut.

Having failed to get the membership back in line, the International leadership put some muscle behind their threats and District 2 President Vaerio Scarton said the union would discipline anyone continuing the wildcat. This treachery was able to stop the roving pickets and force Local 1880 back to fighting their company by themselves.

The handwriting is on the wall. This wildcat is only a taste of things to come. Many of the miners' just demands, unmet in the national contract, will be fought out in the coalfields.

In the nationwide strike, the longest in UMW history, the coal operators tried their damndest to break the militance of the miners. But twice the miners voted down lousy contracts, even though Miller kept telling them it was the best they could get. Even when



Strip mines produce most of the nation's non-union coal. Defending the union at North Cambria can help pave the way to organize the unorganized.

shut down many mines in the first week of June, even in the face of court injunctions.

"The pickets have even stated they're aware of the injunctions and they don't care," griped a North American Coal Company spokesman.

UMW President Arnold Miller, whose pro-company stance has left him isolated from a rank and file he cannot control, jumped into the fight—on the company's side. On his first day back in office after recuperating from a stroke (no doubt caused in part by all the grief miners gave him for his efforts to sell out the national contract), he ordered Local 1880 to restrict pickets to the North Cambria mine. Then he called District 2 officials to Washington and offered financial aid to the strike only if they limited the pickets.

Following Miller's orders, District 2 Vice President Frank Kulish called the wildcat "unwarranted, unjustifiable and unauthorized," and urged the men at mines other than North Cambria to return to work.

The wildcat slowed down on Friday, June 2, but despite the orders of Miller and his fellow company men, pickets went back up the following Monday the miners finally accepted a contract that was far short of what they wanted, they were able to return to the mines

united and standing strong, ready to counter further company attacks.

The fact that some of the mines whose owners aren't in the BCOA have been left on their own without a contract is a slap in the face to miners who know that in unity there is strength.

The right to strike, including the right to roving pickets, remains a necessity for miners, as it is for all workers. After the long and bitter national strike which left many miners deep in debt, after battling it out on the picket lines and standing up to the BCOA's attempt to crush them, miners are still hot and not about to bow down.



## INDIANA MINERS SURROUND COURT TO DEFEND UNION BROTHERS

1200 members of the United Mine Workers shut down the Armax Coal Company mines in Wabash, Illinois and Chandler, Indiana on June 6 and 7 and went to Rockport, Indiana to support 194 of their union brothers charged with contempt of court. During the contract battle in the mine fields, miners took many actions to shut down scab operations. On January 7, a convoy of 300 to 400 cars stopped access to the B&M Coal Company, and some of these men are now up for violating a restraining order on

such actions which had been placed by one of the many judges in the coal companies' pockets.

One miner from Bicknell, Indiana declared on June 7, "There won't be any mine in Illinois or Indiana working if this goes on much longer. If that is what they want, that's what they get." After 2 days of hearings, and shut-down mines, the judge hastily put off the hearings for 30 days saying the time was for the lawyers for each side to file briefs.

## Post Office Showdown Nears

On July 25, the national postal contract covering 560,000 workers expires. Negotiations are taking place now between the U.S. Postal Service and the 3 AFL-CIP unions, and the possibility of a national strike on July 20 is very real.

At issue is whether the USPS is able to take back past gains and get stronger "management rights" or whether postal workers can win demands to protect their jobs, keep wages up with soaring prices and beat back attacks on their working conditions that began with the sellout 1975 contract settlement.

Over the past few years, the Postal Service has been under pressure from the federal government to cut costs drastically. This has meant slower services and higher prices for the public and for postal workers it has meant a massive productivity drive complete with the elimination of thousands of bid jobs, year-round hiring of part-time workers with no union rights and mandatory overtime on a regular basis.

But with this contract, the postal bosses want to go much further. They have demanded the elimination of the no-layoff clause and are planning the closing of some, if not all, of the Bulk Mail Centers they just built over the last 10 years. They have demanded even more "flexibility in utilizing manpower." Proposals have been put forward calling for stricter provisions for compensation for on the job injuries and disciplinary actions.

Along with USPS demands, labor's

## NEWS FLASH



We have learned from reliable sources that the post office is preparing for a strike. They have been seen stockpiling mail at major facilities all over the country.

Back cover of Postal Strife

"friend," Jimmy Carter is calling for postal workers to be the first victims of his new "fight against inflation" by accepting a 5.5% ceiling on any wage increase that is negotiated. He declared that the "chain must be broken" between this pact and the "inflationary" coal contract of 37% over 3 years. (See article on page 1.)

continued on page 17

## Latins Challenge P. O. Hiring Bias

*Chicago, Illinois*—Over 175 Latinos from the Westtown Concerned Citizen's Coalition gathered at Chicago's Main Post Office recently to demand increased Latino hiring.

Despite three hours of abuse and threats of arrest by federal guards they refused to leave, and finally forced Postmaster Frank Goldie to meet with them.

While Latinos make up 17% of Chicago's population only 1% of the Post Office work force is Latino. The "register"—the Post Office's listing of 10,000 qualified applicants—is only 2% Latino. While the Post Office received affirmative action funding for a Hispanic program coordination in April 1977, the post is still vacant more than a year later.

Now, with the Post Office planning to hire 1250 new applicants in the next two years, the group was demanding that 17% of those hired be Latino.

Goldie finally agreed to consider their demands. Several days later his response, a letter, arrived:

"I cannot legally give preferential treatment to any applicant."

Unfortunately for Goldie, his letter arrived just in time for a coalition

meeting.

Angered by high unemployment, past discrimination and Goldie's promise of "more of the same" some 200 community residents piled into buses. They set out for the rich "Gold Coast" neighborhood where the Postmaster lives.

A rear assault—through an underground garage—gained them entrance to the courtyard of the luxurious, high-security, high-rise condominium.

Then a sympathetic neighbor, learning why the group was there, popped open the double-locked front door. The 200 chanting demonstrators quickly set up camp in the spaciouly mirrored lobby and settled back to wait for Goldie.

Police arrived and despite their best attempts could not get the building manager to sign a complaint. He felt the problem was the Postmasters—not his. Besides, he knew his expensive furniture might be endangered if he turned the cops loose.

At midnight, four hours later, Goldie threw in the towel. He agreed to further negotiations and the victorious demonstrators returned home.

# N.Y. Garment Truckers Rip Boss-Union Team

**New York City**—The stranglehold that the bosses and the bought-off union officials have on the workers in the garment center here is being challenged by the workers at Interstate Dress Carriers, IDC, the largest trucking company in the area, has 600-700 workers in New York-North Jersey who are mostly Black and Haitian, and 1000 in Pennsylvania.

In April the workers shut down the Jersey City terminal of IDC and picketed the main NY terminal on 35th Street in support of four workers who were fired for handing out cards to bring in Local 20408, an independent union. Interstate called up the managers from all their Pennsylvania terminals and sent them to Jersey City, with guns in their belts.

But when they were confronted with the unity and militance of the picket

line around their terminal filled with millions of dollars worth of goods and trucks, they turned tail and ran back home. The four were rehired.

This latest round comes two years after workers brought in Local 102 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). But Local 102 only signed up about 1/3 of the workers and then made a deal with the company and shut its doors. Then IDC set up a phoney "labor agency" with the union's approval which "hires out" non-union workers to Interstate for \$2.65 an hour.

After seeing how cozy the ILGWU local was with the bosses, the workers began the drive to bring in Local 20408. With the strike and 90% of the workers signing up cards, IDC and 102 felt the heat. All of a sudden, Local 102 came round and put everyone into



New York City garment center.

## Total Victory For People's Firehouse

**Brooklyn, N.Y.**—On June 17 the people of Northside, Brooklyn will have won a complete victory in their battle with NYC for full restoration of services to their firehouse, Engine Company 212. More than 30 months ago, in the first big wave of cuts in services the City closed 212 down. The community rose up in anger, took over their firehouse, renaming it the People's Firehouse, and finally forced the City to its knees in a prolonged series of protests.

For 16 months after the firehouse was closed in November 1975, dozens of community people occupied the building, holding 212's pumper-engine hostage. They formed an Action Committee to spread the flames of their battle throughout the City, demonstrating wherever key politicians appeared, and staging actions to arouse public support such as blocking the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

The committee members conducted their own research in fire protection to expose and overturn a study commissioned by the City government and run by the Rand Corporation "think tank" that was used to justify this and other firehouse closings. They presented their own findings to a Fact Finding Committee they forced the City to set up. They held firm through several sell-out proposals involving the transferral of fire units from other sections of the City, joining the people of those communities to protest any trade-off tricks.

Finally, in March 1977 after 8 people had died in fires in this working-class, largely Polish community, the people won a settlement of a "Utility Unit," which partially restored services. Still angry that this was not sufficient protection in a neighborhood of wood frame walk-ups dotted with factories, with gas storage tanks nearby, the Action Committee moved into a storefront across the street and continued holding weekly meetings. They began monitoring the unit and kept after City officials to fully restore 212. With the city burning down and services cut to the bone, Mayor Koch was finally forced to eat crow. But still trying to come out looking good, he presented the Action Committee with a joint "Mayor's Community Liaison Unit-Citizens Committee for NY" award this past May. But nothing can cover up the fact that it was the unity and determination of the Northsiders in struggle against the City Government that won this victory, and on June 17 the entire community will turn out in force for a jubilant celebration.



the union. As of July 1st, the front "agency" will be shut down, and everyone will be in 102, with raises to \$4.85 an hour.

All this is a clear-cut victory for the Interstate workers. But many are not content to sit back and let Local 102 reap the profits of their struggle. They are sick and tired of the gangster-connected union leadership's methods of working hand-in-glove with the bosses to help exploit the workers. Many still favor the new union, and this is the main question now, with a representation election coming up in the near future.

Almost immediately after the company was forced to rehire the four workers, one IDC boss and officials of two different unions were indicted for

trying to bribe and intimidate the head of the independent union. Even though it's wishful thinking to expect the boss and hacks will spend much time in the slammer, their arrest was a big boost for the workers' spirits and their union drive.

To this day, workers in the garment industry endure long workdays with low pay, often without any job security or benefits. The garment bosses have tried to crush organizing drives with mass firings, beatings and even shootings, as well as deals with corrupt union officials. But the workers have kept on fighting, and the battle at Interstate is a big one. The workers there have already won a big victory, and have set an example for the whole garment center to follow.

## NANCY GOODMAN 1952-1977

On Saturday, May 13, 25-year-old Nancy Goodman was found strangled in an abandoned building in Boston. The discovery of her body confirmed the fears of her family and friends, who had found no trace of her since her disappearance six months earlier on the night of October 31, 1977.

The sickness which pervades this society, a sickness of a decaying system which cannot provide any kind of life with a purpose for its people, the sickness which creates psychotics, murderers, rapists—these were the things Nancy Goodman stood against to the end of her young life.

Born in Oxford, Connecticut to a working class family, Nancy moved to Boston to attend Boston University. It was there, during the years of the anti-war movement, that Nancy grew to hate the blood-soaked rule of the US capitalists, to oppose their imperialism in Vietnam and to see the source of society's ills in the system of capitalist exploitation.

And it was there that she decided to dedicate herself to fighting to change the world, to replace capitalism with socialism. She became one of the founding members of the Revolutionary Student Brigade and was one of its leaders in Boston until her death.

Neither the capitalists nor their police have any interest in preventing crimes against the people. Compare the way they dealt with Nancy to the massive search for heiress Patty Hearst. After Nancy disappeared, the cops did not look for her car. When it was found by friends a few blocks from where her body was finally discovered, the authorities refused to dust it for fingerprints. They did little to find her killer—they claimed at the time that they had conducted a search of the building where she lay for six months.

It was not these blue-coated servants of the rich but fifty people of all nationalities who combed the neighborhood, walking side by side through alleys and abandoned buildings, who thought her life precious. Dozens of students at Roxbury Community College which she was attending held a meeting to figure out how they could help.

Nancy won the love and respect of the people who knew her and joined with her—in the fight for jobs for youth, in organizing opposition to South Africa's apartheid and U.S. imperialism's support for it—in the day to day struggle to build a movement against every abuse of this system. She was a revolutionary, firmly believing the abuses could only end with the overthrow of this system, and she studied lessons from revolutionary leaders—Marx, Lenin, Mao Tsetung. But she was not an armchair revolutionary. She saw study as a guide to action and sought to enrich her understanding through learning from the lives and experience of the students and youth around her.

Her death cries out for vengeance, not just against the twisted individual who killed her, but against the whole system she opposed. This system cannot stop street crime; it grows daily as the society crumbles and unemployment and decaying living and working conditions abound. Disregard for human life is a built-in characteristic of the profit system—51 men die for the profit of a construction company which "cuts corners," elderly people freeze to death because they can't afford heating bills, thousands die because they can't afford medical care.

Nancy's death is added to the list of crimes which are laid at the feet of the bankers and men of corporate board rooms who tick off lives in the "losses" column of their profit and loss ledgers and only shed tears for lost profits.

Our task is not simply to avenge those who died from the ravages of this system, but to fight its rulers. And when they are defeated we will build a society run for the people, where crime is a thing of the past.

When labor leader and communist Joe Hill was executed by the State of Utah in 1915 his final message to his comrades in the workers' movement was "Don't Mourn, Organize." To those who knew Nancy, there is no doubt her message would be the same.

Nancy Goodman. Her death, a great loss to the struggle she joined wholeheartedly. Her murder, a searing indictment of the capitalist system. Her life, leaving the hundreds who knew her an example to follow and one more reason to fight.



## Court Says Stewards Must Be "Yes Men" For Hacks

Do union members have the right to elect representatives who will express their needs and concerns, even if these aren't the same as the local leaders? Most workers know it's not just a right, it's a necessity. But the Federal Court of Appeals in New York recently ruled that stewards are "agents of the management of the local" and cannot disagree with any aspect of local policy!

Phone company employee Dave Newman, a steward in Local 1101 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), was decertified in December 1976 because he tried to organize the workers in his building—who had elected him—to get ready for an upcoming contract. Local 1101 President Dempsey removed him from his post in response to a newsletter he wrote for his building which criticized the Executive Board for failing to organize for the 1977 contract.

After he was denied the right to appeal his case through the union, Newman and 21 fellow workers took the case to Federal Court, arguing that union members have the right to express their views. The local heads quickly changed their accusation and claimed that Newman was *really* losing his stewardship because he disrupted a meeting he had chaired, which Dempsey had attended. Virtually everyone from the building who attended the meeting swore in court that the local's claim was an out and out lie.

The Federal Court ruled in favor of the workers and issued an injunction forcing the hacks to reinstate Newman. But Dempsey and Co. appealed the decision. The higher court overturned the workers' victory—and with it the previous legal assumption that a union steward did not have to give up his or her right to free speech when elected to union office. In fact, the Appeals

Court said that a steward has the same relationship to the union that a foreman has to a corporation!

This ruling, if it stands, will be a powerful weapon in the hands of the bosses and their faithful valets in high union office in beating down any rank and file opposition. Already militant stewards in the Teamsters, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and other unions have been threatened with the Newman case by the delighted "management" of their unions.

And the implications of this decision are more far-reaching than might appear at first glance. Stewards in the CWA have been threatened with decertification for honoring the picket lines of other locals! And the union claims Newman is permanently banned from running for steward again. Does this mean that any steward wishing to challenge the existing leadership in local or national elections must first resign from office—perhaps for good?

In a letter from the Telephone

Workers Legal Defense Committee. Dave Newman wrote: "We are continuing this fight in our workplaces and in our union. We realize that the court battle is only part of the struggle, but is an important part. However, the implications of this fight go beyond our local... (and) we need the support of other workers and trade unionists across the country."

The growing fight to return the unions to their membership will continue no matter what the outcome of this court case. But if the workers lose, it will certainly make that fight more difficult.

Rank and file workers, workers' organizations and some union officials around the country are supporting Newman and the other workers in this case. Money is badly needed for the costs of fighting the case, to the Supreme Court if need be. Letters of support and funds can be sent to the Telephone Workers Legal Defense, 410 7th St., Brooklyn, New York, 11215.

## Subscribe to the Worker

## On The Line in AUTO

On Sunday night, May 21, at 10 pm, over 250 workers set up a picket line in front of the Caterpillar plant in Milwaukee. For 24 hours workers at Caterpillar let the bosses know that they wouldn't be pushed around.

Talk of the wildcat started at a special union meeting called because of Caterpillar's continued violation of the contract. When it became clear that the guys wanted to strike, the union officials tried to stall, saying there weren't enough workers there to authorize the wildcat and that they needed time to notify everyone of the strike. But the workers voted unanimously to go out that night, saying that anyone who hadn't heard of it would know when they saw the picket line.

Like other companies, Caterpillar is trying to force more work out of everyone to increase productivity. Workers were being denied vacation time owed to them, seniority was being violated in job postings, personal days were being denied and close to 200 grievances were stalled in the third step.

After 24 hours the union officials forced everyone back, saying the company wouldn't negotiate until they were back to work. While many workers didn't want to go back, there was no organization or leadership to keep the strike going. So far three workers have been fired and five more are on disciplinary layoff. There's talk of another wildcat and another union meeting has been called.

★★★

G.M. has drafted plans to protect its 2 plants in South Africa in case of race riots. The company is one of the largest US corporate employers in South Africa, with over \$150,000,000 invested there. It builds cars and trucks which have been sold to the South African government for military and police use.

The G.M. plan states that the company expects to be taken over by the South African Ministry of Defense in case of national emergency. G.M. plants have been designated as "National Key Points" and would be protected by a "Citizen Force Com-

mando System." G.M. plant personnel with military training are encouraged to volunteer for local G.M. commando units. A G.M. spokesperson said it was "normal procedure" for the company to develop contingency plans at its facilities around the world, including the United States.

★★★



"Fight for every job" was the theme of an after-work picket line at the American Motor body plant in Milwaukee. At the end of June the company will lay off about 600 men and women, some with 25 years on the line. The layoffs go back to mid-1952 hiring dates and by July 18, when workers come back from a shutdown, only the first floor press department will be in operation, with about 200 workers in the multi-storied plant that once employed 10,000.

Some politicians and union officials have tried to swing a deal which would tie any U.S. government aid for AMC to the return of jobs to Milwaukee. But the workers' picket line showed a growing awareness that they can't rely on promised political trade-offs.

★★★

What does the auto manufacturers' downsizing of cars mean for auto workers? One example was recently announced by Chrysler. The company plans to spend \$57 million retooling its

Lynch Road Assembly Plant in Detroit. The plant is being converted to build the 1979 version of the top-of-the-line Chryslers and Dodges.

A major part of the retooling will be automating jobs. For example, new automatic welders will do 75% of the subassembly spot welds, compared to only 13% on the 1978 models. On the framed bodies, 14 robot welders will perform 439 welds.

Chrysler did not announce plans for the job combinations and job overloads which usually go along with these types of changes in the assembly line. The company did claim that no jobs would be lost.

★★★

UAW Local 1913, at Bailey's, a New Hampshire plant which makes upholstery for cars, got a new contract with an improved inplant union safety committee, no forced overtime on Saturdays, and 24-hour notice for other overtime. Workers will get \$1.65 raise over 3 years and pensions will go from \$240 now to \$300 in the third year. They also got the beginnings of a heat clause. Workers can get 5 minute breaks or go home if they are suffering from heat prostration, but it is up to the foreman to give them permission for either. Also workers can reach the top of the labor grade in 2 years rather than three. The company was able to keep a clause permitting overtime layoffs.

The company's bargaining position had been no raise, no new health and Safety regulations and the right to force overtime every Saturday with no advance notice. Workers were determined to win some improvements, particularly on safety. Fifteen people in the last 3 years alone have lost fingers or hands in on-the-jobs accidents. Workers had voted for a strike by a wide margin.

Many workers were dissatisfied with the company's offer. UAW International Rep. Rocker threatened the workers to get the contract through. He told them, "If you vote to strike, don't count on me to help." Still the vote was so close that the workers called for a division of the house. But Rocker didn't count the workers, which is the whole point of a division

of the house. He just declared that there were more yes votes. Some workers are now circulating a petition demanding a revote.

★★★

One of the big "victories" in the 1976 UAW-G.M. contract was the pledge by G.M. not to interfere with unionizing drives in the company's Southern plants. Then UAW President Woodcock said that the "union has complete trust in G.M. to honor its word."

