

# THE WORKER

25¢

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SECCION EN ESPAÑOL

## Standing Up For Freedom In Mississippi Tupelo March Confronts KKK

Eight hundred strong, the United League demonstrators filled the street in front on the Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The Labor Day march was just about to start when a message cracked over one of the security team walkie talkies. "Klan headed this way."

Down at the bottom of the hill, 40 raggedy, white-sheeted racists were heading slowly toward the massive show of northern Mississippi Black unity. They were followed by a few cars and a couple dozen Klansmen who didn't have robes on. Every one of the first 40 had a gun drawn under his robe. And they made sure everybody knew it. The cops were nowhere in sight.

But like Skip Robinson, United League leader, had said the night before, "It's hard to kill a man who's not afraid to die for justice." As the Klan came face to face with the front ranks of the march, not a body moved. The Klansmen had to walk around them single file. As they passed 300 determined men, women and children, they caught the jeers, hateful stares, and insults they so richly deserved.

Earlier that day, the United League had put up picket lines at downtown  
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ABOVE: Determined marchers, led by United League, demand justice.

BELOW: KKK fails to intimidate demonstrators.

## Rank and File Furious - P.O. PACT SELLOUT

The new postal contract is a ram job. It took the U.S. Postal Service, federal mediators, and the top union officials over two months to engineer a forced settlement. The country's half million mail handlers, letter carriers, and clerks were threatening to pull off an illegal nation-wide strike. They had voted down the lousy offer their officers tried to peddle to them. Conventions and leadership councils had mandated direct action. Effective walk-outs at major facilities in New Jersey and San Francisco had given a taste of the mail tie up that was coming. One hundred and seventy-five brothers and sisters were fired for standing up to a sellout.

But a group of misleaders named Andrews, Vacca, LaPenta, and Johnson took a dive. They betrayed the mandate of the membership. They agreed to binding arbitration.

The arbitrator promptly took away key no-lay-off protections in exchange for a little more money. To cover their sellout, the hacks set up phoney ratification elections, even though the mediator's decree is final and they have no intention of striking to change it.

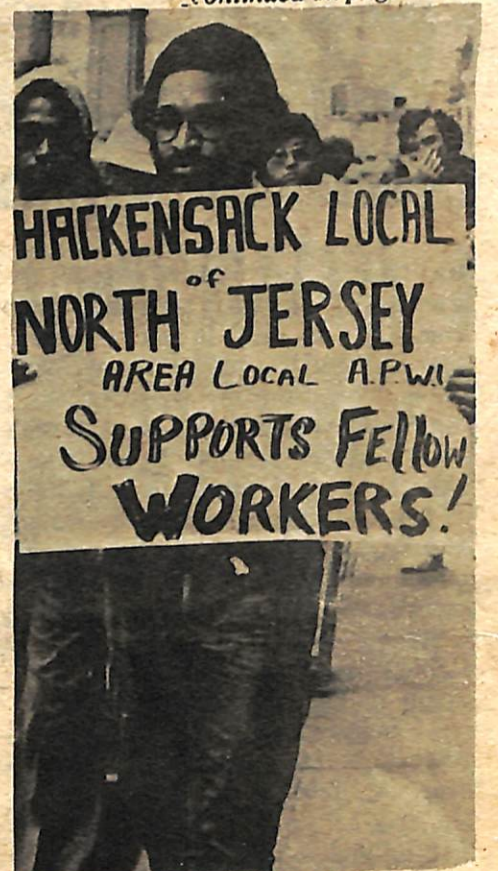
Andrews and Vacca hope to get a "yes" vote for the new pact to bolster their slim chances for re-election in early October.

The turning point came when the officials ignored union mandates to strike if gains were not made in a 20 day negotiation period. The "No" vote and strike threat had forced the postal service to re-open negotiations. But the scope of the talks was restricted to only 2 issues: pay and the no-lay-off

clause. And arbitration automatically followed the failure of the talks.

The mediator, James Healy from Harvard, took away what all the judges, stand-by federal troops, and union sell-outs combined could not touch. With the power of the U.S. government behind him, Healy had attacked the very thing the unions had mandated as a non-negotiable strike issue. From now on,

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Amnesty for fired strikers is a major demand.

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# Editorial

## Black Struggle on the Rise!

A Black liberation movement is again beginning to develop momentum in this country. Black people from every walk of life are in motion. Students who were promised the great society but got the Bakke decision. Teenagers who know their chance of finding any work at all before they're 21 is less than 90%. Workers who are still last hired, first fired. Blacks in the "New South" facing the same old Klan and the same old discrimination. Community residents outraged at police terror.

It is a new movement - reflecting the condition, the crisis, of today - but it has deep roots in the might movements of the 1960's. From that movement, its activists learned that power concedes nothing without a struggle and that progress never comes without sacrifice.

The potential force of this movement is a source of dread for this country's rulers. They controlled the flames of struggle of the 1960's only at great cost - granting concessions and buying off leaders. Those who could not be bought, like Malcolm X and Fred Hampton, were killed.

Black people were brought to the U.S. in chains and the rich who did it have recreated their crime time after time under new conditions. When slavery ended, repression continued as Blacks were welded into a nation in the South. First held on the land, many were later forced out of their historic homeland into the slums of the North, into the worst jobs, the worst schools. They fought as individuals and as a people for freedom, but always they ran up against the wealthy few - white - who rule this country. Never have they been free to develop as a people.

The capitalists have wrested billions in superprofits from Black labor - paying Blacks less for more work. The oppression of Blacks is a cornerstone of their system and their domination of all American working people. To maintain it, they have developed and promoted the idea that Blacks and other minorities are naturally inferior because of their race.

Now Black people are on the move again - thousands in the streets of Philadelphia and New York against police repression and thousands in the county seats of Mississippi demanding justice. The battle against discrimination is heating up. Anti-Bakke actions fought to defend affirmative action from attack. Tupelo shows people can also take the offensive and fight to win affirmative action.

The new movement has reaffirmed many of the hard won lessons of the 1960's and at the same time shown that there are a lot of questions to be answered as it develops: what is the way forward? which tactics are most useful - mass mobilizations, non-violence, elections, court cases, self-defense, education programs? how can ties be developed between North and South? what is the relationship between the struggle here and the liberation fight in Africa? what kind of unity can be built with the developing movement of working people of all nationalities? how will a unified leadership develop?

The struggles of the coming period are the anvil on which a deeper understanding of the questions and their answers will be hammered out.

## Steak Prices And Hamburger Wages



San Francisco -- "I have watched the price of your club sandwich jump from \$2.45 to \$4.25 in just two years. But you still pay me the same \$2.85 an hour you paid me two years ago." Roz Wells' and her fellow employees at 11 Zim's restaurants in San Francisco have made Strike the only thing on the menu since August 4th. On the first day of the walkout, the strikers served coffee and hot chocolate to customers, who have supported them strongly. The strike is to get owner Arthur Zimmerman to deliver the annual 6-7% wage increases in the workers' contract, signed August, 1977. Teamsters have refused to make deliveries, garbage workers have stopped coming, and even taxi drivers refused to pick up fares in front of the restaurants.

"We could have continued operat-

ing units, but we felt...it would be to our advantage to close and do some renovation work," executive vice-president Steve Zimmerman said, not mentioning that Zim's had lost nearly 90% of its business since the strike began. The Zimmermans tried to break the strike by making citizens' arrests of picketers, and when stopped by a court order August 9th, they resorted to straight-out harassment and physical intimidation of the strikers.

But faced with the prospect of going back to work at starvation wages, with plaster falling and roaches scurrying, where the best shifts are assigned to the managers' favorites, and where workers are called at 1 a.m. to report for work the next morning, the strikers, buoyed by support from both customers and other workers, are determined to stay out until they win.

# Letters

The Worker:

Last month Eagle Electric Co. tried to fire a worker by messing around with its own rules on lateness. But they were forced to back down when the workers showed them another rule at work: united, we can win.

This sister had been given a suspension for lateness. She had to come in on time for a month or lose her job. Then the company changed the dates of the suspension, dug up an old lateness, and fired her "retroactively."

It is no accident that this sister has been up front against the company for years, and is known for not taking any crap. When people in her department heard about the phony firing, they got angry and were ready to fight it.

The company said it had a good case, but were willing to compromise. If the sister would agree to three months with no lateness or absence for any reason, and sign a paper saying she would not file any grievance, they would take her back. "Hell no", she replied. "I'm right, I'll fight."

And she was not alone. Back in her department, her fellow workers filed their own grievance and wrote up a petition which many signed.

It took one day for the company to call her back and say that she had her job back with the original terms. So much for the company's good case. But it was a good case for the workers. It feels good to win one, to stand up for what is right and make the company do the crawling.

Some Eagle Electric Workers  
Long Island City, NY

Dear Worker,

I'm a white woman who grew up in the south and moved to the north about a year ago. I'm a member of a group called the Chain-Breakers. We're a multi-national group, Black, Latino and white. We went down to Tupelo, Miss. last weekend with various other groups, to help the Blacks in Mississippi fight their just struggle. I was impressed when we got there because the whole time I lived in the south I never seen so many people organized and disciplined the way people in Tupelo were. One of the first things we did was picket the stores, and in two hours the stores closed down, so we had won a victory. The next thing we did was march downtown in the square. The Klan showed up and we were all shouting "We're fired up, We're not taking any more." A couple of us from the Chain-Breakers spit on them, just to let them know we don't want their bullshit. I don't really know how to explain how I feel on paper, but I do know that other whites down there saw the whites from here standing up against the Klan with the Blacks, and I'm sure that they are doing some thinking about it. It was the first time I ever saw the Klan with their white sheets on, and the first time for some of the Chain-Breakers too, but instead of scaring us, it was the opposite. We were ready to fight them, because we were all organized and the

people of Tupelo had inspired us to fight back, so we kept marching, singing "We are walking and talking with freedom on our minds."

DAMN THE KLAN  
Debbie Bailey  
Chain-Breakers  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Worker:

A few days ago, a friend of mine who works graveyard at Beth Steel at Sparrows Point Maryland called me at 12 midnight to tell me people were lining up at the unemployment office out there. This was the 4th time in the last few months Beth was giving out job applications. Each time thousands show up, but only a few hundred applications get handed out. In fact I went out the last time at 6 AM and still missed getting one of the five hundred applications by a couple of hundred at least.

So this time, me and a friend got on the case right away and made it there by 2 AM. About 200 people were already there. Some of them came as early as 8 PM. People came prepared too--lounge chairs, picnic tabcoolers, radios, and other stuff to take you through the night.

By 6 AM, there were well over 500 people--the number that was to be given out. All these people, on a few hours notice, and all by word of mouth. And when you get to the place, there's no sign up sheet, not even a roped off area. And by now everyone knows there are just so many applications to be handed out. So around 6, all of a sudden, there's this mad rush towards the door--which doesn't open till 8.

Pretty soon the company cops came--telling people to get in single file--but nobody moved, nobody wanted to lose their place. Then they announce the thing is off--because we're too unruly. People got pretty angry, especially those there all night, and refused to leave. People started shouting demands for jobs, and "we won't leave." At one point I thought we were going to have a job riot out there.

The company tried to blame it on us, the people out there. The way I see it, that's turning things on their head. For all their talk about the economy improving, and unemployment going down, how come so many people are willing to spend an entire night to get a "decent paying job"?

They call us all animals, but it's Beth Steel that forces us to fight each other for a space in line to get one of their damned applications. And even if you get one, there's only a few who even get an interview off of it, let alone a job.

A lot of times you hear in the press there are plenty of jobs, and that anybody who doesn't have a job really doesn't want one. Let them come down to Sparrows Point next time word gets out and try to tell that to the people on the line.

A READER  
Baltimore

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# Philly's Rizzo Seeks To Be Dictator For Life

Philadelphia, Pa. -- A battle is raging over how this city will be ruled. Mayor Frank Rizzo, famed for his defense of police brutality unmatched in this country and self-appointed hero of a racist "white power" movement, is seeking a new post: dictator for life.

Rizzo can't run for third term because the City Charter limits a mayor to two and his will be up next year. But on September 11, to no one's surprise, he announced his candidacy. He arrogantly declared he would "campaign day and night" to change the charter in a referendum vote November 7.

Rizzo's demagoguery, raging out of control, has made the November ballot a crucial fight for the people of Philadelphia. He is polarizing the city, white against Black, while both whites and Blacks suffer from the loss of 145,000 jobs since he took office, while both whites and Blacks pay more taxes as corporations pay less, while whites and Blacks alike live in crumbling neighborhoods in a city with 40,000 abandoned homes.

Those who see the November vote as a watershed have mobilized demonstrations and voter registration to oppose the charter change in order to stop Rizzo. But many people are either confused by his claim to stand with "those who work hard at their jobs" or feel that he is too powerful to be overthrown.

Rizzo made his reputation as a tough guy when he was police commissioner and put together a police force with complete license to terrorize and even murder citizens, especially in minority communities. On August 17, a demonstration of over 4000 Blacks converged on City Hall to protest the mayor's persecution of the primarily Black radical commune MOVE (see article p. 17). It was met by thousands of riot-gearred cops whose overwhelming presence shocked onlookers in the downtown area.

In the current battle, he is applying his police department methods to the whole city apparatus. His lackeys limited the number of voter registration forms available and then discarded any from Blacks, Latins, Republicans, or members of the local, independent Consumer Party. So much for the right to vote.

An open City Council meeting was convened in July about putting the charter change on the ballot. But anyone who spoke against it or against Rizzo was ruled out of order or bodily ejected. His backers say the charter change means the "right to choose," but it means the "right to choose Rizzo or else."

"This country is moving to the right fast," Rizzo said hopefully in a recent PHILADELPHIA JOURNAL interview. "Take Italy. You know what some of the old folks over there said to me? 'Never was like this when Benito was in power.'" (Benito Mussolini was the fascist dictator of Italy allied with Germany's Hitler in WWII.)

**RIZZO: FASCIST APPROACH GETS CAPITALIST BACKING**

Fascism -- the open terrorist dictatorship of the capitalist class -- is not right around the corner in this country, as Rizzo would like to believe. But Rizzo's fascist methods have solid support from influential bankers and businessmen in Philadelphia.

Rizzo is the only mayor of a major

American city (the country's fourth largest), who is so openly racist, so brutal about cutting social services, so up-front in advocating police terror, so contemptuous of democracy. Valuable though he is to the capitalists, how can they afford to publicly support such a dog? The reason is that like fascists before him, he cloaks his attacks with a pose of being a man of the people, a pose belied by the \$400,000 home far from his South Philly birthplace he somehow bought on his mayor's salary.

Rizzo is not in a position to deliver much more than talk to the "workingmen in the rowhouses" he claims to represent. Because he got into office at a time when the capitalist system was already in a deep, unrelenting economic and political crisis, his machine could never appear to function as smoothly as did the well-greased precinct networks of Richard Daley's Chicago. No one who's seen Philadelphia's ravaged communities could call it "a city that works." No one, of course, but Frank Rizzo, who said exactly that on September 11.

At best, he can come up with a few patronage jobs or stop some controversial project a neighborhood is protesting. Even here many of his "Rizzo delivers" triumphs are staged. After a rumor circulated in the mainly white Northwest Philly that a public housing project would be built there, Rizzo addressed a rally of 1000 people, blustering that he would never let it go up. Now it's been revealed that no such plans were ever made and that Rizzo's advance men started and spread the rumor!

Here is the heart of his method. He will speak to the problems people face -- like plummeting living standards, he will say change is needed, and he will lash out at "the enemy." One time it's liberals, another time it's the press, and always it's Blacks.

This was the stuff his September 11 speech was made of. "I speak the language of the people, straight talk that requires yes or no answers. The people say yes when I say they have the right to choose if they have public housing in their neighborhood. The people say yes when I say they should be able to send their children to neighborhood schools and not have them bused across the city. The people say yes when I say everybody should be treated equally without being subject to quotas. . . ."

Here, Rizzo loftily grants the "right" to keep Blacks -- 40% of the city's population -- out of certain neighborhoods, the "right" to keep Blacks out of decent schools, the "right" to keep minorities out of professional careers.

Rizzo talks about standing with those "who work hard at their jobs," but he doesn't mean Blacks "who work hard at their jobs," or Puerto Ricans who "who work hard at their jobs." And his racist tripe is no more in the interests of white workers that it is of Black ones. In fact, he has done nothing but shaft workers generally since he was first elected.

**RIZZO AGAINST THE WORKERS**

Rizzo's no-increase offers forced long strikes for sanitation workers (1976) and transit workers (1977). There was public support for the workers, especially during the transit strike because the drivers and mechanics

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4000 Blacks rallied against Rizzo at Philadelphia's City Hall, despite the presence of so many cops that Center City shoppers and store owners were shocked. The rally took place right after Rizzo's assault on MOVE.

# WHY UNION BIGSHOTS ARE TALKING "CLASS WAR" EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE STILL ON THE WRONG SIDE



West Coast pulp and paper strikers stop scabs. Their current strike is so strong because their union isn't controlled by the kind of sellouts who talk class war and practice treachery.

"Class war" says Doug Fraser, head of the United Auto Workers.

"Class war" says Lane Kirkland, George Meany's right-hand man.

"Class war" growls Meany himself. "Class war" echo half a dozen other top union bureaucrats.

These are strange words from the lips of men who have spent the last 30 years preaching the virtues of compromise and "labor-management cooperation."

Can the top union leaders have decided to switch sides and fight with the rank and file against the owners and their government? Hardly! But their militant talk does show significant changes taking place.

Accusations that "the business community, with few exceptions, have chosen to wage a one sided class war," Fraser's words, reflect the union bigshots' real concern about their slipping power and their outrage at the failure of the country's capitalists to help them out.

The whole outburst was triggered by the defeat this summer of the Labor Law Reform Act of 1978 in the Senate. The hacks had a lot at stake in the bill, which was done in by a massive big business lobbying effort.

In the last few years the top trade union leaders have had their hands full keeping down the militancy of dissatisfied workers. They have had trouble selling lousy contracts as "the best we can get." They have had trouble selling this or that politician as the cure to a society that's falling apart.

Now they fell they've been stabbed in the back by the capitalists on whose behalf they've been keeping the workers in line.

This situation is greatly to the advantage of working men and women in this country. For one thing, it provides big openings for workers to build their struggles. When the hacks are talking tough and their position is being eroded, they are less able to focus their efforts on crushing rank and file demands and militancy.

Meany, for instance, didn't just denounce big business "class warfare." He underlined his irritation by criti-

cizing the just negotiated postal contract. He said its increases--close to the 5.5% a year limit Carter wants on pay hikes--were inadequate. This provided a little more fuel for the "no" vote P.O. workers cast on the sellout and gave P.O. militants more evidence of the treachery of the misleaders of their unions.

Secondly, the situation is an education in just how worthless the union bigshots and their policies of collaborating with the capitalist class are. For 30 years, the Frasers and Meany's have told the workers, "Vote as we tell you and we'll see that the system passes laws that will gradually improve the lot of the workingman."

This is just a large-scale version of their approach to individual corporations and industries: "The bosses and you have common interests and if you work hard and help them get richer, we'll see that your contracts continue to get better."

