

# THE WORKER <sup>25¢</sup>

DECEMBER 1978 VOL. 1 NO. 7



SECCION EN ESPANOL

## Down With Wage-Price Guidelines! Hold Down Pay? No Way!



**March  
for  
Freedom**

**Tupelo  
Nov. 25**

See page 12

On October 24, Jimmy Carter announced a new government program of "voluntary" wage-price guidelines, billed as Phase 2 of his attack on inflation. The true target of the program, however, will be neither inflation nor prices, but the standard of living of America's working people.

Barry Bosworth, Director of the government's Council of Wage and Price Stability, admits that under Carter's policies, workers can expect no increase in real wages "for several years." (For details of the guidelines, see box on p. 4).

The guidelines are intended to handcuff workings during 1979 contract negotiations. It's a big year, with major pacts expiring in auto, over-the-road trucking, and related fields, GE and Westinghouse, construction, garment, food, oil, meatpacking, rubber and farm equipment. In each of the first six industries on the list, at least 100,000 and as many as one million workers will be battling for decent contracts.

The 1979 contracts are shaping up as a giant showdown. On the one side stand the giant corporations out to crush their employees, with the authority and aid of the federal government behind them. On the other are millions of men and women fighting for more money and to avoid being sucked into the whirlpool of a decaying capitalist economy.

True to form, the leaders of the big international unions have either announced they would go along or they have failed to take a clear stand against the restrictions.

### IN TROUBLE ALREADY

The Carter Administration is talking tough about making the Phase 2 guidelines stick, but they are already face to face with the same fate that met Phase 1. Through most of 1978, Carter tried to hold contracts down by appealing to workers to sacrifice. Coal miners, railroad workers, and postal workers kicked Phase 1 apart at the seams earlier this year with pacts that exceeded the government's limits - and they fought like hell to get them.

During the first week of Phase 2, 4000 members of the Machinists in Texas inked a package that gives them 39% more pay and benefits over 3 years - close to double the 7% per year the guidelines call for!

These initial acts of resistance will almost certainly be repeated in unions like the Teamsters, Autoworkers, and the electrical unions, where rank and

*(cont. on page 4)*

## Iran Battlecry: Death to the Shah

### U.S. Backs Tyrant 100%

On November 5, tens of thousands of enraged people surged through the streets of Iran's capital, Tehran. Chanting "Death to the Shah," they tore the tyrant's picture off walls, and threw it into the blazing infernos that had been banks, government buildings, and nightclubs. The six-story main building of the British embassy was burned to a shell in protest of foreign domination. Only the presence of large numbers of troops kept the U.S. embassy from sharing the same fate.

In the weeks preceding this eruption, the political upheaval mushroomed in broadness and intensity. Spearheaded by workers in the oil industry, widespread strikes brought the economy and the government to a standstill. The popular movement - workers, peasants, intellectuals and students, religious leaders, anti-Shah politicians, Marxist revolutionaries - went from victory to victory, redoubling its strength and isolating the Shah.

*(cont. on page 2)*



*Iranians turn funeral of slain comrade into angry protest.*

## Philly: Rizzo Falls, 2 to 1

See page 3

# Editorial

## Down With High Prices

### Phase 2 No Answer

Our lead article this month focuses on how Carter's wage price guidelines are an assault on the unionized working class. At the same time, these guidelines do not hold out any realistic hope to the hardest hit victims of inflation - the unskilled, the unorganized, the unemployed, senior citizens, welfare recipients, all those whose incomes are limited or fixed.

The rich and powerful trumpet in their newspapers and on their TV stations that greedy union members are the cause of higher prices and the misery of the poor. Hogwash. When have any but the very wealthy benefited when workers are called on to sacrifice?

Take Carter's new program. There is nothing in Phase 2 that will provide a higher minimum wage, regular social security increases or adequate unemployment, welfare and foodstamp benefits. Phony price controls won't protect the American people against utility rate hikes, transit fare increases, and soaring food costs, not to mention cutbacks in social services. But these have been among the battlefronts where the American people have taken on the effects of inflation.

The plan to gouge poor and working people to rescue the capitalists must be met by struggle - united struggle. Workers, unemployed, all nationalities, everyone must build and support the 1979 contract offensive and all the daily battles that we face. Our very standard of living is at stake. There is no other way forward.

NO TO PHASE 2!  
DOWN WITH HIGH PRICES!  
CASH ON THE LINE IN '79!

# THE WORKER

SECCION EN ESPAÑOL

IS PUBLISHED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS HEADQUARTERS



"STOP! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S NOT RIGHT..."



"TRY THIS ONE!"

## Iran...

(cont. from page 1)

Unwilling to step down, unable to split the forces arrayed against him and arrange a compromise that would keep him on top, the Shah was left with only one card to play - the Army.

Bolstered by personal assurances from Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that the U.S. would back anything he did "100%," the Shah installed a military government. Headed by General Azhari, the new regime immediately sealed off the streets, rounded up opposition leaders and set out to force the oil strikers back to work.

But the strikes and demonstrations continue. The loyalty of the troops to the government is questionable. Leading opposition figures vow that the movement will respond by armed struggle if need be to topple the Shah.

The Iranian revolution is rapidly developing toward all out civil war.

It is not impossible that U.S. support for the Shah could drag this country into war once again to defend tyranny and a key part of the foreign empire of U.S. capital.

### SINCE BLACK FRIDAY

The establishment of the "temporary" military government marks the end of a stage in the Iranian revolution which began on September 8. On that day, a year of recurring demonstrations climaxed when 7 million Iranians hit the streets in protest marches. Two million marched in Tehran, where the Shah's troops opened up with machine guns, slaughtering at least 6000 men, women and children.

The next day the demonstrations continued. Rage, not fear, was the harvest the butcher Shah had reaped.

The Shah followed up the massacre with a decree imposing martial law on the country. This failed to stop street demonstrations and was powerless in the face of a new force and form of struggle which took center stage - massive strikes by industrial, service and government workers.

Underground labor organizations stepped forward to plan effective

strikes. They mobilized mass meetings which elected representatives to negotiate their demands and issue ultimatums to management.

The strikers demanded wage increases, but they didn't stop there. Workers seized control of a match plant in Ahvaz, proclaiming, "This factory is ours. No one else is allowed to have a say." The owners offered a 50% increase - to \$13 a day - but the workers turned it down, demanding that their own people manage the plant.

As workers felt their strength, the number of strikes raising political demands increased. They called for an end to martial law, expulsion of American "advisors" in the plants, punishment of the top dogs of SAVAK (the blood-drenched secret police), and freedom for political prisoners. But above all they called for the overthrow of the Shah, for a democratic and independent Iran.

As the strike wave grew, the government tried to end it by meeting the workers economic demands. The regime promised huge raises, totalling \$7 billion! The workers stayed out, refusing to be bought off.

Repression also failed. A march from the Ahraz factory district to meet supporters in the center of the city ran into massed police at a bridge. The ensuing battle lasted seven hours. Peasants and others who held strike support actions were attacked, too. In Khamabad 500 students on a march were killed by the police.

The large scale participation of organized workers added tremendous strength to the movement and a greater clarity as to its enemies and its goal. This new strength helped tremendously to strengthen and unite the alliance of anti-Shah forces.

long been the most powerful of the many anti-Shah forces and the most immune to government attack. Its main leader, Ayatollah (holy man) Ruhollah Khomeini, played an important role during this period. From his exile in France, he heads the more progressive wing of the Islamic forces which calls for a democratic government which will respect the religious and social customs of the people. His answer to the Shah's charges (echoed in the American press) that the Muslim leaders oppose modernizing Iran was: "In all my appeals to the Iranian people in the past 15 years, I have emphasized social and economic development." Khomeini points out that Iran has gone in two decades from having an agricultural surplus to importing 93% of its food requirements. "The Shah has destroyed our economy and is squandering revenues from oil on gadgetry weapons."

He firmly maintained his position that, "The demonstrations and the uprising will continue. The people of Iran know very well that the Shah is the cause of their misery."

The popularity of this uncompromising stand among the people has made it impossible for the other Muslim trend to break ranks with the movement. Led by Ayatollah Shariat Maduri of the holy city of Qum, these leaders want a government based on strict Islamic religious law, and an end to many social reforms that have taken place over the decades. Such views could at some point put this trend in the Shah's camp.

When the leaders of the National Front, an organization of "respectable" opposition politicians, had a chance to form a coalition government under the Shah, they were hesitant to set themselves against the mass movement by doing so. Their top man

THE ISLAMIC OPPOSITION  
The Muslim religious structure had

(cont. on page 4)

## Subscribe

\$4.00 for one year

Send check to The Worker  
c/o Revolutionary Workers  
Headquarters

P.O. Box 6819  
Main Post Office  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Huge Turnout Slams Rizzo

## He can't steal enough votes

PHILADELPHIA — Bully boy Frank Rizzo, the rabidly racist mayor of the fourth largest city in the country, finally went one on one with the people of Philadelphia. The man who took office boasting, "I'm gonna make Attila the Hun look like a faggot" got his butt kicked all over the lot.

On November 7, Rizzo used the most blatant vote stealing tactics in the long and sordid history of Philly politics. He was trying to change the city charter so he could be "mayor for life." The choice was simple: Rizzo, yes or no.

The charter change went down 460,000 to 230,000. The mood in Philadelphia was euphoric.

Rizzo lost in the Black wards — by margins as high as 51 to 1. He lost in white wards — including ones supposed to be Rizzo strongholds. He was beaten by a giant mass movement which went all out to stop him. They mobilized to stop Frank Rizzo from expanding his fascist methods in Philadelphia.

While thousands of volunteers got



Black Philadelphians express outrage at Rizzo's attack on MOVE commune.

out the vote, hundreds of poll watchers, mobilized and trained by anti-Rizzo groups, helped stop his last ditch effort to steal what he could not win. 70 to 80 polling places in Black neighborhoods opened 5 hours late. 1500 voting machines in anti-Rizzo wards "broke" during the day and some were rigged not to record charter change votes.

It was so blatant that before the day was over, city election chief Margaret Tartaglione, a long-time Rizzo groupie, was under arrest and the FBI had been called in.

Election day was the culmination of a long war marked by many battles: demonstrations, the most successful voter registration drive in Philadelphia history which signed up 204,000 new voters, fights in the trade unions and more.

Rizzo's campaign call was "Vote White," but the storm of opposition among Black people set other forces into motion. By the end he was so effectively isolated that even loyal Democratic Party Committeemen fled his sinking ship like rats.

**BLACKS: RIZZO'S MAIN TARGET, MAIN FORCE AGAINST HIM**

Racial slurs have always been Rizzo's stock-in-trade. He claims Blacks are the cause of unemployment, poor housing, crime, terrible education, and dwindling social services — even though in reality the Black communities always suffered the most from these problems.

Blacks, who make up over 40% of the city's 1.8 million population, have hated Rizzo since his days as police commissioner for the incredible police terror he unleashed in their neighborhoods. Many took action for the first time when he escalated his attacks in the past year. The outrage climaxed as a result of a bloody police assault on MOVE, a radical



commune of about two dozen mainly Black men, women, and children. Within a few days, 4000 Blacks converged on City Hall to oppose Rizzo, among Blacks, including massive voter registration, was the main component in the anti-Rizzo campaign that led to the mayor's defeat. A Black United Front united the community opposition.

The new unity and sense of power among Blacks in turn galvanized forces of all nationalities. Tens of thousands of all nationalities had experienced first hand Rizzo's inability to "deliver," despite his claim that the city "works."

It doesn't. Industry and jobs are fleeing the area. Philly city workers have faced round after round of layoffs and lousy contracts. Police maraud throughout the communities. Medical, transit, and educational services are non-existent in some areas. Corruption is as common as cock-

roaches.

In addition to the Black coalition, numerous groups of other nationalities joined in the Stop Rizzo Coalition. Registration tables sprang up everywhere — from community corners to the factory gates at six in the morning. Discoteques in the Black community would stop in the middle and sign people up. As the campaign went on, several discos refused to admit people unless they had voter registration cards.

Mass demonstrations ferreted out Rizzo and his supporters wherever they appeared. When a pathetic handful of Black Rizzo loyalists tried to hold a birthday party for him at an out-of-the-way luncheonette, 500 people came gut against him on two hours notice. Rizzo never showed. But Earl Vann, a Black lackey of his was mobbed by people shouting "traitor" and "Judas."

(cont. on page 8)

## Union Busting Whipped in Missouri Vote

ST. LOUIS, MO. — On Election Day, 1978, the union busters tried to make Missouri the 21st "right to work" state in the union. When the smoke cleared, their ballot proposal was deadlier than a mackerel, beaten by a 3 to 2 margin in a record voter turnout. During the campaign, one "right to work" organizer had bragged to a businessman's lunch, "once the law is passed, it will be seen as a turning point in the decline of labor." The rejection of the proposal was a victory not only for Missouri's workers and their allies in the state's rural counties, but for the whole working class.

Amendment 23 would have banned the union shop in the state. It was pushed by the Freedom to Work Committee, a group of reactionary activists bankrolled primarily by local business interests. Their whole pitch was freedom — no one should be forced to join a union to get a job. They ran a big budget campaign — full page newspaper ads full of the Statue of Liberty and quotes from dead Popes, professional telephone canvassers, \$40,000 on billboards alone.

Their goal was freedom alright — freedom from unions for the owning class. The union shop was won by the American working class through bitter battles. Under it, workers must

join the union as a condition of employment. The union shop enables the workers to keep a strong, unified front against the boss and weakens his ability to promote divisions in their ranks during the struggle.

Missouri workers saw through all the slick talk about freedom. In a three-month push they went on the offensive against union busting. They wore buttons, t-shirts and hats which proclaimed "Stop the Ripoff" and other anti-"right to work" slogans. They contributed eagerly to the war chest to defeat the amendment.

A UAW member in a St. Louis auto parts plant described how workers heard a "right to work" spokesman on TV say the campaign would be taken to the factory gates. The "welcoming committee" they planned was disappointed day after day. No one ever showed. And the \$40,000 "right to work" billboard campaign ran into a few problems too — over a hundred of them were sawed down, burned up or painted over!

The proposed "right to work" law became a dividing line issue everywhere in the state, especially in the last few months when the unions belatedly began to take it up. The Catholic archdiocese of St. Louis came out strongly against it, which sparked the formation of a Catholics for the Right

to Work group. Truth squads of union members went into rural areas to speak to farmers organizations.

The amendment, which had been well ahead in the early political polls, began to slip. Politicians began to jump on the anti-union busting bandwagon. The mayor of St. Louis waited until a week before the election to declare his opposition to the proposed law.

Although they finally lost big, the right to workers made a strong showing in a state that is the seventh most unionized and the eighth most industrial, second only to Michigan in auto production.

Although the effort to break the union shop has been going on since 1952, the big campaign hit in the last two years. The wealthy ruling class in the U.S. is hurting, with their economy in crisis, and they are fixing to dump the burden on the workers. In particular smaller businesses hard-pressed by competition from corporate giants and non-union shops afraid of organizing drives are prepared to shell out hard cash for union busting. Their shock troops are right-wing activists looking for a paycheck and a "hot" issue to make a career out of.

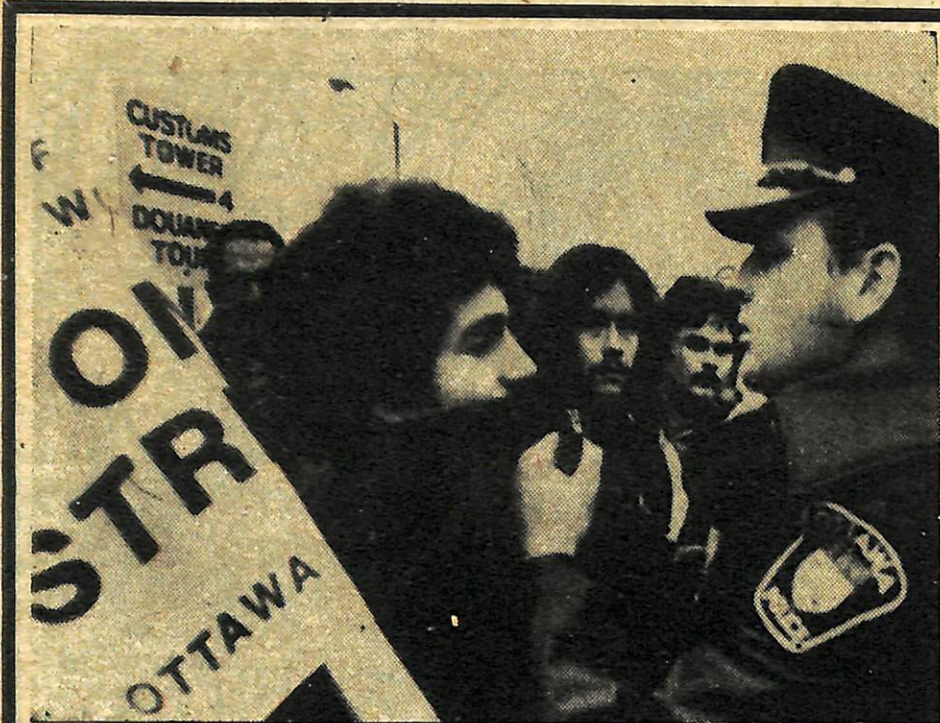
But the "right to work" crowd couldn't have done as well as they did

without the role played by the top leaders of the trade unions. In the immediate battle, they were very slow to realize and act on the danger. This meant that a very expensive crash campaign to stop Amendment 23 was required. Once the AFL-CIO moved they became a major force in the battle. But the results could have been even better had they moved earlier and provided more opportunities for the rank and file to act.

More, when "right to work" organizers attack the unions, they call them corrupt, bureaucratic, out of touch with their members. And the hacks are to blame for the situation the American trade union movement finds itself in. Their company-loving, status-quo-defending, compromising ways have put organized labor on the defensive, as it was in Missouri. No longer are unions in the forefront of the fight for social justice, but too often part of the problem of injustice.

The top leaders are a hindrance which must be dealt with as workers and others mobilize to take on the continuing offensive of the corporate kingpins and their government. The working people of Missouri took a strong stand in this fight — in and out of the voting booth — and all workers are the stronger for it.

# Phase 2 No Way!



Cops came down hard on Canadian postal workers' recent struggle.

## Controls Can Be Beat

### British Ford

British workers have been fighting mandatory wage restraints for years. 57,000 British Ford workers at 26 plants are in the forefront of the fight against the government's "austerity" plan. They shut Ford down. The Ford workers watched as the company profited to the tune of \$540 million last year and its Chairman took an 80% salary raise. Inflation kept climbing in double digits. Now the strike is costing Ford \$20 million a day — more than the government could have fined them for raising wages above 5%.

Ford originally offered a 5% pay increase. The strike forced them to make the significant step of bargaining above the wage restriction with an 8% offer. Workers then rejected subsequent offers of 12%, then 15%, and as we go to press, they are holding out on a 16.5% wage increase, an offer that still falls short of making up for the past three years of inflation.

The Ford strike has caught the imagination of British workers like the coal strike rivetted the attention of American workers. Demands for over 5% are spreading through British industry like wildfire.

### Canada

In Canada strict wage-price controls have been on for 3 years. In 1975 the annual pay increase was 17%. This past year it was only 6.4%. As the Trudeau government began to phase out controls, strikes erupted in maritime, mining, and the post office — all industries still covered by the wage clamps.