Now current UAW Presidents Fraser says that G.M. is only hiring anti-union workers, after careful interviews and background checks. It seems the "neutrality pledge" is worth about as much as the rest of the '76 agreement.

★★★

A week long wildcat at the Ford tractor plant in Romeo, Michigan in May was ended by the company's frontal attacks and the UAW International's backstabbing. Ford fired 17 workers and refused to negotiate. At a meeting of 900 members of UAW Local 400, workers bombarded Ken Morris, UAW International Executive Board member and Director of Region 1-B, with facts about the many backlogged grievances, the dangerous working conditions and continual management harassment. Morris used the traditional International response. He acted surprised at all the problems, as if Romeo was an exceptional plant. Then he promised a "crash grievance program" and a legal strike vote in 2 weeks if the workers would go back to work, with the 17 brothers still on the street. If a strike vote is taken, International can, and usually does, refuse to authorize a strike. With no support from any local officials, the workers reluctantly voted to go back. But the companies and the International have gotten a taste of what they can expect as the auto plants heat up this summer.

When strikers were fired at Chrysler's Trenton, Michigan and Indianapolis, Indiana plants, broad support from UAW members around the country helped force the International to support them in getting their jobs back. The 17 brothers at Romeo should get the same kind of support.

★★★

Ford came up with an original defense in another recall case recently. The company claimed that more accidents would result from people driving back to the dealers to have their cars fixed than would be caused by the defect. Who says Ford doesn't have a better idea?

# STEEL

## News and Views

### BURNS HARBOR "MONITORED"

The USWA International has appointed a "monitor" for Local 6787, Burns Harbor Indiana. The uninformed may ask, "a monitor, what does he do?" Is he there to check out the company to make sure the blood-suckers stay in line?

No. The monitor, one Joseph Festa, a long time supporter of the Abel-McBride team is there to watch the union which is now in the midst of an over 3½ month slowdown because of an incentive pay dispute in the slab yard. Festa, in carrying out his company-loving responsibilities, has (and we quote from an International spokesman) "the full authority of Steelworkers President Lloyd McBride."

Festa has been sent to the local because the local officials have put each tentative agreement on the dispute between the company and the International to a rank and file referendum vote. The rank and file has so far voted down both tentative agreements. The international didn't want a vote on either agreement. The local officials insisted, and for this high crime the local officials now get watch dog Festa on their backs.

The USWA International's move has got to be shoved right back in their jowly mouths. The workers at Burns Harbor have stood firm—all steelworkers must get right in there behind them. That is why the *Steelworker* newspaper has sent out information about this struggle to rank and file groups around the country. It puts forward two demands: 1) McBride—Get Festa the Hell out of Burns Harbor, and 2) Beth Steel—Settle on the just demands of the workers. Telegrams are now being sent to the International and to the Burns Harbor Local. The more the better, so put your local down against this nonsense.

### IS RANK AND FILE VOTE ON INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS OBSOLETE?

There has been all kind of talk resurfacing these days about electing USWA International officers at the Convention instead of by a direct rank and file referendum ballot. A couple of months ago McBride said he was still in favor of the referendum, but *Steel News and Views* wonders.

First, resolutions have already been

submitted for the Convention calling for an end to the referendum ballot. Are these from just misinformed officials? It's pretty doubtful, especially when you consider these facts:

1) I.W. Abel, Lloyd McBride's mentor, said in a speech given to the Australian Trade Unions (this is after Sadlowski defeated an Abel candidate for District director) that secret balloting by the union membership was a "nightmare."

2) McBride made some criticisms of the rank and file secret ballot election in an interview with *US News and World Report* as late as 1977. In that interview McBride said that other major unions elect at the convention, that secret ballot elections cost a lot of money and that government interference causes a lot of problems.

3) And finally, very simply, McBride doesn't want the referendum vote because he knows that the rank and file hates him for what he stands for (like "monitoring" Burns Harbor) and if he comes up for election again his ass is grass.

So what's the deal? Who's behind this movement to take away steelworkers' right to vote on their

elected officials? McBride pleads innocent but then it's to his benefit to talk referendum while he organizes behind the scenes to take the rank and file's rights away.

As for the rank and file, we have to: 1) make sure this attack gets publicized, and 2) make sure that McBride understands in no uncertain terms that he will not get away with this, and 3) make sure that delegates going to the convention are opposed to election at the conventions.

### OTHER CONVENTION NEWS

Rank and file opposition has reached nine districts at this time—there are opposition groups in all these areas determined to fight around 1) the right to ratify contracts, 2) End the ENA, and increasingly 3) Stop the attack on our voting rights.

Non-basic has a long list of grievances against the International for the direct sabotage of strikes, the internal functioning of the locals, the lack of democracy and the tyranny of McBride's employees, the USWA staffmen.

The *Steelworker* newspaper asked in an editorial written several months ago, "Who is going to stand up to the 'business as usual' at the USWA convention? Increasingly we see the rank and file and fighting union officials taking a stand for this convention. Let's make it as strong as possible."

## Company, Workers Clash Over Shop Floor Control

New York City—Workers at the Art Steel in the Bronx have a long history of militant struggle against the company. From kicking out a gangster union to bring District 65 ten years ago to the militant, victorious six week strike which ended last December, the workers have fought hard and pushed the company back many times.

The company has always looked to break down the workers' militance and unity. After the strike last year, many departments went back into the plant stronger because the workers had fought together on the lines and elected fighting shop stewards, especially at the 233rd Street plant. The Small Weld Department there is a militant department and was the scene of many clashes with the bosses. In a desperate attempt to silence this department, two months ago the company brought in Griffin, a new foreman, a tough guy type, to harass and divide the department.

He's pushed a hundred different ways—threatening to fight the steward, suspending some guys, giving out a lot of "tickets" (company warning letters). There's been a lot of resistance from filing grievances, to slowdowns and wildcats in the department. And workers all over the plant were checking out the situation because they knew if guys like Griffin were allowed to do their thing in one department, the company would hire more

mad dogs like him to tighten the chains in other departments.

After this Griffin handed out 4 "tickets" on Tuesday, June 13, the stuff hit the fan. After a luncheon discussion, more than half the plant stopped work to demand that Griffin be fired. The next day the company retaliated, firing Andriano Rodriguez, the Small Weld steward, for "leading work stoppage." Again there were stoppages throughout the plant. Again the company was forced to close.

The workers went to Julio Mendoza, the District 65 vice president assigned to the plant to demand action. He whined that all he could do was send Adriano's case to arbitration and he wouldn't back any actions the workers took. The next day, Thursday, the wildcats continued. In a desperate move to try and regain control of their plant, the bosses fired 7 more workers, including another shop steward. This sparked further discussion on the workers' part—the fired eight deciding to fight their cases out together, the workers inside checking out how much they were still able to do.

Before work Friday, there was a strong picket line in front of the plant, as members of the N.Y. United Workers Organization joined more than 20 Art Steel workers demanding the company rehire the brothers and fired their trained gorilla. Six of the fired workers went down to the offices of 65's bigshots to demand immediate action and to file charges against Julio Mendoza for his inaction. That afternoon after work, 30 workers met again to sum the situation up.

Plans for continuing the battle include petitions to support the fired workers and demand Griffin's firing, the dumping of Mojica as the union representative to the plant, as well as spreading the word of this battle to other shops in the plant. The Art Steel workers are determined to actively keep up their fight to defeat the bosses' attacks and make some big changes in their union.



A bitter strike is on at the *New York Daily News*, the nation's largest circulation newspaper. The workers refused to accept a turkey contract, another step in the drive of newspapers across the country to weaken and bust up the newspaper unions. Management then put out a scab edition for two days, but militant picket lines and some problems with their trucks forced the *News* to close out publication. In support of the *News* management, the *New York Times* has threatened to lock out its union employees and stop printing until the *News* strike is settled.

## Newspaper Guild Beats Back Union Busting

Baltimore, Maryland—The million-dollar A.S. Abell Company, owner of the *Baltimore Sun*, capitulated to its workers on June 10th after a surprise three-day strike. They had hit the Newspaper Guild with five "non-negotiable" demands which would have killed the union.

The morning and evening *Sun* papers are planning to automate with computerized cold type and ultra-modern presses. The newspaper unions stand in the way. The bosses are trying to jump on the union-busting bandwagon that is rolling through the newspaper industry, as typified by the *Washington Post* strike in 1976.

Management wanted to have the power to define who was in the union so they could create new non-union

job categories. They also wanted to force the union to drop a federal suit to bring computer technicians into the union.

The strike, with mass and militant picket lines (honored by the paper's Teamster local and the Typographers local—itsself 18 months without a contract), caught the big wheel owners off guard. They had thought the union too weak and disorganized—how wrong they were! Reporters, clerks, secretaries, janitors—all were fed up with the arrogance of management. The strong and united stand put a road block in the path of the *Sun* paper's union busting as well as forcing a bigger wage offer—up from 4.5% to 7% a year for higher paying jobs.



# Dominican Vote Steal Averted

## People Moving As First Election Since 1965 Is Held

In the first election since 1965, the hated Balaguer dictatorship in the Dominican Republic suffered a massive defeat at the hands of the Dominican people. Although the military stopped the vote count nine hours after the polls closed and shut down public communications throughout the country, the people continued to demand a full count of the votes. Balaguer and the military were forced to back down and com-



Joaquin Balaguer worries: "If the US can't send Marines this time, how can I stop the election?"

plete the vote count. The candidate of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, Antonio Guzman, was then declared the victor.

The Dominican Republic is a hotbed of unrest. The political and economic situation of the Dominican people has continuously worsened since 1965, when the United States government sent in 22,000 Marines to prevent the recently elected popular left movement from taking its place in the government. The United States then installed Joaquin Balaguer as president (in reality, as dictator) and he has ruled with an iron fist since then.

For example, every Dominican has to carry an ID card with him at all times and if he's checked by the police and doesn't have it, he can be jailed immediately. Left political parties have been legalized only in the past four months. This political repression has well served the economic masters of the country and kept the people as virtual slaves, although there has been constant and growing resistance.

The US ruling class likes to claim the Dominican Republic as an example of what can be accomplished through economic cooperation with American capitalism. Private US investment has increased from \$50 million in 1966 to \$250 million in 1976. Giant multinational corporations like Gulf and Western, Alcoa, American Can and Rosario Mining rob the country's natural resources like iron, nickel and gold. Some of the corporations have put more Dominicans in lower level management posts in recent years to try and cover this giant ripoff. But they can't hide the unemployment rate, which in much of the country is as high as 50%. And they can't hide the fact that the average per capita income there is only \$900 a year.

Faced with these outrageous conditions, the Dominican people saw the May 15th elections as a good opportunity to make some changes and advance their struggle. Balaguer was booted out by a landslide margin of more than 150,000 votes. The army didn't dare to carry through the new coup they began by seizing the ballots. For one thing, the U.S. government refused to give them full support. A lot has happened since 1965 and the

American ruling class knows the people of this country wouldn't stand for sending in the Marines to crush a democratic election.

The Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) rode into power on the wave of the people's unrest—and they will constantly be called on by the masses to come through on their many election promises of big reforms. PRD is a social democratic party—while socialist words, in action they will defend and maintain the present capitalist system. (Its head men are mostly middle-class owners, landlords and intellectuals; Guzman himself is a very wealthy landowner.) The masses who voted PRD into office want big changes. If these changes don't come quickly then there will surely be mass organizing and uprising among the people.

August 16th is Inauguration Day there, the day the government changes hands. Even though Balaguer and the military have been defeated once by the people, they surely want that government power again. PRD will be stepping in—anxious to maintain their rule, but not wanting to rock the boat too much in any direction. The masses of Dominican people will be waiting, checking out the situation and organizing themselves. If their demands for justice and liberty aren't answered soon, the people themselves will soon begin to move to make all the changes they want for a decent life and a better future.

# Wave Of Unrest Sweeps Latin America

Few earthquakes have shaken Latin America as much as the recent protest against the governments in countries like Peru, Brazil and Nicaragua. Latin America's rich natural resources and large working population have always been a source of lucrative profits to American corporations and other foreign imperialists. Their plunder of

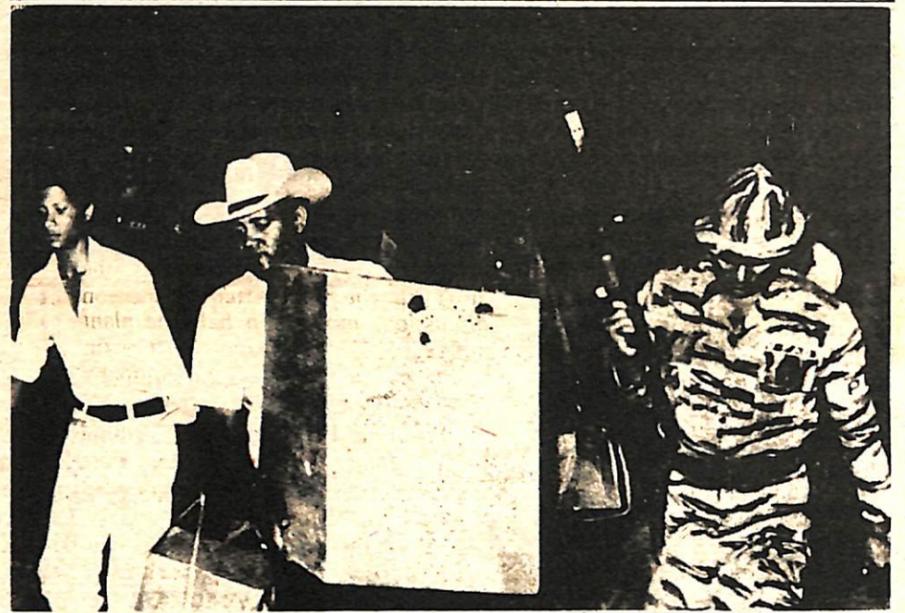
Latin resources and labor has driven the standard of living so low for the average Latin American that an estimated ten million children there are near starvation. The latest strikes and demonstrations are a continuation of the long and bloody struggle Latin American workers, peasants and their allies have waged against their own governments and foreign imperialists.

## NICARAGUA: REBELLION CONTINUES

In the first week of June thousands of students demonstrated in the streets and burned stores, homes and factories in Estreli, Nicaragua to protest the brutal dictatorship of General Anastasio Somoza. Somoza rolled in his own private army, the National Guard, equipped with machine guns and tear gas grenades, and Estreli joined the growing list of Nicaraguan cities now under military occupation.

The riots were in response to a recent escalation of repression from Somoza's regime. In May the National Guard shot and killed three labor leaders in Massaya before hundreds of witnesses, and two eleven-year-olds were killed when the Guard opened fire on a group of demonstrators. In Estreli, the guard had attacked students occupying a high school a week before the demonstrations. The take-over at the school was to show solidarity with the families of political prisoners, as part of a nationwide campaign to support those imprisoned for opposing Somoza.

The recent riots are a continuation of the strikes and demonstrations that have shaken up the country since the murder last December of opposition newspaper editor Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. The impoverished workers and peasants have led the movement to oust Somoza, whose father was installed as dictator forty-two years ago by the United States, and nearly every other strata of society has joined in to call for an end to the Somoza family's rule. On May Day many were arrested as they held rallies in defiance of the government's ban on workers' celebrations.



The military grabbed the ballot boxes but the popular pressure forced them to complete the count.

Within the resistance movement the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has been providing a lot of leadership and it is the strongest mass political force in the country. Besides organizing the present opposition movement, the Front is distributing arms to people in the slums and in the countryside, where they have waged guerrilla warfare for the past sixteen years.

While the Nicaraguans' battle cry of "Death to Somoza!" is resounding throughout the country, the regime is kept propped up by foreign industrialists and banks, who reap huge profits by exploiting the country's land and labor. U.S. multinationals account for 75% of the total foreign investment in Nicaragua and Somoza pays Norman L. Wolfson of New York's Norman, Lawrence, Patterson & Farrell, Inc., \$7,000 a month for keeping a favorable image of his dictatorship in the press.

## PERU: NATIONWIDE STRIKE

In Peru, workers staged a two-day national strike May 22nd and 23rd, in response to increases in food and other prices. Armed with rocks, the strikers took on government troops in armored cars and tanks. Eleven people were killed in the clashes. Earlier, thirty had

died in rioting that occurred in twenty-eight cities immediately after the government had announced price increases ranging from 30% to 120% on May 17th. The strike took place under a state of national emergency declared during the riots.

In a further attempt to avert the national walkout, President Francisco Morales Bermudez arrested 100 prominent labor and leftist leaders. He also deported twelve anti-government leaders to Argentina, a virtual graveyard for political prisoners. The extent of the discontent with Bermudez' regime is indicated by the fact that he even deported a member of his own, state-sponsored, farmworkers association.

The government tried to defeat the strike by imposing martial law and suspending civil rights when it hit. Schools were closed, public gatherings banned, and a midnight to 5 a.m. curfew imposed, with orders to shoot to kill any violators. To try and enforce its "back to work" orders, the government offered buses with military escorts for scabs—but the buses stayed empty and the picket lines full.

Lima, the capital city of four million people, was virtually empty of traffic as strikers barricaded the main industrial street and blockaded airport

*continued on page 18*



Police helicopters, plainclothes cops and well-armed troops kept order when President Carter spoke in Panama where he formally signed the Panama Canal Treaties. The treaties, which continue effective U.S. control of the Canal Zone, ignited mass demonstrations against Panamanian President Torrijos' hated regime. The University of Panama was shut down the night before Carter's visit in protest of the killing of two student demonstrators by government troops. The Panamanians' greeting to Carter is expressed above—in rough translation—"Throw the bum out!"



## THOUSANDS MARCH TO BACK IRAN REVOLT

On June 5, over 2000 Iranian Student Association members and others marched in Washington, D.C., nearly 700 in San Francisco and more in European cities, proclaiming "Long Live the Mass Militant Uprising in Iran." On the 15th anniversary of the Shah's massacre of thousands of protesters, the students hailed the recent rebellions rocking Iran. In the past month millions have taken to the streets and brought cities to a standstill despite government troops who have killed hundreds of anti-Shah demonstrators. The 7-hour D.C. march drew people from as far away as Texas and Florida, who rallied at the Iranian Embassy, wearing masks to protect themselves and their families in Iran from SAVAK, the Shah's secret police.

## Soccer Player Takes Brave Stand Vs Shah

When the World Cup Soccer Tournament takes place this summer, Iran's team captain will not be playing. Parviz Ghlychkani, who also stars for the San Jose Earthquakes, is refusing to play as a protest against the Shah of Iran.

"The Iranians are under the most savage and dictatorial rule imposed on them by the Shah and his secret police," he said.

Ghlychkani is living in the US, but his family is still in Iran. Although he is very concerned with their safety after his refusal to play, he said, "The situation is getting worse and the people are more important. I had to speak out."

This year marks the first time that Iran ever made it to the World Cup finals, the biggest single sporting event in the world, with the possible exception of the Olympic Games. Ghlychkani's heroic stand comes as part of the mass upsurge sweeping Iran against the Shah's tyranny.

He laid it out crystal clear, "Reports in the national press in Iran have said that I support the Shah and praise his success in putting together a successful national team. This is not true. To show the people in Iran that this is not true, I cannot play in the World Cup."

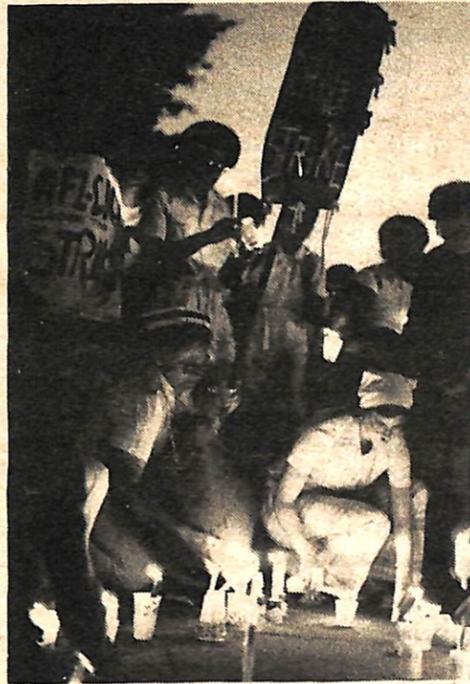
## D.C. Nurses Stand Up For Union Shop

Washington, D.C.—Since Memorial Day weekend, 300 nurses have been walking the picket line outside the Washington Hospital Center (WHC) twenty-four hours a day. They have smashed the management's image of nurses as "serfs in white," who consider it unprofessional to strike and organize themselves. Instead, they have turned their work units into strike units and are marching angrily to tell WHC, which had begun to move for decertification of the nurses' union, that "Nancy Nurse Is Dead!"