But now the capitalist system is wracked by a persisting crisis. The hacks can't deliver even the little they have promised--either on the Senate floor or the shop floor.

## LABOR LAW REFORM

Something had to give. The Labor Law Reform Bill was where it started to happen. This was part of the legislation the heads of the AFL-CIO and the UAW expected in return for getting workers to vote for Carter. As usual the package included mild social reforms--a federal health insurance program, for instance. This time, the heart of it was a series of measures to strengthen the unions' ability to organize the unorganized.

Union membership has declined. The percentage of workers in unions is the lowest it's been since the Great Depression. This is a big problem for the labor traitors. They get their fat salaries, their prestige, their influence on the government in exchange for delivering the workers up to the ruling class. The less they have to sell, the less they can get from the capitalists.

The first of their bills to come up,

the common site picketing law, which would have made it easier to organize and to defeat union busting in the construction trades, bit the dust last year. Worried, Meany and company decided to drop their second target, the repeal of section 14B of the Taft-Hartley law, which permits states to enact anti-union "right to work" laws.

Instead, they put all their efforts behind the Labor Law Reform Bill. The Bill was designed to stop some of the tactics companies were using to keep unions out. It would have given the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) the ability to 1) insure quicker elections for union recognition, 2) levy heavier penalties against employers who violate workers' rights or refuse to negotiate, and 3) give union organizers equal access to answer company propaganda on company time or property.

Eliminating roadblocks to unionizing unorganized shops could be of great value to the rank and file. This is especially true in the South, where the battle for union organizing is constant, bitter and still basically unwon, even in

basic industry. Workers at the J.P. Stevens textile company, centered in North Carolina, have been fighting for a union for 14 years. Backed by other Southern companies, the corporation has fired hundreds of activists, been held in violation by the NLRB 15 times and paid \$1,300,000 in fines for its anti-union activities.

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LABOR LAW REFORM

The bill passed the House of Representatives last October by a 257-163 margin. Meany was confident he had spent enough of the rank and file's COPE money on senatorial contributions that it would sail through there as well. He was also banking on support from some large unionized corporations, especially those facing non-union competitors.

But the capitalists are facing severe economic problems these days. They are out to tighten up on the workers, not give concessions. Contracts are getting worse and worse--wage increases have fallen behind inflation by 3.4% since 1974, fewer workers turn out more production, company negotiators demand more takeaways.

It's the same on the political front. Tightening up takes such forms as cutbacks in social services and attacks on affirmative action. Big corporations have been impelled to step more publicly into the political arena to defend and advance their interests, for example pushing to cut the tax on capital gains, enabling them to hold onto more of their profits.

The Labor Law Reform Bill was hit with the largest lobbying effort these vultures have put together so far. The biggest corporations in the country by and large took no public stand on the issue to avoid open conflict with their unions. Instead, most worked through the Business Roundtable, established a few years ago to coordinate such efforts. They set the wheels in motion, and provided money and resources behind the scenes.

Robert Thompson, a former J.P. Stevens attorney who is a bigshot in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and a pair of labor-relations vice presidents from Goodyear and Bethlehem Steel were the main strategists. But "the real soldiers in the campaign," reported FORTUNE magazine, "were . . . state and local chapters of such groups as the American Retail Federation, the American Bankers Association, the National Restaurant Association," and so on. The smaller scale bandits who are the majority in these groups, waged a well-coordinated lobbying campaign. Each target senator was hit with telegrams and compu-

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J.P. Stevens workers have waged a big battle for unionization. The Labor Law Reform Act could have helped them.

## Right To Ratify A Key Demand

# STEEL INSURGENTS FIGHT STACKED CONVENTION

The following article is a report from the first two days of the 19th Constitutional Convention of the United Steelworkers of America. The next issue of The Worker will sum up the convention and its effects on the struggle in steel.

Atlantic City, N.J. -- On Tuesday, September 19th, Lloyd (Llow Life) McBride won his convention battle to keep steel workers in basic steel from getting the right to ratify their own contracts. But the current convention is one more sign that McBride is slowly but surely losing the war and the rank and file is winning it.

From the start, there has been more combat at the convention than previously, reflecting growing ferment in the mines, mills and plants under USWA contract. At a pre-convention press conference on Sunday, "McBride boasted that steelworkers have become a highly paid industrial elite, as he denounced insurgent reform proposals," in the words of the Chicago Sun-Times. As he was claiming that this contented "elite" didn't want to vote on their contracts, angry rank and file delegates going by stopped to denounce the press conference. They exposed McBride's company-loving record, denouncing his train of thought (H-O guage).

Monday morning a small battalion of McBride delegates' wives handed out the first of daily leaflets from phony "rank and file committees" and nagged delegates to "defend your union," by defending McBride. As they did, a small picketline by an opposition group was broken up by McBride goons.

Inside, things were tamer. McBride held up to 1500 votes from staffmen, appointed and paid by the international,

and the majority of elected delegates. The farcical nature of the proceedings is shown in Monday's schedule: convene at 10:00, break at 12:30 for lunch, return at 2:00 and go all the way to 5:30, then adjourn for the day! (No forced overtime here.)

Meetings of right to ratify delegates on Sunday and Monday nights debated how best to carry on the fight. Delegates and other steelworkers stood up to the goons to leaflet inside and outside the hall.

McBride knew that right to ratify had too much support among the rank and file to ignore or brutally stamp out. Instead, he put forward resolution 24, which was full of fine talk about fighting the bosses. One small clause declared the right to ratify inappropriate business for the constitutional convention.

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## McBride Massacred In Homestead Delegate Vote

Homestead, Pa. -- It is August 14th, delegate election day, at the United Steelworkers of America Local 1397, for the upcoming 19th constitutional convention of the International union.

In the early morning shadows of the ancient mill, steelworkers line up in the street, waiting to vote before their turn on the day shift. The line is slow to move. It is a record turn-out, but nobody leaves. Instead they talk -- not about making steel -- but about the 1397 Rank and File, the local opposition caucus, and about the right to ratify contracts, and kicking out the McBride backed local officials in the local elections next April.

The voting goes all day long -- steelworkers speaking with their ballots. The act of striking a blow against the sell-outs feels good, but more is at stake in the struggle than rolling some McBride heads.

The votes are counted. It's a landslide. There were 41 people vying for 11 Convention seats. The 1397 Rank and File won all 11 by margins of 3 to 1 and

tended with each new contract. And to top it off, the rank and file has no say on what they must accept in the contract whatsoever.

The rank and file wants the right to ratify. They want to be able to say "no" like the miners said. "No" like the postal workers said.

The Homestead Massacre (for once it was McBride and his sidekicks that got it) was based on just these sentiments and more. Homestead is one of very few locals where McBride forces in power were knocked out of the box in the convention struggle. At Homestead the rank and file drew the lines between their interests on the one side and the interests of the steel companies on the other. The 1397 Rank and File ran on its record of organizing struggle in the departments and in turn they made the McBride forces run on their record of selling out practices, and their dictatorial methods.

A Right to Ratify petition was circulated--5000 out of a total of 6000 workers signed it. Because of all this move-

Sparrows Point, Md.--4500 shipbuilders won a \$2.20 an hour wage increase after a two week running battle against both Beth Steel and their own union officials. Rank and file militancy and the leadership of a Good Contract Committee turned back company terrorism, union sabotage and built solidarity with other yards.

The company ran a two pronged attack for the August 14 contract. For two weeks before the expiration date, they glutted the media with poverty stories, saying the yards were "unprofitable" and might have to close.

Inside the yard they tried to fire a militant shop steward. Several hundred workers held a one day job action to protest his firing. The Good Contract Committee grew out of this action and out of the workers' understanding that the company was determined to stop them from fighting for a decent settlement as management threatened other workers with discipline for the action.

Then Beth unleashed rabid dog foreman Joe Kreis who distinguished himself by calling in workers one by one and subjecting them to Gestapo-type interrogation. "Where did you go (on the day of the job action)?" "Who did you go with?" "Did so-and-so tell you anything?" "What did you do after you went home?"

But the Good Contract Committee countered their offensive. The Committee printed stickers and T-shirts with slogans like, "We don't want Joe Kreis" and "Fight for a Good Contract." Popular among the workers, these items drove the company up the wall. Beth commanded that the stickers be removed and threatened to fire a man for wearing a shirt with a slogan.

The union leadership did its best to help the company's bid to keep the workers down and divided. They cancelled the only scheduled union meeting before the vote on the contract--and with it the strike authorization vote.

### THE COMMITTEE IN ACTION

Again the Committee went into action, holding a meeting of several hundred workers without the officials and circulating petitions demanding the official meeting be held. In two days

over 500 workers signed at the yard and several hundred more put their names down at the company's Key Highway shop. A couple of Baltimore area shipbuilders traveled to the Beth yard in Hoboken, N.J. and got people in Massachusetts to distribute an Open Letter describing the Sparrows Point battle.

Telegrams and the petitions were delivered right to the motel rooms in Harrington, Pa., where the company and union big wigs were meeting.

As the unity of the workers continued to build and not only the threat of a strike but the ability of the workers to pull one grew, the company backed off. They made some concessions and got their lap dogs in the union

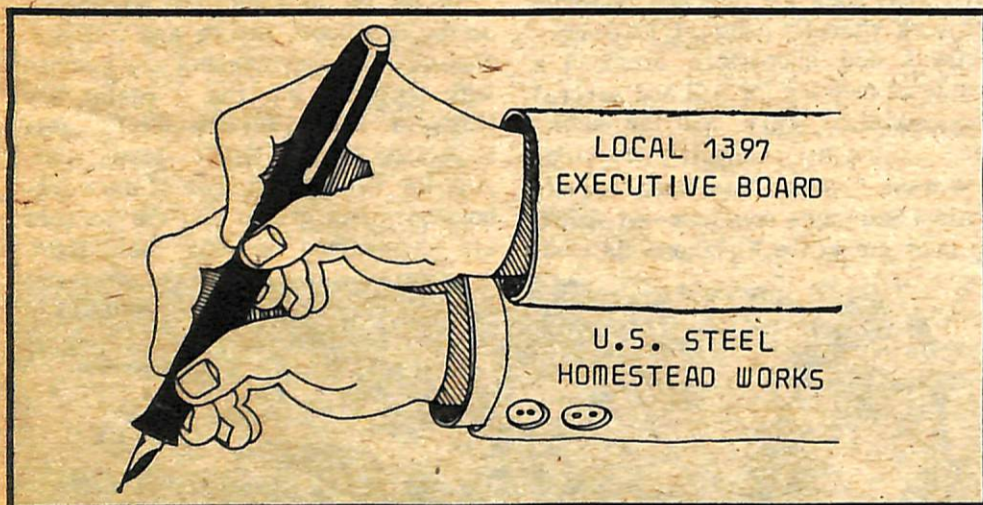
Beyond the money there wasn't much in the new pact--one more holiday, a little more pension and some increase in medical. There was nothing about more vacation (a big demand because workers say "you need to get away from this hell hole"), none of the much needed protection against the company's increased harassment and "productivity drive" (speedup).

The vote came down 1100 for and 350 against the contract.

The contract fight is over, but of course the battle between capital and labor goes on. The ink was barely dry on the pact when, two days later, 150 welders were suspended for five days each for a "work stoppage" that the company claimed happened three weeks earlier, but held off pushing until the contract vote was over. New rules and regulations and more threats of firing are being held over workers' heads.

But as the contract fight showed, the anger of the workers and their aspirations not to be crushed into the dirt by Beth Steel became a positive organized force. The Sparrows Point workers' experience of busting through Beth's shackles, the union leaders' sabotage and linking up with other yards will stand them in good stead in the battles to come.

As one shipbuilder put it, "They can only push us back so far. When we hit that wall, they better look out."



Reprinted from 1397 Rank & File Newsletter, April, 1978

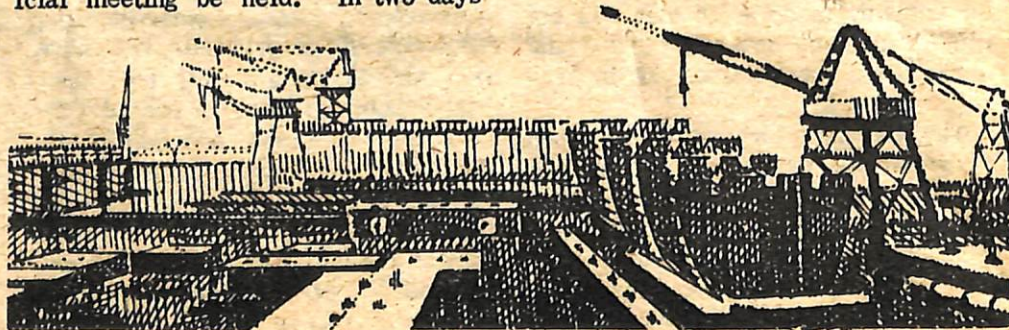
up. The local officers' pro-McBride slate was crushed.

At the heart of this rank and file victory was the demand for the right to ratify national contracts. At Homestead and everywhere else in basic steel workers are still plenty mad about the last couple of contracts. No money (3% per year), attacks on job security, continued contracting out of work, reduction in crew sizes, and no advancement in pensions and other retirement benefits.

Furthermore, the hated Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) no-strike deal, which is a part of the basic steel contract, gets entrenched and ex-

ment, the usual McBride power base in patronage was not enough to carry the day. Nor could the vote be stolen "in the count."

Over the last three years, the 1397 Rank and File took up the job of organizing the fight on the shop floor as well as participating in more national type struggles. They worked in the Sadlowski campaign, fought to oppose the last contract, and ran delegates for both the 18th. Their stated policy is: "We will not send rubber stamp stooges to the convention such as we have in our union today. If a person does not have the guts to speak up in his own union hall, he certainly won't speak at the convention."



## Scab's Car Kills Picket

# Warehouse Walkout Cripples Food Chains



A picket's murder and wavering by international union officials haven't stopped strikers from standing strong against four food chains in Northern California's "store wars."

Shelves are only half stocked at 546 food stores in Northern California. A warehousemen's strike against brutal speedup has crippled 4 major grocery chains and gathered support from workers throughout the state.

The strike began when 1,100 men in Teamster Local 315 wildcatted on July 18 at Safeway's Richmond distribution center. It expanded 3 days later to include 8 locals representing 3,500 people. The struck chains include Safeway, Lucky's, and Alpha Beta.

During the sixth week of the walkout, 25 year old Randy Hill was killed during a nighttime picket at Vacaville, Cal. Lucky's scab Glen Sobolick ran his car into Hill while Hill's wife, who was picketing with him, screamed for help.

"It (the car) must have been crank-

ing 60 plus," said Troy Adams, another striker who witnessed the incident, "No headlights. No nothing."

Another picketer, Robert Lovingier, was injured by a second scab car as he ran to Hill's assistance. Lovingier said there had been "other incidents in which cars going 60 to 70 miles an hour would swerve at the pickets to scare them."

Sobolick, a moonlighting Air Force man, was charged with felony hit-and-run and manslaughter, but the criminals behind Hill's murder are still at large --the chainstore owners who hired armed off-duty cops and servicemen to intimidate the strikers.

### OTHER CRIMES

Safeway also advertized \$9 an hour scab jobs in newspapers serving primarily Black areas. Trying to attract

people who would be so desperate for work that they'd be willing to scab, the companies hoped to incite racial violence when the scabs appeared.

This new "equal opportunity" act is a dodge. Safeway's workforce is primarily white because the chain didn't hire minorities until 1961. It was recently cited by the Federal Government for failure to institute affirmative hiring and upgrading of minorities.

If murder and racism weren't enough the companies seized on people's horror at Randy Hill's death to try for a quick settlement which would put workers back on the job without a contract and subject to binding arbitration.

Leaders of all 8 locals rejected the pact. They knew the rank and file would not work without a contract. 1200 angry strikers and supporters attended a memorial meeting for Hill and several demonstrations were held the same week against the company's brutality.

Workers' anger has been focused against Safeway's one-year-old speedup program at the Richmond distribu-

tion center.

Workers there are handed computer cards specifying the amount of time each job should take, based on motion-study and computer estimates. They must punch the card before and after they complete the task, thereby registering the time spent. If a man doesn't "keep up" he is given one reprimand and then suspended or dismissed. This "modern" system has doubled the number of crates each worker must lift from 800 to about 1,600 per day.

To date, as a direct result of this outrageous new standard, 86 workers have gone home on disability, others have been injured, 40 have been suspended and 10 fired. The strain comes down particularly hard on older workers.

Safeway, according to stock market analyst Dennis Ross (in the San Francisco Examiner, August 29), "has been riding food price inflation and a better overall performance to robust earnings this year."

"Riding inflation" means they've passed higher prices onto the customers and "performance" means workers are hurt or driven off the job for Safeway's profits.

While the 8 locals have stood firm against Safeway, which is the largest grocery chain in the country, their International officers have waffled on several occasions. At first the International reps in the Western Conference of Teamsters refused to support the Richmond walkout. But when the companies retaliated against the strike by locking out all of their non-striking employees, the Western Conference changed their tune and authorized the action. But tensions remain between the International and the locals.

The warehousemen's strongest support has come from the other grocery workers in Butchers, Bakers and Retail unions and from Longshoremans who service the chains. Refusing to cross the picketlines built a solidarity that was returned in kind during a recent 10 day strike of 70,000 clerks in Southern California. Teamsters refused to cross their lines and the clerks won parity with northern California wages.

As we go to press the warehouse strike continues, strong and militant. Non-struck supermarkets are jammed with shoppers but the 4 chains are losing a small fortune every day. Especially since Hill's death, support for the just struggle of the warehousemen has grown and the workers are determined to win their fight.

## Pittsburg Wildcat Sets Stage For Contract

Wilmerding, Pa.--On August 17, workers at the Westinghouse Air Brake Company (WABCO), part of the American Standard conglomerate, went out on strike for the first time in years. With their 4-day walkout they joined 4 other American Standard plants across the country, out since July 1st, as the WABCO workers get set to battle for their upcoming November contract.

All 2800 Wilmerding plant employees left their jobs after two workers were unfairly fired in the same week. On the 16th a maintenance worker was fired for refusing to do a job that was not within standard procedure, and the whole department walked out in protest.

The next day a foreman was assigned to spend all day just watching one piece-work operator, a machine shop steward, to "check his productivity". When the operator spoke out against this harassment, he, too, was fired. Workers shut down that section, and other departments began joining the two

already out, until by 11:00 that morning the whole plant was on strike.