23,000 Canadian P.O. workers went out October 19 for a 15% wage hike — more than double the ceiling. They had worked without a contract since mid '77 and still don't have one. Parliament quickly made the strike illegal, rushing through a back to work law two days after it began. The government followed up by fining each striker \$100 a day and providing police protection for scabs.

The Mounties kicked in the doors of union offices for evidence against the strike. With threats of mass firings and jail terms, the "posties" went back after 9 days, vowing to keep fighting till they win a decent contract.

'79 could be a year of big strikes. West coast longshoremen, Air Canada pilots, air traffic controllers, 90,000 railroad workers, and 3,000 truckers — all transportation workers could really tie up this vast country.

## Wage, Price ...

(cont. from page 1)

file militancy and organized insurgent movements are on the rise.

### ARE WORKERS TO BLAME?

Workers have no real choice but to fight. Working people aren't the cause of inflation, they are among its major victims. On the average, real wages for workers haven't gone up significantly in almost a decade — in fact, after inflation, pay is a little lower now than it was in 1972. While inflation shot up to over a 10% annual rate in the first nine months of this year, the average first year wage increase in new contracts fell to 7.5%, down from 7.8% for the same period in 1977.

Inflation has become a built-in part of the capitalist economy, and a leading symptom of its decay.

Some of the immediate causes of inflation are:

- the cost of the failed war in Indochina,
- massive deficit spending by the government,
- the low productivity of outmoded U.S. plants and the general decline of industry within the economy,
- a balance of trade deficit because of dependence on foreign fuel.

### A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL

Concern about inflation is one reason many bankers and business bigshots were not enthusiastic about Carter's guidelines. They want something done, but even government economists told the Wall St. Journal that the effects of Phase 2 will only cut .5% off the inflation rate next year.

The main reason most capitalists support the guidelines is to ease the pressure they are getting from their employees. Lower labor costs will give these wealthy bandits higher profits and more room to maneuver. They need both if they are to evade the devastating effects of the economic crisis.

For workers, these guidelines pose the question of survival. Carter says, "We must face a time of national austerity." Workers' families are already facing austerity. The guidelines threaten to bring them eyeball to eyeball with poverty.

This is not the first time the government has put a lid on wages. From 1962 to 1966 a 3.2% guideline was in effect, until the International Association of Machinists broke it. Under Nixon, wages were frozen, then limited by mandatory controls to 5.5% increases per year. When the controls were lifted, workers responded with a huge strike wave.

Now the limit is 7%. Each time workers are blamed. Each time their wages are attacked and their living standards lowered. But each time inflation gets worse, as the climbing ceilings show.

### THE BATTLE FOR MORE MONEY

Over the last year, money has become the major demand raised by workers at contract time, generally overshadowing still essential issues like job security, and stopping productivity schemes.

Wages and cost of living allowances (COLA) have been the biggest issue in a number of hard-fought recent strikes. The men and women who make the VW Rabbit wildcatted for a week under the slogan, "No Money, No Bunny," (see article, p. 7). 890 members of Machinists Lodge 1254 have been on strike against Cleveland's Warner & Swazey Co. since September 19. "The critical issue is that the membership wants a cost of living escalator clause in the contract," explains the local's business agent. Workers at Zim's Restaurants in San Francisco shut the chain down cold until they got the raise they had coming.

Before the announcement of Phase 2, even business analysts agreed that the wages and cola would be one of the top two or three issues in at least the petroleum, trucking, rubber, garment and meatpacking contracts in 1979. The workers in these and other industries know they need more money to make up what they've lost to inflation, let alone get ahead enough to make a difference in years to come.

### THE LABOR TRAITORS

One of the biggest problems workers will be facing in the months to

(cont. on page 20)

## Would You Settle for This?

### Details of the guidelines

The guidelines President Carter set up under Phase 2 are proof positive that the workers are the number one target of the program.

\* If the guidelines are followed, new contracts will give workers a maximum of 7% per year more. And this 7% limit is a total — it includes not only wages, but also cost of living allowances, SUB plans, medical benefits, insurance programs, paid vacation time, pensions and all other benefits.

\* But that's not the worst. If companies have to pay more for benefits workers already won in old contracts — like higher premiums for health insurance — these costs will count against the ceiling. For example, suppose the rubber workers were to keep the same contract as they have now for the next three years with no pay increase at all. The cost to the rubber bosses of maintaining already established benefits would still average over 8% a year. To honor the guidelines, rubber workers would have to take no wage increase and a cut in benefits!

\* There are two "sweeteners" thrown in. One exempts workers who make less than \$4.00 an hour from the 7% limit. No less than 25% of full time workers and about half of all part timers get less than \$4 an hour — around the government poverty level for a family of four. The government didn't have the nerve to compound this crime by putting a ceiling on their raises. However, smug officials explain they

don't expect many of these workers, few of whom are unionized, to win 7% hikes anyway.

\* Then there is a scheme that will permit tax rebates to workers whose contracts honor the guidelines, if inflation should happen to go above 6% (it hasn't been below 6% in years). Carter vows he'll do his level best to get Congress to pass this as soon as the new session starts in January. Considering what happened to similar promises around things like labor law reform, this must be regarded at least as dubious.

\* There is also a provision where the limit can be lifted if workers increase productivity by giving up "outmoded work rules" — like ones that prevent speed-up.

\* To show how "fair" this whole farce is, price increases are to be limited too. This will be done in accordance with a complicated formula that declares each company must limit its overall average price increase every year to .5% less than the increases posted in 1976-77, with a top limit of 9.5% price increases. Not only is this not "fair" — for example, companies are free to increase their prices instantly while workers must wait for contracts to expire — but it is also shot through with loopholes.

\* Already the railroads have filed for an 8.1% freight rate increase, higher than they are entitled to under the formula. They explain that they are protected by a clause which exempts companies "to avoid extreme situations of hardship or gross inequity."

# 5 Day Wildcat Stuns VW, UAW

## Workers' Demand Big 3 Pact

Unfurling a banner which proclaimed "No Money, No Bunny," 1800 auto workers shut down the brand new VW Rabbit plant in New Stanton, Pa. on October 9. The wildcat strike stunned Volkswagen and the UAW International alike. Days passed as dozens of pickets warmed themselves over a pile of wood at the plant entrance which served as both a barricade and stove. VW's hopes for a cheap contract and a docile labor force were going up in smoke. And although the walkout ended after 5 days with some concessions won, the embers are still hot.

When they set up the plant just six months ago, VW purposely chose an economically depressed community, expecting to take advantage of the scarcity of jobs in the area. It is the first foreign auto plant in the U.S. The state of Pennsylvania welcomed VW with a \$40 million low-interest loan and a 5-year tax break.

For a while things went smoothly for VW. The company made a "gentlemen's agreement" that the plant would be a UAW shop, while the UAW agreed to negotiate a contract which would be cheaper than the Big 3 pact.

Meanwhile, Volkswagen was paying \$5.50 an hour, \$3 an hour less than the Big 3 automakers pay UAW workers. In addition, VW quickly instituted outrageous work rules, forced overtime, and lots of harassment.

Back in September, the rank and file of UAW Local 2055, New Stanton VW, made it clear they weren't going to put up with any nonsense from the company. When VW fired two employees for refusing to work under unsafe conditions, the whole plant wildcatted. The strikers forced the company to rehire the men within two days.

VW and the UAW leadership ap-

parently disregarded this show of militance when they put together a contract just a couple of weeks later. They were perfectly confident that the proposed contract would breeze past the rank and file.

No such luck.

Rank and file workers dumped the deal with a vote of 1,235 to 94. They went straight from their rejection vote out the doors, and set up picket lines. No one could get in. The International refused to authorize the action, but despite their sabotage, the wildcat was solid.

The strikers wanted parity with the Big 3 autoworkers. As one said, "This is the same work and the same line as GM."

The UAW International sees foreign auto companies as a solution to the problem in this country. They don't want VW to pay Big 3 wage rates because they think it would discourage any more foreign companies from coming into the US. They think America's unemployed will jump at these lower paid jobs--and help perk up their sagging membership rolls and influence.

One striker from the paint department said, "Sure, we were looking



"No Money, No Bunny" was the VW workers' slogan.

for jobs, but they were looking for people to work here. It's a two way street, but they don't want to see that."

Up against the company and the International, the strikers were still able to organize themselves and main-

tain the wildcat for a week—one of the longest and strongest unauthorized auto strikes in recent history. Like the miners and postal workers before them, they were able to turn down a contract they didn't want and force

(cont. on page 18)

# Teamster Insurgents

## on the Move

### Contract battle coming up

Teamsters are on the move. At midnight on Friday, November 10, steel haulers pulled their rigs off the road in a wildcat action. They took action far in advance of the April contract deadline to avoid getting sold out. Everywhere Teamster drivers are keeping track of this wildcat action by the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH), many of whose members are in the Teamsters. The action is a skirmish in advance of the Master Freight Agreement covering 450,000 next spring.

While Frank Fitzsimmons, International Teamster's President, gave "conditional" support to Carter's plan to reduce inflation by making workers take a 7% wage-and-benefit package, organized dissidents within the union and among other truckers are actively standing against it.

Besides the steel haulers, other drivers are swinging into action. Four hundred rank and file activists came out for the second annual convention of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union in Windsor, Canada on October 21 and 22. The TDU has gone up against the gangster ridden international leadership ever since the membership got shafted in the 1976 bargaining. They held practical workshops on everything from legal defence to union elections--all geared to build the fight, especially in the major spring con-



Steel haulers picket US Steel in Fairless Hills, Pa.

tracts in car haul, UPS, and freight.

The FASH strike will knock out steel deliveries throughout the industrial Midwest. The organization representing 30,000 owner-operators has drawn up a list of demands including higher rates, lower fuel and mileage taxes, and independence from the Teamsters. In 1967 and 1970 the steel haulers shut down steel shipments and backed them up with direct action along the toll roads against scabs.

The outrage expressed by FASH at the International's sellout of steel haulers is shared by many sections

(cont. on page 16)

# G.E.: 81 Walk;

## Then 3500

### Foreshadows '79 Battles

LYNN, MASS — Thirty-five hundred General Electric workers united to shut down the aircraft division of the massive production complex here. What began on October 6th as a strike by 81 inspectors grew to a walkout of Lynn's whole aircraft division. It threatened to spill over to the steam turbine division and the nearby Everett engine plant. The inspectors demanded that the company stop tampering with job classifications. In the long run GE was hoping to dump a higher labor grade, cutting some inspectors' pay by 47%.

By moving militantly beyond union leaders who wanted to keep the dispute confined only to the inspectors, the engine builders got a taste of their own power. They flexed their muscles. They gave GE a preview of what may be coming in the national contract battle next June.

The eighty-one inspectors had been striking for a week and 800 production workers had been laid off as a result. In a tumultuous October 12th union meeting, the members of IUE 201 demanded more forceful action. After 10 union leaders spoke against widening the walk out, the rank and file let their views be known. They voted 570 to 30 to join the inspectors. The officials had proposed that the workers end the strike and then negotiate. Too often in the past the company aided by union officials had kept struggles bottled up in one section of the huge Lynn works. This time around the anger of all workers came together. Every section of the workers had similar demands - against job combinations, the replacement of higher job classifications by lower paid ones, layoffs out of seniority, and a rash of suspensions.

The October strike put GE on the spot. The unity of the different craft divisions and the likelihood of

the walkout crippling even more of GE's second largest works was unprecedented in recent years. The workers were really proud of how they over-ruled their officials. They knew that GE had December 15 deadlines for a key defense order. With President Carter scheduled to visit Lynn soon, GE didn't want any picket lines greeting him.

Several hundred workers took an active daily role in the strike committee. They leafletted the other departments and made sure the strike benefits got out. Sentiment grew for a clearer list of demands, more up-to-date information in strike bulletins, and more active outreach to the departments still working. The union leaders were losing even more credibility because they stifled workers from activity like informational picketing and organizing workers at the nearby Everett plant.

By Friday, October 20 it was clear that if a settlement wasn't reached, the Everett workers would walk on Monday. For two weeks the strike had grown in unity and momentum. GE had to come across with a proposal. The offer better defined the job descriptions some. It promoted a number of inspectors to the higher grade. But it did not end the policy of downgrading jobs.

When the workers came to a union meeting October 22, they saw some gains in the new offer and were unclear as to what more could actually be won. Though most were still dissatisfied, they voted to accept the offer by about 1,000 to 50.

Now they're waiting out the 90-day review period and thinking about how to push ahead if the company doesn't come up with more by then. For sure job classification will be a bigger issue in next summer's national contract.

Most GE workers saw it as a stand-off. They also saw their own power. And it was just a taste of what they can do if Carter and company really try to push their 7% restrictions on working people.

# Cash on the Line in '79

# Miners Defend UMW Pact

## Stone scabs' rescue 'copter

PITTSBURGH, PA. — The strike by United Mine Workers of America, Local 1880 members to force the North Cambria Fuel Co. to sign the national contract agreement is still continuing. After over 300 days on strike, the strikers are holding firm, despite court injunctions, arrests, police beatings and scabs.

North Cambria Fuel is still refusing to sign the contract despite wildcat strikes throughout District 2 in support of Local 1880, mass picketing of their loading docks, and strip sites, destruction of their equipment, and their trucks being shot at while on the road.

When the Bituminous Coal Operators Association signed the national contract last April, ending the national strike, North Cambria Fuel (which is not a member of BCOA) refused to sign. North Cambria is a strip mine operation, one of a very few that are unionized. The whole point of their refusal has been to weaken and eventually eliminate the UMW at their operation. A spokesman for North Cambria stated, "We want to tailor the agreement to our situation." The "tailoring" they want

is to end royalties paid on each ton on coal mined. The royalties go into pension and health funds started in 1950 for retired miners. North Cambria knows that this is a key issue for the union men, and are refusing to budge on this issue, basically refusing to sign a UMW contract.

Last June, after 6 months on strike, the miners shut down other mines in Indiana and Cambria counties with roving pickets, idling over 5,000 men. Mass pickets then struck one of North Cambria's strip sites, causing over \$27,000 damages to heavy equipment. Scabs hauling coal for North Cambria began getting their windshield shot out. The courts then went to work for the coal companies, handing down injunctions and the UMW District 2 president Val Scarton, threatened to discipline any union member continuing the wildcat. This left Local 1880 to fight North Cambria Fuel Co. alone.

Pickets were limited to 3 to a gate by court order, with state police hanging around to make sure the 20-odd scabs would get in and out. On August 23rd, the company's

lawyer and spokesman's house burned down "mysteriously" and North Cambria put up a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved. There were no takers.

### STRIKE SPREAD AGAIN

By October, after 300 days on strike, the 70 members of Local 1880 again called on help from other locals. The District finally called a rally for Sunday, October 14th. They didn't build it and only 150 miners showed. Outraged, the rank and file responded by throwing up pickets and by the first thing Monday morning, mines were beginning to shut down. By Tuesday, over 5,000 miners were again on wildcat strike in support of Local 1880.

On Wednesday, over 300 pickets left a 1000 strong rally called by rank and file forces and converged on North Cambria loading docks. When the sheriff arrived, waving his injunction, he was told where he could shove it, along with the judge, and was sent packing. Six scabs were trapped in the site 700 yards down the

road, obviously worried. The company provided a helicopter, about the only means of escape. The pickets charged the scabs, 2 headed for the woods in their pickup and the rest scrambled for the helicopter, which was thoroughly stoned before getting off the ground. Heavy equipment was taken care of. The pickets then went back to manning the line at the gate. As more and more state police arrived, they began getting more pushy.

Looking for some arrests, they began to randomly pick people out of the crowd. The first man they handcuffed they beat up.

Other miners didn't stand for their brother being beaten when he could not defend himself. By the time the dust cleared, 3 men were arrested for rioting, disorderly conduct, and criminal mischief and warrants were issued for 3 others. The district president was ordered to appear in court for contempt.

By the following Monday, the wildcatting miners returned to work, and Local 1880 is holding firm, its morale boosted by the support. North Cambria Fuels is still refusing to sign and hasn't shown any signs of giving in to the contract. They're determined to bust the union, but the union miners of District 2, especially the members of Local 1880, are seeing to it that no coal moves and that no coal will move until North Cambria signs on the dotted line.

## MEATCUTTERS'

### Beefs

"When I came into the lunch room the women from canning were all sitting around that table. 40 of them, Black, Serbian, Mexican, you name it. I couldn't even tell who was the leader. That's how tight they were." That's how a steward at Agar Food Products described the beginning of a 3 hour work stoppage at the Chicago meat packing plant.

These women knew the best way to win a grievance — shut it down and then talk, right then and there.

When the boners came in for their lunch, they joined the work stoppage. So did artery pump, ham packing, and semi-boning when they came in at noon. The whole plant was

stopped. It was the way the old CIO packing house workers used to solve grievances in this former stockyards center. And the way Agar workers got rid of TV cameras monitoring areas of the plant in 1974.

The grievance was simple. The company, one of the fastest growing pork processors in the nation, had unleashed efficiency experts on the people. These stop watch supermen had come up with a new wash room privilege.

Women who had to use the washroom more than one time in a day were given written warnings. The next time it was supposed to be a suspension.



Speed-up and job loss have been increasing problems in packing.

The demands were clear. Take back all the warnings — stop the harassment. All of a sudden the union representatives were out there speaking up for the people. One over-the-hill

hack protested that things were being done all wrong, but the people would have none of his b.s. As the company and union officials met behind closed doors, some representatives gave running reports on what was being said to the workers in the lunch room.

Agar's efficiency men had proven to be very costly. The company was forced to back down, take back all the warnings, and scratch its new policy. The people had won. They know more hassles are ahead, but they're stronger to face them. That's the way to settle a grievance!

\* \* \*

Ever since the "new breed" of packing companies like Iowa Beef and Missouri Beef came to dominate the beef slaughtering industry, the old line "Big 4" have been hurting. They haven't been able to keep up because the newer outfits were paying wages \$1.50 to \$2 an hour less. Non-union and sweet-heart set ups sprang up in several western states. Also the great plains companies were pioneering boxed beef mass production methods — and gaining a stranglehold over the cattle market.

Now the old-line companies, like Wilson, Swift, and Armour are cutting back unprofitable operations. Armour has announced the closing of 6 slaughter houses. Over the past two years, Swift closed 5 plants, Wilson, which lost \$2 million last year has quit kill floor operations at Omaha and Kansas City. In some places the kill floors are being re-opened under dif-

(cont. on page 18)

## Transit Battles in N.Y.C., Mass.

NYC—In one of New York's biggest transit yards, a two-week slowdown erupted October 13 into a walk-out, 800 strong. Just two hours after the 800 laid down their tools, the management was forced to give in and rehire a worker they had just suspended.

The 207th St. Car & Maintenance Yard had been steaming for months. It was a center of rank and file militancy during city-wide transit contract negotiations this spring. Workers at 207th St. issued their own leaflets and took an active role in coalitions formed to fight for a decent contract. In March the Transit Workers Union leadership and city officials announced a sell-out deal that is still being challenged in the courts. Since then workers have been hit with large numbers of transfers out of C & M to other job categories and suspension of seniority. This has been on top of pay cuts, suspensions, speed-up, and worsening work loads. More men have been killed on the tracks due to company negligence toward work and safety rules.