The WHC has waged battle against the nurses' attempts to organize since the District of Columbia Nurses Association (DCNA) was first formed in June 1977. By October, WHC had cut off negotiations with the group and since April 1978 it has moved to try and decertify the nurses' union.

The demands of the WHC nurses speak for the 40,000 hospital employees in the D.C. area. Their key need is for a union shop, which would be a major tool with which to fight for their other demands—better working conditions and improved patient care. The well-being of the staff determines the amount of freedom and enthusiasm they will have to do their utmost for the patients. Better personal attention

to patients depends on such factors as equitable shift assignments and continuing education, which are among the demands of the strikers.



The nurses have kept up picket lines and dashed the administration's hopes they would cave in quickly.

## High Court Says Nazis Can March, People Say No

A Supreme Court ruling has opened the doors for a march by the American Nazi Party in Skokie, Illinois on June 25. For almost 2 years the Nazis and the Skokie village government have been fighting in the courts to decide whether or not the Nazis will be able to parade their racist trash through Skokie, a predominantly Jewish community outside Chicago. For the 7,000 survivors of Hitler's concentration camps living in Skokie, the Nazis' attempt to march is a nightmare come alive.

While the Nazis have so far been prevented from marching, they have succeeded in getting massive publicity. A small group of hate-mongers in World War 2 uniforms, they need this publicity in order to grow. They mainly try to recruit among white youth, who are more likely to take them seriously when they can point to extensive coverage on TV, radio, and newspapers to prove their importance. The news media goes out of its way to give these scum the chance to spread their filth. The rich who control the media don't mind at all spreading hatred between people of different nationalities and religions. This serves their need to keep working people divided.

The media and the courts use the supposed "right of freedom of expression" to justify giving the Nazis publicity and letting them march. They never seem to remember this "right" when it comes to workers on strike or Blacks or other oppressed minorities fighting for their rights.

There is a broad movement growing to oppose the Nazis no matter what the courts say. The Nazis were run out of St. Louis when they tried to open a bookstore there earlier this year. They

were beaten up when they tried to attack an anti-Nazi teacher at Triton College in Melrose Park, Ill. The Chicago Nazi office has been picketed several times and ransacked.

An April 12 ecumenical ceremony in Chicago against the Nazis drew 2200 people of all nationalities and was followed on April 20 (Hitler's birthday and an earlier proposed date for the Nazis' march) by a nationwide protest in which a number of anti-Nazi forces wore Stars of David, the symbol the Nazis forced Jews to wear.

The masses of Americans hate the Nazis, not only because of what Hitler and his band of murderers did in World War 2, but mostly because of what the Nazis represent now. The

At WHC the wards are chronically understaffed and the patients receive little personalized care, although it is one of the ten largest medical centers on the East Coast. Most of its annual budget of \$92 million goes for fancy equipment and physical expansion, and not for the people, the staff and patients in the hospital.

With the members of its Board of Trustees coming from major banks and businesses, WHC's overwhelming orientation towards making money is hardly surprising, even though it is technically nonprofit. A typical board member is Mark Meagher of the Washington Post, who became known as an enemy to the city's workers when he exerted much effort in busting up the pressmen's union.

WHC has followed Meagher's lead in carrying out union-busting and strike-breaking tactics. They have hired recent college graduates and 75 new nurses and temporaries to bring the staff up to 44% of its normal operations. They have also blacklisted the striking nurses, and have further armed themselves by hiring attorney Alan Siegel, well-known for his expertise in union busting.

So far all this effort has gone for nothing. The nurses' militant stand has not been shaken and many unions and other workers in the area have stepped up their solidarity with the struggle.

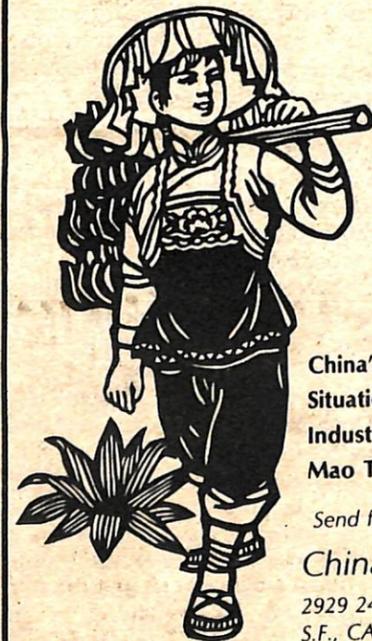
**FLASH!** On June 14 the nurses voted down the latest offer by a 2-1 margin. The new offer still didn't call for a union shop, the key issue.

Nazis have incited race riots in Chicago. Arthur Hal, a young Black electrical worker, had his arm ripped off by a bomb on his porch, after he moved into a changing neighborhood near the Nazis' Chicago office.

Mellianne Turner, a 7-year-old Black girl, died from a sickle-cell anemia attack after she was met by a Nazi-backed picket line at the mainly white school she was attending.

The Nazis don't just represent bad ideas which should have an "equal right" to be expressed, the Nazis represent an attack on the rights of the broad masses of the American people.

Many groups are planning counter demonstrations should the Nazis decide to march, and a lot of people have made it clear that they will not allow the Nazis to finish the march. There are growing indications that the Nazis are now afraid to march in Skokie at all. Like all reactionary scum, they are afraid of standing up before the masses and prefer to act when they can hide in the dark of night or when they have weak opposition.



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# Learn Nothing To Earn Nothing

## WORKFARE PARTICIPANTS TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Milwaukee, Wisconsin—"I'd rather starve than starve and work." This comment was made to characterize Milwaukee's "Learn to Earn" program which pays participants \$53 a week to attend sessions on how to fill out job applications and be a good worker. A related program puts the unemployed in unskilled work subcontracted from local industry. The programs have generated tremendous resistance. Community organizations and workers in the projects are planning a "Tell It Like It Is" speak-out on June 24, to demand Jobs, Training, Income and Dignity.

The federally funded "Learn Nothing to Earn Nothing" (as participants dub it) is part of Jimmy Carter's demagogic plan to cut the unemployed off welfare rolls and force them to work on minimum pay. Its appeal to Carter and his ilk is that it both drives the unemployed down and can be used to attack workers with jobs.

Milwaukee County Executive William O'Donnell began this workfare program in 1977, calling it a model for the whole country. Then it was used to replace jobs of public employees with part-timers working below minimum wage. These workers worked right alongside union workers making union scale, and predictably as the program expanded, union jobs were lost in layoffs and the work was done through the "Pay for Work" program. Grievances, mobilizations and spontaneous resistance forced O'Donnell to discontinue the program.

Next he made a deal with agencies for the handicapped. It was a great deal for the agencies, like the Jewish Vocational Services, which has doubled its income to over \$42 million in government and charitable grants

over the past few years. They term the unemployed "vocationally handicapped" and put them in workshops originally meant for physically and mentally handicapped—which entitles them to increased government grants.

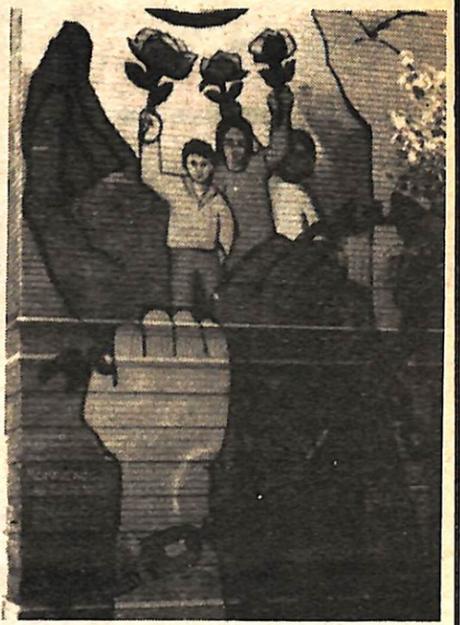
Milwaukee workfare project workers now assemble x-ray timers and lights on low wage sub-contracts from General Electric, manufacture dip sticks for Ford Motor Co. and windshield wipers for American Motors. The last big promotional mailing for McDonalds was done by workfare workers.

Those who don't get these choice slave-wage positions get the "Learn to Earn" workshops. Then they're sent to apply for jobs—in a city where only 11% of those applying actually get work. Most participants leave at the end of their 22 weeks still unemployed. Over one third become so disgusted that they drop out before the end of the program.

A young Black who is on the program for a second time said, "It's like teaching a starving man table manners. We can't live on Jimmy Carter's promises or on lessons about filling out job applications. We need food on our tables."

The unemployed are cut off General Assistance to save the country money; O'Donnell's office estimates \$7 million already. It also supplies local business and industry a steady supply of desperate job seekers who they hope to drive into \$2.65 an hour jobs.

In the workfare sweat shops and on "Learn to Earn," the Carter/O'Donnell policies are bringing together the bitterness of older workers and the rebelliousness of younger ones who are trying to get a start in life.



Two sides of 1456 North Rockwell.

## PUERTO RICAN MURAL FOCUS NEIGHBORHOOD STRUGGLE

With every window broken out, the vacant building at 1456 North Rockwell, in Chicago's Humbolt Park area, looks dreary from most angles, about as bleak as any of the sixty-one abandoned buildings in this mostly Puerto Rican community.

But not quite, for a huge 2-story mural fills one side of the structure, a painting that shows many hands united to snap a chain—the chains of poverty drug addiction and discrimination.

Painted in 1971 by neighborhood youths, the colorful mural stands like a beacon, calling for united action.

Action was on the minds of the 150 Latinos who gathered at the building recently to protest city plans to demolish the 15 unit dwelling. Ten community groups have chosen the building as a symbol of a growing fight to save the area from city wrecking crews.

Nobody was in the mood for excuses as many people at the rally spoke out against the recent increases in arson, abandoned buildings and soaring rents that plague this working class neighborhood.

"A lot of us here today have decided enough is enough," said one speaker, echoing the thoughts of the crowd.

No-one expected an easy victory over the city fathers, so people broke into smaller groups to lay out plans to continue and organize their fight, a tribute to the painting's call for united action to break the chains.

## ARMY OF THE UNEMPLOYED

In the un-employment cen-ters we're get-ting mad-der all the time You  
 work all your life to make some bas-tard rich end up stand-ing in these lines The  
 mon-ey we get is lit-tle e-nough but it's be-tween us & the streets And  
 now they've cut our be-ne-fits back how in the hell will our fam-i-lies eat  
 Bro-thers & sis-ters are you mar-ching with the ar-my of the un-em-ployed we've got to  
 pull our for-ces to-ge-ther and stand up tall and proud we've got to  
 fight these be-ne-fit cuts draw the line and say e-nough e-nough we're getting  
 or-gan-ized so join with us to fight for Jobs or In-come Now!

In the unemployment centers  
 We're getting madder all the time  
 You work all your life to make some  
 bastard rich  
 And end up standing in these lines

The money we get is little enough  
 But it's between us and the streets  
 And now they've cut our benefits off  
 How the hell will our families eat?

### Chorus:

Brothers and sisters are you marching  
 With the army of the unemployed  
 We've got to pull our forces together  
 And stand up tall and proud  
 We've got to fight these benefit cuts  
 Draw the line and say enough's enough  
 We're getting organized, so join with us  
 To fight for Jobs or Income Now.

They've cut the federal extensions  
 to 26 weeks from 65  
 Put thousands of us into 2-bit jobs  
 Or join the welfare lines  
 To cover their hides, they lie and divide  
 It's only youth out of work, they say  
 They want young folks to work their  
 fathers' jobs  
 At half their fathers' pay.

It's the bosses profit system  
 That put us out here from the start  
 While we stand idle schools and homes  
 And whole cities fall apart  
 They've got to chase the highest buck  
 'Cause that's their system's law  
 Well, to hell with their profits, we've got  
 to fight  
 These cuts are the last straw.

We've got to build a mighty movement  
 To fight for our demands  
 Union jobs at union wages  
 Or income to live 'til then  
 Employed and unemployed workers  
 Together we'll stand our ground  
 We will not let them divide us up  
 Or drive our whole class down.

## Unemployment Center Employees Out Of Work!?!

Baltimore—Ninety-nine clerks were laid off in mid-May by the Maryland Employment Security Administration. The official reason? *Not high enough unemployment!*

Everyone knows that unemployment is still high, no matter how much hot air from the Government. Look at all the people who are out there, whose benefits have run out—and who are not "officially" counted as unemployed!

These 99 clerks had been hired as "temporaries"—some as long ago as 5 years! Of course, they were not considered eligible to join the union.

The bosses of Unemployment "reassured" these clerks, almost all Black women, that they will try to find them other jobs. Not similar jobs, or at similar pay, mind you. No—jobs like "paint salesman" in Timonium, 20 miles outside the city. (Could it be that they're trying to disqualify their own people from collecting benefits for "refusing to take an offered job"?)

The day after the layoffs were announced, the Supervisors warned the "permanent" clerks—"Don't take this lightly. You're going to have to handle double the work from now on." Responded one employee, "I'm not going to do any more than they expected of me before this."

# U.S. Clashes With USSR For Control Of Africa.. B

## FRANCE, U.S. EXTRACT HIGH PRICE FOR HELP Soviet-Cuban Invasion of Zaire Repelled

The invasion in May of mineral-rich Shaba province in Zaire by Katangan mercenaries, trained and armed by the Soviet Union and Cuba, was successfully defeated with the help of French and Belgian troops. Now, having saved Zaire from invasion and possible conquest, the Western imperialist powers are forcing the country's dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, to turn over to them full control of Zaire's corruption-riddled economy.

The invasion of Shaba (formerly Katanga) province began on May 11, when armed forces of a few thousand Katangans based in Angola crossed into Zaire by way of neighboring Zambia. The Katangan army, led by General Nathaniel Mbumba and calling themselves the Congolese National Liberation Front (FNLC) had invaded Shaba just 14 months earlier, but they were stopped short of Kolwezi and driven out after 80 days of bitter fighting. This time they succeeded in capturing the city of Kolwezi in just 2 days, scattering the surprised Zairean army.

The Katangans have changed their tune since the first invasion, hoping to enlist broader support. Last year they were unclear as to whether they were out to overthrow the government or just win the secession of Shaba from the rest of Zaire. This time they claimed to be fighting for the liberation of all of Zaire from the stranglehold rule of Western imperialism and their puppet Mobutu. A number of dissident political groups in Zaire supported the invasion and one claimed it would spark armed uprisings throughout the country. Nothing of the sort happened, indicating that neither plans nor a base among the people existed for such a move.

### AN UGLY HISTORY

More to the point, the Katangans, who were armed and trained by Cuban and Russian military advisors, have a long history of fighting for reasons considerably more sordid than devotion to national liberation and other high ideals. They were originally trained as the gendarmes (police) of

Katanga Province by the Belgians, former colonial masters of Zaire, then called the Belgian Congo. After the Belgian Congo won independence in 1960, the Katangan gendarmes were enlisted by Moise Tshombe and outfitted and trained as a full army.

Tshombe, backed by Belgian mining interests, had hopes of splitting the country up, leading a secession of Katanga and establishing an independent state with himself at the head. But his efforts failed and in 1965 his army escaped into exile in Angola, then a Portuguese colony. The Portuguese hired them as mercenaries to fight against the forces fighting for the liberation of Angola, including the MPLA, present leaders of Angola. After the Portuguese were thrown out, the MPLA enlisted the Katangans to fight against other insurgent forces in Angola in the bloody civil war that ripped the country in 1975 and '76.

While the people of Shaba did not rise up to join the invaders when they entered Zaire, there was certainly some support for them. Most of the people in Shaba are from the same Luanda tribe as the Katangan forces, and hatred for Mobutu runs deep in Shaba, as in most of Zaire. Mobutu is a flamboyant and extravagant ruler who has bankrupted Zaire through his corruption and sellout to foreign interests. This has left the masses of people in dire poverty while Mobutu himself has amassed millions. Even his own troops failed to put up much of a fight when the invaders attacked.



Mobutu paid high for help.

However, the Katangans showed that they would make a sorry alternative. Discipline among the Katangans soon fell apart and there was large scale looting and killing of civilians, black and white. The Katangans, one of the best equipped armies in Africa with years of fighting experience, were unable to stand up to a few hundred French Legionnaires. Clearly if they had won they would have had to call on their Cuban and Soviet backers to maintain control just of Shaba, let alone the whole of huge Zaire. This kind of "liberation" is the last thing the people of Zaire need.

The Katangan invasion is part of a much larger conflict now taking place which involves most of Africa. Africa is a rich and mostly undeveloped continent which the rich imperialist nations in both the US and Soviet blocs desire to exploit freely. The African people have developed a deep hatred for the Europeans who were the colonial powers, and the US which moved in to

continued on page 14



Katangan forces retreat after their defeat at French hand.

## USSR, CUBA AID ETHIOPIA REPRESSION Eritrean Struggle Advances Vs. New Foes

The Horn of Africa continues to be a major hot spot of war in the world today. Although the border war between Ethiopia and Somalia has died down, this has freed up the Ethiopian military dictatorship, the Derg, to try and crush the struggle of the Eritrean people. But even with massive help from the Soviet Union and Cuba, the Derg's offensive has been far from successful. After 17 years of armed struggle, the Eritreans, who have freed over 90 percent of their country, are determined to push on to final victory in their liberation fight.

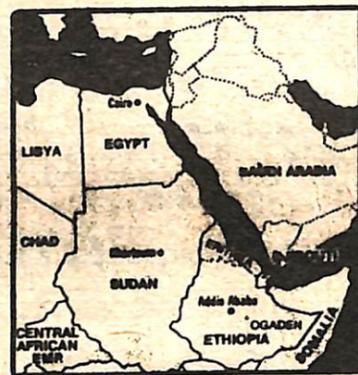
The Ethiopian occupation troops are confined to a few cities where they are under siege by the Eritrean liberation forces. The Eritreans have taken 75 percent of the key Red Sea port of Massawa, despite savage shelling by Soviet naval ships off the Eritrean coast which has destroyed much of the city.

Over \$1 billion in the most modern Soviet arms, 1500 Soviet advisors and 17,000 Cuban troops, 4,000 of them in the besieged Eritrean capital of Asmara, haven't been enough to turn the tide for the butchers of the Derg.

With their troops unable to advance on the ground, the Ethiopians have turned to the same tactics the U.S. used in Vietnam—massive terror bombing of the civilian population. Soviet MIGS and American F-5's are dropping napalm and cluster bombs on Eritrean towns and villages. The Ethiopians hope this genocidal attack will demoralize the Eritrean people and destroy the liberation struggle.

### THE REVOLUTION PROCEEDS

The Ethiopians have caused many casualties, but the Eritreans have stood firm in the face of this onslaught, defeating all attempts to break the sieges and re-open the roads to Asmara and the coast. They have grown even stronger with the recent unity forged



between the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the Eritrean Liberation Front. ELF forces have had the Ethiopian garrison in the city of Barentu under siege for a year. They were recently joined by an EPLF tank brigade made up of captured tanks. The united front between the two groups is based on continuing the struggle for independence, opposing foreign interference and protecting the democratic rights of the Eritrean people.

Self-reliance is one of the principles of the Eritrean struggle and one of the main reasons for its great success. The fighters get most of their arms by capturing them from the Ethiopians. In the liberated areas, the liberation forces have organized land reform and helped the peasants to improve farming techniques. Schools, hospitals and

continued on page 13



Some of the 20,000-plus troops occupying Angola helped train and aid the Katangans to invade Zaire.

# ut American People Stand With Tide Of Liberation

## Africa Supporters March In Chicago



VVAW presents "Fatigues for Freedom Fighters" to representative of Azanian guerrillas, for use in liberation struggle.