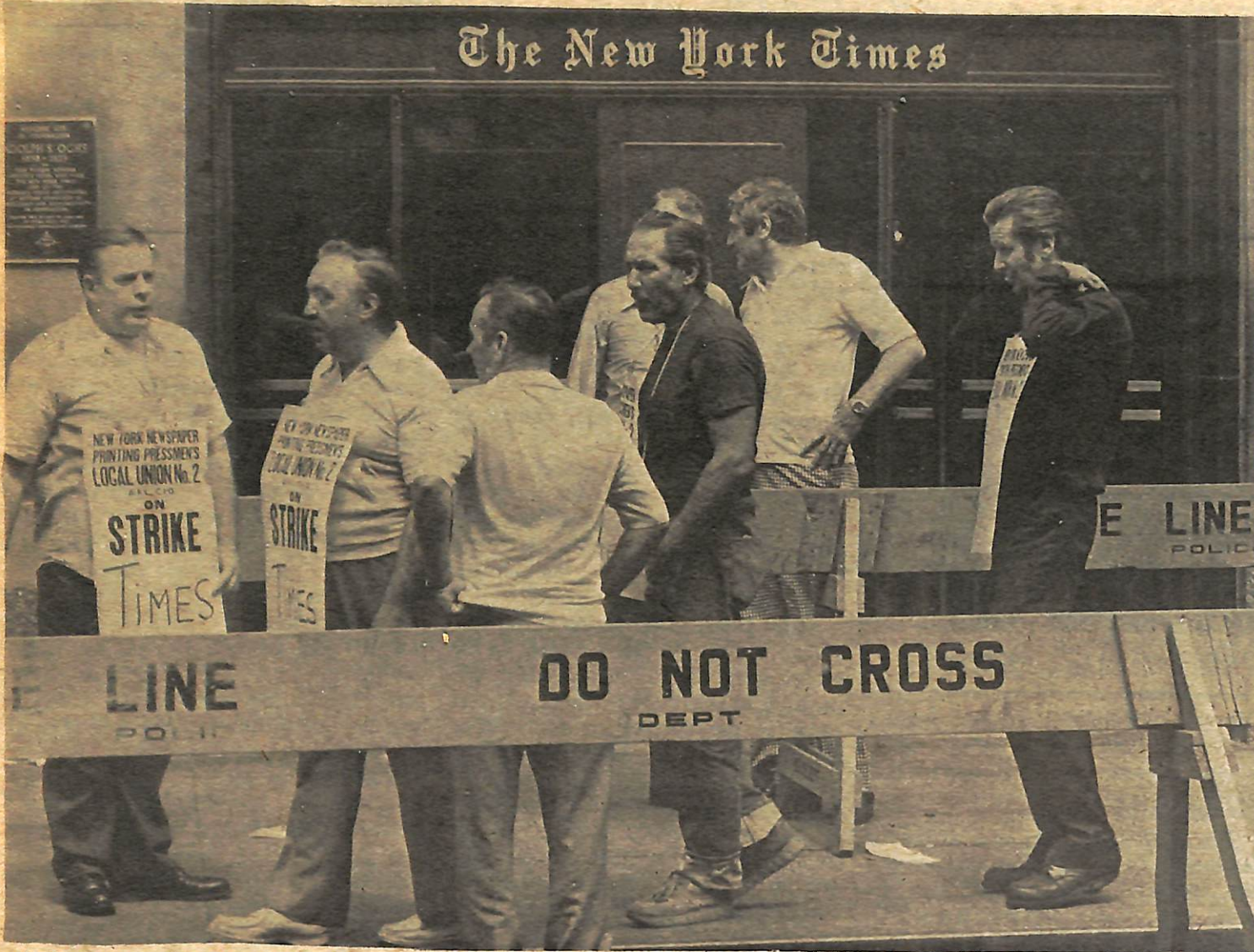
The company refused to talk to workers until they went back in--which led union hacks to urge the 2nd shift to return to work. But the stewards voted this down and the strikers stayed out--together.

The workers returned only after the company got a court injunction against the strike, and once in, they forced WABCO to reduce the two firings to 10-day suspensions.

Four other American Standard plants in Dearborn, Mich., Louisville, Ky., Paintsville, Il. and Buffalo, N.Y. have been striking since July over contract-related issues: increased COLAs, better pensions and higher wages. The unity built during these strikes, and the weak position they have put the company in makes for a better chance WABCO workers will come out with a contract they can live with.



As the strike got going, the big food stores found their shelves empty and their customers elsewhere.



N.Y. newspaper strikers say that no news is fit to print until the publishers drop their strikebreaking attacks. Their unity and determination has the bosses worried.

# New York Dailies Hurting In Newspaper Strike

New York City--The Big Apple is well into its second month without its three major dailies, The New York Times, The Daily News and New York Post, as workers in almost ten different unions stayed out on strike against the publishers. It is the largest and most significant battle to date against newspaper publishers' nationwide union busting drive.

The strike against job eliminations and dangerous working conditions began as a virtual lockout of the union pressmen. The publishers set it up August 9 by leaving negotiations "to caucus" and announcing to the media that talks had failed, while union negotiators sat waiting at the bargaining table! They forced the strike in August because it is a month when advertising and circulation are traditionally down.

But that tactic has backfired on them. In the first place, as the strike has gone into September the newspapers have lost revenue from the all-important Labor Day and back-to-school sales. Secondly, the unions locked out of work each went on strike with their own demands. This has considerably weakened the publishers' position as they now have to come to terms with almost ten different striking unions.

The 1550 pressmen are the key. They had already threatened a walk-out if management instituted new work rules that would eventually lay off half the pressmen and increase the workload for the other half. Three weeks into the strike the publishers offered to limit layoffs to 200. The union firmly rejected this proposal.

## HELL-HOLE CONDITIONS

Management is claiming "featherbedding"—an excessive number of workers—who must be laid off in the interests of more flexibility and lower labor costs. They say this in a period

when nationwide newspaper revenues rose more than 11% in 1977 and Business Week magazine assures its corporate leaders that newspaper profits are "healthy".

The so-called featherbedding is actually the only safety margin workers have which gives them breaks from the long hours they must spend in the noisy, dirty, dangerous hell a pressroom is. For 8-12 hours daily pressmen work with noise levels which, according to OSHA, are "safe" for just 1/2 hour per day. At the Daily News, where equipment has not been substantially updated since its founding, the pressmen must take

scalding showers because they become encrusted with oil, grease and toxic inks. In all pressrooms workers must wear protective face masks or, according to HEW, "risk permanent damage to their liver, kidneys, blood-forming organs, nerves, eyes and brain." For this they make \$500 a week scale.

To push through speedups and the automation of typesetting and other parts of newspaper production, publishers have been on the offensive against newspaper unions. They even fund a special school in Lexington, Kentucky where management and non-union employees are trained to run

## On The Line in AUTO

**12:01—  
TIME TO WALK  
AT AMC**

Kenosha, Wisc. -- When American Motors second shift spilled out onto 52nd Avenue here a half hour early, September 15, the spirit of rebellion was in the air. The contract was up. There had been no word from the United Auto Workers International on what to do. But there were at least 8500 reasons to shut the Motors down and let some solidarity rip in the street in front of Modory's Bar.

On the trim line somebody had set off M-80 firecrackers just before midnight. Other guys were blowing whistles on the welding lines. In other departments workers had crowded near load-



Midnight rolled around and a new contract didn't, so AMC workers in Kenosha, Wisconsin hit the streets.

ing docks to watch first shift workers who had come out to the gate for a strike kick-off rally. Cries of "12:01-- Shut It Down" bounced off the walls and windows of the plant.

When midnight came, hundreds left their air guns hanging and walked off

a scab newspaper! This scab school was a key factor when the Washington Post defeated their pressmen's strike in 1975.

Because of strike-breaking by the Newspaper Guild (representing reporters and secretaries) and the lack of support from other unions, the Washington Post was able to hire non-union scabs and permanently fire the militant pressmen.

"I know deep in my heart that there are newspaper managers out there who say that if the Washington Post can do it, I can do it," chortled the paper's labor relations vice-president, Lawrence A. Wallace.

## POST STRIKE, A BITTER TEACHER

But the workers were also armed with the bitter lessons of that strike. When the Guild of the nation's largest daily, New York's Daily News, struck for 5 days in July, they were supported by eight of the paper's ten unions. The officials of the Drivers Union tried to make drivers cross the picket lines, but instead many of the rank-and-file went out and forcibly stopped delivery trucks from leaving the News building.

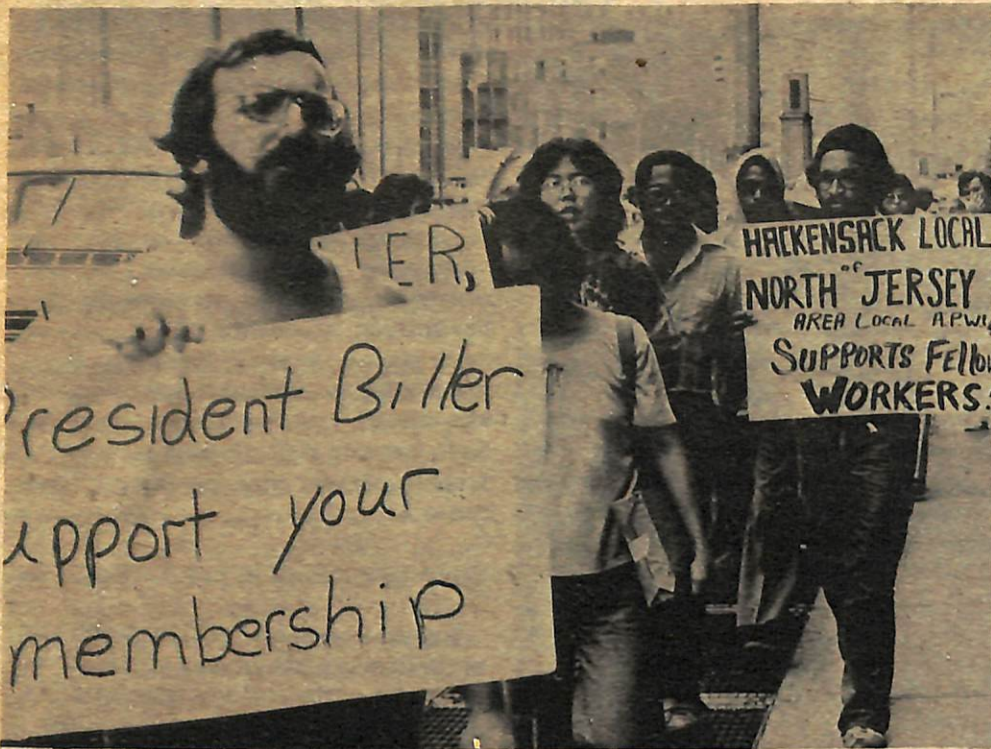
The pressmen were a key force in getting the drivers to support the strike (according to many Guild members, "The pressmen won that strike for us"), so when the pressmen struck, the Guild and other unions stood by them.

Many strikers in New York are working under union conditions at the three temporary newspapers—the New York Daily Press, New York Daily Metro and City News—which sprang up to fill the news vacuum in the city. Since there are links between these papers and the owners of the struck dailies, the workers are watching carefully for any attempt to pull a fast one.

On Labor Day the workers of the Metro staged a one-day walkout when they discovered that Australian newspaper mogul Rupert Murdoch, owner of the New York Post, was behind the Metro. Murdoch was forced to sign an agreement stating that he would not close the Post permanently and replace it with the Metro. It was a trying day for Murdoch as he found himself being struck by two of his papers at once!

The determination, solidarity and militance the strikers have displayed is turning the situation in New York around. Now it is the newspaper bosses who are more and more looking around to find a way out of the pit they have dug themselves into.

the job. The strike was on. Nobody knew what the company and union negotiators were up to, but it sure felt good to see those killing lines grind to a halt, better than punching out Friday night, dog tired, with your  
continued on page 17



The new contract is an insult to fired strikers and all P.O. workers.

## Post Office...

continued from page 1

new employees will not be protected against layoffs until they reach six years seniority.

This new category of workers will be more insecure in their jobs. The postal service will try to use them as a wedge against the rest of the work force. Part-timers and short-term employees, who have few rights and different conditions, are already pitted against the rest of the work force.

Flexibility, cost-cutting and automation are the P.O.'s terms for it.

But the reality is attack.

The rank and file, who are split between 4 different unions and numerous special classifications, will become even more divided. More jobs will be lost and workers will be in a weaker position to fight the job eliminations and speed up.

agreement will be worse than the package the ranks had rejected a month earlier. And it was far worse than the previous agreement. Even with the cap now lifted from the cost of living adjustments, the pay raise will stay under

## Class War...

continued from page 4

ter printed letters, as many as 10,000 in a single week, delegations, and professional lobbyists.

Meany's response was to start watering down the Bill to show how harmless it was. By the time it was killed it was a hollow shell of the original. Election periods were doubled, equal access narrowed and penalties for employer violations greatly reduced.

To top it off, the hacks threw in a section "to protect employers" from wildcats and roving pickets!

But even after it was sweetened up, the rich saw no advantage in making union organizing faster or unions stronger. The bill died on June 22 after 19 days of filibuster. Attempts to resurrect it later in the summer failed miserably.

### WHY "CLASS WAR"?

With the defeat of Labor Law Reform, the silk suit crowd in the union executive offices saw that the old way of doing business with the capitalists was being shunted aside. Their words emphasized how grave they feel the situation has become. Lane Kirkland, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, talked of how the good old "system of sometimes cooperative, sometimes adversary, encounters between parties with a shared set of values," has been endangered by big business.

The UAW's Fraser put it even more bluntly: "The leaders of industry, commerce and finance in the United States have broken and discarded the fragile, unwritten compact previously existing during a past period of growth and progress." Like Kirkland, Fraser was addressing his remarks to an audience of big businessmen.

The talk of "class war" is to remind the capitalists that there are dangers in discarding their "fragile, unwritten compact" with the trade union bureaucracy. Remember, the corporate kingpins are being warned by their labor

lieutenants, there are a lot of workers out there and it's us who keep them in line for you. Fraser even made it a direct threat: "We in the UAW intend to reforge the links with those who believe in struggle; the kind of people who sat down in the factories in the 1930s and who marched in Selma in the 1960s."

### NO REAL CHANGE

Meany and his ilk may be talking "class war" to the capitalists, but their deeds show how little they've changed. Meany's criticisms of the P.O. contract helped postal workers carry their struggle forward. Unsurprisingly, he promptly turned around and hailed the sellout negotiations/arbitration plan which has since stuck P.O. workers with an even worse deal. (See article on page .)

The Illinois AFL-CIO has endorsed some Republican candidates to "punish" the administration, and some Machinists and UAW bigwigs are pushing for Teddy Kennedy in 1980 as the cure to their problems.

Even the talk of class struggle is not intended for consumption by the rank and file, or by lower level union officials. The Labor Day issues of union newspapers this year, fat with greeting ads from locals, carried editorials which might lament the defeat of labor law reform or management's hard line approach. But they carefully steered away from references to "class warfare" or call to militant action.

The top union officials are playing things low key because they sense that they are playing with dynamite. They have been bedded down with the capitalists for so long that they stand to get blown away pretty quick in the event of a big explosion of class struggle.

And whether or not they talk about it, the class war is heating up and nothing they do can keep it from blowing.

22% over three years.

This is well below the 39% and 37% increases won by coal miners and railroad workers earlier this year. As such it answers Jimmy Carter's call for workers to give ground on the cost of living.

The unchanged points in the original sellout also include attacks on the grievance procedure, allowing management even greater power to harass and fire. It did not deal with demands against forced overtime, the sickleave policy, or unsafe conditions. Amnesty for the over 175 workers who were fired because of the Jersey City and Richmond, Cal., walkouts, was never even brought to the table.

From the huge bulk centers to the neighborhood sorting rooms, the postal rank and file is focusing its rejection and bitterness on the top leaders who threw away the power that the men and women on the bottom had built.

At the Denver Convention of the American Postal Workers Union in the midst of the contract battle, angry opposition to president Emmett Andrews came to the surface in a prolonged outburst against the contract. Andrews was unable to speak for almost an hour as delegates hooted him down.

They also gave a standing ovation to a delegation of fired strikers and set up a relief fund of \$50,000 to support these out of work brothers and sisters.

Had he been able, Andrews no doubt would have done the same as the gangster leadership of the Mailhandlers, who have not allocated one red cent for their 60-plus fired members.

As it is, all the top leaders have allowed the rehiring fight to stay bottled up in court and in the grievance

procedure without any real backing.

The phony ratification vote will be P.O. workers' last formal chance to condemn the contract. But they will get a shot at the sellouts who negotiated it a couple weeks later.

APWU head Andrews faces a challenge from John Napurano, a candidate from Clifton, N.J. Joseph Vacca, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers is being challenged by Vincente Sombrotto, the head of the New York local.

Although neither challenger distinguished himself as a leader in the contract fight, both incumbents are likely to be knocked out for their betrayal of the membership.

The other key fight at present is over the re-hiring. The 175 fighters who took the mandate "No Contract, No Work" seriously are the kind of people the postal unions need. They, along with thousands of other rank and filers, were the ones responsible for the cap being taken off the cost of living. They were the ones who gave inspiration to the contract fight and to struggling people throughout the country.

The fighting spirit they represent was betrayed. But they should not be betrayed, they should be brought back not just for their own sake and the livelihood of their families. No union can allow its members to be punished when they are fighting for what is right. That's why fired workers led by the New Jersey Good Contract Committee are jamming their own court hearings and leading the continuing struggle against the P.O., the firings, and the sellout leaders. Andrews, Vacca, and the rest are on their way out. These 175 represent the future.



After their successful strike last year, Mesabi miners are in the thick of the fight for a decent union.

## Steel Convention...

continued from page 5

tion because many sections of the union, non-ferrous, fabricating, etc. have that right already. Instead, it should be taken up at the next basic steel conference -- to be held around New Years, 1980!

This position suited many delegates who weren't decided on the issue and even caused confusion among the hard core right to ratify forces. Should it be fought all out or accepted as a compromise? Does the basic steel conference even have the power to decide on such a question, or doesn't it?

To further mess things up, the key vote came not on the resolution itself, which was passed by voice vote. Right to ratify forces called for a roll call vote on resolution 24, to at least get all the delegates on record. 316 delegates out of several thousand on the floor stood up in favor of the roll call.

McBride instantly claimed that this vote showed that the insurgents are just an insignificant minority. To the con-

trary, the vote, taken one year to the day after the Lykes Corporation closed down the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Mill, shows just how far the convention is from the sentiments of the USWA rank and file. For them, right to ratify was the only thing that aroused any interest in the convention at all.

The convention had many signs of what's to come. McBride was forced, despite having the convention in his pocket, to pretend to be democratic for fear of sparking more unrest. The right to ratify forces increased their cooperation. They were concentrated in the largest basic steel districts, like 8, 19, 26, and 31, as well as the Mesabi iron range District 33, and West Coast District 38. The insurgents at the convention are already laying plans to take the sickening story of Atlantic City back to the rank and file, and expand their forces in the local elections next spring.



# Texas-Mexico Border Hotbed Of Struggle

The struggle of Chicano and Mexican people along the U.S.-Mexico border has been heating up in recent months. Towns on both sides of the border are swollen with people who have left the poverty of Mexico's countryside and jobless cities. They come north seeking a better life, only to find more unemployment or sweatshop and field labor conditions under bosses who take advantage of discrimination, low wages and non-union status. With increasing militancy, Chicanos and Mexicans have fought the desperate conditions in this area of cardboard shanty towns, broken hopes and police repression.