Workers launched a rule book slow down in early October. As the slow down spread throughout 207th St. and into other yards, the management

realized that the contract-time organization and unity hadn't faded as they had hoped.

Two weeks into the slow down the action was having a big effect. Trains were not making it to the tracks on time because of observation of the Transit Authority's own work rules.

Finally, on October 13, the management decided to single out one leader of the rank and file 207th St. Transit Committee for retaliation. They suspended him on the spot after he refused to burn rubber in an enclosed place. This practice is against the rules in the first place and unhealthy for his fellow workers (transit workers have the second highest incidence of Black Lung after coal miners).

It was at this point that nearly the entire Car & Maintenance Shop walked—for the first time in a long while—and got their co-worker's suspension dropped.

Workers throughout the city's yards are facing the same crunch, especially the transfers, and when people at 207th St. put out a leaflet on their victory to other yards, workers grabbed it up like it was printed on money.

\* \* \*

# STEEL News & Views

If your age and number of years slaving for the steel companies combined equal 65 and if you were looking forward to collecting a pension early because your plant is closing down - forget it.

After 17 months of labor-management discussion the guidelines and language for the new "rule of 65" "won" in the 1977 Basic Steel contract is finally out. Far from the advertised big victory in job security, the new agreement now makes moving half-way across the country a prerequisite to claiming your pension. The Wall Street Journal, in its article on the new deal, ominously said, "the early retirement plan for steelworkers who lost their jobs in last year's round of plant closings may be less costly than several steelmakers anticipated." Once again the bosses got off cheap and we have to take up the slack. In a 60-page document, written in the most confusing legal double-talk possible, the new plan gives the companies the right "to avoid the pensions by offering suitable long-term employment instead." What this means is that if you worked at the Beth plant in Lackawanna, N.Y., and lost your job you would have to accept transfer to the Sparrows Point in Baltimore or lose your pension. So far it seems that at least 821 workers in Basic Steel may be asked to make such a move by March 1, 1979.

These attempts to up-root steelworkers and their families, especially in their later years, is an outrage and must be resisted and turned around. The demand must be that the

requirements be only age and years on the job.

And speaking of plant closings, the soon-to-merge Lykes-LTV combine is planning to deliver another body blow to steelworkers in the Ohio River Valley. They plan "in the latter part of 1979 to phase out" the Lykes tube facilities still left open in Youngstown, the largest of which is

the Brier Hill Works of Youngstown Sheet and Tube. Over 1500 steelworkers are going to get pink slips. And the end is not in sight. The company is "considering the disposition of certain other operations."

"Into the '80s. Jobs. Dignity. Health." So reads the new Steelworker theme. At the 19th Constitutional Convention it was emblazoned in giant letters across the front of the Convention Hall and just about everything else that didn't move.

Into the '80s - well, Lloyd McBride, President of the USWA, is ready. He's got a job - and a raise to boot. The Convention granted the District Directors a \$5,000 salary increase and Lloyd and the rest also get a \$4,000 cost of living increase.

Dignity? He travels with dignitaries already - he let several steel company presidents into the convention. I.W. Abel was also there. And even Jimmy Carter, who used the platform our dues money paid for to hint at wage price guideline. Health? Since the closest Lloyd gets to a mill is Atlantic City or Las Vegas, health, except maybe from callouses on his butt, doesn't seem to be a big concern.

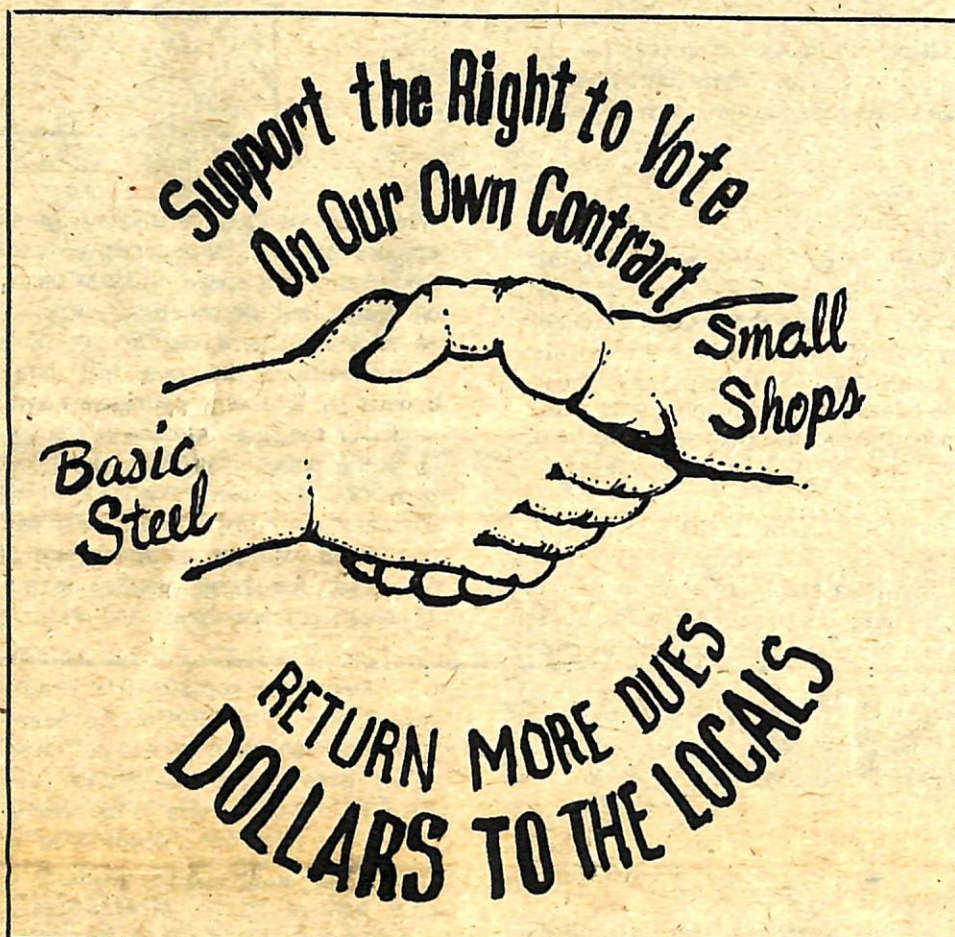
Into the '80s - what about the '70s? From the 19th Constitutional Convention the answer is clear - the years will change; the policies of sellouts inherited from Abel will not. McBride like Abel will try to use the union to boost productivity, to peddle no-strike policies, to ignore company discrimination, and entrench himself and his sidekicks as dictators. And as in the past our union will continue to be used to promote the politicians like Carter whose aim is to drive us further into the dirt.

All in all, Lloyd says, the Steelworkers came through the '70s in great shape. At the convention he called us an "industrial elite" - workers at the top of the heap in the U.S. You would think jobs, dignity and health had already been realized and two years ahead of time to boot.

It is clear that Lloyd recognizes more than a mere change in the calendar from the '70s to the '80s. He is captain of an increasingly rocking ship, in a storm that shows no signs of letting up. The past decade saw a lot of changes in the industry and the union. The companies have stepped up their offensive - the International has run interference for them - the rank and file has stepped up its activities to change this status quo.

Rank and file opposition has given birth to a new lineup of opposition forces - forces like the delegate who got up and told McBride that he should present his credentials to the

(cont. on page 18)



Symbol on t-shirt brought to the convention by members of Local 1397.

## Beth. Kills

### Combat Pay for Steelworkers?

BALTIMORE - There's a killer on the loose in the state of Maryland. There are no public service announcements of how he can be identified, though, and no police investigation into the murders. But the killer's name is no secret - Bethlehem Steel.

Since January 1978 there have been five deaths at Beth Steel's Sparrows Point Plant. While Bethlehem and other steel monopolies gloat over a year of booming steel production and the profits that go with it, thousands of workers at Sparrows Point and elsewhere trek to work everyday and wonder "who will be next?" It's like going into a combat zone.

#### THE DEATH TOLL

March 13. James Anderson, 42, Transportation Department, drowned when his vac-all truck slid backwards into a 20-foot deep stinking slime pond. An investigation found that while trucks pulled up to the pond for years, the company provided nothing to prevent them from rolling into the water.

April 11. Frank Chisholm, 44, a turn foreman, was scalded over his entire body while draining a rinse tank filled with 160-degree water. He died May 2. Chisholm was doing laborer's work and doing it extra fast to save a few bucks for the company.

June 16. Robert Hall, 29, Vietnam vet, with 10 years service was killed when he was drawn head first into a wire drawing machine only 2 weeks after he transferred to that job. An investigation showed the Hall was operating more than one machine with no helper since some jobs had been eliminated in the area. It showed inadequate training and the fact that the company failed, after years of injuries and complaints, to install guards on the wire drawing machines. That "accident" resulted in a \$27,000 fine by the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) agency, the largest fine ever levied by MOSH. Hall's wife, pregnant at the time of her husband's death, is reportedly suing the company for gross and willful negligence.

June 23. Dunlap Johnson, 56, was felled by heat stroke in Bethlehem Steel's open hearth area. He died 3 days later. That same hot evening, Pleasant Sharpe, 51, suffered symptoms of heat stroke and went into a coma. He lies unconscious today. The same day these men were stricken, 6 others were treated for heat exhaustion at the company dispensary. Investigations showed that company medical personnel were not properly trained in treating heat stroke. The victims' body temperature had gone up to 108 degrees and the doctors did not put them in an ice water bath. The company has been fined \$7,000

by MOSH. Dunlap Johnson's widow has applied for workman's compensation. The response from Beth Steel? That she not get compensation, claiming that Mr. Johnson had a history of high blood pressure which "contributed to his death."

October 16. Robert Carter, 36, a worker just assigned to an obsolete blast furnace, was killed when he was exposed to a high amount of carbon

monoxide. Veteran hot blastmen had repeatedly warned the company about the monoxide leak and the danger of putting under-trained transfers like Carter on the job. Just one week before, records show, he had to be taken to the company hospital - for being gassed by carbon monoxide.

These are the men who have died. In recent months, hundreds of others

(cont. on page 18)

## Health or Harassment?

If a company wants to force workers to wear respirators, does it mean they are concerned about health and safety at the plant? Not in the experience of coke oven workers at U.S. Steel in Clairton, Pa., where a petition drive has been started with the slogan "Respirators by choice, not force!"

"Nobody likes breathing the smoke... nobody wants to get cancer," explains Fighting Times, a newsletter published by Clairton workers "tired of getting pushed around and sold out."

"But wearing these respirators they give us isn't exactly the cure-all they claim," the newsletter continues.

Even the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which requires use of respirators in coke ovens, says they "cannot be considered as the primary means of employee health protection," and are secondary to improving the air quality.

OSHA also requires that companies give workers a choice of respirators, a provision U.S. Steel chooses to overlook.

The choice is necessary because the devices bring problems with them; they don't fit some people properly, they limit vision and hearing, they even create breathing problems during strenuous work, especially in a hot environment. They make it hard for workers to communicate with each other, which is especially hazardous in emergency situations.

The Clairton coke workers are demanding that the company be "responsible for providing every employee with a respirator upon request. However utilization of these safety devices should be left solely to the discretion of the employees."

The company claims "it's law" and they must force the workers to wear the respirators. But Fighting Times calls it harassment and enumerates other more expensive safety regulations the company chooses to ignore.

## New Tax Bill

# Welfare for the Rich

The \$18.7 billion congressional tax cut bill just signed by President Carter will provide no real relief for the debt-ridden working man. After the social security tax hike, the sky-rocketing cost of living and the small tax cuts are figured in, the average American will be worse off than ever.

On the other hand the new tax bill will mean a multi-billion dollar giveaway to big business. The legislation will actually further widen the gap between the millionaires and the masses.

After approving the bill amid a flurry of last minute votes, the lawmakers adjourned the 95th congress. They headed back to home states and districts hoping to use the bogus tax cut to pimp off the Proposition 13 fever and bolster their party campaigns.

Working people did get a few breaks. The personal exemption will rise from \$750 to \$1000. Also, most people won't be pushed into higher tax brackets so quickly. And there is a small tax cut for those on very low incomes. But other tax relief measures were struck out of the law. For example, deductions for sales tax and gasoline tax can no longer be taken by people who figure their own taxes.

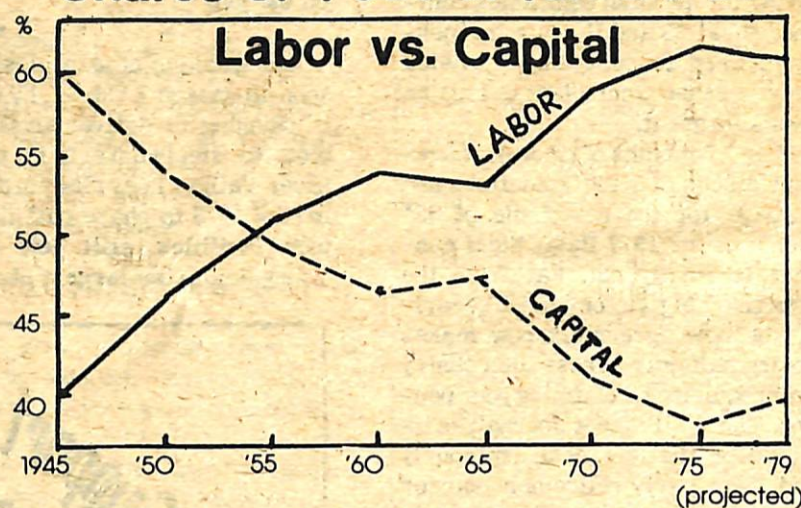
### THE CAPITAL GAINS RIPOFF

The biggest increase in "welfare for the rich" in this year's tax bill came when the congressmen exempted an even larger percentage of capital gains. Uncle Sam used to only tax 50% of profits from sale of stocks, bonds and other investments. Now only 40% of this money is taxed. This pours \$2.1 billion into the pockets of the richest .3% of all taxpayers. These titans of finance were already raking in in excess of \$16 billion a year with this loophole. Carter and Congress handed this bundle over in the name of encouraging growth in the economy.

### INVESTMENT CREDIT BONANZA AND OTHER TAX BILL GIVEAWAYS

Another way the fat cats make a million with a stroke of a pen is the tax write-offs for all new investment. Until now, corporations were able to write off the cost of new machinery against fully half their taxable income.

### Shares of Federal Tax Burden



With the windfall provisions of the new bill they will be able to use the amount of new investment to trim the amount of taxable profits by 90%. Companies that spend millions on re-tooling and automated (job eliminating) equipment will be practically excused from taxation. General Motors already saved \$40 million a year through investment credits before this new giveaway.

In addition, the new bill has numerous special clauses designed to benefit particular corporations and interest groups. Many of them were inserted in the final minutes of the special sessions as amendments sponsored by politicians, bought and paid for by special interest groups. Under a new provision the owners of Gallo wines will be able to spread inheritance payments over 15 years and only pay 4% of the amount they owe.

Another example of this brand of corruption is the special depreciation allowance for large poultry farms which benefit the owners of two large Arkansas chicken farms and one in Maine.

(cont. on page 15)

# Rizzo Falls

(cont. from page 3)

In areas the press called "Rizzo Land," like white working class Kensington (where "Rocky") was filmed, "Stop Rizzo" campaigners found a 50/50 response against Rizzo in door-to-door canvassing.

Rizzo's claim to work for them was faltering. They saw his policies favoring the rich while their neighborhoods continued to decay. His attempt to focus their anger on Blacks with his "Vote White" ploy backfired.

In addition to people against him for corruption and cutbacks in housing, many Kensington residents walked up to campaign tables to buy "Stop Rizzo" buttons saying, "I'm not a racist. Give me one of those."

One Saturday afternoon a dozen campaign workers drove the Ku Klux Klan, big Rizzo advocates, off a corner of a main Kensington intersection. Simultaneously shoppers tore up copies of the Klan paper, the "White Crusader," and commented on the scum that was rising to the surface of Rizzo's Philadelphia.

Rizzo barely carried Kensington on Election Day.

In the Northeast, long considered "safe" for Rizzo, rumor spread that public housing was slated to go up there and Rizzo held a rally to promise he'd stop it. Shortly afterwards, it was revealed that Rizzo campaigners had started the story to assure a favorable crowd. On the 7th, the Northeast turned thumbs down on the charter change.

### RIZZO'S LABOR LOST

Rizzo arrogantly put himself forward as a man of the people in spite of his \$410,000 house in Philly's fanciest neighborhood, purchased, he said, on his \$40,000 a year salary. To boost this image, he kept close ties with some corrupt misleaders of the Building Trades Council who would dress up in hard-hats for him at appropriate moments.

But far from serving the interests of the city's working population, many of whom in any case are Black, they and a couple of dozen hand-picked thugs acted as strong-arms for Rizzo

— beating up reporters he didn't like, popping up at City Council meetings to demonstrate for his policies.

They also planned to deliver the AFL-CIO council to him in the recent crisis. But they were opposed by a number of other union leaders — some against Rizzo, others afraid to antagonize their Black membership. The Council remained publicly neutral on the charter and on Rizzo.

### CAMPAIGN MUSHROOMS, RIZZO DESPERATE

Forces from all sectors of Philly joined the fight. Students at Community College fought for the right to take part in the election, providing poll watchers and activists. Temple University students organized a city-wide voters day care center for election day.

Rizzo's people went nuts trying to play "Let's Make a Deal." According to ward officials, he offered a \$4000 under the table bounty to Black ward leaders who could deliver 25% of the vote in any of their 28 mostly Black wards.

Rizzo called everybody names. He lashed out at Blacks — from NAACP leaders to housing activist Milton Street — as "radicals" or "social extremists." He called a white ex-cop who was organizing against him a "psychotic" and a "burglar." This was met with cries of "Speak for yourself, Frank! What about Salvitti and Cianfrani? (two of Rizzo's many political associates now doing time for taking bribes)?"

But he just couldn't swing it, even though his campaign was run by Sanford Weiner, a highly paid California "political consultant" who "never loses."

Rizzo said the issue was the charter change — the "right to choose." But the people of Philadelphia knew the issue was Rizzo. There wasn't even anyone running against him. Tens of thousands of voters voted only on the charter change and ignored other races.

Rizzo himself determined the arena of battle at each step. And in the last

few months, the arena he chose was the election. Only a handful of self-proclaimed "revolutionaries" from the Trotskyite Socialist Workers Party and from the Revolutionary Communist Party stood on the sidelines whining "Don't Vote, Demonstrate."

The people of Philadelphia did demonstrate — they demonstrated when Rizzo closed PGH and cut transit service. They massed on City Hall when he attacked MOVE. They parried each attack with a counterattack. Because his machine was geared to fascist methods to serve the very rich and the very corrupt, more and more joined to stop him. When the fight was in the voting booth, they voted.


Real revolutionaries united with the masses of people in this struggle. They saw that beating Rizzo meant more than beating one individual enemy of the people. Many capitalists saw his political career as a trial balloon.

His increasing disregard of democratic procedure, his open praise for Italy's dead fascist dictator, Mussolini, and his attempt to build a reactionary "white rights" movement — things like this made Rizzo interesting to the people who run the country.

As the country falls apart and the people's struggle grows, the high and mighty are checking out options they may have to turn to in order to stay in power, options like Rizzo's brand of fascism.