**Chicago**—One of the most militant celebrations of African Liberation Day was held on May 27 in Chicago's Loop, one of the world's major financial and corporate centers. It was a fitting site, as the three hundred and fifty marchers aimed their fire at the rich corporations for whose profits Black people are oppressed from the Union of South Africa to the United States of America.

The ranks of the marchers included Black, Latin and white workers, students, professionals and veterans—a testimony to the growing support for the African liberation fighters. They represented the millions in this country who are sick of what's been coming down here and in South Africa, and who have been organizing resistance, from an anti-Bakke demonstration of thousands to conferences of a few dozen debating crucial questions of strategy for the Black liberation struggle.

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War, as part of their "Fatigues for Freedom Fighters" campaign, brought uniforms donated from as far away as Juneau, Alaska. They summarized the mood of the protesters when they presented the fatigues to a representative of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, a South African liberation

group, as "an expression of the immense anger and hatred for the rich class who send us off to do their fighting."

ALD and buildup events drew participants from a wide range of occupations and backgrounds. In particular, many different social forces within the Black community were represented.

### AFRICAN LIBERATION WINS WIDE SUPPORT

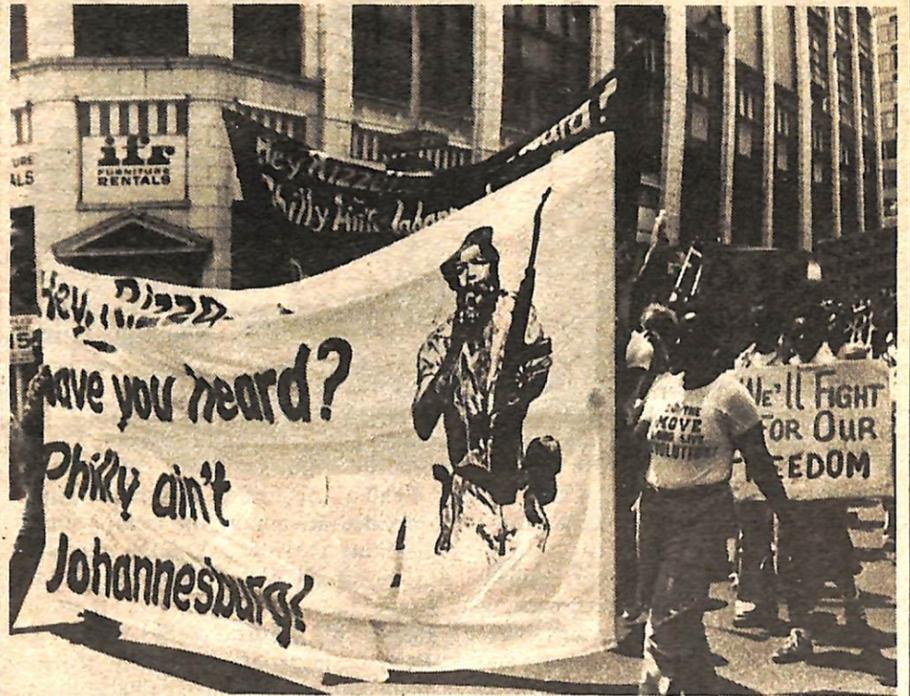
In the Milwaukee area a city-wide conference building for the Chicago demonstration drew many activists from the liberation struggles in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Azania. They discussed questions key to these struggles, such as the role of the Soviet Union in Africa and of Pan-Africanism to the Black liberation movement.

continued from page 12  
factories have been re-opened or set up to meet the people's needs. There is even bus service between the towns and the villages. Twenty-one clinics and eleven mobile units provide health care and wage disease prevention campaigns.

The Soviets and their Cuban frontmen like to pose as the main supporters of liberation struggles around the world. But they immediately jumped in to replace the US as the main backers of the brutal Derg as soon as they got a chance. With Ethiopia as a client state

for the USSR, the Soviets could vastly increase its influence in the area, but most important, control of Eritrea's Red Sea coastline would provide potential control of access to the Suez Canal.

Ethiopia is much less of a prize without Eritrea. So the Soviets and the Cubans, while talking about a "peaceful political solution" in hopes of getting the Eritreans to surrender, have given full support to the Ethiopians' continued attempt to crush the Eritrean struggle.



Jerzy Kowalski

## May 20th Action Hits Oppression From Philly to Johannesburg

**Philadelphia, Pa.**—350 people marched here on May 20 to denounce Mayor Frank Rizzo's racist call for a white power movement, and his recently defeated plan to starve out the primarily Black MOVE radical commune.

Authorities tried desperately to block the demonstration. They threatened arrests and refused to issue permits until 18 hours before it began. Shaken by months of massive protest against Rizzo's police occupation of MOVE's community, the city chiefs issued daily warnings that the march would be a display of violence from the commune's members and supporters who were part of the committee that sponsored it.

People came from as far away as Washington, D.C., New York City and Boston to march in a militant, orderly display of solidarity against Rizzo and his crew, and the Mayor provided a living example of his police terror. Hun-

dreds of cops lined the streets, harassing marchers and intimidating onlookers.

"Hey Rizzo, Have You Heard, Philly Ain't Johannesburg," the slogan of the May 20th Committee, became popular across the city during the months when Rizzo barricaded the neighborhood around MOVE headquarters, creating a cop-infested wood and metal wall similar to those used to fence in blacks in South Africa.

That evening, after the march ended, a number of artists including Gil Scott-Heron gave performances that drew out the significance of the liberation struggle in Africa for the people in this country. Attended by over 700 people, the evening's presentations by local Black poets and musicians put out the theme, "Fight Imperialism and National Oppression from the USA (Union of South Africa) to the USA (United States of America)."

Support for the African freedom fighters has also been growing among workers. At A.O. Smith, a Milwaukee auto plant where almost 50% of the workforce is Black, 121 buttons proclaiming "Victory to South Africa" were sold in one day, mostly by members of the African Liberation Support Committee.

Students from 4 colleges in the Chicago area also expressed solidarity with the African liberation struggle, as 1700 of them wore armbands in memory of the death of Malcolm X and in honor of the spirit of the Soweto rebellion.

In the Chicago area Black churches began what they hope will become an

annual event, African Liberation Sunday.

On May 14th a gathering at the Tabernacle Baptist Church reflected the spirit of rising resistance among the Black masses, as the ministers and congregation performed a special call-and-response reading with such chants as: "No more Sowetos/No more Bakkes over me/For my people everywhere/Rise up/Fight for what is right!"

The service gathered endorsements from almost 50 ministers and religious organizations, as well as support groups like the New Chicago African Liberation Support Committee, whose

continued on page 14

### THE U.S.'s MANY-SIDED GAME

The United States government hopes that the Soviets will fall on their face in Ethiopia, so that it will be able to regain control. In order to accomplish this, the US is playing a many-sided game. The US quietly encouraged the Somalis to attack the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, but then did not supply the Somalis with any aid, so as not to cut all ties with the Derg. The Soviet aid to Ethiopia helped turn Somalia strongly against the USSR. The US is also en-

couraging West Germany and France to support the Ethiopian Democratic Union, a group of landlords and other leftovers from Haile Selassie's feudal regime who are out to take control of the widespread anti-Derg struggle in Ethiopia itself and bring back the "good old days."

Until recently, the US kept a hand in Ethiopia through the Israelis, who they use to do their dirty work, somewhat like the Soviets use the Cubans. Israel's military mission was supposedly just recently withdrawn,

continued on page 14

## Zaire

continued from page 12

take a dominant role after World War 2 and is closely tied to white settler rule in Southern Africa.

The Soviets and especially the Cubans take advantage of the Africans' struggles against Western domination to pose as the supporters of African liberation. They have had some success since they are not as well known as the Europeans. But more and more people's eyes are being opened by their actions. In Ethiopia 17,000 Cuban troops and over 1000 Soviet advisors are propping up the murderous derg and its attack on the Eritrean people.

The faction which won the civil war in Angola requires 20,000 Cuban troops to remain in power and continue the war against opposing groups. A Soviet-dominated Zaire would mean a qualitative jump in the Soviets' ability to further spread their control and influence events throughout the African continent.

Since the invasion's defeat, Cuban leader Fidel Castro has denied backing the invasion. The Katangans were trained and armed by the Cubans and Soviets and encouraged to plan to go back to Zaire. The Soviets and Cubans were certainly prepared to take advantage of any gains of the invasion, but it also seems likely that they did think that it would not succeed at this time and so backed off in order to deny involvement. In fact, what Castro now says is that he was against the invasion because he was afraid that it would result in an even tighter hold over Zaire by the West, which is precisely what happened.

There was no way Mobutu could mobilize the full force of the Zairean people to drive out the invaders, so he was forced to call on his foreign backers to pull him out. This posed a serious problem for the U.S. The government is faced with a serious debate on how best to deal with Soviet advances in Africa and more generally how much more aggressive the US should be in opposing Soviet expansion world-wide. More important, the American people still have the war in Vietnam fresh in mind and it would be political suicide for a politician to send American troops on some foreign adventure to prop up another unpopular dictator.

The French and the Belgians solved the problem by sending in troops. President Carter was able to look forceful without taking risks by providing US Air force transport planes to fly them in.

The French and the Belgians made a big deal of the killing of whites in Kolwezi to get support at home, but their real concern was in protecting their economic interests in Zaire's important copper and cobalt mines and keeping them out of Soviet hands.

The French, with U.S. support, have stepped to the forefront in defense of Western capital's interests in Africa. France presently has over 10,000 troops stationed there, which represents the second largest foreign military force on the continent. In Chad and Western Sahara, where guerrilla forces have been waging wars against the pro-French governments, France's rulers have committed troops and aircraft to shore them up.

France maintains strong economic and cultural ties with over a dozen French-speaking countries and former colonies in Africa, and puts itself forward as their protector and mentor. Now the French government is pushing for the formation of an all-African military force with a number of African countries contributing troops and supplies. With French military advisors to outfit and train it, this force



Carter was happy to put up planes when France provided troops.

would be on call to do the Western imperialists' bidding anywhere in Africa.

In all of this France is hoping to gain a decided advantage for itself, within the context of defending the interests of the whole Western bloc. In Zaire, France has succeeded in wresting some degree of control away from the Belgian imperialists. When troops from both nations entered Shaba, there was some friction between them. France is continuing to expand its role in Zaire, leaving behind a small force to help defend the European technicians needed to run the mines. At the same time troops from other African countries closely allied with France have been brought in to replace the bulk of the French and Belgian forces—perhaps to serve as the nucleus of the all-Africa force.

But inside France itself opposition to these new foreign ventures of the ruling class has begun to grow. Workers and students have demonstrated in protest against French imperialism in Africa.

Having saved Zaire, the Western imperialist powers are now working to get even tighter control of the country and its valuable resources. At a meeting in mid-June with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Common Market, and representatives of the United States, Canada, Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Iran and Japan, Zaire was forced to agree to give up control of their economy. IMF representatives will oversee the Central Bank of Zaire and the Finance Ministry. Even more than before, the development of Zaire's economy will be decided by foreign corporate interests. The austerity program they plan to impose will drive down even further the living standards of the Zairean people.

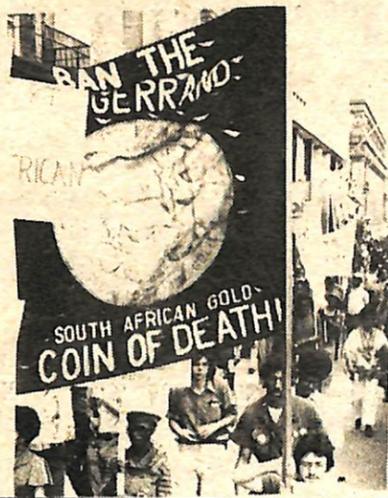
The defeat of the Katangan invasion prevented Soviet control of Zaire, but it did not bring true independence. The hard experience of the Zairian people shows that when you have to call on one imperialist to protect you from another imperialist, the bill comes due quickly and the price is high. As the struggle develops, the people of Zaire and of all Africa will develop the ability to rely on themselves and to throw out all the imperialists and gain real economic and political independence.



Zaire's victory was setback for Brezhnev's schemes.

## African Liberation Day

continued from page 13



ALD set the stage for more struggles, like the anti-Krugerand fight.

spokesman Abdul Alkalimat gave a Dedicatory Message.

### AFTERMATH OF ALD 1978

At ALD people experienced the strong spirit of solidarity that can be built among many different sections of society. They were inspired to carry out further actions to show the American

## Eritrea

continued from page 13

but the Israelis continue to occupy two islands off the coast of Eritrea, originally given to them by Haile Selassie to protect their Red Sea shipping. Israel has investments in some Eritrean business under the current regime and has trained sections of the Ethiopian army, including the personal bodyguard of the Derg's number one man, Mengistu. But most important Israel supplied spare parts and repairs for American equipment after the Ethiopians kicked out the US. Israel has even supplied parts for Soviet equipment from supplies captured from the Arabs in the 1973 war.

Because of the growing strength of the Eritrean struggle, the US has tried to play that side of the game also. They

### HISTORY OF ERITREA

Eritrea, which is located along the strategic Red Sea shipping lanes, has long been a target of foreign domination. Italy first seized the area in the 1880's, and was thrown out by the British in 1941.

After World War 2, the US gradually replaced British as the main supporter of the reactionary regime of Emperor Haile Selassie in Ethiopia. The question of Eritrea was brought up in the UN in the 50's. There, US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles stated that "...the strategic interests of the US in the Red Sea basin and considerations of security and world peace make it necessary that this country has to be linked with our ally Ethiopia."

In 1952, by UN decision, Eritrea was "federated" to Ethiopia. The US got a big military and communications base in Eritrea. Haile Selassie got \$600 million in military aid from 1950 to 1974, the most of any country in Africa. The Eritreans got a large occupation army. Parties and mass organizations were smashed, the free press was banned, and the Eritrean languages and culture were suppressed. In 1962, Eritrea was declared the "14th province" of Ethiopia.

The Eritreans resisted this annexa-

peoples' hatred of apartheid and support for the black Africans' struggle.

One such action was on June 5, when people from Racine and Milwaukee picketed the First Wisconsin Bank in Milwaukee, to protest the bank's \$30 million loan to a company doing business with South Africa. People in the predominantly Black community overwhelmingly supported the protest, because the bank is particularly hated for its racist practices there. Just two blocks away a 15-year-old Black youth, Jerry Brookshire was shot down by police two years ago. Because of such repression it has not been difficult for Blacks here to identify with the way South African blacks are oppressed by their rulers.

Over the summer similar actions will take place, as the anti-apartheid movement gains momentum from the many varied forces it has brought into motion. Next fall the hottest student campaign will be against university investments in South Africa, which has already produced the largest wave of student demonstrations since the Vietnam war.

United in their hatred of apartheid in South Africa and of oppression of minorities here, the broad range of African liberation supporters, from workers to students to veterans, have the potential to become a powerful force against the imperialists. If unity is built in the course of struggle in the year to come, a truly massive, united African Liberation Day in 1979 is a great possibility.

are bankrolling a phoney liberation group led by a traitor called Osman Sabbe, who was thrown out of the EPLF. Sabbe has openly called for the U.S. to intervene in Eritrea.

The Eritrean people have come to see that neither of the two superpowers offers them any support. Both the US and the USSR have only been interested in controlling Ethiopia and the strategic Red Sea coastline. Both have been willing to support any regime in Ethiopia and to help smash the just struggle of the Eritrean people for independence. Relying on their own strength, the Eritrean people are bound to continue their struggle against the Ethiopian reactionaries and whatever foreign master they choose until they achieve victory and an independent Eritrea.

tion of their land by the Ethiopian empire. In 1958 there was a general strike and armed struggle began in 1961. This struggle has grown to the point that over 90% of Eritrea is now liberated territory.

Haile Selassie, with US support, waged a brutal war to hold on to Eritrea and the strategic Red Sea coast. About 500,000 of the 3.5 million Eritreans were made refugees, many in the neighboring Sudan. But the Eritreans' struggle was one of the main blows against the reactionary Selassie government, which was finally overthrown by the Ethiopian people in 1974.

With the toppling of Selassie's feudal monarchy, a group of military officers put on a big act of being "revolutionaries" and succeeded in taking his place atop the Ethiopian people. The military ruling group, the Derg, has continued the oppression and exploitation of the Ethiopian people and the war on Eritrea. The Derg rulers have taken to calling themselves revolutionaries and socialists and have switched their loyalties to a new foreign power, the Soviet Union, but it has not helped them crush the onrush of the Eritrean liberation forces.

## "I Died In Vietnam And Didn't Even Know It" AGENT ORANGE SCANDAL GROWS

Mounting protests have exposed yet another outrage against Vietnam veterans. Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used by the US military in the war in Indochina, has been found to cause symptoms ranging from skin rashes to cancer. Evidence is mounting that many veterans are dying as a result of their exposure to the substance.

The long-term effect on veterans got limited press in Chicago when a Veterans Administration (VA) employee, 38-year-old Maude DeVictor, brought it to public attention. Since that time there has been a virtual media blackout about the effects of the poison and the protest against it.

Composed of two active ingredients—2,4,5-T and 2,4-D, with the by-product dioxin, one of the most deadly poisons known to man—more than 100 million pounds of Agent Orange were used to strip Vietnamese jungles bare (thus denying use of jungle cover to the liberation fighters) and to kill crops in order to drive the peasants out and into US-controlled areas, like Saigon.

The Vietnamese published detailed medical evidence proving the adverse effects of the defoliant as early as 1968. (Symptoms are now known to include skin rash, numbness in fingers and toes, baldness, decreased sex drive,

nervousness, fatigue, some forms of cancer, and deformities in offspring.) Worldwide protest against poison sprays forced the US to stop using Agent Orange openly by 1970.

Although its widespread use was well-known, the VA declared that reports about the defoliant's effects were simply "North Vietnamese propaganda." And while veterans are dying of Agent Orange-related symptoms today, the VA's response to DeVictor was to trot out an Air Force doctor who insisted that no cause and effect relationship has been established.

Nevertheless, it is clear the military has known about some of the defoliant's symptoms for a long time. GIs in Vietnam before 1970 heard rumors that the spray's use was intended to produce deformed Vietnamese children whose care would require extra personnel, thus keeping liberation fighters off the battlefields.

When the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), an organization born during the antiwar movement of the 1960's, heard of the Agent Orange scandal, they quickly moved into action. They publicized its effects and demanded that the VA test, treat and pay disability to affected veterans and their families. Further, VVAW demanded the government contact the Vietnamese for relevant information about the effects of the chemical.

In Minneapolis, 17 veterans and supporters went to the American Legion's Memorial Day ceremony, where many rank-and-file Legionnaires united with the younger vets' demand to publicize the potential dangers of Agent Orange. Vietnam was not the first time GIs have been guinea pigs for military experiments by brass who have never been concerned about their health and safety. Today, veterans of the 1950's who were placed as close as 1000 yards distance from aboveground nuclear explosions in Nevada to test the effects of radiation on human beings are dying of cancer.

While the VA has been forced to admit there might be a correlation between Agent Orange and a skin rash

("chloracne"), they are trying to shift the responsibility onto the veterans themselves. For instance, one Chicago vet who filed for Agent Orange disability received a letter from the VA asking him to establish the dates and places in Vietnam where he came in contact with the spray. Since the days and places of Vietnam tend to run together in the same nightmare, this is like asking someone from Los Angeles to remember what day ten years ago the smog was heaviest.

Paul Reutershan, a 28-year-old vet from New York who was a helicopter chief in Vietnam, has stomach cancer attributed to Agent Orange and has been given less than two years to live. Forced to apply for welfare because VA benefits don't cover Agent Orange's victims, he now says bitterly, "I got killed in Vietnam and didn't even know it."

VVAW is taking up the fight against Agent Orange not only because the lethal effects on many vets and their families, but because the whole affair, from the chemical's use in Vietnam to the way individual vets are treated today, spotlights the ruling class attitude to those who fight its wars: use once and throw away. For more information on how to get involved in this struggle, contact VVAW in your local area or write: VVAW National Office, P.O. Box 20184, Chicago, IL 60620.