On May 16th, Maria Contreras, a mother of 11 and 8 months pregnant, died of a heart attack while being interrogated by officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the border between Nuevo Progreso, Mexico and Progreso, Texas. In spite of repeated pleas by her relatives, the officers refused to let her get medical care until it was too late. Her death and that of her unborn baby sparked a series of protests in towns on both sides of the border demanding justice and an end to INS harassment. At a demonstration in Laredo, 50 members of the Texas Farmworkers Union joined the Contreras family, a group of strikers from a Coca Cola plant and others joined the Contreras family to hit Lionel Castillo, the director of the INS.

In July, 6000 Mexican youth took to the streets in Matamoros, Mexico to protest the police murder of a 15-year-old student, Salvador Barrios Baba. They took over the downtown area of the city of 300,000 across from Brownsville, Texas. The police fired into the crowd, killing 3 and wounding 15. Mass pressure forced 4 top police officials to resign and resulted in 3 cops being charged with the beating death.

Across the border in Texas, police murder and brutality are also targets. On May 7th during Cinco de Mayo festivities in Houston, the police used a fight as an excuse to invade the Chicano community. They met with a rebellion that saw squad cars burned and fighting lasted throughout the night. The struggle was fueled by the memory of Joe Campos Torres, who was beaten and drowned in a drainage ditch two years earlier. The killer cops responsible received only a one-year sentence. Protests against other police murders have taken place in Plainview, Dallas and San Antonio.

The common struggle on both sides of the border is further emphasized by the demand for housing. In El Segundo, a barrio in south El Paso, Texas, real estate investors are trying to drive out community residents to put up a commercial district.

This strip is heavily traveled by tourists and is surrounded by one of the poorest communities in the United States. 30% of El Segundo residents are unemployed. Already half of the people have been driven out and their homes have been torn down. But the remaining 13,000 are putting up a stubborn fight. They have occupied some buildings and delayed an \$8 million dollar federal grant that would finance the commercial bonanza.

A few miles away in Juarez, Mexico the people of Tierra y Libertad (Land and Liberty) have resisted the government's efforts to drive them off the land they are squatting on. With 60% of Mexico's agricultural workers unemployed and the land more and more controlled by large landowners and agribusiness like Del Monte, hundreds

of thousands of Mexican peasants have come to the border cities like Juarez. They live in barrios and look for work at the over 450 U.S.-owned factories known as "maquiladoras" which dot the border. These companies get tax and import breaks from both governments, along with the huge supply of low wage labor. Huge shanty towns have sprung up. The people of Tierra y Libertad have been fighting the special cops known as Boinas Negras

(Black Caps), utility companies and the former government official who owns the land they occupy.

During the past year Mexican and Chicano farmworkers have united in several important strikes. They struck 8 Arizona onion growers from late 1977 till March when they won pay increases. This was followed by strikes at two of the largest ranches in the area. The workers won demands against the Goldmar and Bodine

ranches. Goldmar is owned by Bob Goldwater, Senator Barry Goldwater's brother. Goldwater reportedly paid profiteers known as "coyotes" as much as \$80 for every scab they could bring into the country. The strikers faced the police brutality and the threat of deportations. All these efforts failed to break the strike unity.

In early July, 150 Mexican farmworkers struck the Bill Bishop melon ranch near Presidio, Texas. They had been promised \$2.97 an hour but received a bare \$2.65, no cold drinking water or toilet facilities. Five organizers were arrested trying to communicate with the strikers. After a one day strike, the demands were won.



Farmworkers and Coke strikers joined in a protest against La Migra's murder of Maria Contreras.

# Latin Holidays of Pride and Struggle

From Spanish Harlem to East Los Angeles and from San Juan to Mexico City, Puerto Rican and Mexican people will be commemorating struggles against colonialism and oppression.

El Grito de Lares September 23 is a day when Puerto Ricans set their sights on ending U.S. rule. This anniversary of a 19th century Puerto Rican peasant revolt comes just one week after El Grito de Delores, the Mexican day of independence from Spain. Celebrating these September holidays, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans in this country see their common ground against a system that jams them together in the big city "barrios" and a system that keeps underdeveloped countries from being free.

El Grito de Lares (the Cry of Lares) began on September 23, 1868 when a mass rebellion broke out. They were victorious and set up a revolutionary committee to run the city. Their takeover was followed by a march to the next town, San Sebastian. With machetes and a few muskets they took on the well-trained troops of the Spanish empire. Spanish troops jailed and killed most of the rebels, but some escaped to the

mountains and later spread the inspiration of the revolt throughout the island.

This holiday has come to symbolize the hatred of Puerto Ricans against U.S. domination of their island and in Puerto Rican communities. The Cry of Lares is now the cry of "Free Puerto Rico, Right Now!"

El Grito de Delores is the holiday of Mexicans and Chicanos. On September 16, 1810 Father Hidalgo rang the bells of the church in the town of Delores. It cried out to the masses of peasants and workers, Indians and Meztizos, to shake off nearly 300 years of Spanish tyranny.

In the early morning Hidalgo and others freed prisoners in the city jail, replacing them with the Spanish landlords and government officials. Hidalgo's speech to the peasants demanded the expulsion of the Spanish. It ended with "Long Live Mexico!"

Over the next three years the ranks of a peasant's army swelled from 300 to 100,000. They marched from city to city with machetes and knives. They fought courageous battles backed by thousands of armed troops and cavalry. Mass resistance continued through 1815. Independence from Spain was

finally won in 1821 as the red, white and green flag of victorious Mexico flew from every window.

The pride of Latino people in these September holidays builds unity and provides inspiration for further struggle. It means recounting the heroism of the early "independentistas", celebrating and socializing, or making plans for renewed resistance to La Migra, police brutality, or cuts in bilingual education. On the island, many Puerto Rican people will make the annual pilgrimage to Lares. The Gritos will once again be heard by freedom loving peoples--North America and South.



ABOVE: Chicano and Puerto Rican H.S. students hold joint celebration in Milwaukee.

BELOW: Mural reflects Puerto Rico's long freedom struggle.



# Revolutionary Struggle Shal



Lightly armed Nicaraguan youth spearheaded the Matagalpa revolt and have been in the front lines of the nation-wide uprising.

## REVOLUTION IN NICARAGUA

Most have never been in a battle before, these high school students, these workers and peasants, these old men and young women, these Nicaraguans. They are armed with pistols, old hunting rifles, home-made bombs and Molotov cocktails, unless they are lucky enough to have a captured carbine. They have joined the lean, hardened guerillas of the Sandino National Liberation Front in the all-out assault of the centers of power in Nicaragua, which began September 9.

The country's 15,000 man National Guard an army and police force in one, is being sent to city after city to try and crush the revolution. Despite their planes and copters, their heavy arms and their military training, all provided by the United States, they were not able, after a week of fighting, to break the back of the insurrection. The hatred of the Nicaraguan people for the 45 year old Somoza dictatorship has become a mighty force for changing

the world.

The revolt caps a year of deep political unrest in the country. A raid on the National Palace by a Sandinist guerrilla unit triggered a week of spontaneous mass rebellions, spearheaded by the young people of Matagalpa, Nicaragua's third largest city. For five days they held the city's National Guard unit pinned in a six-block area around their barracks.

Matagalpa was liberated territory until strafing planes and reinforcements forced the youths to hide their weapons or retreat to the mountains to join the Sandino National Liberation Front (named after a rebel leader who fought U.S. invasion in the 1920s and 30s).

This open display of the revolutionary sentiments of the people decided the SNLF to begin the nation-wide uprising. And, indeed, those who haven't taken up arms have opened their homes and provided supplies to the rebels.

The uprising dates from August 22, when the Sandinist commandos, dressed in phony National Guard uniforms, stormed into the National Palace, in Managua, seizing it. They held many of the 1500 people in the building hostage, among them several hundred of Nicaragua's top politicians, demanding freedom for Nicaragua's political prisoners.

After two days of ranting and raving about terrorism, Somoza gave in and the SNLF headed for Managua airport, with 59 freed political prisoners. From the city to the plane, the roads were jammed with thousands of cheering Nicaraguans chanting "Somoza to the Gallows."

The SNLF didn't choose August 22 as the day to seize the National Palace on a whim. The raid was planned after Jimmy Carter sent a letter of congratulations to Somoza for making advancements in human rights. This was a slap in the face to the Nicaraguan people, who daily face the "advancements" of Somoza's dictatorship. But more than anything else, the letter showed where the U.S. stands, not with freedom and democracy,

A mighty torrent of revolutionary struggle is sweeping a number of the underdeveloped countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the Third World. Three of the most hated tyrants on the face of the earth, Somoza of Nicaragua, Smith of Rhodesia and the Shah of Iran wake up each morning with dread in their bowels, praying that sunset will still see them in power.

Their doom is spelled out in the millions of people who have stood up against their crimes...the heroic high school students of Malagalpe who took on the National Guard with old pistols and handmade bombs...the tens and hundreds of thousands who fill the streets of Iran's cities day after day braving the bullets of the Army and the secret police...the men and women who flock to take up arms to liberate their villages and all of Zimbabwe, making the guerilla struggle there a true people's war. Revolutionary groups are providing leadership and organization, but it is the people in their millions who are the decisive factor.

The dictators are not the only ones filled with dread. The rulers of this country, vaults of their banks stuffed with millions squeezed from peasants on Nicaragua's plantations, drilling crews in Iran's oilfields and Rhodesian miners, are facing their biggest defeat since Indochina. They have backed and armed Smith, Somoza and the Shah. Now the people chant slogans against the U.S. imperialists as well as their lackeys.

In Iran, in Nicaragua, in Rhodesia the U.S. State Department is trying to help these dogs weather the storm. Even as it does, diplomats and spies are also looking in the ranks of the opposition forces for more acceptable substitutes who will uphold U.S. interests if they get into power. The U.S. capitalists face competition from their main rival, the Soviet ruling class. The U.S.S.R. is trying to replace the U.S., elbowing its way into these countries in the name of "aiding liberation struggles and revolutions"-the same approach they used in Angola.

But as people fight, they learn. As they fight and learn, they grow stronger. People willing to lay down their lives for freedom and liberation will not stand by idly and watch the fruits of their struggle snatched away. Already the courageous fight waged by the peoples of Nicaragua, Iran and Zimbabwe stands as an inspiration and an aid to people everywhere fighting to be free.

Victory to the Nicaraguan People!  
Victory to Zimbabwe!  
Victory to the Iranian People!

not with justice and the people, but with dictatorship and rule by terror.

The U.S. is trying to cover its bets, however, and promote some of the more conservative anti-Somoza forces as the leaders of the opposition. In particular, they are hopeful about business leaders who have organized a general strike of store owners against the government, which has lasted almost a month and is 80% effective.

Up until recently, it has been the peasants, workers and students waging the battle to get rid of Somoza. But with the regime intensifying its repression in order to hold on to power, and the anti-Somoza struggle also intensifying, the battle has broadened out.

The Broad Opposition Front (BOF) is a coalition uniting many different forces, from the SNLF to the businessmen's association. All in the BOF are united around getting rid of Somoza, but for many different reasons.

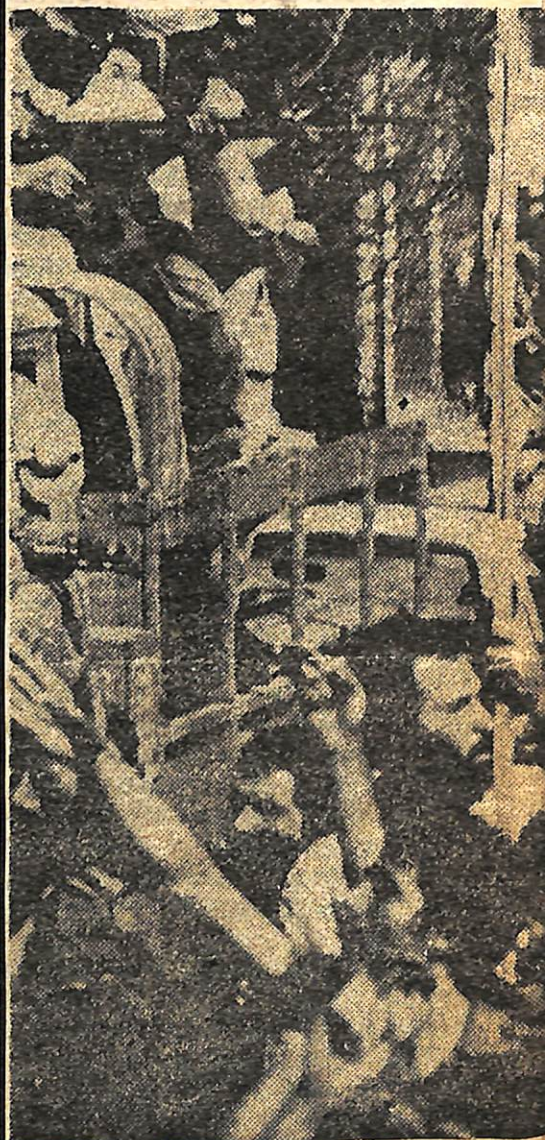
The businessmen entered because more and more, their freedoms have been taken away. The press has been carefully censored so that only Somoza's position is put out. Somoza's family, Nicaragua's top capitalists, run the economy not allowing other capitalists to function fully.

Furthermore, public opinion is so high to get rid of Somoza that if they supported him, other bankers and businessmen would lose any chance of maintaining the rule of their kind. The businessmen are hoping for Somoza to resign, looking for a new president who will not only give them more freedom to operate but put an end to the rebellions.

The SNLF and other revolutionary forces are fighting to end not only Somoza's reign of terror, but also everything he, Jimmy Carter and the Nicaraguan ruling class stand for: the continuation of the exploitation and oppression that now exist.

Getting rid of Somoza is for them the first giant step in the long fight for a free Nicaragua. And it is to their banner that the Nicaragua people are rallying.

## Iranians



Roaring defiance of heavily armed troops, solidarity the world over.



Nicaraguan people mourn slain fighter.

# akes Third World Countries



SAMOZÁ, THE SHAH AND SMITH—  
THEIR FATE IS IN THE PEOPLE'S HANDS!!

## Rhodesia Dying - ZIMBABWE BEING BORN

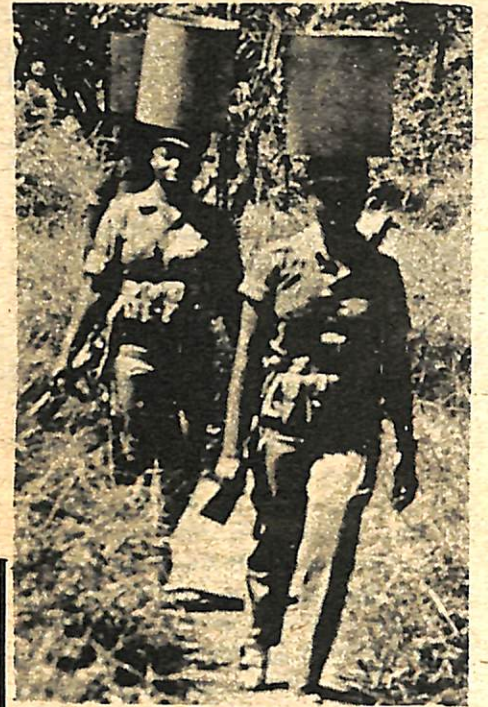
Spokesmen for the Patriotic Front, the group leading the guerrilla war against the racist Rhodesian government, are predicting the rapid liberation of their country, Zimbabwe. Ian Smith, head of the government and leader of the ruling white settler minority, failed in a desperate late August attempt to split the Patriotic Front through secret negotiations.

Panicky diplomats from the U.S. and Britain are still trying to work out some arrangement by which they can salvage some influence once Smith falls. They know the Rhodesian government faces, in the words of England's influential Manchester Guardian, "a narrow and simple choice: they can negotiate now with the Patriotic Front or they can sign their unconditional surrender later on--and not much later."

These developments underline the great changes that are taking place now. Rhodesia is dying. From its ashes, Zimbabwe is being born.

### RHODESIA IS DYING

Smith's desperation is so obvious that rumors circulate among the white settlers he leads that his bags are packed to travel. Whether or not he flees, 1500 of his fellow whites do every month, unwilling to face



Women as well as men are joining the Patriotic Front armed forces.

the prospect of a society where they do not dominate the 96% of the population which is black.

Smith's big effort to retain control of the country, a so-called "transitional government" which was set up in March and includes three black leaders, has been a disaster. The three black traitors, who once led marches of hundreds of thousands, are now lucky to draw 500 followers to a rally and need bodyguards when they appear in public.

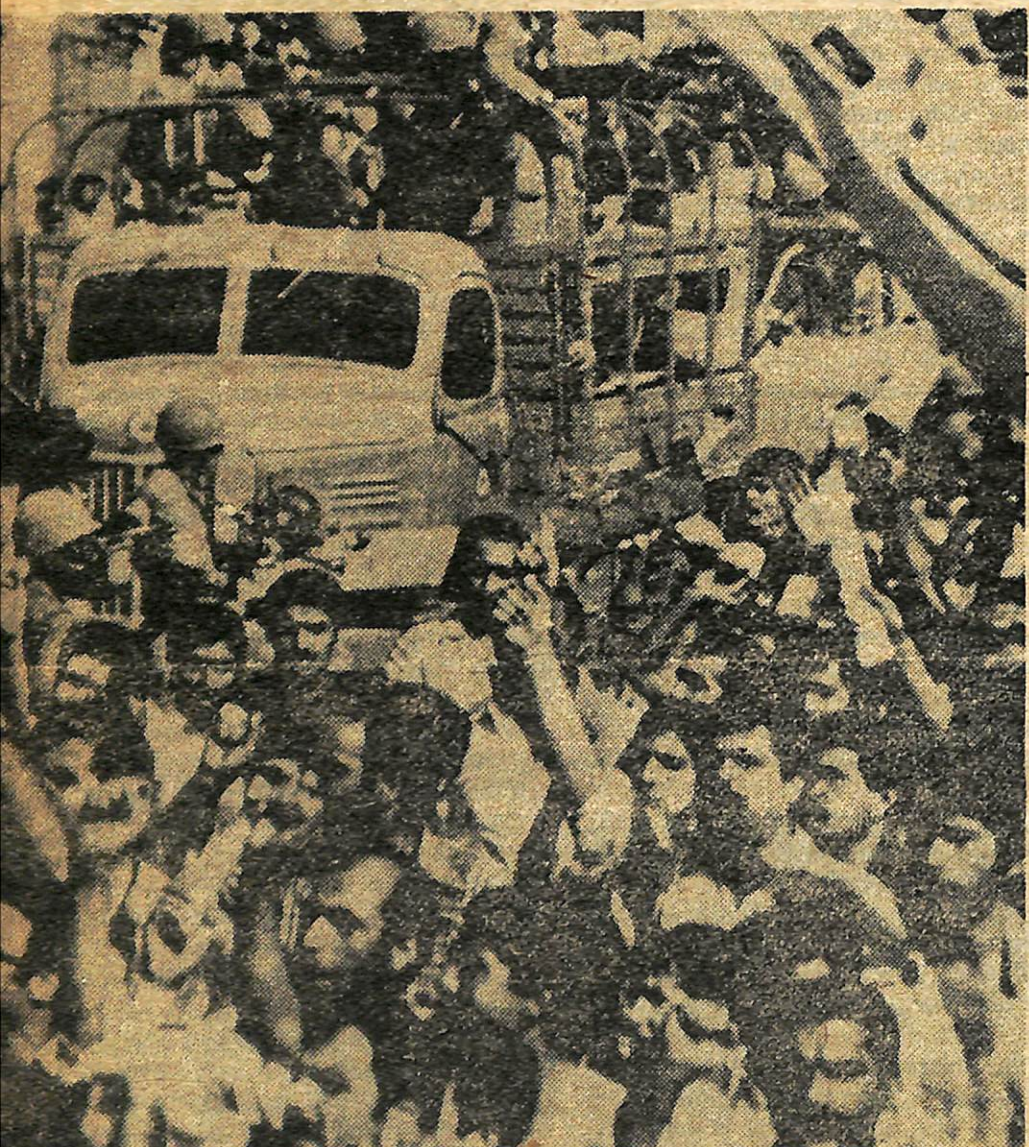
The "transitional government" and the black traitors in it are hated for good reason. They passed exactly one law against discrimination, covering hotels but not housing, theaters but not schools, and restaurants but not hospitals. Along with this window dressing, the government has stepped up its attacks on the people. Many black areas have dawn-to-dusk curfews and violators are shot. In one region the government has tried to keep the people under control by herding them into concentration camp-like "protected villages" like the strategic hamlets the U.S. set up in Vietnam.