The fight against Rizzo focussed on his real program — racism and repression. The broadness of the resistance brought out the best in everyone. The unity of Black and white that began to be built in the course of the anti-Rizzo fight shattered his plans and scattered his supporters.

Rizzo still has 14 months to serve and the city's rulers are already casting about for a new front man to advance their interests. But thousands of Philadelphians have been drawn into the political battlefield, which extends far beyond the voting booths. They began to see how this country is run and they got a taste of the victories the people can win when they unite in their tens and hundreds of thousands.



## Stop Rizzo

### The Rise of a Would-Be Dictator

60¢

published by  
**Workers Books**  
4858 N. Broad Street  
Phila., Pa. 19141  
Tel: (215) 455-4230

Pamphlet Now Available



# '78 Election Commentary

## Tax Cut Fails to Boost Turnout



The 1978 elections have come and gone. The late night TV spots featuring a candidate with his wife, his kids and his golden retriever around the fireplace are mercifully off the air.

Media commentators are doing their best to squeeze some significance from what was basically a non-event. So many incumbents were dumped. So many Republicans were elected to Congress, but not as many as they had hoped. Democrats retain a majority of so many seats in the House and Senate. Etc., etc., etc.

There is little being said on the real news of the '78 elections. Nobody voted. The turn-out was the lowest in decades, another milestone on a long downward slide.

Only in a few areas did heavy local issues spark more interest. Where real issues called for real battles, people took it on, and a big voter response resulted. Stopping Rizzo in Philadelphia and "Right to Work" in Missouri set records for off-year elections.

The biggest flop in the campaign was the tax issue. For sure, money is a big question on people's minds. Real money. Money after inflation. Money after taxes.

The surprise landslide for Proposition 13 in California this spring stirred a lot of interest among the American people. As the economy deteriorates and inflation climbs, people are hurt-

ing. The tax revolt promised a chance to get a little more money by keeping the government from taking so much away.

Politicians started hopping on the tax revolt like it was the train to glory. In Illinois, for instance, Republican Governor Jim Thompson came up with a desperate last minute ballot measure to prove his concern.

It called for a lid on state spending and property taxes, but had no legal effect. His campaign paid people by the signature to get petitions filed in time and forged what couldn't be collected. Still, his Democratic rival for office Mike Bakalis beat him out for the role of tax cut candidate by pledging to cut spending and taxes 20 percent. Bakalis lost anyway.

As the campaign wore on, politicians found that their noisy support of tax relief had just made people cynical about the whole tax revolt. Many reverted to straight up mudslinging as election day drew near.

Even the ballot propositions that cropped up in 18 states drew a mixed and generally low key response. Most of the ones that passed were focused on limiting government spending, a pattern repeated in local bond issues. These propositions drew on a strong strain of resentment and hostility toward the government, which spends more and more money and provides less

and less in the way of services.

Ballot measures calling for drastic tax cuts which would result in service cutbacks did poorly. An Oregon bill almost identical to Proposition 13 lost. So did a Michigan proposal to cut property taxes by 43 percent.

Even in California, many who voted for proposition 13 have lost their enthusiasm for the bill. Its opponents, especially among minorities, had their expectations confirmed. Thousands of low paid public workers have been laid-off school programs slashed, public hospitals cut back and more. And this was in a state with a multi-billion dollar budget surplus.

All this brings home a very important point. When people don't vote, it is not voter apathy, as the newspapers proclaim. It is the recognition of reality. People's experience has taught them that voting this politician in or that one out never seems to make a real difference.

People aren't apathetic about money and the fact that their living standards are falling. The elections offered no way to fight over these issues. But the people will find plenty of way to take on the battle in the communities, on the shop floors, and on the picketlines.

## A Worker Interview

# Alice Tripp Campaign In Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, MINN.—The Democratic Farm Labor Party candidate for governor, Rudy Perpich was overtaken by his Republican rival in yet another of the November 7 ho-hum elections.

Perpich faced a more important challenge a few months ago in the primary. A short, tough farmer lady named Alice Tripp came out of nowhere to win 97,000 votes, 20% of the total, in the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party primary.

Herself jailed in the farmers' fight against the big power monopolies, Alice Tripp ran a campaign she says was just one step in the long process of fighting for social change.

In an interview with this paper, Tripp explained how she ended up on the unlikely road from her Belgrade, Minn. farm to the state primary.

She and her husband scrimped and saved for 15 years to buy their farm in 1957, only to have a powerline routed across it last year under state patrol protection. Alongside many other Minnesota farmers, the Tripps

fought for their land.

Alice was arrested three times and spent four days in jail. Her husband, John, was thrown onto the hood of a police car which crashed through a farmers' picket line. He was man-handled and arrested for trying to defend a fellow protestor from police attack. He is now being sued for \$52,000 by the cop who assaulted him.

### LEARNING THROUGH STRUGGLE

The powerline battles changed the lives of many Minnesotans, especially farmers.

"Farmers are conservative," says Alice Tripp. "They don't want to rock the boat when things go well. But because of the powerline. . . and what the government did to us—they backed the powerline and pushed us—they are learning a lot, they are educating themselves and speaking out. . . . My husband moved to the left when hundreds of state troopers came onto the land."

The changes in farmers' think-

ing led to her nomination by some local members of the Democratic Farmer-Labor party (formed in the 1930s to represent the interests of farmers and workers and more recently simply the Minnesota version of the Democratic Party).

She was pitted against Rudy Perpich, the incumbent Democratic Farmer Labor governor, and a power company supporter who sent the state troopers and FBI in on the protesting farmers. "I moved to the left when Perpich called in the FBI," Tripp says.

But she was not a single issue candidate. The powerline fight educated her about "the partnership of big business and government."

Her campaign was a far cry from the too familiar baby kissing, hand shaking election stumps. She stood firm against big business tyranny. She spoke against the oppression of women and minorities. And as she met with people, she developed her program to address their needs. After meeting with factory workers, she called for a ban on police as strike breakers,



Alice Tripp arrested in power line struggle.

for increasing the state minimum wage, repealing the state's unemployment "quit-fired" law which denies benefits to workers who quit or are fired, a ban or limit on mandatory overtime, and a severance tax on runaway corporations to be used for the abandoned communities and laid off workers.

She said, "My experience in going to the plants was one of the best of the campaign. The people were very friendly. A lot of union leadership just

(cont. on page 20)



400 farmers and supporters, including a contingent of Indians, rallied against the power line in November.

## Drop All Apartheid Ties!

### Spring Offensive Planned

Eight thousand miles away from the jails of apartheid, 8000 miles away from the daily advances of the liberation forces in Zimbabwe, a second front in the battle to end white minority rule has been opened.

It began in May '77, when 295 students were arrested during a sit-in at Stanford University, California. From there it spread to campuses in Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan and more. In March of this year, 400 students met forming the Northeast Committee for the Liberation of South Africa. By April, 35 campuses across New England erupted in protests in support of the freedom fighters of southern Africa. They demanded that the universities sell all stocks in corporations that do business in southern Africa and help prop up the racist brutal system of apartheid.

The sell-the-stock movement has grown across the country and the demand "DIVEST NOW!" has become the battlecry of students as they take up the struggle to oppose apartheid and stand up for freedom in Africa.

Just recently, at a meeting of about 400 students from 52 campuses across the midwest, a new coalition has been formed to continue the fight for divestiture from Ohio to Minnesota. And similar conferences are in the offing for the West Coast and South.

But, while divestment has been the sharpest battleline in the movement to support African liberation, it has been by no means the only battleline. Early this fall, on the anniversary of the murder of South Africa freedom fighter Steve Biko--founder of the Black Consciousness movement and a leader of the Soweto rebellion--memorials were held on several campuses. At the University of Illinois in Champaign, 300 students Black and white turned out for a rally and march, pledging to carry on the spirit of Steven Biko and demanding the University end all ties with apartheid.

When Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith paid a visit to this country in mid October, students again took to the streets in support of the freedom fighters in Africa. In San Diego 300 people demonstrated against Smith with the only vocal support for this tyrant of white minority rule coming from the KKK who flew over the protest in a plane dragging a banner praising Smith. In New York 800 people rallied in solidarity and heard freedom fighters from South Africa. In Washington DC there were even more.

This coming spring students are expected to mount a new offensive around the call to DIVEST NOW!

# Rhodesian Racist Courts Carter

Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith came to this country in October angling for stronger U.S. endorsement of his besieged white minority government. The racist Rhodesian ruler was invited by 27 Senators and Congressmen who support him outright.

Carter's State Department was reluctant to even give him a visa, much less grant him a formal state visit. But once Smith got his foot in the door, he hit the campaign trail, speaking in major cities like he was running for office.

African liberation support demonstrations blasted him wherever he appeared. After two weeks, he met with Carter to discuss his regime's deteriorating military and political situation.

Why was Carter playing hard to get with this reactionary ruler? He hasn't been shy about giving full endorsement of other dictators like the Shah of Iran or Somoza of Nicaragua.

Smith's white minority regime is extremely isolated. The white settlers make up less than 4% of the population, while 6.7 million blacks live under the domination of the white settler government. The people of Zimbabwe, Rhodesia's real name, have been waging a full scale guerrilla war to free the country and set up majority rule. Fighting has already expanded to within 5 miles of Salisbury, the capital city. Whites are staging a massive exodus from the country - 1700 left last month alone.

The freedom fighters of the Patriotic Front have liberated 40% of the countryside. Wherever possible, they have dismantled the "protected villages" where the people are living in prison-like, malaria infested conditions. The guerrilla fighters are doing heavy damage to enemy military bases and transportation lines.

This was the situation Smith was putting in Carter's lap. The State Department has been working hard to set up a government there, with

enough Black leaders to stabilize the country, and still keep it safe for foreign investment. Ideally, this would leave Rhodesia as a pro-U.S. buffer on the strategic South African border.

Smith is so desperate and so isolated that Carter is afraid to tie the U.S. interests directly to him. After the meeting, Smith even agreed to prepare for an all-parties conference, including the guerrilla organizations.

But the day before he was to meet with Carter, Smith's air force made savage bombing raids into Mozambique and Zambia, neighboring countries where the guerrilla armies have bases.

Smith had succeeded in jacking up Carter. There was no way Carter could denounce or dispense with the only reliable front man it has in Rhodesia, no matter how serious his drawbacks. The hypocritical "champion of human rights" was exposed as an accomplice of Rhodesian aggression and racism once again.

# HATED BY ALL Somoza Hangs On

Over two months have passed since Nicaragua's National Guard, the private army of dictator Anastasio Somoza, put down the popular insurrection there with desperate savagery. U.S. government attempts to work out a truce between Somoza and a united front of groups opposing him have collapsed. The hatred of the Nicaraguan people for Somoza's dictatorship, the ruthless National Guard and their American backers runs deeper than ever.

Skirmishes between poorly armed citizens and the Guard continue. Many cities are in ruin and the economy is in shambles--with Somoza saying there will be a "militarized" harvest.

No one wonders if the fighting will begin in earnest. They just wonder when.

The Sandino National Liberation Front has issued an ultimatum that if Somoza doesn't resign by November 20, they will again gear up the guerrilla war against him.

Because the insurrection erupted spontaneously among the people, they took the brunt of the casualties. The trained guerrilla units and leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front are largely intact despite their

active role in much of the fighting. If they had planned the rebellion, one Sandinista leader told a Washington Post reporter, "the people would have been better armed and better prepared."

There is no army in Nicaragua. There is no police force. There is the National Guard--led by Somoza's West Point-trained son, housed separately from the rest of the population with separate schools, hospitals and shopping centers. The National Guard is not paid particularly well, but it is allowed, even encouraged, to be corrupt and criminal in its dealings with the people.

National Guardistas are not allowed to bank outside the country. As a result of this they are inextricably tied to the 40 year old Somoza regime that came into power on the bayonets of U.S. military intervention and has enjoyed U.S. military and financial support ever since.

When the fighting broke out, the Guard after two weeks of combat put down the insurrection with such brutality that the Archbishop of Managua, the capital city, threatened to excommunicate all of them.

The Red Cross in Costa Rica es-

timates that between eight and ten thousand were killed (the country's population is only 2.3 million), and 30,000 wounded or missing.

The town of Esteli, machine gunned from the air continuously for four or five days, has been wiped out. The centers of the country's major towns have been destroyed.

Children and young men were dragged away from their families and executed on the spot as "a lesson to the youth." Young men aged 14 or over are mostly gone from the cities--dead, wounded, in exile, or in the hills with the Sandinista guerrillas.

A reporter for the British newspaper, the Manchester Guardian, said: "What's left is hate. The 80-odd foreign correspondents who during two or three weeks criss-crossed the country have come to the same conclusion; Somoza's regime is loathed by the people. It is a sentiment which is handed down from one generation to another exactly as the Somoza clan has been perpetuating its power for over 40 years in Nicaragua."

"The overriding feeling today is a desire for vengeance more than sadness at defeat."

The two main export crops, coffee and cotton, are severely threatened according to researchers at the North American Congress on Latin America in New York. Airplanes ordinarily used to dust crops with pesticides were called up by Somoza for the purpose of bombing rebel held cities, and as a result, the cotton crop may be poor at best.

The last general strike lasted 39 days. Loans from international banks are not coming through. Somoza is in trouble and says he'll get the harvest in by military means--probably putting the Guard in the fields.

The Sandinistas have gotten stronger. The rivalry between factions within the guerrilla group are apparently being resolved. Without substantial military or financial aid from outside the country, the Nicaraguan rebels are training to push to victory their prolonged war against the hated Somoza regime.



Sandinista National Liberation Front prepares for next anti-Somoza offensive.

# No Peace in Mid-East

## Palestine Must Be Free!

When Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat receive their Nobel Peace Prize in December, heaping praise on each other and Jimmy Carter, peace in the Middle East will hardly be around the corner. Despite the two "Frameworks for Peace" they hammered out at Camp David, Israel keeps a deadly grip on the Arab lands it has seized and remains the focal point of Middle-East conflicts.

Another war is much higher on the agenda than peace for the Middle East.

Within days of the Camp David Summit the fighting in Lebanon flared up to record levels — a warning of just how volatile the Middle East situation is. In addition to the contradictions internal to Lebanon, the country is a battleground for all parties and issues in the Middle East conflict. In the latest fighting, Israeli gunboats shelled Beirut and the Lebanese right wing, armed to the teeth by Israel, went on the offensive.

The Camp David pact bears the heavy stamp of the U.S. government. It was no coincidence that U.S. President Carter drew Sadat and Begin thousands of miles away from the people of the Middle East, and even in total seclusion from the American people, to forge the accords.

### THE RESULTS OF CAMP DAVID

The stage for the present hoopla about peace was set at Camp David on September 17, when Carter announced two major breakthroughs in negotiations between Israel and Egypt; the "Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt" and "the Framework for Peace in the Middle East."

The first "breakthrough" is the only concrete one. It outlines a separate peace between Egypt and Israel which will be formalized into a treaty and signed in December.

It involves returning the Israeli-occupied Sinai peninsula back to Egyptian control. In exchange, Egypt will recognize the state of Israel,

open full relations with it and promise not to go to war.

Egypt will be the first Arab state to recognize Israel, established as a settler colonial state on Palestinian land in 1948. This separate peace is a dramatic break in Arab ranks and is aimed at undermining progressive forces in the Arab world.

As for the second "breakthrough," the overall conflict in the Middle East, focused on Israeli's occupation of Syrian territory and especially its oppression of the Palestinian people: no progress was made.

A peaceful settlement actually took a step back, particularly on the West Bank where Israel has significantly hardened its line against recognizing any Palestinian national rights.

### CONFLICTS STILL SIMMERING

The central conflicts are still simmering in the wake of Camp David: Israel versus the Palestinians.

The Camp David pact virtually ignores the Palestinian people, forcibly expelled by Zionism from their homeland and living as refugees. More, it lays the basis for continuing the oppression of those Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under Israeli rule.

Fayez Sayegh, a Palestinian who works at the Kuwait Mission to the U.N., gave a sharp sumup of why Palestinians oppose the pact:

"A fraction of the Palestinian people (under one-third of the whole) is promised a fraction of its rights (not including the national right to self-determination and statehood) in a fraction of its homeland (less than one-fifth of the area of the whole); and this promise is to be fulfilled several years from now, through a step-by-step process in which Israel is able at every point to exercise a decisive veto-power over any agreement.

"Beyond that, the vast majority of Palestinians is condemned to permanent loss of its Palestinian national identity, to permanent exile and state-



Worker photo

Palestinians fight for self-determination.

lessness, to permanent separation from one another and from Palestine — to a life without national hope or meaning."

The Camp David framework gives the first international approval to the presence of Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rather than requiring withdrawal, Camp David legitimizes Israeli troops — about 6,000 — inside the West Bank and Gaza.

Since Israel captured the two Palestinian regions in the 1967 Middle East war, it has put them under military law and its soldiers have been stationed in garrisons, manning roadblocks on all major arteries and patrolling areas from outlying fields to ancient narrow casbah streets. Under the "Framework" the Palestinians will gain no military or police force in the area.

As for civil control, Israel will most likely continue to rule key elements of the economy and will have a veto over immigration policy. A new "self-governing" authority will be set up (at some unspecified time) in a process to be decided jointly by Israel, Egypt and Jordan. The "self-governing authority" will have so little power that one Palestinian mayor described it as a glorified school board.

The "self-governing" authority is to remain for five years and there is no indication that Palestinians will get the right to self-determination at that point either. The final resolution of the Palestinian question would be laid out by Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and the governing authority.

### PLO EXCLUDED

The Palestinian Liberation Organization is systematically excluded from the entire process. Yet the PLO has been designated by Palestinians in exile and under occupation to be their sole legitimate representative. This status was reaffirmed by the Arab states and the U.N. in 1974.

When the Camp David pact was made public, one hundred West Bank Palestinian leaders defied an Israeli ban on meetings to gather on October

1 to reject the accords and salute the PLO as their only representative.

A mass meeting held in Bethlehem reiterated these resolves and repeated the often-heard Palestinian demands for "self-determination, the return of the Palestinian refugees to their own country, and the creation of an independent Palestinian state on our own land."