Vietnam Veterans Against the War marched 80 strong on Vietnam Veterans Day. Among their demands was care and compensation for victims of Agent Orange

## DEFOLIANT STILL POISONING PEOPLE

Murderous disdain for human life, typical of the government and its military chiefs, also characterizes the big companies who own and profit from the chemical's use. The deadly nature of dioxin was shown once again in Seveso, Italy in 1976 when a chemical plant explosion doused the area with it. Clean-up crews thoroughly outfitted with protective clothing were sent in—and 68% of the crew members have died since!

Today, a less concentrated version of this deadly agent is used to cut forest undergrowth in Oregon. In spite of outrage from nearby residents who have developed skin cancer and whose farm animals are dying from it, a spokesman for the

Weyerhaeuser paper company echoes the VA lie that there is no proven cause and effect. Despite the growing mountain of evidence, you can still buy dioxin at your corner store—Dow Chemical's commercial "Weed-Be-Gone" is just a diluted version of Agent Orange.

Resistance is growing against the chemical's use among environmental groups, as individual doctors and researchers are investigating its effects. Some veterans have grouped together to do research and centralize existing information. And VVAW is mobilizing a battle against the VA on behalf of all vets victimized by Agent Orange.

## Indians' Longest Walk Nears Destination

The Longest Walk is nearing its destination. Over 800 Native Americans, their spirits rising although their bodies are tired, are finishing a walk that took their message directly to thousands of American people. The walkers will enter Washington on July 15 in a moment of triumph. They will have come over 3000 miles in a protest against eleven major pieces of anti-Indian legislation now before congress.

The walk commemorates the many forced migrations, the "trails of tears," onto western reservations. Now they are again walking because they will not give up the little land they have left. The repressive legislation threatens every treaty, from those covering hunting and fishing, to water and mineral rights to self-government and land ownership. The bills are the products, in large part, of the giant energy monopolies. 30% of western coal reserves, 40% of the country's uranium and 4% of US oil and gas deposits lie beneath Indian land.

In the face of this threat Indians from well over 100 tribes joined together. The trek began February 11 on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. It has already crossed the Rocky

Mountains and the Great Plains. As the march went through Marion, Illinois, where Indian political prisoner Leonard Peltier is being held in the federal penitentiary, walkers were joined by Indians from Oklahoma, Illinois and other states and rallied in front of the prison.

### MARCH GROWS IN SIZE

In Indiana 75 to 100 walkers from tribes in Michigan joined up. In Harrisburg, Pa., in late June members of the six nation Iroquois Confederacy will arrive from New York State. Florida Native Americans are also on their way to join the march.

When the Longest Walk was encamped in Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis they received 500 hot meals from local Black organizations. The last leg of the arduous demonstration will take the walkers into the populous eastern states, through the coal fields and industrial areas like Pittsburgh and Baltimore.

In a leaflet "to the people of Illinois and Indiana" they explained their cause:

"... We are traveling through your

state at this time as part of our walk to Washington, D.C. We are walking to D.C. to resist termination legislation. WE WANT THE TREATIES HONORED. We walk with the pipe. We walk to rebuild, not to destroy. We walk to be heard. We walk in sympathy with the people from the farms and would hope they understand the frustrations we Indian peoples have felt for so long. To be victimized is a tragic way of treatment. We wish to travel in peace. We do not want or need any trouble with the people of your state nor their law enforcement agencies. Our differences are with the

federal Government. . . ."

The walk will leave Pittsburg after six days of rest on June 21, arrive in Baltimore around July 7 and stay until they move into the nation's capital on July 15, for several days of protest actions.

The Indians have made great sacrifices to build for this dramatic moment. They will rally along with thousands of others telling the modern day General Custers to scrap those eleven anti-Indian bills. Through their just demands they are taking a stand for all struggling people.



The Longest Walk is snowballing as it advances towards the nation's capital.

## Taxquake

continued from page

teachers alone face lay-offs and thousands of county and municipal workers have already received their pink slips, although the bill takes effect July 1.

### THE MAIN FORCE

"The middle class in revolt" was how the media described the tax rollback movement that passed Proposition 13. This is basically correct. The main force behind the California bill and similar efforts springing up elsewhere is made up of professionals, technicians, small businessmen, management and sales personnel and so on.

Rising taxes, and property taxes in particular, have hit this group as hard or harder than any other section of the American people. Taxes over the last decade have risen faster than income, faster even than food or new car prices. Yet for all the cash the government sucks up, the social services the people get are poorer and poorer.

It's not surprising that things broke in California. A high tax rate and regular reassessment of property values in a booming real estate market have actually forced thousands to sell homes they've lived in for years. Though the property tax bite is especially sharp in California, soaring taxes on income, sales and property have the middle class and working people fired up elsewhere, too.

Since World War II, the government has played an increasingly large role in American society, as an employer of millions, regulator of business, provider of social services, etc. Not only is this expensive, but it is the masses of people who have more and more had to foot the growing bill. Taxes paid by

large corporations provided 31 percent of all government revenues in 1952. By 1975 they had succeeded in chopping that figure down to only 14 percent!

And by the start of this decade, the capitalist economic system had entered the first stages of a long downward spiral. The U.S. faced growing competition from capitalist rivals like West Germany, Japan and the USSR. At the same time, it was no longer free to plunder the underdeveloped nations of the Third World at will. For example, the big oil companies were forced to pay the producing nations a fair price for petroleum. Economic growth slowed, while inflation ate steadily at the value of the dollar.

The costs of running government mushroomed and inflation and a bloated bureaucracy meant that the quality of services was going to hell—schools that turn kids out who can't read, firehouses shutting down, garbage collection so rare that some neighborhoods are hard to tell from the city dumps. Outraged, people want to know, "Why should we pay through the nose and get nothing in return?"

### THE LEADERS

The fact that a righteous cause like opposition to being taxed to death should produce a non-solution like Proposition 13 has a lot to do with the leadership of the mass movement. The two men who introduced the bill are typical of this leading core. Paul Gann is a real estate mogul turned politician, and Howard Jarvis is a 75-year-old businessman, politician and vocal John Bircher who has occasionally embarrassed even that group with his outspoken and erratic opinions.

They developed a dual push to the campaign they led. They attack and rail against "big government" and bureaucrats running peoples' lives. But when it comes to handing out blame for the way things are, Jarvis and Gann show their true colors.

They talk about getting rid of "lazy, do-nothing" government workers and "welfare giveaways." Cuts are needed and if it comes down hardest on minorities, they more or less deserve it.

Blacks, Chicanos and Asians in California saw the racist aspect of the campaign very clearly. The idea that they were "getting everything" when their communities already have the worst of everything was absurd. By and large, the oppressed nationalities and poor whites voted against Proposition 13.

For all the typical right-wing rhetoric about how this campaign was to benefit the "little people," it was bankrolled by smaller capitalists and real estate speculators. They put up the money for gimmicks like mailing homeowners' computer printouts telling them how much their tax would be cut if 13 passed. These people put themselves in the fore of the California tax revolt and shaped it in their own interests so they could clean up. What Proposition 13 provides these operators is not so much tax relief as welfare for the well off.

### THE OPPOSITION

The biggest capitalists and corporations in California, the giant monopolies like the Bank of America and Atlantic Richfield, stood to gain the most from the bill. But they actively opposed it! Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, according to one legislative committee study, will save \$130.2 million annually, Pacific Gas and Electric \$90.6 million, and so on—these outfits will save more in one year than any hundred workers will see in their whole lives.

Why should they turn their backs on such a windfall? Pacific Tel's president Ted Saenger put it bluntly: "We fear it might create another set of problems entirely." The corporate and banking giants don't like to see widespread rebellions and anti-government sentiment. Even less do they like the bill's hamstringing effect on the existing character of the government.

These things are a rip in the fabric of American society. And it is their society. The capitalist class guided its development, they sit atop it and they benefit from it. The tax system serves them, paying for the government machinery they control out of the people's pockets.

Social services serves them, tying people more closely to the system—junior colleges built in the late '60s, for instance, to meet business needs for skilled and white collar workers, have since come under attack because the capitalists' need for such people is lower. The government itself exists to front for and defend their interests, both in this country and around the world.

Although the tax revolt and Proposition 13 deal a blow against the established methods of dispensing crumbs and lies to the people by which monopoly capitalists run society, it does not threaten their continuing rule. They will have to make adjustments.

When the same economic problems that gave birth to the tax revolt erupted in the "crisis of the cities" a few years ago, the ruling class adjusted. New York City is now run by an Emergency Financial Control Board of bankers and businessmen whose control is slated to last 30 years and who have gone at services and city workers like the grim reaper.

The tax revolt in many ways represents a bigger problem for the owning class than the city crisis, because of the deep alienation the middle class it both demonstrates and fuels. But the rulers of this country are already moving to deal with it. In California, various court cases

challenging Proposition 13's legality may smooth off some of its rough edges and adapt it more readily to the present system. Economists at UCLA did a study before the vote which prophesied doom and disaster if 13 passed, and was widely used by corporate opponents of the proposed law. But less than a week after the vote the same group released a new report saying overall the economic impact of the proposition "will be positive."

### THE WORKING CLASS

The working class had no way to play a decisive role as a class in the recent California events. In effect, working people were offered a fool's choice: the right wing offered a tax cut with ensured loss of services, while the big time capitalists said take things the lousy way they are. Individual workers took one side of the other in the issue, or none at all, with factors like home ownership or renting, working for the state, nationality and general opinion of the government having a lot of influence.

The top officials of the labor unions, the self-styled leaders of the workers, cooperated closely with the biggest capitalists in organizing to defeat 13, and for some similar reasons. In the short run, massive lay-offs of union members and escalating unemployment weakens the base of their power, the control over large sections of the working class. More fundamentally, they, too, are fearful of rebellious trends sweeping the masses and affecting their members. They have a big stake in the social fabric which is ripping, and in fact helped the monopoly capitalists bring it into being. The union bureaucrats have pushed social reform legislation and social services expansion for decades. This, they tell their members, is how the interests of working people are to be advanced. Now that this policy is reaching a dead end, they are fighting to preserve what they can of it.

In the meantime, workers and the masses of people are organizing resistance to the plans to place the burden of the California tax revolt on them. Already numerous demonstrations have taken place, with groups like Chicano high school students, office workers and sanitation men taking to the streets. Such actions put the heat on the ruling class, forcing the state government to consider backing off on this or that particular cutback or layoff because the political hazards of carrying it through are great.

Workers are starting to think about how to deal with the whole situation. Some public service workers locals in the Bay Area have decided to fight for a law to split the tax rolls so that only residential property would get the break.

As their actions show, the monopoly capitalists are trying to take a long view of what's happening in society to best enhance their own interests. The working class must learn how to take the long view as well. With the downward spiral of the capitalist economy continuing, anti-government and rebellious movements, like the present tax revolt, will arise again and again. Different classes and groups in society will be thrown into motion around what they see their own interests to be.

From Proposition 13 it is clear that such movements won't automatically be in the interest of the working class. As it develops organization and consciousness, the working class will be able to unite with sentiments like hatred of taxes and "big government" and influence other sections of the people to turn their fire against the real source of all these problems, the ruling class and the whole monopoly capitalist system.

## WESTINGHOUSE WORKERS WALK

Lester, Pa.—On June 12, 3200 workers ended their month-long strike at the Westinghouse turbine plant outside Philadelphia. The strike was sparked when the company fired a worker who refused to run two more milling machines than the three he was already running.

Job combinations, runaways and subcontracting together have eliminated 2600 production jobs since 1974, and the company is determined to weaken the ability of United Electrical Workers, Local 107, to fight back. As one worker said, "This strike isn't just about one guy, it's about out and out union-busting."

The strike was settled with an agreement which union Business Agent Dennis Gavin called a "clarification" of contract terms. By an overwhelming majority the strikers voted to go back to work when the company agreed to negotiate all job combinations and lay-offs before putting them through.

On the first day of the strike, the men set up barricades to stop any of the 1900 salaried white collar workers and managers from going in. The company reacted by getting a temporary injunction and bringing in cops from all over the county, paid with Westinghouse's money.

During the course of the strike the men were faced by attacks from all sections of the capitalists. The Southeast National Bank in Chester denied them food stamps. The Delaware County Daily Times editorialized against the strike. The union countered by issuing

daily strike bulletins that went up against some of the lies told about the workers.

### CONTINUING STRUGGLE

The walk-out was one of several that have hit the Lester plant in the last few years. The workers' resistance has grown as Lester, once the hub of the turbine industry, has shifted production to Westinghouse's unorganized and less militant Southern plants. Even as the strike ended, a company spokesman warned that "1,000 to 1,400 jobs might be reduced over the next few years."

The resistance to the company's actions has been led by the union, which has a long and militant history at Lester. In the '50's it successfully withstood raiding by another union, the IUE, that was occurring throughout the electrical industry. The local has continued to hang tough and last year won a supplement to the last national contract that was above standard for the industry. Westinghouse would like to see the union's strength broken, and wants to weaken the control workers have in the plant around working rules and job classifications.

The strike was an example of how the workers can fight against the company's attacks. In the Delaware Valley around Lester other plants are now organizing to do the same thing, and to defend a strong union. As one worker said: "If they can do it at Westinghouse, they can do it anywhere."

# Juneteenth — Day of Black Pride, Struggle

Milwaukee, Wisc.—Back in 1862, June 19 was a day of hallelujah and jubilation. That was the day Black slaves in the south heard of Lincoln's signing of a prohibition against slavery. It was a victory over the oppression of captivity, kidnapping from Africa, the dreaded "middle passage" across the Atlantic, the split up of families at the auction block, terror and rape, the lash of the slave master on cotton field labor from can't-see-in-the-morn until can't-see-at-night.

The joy of this historic victory is commemorated Juneteenth Day each year. In the Milwaukee Black community, over 100,000 turn out for an all day street party complete with barbecued ribs, hot buttered corn, soulful entertainment and sidewalk to sidewalk solidarity. In the South, Juneteenth is known as Jubilee Day.

Black resistance to slavery began when the first slavehunter tried to put the first shackle on the first African captive. It continued in rebellions on the slave ships. Men like Nat Turner and Denmark Vesey organized insurrections. Hundreds of others were never written in history books. The underground railroad. The abolitionist

movement. Work slowdowns. Breaking tools. Unity against the oppressor. The people kept their minds on freedom.

The victory over slavery was born out of struggle. Frederick Douglass, the great Black abolitionist said, "If we ever get free from the oppressions and wrongs heaped upon us, we must pay for their removal. We must do this by labor, by suffering, by sacrifice, and if needs be, by our lives and the lives of others."

## EMANCIPATION

When the Civil War broke out between the slavocracy and northern business interests, the slaves were ready to join the fight. Many left the plantations, making their way through enemy Confederate lines to link up with the Union army. The mass exodus of laboring people left the war-strapped Southern economy in a shambles.

At first they dug ditches and fortifications. But with Emancipation came the order that Negro soldiers could join the Union army along with Northern farm boys and workers. They fought 190,000 strong, supplied



valuable information to advancing units and suffered the heaviest casualties of any troops.

Blacks played a key role in the destruction of slavery. Yet after formal emancipation the struggle continued. The chains of oppression were no longer made of iron but Blacks were still kept down by Jim Crow anti-Black laws and customs, KKK terror and lyn-

ching, the sharecropper system and rigid discrimination which still oppresses them today in all areas of society. All this has forced Blacks to keep fighting in hundreds of ways for equality and liberation.

The fight for freedom is the meaning behind Juneteenth. This is the proud heritage that lies behind the annual outpouring of Black solidarity.

## 'Last Hired First Fired'

continued from page 4

At that time, the employed class was generally willing to go along with these demands. During a period of economic expansion in the 1960's, reforming hiring practices and improving minority education meant a big expansion of the reserve army and a steady supply of workers competing for jobs.

But even then the ruling class resisted millions of people who fought for better weapons to attack discrimination and oppression with more than just equal opportunity laws. Special training programs for minorities, open admissions, preferential hiring policies—winning these required long and bitter battles with the courts, the cops, the politicians, the administrators and the owners.

Today, with more people unemployed and social service cutbacks the order of the day, these gains are being ripped away. A big part of this task has been convincing people that the problem no longer exists. The politicians point to the fact that there are more Black faces on T.V. and a few Blacks in prominent positions to proclaim that discrimination has ended and an era of equality has arrived.

They have succeeded in large part in covering up the facts this report has laid out. A 1977 poll by CBS and the *New York Times* showed that 51% of the whites asked did not know that Black unemployment is higher than white! And a recent Harris poll showed that only 34% of white believed Blacks face discrimination in seeking white collar jobs, down from 62% in 1970.

Out of this deception, the ruling class has created the myth of "reverse discrimination"—that Blacks and other minorities are doing so well that it is really white people who are discriminated against. These ideas find soil to grow because this period of

relatively high unemployment is marked by increased competition for jobs and the ruling class purposefully plays up the racial features of this competition in different ways.

## LEGAL ATTACKS

All this has created public opinion for stripping away the gains of the

1960's. The best publicized of the assaults is the Bakke case, which is over education but will surely be applied to employment as well.

The Supreme Court is due to rule on Bakke soon, but it has already done the capitalists' dirty work in another case, the *International Brotherhood of Teamsters vs. the United States*. The ruling blocked an effort to combat discrimination in seniority.

Teamsters union officials were resisting a move in a plant they represented to go from department to plant-wide seniority. This would not only have corrected some effects of discrimination which kept Blacks in the

least desirable jobs, to keep their seniority, but would have strengthened unity and the seniority system as a whole.

The high court said that it was not enough to show that the system discriminates, but it must be proved that it was intentionally set up to do so!

The battle for jobs is a critical one today for Black workers and for Black people as a whole. And it is also critical for white workers. Without fighting against "Last hired, first fired", the working class will constantly be weakened by the bosses' divide-and-rule efforts to set the workers fighting with each other over jobs.

## P.O. Contract Preparations

continued from page 5

For the postal workers, this fight will have a great effect on their jobs and working conditions, and will drastically influence the development of postal workers' unionism. It will help determine if the unions will grow and merge into one fighting industrial union, or if they will be weak and fragmented organizations run by bureaucrats and of little use to the rank and file in their fight for a better life.

Among all workers, it is part of the spreading rank and file insurgency, spearheaded by the mighty miners' strike. This has led to a series of contract rejections and strikes in other workplaces.

Carter's anti-inflation plans are a direct attempt by the government to force the working class to bear the brunt of the economic crisis. The government wants P.O. workers to be model victims. If they break through Carter's policy, the P.O. workers can be another kind of model, one the working class as a whole can follow in making such breakthroughs.

Both the Postal Service and national union officials have been talking about the possibility of a strike. The postal service is so worried that it has developed what it calls Contingency Plan A. This 49-page booklet calls for

the use of army troops and federal marshals, guarded air, train and truck courier mail service, and the reporting of local union leaders' names and home addresses to postal inspectors.

They are trying to get better organized than they were for the 1970 strike. At that time the National Guard was brought in, but poor planning and the sabotage by sympathetic Guardsmen made this an ineffective measure against the strike.

The union officials have been talking "No Contract-No Work," and raised up demands that hit on some of the workers' main grievances. They have even formed national strike preparation committees. The top cats have been forced to take a militant stand, as opposed to their no-fight policies of the past, because of pressure from the rank and file. In particular, the presidents of the two largest unions, the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers, are facing elections almost immediately after the contract is settled.

But despite their strong outward stance, in terms of informing, organizing and mobilizing the rank and file for the fight, the union bureaucrats have done practically nothing. A blackout

of negotiations is in effect, and local union officials in the stations and facilities know as little as the rank and file. They have simply been urging the workers to "wait for the negotiators."

In this absence of organization and leadership, keenly felt among the workers, a number of rank and file groups have sprouted up. In the San Francisco Bay area, the newly-formed Postal Contract Coalition has been circulating a petition to the top union negotiators demanding they stand firm. It has gotten endorsed by union locals and low level officer stewards. Workers at the Washington D.C. Bulk Mail Center have formed Postal Strife, while the New York-New Jersey area workers have organized the POW (Postal Office Workers). POW, which puts out a newsletter, grew out of Outlaw, a group which led the 3-day wildcat at the New Jersey Bulk in 1973. They are working to build a Good Contract Committee in the area and stress the need for such broad-based contract committees around the country. The growth of these rank and file organizations has laid the basis for a more militant and united response to any contract that falls short of the postal workers' demands.