### ZIMBABWE IS BEING BORN

As the transitional government has proved itself to be a fraud, black faces and all, the people are rallying to the banner of the Patriotic Front in increasing numbers. Outlying sections of the country have been effectively liberated -- government troops enter them only in large numbers and don't stay long. The villagers govern themselves and take part in Patriotic Front-run educational programs in literacy, health care, scientific

*continued on page 12.*

## Hit Streets o Topple Shah's Tyranny



driving by, residents of Teheran raise their fists in a gesture of revolutionary

One day after Iranian troops fired sub-machine guns point blank into anti-Shah demonstrations, killing hundreds, Jimmy Carter rushed to telephone his personal support to the butcher who had ordered the massacre. Speaking in the name of the American people, Carter said the Shah was key to Iran's "continued alliance with the West." In his desperate drive to stay in power, the Shah has gone all out to suppress mass rebellion against his regime, imposing martial law in Tehran and 11 other cities, tightening press censorship, and arresting hundreds of journalists and other anti-Shah forces. Thousands lay dead and wounded after a week straight of massive nationwide demonstrations were attacked by police and troops.

Carter's hurried call was intended to bolster the Shah's government, under siege from every section of the Iranian people, who are rising up against 25 years of impoverishment and political repression at the hands of the Shah. The recent upsurge, the most powerful to date, is the crest of a tide of rebellion against the Shah.

Since last fall, tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets again and again in dozens of cities across the country. They fought the police and destroyed government offices, banks and the night clubs of the rich. Protests would run for 2 or 3 days, disperse and erupt again on a 40 day schedule--corresponding to the Moslem period of mourning. The Shah knew the schedule but the hatred of his dictatorial regime runs so deep that his troops and secret police could not prevent

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# Rhodesia

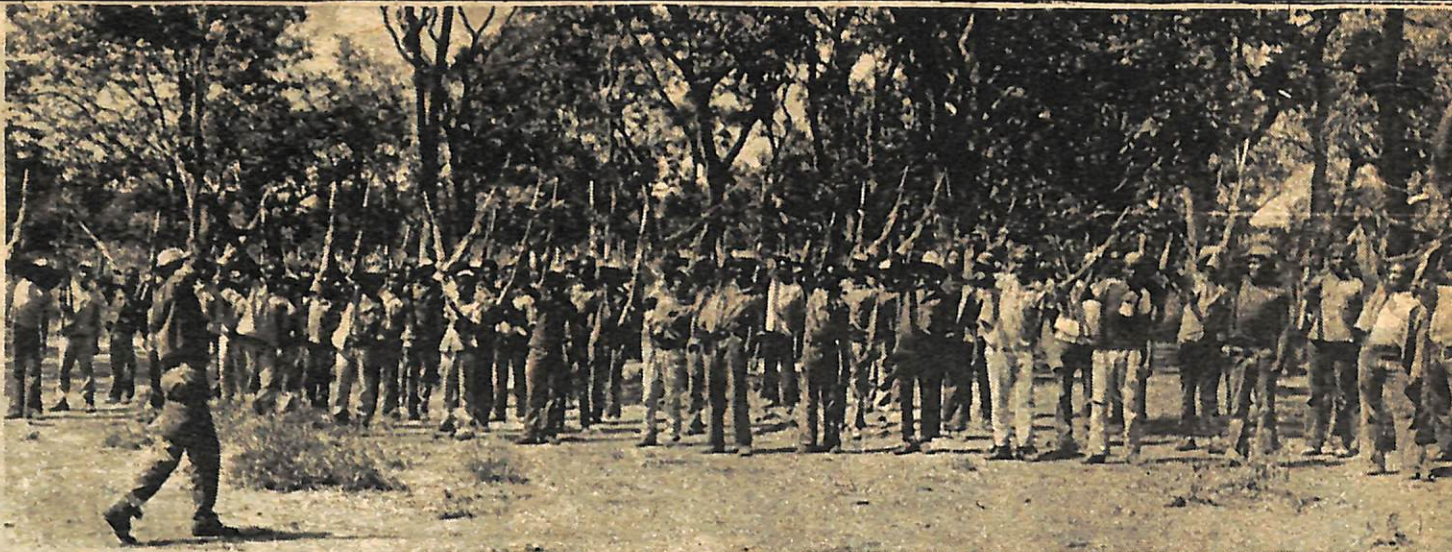
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agriculture and politics.

The guerrillas' area of operations has spread from the border regions of a few years ago to the whole country, even the outskirts of Salisbury, the capital city. One Patriotic Front leader says, "We will be transforming our struggle into a people's war. . .no longer fighting for the people of Zimbabwe, but with them."

For the ruling classes of the U.S. AND Britain, Rhodesia is a disaster in the making. Not only are their interests there in grave danger, but the fall of Rhodesia will mean a new base of struggle against the increasingly isolated white settler government of South Africa itself.

To top it off, their rivals who rule the Soviet Union are looking to replace the U.S. as the dominant power in the area, offering the liberation forces guns and Cuban troops to buy their way in. Therefore, British and American



Guerrillas prepare for final push to liberate Zimbabwe.

diplomats pushed Smith to try and strike some deal with the Patriotic Front that would leave themselves the maximum leverage in the new Zimbabwe, which can no longer be staved off. In late August, Smith met secretly with Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). He offered Nkomo the number one position in the

country if he would order ZAPU forces to stop fighting and split with the other group in the Patriotic Front, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). ZANU, headed by Robert Mugabe, has done the greater part of the fighting and is considered by white Rhodesians to be more dangerous than ZAPU. Rather than go the route of the three

traitors who joined the transitional government, Nkomo told Smith it was no deal without guarantees of genuine majority rule and without ZANU's participation. Patriotic Front spokesmen vow, "We are not fighting for half-measures--but for total power. We shall seize total power before the end of the year."

# The Shah Did It

By the third week of August, the current wave of struggle against the Shah was higher than any previous one and it showed no sign of receding or even cresting. Suddenly newspapers, radio and T.V. stations of Iran and the world were full of horrified stories about the burning of a movie theatre in Abadan. Over 400 people died when the doors were locked from the outside, gasoline poured under them and the place put to the torch.

How convenient for the beleaguered Shah! This atrocity, he rushed to announce, showed what kind of people his opponents were--murderous religious fanatics. The media in this country was quick to report his claims.

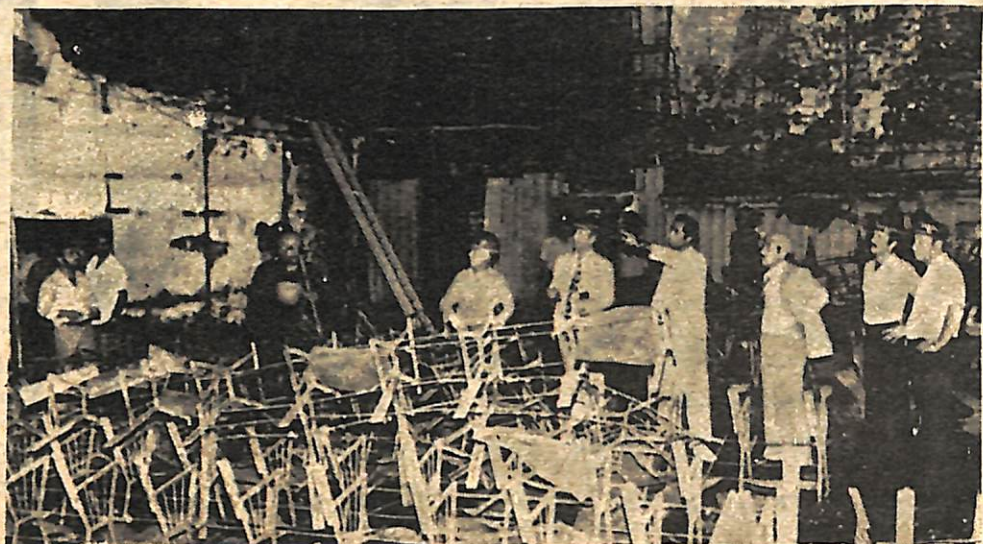
The Abadan theatre was the seventh theatre burned in August! Each one of the first six was in a wealthy neighborhood. Not one person was killed or injured. In each case underground anti-Shah organizations claimed responsibility. The theatres were burned to

attack the Shah's program of wiping out Iranian culture with "modern" culture from the West, complete with pornography and Hollywood jive.

The Abadan fire was the first in a working class area. The film that night was not pornography, not a Hollywood production, but a progressive political film made in Iran in the early '50s, before the Shah came to power in a CIA-planned coup.

Abadan is a highly industrialized city, with a modern fire department, built to handle fires in the city's numerous oil refineries. But that night, even though there was a firehouse only six blocks away, no fire trucks showed up until 13 hours after the fire began!

The next day, 2000 people marched in Abadan, calling for the punishment of those guilty. The U.S. press implied that those people, including families of the fire's victims, were pointing the finger 'along with the Shah' at the "Moslem fanatics" and calling for more



police protection. But according to Iranians THE WORKER has interviewed who just came from Abadan, the demonstrators blamed the Shah, his regime and his secret police. The demonstration turned into yet another demanding the overthrow of the government.

Who struck the match in the Abadan theatre remains unknown, but subsequent events in Iran (see accompanying article) leave no doubt it is the Shah who is the perpetrator of mass murder and the Shah who stands between the Iranian people and the realization of their aspirations for freedom from violence and repression.

regime. American corporations openly run many sections of Iran's economy, and American banks line the streets of Iran's big cities. Tens of thousands of U. S. military advisors operate throughout the country.

As the struggle in Iran has developed into a more united and concentrated effort to overthrow the Shah, particular abuses and acts of oppression have triggered immediate, and organized response from the people.

In August, a butcher was arrested in the city of Kazeroon. Four hundred other butchers and townsmen armed with meat cleavers marched to the police station and forced the release of the arrested man.

In city after city, mayors and other officials have been forced to hold public meetings to hear people's grievances. In many of these meetings, people have come in with but one thing to say. "We demand an end to the regime of the Shah."

And above all, there have been massive street demonstrations.

With many diverse forces in motion against the Shah's creaky regime, the exact course of the Iranian revolution is impossible to predict. The U.S. and the Soviet Union will both be looking to interfere in the process, to support forces they hope to control and rely on.

But the Iranian people are taking their destiny into their own hands in the streets of Teheran, Qum, Isfahan, Tabriz and hundreds of other cities and villages and they will have plenty to say about how their country will be run.

resistance to the Shah has come from Islamic leaders who have utilized their relative immunity from arrest and their respect among their followers to mobilize the masses--against the Shah. Devout Moslems march side by side with non-Moslems in these demonstrations. Protestors from all walks of Iranian life take advantage of the actions to fight the regime.

The most influential of the Moslem groups is led by several famous Iranian patriots, and has consistently called for the overthrow of the Shah and the insti-

tution of democratic government in Iran. They have worked closely with worker, student, and intellectual activists, and have gone out of their way to publically state that their fight is not with communists or other revolutionaries fighting the Shah, but with the Shah and his dictatorial government.

Even other sections of Moslem leaders, who call for the replacement of the Shah with a government based on Islamic religious law and so are not as reliable a force in the fight for freedom and democracy, have worked hand in hand with the rest of the movement in the anti-Shah struggle.

Opposition to the Shah runs throughout Iranian society. In this oil-rich country, the money Iran's worker's produce in the form of "black gold" is not used to better the lives of the desperately poor workers and peasants. Much of it goes to weapons.

In some recent years, over one-half of all U.S. arms exports have gone to the Shah in an effort to build up an ally loyal to U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf area.

The Shah's party has been the only political party permitted to operate. The Iranian people have no right to vote nor any control over the government of their own country. The Shah spits on Iran's historic culture and encourages the importation of pornographic films from Europe and the U.S.

The secret police (SAVAK) operates everywhere, even abroad--jailing, torturing, and often killing anyone who dares raise opposition.

The U.S. government has stood firmly and actively behind this reactionary

# Iran...

continued from page 11  
them from erupting anew.

The Shah, echoed by American newsmen, has tried to cloak his vicious fight against the Iranian people in the mantle of democracy and progress. He claims his opposition is reactionary Moslem religious leaders who want to keep peasants tied to the land in serf-like oppression and women in veiled submission.

Much of the public leadership of the



# Soweto Trials Can't Stop Azania Struggle

With their families clustered up against a heavy steel fence shouting to them, 11 black Soweto students thrust their arms through the bars of the paddy wagon taking them to another prison. Their clenched fists were proudly raised in the Black Power salute.

It was the first time their families had seen or heard from their children, all high school age, in over a year. Their raised fists expressed their burning desire to fight the apartheid system and white settler rule that enslaves themselves and their families and their nation. Their spirits could not be vanquished--even though they had been held and tortured in prison, and now face the possibility of a death sentence if they were convicted of either sedition or terrorism in their September 18th trials.

The white minority government is determined to punish them as harshly as possible--to try and stop the waves of rebellion that have been sweeping through South Africa and threaten to topple the oppressive regime.

The Soweto 11 were singled out by the government because as members of the Soweto Student Representative Council, they helped lead the massive 1976 uprisings of millions of Azanians which began in the Soweto township. Their spirit of resistance, at all costs, represents the mood that has been sweeping black masses in South Africa, a mood that was put into action by the all-out charge against the apartheid government, with the students boldly leading the way.

## WHAT WAS THE SOWETO REBELLION?

Spring 1976. 10,000 students stormed into the streets when they were told they have to be taught in Afrikaans--the

that makes them constantly carry identifying passbooks. They burned the schools where they are taught that it is the irreversible way of the world that blacks be ruled by whites, and live in such poverty and degradation. They fought against everything that imprisons South Africa's black majority as their millions of voices cried out "Viva Azania!"--Long Live the Black Man's Land!

Always it was the students leading the charge in that fight. Teenagers armed with rocks, bottles and sticks battled non-stop with the well-armed forces of the government. They fought with a weapon no modern technology can match: a gut-wrenching hatred of life under the slavery of apartheid and an unquenchable desire for freedom.

200 were killed and thousands hurt by tear gassing and bullets. Even as they ran, gasping for breath and blinded by gas and bleeding from bullet wounds, they yelled the slogans of the uprising: "For Freedom We Shall Lay Down Our Lives--The Struggle Continues."

The Soweto Rebellion was largely inspired by the Black Consciousness Movement, one of whose leaders, Steven Biko, was murdered by the apartheid rulers. On September 12, 1977, he was beaten in his jail cell till he died of a fractured skull. The white government had to get rid of him, because he was a leader of the struggle for Azania--a nation where the real majority, the 80% of South Africa that is black--would rule.

They hated him because he knew and spread the message that the only way for South African blacks to attain Azania was to fight for it. "The system concedes nothing without demand. ... This is why we must reject the beggar tactics that are being forced on us by those who

up in rebellions like the one in Soweto.

The apartheid rulers have gone through every channel to try and put an end to the black liberation movement sweeping them out of power: openly shooting demonstrators, slow prison deaths by torture, and now maybe death sentences for teenagers. But that still leaves them up against the millions of other blacks like Biko and the Soweto 11 ready to take up arms against the apartheid regime at the risk of laying down their lives.

September 1978. One year after Steven Biko's murder, 11 students who also stood up to the apartheid government are on trial, facing possible death sentences. Their cases are already being rigged against them: their lawyer was not notified of their cases until 24 hours before their indictments came down, and he has been harrassed and not allowed to see his clients.

At the same time, people around the world are holding Steven Biko memorial programs on the first anniversary of his death. The just liberation struggle of the South African blacks has inspired a broad international support movement.

In the U.S. this has taken the form of a sharp battle between those supporting South Africans' freedom fight and U.S. banks and corporations which have millions invested in the slave labor mines and factories of apartheid. The Kruger--and--the gold coin from South Africa's hellholes of mines--has been withdrawn



STEPHEN BIKO  
Murdered, 1977

from sale in many places due to nationwide demonstrations demanding "Ban the Krugerand!" On college campuses from California to Massachusetts, the largest student protests since the anti-war movement are calling for their universities to "Divest Now!"--to cut their ties with banks and corporations doing business with South Africa.

The solidarity of the world's people with the black South Africans has pushed the white minority regime even closer to the brink, and made the possibility of a state of freedom for the black majority--Azania--come closer every day.

## New Gov't Takes Power In Dominican Republic

On August 16, twelve years of rule by the hated dictator Joaquin Balaguer came to an end in the Dominican Republic. Antonio Guzman, a wealthy leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), took office as president, capping a three-month electoral struggle that threatened to spill over into civil war.

This inauguration was the result of the heated election campaign in May, the first in 12 years. As the elections were under way and it was clear Guzman was winning by a landslide, the army desperately impounded the ballots in Balaguer's behalf.

Broad resistance sprang up from the heart of the country--workers and peasants--as well as from the urban intellectuals and even some patriotic landowners and businessmen opposed to his rule.

Balaguer looked to the U.S. to save his neck, but unlike 1965, aid was not to be found. With Carter still trying to peddle himself as a defender of "human rights," many anti-Balaguer forces ready for armed resistance, and Guzman and the PRD already working out deals with big U.S. corporations the U.S. said "Who needs you?"

Abandoned from the outside and inside, Balaguer was forced to backdown, finish counting the votes and retire with the millions he stole during his dictatorship.

Ever since 1965 when Balaguer rode into power behind an invasion by 22,000 U.S. Marines which overthrew the just-elected Dominican government, he has ruled with an iron fist. Unemployment in some parts of the country has soared to 50% and the average income is \$900 a year.

He instituted fierce political repression, forcing may fighters into prison or exile, outlawing political parties, and requiring the Dominican people to carry ID cards like in South Africa. A general reign of terror was imposed.

Balaguer and the big landowners and factory chiefs shared the wealth of the Dominican people with corporations like Alcoa and Gulf & Western. They met continual hatred and resistance from the Dominican people.