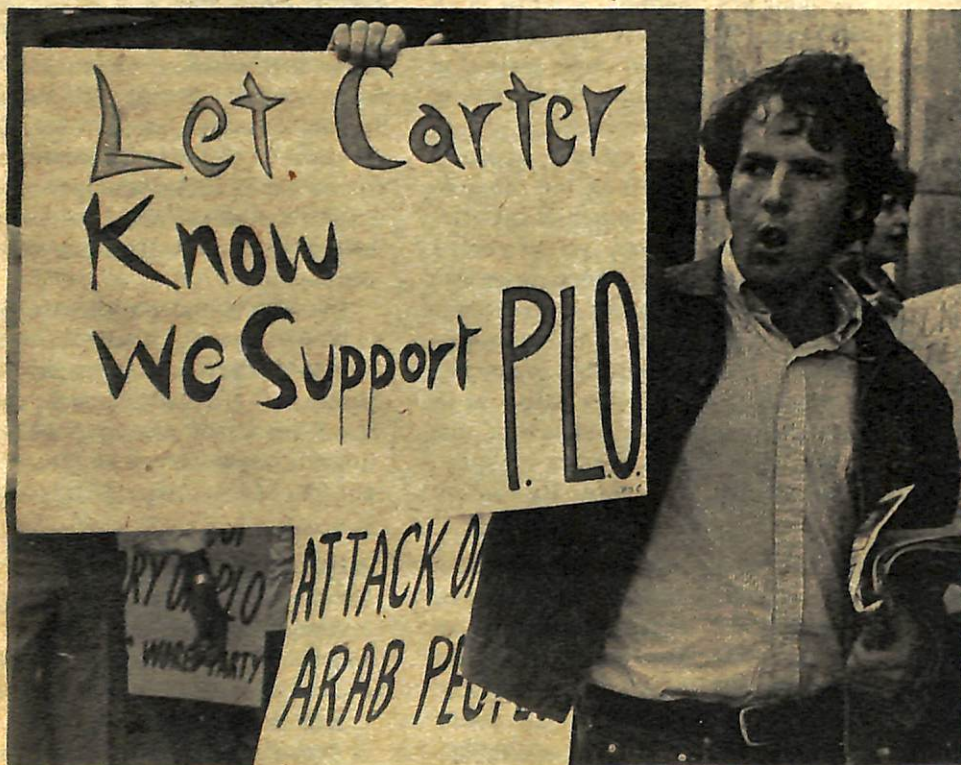
Israel, Egypt and the U.S. kept their options open in the framework on overall peace. If they continue having problems finding any Palestinians to go along with it, they have the option of dropping the whole scheme and going back to business as usual under outright Israeli military occupation. If this course is followed the framework will have served no purpose other than to temporarily soften the blow of Egypt's separate peace on the Arab world.

A key source of conflict not mentioned in the accord is Israel's stated intention of continuing to grab all Palestinian lands and to incorporate them into the settler state. For decades the Israelis have been expropriating Palestinian lands and setting up settlements in order to expand their borders and consolidate their hold. This is how they set up the state of Israel in the first place.

And now, in the wake of the Camp David talks, Begin announced a government plan for greatly expanding the settlements in the West Bank, a likely prelude to annexation of the area into the state of Israel.

Begin says he reaffirms "the inalienable and full right of the Jewish people to settle any part of the land of Israel—including Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza."

Israel has already annexed the eastern side of Jerusalem, which they captured the same time as Gaza and the West Bank, in the 1967 war. Israel insists that Jerusalem is its own capital, and the Arab states demand its return to Arab control. Only Egypt has given unofficial recognition of Israeli annexation and the conflict went totally unresolved at Camp David.



Worker photo

New York City demonstrators protest Camp David pact.

(cont. on page 20)

# TUPELO: A FREEDOM

On the contested streets of Tupelo, hundreds of marchers will join together from counties across the mid-South and from several northern cities. November 25 will be the biggest show of strength and unity so far in the 8-month old boycott movement.

Tupelo has become a battlefield in the Black people's struggle. It is a test of strength, between the freedom movement and the centuries old rugged racist oppression that is a way of life.

The national march sponsored by the United League of Mississippi and the Tupelo Support Committees is aimed at bringing home the immediate demands of the boycott and at spreading the inspiration and power of this key struggle. The demonstration will be the talk across Thanksgiving dinner tables for Blacks in the north Mississippi area. It will be the reason Blacks, whites, and Latinos in other states will not get on vans and buses for twelve to twenty hour rides into the hill country of Mississippi. Row on row of marchers will be "walkin' and talkin'" about affirmative action hiring, an end to police brutality, and Ku Klux Klan terror, and the dirt poor modern day slavery of "the new South."

March organizers say that no raggedy band of white-sheeted racists is going to stand in the way of this march. Klansmen have threatened to demonstrate every time the League takes to the streets. But Tupelo residents say "we're beyond fearing them."

The Thanksgiving weekend action will come at a time when the city officials of Tupelo have been forced to make some promises of action to answer United League demands. The 8 months of boycott against Tupelo's white-owned businesses have cut severely into profits, particularly in the downtown area. The almost weekly marches in Tupelo or a neighboring county seat have mobilized and inspired hundreds. As the struggle broke into the national news, an active support movement began to grow up in the north.

A high point in the struggle was the Labor Day demonstration in which 800 marchers stood up to the provocations of 50 armed KKKers. The United League marchers, bolstered by a contingent of 150 supporters from 6 northern cities stood firm as gun-toting racists sidled past the protest staging area. The defiant Black response to the terror tactics inspired even greater struggles as thousands learned of the march on national TV news shows. In addition the efforts of Tupelo city fathers to sell Tupelo as a stable area for industrial expansion took a nose dive.

On October 4th, Tupelo Mayor Clyde Whitaker announced that the city was drafting an affirmative action hiring plan to be unveiled sometime in November. This was the same Clyde Whitaker who met with robed and masked Klansmen in his office in May. The same Whitaker who had previously refused to meet any United League demands.

Whitaker also now announced that a Black had been appointed building inspector, that a Black has been made foreman over one city water crew, that some Black first grade teachers have been hired, and that some Blacks will be hired at the medical center.

The United League agreed to restrict boycott picketing until they see how much the city is willing to



## Come to Tupelo

# March on November 25

Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church Noon

For information and rides contact the Tupelo Support Committee:

Chicago 922-0535	Boston 522-4461	Milwaukee 442-5542	Mississippi 252-4465
Baltimore 563-1315	Gary 884-7624	Minneapolis 827-2361	New York City 564-5397

give up. But the boycott itself will remain in full force. And the November 25th march will be a powerful statement pushing for major changes in the whole fabric of oppression.

Overall the response of the United League to these concessions has been to press ahead with plans for the national march. Jim Agnew, a coordinator for the League, put it this way, "We're not asking, we're demanding. And when you demand \$10, are you supposed to be quiet when they give you \$3?" Another member said, "We can't afford to let up now. There's too much at stake."

Tupelo's Blacks have learned that it is only through uncompromising struggle that the mountain of injustices will be attacked. It's like the words from a gospel song that begins many of the rallies: "O Lord, I don't want you to move the mountain. Just give me the strength to climb."

It was this attitude on the part of the Blacks that forced Tupelo to fire two racist cops last spring. Now it is giving up some long overdue public service jobs to Blacks. The climate of struggle is so widespread in northern Mississippi that Black high school students in the nearby town of Okolona boycotted school demanding more Black teachers and cheerleaders. And when Klan-types fired on Blacks in the streets of Okolona, community residents stepped up their armed self-defense and demanded that the assailants be prosecuted. The Klansmen were found guilty and dealt jail terms and fines. League members in Okolona consider this a big victory especially since the Klan had previously carried quite a bit of influence in the local courts.

The spirit shown in the Tupelo struggle extends far beyond the bor-

Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson (in suit at right) of the Invisible Empire Knights of the Ku Klux Klan makes a grandstanding play for TV coverage at the United League's Labor Day march and rally in Tupelo. Wilkinson and his gang of white-sheeted know-nothings criss cross their way from one trouble spot to another. His method is to preach violence and sling racism wherever he goes.

At times he and his secretive cone-heads have succeeded in appealing to an irrational racist sentiment in the area. In northern Alabama they succeeded in turning out two thousand whites to a rally during the Tommy Lee Hines frame up case. The main thing they have to offer is the most narrow and reactionary appeals to white supremacy.

Wilkinson's Invisible Empire is an outfit on the make. They're frantically trying to build up an image for themselves and capture the mantle of "saviors of the white race."

While one Klan splinter group is talking about patrolling the Mexico-U.S. border, and another is injecting itself into the school busing controversy, Wilkinson's latest maneuver was to fly to Seabrook, New Hampshire as a proponent of nuclear power. He and a sidekick decided to describe themselves as a "Klan rally" at the besieged nuclear construction site.

Who are the followers of such a rank racist and publicity seeker?

ders of Lee County and even Mississippi. In the small town of Wynne, Arkansas, 150 people took to the streets on October 8 demanding that the local sheriff and city prosecutor resign for their role in the police killings of two Blacks in September. Skip Robinson, and several other United League leaders, have inspired audiences in New York, Boston, Chi-



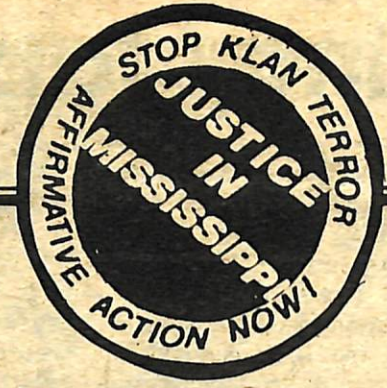
When 5 Klansmen "unmasked" as a publicity stunt before TV cameras in Tupelo, 4 turned out to be local cops. At least 2 of these have since been forced out of their jobs by the anger of Tupelo's Blacks, who have seen Klan ideology turn into real attacks in their community.

The fifth proud Klansman turned out to be Bill Howard, who described himself as "in the furniture manufacturing business." A Tupelo reporter checked into Howard and found out that in fact Howard was a former furniture worker, who had just been fired for steal-

cago, Gary, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh on a national speaking tour sponsored by the Tupelo Support Committee. The tour spurred on local solidarity activities and fundraising.

Momentum for the national march is growing. Thousands of posters announcing the demonstration are going up on abandoned buildings in inner cities across the north and northeast.

# CALL



## Tommy Lee Hines Railroaded in Alabama Worker Interview

DECATUR, ALA. - The Black community of Decatur, Alabama is 100% behind a young man named Tommy Lee Hines. Just about everybody knows the Hines family. They'll all swear that Tommy Lee could not have possibly raped a white woman on February 16. He should never have been convicted. He should not be starting a thirty-year sentence in the Alabama State Penitentiary at Kilby.

Tommy Lee has been retarded since birth.

The twenty-six-year-old is the uncomprehending victim of a racist trial aimed at further polarizing Blacks and whites in northern Alabama.

For five and a half months the Decatur Black community fought for Tommy Lee Hines. They called in an organizer from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. They set up a tent city on the courthouse square. They called for Tommy Lee's freedom in community meetings and marches.

As the case was about to go to trial, the Ku Klux Klan surfaced in northern Alabama. The Invisible Empire Knights pitched their tents in front of the Morgan County Courthouse and burned a cross in front of the civic center. This is the same Klan splinter group that was building a racist campaign against the Tupelo boycott, a hundred miles to the West.

When the lawyer for Tommy Lee Hines asked for a change of venue, judge John Riley moved the trial to Cullman, Alabama, the county with the smallest percent of Blacks. Cullman has only 400 Blacks out of a population of 36,000. The town has such a racist reputation that Blacks never used to get off the bus there. Only three Black families live within the city limits.

When Hines' supporters tried to march into Cullman, the KKK announced that they would allow no Blacks into the city limits. They whipped up a crowd of some 2,000 whites to line the march route. Some were curiosity seekers, but many carried chains and clubs. When the marchers reached Cullman, the police arrested 22 of them. The chief's orders came after the KKK imperial wizard, Bill Wilkinson said, "I thought these niggers weren't going to be marching in Cullman."

At the trial the judge admitted a testimony about a supposed confession. A cop testified that he had driven the retarded young man to the site of the rape and asked him if he committed two rapes there or three. Tommy has a mental age of 6 and an IQ of 39 and is highly suggestible. He said, "Three." On this evidence and on a belated identification by one rape victim - the other two say Hines wasn't the man - Hines was convicted. The woman was unable to identify him until the day of the arraignment. Her assailant had worn a garbage bag over his head!

The following is drawn from an interview conducted in Decatur by a reporter for this paper with James Hines, Tommy Lee's father, and a member of the United League of Mississippi.



Worker photo

Clint Standifer, of the United League, interviews James Hines (center) and friend.

Interviewer: What was the outcome of the trial?

Mr. Hines: They gave our boy thirty years. There isn't any way he did what they say. They done wrong by us and our child all the way.

Interviewer: Why was the site of the trial moved from Decatur to Cullman?

Mr. Hines: The judge moved the trial to Cullman. We asked for it not to be moved but we lost. We wanted the trial right here in Decatur. We didn't have a chance down there at all. You know what's down there? There ain't but 400 Black people down there. That's an almost all-white town.

Interviewer: What happened at the trial in Cullman?

Mr. Hines: They wouldn't let us tell nothing about the boy's sickness, about how he was retarded, about what the police did to our boy. We were overruled on all of this.

That boy was all right. He was the best child I've got. He minded well, went to school, went to church - there's the two places he goes.

Interviewer: Did he graduate from high school?

Mr. Hines: No, he didn't graduate from anything. The boy can't write or read. He's too retarded. He

don't know a nickel from a dollar. The police had him writing and reading and counting. He can't even ride a bicycle.

The doctors have said the boy don't have the mind of a six year old child. This was on TV. He never had sex with a woman or a girl in his life. Six doctors said the same thing. That boy don't go out.

It's awful how they treated that boy. The police had him staying out late at night.

Interviewer: How have they treated your son?

Mr. Hines: They've done real bad by my son. He's lost his mind. They put him in jail. He's retarded, he don't belong in jail. They put electric shocks on him, around his head. He's lost his mind.

He's cold like a piece of ice. I don't know how he was alive. They beat him up too - he told me so himself.

When he went there he was fat and fine, but now he is skin and bones. His skin is hanging all off of him. He's lost his mind, he doesn't know us. He shouldn't be in prison.

Interviewer: What kind of support has your son got from the people around here?

(cont. on page 17)



Philadelphia 455-4230  
Pittsburgh 462-1317  
Washington, D.C. 544-6363



The next time he was interviewed, he described himself as "between jobs." Cracker cops and twisted racists - these are some of the types that follow Wizzard Wilkinson. It's up to the people of all nationalities to keep on standing up to these hate peddlers, to mobilize by the thousands in order to isolate them and break their influence. And if they want to terrorize people, they're going to have to pay.  
Stopping the Klan is another reason for the March for Freedom, November 25, Tupelo, Mississippi.

They're also hanging up in rural grocery stores and gas stations in the area around Tupelo. Tupelo has become more than a struggle confined to one area. It symbolizes the aspirations of a people held down for too long, a people standing up to a situation of increasing poverty and racism as monopoly corporations rip off their land and labor.

## United League Tour

Skip Robinson, leader of the United League, inspired crowds in Milwaukee, Chicago, Gary, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Boston, Kent, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. In addition, Tupelo Support Committee benefits and parties raised hundreds of dollars for transportation to the November 25 march.



# China/Japan Treaty

One war was legally declared over, and any moves towards another were sharply rebuffed, following a peace and friendship treaty recently signed by China and Japan. The treaty is aimed at increasing trade and cooperation between the two countries to their mutual benefit, and strengthening the independence of the Asia-Pacific countries by opposing domination by the two superpowers, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

China's Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping travelled to Tokyo for the October 23 signing ceremonies and an eight-day visit. Cheering crowds gave him a warm welcome, as the one-time enemies put an official end to World War II hostilities (when Japan invaded China) and charted a new path of friendship and cooperation.

Meanwhile, diplomats from the U.S. were excluded from the signing ceremony because of the U.S.'s continued diplomatic recognition of the criminal Taiwan regime as "representatives" of China, and Soviet diplomats were barred from a reception following the treaty signing.

Besides settling their past differences and increasing future trade and cooperation, the two countries addressed a new issue of importance, the future relations among countries of Asia, as well as elsewhere in the world. This was outlined in the anti-hegemony clause of the treaty, where both countries agreed not to seek hegemony (meaning control or rule by one country over another country or area) in the Asia-Pacific region, and to oppose efforts by any other countries to seek this kind of control in that part of the world.

This is a new development in treaties between countries, and reflects the socialist diplomacy China practices.

As a socialist country, China has no need to rule and plunder other lands. China is striving to build up a modern industry, agriculture, national defense, and science and technology. To achieve these goals China wants and practices a climate of peace between nations. China's leaders have reaffirmed that China will never become a superpower or seek

hegemony. This stand is reflected in China's military, which is entirely defense oriented, and has no bases outside the country's borders.

It is more significant that Japan signed the anti-hegemony clause, because Japan is a capitalist country which attempted to conquer the whole area only four decades ago. But things have changed. China is a strong country, no longer "the sick man of Asia." Other countries in the region have won growing strength and independence. Japan has its own reasons to oppose superpower domination there. Under these conditions, Japan is unlikely at present and has committed itself in the treaty not to return to its past path of aggression and expansion.

If Japan follows this treaty clause, it will strengthen the unity of the entire region, thus making it more difficult for outside forces to stir up trouble there. During his visit, Teng Hsiao-ping urged Japan to strengthen its defensive capability to better deal with threats to its independence.

## FIGHTING SUPERPOWER CONTROL

The greatest contribution the treaty makes to the independence of countries and to postponing world war is the agreement to resist superpower attempts to gain control of the area. The two imperialist superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are engaged in maneuvers all over the globe, as they compete with each other to dominate countries and strategic locations.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the United States has a bloody record of aggression for almost 100 years, against China, the Philippines, Laos, Viet Nam, and Kampuchea (Cambodia). It continues to militarily prop up reactionary puppet regimes in South Korea and the Chinese province of Taiwan. This older superpower is trying hard to hang on to what it's got.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is like a late-comer to the banquet table, on the make for its share of countries to exploit. The Soviets have given military and verbal support to Viet Nam

in its war of aggression against Kampuchea and its border incursions into China. And the U.S.S.R. holds four northern Japanese islands it refuses to return.

Just weeks after the announcement of the Japan-China Friendship Treaty, the Soviet Union and Viet Nam announced a "friendship" pact. But while examination of the Sino-Japan treaty makes it clear that it is aimed at maintaining the neutrality and independence of Asia, the Soviet-Viet Nam pact will serve the hegemonic ambitions of the Soviets and its new junior partner.

The Soviets are seeking to open a naval base at Cam Rahn Bay in Viet Nam, the huge naval base built by the U.S. during its war of aggression there. The Soviets are also considering construction of a major naval base at Korsakov, only 80 miles from the northernmost part of Japan. These two would be a giant pincers to squeeze the Asia-Pacific nations.

Moscow also has 44 troop divisions deployed along the China border, and has reportedly deployed its latest mobile missile, which has a range of 4000 miles, in Siberia, aimed at both China and Japan. The size of the Soviet force, and its choice of armaments make it crystal clear

that their intention is not self-defense but to dominate and intimidate the countries of Asia.

Soviet activity in the Asia-Pacific region isn't only military. Moscow's Narodny bank in Singapore, for instance, is one of the area's most rapidly expanding banks.

Because Russia is more recently trying to move into the area and is the more aggressive of the two superpowers, it opposed the Sino-Japan treaty in all kinds of ways, including slander against China and Japan as preparing for war, and a world-wide propaganda campaign. In an effort to kill the treaty, with its anti-hegemonism clause, the Soviet Union twisted Japan's arm with economic threats, naval maneuvers right outside her territorial waters, and political bluster. This is the main reason it took four years to conclude the treaty.

The treaty represents a tremendous victory against such bullying and big power tactics. Compromise in the face of such threats would only encourage Moscow's endless appetite for world control. Firm stands like this one blunt Soviet expansionism, and Russia's clamor against the treaty shows that this is what it fears most.

By slowing Soviet expansionism world war is delayed and the world's people have more time to prepare their defense and to make the superpowers pay when they do launch such a war.



Chinese (left) and Japanese (right) leaders at close of treaty signing ceremony

## Shah...

(cont. from page 2)

flew to Paris to consult Khomeini and came home calling for redoubling the battle to topple the Shah.