This postal workers' contract is the biggest pact until the Teamsters contract in January, and its outcome is important for working people in several ways.

## Strike Dries Up Soda Corporation

Boston, Mass.—Canada Dry soda may soon be hard to find on New England grocery shelves. 38 salesmen from Distillery and Brewery Workers Local 8 walked out on strike June 7 after the company offered little but takeaways. Close to 100 Local 8 production workers and Teamster truck drivers, who already signed contracts, have refused to cross the lines. This solid unity shut the Waltham plant down tight.

The night before the strike, Canada Dry moved RC trucks to the Westboro distribution point to keep Boston supplied. That gave the strikers only one choice. They sent pickets out to Westboro and shut it down, too.

Canada Dry wants to take away seniority rights, reorganize sales routes (which would be harder for many), and stop giving company cars to new salesmen. The strikers figure if the soda company gets away with this, they will be back for more three years from now at contract time.

The company also couldn't sell its plans for pay raises, which are designed to hold down the increase for higher seniority people. They hoped to pit the younger and older workers against each other on this one, but it didn't work. The vote to go out was unanimous.

After the strike began, Canada Dry ran a large ad for salesmen in the *Boston Globe*. Normally they could have expected up to 200 people to respond. But when would-be applicants got out to Waltham and saw a block long picket line and talked to strikers, most turned right around. Only a fraction of the applicants expected went inside.

With union drivers refusing to cross the lines, the company dug up some scab and paid him an outrageous amount to drive a truck in and out of the plant. But he didn't have an easy time of it until three squad cars arrived to help him out.

The unity between salesmen, production and drivers is putting Canada Dry uptight. They are hoping to get the plant going again by hiring new salesmen and splitting the strikers off from the other workers. But they better think again.

Round the clock picketing has been organized and the workers are determined to stick it out together. Many feel, "This is the best thing that ever happened here."

Strikers are confident working people in New England will support their walkout and won't mind giving up Canada Dry, because after all "It's not too sweet."

hands of big business like Allied Chemical of Barnwell, which has already been prosecuted for spilling the chemical Kepone into the Chesapeake Bay, killing fish and causing local fishermen to lose their jobs.

With only visions of profits dancing in their heads, these giant corporations turn a blind eye to the dangers nuclear plants now pose. Unwilling to spend the extra money on research, they have yet to design a reliable cooling system or a safe way to transport and dispose of radioactive waste.

Hundreds have already suffered and died from nuclear accidents. In 1974 a plutonium cloud descended on Denver from Rocky Flats. Since then, citizens have been besieged by a chilling increase in leukemia, lung cancer and birth defects. As survivors of Hiroshima who journeyed from Japan to join the protest at Rocky Flats said: "Americans are now members of hikabusha, too." Hikabusha means victims of nuclear warfare.

As the anti-nuclear forces grow, the companies think their ace in the hole is the unions, which have supported nuclear plants because they provide construction and other jobs. Yet rank-and-file workers have begun to organize against the rotten and hazardous conditions in nuclear plants. Welders at Indian Point, New York were the first union members to refuse to work because they feared the effects of radiation exposure—and got fired for it.

Workers at Seabrook get wages much lower than they are accustomed to, and are currently in contract dispute with the Public Service Company. Anti-nuclear alliances are including demands that if the plants are stopped, the workers must be rehired into union jobs. This takes the edge off the companies' schemes to pit workers against anti-nukers.

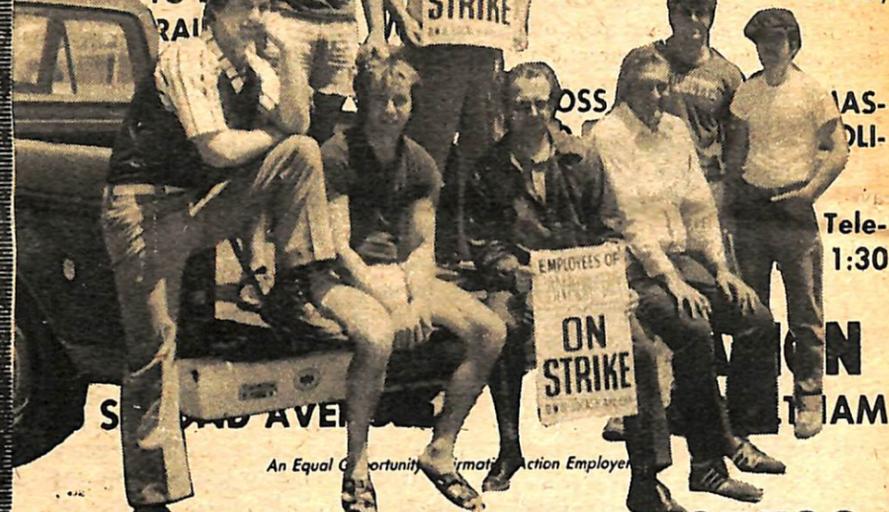
Nuclear energy was supposed to have meant cheap energy, but with the economy out of control the capitalists have not been able to keep costs down and are making the people pay. In New Hampshire, for instance, the Public Service Company is considering a 17% increase in electrical rates to cover Seabrook's construction costs.

As the hazards and problems of

## SALES OPENINGS

CANADA DRY CORPORATION HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR SALES PEOPLE

WE SEEK HIGHLY MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS WITH A STRONG CLEAN DRIVING RECORD,



LABOR DISPUTE IN PROGRESS

## Varied Forces in 'No Nukes' Movement

continued from page 3

and long-time activists from many battles of the people versus the corporations. Liberals from the anti-war movement, like Daniel Ellsberg and the Mobilization for Survival, have joined the No Nukes outcry.

It has also drawn in those who, concerned primarily with the dangers of nuclear energy, have become politically active for the first time, including students, community residents and workers. For example, when Governor Thomas went to speak to a Junior High class, the kids greeted him with ringing chants of "No Nukes." Entertainers like Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt have also spoken out and done benefits for the movement.

This diversity within the movement and its rapid growth has led to sharp internal debate over how to best wage the struggle. It has mainly come out between die-hard pacifists who oppose any violence, which for them includes even such tactics as seizing land forcibly, and others who feel that non-violence is one tactic that may be valuable. However, they understand that it's correct to use all means possible to carry the struggle as far as it can go.

Pro-nuclear forces may gloat that this is weakening the movement, but it is in fact an indication of the seriousness of people's desire to figure out how to fight the ruling class.

The actions have been accompanied by teach-ins in many places which address controversial questions like, "what is nuclear energy and how safe and useful is it?"

A number of scientists feel that nuclear energy could be made a safe source of energy for man to harness, just as he has learned to control raging rivers and electricity.

But it is also clear that nuclear power will never be safe while it is in the slimy

nuclear energy become clearer to people, their resistance to it grows. And at every step, whether the people see Governor Thomas ready to sic the dogs or areas residents ready to open up

their land to Seabrook demonstrators, it becomes clearer who are the friends of the people and who are their enemies.

## Latin America Upsurge

continued from page 9

roads, forcing a suspension of all flights. The slums and squatter tenements where workers and peasants live line the sides of the highways, making the roads a key battleground during strikes.

During the national strike every major highway was shut down, as demonstrators put up blockades despite the threatening presence of massive police and army troops. In Huncavelica strikers dynamited government offices and railroads. In Arequipa, the second largest city, workers went out a week before the national strike and kept the city shut down after the 2-day stoppage had ended.

The strike was organized by a united front coalition—the Unidad Democratica Popular (UDP), which includes federations of miners and peasants, key industrial unions, and eighteen political groups and independent Marxists. Support for the walkout was 100% in the central and southern provinces, where the peasants' federation is very strong.

The price increases are part of a deep economic crisis that caused the average family's standard of living to decrease 60% in a single month this spring. Peru's central bank has totally exhausted its foreign exchange, and is depending on U.S. and other foreign banks to help it recoup its \$7.5 billion foreign debt.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and other imperialists are offering to renegotiate the loans coming due only if the Peruvian government takes it debt out on the people by such "austerity" measures as higher prices, rather than have the imperialist banks and industries lose their profits. Chase Manhattan Bank, for instance, has demanded special legislation from the Peruvian government as a condition for continuing to

finance the Cujone Copper Mining Project (owned by Southern Peru Copper Corporation, a consortium of U.S. mining companies).

By standing up to the price hikes, the Peruvian masses are making exploitation of Peru's land and workers a risky venture for foreign imperialists.

### BRAZIL: "A SIGN OF THE TIMES"

Brazilian workers also recently struck in large numbers. In the first major work stoppage in a decade, tens of thousands left their jobs in Sao Paulo, the most industrialized region of the country, on May 24th. The strikers at each plant returned to work only when their demands—a 20% wage increase, cheaper transportation and lunches, and better medical services—were met in full. The walkouts occurred at major multinationals like Ford and Chrysler, the kind of foreign corporations which own most of the country's factories.

The striking began May 12th at Saab-Scania, a Swedish automaking plant where the average monthly wage of \$375 is the highest in Brazil. The workers there spit on the company's offer of a 6.5% wage hike, and stayed out instead, to keep the heat on the companies for all their demands. Most of the 18,000 who struck Saab-Scania belong to the 30,000 member Metallurgical Union, one of Brazil's largest and most active labor organizations. The labor unions had built momentum for the strike by agitating for higher wages and better working conditions for months before.

The military government of Ernesto Geisel declared the strike "illegal and unconstitutional", but refrained from calling out troops, and instead resigned itself to calling the strike "a sign of the times." The Brazilian generals and their lookalikes elsewhere in Latin America can only get more uncomfortable as the truth of this statement is born out by the struggles of the people from now on.

# KMT Thugs Attack Chinatown Demos

The formal installation of Chiang Kai-Shek's son Chiang Ching-kuo as Taiwan's new dictator sparked protests in a number of US cities involving nearly a thousand people, mostly Taiwanese and Chinese. Confrontations occurred in New York and San Francisco as the US arm of Kuomintang (KMT) displayed the same brutality here with which their parent Party has ruled Taiwan under martial law since 1948.

The largest march was in New York's Chinatown, where 500 people weaved through the streets chanting "Down with Chiang Ching-kuo! Reunite China!" Many wore masks for fear of reprisals by the local KMT, whose funds come largely from the US government and US corporations.

Earlier in the day the KMT had put on a display of their thuggery when they went to Books New China, a progressive bookstore in Chinatown, and smashed the front windows and beat up two elderly men inside. They then staged a countermarch to the demonstration—whose ranks they filled up by pulling small children out of school and hiring teenagers from out-

side Chinatown to march for \$30-40.

Like the New York march, the one in San Francisco was sponsored by the Action Committee Against the Crimes of Chiang Ching-Kuo. The KMT were even more openly vicious in San Francisco, where goons attacked the 200-person march with wooden and metal poles. The protesters fought back for 20 minutes, during which 15 were injured, one seriously.

In New York, many organizations and individuals have united in an ad-hoc committee to expose and oppose

the KMT's crimes. In San Francisco, a demonstration of 400 took place only one week after the attacks, proving that progressive people in Chinatown would not be intimidated by the high and mighty KMT reactionaries.

Many of the protesters have also taken a position calling for the US to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China. Such recognition would mean ending the US' \$80 million worth of military aid to Taiwan, used to protect US business there such as Chase Manhattan Bank, and thus pulling out the main props from under the hated KMT government.

In bravely standing up to the KMT here on May 20th, the protesters stood with all the oppressed people of Taiwan who have been battling their government for years.



KMT goons with sticks were driven back by march marshalls.

China Daily News

# Milwaukee Drivers Fight Media, Bosses

*continued from page 1*

months the rank and file had worked without a contract before the strike, and a small pension increase.

While the agreement fell short of what the workers wanted, especially around pay increases, many felt the mounting pressures of a long strike, media attacks and betrayal by their officials, and were unclear whether they could do better if they stayed out. At least the contract would expire in two years and a new fight could be waged then, some said. The yes vote was 627-351.

Significantly, there was a solid core of rank and filers who voted against the last offer because they had begun to see their strength and unity grow against big odds during the walkout. "We taught the County and management a lesson," was their sentiment, even after the settlement. "We're not going to be pushed around."

The show of rank and file strength in rejecting three straight contracts was unprecedented in recent years. The transit workers strength posed against the attacks from management, officials and media had a huge impact on Milwaukee workers.

The strike was built by the Rank and File, a group of drivers who got together and started printing strike bulletins when the walkout began. They also asked the Milwaukee United Workers Organization (UWO) to help them get organized and to build support for the strike at plants throughout the city.

## BOSSSES, HACKS FORM RED-BAITING CHORUS

Union officials, on the other hand, did very little. They issued two bulletins only after rank and file bulletins began coming out, and then it was to scream "communist" and attack the UWO. These barbs certainly didn't build the strike, but were intended to divide and weaken the drivers.

The local president, a former militant, tried every trick to push through a sellout agreement. When union members voted down the second con-

tract offer on June 2, he accused the UWO of harassing drivers into voting no or not voting at all! But unwilling to sacrifice his public image of controlling the union, when a reporter later asked him if the UWO was running the strike, he said, "Don't you think drivers are smart enough to think for themselves?"

He apparently didn't think so, since it was he who called for an investigation of the UWO. His buddies on the County Transit Board, who are in charge of the bus company, complied gladly and a Board supervisor named Hutsteiner publicly echoed the call for a special Sheriff's Department probe.

The papers and TV carried stories about the UWO and the strike, telling the drivers to go back to work and not to listen to "dissidents and agitators." One editorial on CBS local Channel 6 calling for the use of scabs got the rank and file so angry that drivers wrote a response, only to be told by the station manager that they did not represent the strikers!

Strikers at a rank and file drivers' party came up with the idea of going to the station and demanding their right to speak. When the station manager saw 30 angry workers, he filmed them right then and there and broadcasted their views on the 6:00, 10:00 and 1:00 o'clock news that night.

The massive union, company and media blitz was a renewed attack on the rank and file as well as the UWO. At first the tactic had been to convince drivers that the contract was the best they could get. The union leaders, TV and newspapers went to work, threatening that scabs would be used, or, as County Supervisor Met suggested, the National Guard called in.

Red-baiting was only another tactic to weaken and divide transit workers by slandering anyone who wanted to fight for a decent contract as "outside agitators" and communists.

## THE NEED TO FIGHT

But workers throughout the Milwaukee area have increasingly seen

the need to fight against all odds. Workers at Singer Controls, Harnischfeger and machinists at A.O. Smith have all struck in the past year against the recommendations of union officials.

During the last month steelworkers have been striking the Heil Company and there have also been wildcat walkouts at Caterpillar and Pabst Brewery.

The bosses need mass transit to keep their system going. About 100,000 people rely on the buses in Milwaukee, many to get to work. But mass transit does not make profits—the Milwaukee system loses close to \$1 million a month. Their answer is to attack the drivers, mechanics and clerks whose labor keep the buses rolling, and anyone else who supports them.

The Milwaukee United Workers Association was the only workers organization in the area that helped build the fight for a decent contract. After sitting on his hands for weeks, the only contribution John Schmidt, head of the state AFL-CIO, made was to accuse the UWO of wanting to break up unions.

But workers know how to tell friends from enemies. One older worker who has been in the labor movement for many years and has been active in the strike summed up the UWO this way: "When the company's against you and the union's against you, the UWO is the guys who will help you."

In spite of the inconvenience the strike caused for many residents, there was widespread support for the drivers among the people of Milwaukee. After earlier efforts failed, one County Supervisor even tried to turn public opinion against the strikers by saying there wasn't any need for buses at all!

Milwaukee transit workers stood solid for six weeks against attacks from County officials, management, Local 998 officials and the city power structure. But the plans to crush the strike didn't work.

The fact that the last offer came so close on the heels of the third one indicates that the workers had dealt a real blow to Milwaukee's fatcats. It showed the growing organization and strength that will be needed in battles ahead.

# RAPE TRIGGERS WASHINGTON BUS DRIVERS WILDCAT

Washington, D.C.—On Thursday, May 17, Metro bus drivers wildcatted three bus barns to protest their unsafe working conditions and the indifference of union and company officials about this.

The strike was sparked by an attack on a woman bus driver at a desolate lay-over point the day before. When she reported the rape to officials, a supervisor told her as a black female she should have expected this kind of a thing when she took the job! Although Metro and union officials claim that crime is going down, drivers have suffered through six rapes and numerous other assaults and robberies this year.

In a city where the unemployment rate is 44%, idle youth desperate for money and something to do are making ducking from bottles and knives a routine for bus drivers. Not only do the drivers suffer through the attacks, they can even be fired for defending themselves and their passengers against assailants.

When the strike broke out at Northeast barn where the rape victim worked, the union's secretary-treasurer, Rodney Richmond, raced over with signed promises of increased security measures from the company. He had persuaded some drivers to go back to work after heated debate when word came in that Northern had completely shut down. Many drivers then put themselves in front of the few buses to leave and turned them back. Said one driver who was about to pull out: "I was ready to go, but I looked at my brothers out there and decided we had to stand together".

At Bladensburg, another bus barn, the union further exposed its stand with the company when shop steward Mansfield Clements told the drivers all other barns were running.

Over 300 of the striking drivers attended a mass meeting that afternoon at RFK stadium, where they spoke bitterly against Metro's "cost effective measures," which keep profits up at the expense of driver and passenger safety. After sharp struggle they agreed to go back when a representative of the City Council and Metro Board said he would fight for their demands. But they went back stronger than they went out, because they formed the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers, a new weapon in their battle to fight for the interests of the rank-and-file against those of the union hacks and company officials.

The wildcat has already resulted in Metro's putting extra police and installing silent alarms on some buses, while other demands, such as plexiglass shields behind the driver, are being studied, Metro claims.

Another big victory was won on June 6 when 300 drivers from the Committee attended a Local 689 Amalgamated Transit Union meeting, at which President George Davis had to congratulate them on their founding, and shop steward scab Clements was fired as business agent.

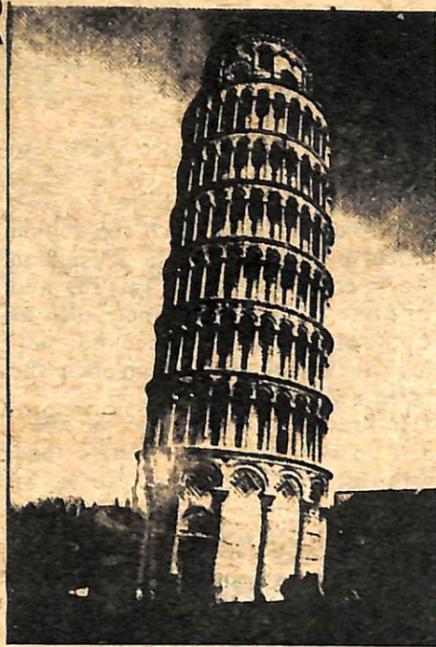
With a new spirit of solidarity and organization among the rank-and-file, largely born during the wildcat, the company and union hacks will have a much tougher time keeping the workers down than ever before.

## TOWERING ANGER OF ITALIAN JOBLESS

200 Italian workers occupied the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa on May 25. The unemployed ceramics workers took the action to demand jobs and to protest recent unemployment benefit cuts there.

The takeover put a lean on the city's income from tourism to the tower. 2000 daily visitors normally pay \$1.10 each to see the structure. "We're losing thousands of dollars every day," was one Pisa official's slant on it.

He might have noticed the loss of jobs and income for thousands of workers whose plight inspired the sit-in at the tower but he was not inclined to do so.



## Anti-inflation Bullseye-- Workers

*(continued from page 1)*

American workers to follow the example of Federal workers and accept a lower wage increase."

The administration had promised federal workers a 7% raise, which wouldn't have covered inflation. They got 5.5%. The hardship this means for these employees does not concern Carter, who has so much money he can overpay his federal income tax.

The President's Council of Wage and Price Stability has proposed a voluntary 5.5% limit for the postal and rail contracts which cover about one million workers. They've tried to distinguish their proposals from the Nixon era wage-price controls which drew mass anger because they limited wages to 5.5% increases while prices soared. But if their plan gets over it will be just as bad.

The clamp on pay hikes is just beginning. The government also aims to increase productivity through layoffs, speedup and job combinations.