Guzman won the election with promises of nationalizing foreign business and promoting political freedom. With Balaguer's defeat significant advances are being made. The legal bars against demonstrations and public protests are lifted, new revolutionary newspapers are appearing, and there is a general explosion of political discussion and activity.

But new tasks confront the anti-Balaguer front. Abandoning his talk of nationalizing foreign-owned business Guzman and the PRD now talk of attracting more U.S. investments to boost the economy. Instead of aiming the anger of the people at the big landowners and foreign corporations, Guzman now points his finger at corruption as public enemy #1.

The Balaguerist forces are still around also, with a solid base in the army and control of the Dominican Senate.

Just as the Dominican masses have stood up in the past to oppose the Balaguer forces dominating their country, they are sure to take advantage of their new and better situation to confront the problems and tasks they face today and on the road ahead.



The 1976 uprising by thousands of Azanian students in Soweto took the liberation struggle to a new level.

language of their colonizers. Their protest was joined by tens of thousands of workers who went on strike against the U.S. and British owned mines and factories where they toil 10-12 hours a day, 6 days a week, for about \$30 a month. Many of them hopped off trains taking them from their hellish workplaces to the run-down shantytowns which the white government forces them into. Families of the students, many with no income, jobs, or political voice, wholeheartedly joined the protest, crying "Down with White Minority Rule!"

Millions of people filled the streets throughout the next few months. They burned the buildings of the government

wish to appease our cruel masters. This is where the cry, 'Black man, you are on your own!' becomes relevant."

The rulers tried to denounce the Black Consciousness Movement as "separatist" but one of Biko's comrades answered by telling them to look at reality. "Separatists are in fact not separatists but liberationists. ... The equal distribution of decision-making power is far more important than physical proximity to white people."

The rulers feared him because what he said struck a responsive chord in the 19 million South African blacks suffering under apartheid and looking for another way--and those millions carried out his message when they rose

# MISSISSIPPI...

continued from page 1

Tupelo stores. Many of the pickets were whites and Blacks who had converged on Tupelo from a half a dozen northern cities to join the Labor Day march. After closing a handful of target stores in the League's boycott for jobs, the pickets spotted a Confederate flag at a Klan staging area a few blocks away. As the picket lines joined up to confront the Klan, three uniformed Tupelo cops scurried away. The Kluxers grabbed their bedsheets and pointy hoods from car trunks in a ridiculous attempt to scare somebody.

The Labor Day confrontations were part of a series of events that show the sharpening struggle in northern Mississippi. The movement, which began in response to a number of cases of police brutality and murder, has gained momentum as a boycott for affirmative hiring in business, government and industry. The boycott and weekly marches in several neighboring counties have generated a defiant Black struggle, challenging the whole racist Mississippi power structure. The movement threatens to tear up the whole way the South is kept as a low-wage back water for profit hungry corporations. Hundreds of people in this area of the South are "walking and talking with their minds on freedom."

Founded in 1966 in the predominantly Black Marshall County, the United League has fought discriminatory election laws, harassment of Black students and teachers in the desegregated school system, and police brutality.

Their first boycott came in 1974 in



Skip Robinson is the main leader of the United League.

Byhalia, 10 miles from Holly Springs, the Marshall County seat. Like the present boycott, it began in response to the police killing of a Black youth. And like Tupelo, that boycott built on the momentum to make demands in other areas as well.

Two days before the Labor Day march United League members travelled to Lexington, Mississippi for a protest in the rural community in the Delta region in the south part of the state. It's common for the League to sponsor marches in two places on one weekend. So quickly is the influence of the movement growing that new issues and new plans constantly arise. In Lexington, a boycott of white-owned business sprang up following the police beating of a mentally retarded young Black woman. When 12 people were arrested for picketing stores, the people called for the September 2nd rally.

As the influence of the League has expanded, it has been the target of criticism of some established Black leaders. In Lexington, which is a majority Black county, a Black state senator and a prominent Black minister called for conciliation and negotiations. They objected to the presence of the League. In a speech before some 300 marchers,

Skip Robinson attacked the idea of bargaining from a position of weakness. He predicted, "We're going to take some Blacks out of office." In Tupelo, this kind of hard line stance forced a number of Black ministers and other vocal civic leaders to back off from their initial vocal opposition.

During the Labor Day activities, Robinson said, "We'll never be able to unify all Blacks. So we don't want to climb the mountain with a lot of extra weight on our backs. When we get to the top, we'll throw down a rope for those who were afraid to make the climb."

The present struggle is based solidly on rejection of any fear or compromise. In one speech, Lewis Myers, a co-leader of the League, declared, "My knees won't bend. If I have to die in this country, I want to die on my feet, not on my knees. We have won the dignity of our people back." On Sunday, August 13, League Coordinator Howard Gunn's station wagon was riddled with 16 bullet holes. Passengers returned the fire, wounding one assailant. The gun battle took place in Okolona, a hot bed of League activity. Town officials put the area under curfew. H.D. Ross, as local Justice of the Peace, invented a rule that all future marches in Okolona would be subject to indiscriminate police frisk of all participants. This ruling was later overturned by League lawyers in a Federal Appeals Court.

In response, the Klan has been stepping up its activity. The week before Labor Day, five Klan members unmasked to show they are not afraid to reveal their identities. Four of the five turned out to be police officers! One of these "cop-by-day/Klan-by-night" types was suspended from his job -- for one day. The fifth "proud" Klansman, who had been calling himself "Gary Wilson, the Grand Titan of the Tupelo Klavern," turned out to be Bill Howard, owner of a local furniture plant. Howard's group of cross-burning thugs are hooked up with Bill Wilkenson's Louisiana-based Klan faction, the Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The turf of the Invisible Empire extends into Alabama, where 2000 people came to a Klan rally and cross burning on August 12.

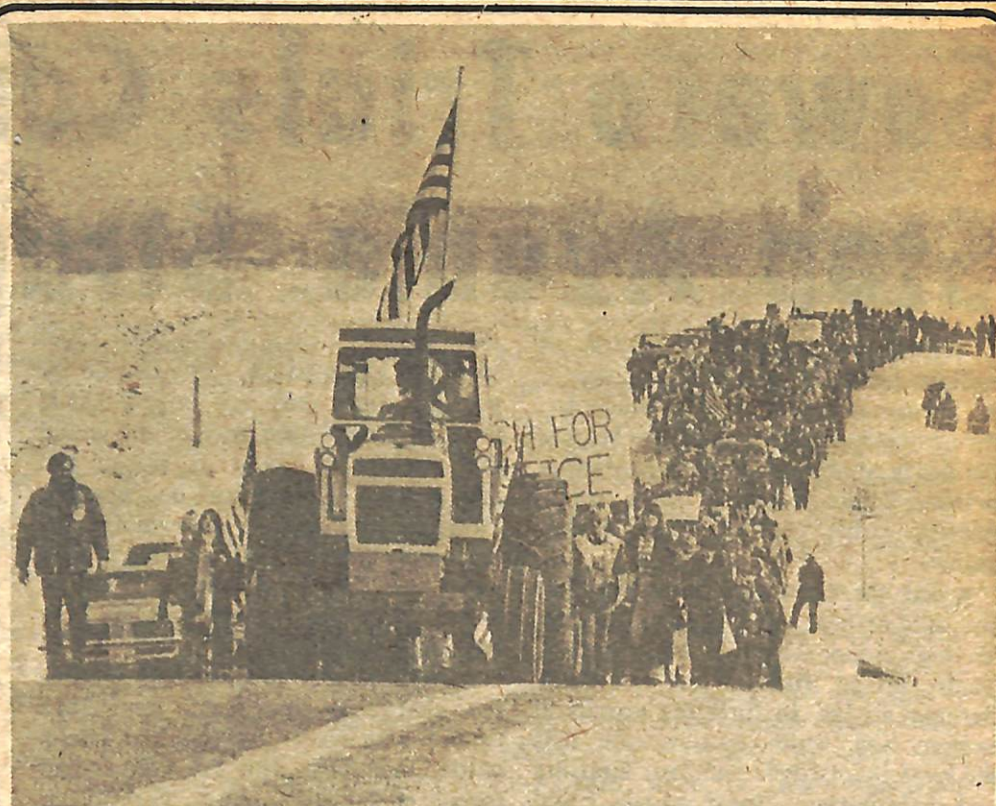
Three days before, a white woman, Annie McDougal, who had actively supported the Black struggle, was found shot to death in her Decatur, Alabama home. Less than a month before, the initials KKK had been burned in her front yard.

The growth of the United League and the resurgence of the Klan are responses to sweeping changes coming to the South. Jimmy Carter's "new South" features the massive relocation of northern industry into this discriminatory, low wage, non-union area.

In the past years, Tupelo and the sur-



The League has particular demands, but its overall fight is for justice and freedom.



## MINNESOTA POWERLINE FIGHT

An amazing war is being waged in Pope and Stearns counties of central Minnesota. Farmers whose land and livelihood is being threatened by an 800 kilovolt electric power line are fighting a guerrilla-style battle against the construction project.

The super-high tension transmission lines pose a very serious hazard to farmers, their fields, and livestock. For example, ozone and microwave levels will be high enough to cause skin cancer. Fences along the right of way will carry enough voltage to electrocute animals or people.

The struggle has seen confrontations between farmers and police, sabotage of the transmission towers, sit-ins at state regulatory agencies, and a crows nest occupation atop a power tower.

The most vicious tactic the power company has used was a forged newsletter put out by Darrel Mullroy. This labor spy from the Centurion Security Agency planted a phoney edition



of "Hold the Line," the farmers' newsletter in mail boxes. The forgery boastfully implied that farmers had been responsible for the death of a construction worker, Jerry Jones.

In fact, the fatal tower, #1180, had not been tampered with and Jones's death had been an accident. Furious power line workers were out to take vengeance on the farmers until the truth was revealed at a press conference by the farmers' organization. A number of construction workers quit working on the line in disgust.

rounding Lee County barely offered 3000 industrial jobs. Blacks could work in the cotton seed oil mill. Whites could work in the thread factory. Today there are over 15,000 factory jobs in Lee County. Multi-national monopolies such as FMC, Rockwell, Blue Bird Packing, Emerson Electric, and Pennsylvania Tire and Rubber have flocked to Tupelo. They have come in as fast as they can throw up the single story factory complexes. Pennsylvania Tire recently announced plans to completely close its Mansfield, Ohio plant and ship the last 500 jobs to Tupelo.

League demands in Corinth express the frustrations of Blacks at the century old, rugged racism. The electric power of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the dirt cheap wages have

brought in such outfits as IT&T. In Corinth, 1000 people work on the IT&T telephone production lines. The huge employer comes in, gets the benefit of the TVA water power and a 5-year property tax exemption from local government. And yet Blacks cannot get enough TVA water to satisfy their needs in neighboring Biggersville community. In addition, Corinth Blacks are demanding a 5-day waiting period before power shutoffs by the Alcorn Power Company.

When a white supervisor in a Corinth factory slapped a Black worker named Tom Porter, the Black swung back. Porter demanded to be treated as a man. For defending himself, Porter was charged with assault and convicted by an all-white jury. His sentence was five years in Parchman Farm, a notorious Southern prison. As a result of the struggle, Porter's term has been shortened to three years, and he is free on appeal bond. "Free Tom Porter" is a United League rallying cry, especially in the Corinth area.

The movement for freedom in northern Mississippi is picking up steam. The immediate demands around jobs, pay, education, police brutality, and government are rallying points in an overall struggle. The people are proud of the struggle and gains of the 1930's. But they see many of the gains being ignored, or just "equality on paper." Now people say, "I'm glad I can go into any restaurant. But what good does it do me if I can't afford to eat?"

This time Black people have total equality and liberation on their minds. And with the spirit of Tupelo, they're making a mighty battle out of it.

# Welfare Moms Demand School Clothes For Kids

Surviving on welfare has always been a battle in this country, and on September 7th 300 welfare mothers in New York City took their fight to the steps of City Hall. They were demanding clothing for their children, who are returning to school. For 6 hours they stood and chanted slogans like "Fight, Don't Starve!". Black, Puerto Rican and white women delivered their message in a bold, militant way in the largest demonstration of welfare recipients New York City has seen in several years.

They went up against crooked politicians like Human Resources Commissioner Blanche Bernstein, the cutback queen, and Welfare Commissioner Rosensweig, who loves to rant about welfare cheats but refused to come out and meet with angry welfare mothers.

When Rosensweig sent a flunkey out to say only one representative would be allowed in, the women yelled at him and surged forward until he agreed to a delegation of 12. After the women-- 3 Puerto Ricans, 8 Blacks and one white--went in, the building was cordoned off, the doors locked and ID's checked upon entering--in the middle of a busy work day!

The demonstrators outside continued to chant, despite having been there for hours. Then, one after another, they came up to a microphone and spoke of their lives on welfare. Their speeches testified against what the newspapers try to portray as "free and easy living off of welfare." They described what it's like to try and survive, let alone raise a family, on \$47 every two weeks plus meagre allowances of food stamps and rent for roach-and-rat infested housing.

Now that the capitalists are facing severe economic difficulties and cities like New York are going bankrupt, welfare recipients are often the first to suffer as the budget ax falls on social services. In California, the tax cutting revolt which eats at public revenues has been used as another excuse to cut welfare benefits.

For the mothers in New York this has meant tighter regulations on money for items like apartment security and furniture, besides entirely cutting out such essentials as clothing allowances. It has meant throwing people off welfare--the number of recipients is the lowest in years in New York at the same time the unemployment rate is at a peak.

While the system cannot provide jobs for millions of unemployed and then degrades them for having to accept welfare, at the same time it is trying to push welfare recipients into below-minimum wage jobs. This union-busting "workfare" plan of Carter's is used in New York under the guise of a Public Works Program which forces people on welfare to work for their paltry checks in government jobs.

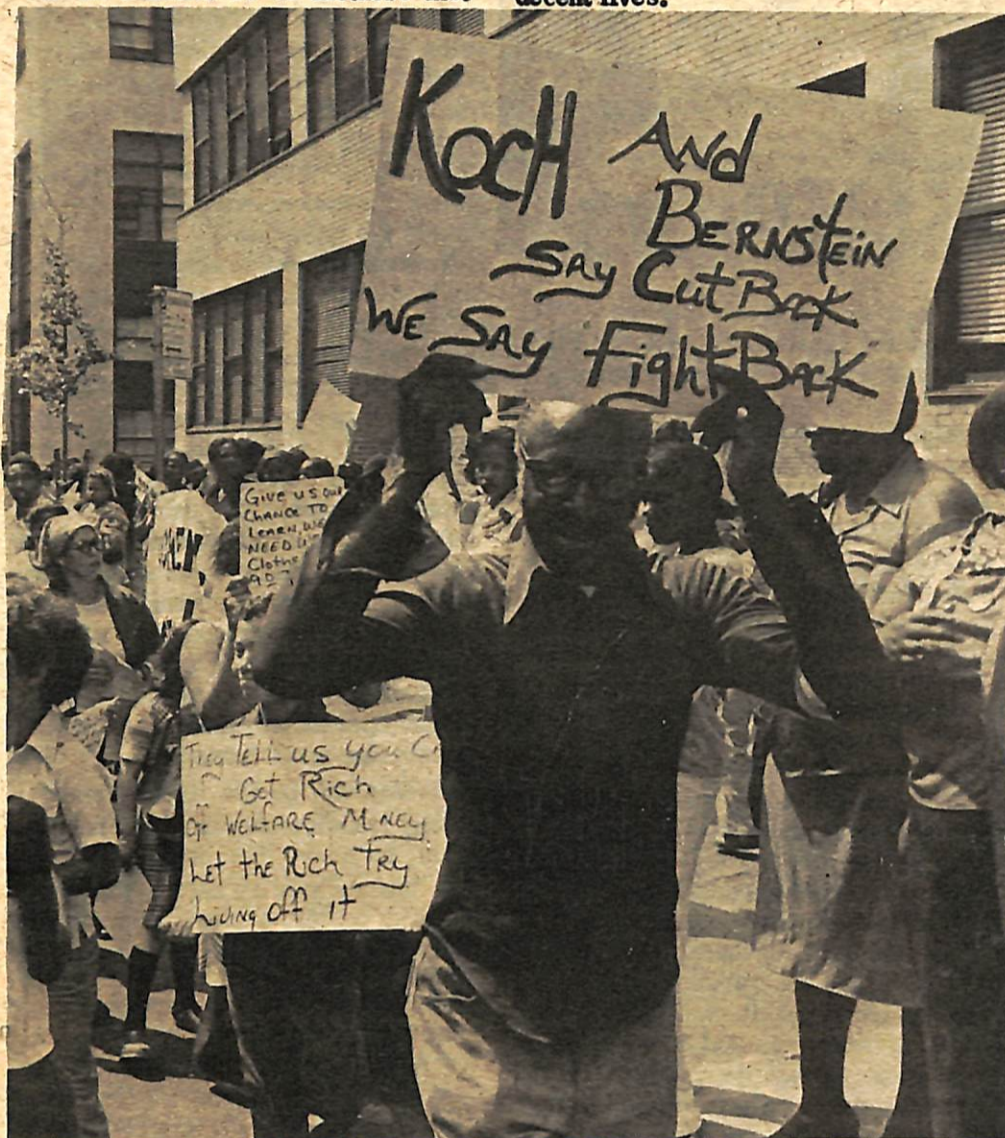
Iona Williams, for instance, is a 60 year old Black woman who worked all her life, most recently for the NY Transit Authority. Laid off during the budget cuts, she was unable to find another job and applied for welfare. She was given the job of a city clerical worker. Her pay? Her meager welfare check. And she is even forbidden to join the union.

Iona Williams is a member of the Welfare Action Coalition, formed last February by the Public Works Project Organizing Committee, activists from old welfare rights organizations and

members of the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee. The WAC, based primarily in the South Bronx, was the major group which built the powerful action at City Hall. Throughout the summer 20-40 mothers met

to develop campaigns that would hit back at the sharpest attacks--and when September rolled around, that meant the lack of adequate clothing for the children for school.

Though this demand was not met at the demonstration, the women felt they had won a victory because they saw a sense of unity among welfare recipients that had not been there in years, and they saw the power it produced when they forced City Hall to close. They spoke optimistically of future actions--sit-ins, jamming the Commissioners--as they found in their solidarity a new source of strength in their fight for decent lives.



Sick of being treated like dirt, N.Y. welfare mothers launched their biggest action in years against the cutback crazed chumps in City Hall.

## PRISONS FLARE UP

The longest strike in the history of US prisons is in its third month at Norfolk State Prison in Massachusetts. On July 31 Black, white and Latin inmates stopped work and refused to participate in classes or counselling in a fight to be treated like human beings. Family and friends maintained 24-hour vigils outside the prison for three weeks and they have picketed the State House and Governor Michael Dukakis' home.

The Norfolk strike is one of many rebellions that broke open in penal institutions across the country this summer, as prisoners openly defied a barbaric system that treats them like animals and refuses to give them a fair chance to make it on the outside.