### OTHER FORCES

During September and October, Marxist-Leninist forces grew in influence as the revolutionary current within the anti-Shah movement deepened. Although their base has historically been strongest among students, they have a base among sections of the workers and helped lead some of the strike actions. They have also made large inroads among intellectuals and professionals where a big trend has been to agitate for a Western-model democratic government. While building the mass upsurge, they have combatted the influence of the most reactionary Muslim clergy and they have exposed the Tudeh Party.

This outfit, which calls itself Iran's Communist Party, functions as the political arm of the Soviet Union in Iran. The Tudeh Party, although it has a longtime underground apparatus, sat out the early stages of the mass movement, then left in this summer. It tries to pass the Soviet Union off as a solid ally of the Iranian people.

U.S., SOVIETS CONTEND

### U.S., SOVIETS CONTEND

These Soviet agents have a big advantage - they can easily unite with the righteous hatred of the Iranian people for the U.S. government. It was the C.I.A. which sponsored the 1953 coup that first put the Shah in power.

Since then Iran has been a gold mine for oil companies and other U.S. corporations. Its large size and population, rich fossil fuel resources and strategic location between the Middle East and Asia, and between the U.S.S.R. and the Indian Ocean, made it a lynchpin of the world economic empire assembled by the American capitalist class.

The Shah has been built up as the main U.S. front man in the area. His military and secret police are trained in hush-hush camps in Virginia and New Mexico. Only last year his U.S.-trained armed forces received fully one-half of all U.S. arms exports! Not only the army, but the government owned industry and the torturers of SAVAK all boast numerous American "advisors," many fresh from Viet Nam.

Loss of Iran would be a disaster of far greater magnitude than Indochina for the bandits who run our own coun-

try. As a result, they have been almost fanatic in their efforts to help the Shah weather the storm. Daily phone calls and diplomatic couriers bear messages of support and promises of aid.

As the Shah's situation worsens, U.S. spies and diplomats are also trying to line up possible "moderate" replacements. Meanwhile, there have been no plans made for the evacuation of the 45,000 Americans in Iran, a usual measure in cases of revolts in third world countries. This leaves Carter the option of sending in the Marines "to protect American citizens," like Johnson did to crush a people's rebellion in the Dominican Republic in 1965.

The danger of a wider war inherent in the current situation is underlined by the fact that the Soviet Union began military maneuvers on the 1500 mile border it shares with Iran when the mass struggle grew to the point of threatening to topple the Shah.

The U.S.S.R. has high hopes of spreading its vulture wings over Iran before the current turmoil stops. Its main tool in the revolutionary upsurge is the Tudeh Party, but it is still unwilling to cut the ties it had built with the Shah to keep the U.S. from 100% control.

The Soviets set up Iran's steel industry and exercise considerable

management control over it. They are the main customers for Iranian natural gas, which they resell to their Eastern European satellites like East Germany at a considerable markup.

Still, Iran has been a big stone in the path the Soviets are following toward seizing their own world empire, even under the Shah. They have a great deal at stake now. Wresting control of Iran from the U.S. would shift the balance of world power sharply in their direction. It would hasten the day when the New Czars feel both ready and compelled to take on the U.S. on the battlefield to determine which will be the dominant imperialist power in the world.

The threat of direct intervention in Iran from either the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. is real, and each superpower is keeping a sharp eye on the other's moves. But overall, the best they can do is respond to the rapidly developing situation created by the incredible heroism and determination of the Iranian people in their millions.

The masses are the biggest barrier to both sets of would-be slavemasters. The doom of imperialist ambitions resounds deeply through the concrete canyons of Iran's cities, tens and hundreds of thousands of voices demanding "Independence," every time a mass demonstration against the Shah hits the streets.

# Vietnam Out to Overthrow Cambodian Gov't.

## Soviet Union Stirs Trouble

Eight years ago, Vietnamese and Cambodian guerrillas battled side by side against Nixon's invasion of Cambodia. Today the two nations are looking at each other through gunsights. Hanoi claims that rebel Cambodian troops are staging an uprising in areas near the Vietnamese border. Cambodia (Kampuchea) counters that the "rebels" are Vietnamese and that Vietnamese agents are trying to overthrow the government in its capitol, Phnom Penh.

Who's telling the truth? Are the two former allies now battling each other to see which one will lord over South East Asia?

There is one other piece needed to solve this puzzle - the Soviet Union. Ever since the total defeat of the U.S. in 1975, the Soviets have been maneuvering to bring Indochina into their sphere of control. This once-socialist, now-capitalist country has gained significant influence in the government of Vietnam. They are using this influence to fan border differences between the Vietnamese and the Kampuchean people.

The Soviet Union, which never supported the Cambodian revolution, is especially eager to discredit and defeat its leaders now that they are building socialism. They want to break the independence of Democratic Kampuchea in order to strengthen a pro-Soviet southern flank in their strategy of encircling China. They want to become the dominant power in all of Asia.

### PAST DIFFERENCES

Even when both countries were in combat with U.S. imperialism, serious differences existed. In 1967 peasants in Western Cambodia, almost unarmed, rebelled against their government. Cambodian communists faced a choice: join the rebellion of the people or unite with the government, which gave aid and sanctuaries to the Vietnamese National Liberation Front.

They joined the rebellion, over the objections of the Vietnamese who said once South Vietnam was liberated Cambodia would follow anyway. This was the start of the people's war to liberate Cambodia. Because of this correct decision, when the U.S. sponsored Lon Nol's coup in Cambodia in 1970, the Communist Party of Kampuchea and its armed forces were able to continue providing sanctuary and supplies to the Vietnamese fight-

ers. And in 1975, the Cambodian people were liberated from the U.S. and its puppet Lon Nol through their own efforts.

After the war ended and the two countries no longer faced a common enemy, relations deteriorated rapidly. For example, the Cambodians requested the Vietnamese leave their former sanctuaries along the Ho Chi Minh Trail down through Eastern Cambodia; the Vietnamese stalled and stalled.

In fact, Vietnam's plan was to establish an Indochinese federation in which a newly reunited Vietnam would play big brother to Laos and Cambodia. To this day there are as many Vietnamese troops based in Laos as there are in the Laotian Army (30,000). The government of Democratic Kampuchea wanted no part of such a federation.

### THE "BORDER WAR"

Last year, things went from bad to worse. Twice in the last 12 months the Vietnamese Army, one of the five largest ground forces in the world, drove up to 40 miles into Kampuchea, before being stopped at considerable cost. Their goal was not the seizure of territory, but triggering the collapse of the Kampuchean government. Cambodian forces responded by striking into Vietnam as a warning.

The U.S. press reports this as a border war, but both sides agree the question at stake is the overthrow of the Kampuchean government. The main Vietnamese tactic now is sponsoring, arming, and leading "uprisings" by Cambodian renegades, some of whom are longtime residents of Vietnam. This "revolution" is supposed to succeed where outright invasion failed in bringing to power



Kampuchean fighters survey Vietnamese military vehicles they destroyed.

a Cambodian government subservient to Vietnam.

### TWO ROADS TO DEVELOPMENT

Soviet influence in Vietnam grew as the devastated country accepted post-war economic aid and advice from Russia, and with it the Russian model for economic development. It stresses building up heavy industry as more important than building a strong political and economic base in socialist agriculture. The path of relying on the alliance of the workers and peasants as the bulwark of a revolutionary system was pioneered and proven by the Chinese.

Vietnam's reliance on Soviet aid began to cement the country into the Russian bloc. Recently they joined Comecon, the Soviet Union's economic association based on the Eastern European satellite states. The Vietnamese plan for building the country requires \$3 billion in foreign aid over the next six years.

At the same time the Vietnamese increasingly adopted the Soviet international line. They became very anti-China, provoking the recent border incidents, and expelling thousands of ethnic Chinese from the northern part of the country and calling China "the main threat to world peace."

It's hard to say what political struggle over these policies has gone on in the Vietnamese Workers Party. It is known that a substantial section of its leadership has been purged in the last two years.

During all this the Cambodian people have also faced a choice about how to re-build their war torn country. The majority of the population had been forced by U.S. bombers into the capitol city of Phnom Penh, where they survived on U.S. food aid to dictator Lon Nol. To avoid mass

starvation and build up the countryside after Lon Nol was overthrown, the Cambodian government had to disperse 3 million people from the capitol back to the fields and villages. The people built agricultural cooperatives and made ambitious plans for restoring dikes, reservoirs and farmlands. They have succeeded in substantially raising the per capita rate of food consumption and even have enough to begin to export rice. In building socialism as in fighting for liberation, the Kampuchean people rely on their own efforts.

### ATROCITIES?

This period of decentralization and revolutionary change brought all sorts of baseless charges of atrocities and slanders against the Kampuchean struggle. The Soviet Union and Vietnam have joined the chorus of those in the U.S. who paint Cambodia as one vast blood bath, a revolution-crazed handful decreeing death and dictatorship everywhere.

Newsweek's Asian edition, for example, printed atrocity photos that the Washington Post, a Newsweek subsidiary, had retracted as forged several months earlier.

It is possible there were excesses in Kampuchea - and Vietnam as well. When people overthrow a system that has oppressed them for centuries, things aren't like a debutante ball. But overall, there can be no question that the stability, independence, and socialist democracy of Kampuchea are tremendous advances.

Kampuchea is a solid force for peace and independence in a part of the world that is greedily coveted by the Soviet superpower. It has received recognition and support from both nations and revolutionary movements in Asia for this reason. China for a long time took a neutral stand on the dispute, even after Vietnam's first incursions into Kampuchea. As late as a year ago, Chinese aid to Vietnam was 50% higher than that to Democratic Kampuchea.

When its attempts to negotiate a peaceful settlement broke up on the rocks of Vietnam's continued aggression, China stepped up aid and support to Cambodia. In addition, China has taken a militant stand in its border flareup with Vietnam, applying pressure to keep the Vietnamese from concentrating all their forces on Kampuchea.

The Vietnam-Kampuchea conflict shows clearly how the poisonous role of the superpowers, first the U.S., now the Soviet Union, in Southeast Asia has fueled wars and caused great suffering among the people.

## Welfare for the Rich . . .

(cont. from page 8)

The unequal structure of the U.S. tax system has been steadily widening over the past thirty years. Since World War II the working people's share of all taxation climbed from 41% to 61%. In that same time the capitalists' share dropped from 59% to 39%. This reflects the declining profit rates of the U.S. capitalist system and its gradual shifting of the burden of its crisis onto the backs of the American people.

Tax rates are low for the lowest income people, higher for the average worker, and higher for many middle income business and professional people. But at this point the "fairness" drops off. It's a political system of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich. The politicians have created countless loopholes wide enough to drive an 18 wheeler through. They are oil depletion allowances, machinery depletions, "charitable foun-

dations" and "domestic international sales corporations." The number of families with incomes over \$100,000 that pay absolutely no income taxes rose from 208 in 1960 to 1235 in 1969 and is still soaring. It's the old "rich getting richer and poor getting poorer."

This basically unfair structure of the income tax set up in this country adds fuel behind the proposition 13 fever sweeping the country. Property and other local taxes have been the focus of many of the election year political schemes to reduce taxes. But none of these tax crusaders had the guts or intention to challenge the

widening tax gap in the new bill. All these would-be reformers can do is rant and rave about high taxes. Never do they emphasize the extent to which the super rich escape taxation. They key in on those taxes which are directly tied to local services for the people. They let the corporations and their owners completely off the hook.

The spirit of the tax rebellion is a righteous sentiment among the American people. But the wealthy few are trying to use this movement for their own benefit. This was the case with the 95th Congress tax cut bill. It's time to direct the rebellion at its source.

## Safeway Strike Solid FBI Raids Union Office

SAN FRANCISCO — Hollering about violence and vandalism, the owners of northern California's 4 major grocery chains left no stone unthrown in fighting a 3 month strike by members of the Teamsters. They have written editorials and letters condemning the hundreds of thousands of dollars lost in broken windows and trucks that were rendered inoperable. But the strikers have seen one of their brothers run down, murdered in cold blood by a scab car. Another lost an eye in a picketline fight with guards. A third was beaten to the ground with gunbutts and sprayed with mace for passing out literature.

The owners have screamed that giving in to the Teamsters' just demands will cost them too much money, even as they set aside a \$1 million war chest to bust the strike.

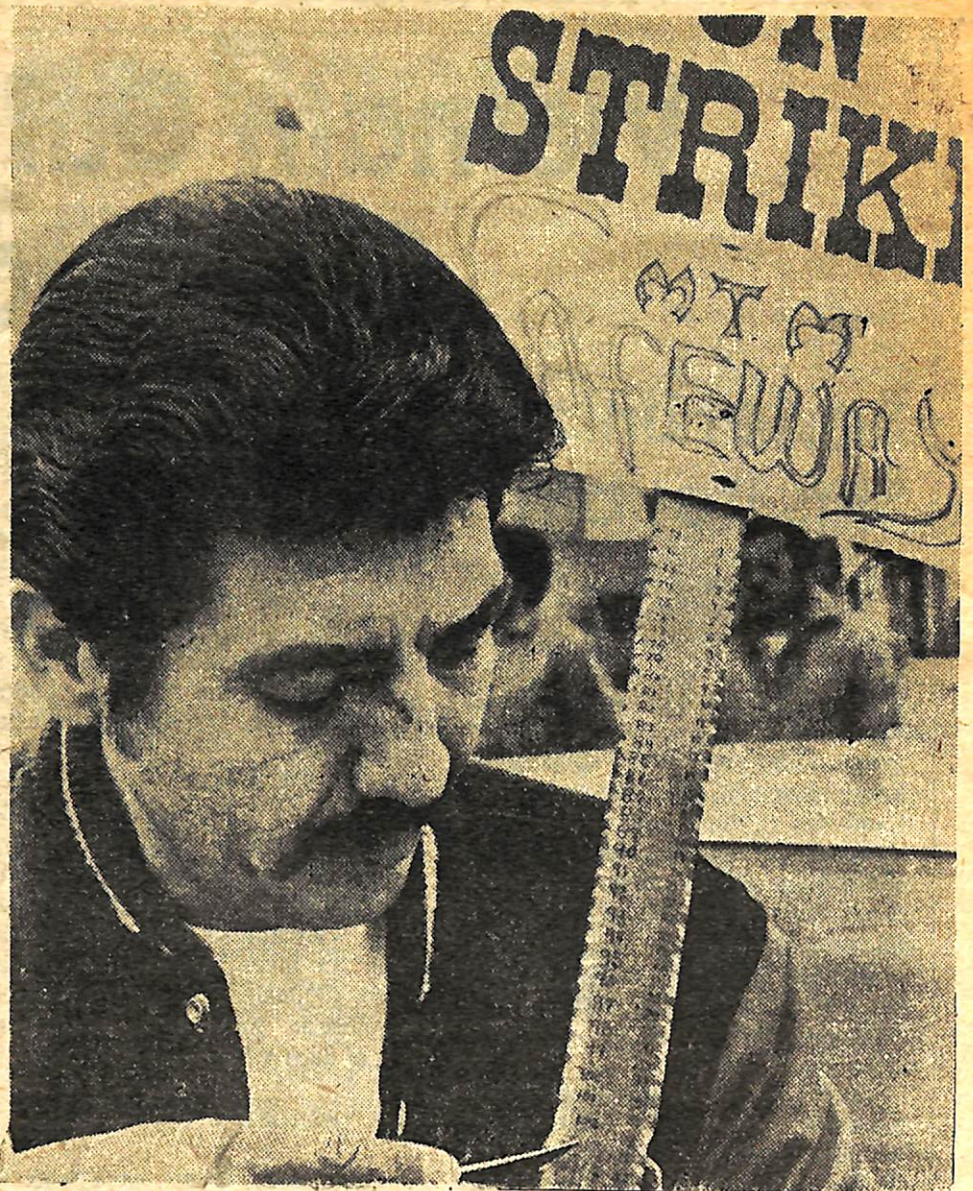
Mass picketing has continued, while the companies arrogantly refuse to negotiate the most crucial of 200 some contract issues. At the end of October, members of a key Teamster local again overwhelmingly turned down a proposed settlement. One union official described it as "the same offer, warmed over." Two days later, the FBI raided, ransacked, and confiscated records from the offices of this same local, claiming it "had nothing to do with the strike."

Key to any acceptable settlement is the workers' demand that Safeway stop a computerized speed-up plan which has sent workers to the hospital from accidents due to the double up in production. 15-30 year men were fired for not being able to keep up with the new pace. The average age of a warehouseman has dropped from 36 to 23 since the plan went into operation.

The strike has been hard for rank and file warehousemen. An uneasy truce between militant local leaders and the sellout chiefs of the Teamsters has broken into public rifts at several points. In October both the Clerks' union and the Butchers' union leaders withdrew sanctions which up to then allowed those workers to refuse to cross Teamster lines with their own union support.

And \$35 a week strike benefits don't go too far.

But while the troubles are there, the militancy and determination to fight has outweighed the weariness. For several weeks the strikers extended picketing all over the West Coast and as far east as Denver to spread the message of their strike, and many wives have volunteered to staff the strike centers. Throughout the Bay Area, many support the spirit of the warehousemen, who are fighting for what they must have.



Safeway striker, 103 notches on his picket sign, marks the days.

## P.O. Attacks Whole Local New Firings

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The mad dogs in charge of the Postal Service have recently lashed out with another wave of firings. 37 more workers are out the door. 110 more have been suspended. And no less than 2300 have been handed a letter of warning at the Jersey City Bulk Mail facility alone. This brings the total fired around the country for resisting the last P.O. contract to over 200, and the number served with some type of disciplinary action well into the thousands.

During the contract negotiations this summer, the aim of the postal management, the government, and the sell-outs like Emmett Andrews of the American Postal Workers Union was to keep the workers wage and benefit increase under 7% and take away the no-layoff clause from the current contract. This offensive was frustrated by several militant job actions and a successful national Vote No campaign on the first offer. In turn, the management responded with two waves of firings, the first right after the wildcats, the second on Nov. 3rd.

Between October 3rd, when the new firings were first announced, and Nov. 3rd when they took effect, the P.O. management launched a campaign to sow fear and uncertainty. The firings were called off, then rumors circu-

lated that even more would go. No one was certain as they walked into work whether they would be back before the end of the shift or not.

Despite the heavy intimidation, the cause of the fired workers and the demand for amnesty enjoys wide support among the rank and file. In fact, Kenny Leiner, one of the fired workers at the Jersey City Bulk Center, recently won election to the post of National Mailhandler Vice-President of the APWU.

The N.Y.-N.J. Good Contract/Post Office Worker Defense Committee has been actively seeking to turn this support into organized action. Three support parties have been held in the N.Y.-N.J. area, drawing over 600 people. Amnesty buttons have been made up and widely sold in and outside of Jersey City. Picket lines at local postal facilities help to keep the issues alive.

When Postmaster General Bolger came to N.Y., he was greeted by 100 angry workers on a militant picket line. A contingent of 35 Jersey City P.O. workers marched in the Columbus Day Parade in that city, demanding amnesty, to the cheers of the crowds lining the street. The committee has also filed a class action suit, now in court, to overturn the firings, win

amnesty, and continue the fight for the right to strike. The fired workers have also spoken at several area union meetings, including Bakery and Communications Workers, Teachers and at the State Industrial Union Council.