For instance, when the P.O. contract expires on July 25, the Administration plans to scrap the no-layoff clause. Wage/Price Council head, Barry Bosworth, complains it is an obstacle to "management flexibility in the future and it limits opportunities for productivity improvement." Over 60,000 post office jobs have been lost due to attrition alone since July, 1975 but that's not enough for these guys. What do they care that postal service is already wretched due to the reduced work force and accompanying speedup?

They also targeted "work practices" in the railroads. They plan to reduce two-brakemen crews to one, to force over-the-road workers to do switchyard work or vice-versa and to "change the method for calculating pay" (and we know that doesn't mean they plan to increase pay).

"Moderate settlements," in post office and rail, said Bosworth, "could have important positive demonstration effects on major negotiations occurring near the end of this year and in 1979."

"Moderate!" Poverty is more like it. During the three month period between December 1, 1977 and February 28 this year, the average standard of living for working class families declined by 3.6%. If it continues at the same rate for the whole year, we will face a 14½% decline in the standard of living.

By claiming the miners were an exception to the rule and by nailing postal and railroad workers, Carter's men hope to "demonstrate" that it's all that can be expected in Teamster's negotiations. Truck drivers will negotiate the first of several major con-

tracts including Auto to come up next year. Auto and Teamsters are the two largest unions in the country.

The coal contract "is a special case," said Strauss hopefully. "What we have to worry about now is Fitz."

"Fitz" is Frank Fitzsimmons, President of the Teamsters, who got his hand caught in the till in a pension fund scandal and is believed by many truckers to have played a role in Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance. Fitzsimmons said at one time that the miners' contract might be a good model for the March, 1979 truck drivers agreement. But since the administration started its anti-inflation babble, he has been strangely silent.

Strauss is confident that Fitz will sell the Teamsters out with the proper political bribe. "He's desperate for respectability," said Strauss. "And I'm not too proud to give him some if he helps me."

### ECONOMISTS SAY PHOOEY

The business world tries to hire the finest minds to do their higher math. And even these capitalist servants, the economic experts for the same monopolies who have lauded Carter's plan, say it won't touch inflation.

Michael Evans, chief economist for Chase Econometrics, a subsidiary of Chase Manhattan Bank, said, "The things he suggested were either a rehash of old plans or new ideas that have no effect on the economy—like the proposed cuts in scheduled Federal Employees' pay rise."

Most economists think the principle causes of inflation are the \$60 billion budget deficit, the \$30 billion foreign trade deficit and the continued expansion of credit by the Federal Reserve Bank.

Albert Cox, chief economist for the country's biggest stockbrokers, Merrill Lynch said, "There's no attempt in these proposals to change any of these things."

### CAPITALISTS SAY HURRAY

Nonetheless, the monopoly corporation heads are delighted with Carter's blueprint for limiting what they'll be expected to pay in wages, and aiding their ability to squeeze out increased productivity in the bargain. They'd still like to see some sort of plan to stop runaway inflation, but they figure if the President can pull this off, they can count on him for other help.

Strauss and Carter invited some of the top monopoly capitalists to the White House to lay out his program. They included: David Rockefeller,

Chase Manhattan Bank; Irving Schapiro, Dupont; Reginald Jones, General Electric; Robert Beck, Prudential Insurance; Thomas Murphy, General Motors; Henry Ford, Ford Motor Co.; Lewis Foy, Bethlehem Steel; Clifton Garvin, Exxon; Peter Peterson, Lehman Brothers; Robert Hatfield, Continental Group; James Ferguson, General Foods; William Marguard, American Standard; Charles Pilliow, Goodyear Tire and Rubber; and William Sheath, Union Carbide.

When the meeting was over Strauss said, "There was a sense of total agreement in there." GM's chief said Carter had "taken the lead" in the inflation fight.

Since the plan will shaft workers and won't curb inflation, government and business had to run out some malarky calling on workers to sacrifice but couching it in some promises that business and labor would pull together.

Carter said he'd be "disappointed" if his business buddies didn't make some gesture. Strauss suggested that if business made an anti-inflation move it would "give the nation confidence."

It has given the nation a charade.

Thomas Murphy, Chairman of the Board at GM said he'd limit his own salary increase and those of other top executives to 5.5%. So in 1978 the poor stiff will only get a \$19,500 addition to the \$975,000 a year he collects now. What a sacrifice! The average auto worker, the guy who builds the car, makes less in a year (\$15,600) than Murphy will get in his raise.

He also promised to freeze GM prices for the rest of the model year (which ends in September). He neglected to mention that GM already raised prices an average of \$600 per year since September, 1977.

Spokesmen for a number of other industries made similar token shows of faith or hollow, meaningless promises about prices, and no doubt there's more to come—more bad news for the people.

And while the Administration fears the miners will inspire other workers and seeks to divide them off, Strauss recently gave a special deal—to Bethlehem Steel for suffering from the coal strike. On June 12, Beth announced it would raise prices 3% (totalling an annual rate of 10%), which is a percentage point higher than recommended price controls, but Strauss agreed not to count the extra because coal prices have jumped since the strike was settled. So, even as the government tells workers not to look at the miners because decent contracts cause inflation, they let business get away with murder.

### LABOR HACKS SAY OKAY

The government calls this nonsense anti-inflationary and hopes to spirit

away the spectre of the rank and file miners' struggle which still inspires other workers to fight tooth and nail for what they need. Even professionals who have little tradition of organized resistance have learned from the coal strike. When artists of the Lyric Opera in Chicago asked for 40% over two years, the manager of the opera house moaned, "They equate themselves with the miners."

Even though Meany and Fitzsimmons have indicated that they'll eventually comply with the Carter Administration's plan, they and all the top labor hacks tremble at the idea that they could suffer the same fate as United Mineworkers President Arnold Miller whose blatant sellout maneuvers during the national strike made him a moving target for an angry rank and file and for opportunist rivals in the UMW leadership.

As a result, they're all waiting to see what happens in the first round of battles. United Auto Workers top man Douglas Fraser, who will negotiate for 1.5 million workers next year, said it was impossible to formally accept any contract guidelines. But union leaders are "reasonable men," he said, and "you've got to believe jawboning will have some impact."

His idea of "reasonable" is that if Fitz can sell out the Teamsters, he can reasonably expect to do the same in auto. His wait-and-see view matches that of the boss of Beth Steel, Lewis Foy. Foy plans to help Fraser and the auto barons get a lousy settlement in auto to set the pace for one in steel.

Other union misleaders, far from exposing Carter's anti-inflation plan as an assault on all workers, have instead agreed to join the attack under the guise of checking prices. Recently eight building trades unions announced a pact for 11 Southern states which contains a no-strike deal to tie the workers' hands from the day a project starts and includes "provisions" to lower union wages in areas where there is a lot of non-union construction. This is supposed to "hold down costs on heavy industrial work."

### WORKERS: LEARN FROM THE MINERS!

That Carter, the monopoly capitalists and our own union leadership are up to no good comes as little surprise. But the severity of the attack is a threat to the living standards of every worker in the country, whether or not they're covered by the contracts expiring over the next year and a half.

The drive for productivity through layoffs, speedups and cutbacks in wage increases can only be met with the kind of rank and file unity and determination we did learn from the miners. Like them, workers must tell this gang of robber barons to go to hell.

## AGAR WORKERS WIN JOB BACK

On June 7th the attempts of Agar, a Chicago meat-processing plant, to fire a young Mexican worker in the semi-boning department were defeated as the other workers stood firmly behind him and threatened to walk out.

When the youth was fired for supposedly lying about his rate, all the other workers in his department, who are mostly Black and Mexican, walked off and refused to go back until he was reinstated. The converting department also threatened to walk, and other departments joined in despite threats that the company would fire them also.

Their united action forced the company to back off and rehire the worker,

a unity which did not exist among the few hundred workers at the plant a year ago. Their new-found sense of solidarity is a result of the struggles they have waged against Agar's speedup and productivity drives over this past year. In February, over 90% of the canning department walked out to demand the company reinstate a worker with 20 years in the plant who they'd tried to send home for not working fast enough. The woman was kept in the company and from their victory in this battle the workers learned how their strength was in standing together.

## Ola De Descontento Se Extiende Sobre Americana Latina

Pocos terremotos han sacudido la America Latina como las protestas recientes en contra los gobiernos en los paises como Peru, Brazil y Nicaragua. Los recursos reicos y la poblacion trabajadora grande de America Latina siempre han sido una fuente de ganancias lucrativas por las corporaciones Norteamericanas y los de otros imperialistas extranjeros. Su pillaje de los recursos y del labor latino ha empujado al estandar de vida de los Latinoamericanos tan bajo que una cifra estimada de 10 millones niños casi mueren de hambre. Las ultimas huelgas y demostraciones continuan la lucha larga y sangrienta de los trabajadores y campesinos Latinoamericanos y sus aliados en contra sus propios gobiernos y los imperialistas extranjeros.



Carlos Dominguez

### Nicaragua: La rebelion continua

Durante la primera semana de junio milones de estudiantes demostraron en las calles e incendiaron tiendas, casas y factorias en Estreli, Nicaragua, para protestar la dictadura brutal de General Anastasio Somoza. Somoza trayó su ejercito privado, la Guardia Nacional, con ametralladoras y gases lacrimogenos, y Estreli se junto con la lista larga de ciudades Nicaraguenses bajo la ocupacion militar.

Los motines respondieron al aumento reciente de la represión por parte del regimen de Somoza. En mayo la Guardia Nacional fusilaron y mataron

a tres lideres laborales en Masaya delante de centenares de testigos, y se murieron 2 niños de 11 años cuando la Guardia les tiró a un grupo de manifestantes. En Estreli, la Guardia atacó a los estudiantes que estaban ocupando una escuela secundaria una semana antes de las manifestaciones. La ocupación de la escuela fue para demostrar la solidaridad con las familias de los presos politicos, como parte de una campaña nacional de apoyo por las personas encarceladas

vea pagina 4



Jerry Kowalski

## Jugador de Futbol Toma Una Posicion Contra El Shah

Cuando el equipo de Iran jugaba en la Copa Mundial de Fútbol, el capitán del equipo no jugaba con ellos. Parvis Ghlychkani, quien tambien es una estrella por los San Jose Earthquakes, esta rehusando a jugar como una protesta contra del Shah de Iran.

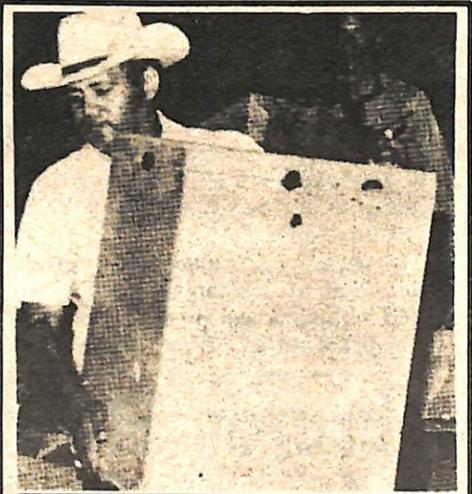
"El pueblo de Iran estan bajo un gobierno brutal y dictadura, puesto contra ellos por el Shah y su policia secreta", el dijo.

Ghlychkani vive en los Estados Unidos pero su familia todavia esta en Iran. Aunque el esta muy preocupado con su seguridad despues de rehusar a jugar, el dijo, "La situacion esta

empeorando y el pueblo son muy importantes. Yo tenia que hablar."

Este año es la primera vez que Iran se ha ido a los finales de la Copa Mundial, posiblemente los juegos mas importantes en el mundo. La posición heroica de Ghlychkani es una parte de la rebelión masiva contra la dictadura del Shah.

El lo dijo muy claramente, "Habían reportes en la prensa nacional en Iran diciendo que yo apoyo al Shah y que me alegro mucho de su éxito con el equipo nacional. Estas son mentiras. Para mostrar al pueblo de Iran que esto es falso, yo no voy a jugar en la Copa Mundial."



SANTA DOMINGO  
ELECCIONES

P.4

CHICAGO MURAL

PUERTO RIQUEÑA

P. 3

## Paro De Carbon 10,000 Mineras Se Unen Con La Lucha Del Contrato De Las Minas Sabre

Pittsburgh, Penn.—En el primer paro mayor desde que se firmó el contrato nacional de carbón en abril, mineros en huelga por un contrato en una mina sobre la superficie en Western Penn. se extendieron a 2 condados con piquetes sueltos y cerraron otras mineras, envolviendo 10,000 mineros. El paro de una semana trajo las mismas fuerzas hacia la lucha que pelearon en la batalla por un contrato nacional: los mineos unidos y determinados en un lado y su propio liderato de la union unido con los dueños del carbon por el otro.

En el fin de mayo, negociaciones sobre el contrato se rompieron entre los Obreros Unidos de la Minas, (UMWA) local 1880 y Northern Cambria Fuel Company, una de las pocas minas sobre tierra con union (la mayoría de las minas sin union en Pa. son minas sobre la superficie).

El local demando por lo menos los provisos del contrato nacional, pero los duenos rechazaron a firmar. Los mineros se movilizaron para cerrar otras minas en el distrito 2 para empujar a las companias grandes que presionaran a North Cambria para firmar un acuerdo. North Cambria no es parte del BCOA que firmó el pacto en abril.

Todavía enojados con los atentados de los dueños del carbon para aplastarlos y dividirlos durante la huelga nacional de 110 dias, los mineros se levantaron con sus compañeros de la union.

La reaccion rapida a los piquetes sueltos cerraron muchas minas en la primera semana de junio, aunque enfrentaron injunciones de las cortes.

"Los piquetes han dicho que se dan cuenta de las injunciones y no les imp

ortan," reclamó un portavoz de la compania de North American Coal.

El Presidente de la UMW, Arnold Miller, cuya postura en el lado de la compania se ha dejado aislado de los obreros que el no puede controlar, entró en la lucha—en el lado de la compania. El primer día que Miller regresó a su oficina después de recuperarse de un ataque apoplejia (sin duda causado en parte por toda la protesta de los mineros en contra de sus atentados para vender el contrato nacional.) El ordeño que la Local 1880 limitara los piquetes en la mina de North Cambria. Después de eso, el llamó los oficiales de Distrito 2 en Washington y ofrecieron ayuda financiera a la huelga solo si limitaran los piquetes.

Seguendo los ordenes de Miller, el Vice-Presidente del Distrito 2, Frank Kulish dijo que el paro es "desgranizado, injustificable, y sin autorizacion" y animo los hombres de otras minas menos que North Cambria a regresar a trabajar.

El paro empezó a dispersar el viernes, 2 de junio, pero a despecho de los ordenes de Miller y sus companeros al lado de la compania, las lineas de piquete empezaron otra vez. En el lunes, las minas se quedan cerrados.

Dejando de mantener los miembros de la union como queria, el liderato internacional puso musculo atras de sus amenazas y el Presidente del distrito 2, Vaerio Scarton dijo que la union disciplinaria cualquier miembro que continua en el paro. Esta traicion pudiera parar los piquetes sueltos y forzar Local 1880 a volver a luchar la

vea pagina 3

# En el NY Centro de Aguja Los Camioneros Oponen al Equipo de Jefes--Union

El apretón que tienen los dueños y los oficiales vendidos de la union sobre los obreros en la industria de la aguja esta siendo desafiado por los tabajadores de Interstate Dress Carriers (IDC), la compañía de camiones lo mas grande en el area, con 600-700 trabajadores en NY-NJ, principalmente negros y haitianos, y 1000 en Pennsylvania.

En Abril, los trabajadores cerraron la terminal de IDC en Jersey City y hicieron un piquete frente de la terminal principal en NY en la calle 35

despues que se botaron a 4 obreros par repartir targetas por la union 20408, una union independiente. Interstate llamo a todos los managers en Pennsylvania y les mando a Jersey City con pistoles en las correas. Pero cuando ellos se confrontaron la unidad y la militancia del piquete que rodeo su terminal lleno con mecancia y camiones que valen millones de dolares, ellos se huyeron. Los 4 obreros fueron empleado de nuevo.

Este ultimo turno sucede 2 anos despues de que los obreros metieron a la local 102 de la union International Ladies Garment Workers (ILGWU).

Pero la local 102 firmo a solamente una tercera parte de los obreros, y entonces hizo un acuerdo con la compañía y cerro la puerta. Entonces Interstate creyo una "agencia" falsa con el aprobo de la union que "alquila" a los obreros sin la union a la compañía por \$2.65 la hora.

Despues de ver como la local de la ILGWU andaba tan junto con los dueños, los obreros empezaron una campana para meter la unoin ndependiente. Con la huelga y con 90% de los obreros firmando tarjetas, Interstate y la 102 se sintieron la calor. De repente,

fue la local 102 y metio a todo el mundo en la union. Despues del 1 de julio, se cierra la "agencia" falsa, y todos vana estar en la 102, con aumentos a \$4.85 la hora.

Toda esta es una victoria grande por los obreros de Interstate. Pero muchos no estan satisfechos a esperarse y dejar que la 102 saque los ventajas de su lucha. Ellos son agotados de los metodos "gangster" de trabajar menoa-mano con los dueños para ayudar a explotar a los obreros. Muchos todavia se quedan en favor de la nueva union, y esta es la pregunta principal ahora, con una eleccion que viene en el futuro proximo.

Casi inmediatamente despues de que la companie destaba forzado a tomar para atras a los trabajadores despedidos, se anunciaron que un dueño de la copania y los oficiales de dos unions fueron arestados par atentar de sobornar y intimidar al presidenté de la union independiente. Aunque sea un sueño a esperar que estos van a pasar mucho tiempo en la carcel, su aresto dio un empujon hacia adelante al espiritu de los obreros y su lucha por la union.

Hasta hoy, los obreros en la industria de la aguja tabajan horal largas con poco dinero, amenudo sin seguridad ni beneficios. Los dueños de la aguja han tratado de aplastar a las campanas por una unon con despedidos masivos, golpes y hasta balazos, tan bien como con tratos sucios con oficiales corruptidos de la union. Pero los obreros han seguido luchando, y la batalla en Interstate es grande. Todavia los obreros han ganado una victoria grande, y ellos han creado un ejemplo or todos los obreros en la industria.

# Obreros Electricos Ganan Pago Atrasado y Forzan Restitucion Despues de Despido Injusto

Los 21 obreros de Advent que fueron suspendidos, porque apoyaron un compañero obrero, ganaron el pago por los 3 días cuando estaban afuera, y tambien sus suspensiones fueron reducidos a avisos en sus recordos disciplinarios de la compañía. El caso tambien prendió la cuarta campana por una unión en la planta en los ultimos 5 anos.

Los 21 salieron de la planta electronica de medida media en el 28 de abril, un día despues de que Advent suspendió al obrero Bruce Fleisher. Fleisher, que habia sido activo en las ultimas dos compañías por la unión, se metio la mano cuando una mujer Haitiana se dañó el hombro. Fleisher le dijo que ella tenga el derecho de ir al hospital al gasto de la compañía—una cosa que la enfermera de la compañía no le dijo. La proxima mañana, 50 trabajadores se unieron en la cafeteria durante el "break" y demandaron una explicación de la Advent sobre la suspension de Fleisher. La compañía ignora las preguntas y les ordenó que vuelvan al trabajo.

21 obreros bravos, blancos, negros y latinos, rehusaron y el supervisor les punchó sus targetas. Los 21 volvieron el proximo día, no para trabajar, sino para circular una petición. Deman-



Ken Winokur

daron que la comania emplea de nuevo Fleisher, y a ellos mismos, con pago completo, y también un fin al hostigamiento y a la intimidación de los obreros. La petición, en inglés, francés y español fue presentada a Advent con 101 firmas, incluyendo casi todos los obreros en el edificio de Fleisher.

Despues de 3 días, la compañía tuvo que tomar por atras a los 21, y ahora se ha acordado de darles su pago completo y de reducir las suspensiones. En

cambio, los obreros dejaron sus casos con la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales. Advent rehusó de hacer un acuerdo igual con Fleisher, y su caso continúa.

Después del parto en el trabajo, los trabajadores han recibido un aumento y mas beneficios, incluyendo un plan dental, pero con solo 4% cada seis meses por la costa de vida. Una nueva compañía por la unión, promovida por el paro ya esta creciendo mas fuerte.