The strike kicked off when prison authorities continued to hold 3 Black prisoners in maximum security despite their being found not guilty of weapons charges. A few days earlier the prisoners had requested a meeting with the Governor and the head of the prison system about the conditions at Norfolk.

They want the 1974 classification system reworked. Established as a process to move prisoners towards freedom through steps like work programs and parole, the system is now used as punishment for inmates who rebel against the injustices of the system. Only 23 of 730 inmates are on the furlough program and the work release program is overcrowded and

backed up.

The prisoners also demand that family and friends be included in programs like drug counseling and sports, and an end to harassment of visitors. Visitors are restricted to one room and are often kept waiting. Gifts they send are frequently not delivered by guards.

Governor Dukakis refused to meet and discuss these demands with the prisoners. His answer was to send in 80 state police and 100 extra prison guards a few days after the strike began. He transferred 30 strike leaders

to other prisons and had them thrown in solitary confinement. But their high level of organization and the unity among the nationalities enabled the strikers to stand strong. They chose new leaders and added another demand--they would stay out until all 30 are brought back.

A few miles away in Walpole State, a maximum-security prison, a 10 day strike recently ended against the bloody treatment of inmates who were dragged from their cells and beaten with guns butts by the guards.

Brutality and inhuman conditions unleashed an uprising July 22 in one of the country's most antiquated prisons, at Pontiac, Illinois, in which 3 prison guards were killed. Since then

all 2000 inmates have been in deadlock--confined to their cells 24 hours a day with no visitation except, in some cases, visits with their lawyers.

One deadlocked prisoner said the guards took him from his cell saying they were taking him to his attorney and then locked him in segregation.

No running water. No light fixture. One sheet and nothing else. He remained there for two weeks.

Another inmate wrote about the conditions that brought on the uprising:

"They (the cells) are designed to hold one man. You put three men in one cell (6' by 8') stacked on top of each other day and night, summer heat smells. No jobs. Allowed to go out once or twice a week. No privacy for cleaning the body, no showers, having a toilet out in the open...the constant harassment of guards and no proper medical treatment...no hopes for the future...The Racist (guard) is the icing on the cake. He wants you to eliminate each other..."

This is the picture of the entire US prison system. Newspaper reports and letters to The Worker spoke of rebellions and unrest in numerous prisons, among them Ft. Madison, Iowa, Savannah, Georgia, and Waupun, Wisconsin.

80% of prison funds are spent on security while prisoners are jammed into rotten, crumbling cells and subject to sadistic guards. But the inhuman treatment they receive only makes the prisoners more determined to fight back. Like the men at Norfolk, prisoners across the country are taking a bold stand for their right to be treated with dignity.



Relatives and friends maintain a 24 hour vigil to prevent attacks on Norfolk prison strikers.



Rizzo...

This year he targeted MOVE as a warning to all Blacks they they'd be wiped out if they dared oppose him. It was Frank Rizzo who catapulted MOVE, an 18-member, mainly Black radical commune, to national news. When they refused to be evicted for housing code violations, he laid siege to their neighborhood with a containment and starve-out campaign that led other residents in MOVE's area to post signs reading, "Welcome to South Africa."

RIZZO AND THE RICH

Rizzo's success in his bid for dictatorship is not simply attributable to his police terror or his cleverly divisive politics. He also gets backing from men like John Bunting of the First Pennsylvania Bank, a leading figure in the Philadelphia "bloc" of capitalists, and Walter Annenberg, one of the richest men on the East Coast.

Rizzo promised no new taxes before his last election, but practically as soon as the vote was counted he raised property taxes for small homeowners by 30%. Simultaneously, he eradicated the corporate net income tax (which drew \$14 million to the city in 1972), and removed the mercantile tax for downtown businesses.

Rizzo's corporation-owning cronies liked it just fine when he routed city funds away from upgrading disadvantaged neighborhoods and into a fancy Center City shopping complex called The Gallery which houses multi-million dollar operations like Gimbels and Strawbridge and Clothiers.

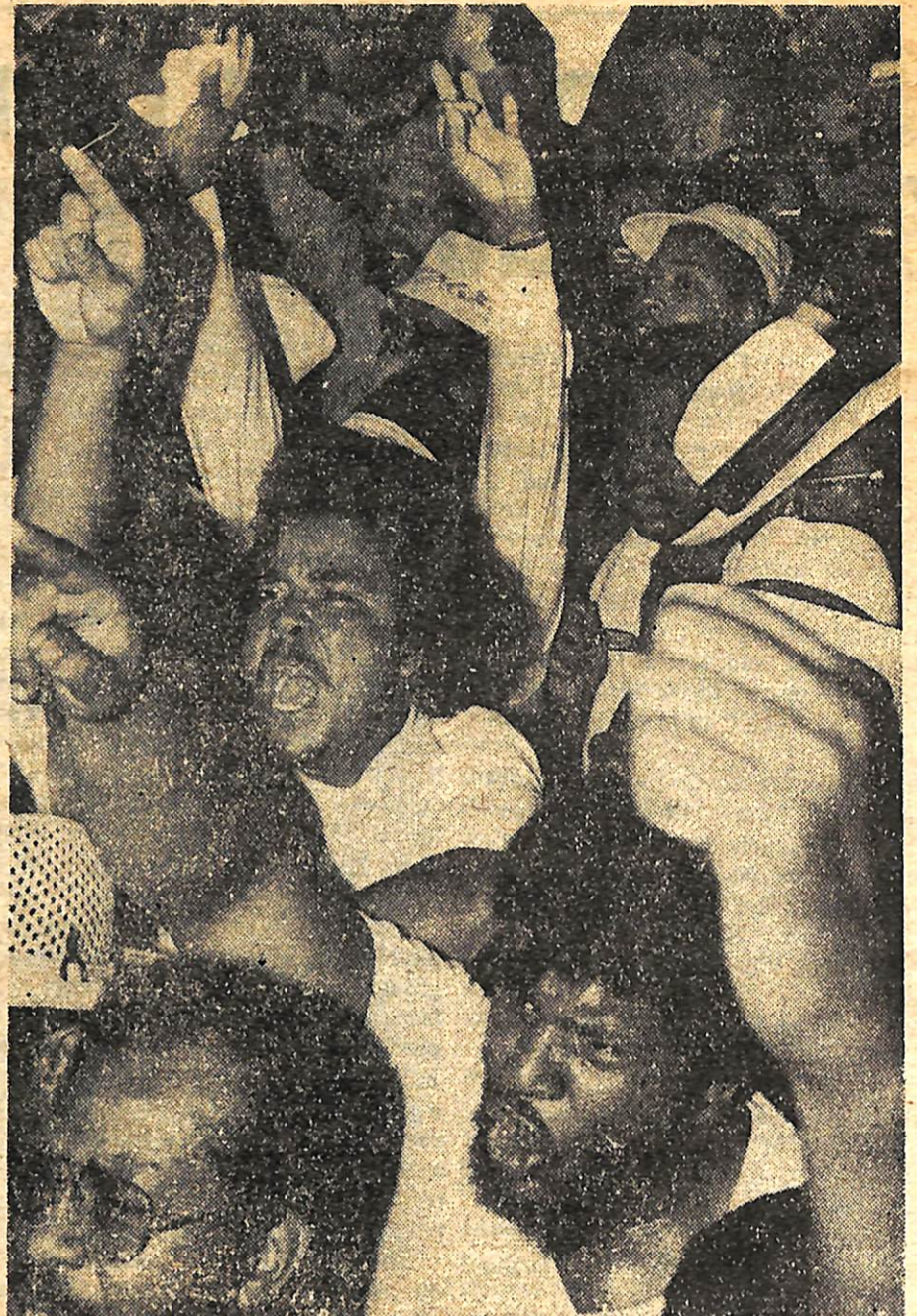
Kicking the people in the teeth, he put city transit money into a commuter tunnel to serve the downtown area, while bus and trolley service was cut to the bone, despite protests from almost every community and neighborhood group in the city. Rizzo claimed such policies would attract business to the city, but over 10 plants have left in the last 5 years, and over 10,000 jobs lost.

STOP RIZZO NOW

The only limitations on Rizzo are the anger and hatred of the people. Workers in all communities -- white, Latin, Black -- have felt the misery Rizzo's methods create. Lack of services, lousy schools, joblessness, crumbling housing -- these abuses cause sparks of resistance that can be ignited.

Rizzo has his opponents among the very rich, like the Bankers Coalition which fears the social chaos his fascist methods create. Rizzo has opponents in the Democratic Party who were stepped on, sometimes literally, in party infighting.

But the most massive opposition to Rizzo's policies has been led by activists in the Black communities. From the protest against wretched housing, the cuts in transit service, the outcry against police brutality, Blacks have taken a stand against Rizzo's policies



Philadelphia city workers vote to strike after hearing Rizzo's plan to can 3000 of them so he can give cops a 9% pay hike.

linked their contract demands with the riders' demands for restored services, improved vehicles, and no fare hike.

During his two terms, over 3000 city jobs (including firemen in a city where a burning home is the main news story every night) were lost to attrition or layoffs. About one third of these were laid off when he closed the city's only public hospital, Philadelphia General. During the same period, the number of cops increased by 500.

This year he proposed to pay for the cops' pay raises by laying off another 3000 or so workers. This sparked a militant strike of city employees, supported broadly throughout Philly. Rizzo had to back down and say he'd lay off a few cops too. But the 66 who got their walking papers (as opposed to the 1300 non-uniformed workers) have since been re-hired as transit cops.

Unemployment is a big concern to Philly's workers, and Rizzo's racist contention is that the reason there is unemployment among whites is that Blacks take their jobs. But when Exide Battery shut their doors, one of many companies that closed down or ran away during Rizzo's reign, 70% white, it was the Exide bosses, not the Blacks who were laid off too, who took the jobs away. Statistics tell the true story. Black unemployment in Philly is 18.1%. For whites it is 7%.

RIZZO AGAINST BLACKS

Rizzo's racism is in no way confined to words. His deeds would fill a book. He gained international notoriety for his 1970 raid on members of the Black Panther Party when he forced them to strip naked in the streets. In 1976 he closed Philadelphia General Hospital whose hundreds of thousands of patients were overwhelmingly Black. The city, he declared, was "not in the business of health care."

for years. Increasingly the same protests have occurred in neighborhoods of other nationalities.

Through all 8 years, weaknesses in the opposition has been in not taking Rizzo on in the political arena where he is most effective. His "Blacks are the problem" lies have left many whites with the impression that since he defines the problems correctly: unemployment, lousy housing, crime, etc., his solution, his "white power" nonsense, is also credible.

Just as Rizzo jumps into hot controversies spouting racism and reaction, his opponents must boldly rip away his "row home" facade, expose his attacks, and show why they serve no one but the rich.

The STOP RIZZO Coalition, which includes political and community organizations of all nationalities, was formed to take on Rizzo on every front. Its members have fanned out across the city with buttons, literature, and voter registration forms.

Voter registration is the main activity of every anti-Rizzo force at this time because Rizzo has made the November 7th ballot the immediate field of battle. The issue is posed squarely: Rizzo, yes

or no.

Rizzo knows there are limits to his support -- he has never won a Democratic primary by a majority -- he had more than one opponent each time and the vote was split. So he is on the offensive, trying to stir up conditions favorable to him. This is what the attack on MOVE, the phoney housing project in the Northwest, the city worker layoffs are all about.

This offensive must be met by a counteroffensive among the forces against him. Rizzo is no more for the guy in the rowhouse than his hero Mussolini was for the Italian workers.

It is not in the interests of working people to fight each other while Rizzo gains strength, but to build a united movement to get rid of Rizzo and his like.

Rizzo probably did meet some die-hard Mussolini supporters in Italy. But the masses of Italian people danced in the streets when Mussolini was defeated, executed, and hung by his toes in public where they could be assured the old fascist was really off their backs for good.

Rizzo, too, must be defeated. Stop Rizzo Now.



Philly's storm troopers in blue mobilize to march against a Black demonstration.



# Philly-Savage Attack on Black Group; 4000 Protest

Philadelphia-August 8th. 3:30 A.M. A caravan of police vehicles moves steadily through the dark streets. Converted army half-tracks, police vans and buses—a giant crane with two wrecking balls, a bulldozer and over 350 heavily armed cops. They head for the house where a predominately Black commune called MOVE lives—men, women and children—twelve people in all.

6:00 A.M. - Police Commissioner Joseph O'Neill gives a bullhorn order for MOVE to comply with a city eviction order and leave their home so it can be destroyed. The bulldozer knocks down a wooden fence around the house. The crane starts smashing all the windows. Cops crouch down and flit from tree to bush advancing on the house. MOVE members go to the basement for protection.

7:50 A.M. MOVE refuses to come out of their house. O'Neill orders the place surrounded—30 firemen aim large water cannons at the house—flooding it.

Then shots ring out. Radio reporters later say it came from behind police lines. There is an exchange of fire. The smoke clears. One cop lies dead, eleven cops, one fireman and several MOVE members are wounded.

O'Neill orders tear gas fired into the house and the MOVE members come out. When they hit the street, before the eyes of the American people the Philly cops put one more mark in their infamous record for brutality. MOVE member Delbert Africa leaves the house—wounded in the chest, his empty hands held over his head. He is knocked down—kicked and beaten by a gang of cops from one end of the

street to the other.

As the MOVE is loaded into police vehicles, O'Neill orders the bulldozer to push the house to the ground. The evidence is eradicated.

High Noon—At a press conference Rizzo joins O'Neill in mourning the dead cop and complimenting themselves for "restraint". O'Neill claims Delbert Africa was armed—he lies. Rizzo leans his flabby body on the podium. He blames the press—they are responsible for the MOVE situation because they tried to use it to destroy Rizzo, his cops and his city. There is no need for more evidence gloats Rizzo—he has eye witnesses, other cops involved in the shootout, no doubt.

O'Neill is informed there is a crowd gathering to protest the police raid. "Anyone who dares to take on this city's police department will be

crushed", storms O'Neill, "we will not tolerate anarchy in the streets."

As he speaks, 200 cops are on the rampage against the people of the community around the MOVE house who objected to the year-long blockade of their neighborhood. The cops chase people on the street. They follow right into their living rooms, they smash down doors, they drag people out and continue to beat them on the front steps of their homes.

MOVE was the target and Rizzo wanted them to be an example of what happens when people cross him. Three days after the confrontation 3 to 4000 people surrounded Rizzo and City Hall protesting the attack on MOVE and saying clearly that they would not allow Rizzo to promote his career on the backs of the people, and that Blacks won't be treated this way.



Millions watched their T.V.'s in horror as Delbert Africa, maimed and wounded, was knocked to the ground and beaten by the Philadelphia police force after he surrendered.

## AUTO...

Continued from page 7

paycheck already spent.

At the midnight rally, a Black worker said, "I was treated bad in Korea. I was treated bad in Vietnam. But nobody's treated me as bad as AMC." Another spoke, "I'm proud we walked, of myself and everyone. I remember how a 53 year old man went to the company nurse with chest pains. He was given medication and returned to the line. He had a heart attack."

When the cops showed up to tell everybody they should go home, one woman told them point blank, "You try working at AMC."

Meanwhile, the negotiators from the International and the nation's smallest automaker were scrambling to work out an agreement before the strike could really get started. The rank and file determination, combined with AMC's need to keep the fall Concorde and Spirits coming out resulted in a significant victory for the workers.

The company had threatened to hold down economic gains. But the workers succeeded in coming close to the Big 3 in wages and benefits. AMC had spread rumors of take-aways in the working agreement to satisfy Renault, their future corporate partner. But the 10,000 Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Ontario workers kept the perennially threatened contract clauses. AMC always moans about three points that are superior to Big 3 contracts: the 1 to 35 steward ratio, the right to

strike over grievances, and voluntary overtime.

When the clock struck twelve, there was no agreement. The local leadership was afraid to buck the International's opposition to a strike. But they didn't want to tell the membership. So the workers took things into their own hands. At six a.m., Saturday, workers tried to get picket signs from the Local 72 union hall. But the orders from Region 10 Director Ray Majerus were to keep things disorganized. The pickets manned the gates with homemade signs reading "No Contract, No Work." Stewards and chief stewards helped organize the picketing as they had aided the 12:01 walkout.

On Sunday, the International began to push for an end to the walkout, saying they wouldn't sanction it. AMC foremen had told the workers they would be fired if they walked off Friday night. Late Sunday morning the union leaders called a halt to the picketing. They said they had settled and that details would be announced.

The rank and file was furious at the high-handed methods of the International. The rank and file had won the victory. They had shown AMC that they could shut the plant up tight. Yet the union officials were acting as if their "skillful" negotiations were the key to any gains. Many workers thought it was undemocratic and weak-kneed to call off the pickets without a union meeting to consider the offer.

The walk-out had followed weeks of struggle and organizing by the rank and file. It was the third straight year the contract had been renegotiated. This time AMC was showing a

profit, and the workers were out to make up for lost ground. Five straight days before the contract expired, the second shift V-8 line was sent home early because the piston department somehow wasn't producing enough. Hundreds of workers wore or put up stickers saying "Good Contract or No Contract." Many of last year's "No Contract, No Work—September 16" T-shirts could be seen on the assembly lines. The United Workers' Organization, an in-plant group, held rallies at lunch breaks and shift change. They handed out stacks of newsletters and leaflets about the demands and the strategy to win them.

As the contract approached, the union went through an election upheaval with long-time strong man Ralph Daum's machine getting completely routed. Although the new board never relied enough on the rank and file, and even disorganized the fight, they responded to heavy pressure to bargain hard in the talks and live up to campaign promises.

The company had tried to run out rumors that their new partner, Renault, would not complete any deals unless the workers took a shellacking in this round of talks. But the workers could see that Renault was anxiously eyeing the multi-million dollar U.S. market. They were ready to supply the \$150 million to re-tool for the aluminum and plastic wonders government fuel regulations will require in the 1980 model year. In exchange they gain access to AMC's dealership network and their U.S. factories.

As the workers punched back in after the brief weekend walk-out, AMC Dir-

ector Gerald Myers was probably talking long distance to his counterpart at Renault, trying to devise a better plan to beat the AMC workers. As for the workers, they passed around a leaflet entitled "Good Friday Blue Monday." Monday was a "bummer" because it meant returning to the assembly lines. In addition they were upset because they didn't have a good idea of what was in the contract and were not pleased with the way the walkout was handled. But it had been a good Friday because of the tremendous show of unity and strength.



Nothing feels better than giving the company the shaft once in a while.

20 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 1978 VOL. I NO. 6

## Luchando Por Libertad En Mississippi Marcha En Tupelo Confronta Al KKK

Este "Día de Labor" ocho-cientas personas machararon por las calles de Tupelo, Mississippi, exigiendo alto a la discriminación contra el pueblo negro en el empleo para trabajos de industria o de gobierno. La manifestación fue organizada por la Liga Unida del norte de Mississippi, una organización negra que ha tomado una posición resoluta en la lucha por justicia.

Cuando la marcha comenzo, 40 miembros del Klan tuvieron que marchar alrededor de ellos en línea de uno. A la vez que pasaban, el Klan recibió las mofas, miradas de odio, e insultos que tan bien mercen.