None of this has budged APWU President Andrews, who continues to act as an out and out traitor to the struggle. Moe Biller, head of the N.Y. APWU local, has continued to talk tough and do little. In fact, he recently tried to end direct election of shop stewards and replace it with appointment — by him. This move to tighten things up was solidly defeated in a large local meeting, in part because the Good Contract Committee mobilized to defeat the proposal.

The fired workers plan a series of future activities to win amnesty. They are calling on all P.O. workers to join in the fight — and to focus local support toward some national activities demanding amnesty for all. The P.O. workers must be back on the job by Christmas.

Amnesty for the 200 Fired Workers!

Drop All Disciplinary Action Stemming from the July Job Action!

Fight for the Right to Strike!

## Fired Worker Wins Union Race

Two of the three major postal unions recently held national elections. The rank and file made certain gains, but with little active, organized opposition, the top APWU sell-outs like president Emmett Andrews remained in power.

In the National Association of Letter Carriers, Joseph Vacca was challenged and defeated by Vinnie Sombrotto, president of the N.Y. local and a leader in the 1970 strike. The Vacca defeat was a result of the continued sentiment against the contract. What the victory of Sombrotto means remains to be seen.

In the APWU, Kenny Leiner and Bob Kirkman, two fired workers from

the Jersey City Bulk Center ran on a program of amnesty and for one industrial union for the mail handlers. Leiner won and was elected the APWU's national Vice-President for mailhandlers.

Less than 40% of the membership voted in the APWU race. Andrews polled only 49% of the vote in a three way president's race. Andrews got 47,000 votes, his main challenger John Napurano got 38,000, and a new-comer named Odom got 13,000. Many believe that Odom was paid by Andrews to split the opposition vote. Odom ran his campaign without putting out one leaflet, but his candidacy did split the vote. If Odom wasn't on

the Andrews payroll, he missed a chance for some easy money.

Napurano spoke to many points of concern to the rank and file, but he purposefully kept his campaign low-key and refused to pull together a rank and file slate to go straight up against Andrews.

The Leiner-Kirkman campaign was different. They ran on a strong rank and file program and actively took the issues to the membership. Their platform called for amnesty and for the merger of the mail handlers from the Mailhandlers Union (part of the Laborers International Union of North America) into the APWU by 1981. This program has won broad support among the rank and file.

## Teamsters...

(cont. from page 5)

of the union. One rank and file demand for the national freight agreement, for example, is for an end of "70-hour slavery" (mandatory overtime). Carhauleders' key demand is majority rule, the right to ratify the contract because the 1976 pact was forced on them by the International, even though they voted it down TWICE by over 60%.

United Parcel Service (UPS) is the largest trucking company in the world and the largest single employer of Teamsters. For the first time in 1979 UPS workers will get a single national contract. In the past a rank and file organization UPSurge helped lead local fights—over abuse of part-timers, forced overtime, etc.

Teamster grievances are many and things are going from bad to worse. But while FASH seeks to pull a section of the drivers out of the Teamsters Union, TDU wants to change it from top to bottom, from its corrupt national leadership to the International Constitution to local by-laws.

TDU has grown since its beginning among disorganized rebels in isolated locals and its membership is still rapidly expanding. Four months ago there was no TDU chapter in the 800 member freight local in Oklahoma City. It now has a 40-member chapter which beat the Fitzsimmons-backed local 866 leadership in recent elections.

TDU candidates swept Local 75 elections in Green Bay, Wisconsin early this year. Top officers of the largest Canadian local have also joined.

Thousands of copies of "Convoy" TDU's national newspaper, are distributed by members to truckers throughout the U.S., and several local chapters have their own papers.

Fitzsimmons has tried numerous tactics to derail the insurgents, from organizing picketing of TDU events to red-baiting, to trying to expel TDU members in Detroit, Pittsburgh and Oakland. At the International Convention, he publically told TDU members to "Go to Hell." One spokesman responded, "We'll go to Hell and back to reform our union."



## Tommy Lee Hines . . .

(cont. from page 13)

Mr. Hines: People all over have been trying to help. A man put up \$75,000 for a bond for my son to get him out of jail when he was up on trial. I couldn't do it because I have had two heart attacks and have been on disability.

United League: Have people marched in the streets?

Mr. Hines: Yes. There's a gang of them that's been marching. We have gotten a lot of support. There have been marches all over. They wanted to march in Montgomery, but the town wouldn't let them.

United League: There's no justice in the courts, so we have to take the struggle into the streets to tell the people that we are not satisfied with the court system. If enough of us get in the streets and raise hell then we will get somewhere.

Mr. Hines: That's right.

United League: We want to join the two towns, Tupelo and Decatur. We can join our forces and fight together.

Others support us in cities all over the country. We have to get people together from all over and combine our forces, break this type of law enforcement down where some justice can be done.

Mr. Hines: That's right, that's right. It needs it here.

United League: So we are going to have to get together, march up and down these streets and let the people know about the struggle. We got some papers we want to pass out around here.

Now on the 25th of next month (November) we are going to have a national march in Tupelo. We are inviting everyone from everywhere to come and participate. We've got some posters we are going to put up.

The more information we can find out about your son, we can come up here and support your son. Then we can do something and keep on raising hell.

Mr. Hines: It needs to be done that way. It sure needs to be done that way.

United League: We'll have to have the support of the Black people down here. And because of your son being a victim it is up to you to get out and right up this situation - even if it causes another heart attack, you have to get out and do it. You are going to die anyway, so you may as well get out and die for something. It could be your other son - it could be your wife. It could be you next.

We Black people have to stand up and hit the streets with our complaints. That's what we found out in Tupelo.

Mr. Hines: It's a whole lot better there now?

United League: A whole lot better. And the same thing can happen here. We haven't got everything we want, but we have seen a change. You will see a change too.



Worker photo

Outraged demonstrators, 2,000-strong, march through streets of New York City to protest killing by cop in Black community.

## Black Protest in Brooklyn Grows

Blacks from Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood have continued to organize in the face of intensified attacks in their community and on Blacks generally. Throngs of community residents crossed the Brooklyn Bridge and marched to downtown Manhattan - to Mayor Koch's office on Sept. 28, and into the Wall Street area on Black Solidarity Day, Nov. 6th. Another march will take the protest to the U.N. on Nov. 21st.

The main focus of the marches has been the police murder of Arthur Miller. Miller was a businessman in his mid-thirties and a respected community leader, who was surrounded by over a score of cops who beat and strangled him to death when he tried to check out the arrest of his brother, charged with driving on an expired license.

At the end of October, a Brooklyn grand jury acquitted five cops, charged after thousands of people hit the streets in the days after the murder. The grand jury said that Miller's death was a "tragic and unforeseeable accident," but "was not the result of a criminal act."

While the marches were triggered by Miller's murder, the organized and mass outrage has developed in response to the sharply deteriorating conditions Blacks have been made to bear in recent times. Besides demanding justice for Arthur Miller and an end to police terror, men and women in the march carried signs protesting the sharp rise in Black unemployment, always higher than for whites, but even more so since '76 when unemployment has generally dropped. They



Worker photo

Marchers' jackets memorialize Arthur Miller, beaten and choked to death by cops.

demanding an end to hospital closings which have been concentrated in the Black community, an end to cutbacks in childcare and senior citizens services, the willful neglect of public housing projects which mainly house Black and other minorities, and the "massive miseducation" of their children.

In the face of these intensified attacks, and in particular response to Miller's murder, a broad front has been forged. Called the Black United Front, it includes forces ranging from the NAACP and the Afrikan Revolutionary Peoples Par-

ty, to the Harlem Fight Back, a group of mainly Black construction workers who have been fighting discrimination in the construction trades and on other jobs for the last ten years. Local residents with no political affiliation have also joined.

While there are diverse views on how to carry out the fight, there is increasing unity that the problem resides on Wall Street. As Rev. Daughtry, one of the BUF's leaders said at the Nov. 6th rally, the same people who run Wall Street run the streets of our community.

## Remembering Scottsboro

Almost half a century ago, nine Black youth accused in a similar Alabama rape frame-up case won the support of people all over the world. The Scottsboro Boys, as they came to be known, were riding a freight train from Chatanooga to Huntsville, Alabama, looking for work.

What began as a brief scuffle on the train between a group of unemployed whites and Blacks became the most widely known "legal lynching" in U.S. history. Af-

ter being picked up by the police, two young white women claimed they were raped. All nine Blacks who had been on the train were charged.

Alabama judges prosecuted the cases with a vengeance. Even though one of the young women later admitted she was lying, the trials went on. One of the Scottsboro Boys, Haywood Patterson, was sentenced to death in the electric chair 3 times.

A massive support movement and

legal efforts won three reversals in higher courts. Some of the nine were pardoned. But still the persecution of the nine continued. Despite May Day marches of thousands in 110 cities calling for their release, Patterson was convicted a fourth time at a trial in Decatur, and sentenced to 75 years in jail.

In 1948, Haywood Patterson escaped from Kilby prison farm, the same jail where Tommy Lee Hines is being held. Others, like Clarence Norris, who as an old man was only recently pardoned, remained

locked up throughout the '30's and '40's.

There was tremendous support for the Scottsboro Boys among workers in the United States and throughout the world. The effects of the Great Depression were beginning to weigh heavily on all workers, and thousands rallied around this case of injustice. Thousands could clearly see that by taking up this struggle, they could unite two related movements - the Black and the workers struggle, strike a blow for justice, and attack a common enemy.

# Steel

(cont. from page 7)

President of U.S. Steel because that's who was running the convention.

## RIGHT TO RATIFY STRUGGLE

McBride claims his convention victory on Right to Ratify proves he has the support of the great majority of union members. In fact what he did was beat down the Right to Ratify forces and the overwhelming majority of workers in basic steel who support the right to vote on (and fundamentally vote down) the company proposals that McBride calls contracts.

The fact that right to ratify was voted down proves only that the convention was sharply opposed to the sentiments of the rank and file. Workers demonstrated their support for this demand in many ways. Delegates from Homestead, Pa. brought a petition to the convention signed by 4,000 of 6,000 workers in their mill demanding the right to ratify. In many districts in basic, support was so widespread that even McBride's own people had to voice support to ensure their election as delegates.

# VW Strike . . .

(cont. from page 5)

negotiations to re-open. The UAW International officials had to intensify their treachery to keep the strikers from completing their victory.

In a break with precedent, the UAW officially ordered Local 2055 back to work, a stronger message than the usual call to end an unauthorized strike. Strikers defied the order and an accompanying back-to-work movement, which weakened, but didn't break the strike.

The International threatened to revoke Local 2055's charter and take over completely. Heavy pressure was brought to bear on local officials, splitting some of them away from the rank and file. Union officials talked up what a great deal they had already negotiated, whined about how they couldn't do much better, and stormed and threatened that the men would ruin a good thing with VW providing much-needed jobs.

They cried about how no other foreign car companies would bring their plants and jobs to the U.S. Corporations, union bigshots and the

After Right to Ratify was defeated at the convention, those brave souls who voted it down quickly voted that no roll call vote be taken so they would not have to put their names down on paper to go on record against the right to ratify. One old fool, Al Lupini from Fairless Steel in District 7 in Pennsylvania, refused to be counted on the floor in support of Right to Ratify (which was a big plank in his local campaign) but after the vote snuck down front to make sure his name was on record as supporting it.

## ELECTION REQUIREMENTS

After defeating Right to Ratify, McBride pushed through some election regulations which make it harder for people to run against him. Strange behavior for someone who claims to have so much support, especially when the current rules have already been declared unconstitutional because they make 98% of the union ineligible to vote.

First he declared that meetings held on the 4-12 shift can't be used in calculating whether a candidate meets the attendance requirements for running. Yet prospective candidates still have to attend the same percentage of meetings per year as previously.

Then he made fund-raising difficult. Now no non-member can contribute to a USWA campaign. Five

government all had one eye on VW and the other looking ahead to Carter's proposed wage controls and the upcoming Big 3 auto contracts in 1979.

After 5 days of defiance, the men of Local 2055 voted on Saturday to return to work while negotiations resumed. When the new contract proposal was revealed, it was a little better than the original offer. It provided more money the first year (\$7 an hour), but was about the same by the end of the 3 years (\$8.20/hour). There was no union meeting called. The men had to vote individually, a precaution meant to keep them from organizing.

The new contract was accepted on October 21. Volkswagen is claiming it won't cost them much more, because they'll shuffle most of the money from benefits over to wages, or cut it from the starting pay of new hires.

The contract is far short of what the workers wanted. But the lengths that the company and UAW officials had to go to in order to get this contract through is an indication that the last word has not been said in New Stanton.

dollars from a candidate's mother is now illegal. McBride's excuse is that this will keep company money out of the elections as well as cash from liberals and communist outsiders. Such concern from McBride, who supports the ENA, productivity committees and the companies' position on imports, about keeping the companies out of our union is laughable.

To top it off, McBride also passed a new law that requires every contribution over \$5.00 to be accounted for very strictly. The contributor's name, local number and address must all be sent to the International. Try getting any help out of the union big shots when you or your local is on record for heavy support for an opposition candidate.

## THE '80s ARE NOT THE '70s

It's clear McBride sees more changing than the date and he doesn't like what he sees going on in the rank and file. From the Las Vegas convention to Atlantic City, the opposition movement grew to play a bigger role and take on more questions. Right to Ratify was made a major issue. The opposition forces also took up dues, the election requirements, the second class status of women in the mills and the union, and organizing opposition to the present rules which allow foremen to serve as union grievors. They called for unity between basic and non-basic.

A more militant section of the opposition, including delegates from the Homestead local, the Iron Range and parts of Canada, pressed for "standing up to McBride on all fronts." As the convention went on these delegates increasingly became the leadership of the opposition movement. It was they who called for the defeat of McBride's "compromise" resolution on right to ratify which famous and less gutsy insurgent forces like Balanoff and Sadowski went along with. It was they who argued the opposition forces should actively go out among the delegates inside and outside the convention and who organized leafletting and cards for a roll call vote for the right to ratify.

Another major advance was deeper roots many opposition forces had in the rank and file. Where McBride candidates were beaten in the delegate elections in locals he controls, it was by right to ratify forces who had a history of fighting the company right on the shop floor.

This represents a big step forward in combining the movement for a rank and file sentiment to beat back company attacks, especially around productivity and job safety.

later, the company announced they had decided to stay open anyway. Their bluff had been called!

\* \* \*

Production was shut down for two days at Pure Pack Foods in Memphis, Tennessee as 300 workers staged a wildcat against discrimination. The walk out was triggered when two Black women were fired over a dispute concerning overtime. They pointed out a white woman had been excused in a similar incident previously.

The majority of Pure Pack's workers are Black. The shop was recently organized by the Meatcutters and is preparing for contract negotiations. Coming down on Blacks is a standard tactic in weakening and splitting up the work force, especially around contract time.

All this back-fired for Pure Pack when the 250 primarily Black production workers were joined on the picket lines by about 50 white maintenance workers in a show of support and working class solidarity.

# Beth Kills . . .

(cont. from page 7)

have lost limbs or been seriously injured in other accidents. A walk into Beth Steel's Sparrows Point Dispensary at 10 AM any day will show every seat in the waiting room full and 20 to 30 people sitting or lying on the floor.

## ANGER GROWS

With each death at Sparrows Point, there has been an increase in public exposure of the conditions which steelworkers have to work under. A few years back the Sunpapers and Hearst's New American carried little but praise for Bethlehem Steel. Today the unsafe conditions, occupational illnesses and company callousness are serialized on the front pages of both dailies as they compete for subscribers.

Some articles helped strengthen the resolve of the workers to fight for better health and safety, like the interview with the company's chief physician, who said that in all his years at Sparrows Point, he has "never seen a case of occupational disease." A growing section of the local medical community has stepped forward to assist the local unions in studies, screenings and research.

The fact that they have drawn some outside support has helped the workers in the mills put the company on the defensive. Beth reacts to Article 14 grievances (shutting down unsafe jobs) much more quickly than in the past, lest they be "falsely accused" of lack of concern for workers' health.

Workers, including many new hires, insisting on a safer working environment, have created a crisis for Bethlehem. The capitalists who own the company must now maintain a front of "concern" about health and safety, while making sure that they don't "waste" money that could be going to increase their profits. The local agency, Maryland Occupational Safety and Health, as well as some company-oriented union officials have stepped forward to help Bethlehem out of its bind.

MOSH, with a pitiful 22 inspectors for 70,000 workplaces in the state, makes few routine inspections of industrial plants. The local director publicly calls MOSH inspectors "consultants" to industry. Bethlehem is seldom fined for anything more than "non-serious" violations (even in some cases of deaths), and the agency gives the company extra time to alleviate unsafe conditions (Recently, in a "pot calls the kettle black" confrontation, Federal Government safety and health officials criticized their Maryland counterparts for being "too lenient." According to OSHA, its average fine for violations was \$475 in 1978; for MOSH, it was \$350. Big deal!)

Some union officials have been outspoken, like Dave Wilson, president of Steelworkers Local 2609 and backed up workers who demand safety inspections or refuse unsafe jobs. Others have constantly pleaded for "moderation" on safety matters and hold that murderous conditions should be accepted as a condition of employment.

Such half-stepping by some union officials and the allegiance of the governmental agencies to the corporations has workers angry and ready to boil over. To a very real extent, each death has come to be seen by the men in the mills as something to be expected, just like in a wartime battle. But that doesn't mean they accept the deaths of their co-workers as the way things have to be. The big shot executives of Bethlehem Steel and their partners are sitting on a powder keg. The 5 deaths so far this year have cut the fuse very short.

# Meatcutters . . .

(cont. from page 6)

ferent names, with the same management personnel and the workers hired back without union rates. For example Armour's former Omaha plant is now working under a new name for a dollar and a half to two dollars below standard. The plant manager is a former Armour official. The company's new business? Custom slaughtering for who else but Armour! The workers are fighting this maneuver through unfair labor charges.

\* \* \*

In other places union busting has come about differently. The Omaha Flavorland plant was on strike for several months in 1977 when the owner, a feed lot operator named Foxley, sold the whole works to Dubuque Pack. The new owner ran scabs and is operating non-union right now. According to a union insider, this company is on a collision course with the Amal-

gamated at its other plants as well.

None of these developments are good signs for the '79 bargaining for 32,000 workers under the master agreement. The established packers are sure to go once again after the wages and contract provisions of the national pact. The giants like Swift will surely threaten to go out of the meat business entirely if they don't get their way.

In the meantime the fight is to restore the union rates at the plants that were maneuvered into different ownership arrangements. Also there will be fights around early retirement and transfer provisions at some of the closing plants.

\* \* \*

Recently Hygrade announced they would close their plant in Storm Lake Iowa if the workers did not give up incentive pay. The meatcutters told Hygrade to shove it. A few weeks

# Viet War Poison Persists

## Agent Orange a Crippling Chemical

"They killed me in Vietnam and I didn't even know it!" This blunt statement from a New York Vietnam vet, dying of liver cancer ten years after his tour in the jungles of Southeast Asia, captures the spirit of Agent Orange Day, called by Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), on the 21st of October. VVAW chapters from coast to coast took to the streets in protest against how GIs had been sprayed with the lethal defoliant Agent Orange during their time in Vietnam, and how the Veterans Administration and the U.S. government now refuse to help those with symptoms of Agent Orange poisoning. In cities from San Francisco to New York the demand was for treatment of Agent Orange victims.