# Victoria en Despido de Agar

Chicago—En el 7 de junio, las tratas de Agar, una compañía de carne, de despedir un obrero joven mexicano en el departamento de "bone processing" se vencieron cuando los otros de salir todos.

Cuando el joven fue despedido porque el "mentio" sobre su tarea de trabajo, todos los otros obreros en su departamento, la mayora negrea y mexicanos, salieron y rehusaron a volver hasta que la compañía le emplee de nuevo. El departamento de "converting" tambien amenzo de salir, y los otros departamentos se juntaron, a pesar de las amenazas de la compañía.

Sus acciones unidas forzaron a la compañía a someter y a emplearle de nuevo. Este tipo de unidad no existió entre los pocos cientos obreros en la planta un año pasado. Su nueva solidaridad es un resuelto de sus luchas contra las campanas de productividad y de rapidez en produccion durante este pasado año. En febrero, mas que 90% del departamento de "canning" salieron para demandar que la compañía emplee de nuevo un obrero, con 20 años de senioridad, que ellos mandaron a casa porque ella no trabaja bastante rapida. Los obreros ganaron eso caso y, de esa victoria, aprendieron que la fuerza esta en sus propios manos.

## EL OBRERO 25c

El obrero es un periodico por y para obreros. En pie con gente obrera en toda la lucha contra los jefes, en toda la lucha contra discriminacion y opresion, contra todo que nos aplasta.

Como obreros necesitamos nuestro propio periodico. Necesitamos un periodico que dice la verdad y que la dice de nuestro punto de vista. Nosotros no tenemos nada en común con los jefes excepto un campo común de guerra donde nosotros luchamos en contra de ellos.

Diariamente los abusos en el trabajo y en las comunidades son encimados a nosotros por la clase dueña, y mas y mas vemos la necesidad de construir un movimiento contra ellos. Un periodico de obreros es una arma para nuestro movimiento. Los diarios de la nación, que son la propiedad y operados por la misma clase de capitalistas ricos quienes son dueños, de las compañías donde trabajamos, son usados contra nosotros. Ellos imprimen mentiras y distorsiones de nuestras huelgas, nuestros intereses, nuestras vidas.

Necesitamos saber la saber, las victorias y derrotas de nuestra clase, la clase obrera y todos los que batallan contra los mismos buitres que

nosotros—aquí y alrededor del mundo. Necesitamos correr la voz, compartir las lecciones. Necesitamos cambiar el mundo para nosotros y para nuestros hijos. El Obrero se publica por el Centro de Obreros Revolucionarios, una organizacion comunista. El COR se une con los militantes en el piso de talleres, con la gente atravez de esta sociedad que quieren libertad, y vemos la necesidad de que nuestro movimiento sea un revolucion, que rompera el gobierno capitalista y lo reemplasara con socialismo, el gobierno de la clase obrera.

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# Obreros de Art Steel Luchan contra Despeid Despidos

*New York City*—Los obreros en la fabrica Art Steel en la Bronx tienen una historia larga de lucha militante contra la compania. De su campaña de botar a las Tranquistas para juntarse a DC65 10 años pasados, a su huelga militante y victoriosa de 6 semanas en el fin de 1977, estos obreros han luchado duros y han empujado atras la compania muchas veces.

La compania siempre ha odiado la militancia y la unidad de los obreros y siempre esta tratando de romperlas. Después de la huelga pasado, muchos departamentos volvieron a la planta más fuertes porque los obreros habian luchado unidos en las lineas y habian elegido representatntes que luchan por los intereses de los obreros. El departamento de "Small Welding" es un departamento militante y el sitió de muchas luchas entre los obreros y la compania. En una trata encarnizada para apagar el fuego de este departamento, la compania trayó un verdugo, Griffin, al dividir los negros de los hispanos.

El ha empujado de muchas maneras—amenazando punchar al steward, suspendiendo a unos obreros y el le gusta dar muchos "tickets"—cartas de aviso de la compania. Había mucha resistencia a este tip—de haciendo quejas escritas, a "slowdowns" y paros en el departamento. Los obreros por toda la planta chequiaban la situación porque ellos saben si un tipo como este Griffin sé permita actuar en un departamento, ellos van a traer más animales como el a los otros departamentos, para contralar mejor los obreros.

Cuando Griffin dio 4 "tickets" a obreros el 13 de junio, un martes, la situación se hizo muy caliente. Después de discutiendo la situación en una reunion en la lanche, más que una mitad de la planta se paró para demandar el despido de Griffin. El proximo día, en vanganza, la compania botó a Adriano, el representante militante de Small Weld, porque el "lanzo el país". De nuevo habian paros por toda la planta y la compania tuvo que cerrar a las 2:30 por el segundo día seguido. Los obreros fueron a Julio Mojica, el vice-presidente de DC65 asignado a la planta, para demandar acción. El lloró que todo que el no pudo hacer fue mandar el caso de Adriano al arbitraje y que el no apoyaria ningunas acciones de los obreros. El proximodia, jueves, los paros continuaban, y la compania, en un paso encarnizado para tratar de controlar la planta de nuevo, boto a 7 obreros más, incluyendo otro representante de la union. Esta acción hizo más discusión entre los obreros—los 8 despedidos decidiendo que iban a luchar (unidos) sus casos y los obreros adentro chequiando que todavía pueden hacer. En la mañana del vienes, había una linea de piquete fuerte afuera de la planta antes de trabajo. Más que 20 obreros de Art Steel se unieron con miembros de la Organización de Obreros Unidos para demandar—Empleen de nuevo los 8 despedidos! y Boten a Griffin Hoy Mismo! Esa misma mañana 6 de los despedidos fueron a las oficinas de los jefes de la DC65 para demandar acción inmediata en sus casos y para hacer cargas contra vice-presidente Julio Mojica porque de su inactividad. Esa tarde, después de trabajo, 30 obreros tuvieron otra reunión para discutir la situación y hacer planes.

Los planes para continuar la batalla incluyen peticiones adentro de la fabrica para apoyar los obreros despedidos, para demandar el despido de Griffin y para botar a Mojica como el delegado a la planta. Los obreros van a propagar la historia de esta lucha a otras fabricas en la union y tambien van usar todos los métodos legales para volversé a la planta. Los obreros de Art Steel son determinados para continuar activamente esta lucha para vencer a los ataques de los patrones y para hacer unas cambias importantes en su union.

## Mineras

*viene de pagina 1*

compania por si mismos. Se escribe en la pared.

Este paro es solo una prueba de 10 que viene. Muchos de las demandas justas de los mineros, que no recibieron en el contrato nacional, se lucharán en los campos de carbon.

En la huelga nacional, la mas larga en la historia de la UMW, los opearios de carbon trataron por cualquier manea de romper la militancia de los mineros. Pero 2 veces los mineos votaron en contra de los podridos contratos, aunque Miller sigio diciendoles que era el mejor que sacar. Y cuando los mineos finalmente aceptaron un contrato corto de lo que querian, pudieron regresar a las minas unidos y fuertes, listos para co mbatir otros ataques de la compania.

La verdad es que varias minas quienes jefes no estan en el BCOA y estan dejados solos sin contrato, esun golpe en la cara de los mineros que saben que en unidad hay fueza.

El derecho de huelga, incluyendo el derecho a piquetes sueltos, queda una necesidad para mineros, como para todos obreros. Después de la larga agria huelga nacional que dejo muchos mineros en gran deuda, despues de luchar en las lineas de piquete y levantandose a los atentos del BCOA, para aplastarlos. Mineos todavia estan caliente y no listos a bajar sus cabezas.



## Mural Puerto Riquena El Foco de la Lucha en el Barrio

Con cada ventana rota, el edificio vacío en 1456 North Rockwell, en el area de Humboldt Park en Chicago, se parece sombrío por casi todos los rincones, tan desierto como cualquier de los 61 edificios abandonados en este comunidad, principalmente puertorriqueño.

Pero no completamente, porque hay un mural de 2 pisos en un lado del edificio, una pintura que nuestra muchos manos unidos para romper las cadenas—las cadenas de pobreza, adicción de drogas y discriminación.

Pintado en 1971 por los jovenes del barrio, el mural colorida es como una señal, llamando por la acción unida.

La acción es lo que querían los 150 Latios que se unieron recientemente en frente del edificio para protestar los planes de la ciudad para demoler el edificio. 10 grupos de la comunidad han elegido el edificio como un simbolo de la lucha que esta creciendo para proteger el area contra los equipos de demolición de la ciudad.

Nádie quiso oír excusas mientras mucha gente en la manifestación habló en contra de los aumentos recientes en fuegos encendiendo los edificios, en los edificios abandonados y en las rentas altas, que enfrentan este barrio de la clase obrera.

"Muchos de nosotros aquí hoy han decido Basta Ya", dijo un orador, expresando los pensamientos de la gente.

Nadie esperó una victoria fácil contra los "padres de la ciudad", pues que la gente se reunió en grupos mas pequeños para planear como continuar y organizar la lucha, un tributo a la llamada de la pintura por acción unido para romper las cadenas.

## Mineros de Indiana rodean la carte para defender sus hermanos en la union

1200 miembros de la unión de Obreros Unidos de las Minas cerraron las minas de Armax Coal Company en Wabash, Illinois y Chandler, Indiana el 6 y 7 de junio y fueron a Rockport, Indiana para apoyar 194 de sus compañeros de la unión cargados con contumacia de la corte. Durante la batalla del contrato del carbon, los mineros tomaron muchas acciones para parar la producción de rompuehuelas. El 7 de enero, una caravana de 300 a 400 carros bloquearon la entrada de la compania de B&M Coal, y ahora algunos de estos hombres tienen cargos par violar una regla reprimida en contra tales acciones, la cual fue ordenado por uno de los muchos jueces que las companias del carbon tienen en sus bolsillos.

Un minero de Bicknell, Indiana declaró en el 7 de junio que "ninguna mina ni en quisieran, eso es lo que recibirán". Después de 2 días de vistas publicas, y con las minas cerradas, el juez suspendió las vistas en seguida por 30 días, diciendo que los abogados necesitaban el tiempo para filar sus sumarios.



# Paran Fraude de las Elecciones Dominicanas

En la primera elección desde 1965, la dictadura odiada de Balaguer en la República Dominicana sufrió una derrota grande por los manos del pueblo dominicano. A pesar de la interrupción de la cuenta de los votos por los militares, y a pesar del cierre de la comunicación pública por todo el país, el pueblo demandó una cuenta llena de todos los votos. Balaguer y los militares tuvieron que someterse y tuvieron que completar la cuenta de los votos. El candidato del Partido Revolucionario Dominicana, Antonio Guzmán, se declaró el vencedor.

La situación en la República Dominicana está muy caliente. Las situaciones políticas y económicas por el pueblo dominicano se han empeorado constantemente desde 1965, cuando el gobierno de los Estados Unidos mandó 42,000 Marines para quitar un movimiento popular de la izquierda de tener una voz fuerte en el gobierno. Entonces los Estados Unidos instaló a Joaquín Balaguer en la Presidencia (en realidad, dictadura) y él ha gobernado así desde entonces. Por ejemplo, cada dominicano tiene que llevar una tarjeta de identificación todo el tiempo, y si la policía chequea y no la tienen, el ciudadano dominicano se pone en prisión. Los partidos políticos de la izquierda se han "legalizado" en este año. Esta represión política ha servido bien los gobernantes económicos y ha mantenido al pueblo como esclavos virtuales, aunque siempre



había resistencia, constante y creciente.

Económicamente los Estados Unidos usa la República Dominicana como un buen ejemplo de cooperación con el capitalismo americano. Los inversiones privados de este país han aumentado de \$50 millones en 1966 a \$250 millones en 1976. Las corporaciones gigantes como Gulf and Western, Alcoa, American Can y Rosario Mining, roban los recursos naturales como níquel, oro y hierro. Unas de estas corporaciones han puesto unos dominicanos en posiciones de gerencia para tratar de cubrir el robo del país. Pero los patronos no pueden cubrir el ratio de desempleo, que en unas partes del país, es casi 70%, los patronos no pueden cubrir el facto que el promedio de ingreso es solamente

\$900 por año.

El pueblo dominicano vio las elecciones en mayo como una buena oportunidad para hacer unos cambios importantes y para avanzar su lucha. Balaguer perdió por una cuenta de más de 150,000. El Partido Revolucionario Dominicana lo eligieron porque de la inquietud masiva del pueblo y las masas están esperando para ver que va a pasar sus promesas grandes de reformas. El PRD es un partido "socialdemocrático"—socialista en palabras, pero en acción, ellos defienden y mantienen el sistema presente de capitalismo. Aunque los jefes del partido son media clase—dueños, propietarios de tierra e intelectuales (por ejemplo, Guzmán es un dueño rico), la base del partido está en la clase obrera—y los obreros quieren cambios verdaderos. Si las masas no ven cambios significativos, entonces habrán, sin duda, rebeliones masivas y mas organización entre el pueblo.

El 16 de agosto es el Día de Inauguración, y el PRD se hace el gobierno. Aunque Balaguer y los militares se han vencido una vez por el pueblo, seguramente ellos quieren el poder de nuevo. El PRD empieza su gobierno, ese día—ansiosos para mantener su gobierno, pero no gustoso de cambiar la dirección del país. Las masas del pueblo Dominicano van a estar esperando, chequeando la situación y organizándose. Si no hay acción sobre sus demandas de Justicia y de Libertad seguramente el pueblo va a levantarse en pie pronto para hacer todas las cambios necesarias, por una vida decente y un futuro mejor.

prensa.

## Peru: Huelga Nacional

En Perú, los trabajadores llevaron a cabo una huelga nacional de dos días en el 22 y el 23 de mayo, para protestar los aumentos en la comida y en otras necesidades. Los huelgistas pelearon con piedras en contra las tropas del gobierno en sus carros armados y sus tanques. Se murieron 11 personas en las luchas. Antes de esto, habían muerto 30 durante los motines que ocurrieron en 28 ciudades cuando el gobierno anunció aumentos en los precios de 30% hasta 120% en el 17 de mayo. La huelga tuvo lugar bajo un estado de emergencia nacional declarado durante los motines.

En un atentado adicional para evitar la huelga nacional, el Presidente Francisco Morales Bermúdez arrestó a cien líderes prominentes de los sindicatos y de la izquierda. También el deportó 12 líderes anti-gubernamentales a Argentina, un cementerio virtual por los presos políticos. El descontento con el régimen de Bergués es tan grande como el deportó aun a un miembro de su propia asociación de campesinos, que está apoyado por el estado.

El gobierno trató de aplastar a la huelga a través de imponer la ley marcial y suspender los derechos civiles cuando esta empezó. Se cerraron las escuelas, se prohibieron las reuniones públicas, y ordenaron que todo el mundo quede en la casa desde la medianoche hasta las 5:00 de la madrugada, con ordenes para matar a quienquiera que desafiara el orden. Para tratar de enforzar sus ordenes para "volver a trabajar", el gobierno ofreció guaguas con escoltas militares por rompehuelgas—pero las guaguas quedaron vacías y las líneas piquetes siguieron llenas.

Lima, el capital, con 4 millones de personas, no tenía tráfico mientras los huelgistas construyeron barreras en la calle industrial principal y también en el aeropuerto, forzando que se suspendieran a todos los vuelos. Los arrabales

y los edificios ocupados por los obreros y los campesinos forman filas en los lados de las carreteras, haciendo que los calles sean un campo de batalla clave durante las huelgas.

Durante la huelga nacional se cerraron a cada carretera grande. Los manifestantes construyeron barreras a pesar de la presencia amenazante de la policía y tropas del ejército. En Huncavelica, los huelgistas dinamitaron a las oficinas del gobierno y del ferrocarril. En Arequipa, la ciudad segunda, los trabajadores salieron una semana antes de la huelga nacional y mantuvieron la ciudad cerrada después del final de la huelga de dos días.

La huelga fue organizada por una coalición de una frente unida, la Unidad Democrática Popular, que incluye federaciones de mineros y campesinos, uniones industriales claves, y 18 grupos políticos y Marxistas independientes.

Los aumentos en los precios son parte de una crisis económica profunda que ha causado que el estándar de vida de una familia promedio baje un 60% durante un solo mes en esta primavera. El banco central de Perú ha agotado su cambio extranjero, y ahora depende con los Estados Unidos y otros bancos extranjeros para ayudarlo a pagar su deuda extranjera de 7.5%.

Mientras tanto, los Estados Unidos y otros imperialistas están ofreciendo para renegociar los préstamos que se están venciendo si el gobierno peruano saque la deuda del pueblo a través de medidas de "austeridad" tal como precios más altos, en lado de que los bancos y las industrias imperialistas pierdan sus ganancias. Chase Manhattan Bank, por ejemplo, ha demandado una ley especial del gobierno peruano como la condición para continuar a financiar al Proyecto de Minas de Cobre de Cuajose (que es la propiedad de la Corporación de Cobre del Perú de Sur, un consorcio de compañías mineras norteamericanas.)

Por levantarse en contra los aumentos en los precios, las masas peruanas

están haciendo la explotación de la tierra y los trabajadores de Perú una ventura arriesgada por los imperialistas extranjeros.

## Brazil: Noticia del Tiempo

Los trabajadores en Brazil también salieron en huelga recientemente en cifras grandes. En el primer paro mayor en una década, dieces de miles dejaron sus empleos en Sao Paulo, el área lo más industrializada del país, en el 24 de mayo. En cada factoría los huelgistas volvieron al trabajo solamente cuando alcanzaron sus demandas por completo—un aumento de 20%, transportación y almuerzos más baratos, y mejores servicios médicos. Los paros ocurrieron en las plantas de las compañías multinacionales tal como Ford y Chrysler, Corporaciones que poseen la mayoría de las factorías en el país.

La huelga empezó en el 12 de mayo en Saab-Scania, una compañía sueca de automóviles, donde el salario mensual promedio es \$375, lo más alto en Brazil. Los obreros allí rechazaron la oferta de la compañía por un aumento de 6.5%. Se quedaron en huelga, para mantener la presión por todas sus demandas por completo—un aumento de la huelga en Saab-Scania son miembros de la Unión Metalúrgica, que tiene 30,000 miembros y es una de las organizaciones sindicales la más grande y la más activa en Brazil. Las uniones habían construido por la huelga por hacer propaganda por sueldos más altos y condiciones mejores en el trabajo durante los meses antecedentes.

El gobierno castrense de Ernesto Giesel declaró la huelga "ilegal y no-constitucional", pero él se abstenió de llamar a las tropas, y en vez de esto, se resignó a llamar a la huelga "Una noticia del tiempo". Los generales brasileros y sus contrapartes en otras partes de América Latina solamente pueden ponerse más incómodo mientras la lucha del pueblo pruebe la verdad de esta declaración desde ahora.

## Latino America

viene de pagina 1

por oponer a Somoza.

Los motines recientes son una continuación de las huelgas y manifestaciones que han temblado el país desde la matanza del redactor del periódico opositor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro en el diciembre pasado. Los trabajadores y campesinos pobres han dirigido el movimiento para derrotar a Somoza, cuyo padre fue instalado como dictador hace 42 años por los Estados Unidos, y casi todo otro sector de la sociedad se ha unido en la llamada por el fin del dominio de la familia Somoza. En el primero de mayo se arrestaron muchos que demostraron en desafío de la orden del gobierno prohibiendo las celebraciones de obreros.

Dentro del movimiento de resistencia, la Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional ha provenido mucho del liderazgo, y esta es la fuerza la más fuerte en el país. Además de organizar el movimiento presente de la oposición, el Frente está distribuyendo armas al pueblo en las arrabales y en el campo donde ha conducido una lucha guerrillera durante los últimos 16 años.

Mientras la grito de batalla "Muerte a Somoza" resona por todo el país, el régimen sigue con el apoyo de los industrialistas y banqueros extranjeros, que sacan ganancias grandes a través de explotar el pueblo y la tierra del país. Las corporaciones Multinacionales norteamericanas tienen un 75% de las inversiones extranjeras en Nicaragua, y Somoza paga a Norman L. Wolfson de la compañía Norman, Lawrence, Patterson y Farrell de NY \$7,000 mensual para mantener una imagen favorable de su dictadura en la