Más temprano en el día, la Liga Unida había puesto líneas de piquetes en frente de tiendas en el centro de Tupelo. Muchos de los piqueteros eran blancos, negros, y Latinos que habían venido de media docena de ciudades del norte para participar en la manifestación del Día de Labor.

La marcha del Día de Labor y las líneas de piquetes fueron parte de una serie de acontecimientos que

muestran el agudizamiento de la lucha en el norte de Mississippi. El movimiento comenzo la primavera pasada en reacción a un número de casos de brutalidad policiaca y asesinatos de Negros. Un boicot dirigido contra negocios blancos ha sido 90% efectivo entre los Negros de Tupelo. El ímpetu de marchas semanales en varios condados vecindarios ha generado una lucha negra desafiada, retando al entero establecimiento racista dominante de Mississippi.

La lucha presente esta basada en el rechazo de cualquier miedo o compromiso. En la pequeña población de Okolona, Mississippi el auto del coordinador de la Liga, Howard Gun, fue acribillado por una fusilada de 16 balas. Los pasajeros devolvieron el fuego, hiriendo a uno de los agresores. Uno de los líderes de la Liga le dijo a la multitud animada el 10 de Junio. "Mis rodillas no doblaran. Si muero en este país, quiero morir con mi espalda derecha, y no sobre mis rodillas. Nosotros hemos retomado la dignidad de nuestra gente.



Manifestantes determinados, encabezados por la Liga Unida, exigen justicia en Mississippi.

## Revolución En Nicaragua

PUEBLO ARMADO BATALLA GUARDIA NACIONAL



Con armas ligeras jóvenes Nicaraguenses encabezaron la insurrección en Matagalpa y han estado al frente de la insurrección nacionalmente.

La mayoría nunca han estado en una batalla anteriormente, estos estudiantes de escuelas secundarias, estos obreros, estos campesinos, estos hombres viejos y jóvenes mujeres, estos nicaraguenses. Están armados con pistolas, rifles de cazar, bombas de fabricación casera, y coctels molotov, si no han tenido la suerte de capturar una carabina. Se han unidos a los guer-

rilleros cenceños y endurecidos del Frente de Liberación Nacional Sandinista en un asalto desemfrendado contra los centros de poder en Nicaragua que comenzo el 9 de Septiembre.

La Guardia Nacional de 15,000 hombres, una combinación de ejército y policía, se esta enviando de ciudad a ciudad a tratar de aplastar la revolución. Apesar de sus aviones y heli-

copteros, sus armas pesadas, y su entrenamiento militar, todos proveidos por los EEUU, ellos no han podido, despues de más de dos semanas de batallar, quebrar la insurrección. El odio del pueblo nicaraguense a la dictadura por 45 años de Somoza se ha transformado en una fuerza formidable para cambiar el mundo. La revolta corona un año de desorden político en el

país. Un ataque al Palacio Nacional por una unidad de los guerrillas Sandinistas estreno una semana de rebeliones populares espontaneas, encabezadas por la juventud de Matagalpa, la tercer más grande ciudad en Nicaragua. Por cinco días mantubieron a la unidad de la Guardia Nacional en la ciudad encorraladas en un área de seis cuadras alrededor de su jefatura. Matagalpa fue territorio libre hasta que ataques aéreos y refuerzos forzaron a los jóvenes a esconder sus armas y retirarse a las montañas para unirse al Frente de Liberación Nacional Sandinista (nombrado por un patriota que batalló a la invasión por los EEUU en los 1920s y 30s).

Esta exhibición de los sentimientos revolucionarios del pueblo decidió al FLNS comenzar la insurrección nacional. Y de veras los que no han tomado armas contra el gobierno han abiertos sus casas y proveido viveres a los rebeldes.

La insurrección tiene sus comienzos en el 22 de Agosto cuando comandos Sandinistas, vestidos en uniformes falsos de la Guardia Nacional, invadieron al Palacio Nacional, en Managua, capturandolo. Ellos sujetaron a muchas de la gente en el edificio como rehenes, entres ellos cientos de los politicastros mayores de Nicaragua, exigiendo libertad para los prisioneros políticos de Nicaragua.

Despues de dos días de rabiarse contra el terrorismo Somoza cedió y el FLNS se dirigió al aeropuerto de Managua, con 59 liberados prisioneros políticos. De la ciudad al aeropuerto la vía estaba apiñada con miles de animados Nicaraguenses salmodiando "Somoza al Paredon."

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# EL GRITO DE LARES Fiesta De Orgullo Y Lucha

El mes pasado el caso de Puerto Rico fue discutido en las Naciones Unidas. De nuevo el gobierno de los Estados Unidos dijo que Puerto no es una colonia. Este embuste fue desafiado por muchas de las diferentes fuerzas presente que luchan por la independencia de Puerto Rico.

Este año el debate cojió una forma diferente a los años pasados. El gobernador colonial Carlos Romero Barcelo es el dirigente de las fuerzas reclamando que hagan un estado de Puerto Rico. El está atentando ganar apoyo para su posición aquí y en Puerto Rico. Romero Barcelo esta llamando una votación dentro de dos o tres años para ganar un mandato que Puerto Rico sea un estado. Al mismo tiempo, esta lanzando ataques viciosos contra el movi-

miento pro-independencia de Puerto Rico, de llamar a los presos Nacionalistas encarcelados en los EEUU por mas de 20 años 'terroristas y asesinos' hasta unirse con el FBI para romper huelgas y asesinar lideres de uniones y otras fuerzas independistas.

Este articulo fue enviado especialmente a EL OBRERO desde Puerto Rico. Fue escrito por una luchadora dedicada a la causa de la independencia de Puerto Rico. El articulo se trata de los orígenes del movimiento de liberación puertorriqueño en el septiembre de 1968. En los meses siguientes, habrán artículos en EL OBRERO sobre el debate sobre si Puerto Rico sera un estado y sobre la lucha por la independencia de Puerto Rico.

Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

"Viva la Revolución ella sola es la que forma hombres y vigoriza los pueblos y si hoy por no haber sabido triunfar nos acusan de afe-minados; que será mañana al vernos pegados torpemente a la República del Norte por incapaces y por despreciables!"

Con este pensamiento podemos tener la imagen perfecta del maximo dirigente material e intelectual del primer intento revolucionario organizado a nivel nacional en Puerto Rico, del Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances. Lares, 23 de septiembre de 1868 exactamente hace 110 años se convierte en la cuna de la patria puertorriqueña. En una acción revolucionaria precipitada por la traición, un grupo de hombres y mujeres toman por las armas el pueblo de Lares y proclaman la República de Puerto Rico.

Los revolucionarios continúan su avanzada hacia otros pueblos de la isla y otros grupos o cédulas se aprestan a hacer lo mismo cuando el ejército español tiende una emboscada a los revolucionarios llegando al pueblo de San Sebastian y allí con el grito de "Parilla (Manolo el Lenero) no se rinde" cae el ultimo de nuestros hombres que mantuvo a raya el solo un batallón del ejército español. Más adelante Pedro Anglero obrero campesino que se batía, pues decía que no había ido allí a juyil o huir sino a pelear, es puesto fuera de combate. Igualmente Mariana Bracette "la mujer que bordó la primera bandera puertorriqueña" y otros hombres y mujeres de la patria fueron encarcelados, muertos y perseguidos por los invasores españoles.

Mientras, Betances que desde Santo Domingo hacia los últimos arreglos para embarcar con hombres y armas en apoyo a los revolucionarios recibe la noticia de la destrucción del movimiento.

Betances era hombre consistente en sus ideas y acciones y continuo siempre organizando la revolución desde Francia y atacando de todas las formas posibles el imperialismo español no solo en Puerto Rico, sino también Cuba de cuya independencia fue su maximo defensor y colaborador. 1898 al producirse la invasión de Puerto Rico por las tropas norteamericanas Betances enfermo pero visionario y luchador en un grito extertor exclama "Que hacen los puertorriqueños que no se revelan!" No quiero colonia con España ni con Estados Unidos. Ahora o nunca!

Murió Betances legandonos una herencia revolucionaria inconclusa que no sera terminada por las Naciones Unidas ni por ningun grupo que continúe los juegos del sistema. La independencia de Puerto Rico sera hecha por el pueblo revolucionario de Puerto Rico que no tiene titulos que probablemente no esta reconocido internacionalmente y cuyas unicas potencias las esta realizando y las realizaran en su propio país y a sus propias gentes en el unico lenguaje propio de los pueblos del tercer mundo. La Revolución.

## Nicaragua...

viene de pagina 1

El FLNS no escogió el 22 de Agosto como día para atacar al Palacio Nacional de antojo. El ataque fue planeado despues que Jimmy Carter envío una letra de felicitación a Somoza por hacer avances en derechos humanos. Esto fue un bofetazo al pueblo Nicaraguense, que diariamente se enfrenta con los "avances" de la dictadura de Somoza. Pero más que cualquier otra cosa, la letra mostro la posición de los EEUU, no por libertad o democracia, no por justicia o el pueblo, si no por dictadura y gobierno a terror.

Los EEUU se esta tratando de preparar para cualquier eventualidad, sin embargo, promoviendo las más conservativas fuerzas contra Somoza como lideres de la oposición. En particular ellos estan esperanzados acerca de los lideres negociantes que han organizado una huelga general de dueños de tiendas contra el gobierno que ha durado casi un mes y es 80% efectivo. Hasta recientemente han sido los campesinos, obreros, y estudiantes librando la lucha contra Somoza. Mas con la intensificación de la represión por el regimen para mantenerse en poder, y la lucha contra Somoza también intensificándose, la batalla se ha ampliado.

El Frente de Oposición Amplio (FOA) es una coalición uniendo a muchas fuerzas diferentes, de el FLNS a la asociación de negociantes. Todos estan unidos acerca de tumbar a Somoza mas por diferentes razones.

Los negociantes estan participando porque cada día más, le han quitado sus libertades. La prensa ha sido censurada asi que solamente la posición de Somoza es expresada. La familia de Somoza los capitalistas dominantes de Nicaragua, controlan la economía, no dejando a los otros capitalistas funcionar completamente.

Adicionalmente, lá opinión publica por tumbar a Somoza es tan poderosa que si lo soportaran, estos negociantes y banqueros, perderian cualquier oportunidad de mantener el mando de su clase. Los negociantes tienen esperanza que Somoza renuncie, buscando un nuevo presidente que no solo le daría más libertad a ellos para operar mas también terminaría la insurrección.

el FLNS y otras fuerzas revolucionarias estan luchando para terminar no solamente el regime de terror de Somoza, si no también todo lo que el, Jimmy Carter, y la clase gobernante Nicaraguense representan: la continuación de la explotación y opresión que existe ahora!

Deshaciéndose de Somoza ahora es para ellos un primer paso gigante en la lucha larga por una Nicaragua libre. Es a su bandera que el pueblo Nicaraguense se esta uniendo.



Estudiantes, de escuela secundaria, Mexicanos y Puertorriqueños, celebran una celebración unida en Milwaukee.

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# Frontera Tejana-Mexicana Foco De Lucha

La lucha del pueblo Chicano y Mexicano a lo largo de la frontera entre los EEUU y Mexico se ha calentado durante los últimos meses. Los pueblos en ambos lados de la frontera están llenos de gente que salieron del campo mexicano con su pobreza ó de las ciudades con su alto nivel de desempleo. Viajan al norte buscando una vida mejor y encuentran más desempleo y condiciones pesimas en los talleres y campos de patrones quienes se aprovechan de la discriminación, sueldos bajos, y la falta de uniones. Con unidad y militancia creciente los chicanos y mexicanos luchando en contra de estas condiciones desesperadas en esta area de poblaciones de carton, esperanzas rompidas y de represion policiaca.

El 16 de mayo, Maria Contreras, madre de 11 hijos y embarazada por 8 meses, murio de un ataque de corazon durante una interrogación por oficiales del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS) en la frontera entre Nuevo Progreso, Mexico y Progreso Tejas. A pesar de las reclamas de sus parientes los oficiales no le permitieron atencion medica hasta que fue demasiado tarde. Su muerte y la de su nene resultado en una serie de protestas en pueblos en ambos lados de la frontera exigiendo justicia y un alto al hostigamiento de la migra. En una manifestacion en Laredo, 50 miembros de la union de campesinos de Tejas, un grupo de huelgistas de una fabrica de Coca Cola, y otros se reunieron con la familia Conteras, para pegar al Lionel Castillo, el director de la migra.

En julio, 6000 jovenes mexicanos marcharon en las calles de Matamoros, Mexico para protestar en contra del asesinato de Salvador Barrios, un estudiante de 15 años. Tomaron el centro de la ciudad de 300,000 personas al otro lado de Bronsville, Texas. La policia dispararon en contra de la asamblea, matando 3 y heriendo a 15. La ira de las masas forzo la renuncia de 4 oficiales altos de la policia, y resultado en 3 cargos legales en contra de oficiales envueltos en el asesinato a golpes del joven.

Al otro lado de la frontera en Texas, la brutalidad y asesinatos policiacos tambien fueron un blanco. El 7 de mayo durante la celebración del cinco de mayo en Houston, la policia invadieron a la comunidad chicana usando, como pretexto, una pelea. El pueblo resistio y resultado un motin donde quemaron varios autos de la policia y que duro la noche entera. La lucha fue inspirada por la memoria de José Campos Torres, quien fue golpeado y abogado en un foso hace dos años.

Los policas responsables recibieron una sentencia de un año. Protestas en contra de otros asesinatos policiacos, han ocurridos en Plainview, Dallas y San Antonio.

La lucha comun en los dos lados de la frontera esta marcada por la demanda por viviendas. En El Segundo, un barrio en el sur de El Paso, los investores de bienesraices estan tratando de empujar afuera los que viven en la comunidad para establecer un distrito comercial.

Muchos turistas pasan por este sitio. Tambien esta ubicado en el medio de una de las comunidades más pobres en los EEUU. Un 30 por ciento de los que viven en el segundo son desempleados. Ya han forzado a salir a más que una mitad de la gente y han destruidos sus casas. Pero los 13 mil que quedan estan combatiendo diertemente. Ocuparon algunos edificios y demoraron



Campeños y huelgistas de "Coke" se unieron a una manifestacion contra la muerte de Maria Contreras.

una concesión federal de 8 millones de dolares que financiara el area comercial.

En Juarez, Mexico el pueblo de Tierra y Libertad esta resistiendo los esfuerzos del gobierno para botarlos de la tierra. Con una tasa de desempleo de 60 para los campesinos de Mexico y con la tierra cada vez mas controlada por los terratenientes grandes y las compañías agricolas como Del Monte, cientos de miles de campesinos han venidos a las ciudades de fronteras, como Juarez.

Ellos buscan trabajo en más de 450 fabricas americanas que llaman 'maquiladoras' que cubren la frontera. Estas compañías reciben cortes en el impuesto y tarifas de los dos gobiernos ademas de un gran numero de tra-

bajadores malpagados. Grandes poblaciones han saltado. La gente de Tierra y Libertad han peliado los policas especiales conocidos como Boinas Negras, compañías de utilidad y un oficial del gobierno que es dueño de la tierra que ellos ocupan.

Durante el ultimo año los campesinos chicanos y mexicanos se han unido en algunas huelgas de importancia. Al fines del año pasado ellos combatieron 8 cultivadores de cebolla en Arizona hasta marzo cuando ganaron su aumento en sueldo. Esto fue seguido por huelgas en dos de los ranchos más grandes allí.

Los trabajadores ganaron demandas contra los ranchos de Goldwater y Bodine. Goldwater es propiedad de Bob Goldwater, hermano de senador

Barry Goldwater. Goldwater se ha reportado haber pagado los extorsionistas conocidos como "coyotes" hasta \$80 por cada obrero que acepta un jornal inferior que traigan al pais. Los huelgistas se enfrentaron con la brutalidad de la policia y amenaza de deportación. Pero todos estos esfuerzos fallaron de romper la unidad de la huelga.

En el principio de Julio 150 campesinos mexicanos combatieron a Bill Bishop dueño de un rancho de melon cerca de Presidio, Texas. Ellos le habian prometido \$2.97 por hora, pero recibieron \$2.65, no tiene agua fria de tomar o facilidades de baño. Cinco organizadores fueron arrestados por tratar de comunicar con los huelgistas. Despues de un paro de un dia las demandas fueron ganadas.

## Insurgentes De Acero Observan Convencion U.S.W.A. DERECHO A RATIFICAR DEMANDA CLAVE

El 18 de Septiembre la 19 convención Constitucional de la Unión de Obreros de Acero Unidos se reunira en Atlantic City, N.J. La convención sera el sitio de una lucha entre la camarilla del presidente de los USWA Lloyd McBride "no derecho a ratificar/no derecho a hacer huelga" y el creciente movimiento de los obreros de acero de base. Las demandas de este movimiento son: el derecho a ratificar los contratos y ganar denuovo el derecho a salir en huelga sobre los contratos.

El 14 de Agosto fue el día de elegir delegados en la planta de U.S. Steel en Homestead, Pennsylvania. Aun antes de amanecer los miembros del local 1397 estaban votando. El voto ese día elegio a todos de los 11 delegados de la lista de candidatos de los "los obreros de base 1397." Los delegados de McBride fueron rechazados completamente. Ademas de elegir la lista de candidatos los obreros de base han colectado 5,000 firmas a una petición de derecho a ratificar que sera llevado a la convención.

Los delegados de Homestead, de las

cordilleras de hierro y otros locales de alrededor del pais que van a la convención por parte del movimiento para derrotar la provisión de no derecho a ratificar en la constitución de la unión se estan enfrentando contra los 2,500 burocratas de la camarilla de McBride. Las fuerzas de derecho a ratificar tienen alrededor de 1000 delegados en su campo. Esto 1000 delegados representan los intereses de miles de miembros de base de la unión de obreros de acero que estan harto de los vendidos "sweetheart" contratos que la Internacional a negociado en el pasado.

El 17 de Septiembre un conferencia de prensa sera celebrada por los delegados de Homestead y sus partidarios. El Director del Distrito 31, Balanoff y obreros de acero de base explicaran sus demandas y la lucha que desarrollara en el salon de la convención. Otro suceso planeado para la convención sera poner latones de basura llenos de formas de quejas mandadas por obreros en Filadelfia, Baltimore, y Milwaukee en frente del salon de convención para

protestar la politicas traicioneras del presente liderato de la unión. Esto ocurira a la vez que la lucha por el derecho a ratificar venga a la atención de la convención Lunes septiembre 18,

La lucha en el local 1397 sigue en los pasos de la campaña por Sadowski por reformas en la unión y la huelga militante de la cordillera Mesabi el año pasado, que desafio el contrato de no hacer huelga en la industria basica de acero.

El acuerdo ENA de no hacer huelga fue una provisión vendida en el contrato de 1973 negociado por el entonces presidente de la UASW, LW Abel.

La lucha de los obreros de acero de base puede crecer a la vez que se batan con McBride en esta convención. Puede crecer durante la elecciones locales que ocurran este Abril y mientras los obreros de acero luchan contra las compañías alrededor del contrato de 1979 el proximo noviembre. Los exitos en Homestead son nomas una vista de antmanos de la acción que se acerca a la vez que los obreros de acero quitan todos los obstaculos en su via.