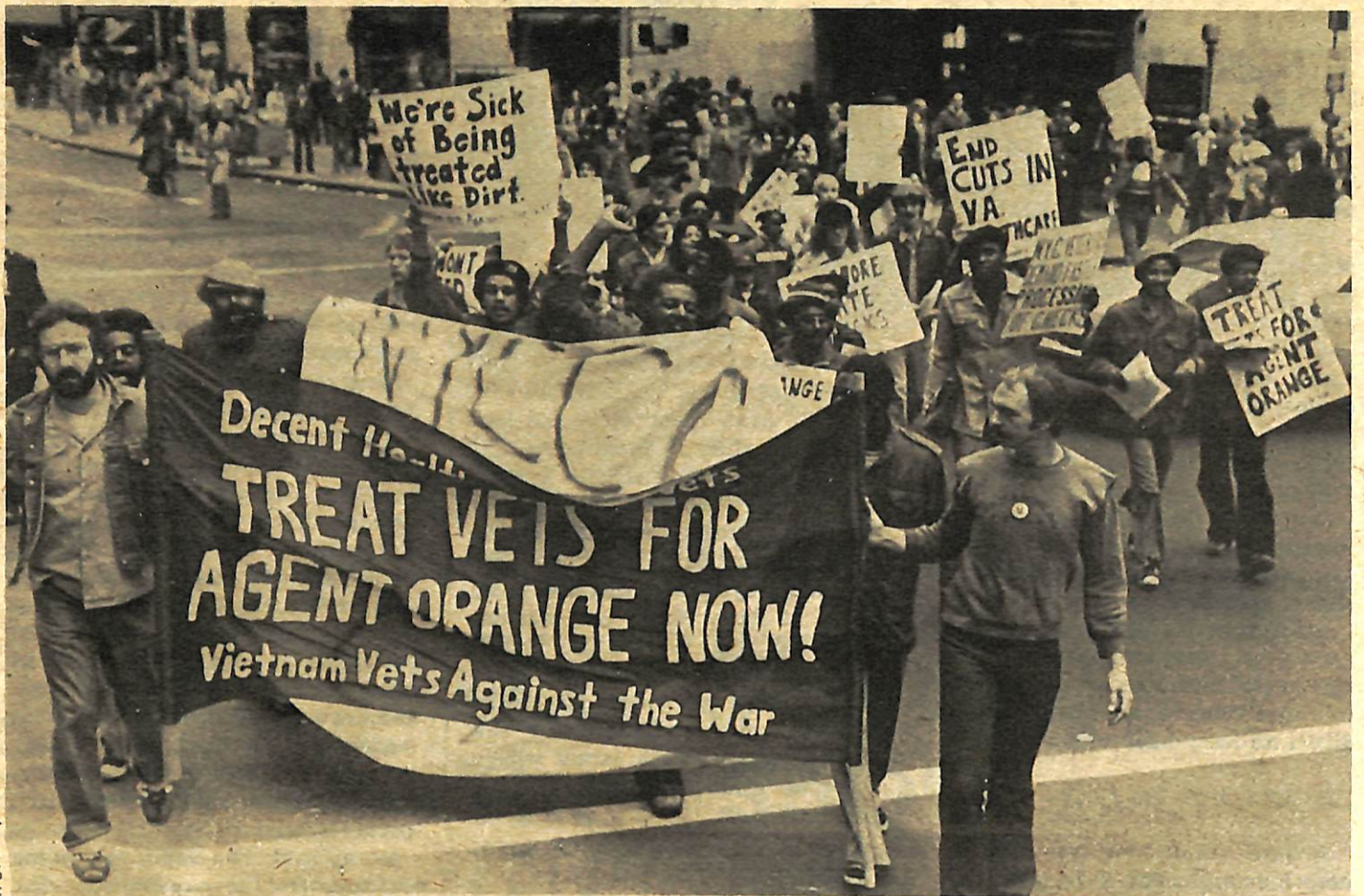
Agent Orange was developed in 1949 in the Army's Biological Warfare Center in Maryland. Its first extensive use was in Vietnam, where the U.S. government sprayed the defoliant to kill jungle growth, destroy crops, cripple the liberation fighters—and in the process poison thousands of American GIs.

2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, the main ingredients, are lethal and lasting (areas where it's been sprayed have remained barren up to 14 years), and dioxin, a by-product, is the most deadly man-made poison known. Its effects on Vietnamese in sprayed areas have been well documented—a huge rise in spontaneous abortions among women, deformed children among those born, chronic skin diseases, liver cancer. Vietnam vets have the same symptoms today, and more: numbness of toes and fingers, periods of prolonged and excessive fatigue and nervousness, loss of sexual drive.

When the effects of Agent Orange began to be publicized in March, '78, VVAW took up a campaign to demand that the Veterans Administration publicize, test for, treat, and compensate effects of the chemical. Hit with sudden pressure, the V.A. reacted differently in different places. In Milwaukee, for instance, the V.A. gave vets blood tests—of no use whatsoever in testing for Agent Orange. In other places, the V.A. tried to shift the responsibility to the vet—vets who applied for disability as Agent Orange victims were told to pinpoint the time and place of exposure and prove that the defoliant caused their symptoms.

### CONGRESSIONAL COVER-UP

Pressure continued, however. Four days before Agent Orange Day, a Congressional subcommittee held a



Worker photo

hearing, as phony as the blood tests plopped on the vets in Milwaukee, and for the same reason—to quench the sparks of struggle.

At the hearing, none of the scientists who have been studying the effects of dioxin poisoning were called. No Vietnam vets hit by the spray were asked to testify. Quiet hearings, in the sanctity of the halls of Congress, listened to an Air Force General say, "Only 6% of the spray ever reached the ground." Meanwhile, VVAW members were preparing, in San Francisco, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Ann Arbor, Chicago, and New York City, to point out that the spraying was done again and again, not just once as the good General's testimony assumed.

"Only in remote areas," said the General to Congress. "Agent Orange was used to clear all the undergrowth from Bien Hoa where I was stationed," said one vet.

"Symptoms of Agent Orange are just an ideology," said the General. "They say all our problems are in our heads," said one Vietnam vet on Agent Orange Day, "but no jobs, a

wretched GI Bill, and most of all, the refusal of the government to deal with the results of its own criminal activities—those things aren't in our heads."

In several cities on Agent Orange Day, vets took the demand to Treat Agent Orange to military recruiters. These swindlers sucker kids into the service with a stock of lies that includes promises of the finest health benefits for vets.

In Milwaukee, a car caravan ended up at the V.A. Hospital. In Minneapolis, a picket line targeted the V.A. since that is the agency of the government which is supposed to help vets. In Chicago, hundreds of people passed by a downtown action, taking leaflets. Many expressed active interest in the problem, since almost every family has a Vietnam vet.

AGENT ORANGE STILL IN USE

### AGENT ORANGE STILL IN USE

Vets, even families of vets, aren't the only ones concerned enough about Agent Orange to take to the streets. Versions of the same defoliant are

in use throughout the U.S. today. Environmental protection organizations have gone up against the Environmental Protection Agency's dedication to protect Dow Chemical and friends rather than the people.

What it all comes down to is this: the government and the class which stands behind it thought nothing of killing off the Indochinese or poisoning GIs with their chemicals, because profits and the preservation of their system came first. Lining the same well-filled pockets is still first when they spray a less-concentrated version of Agent Orange on forests in Oregon, California, Upper Michigan, or northern Wisconsin.

Veterans bring special needs to this overall struggle—like the Chicago vet whose child has enlarged internal organs and a curved spine, symptoms like those of Vietnamese children born after the spraying. Agent Orange is the point where many vets, who have already been used once and again by the rich, and then tossed aside, say, "We're not taking any more—Treat Agent Orange!"

## Nuke Foes Hit A-Plants

October saw a new wave of protests against nuclear power schemes sweep across the country. On the weekend of October 7th, over 500 were arrested in at least 6 states:

—450 arrests in Inola, Okla. at the Black Fox reactor.

—24 arrested at Mt. Zion, Ill.

—42 arrests at Seabrook, N.H.

24 of these started a hunger strike in jail, following the resumption of construction there.

—32 arrested at the Marble Hill, Ind. nuclear generator construction site.

The Shad Alliance picketed the Manufacturers Hanover Bank in New York City to protest loans for the

Seabrook plant made by that bank. In Wisconsin recently, about 40 members of the Tyrone "Natural Guard" occupied a proposed nuke site near their town and stopped the drilling of a well by Northern States Power.

Reports of other anti-nuclear power actions in recent weeks came in from North Carolina, Ohio, California, and Washington State.

In another development, a Ku Klux Klan faction declared nuclear power "safe" at a tiny rally at the Seabrook site. Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson said that they intended to use Seabrook and defense of nukes for a national recruiting drive. An anti-nuke group decided to call off a march against the

Seabrook plant after learning of the KKK march on the same day.

What is it about nuclear generated electricity that stirs so many to action? The facilities, built and run for the profit of power companies and their bondholders, are extremely dangerous. Top corporate scientists have quit their jobs rather than collaborate in the construction of the plants. Even during normal operation, the plants release small amounts of low level radiation to the environment. Although not much is released compared to the natural radiation already present, it's enough to boost cancer rates.

Atomic plants also produce 2-3 tons of extremely lethal high level waste a

year, some of which stays "hot" for 250,000 years. The nuclear industry has had extensive problems with leakage of these wastes. No permanent storage facilities yet exist. Even the highly touted Carlsbad Caverns have been ruled out as not geologically stable enough.

"Meltdowns" are also possible at nuclear plants. The radioactive core over-heats due to coolant loss and melts deep into the earth, releasing clouds of radioactive steam into the environment through the earth. One conservative government study estimated that a meltdown at a typical plant would cause at least 27,000 initial deaths, with thousands more from cancer for years to come. Already, near meltdowns have occurred at several plants.

# Mid East...

(cont. from page 11)

## ISRAEL VERSUS SYRIA

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war, and since then has been constructing settlements there the same way it has in the West Bank and Gaza. No mention was made at Camp David regarding return of the Golan Heights to Syrian control and in the past Israel has stated its intention to retain control of most of the area.

While the Golan front has been quiet, the fighting in Lebanon is a reflection of the struggle between Israel and Syria. Both countries are involved directly and indirectly in the Lebanese battles which give no sign of subsiding.

Israel also continues to exercise control of southern Lebanon through right-wing Lebanese paramilitary units that it backs, as well as through direct military intervention.

## U.S. WILL PAY BIG BILL

A sure result of Camp David is deeper entanglement of the U.S. government in the affairs of the people of the Middle East. President Carter's ratings in the popularity polls shot right up, reflecting the hopes among American people for peace in the region. But the real long-range effect of Carter's role will be a huge bill for American taxpayers and a bigger U.S. role which could lead to its involvement in a future war there.

Estimates indicate that Israel will want to be paid as much as \$4.5 billion by the U.S. for agreeing to withdraw its settlements and military bases from the Sinai. The U.S. has already committed itself to paying at least \$1 billion to Israel to reconstruct two air bases that Israel would withdraw from the Sinai. This would be on top of the \$7 million a day the U.S. already sends to Israel.

While figures are not available on the extent of U.S. aid to Egypt, it is sure to be substantial, since the Egyptian economy is in a state of near collapse, and news reports indicate the U.S. has committed itself to replace funds that Egypt might lose from Arab oil countries because of dissatisfaction with Sadat's signing a peace treaty with Israel. Saudi Arabia alone presently gives Egypt \$2 billion a year.

More dangerous than increased U.S. dollars in the Middle East are indications that the U.S. would consider establishing a U.S. military base in the West Bank in the future. In addition, the U.S. is likely to expand use of U.S. quasi-military personnel to monitor and maintain a disengagement between Egypt and Israel which could draw the U.S. into a future war. U.S. technicians are already in the Sinai monitoring an earlier partial disengagement between Israel and Egypt.

## ARAB UNITY AGAINST CAMP DAVID

Palestinians on the Israeli-occupied West Bank were the first to demonstrate their vehement disapproval of the Camp David version of "peace." In fact, search as they may, Israel's rulers have been unable to find a single Palestinian who can be built into an alternative leadership to the PLO and who would collaborate in



phony Israeli-sponsored "self-rule" for the West Bank.

All 22 Arab countries except for Egypt, including the usually pro-U.S. regimes in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, met in early November in Iraq to plan their strategy against the U.S. backed Camp David accords. Significantly, Syria and Iraq have taken steps to bury their long-standing feud and join together to oppose Camp David. In addition to the powerful political and economic force this growing unity represents, the new Arab front presents Israel with a sizeable military challenge.

## SOVIET DESIGNS ON MIDDLE EAST

The strengthening of Arab unity helps to insure that the capitalist rulers of the Soviet Union, in their contention with the United States for control of the Middle East, will find it difficult to masquerade as the only hope the Arabs have to drive out U.S. imperialism from the Middle East.

Like the U.S., the Soviets are interested in controlling the oil of the Middle East, as reaffirmed by the surge of Soviet and Cuban military activity on the Horn of Africa in the past year. The Horn is a vital sea route for the flow of oil to Europe. Wary of the Soviet danger and quest for control, Iraq recently purged from its army pro-Soviet officers caught plotting a coup.

## NO PEACE IN SIGHT

Camp David has shown that the U.S. has been unwilling to force Israel to make the major concessions in the Middle East that could lead to a genuine peace there—namely the return of Arab lands and a recognition of the right of Palestinians to return home, to self-determination, and an independent state.

Instead, it has sought to split the Arab world and establish a separate peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. It has lined up Israel as its strongest military hand in the Middle East and opened Egypt as the U.S.'s latest outpost for massive economic and political influence.

U.S. corporations have already drawn up multi-billion dollar investment plans for Egypt, by far the most populous of Arab countries. After pulling Egypt out of the Arab front, the U.S. hopes next to force Syria to make major concessions to Israel and sign peace accords.

Despite U.S. aims and intentions, all Arab countries with the exception of Egypt are strengthening their unity to maintain their independence, to demand the return of their lands seized by Israel in previous wars, and secure a just settlement of the Palestinian question. Unable to force an unjust peace in the Mid East, Israel is likely to again seek war to force the Arab countries to come to its terms.

# No To Wage, Price

(cont. from page 9)

come is the top leaders of their own unions.

After Carter announced the program, the sound of nervous feet shuffling on thick carpets was the first response from the offices of the big Internationals. George Meany snapped that it was a "cruel hoax" and subsided into silence.

Frank Fitzsimmons, the subject of intense stroking by the administration all year, indicated that the Teamsters will go along with the plan if the government tries to keep prices down.

Doug Fraser of the United Auto Workers, most of whose 1,500,000 members have contracts coming up next year, followed suit. He said the UAW "desperately wants anti-inflation efforts to succeed," and will play ball.

The AFL-CIO was silent for a week, then held an executive council meeting. Meany emerged to denounce the guidelines as unjust and slanted against working people. So far, so good. Then came the kicker. The AFL-CIO leadership was "unanimously" demanding that Carter institute mandatory controls — full ball and chain instead of handcuffs!

Meany said the country was on the road to controls anyway and "America might just as well do it now and do it right." His argument is that the only "fair and equitable" approach would be for the government to strictly enforce limits on wages, prices and also interest rates, dividends, profits and rents.

## THE GOVERNMENT SERVES THE RICH

The basic worthlessness of this reasonable-sounding position was revealed by the executive council's statement itself, where it refers favorably to Nixon's 1971 to 1973 wage-price freeze and mandatory controls.

Nothing about that program was good for working people. Wages were held down while prices edged higher.

It helped trigger the mid-'70s recession and did nothing to stop inflation which today has a stronger grip than ever on the economy. It marked the first realization for many people that the only future the system had to offer was a continual struggle to stay above water as things get worse.

Carter's guidelines, just like Nixon's controls, cannot be "fair." The government of the U.S. is a government controlled by a wealthy handful and it exists to serve their interests and protect their system. Its actions prove this everyday. To claim such a government can treat workers and capitalists equally, as Meany does, is worse than foolish. It is the most dangerous of lies, because it hides what the common people who make society run need to know to defend themselves from attack and to fight for the day when they run society.

By insisting on mandatory controls, the AFL-CIO bigshots have bought themselves some time. For instance, Pete Bonmarito of the United Rubber Workers has already publicly ordered URW negotiators to ignore the unfair guidelines.

Many union leaders will probably take the same position, which lets them respond to rank and file pressure by putting forward demands for decent increases. But in doing so they will bring closer the day their hypocrisy explodes in their faces.

As soon as workers start winning gains which exceed the 7 1/2% ceiling, Phase 2 will collapse like a house of cards. The newly appointed czar of Phase 2 says if the voluntary guideline plan fails, "I would have to choose controls."

What will Meany and his pals do then? They are on record as demanding controls. Will they be able to shove controls down the throats of angry workers who don't intend to bear the brunt of the rich man's crisis?

Don't bank on it, Mr. Carter. Don't bank on it, Mr. Meany.

# Alice Tripp...

(cont. from page 8)

sticks to the DFL Party machine. They are just part of the establishment. One union official even claimed credit for calling the cops on the farmers!

"It's good to see there are many workers outside that."

## "THE PEOPLE HAVE NO CHOICE"

At first the "establishment" didn't take her very seriously. She went to the party's state convention in Minneapolis with four votes. Then she won 200 more at the convention and gained a running mate, Mike Casper, a Carleton College physics professor.

Too many people liked Alice Tripp. Too many people saw she stood for the common interests of farmers and workers against the big corporations, Too many people, that is, for those corporations.

Their media launched an attack. They invented a conflict of interest scandal. They deplored the violence of powerline protestors. They claimed that except for "30 burnt-out farmers," all Minnesota was against the powerline protest and of course against Tripp and Casper.

Alice Tripp retorted that the only reason she wasn't out there toppling

the towers with other farmers and the students and others who supported them was that she wasn't very good with a wrench. "When corporations make and enforce the law to benefit themselves at the expense of the people," she said, "the people have no choice but to break those laws—whether in the fields or on the picket lines."

Tripp does not believe she could have done a great deal to transform this country's corporate-controlled political system even if she had been elected governor. "A non-politician governor with no ties to big business might accomplish something, but then you would have to work with the legislature which has all those ties. . . ."

The election campaign is over but the fight to change things is not. "There's got to be a lot of revolutionary things going on," said Tripp. "Getting a lot of votes was a step, but they'll try to quash that, so we can't stop making noise so they'll know there are voices against them. People have to speak out and meet together. We have to seek common ground and get larger numbers. It's a long process, but we have to continue."

# EL OBRERO

25¢

DICIEMBRE, 1978 VOL. I NO. 7

## Abajo Con Controles Limitar Salarios? No!



**MARCHA POR LIBERTAD  
TUPELO 25 de Nov.**

En las calles disputadas de Tupelo cientos de personas de condados a través del sur y de algunas ciudades del norte se unieron.

El 25 de Noviembre será la muestra más grande de unidad y poder de este movimiento de 8 meses de boicot.

Tupelo se ha hecho un frente de batalla en la lucha de la gente negra. Es una prueba de fuerza entre el movimiento por libertad y el robusto y antiguo racismo que es un estilo de vida en el sur - y a través del país.

La marcha nacional llamada por la Liga Unida de Mississippi y el Comité de Apoyo por Tupelo se propone alzar las demandas inmediatas del boicot y difundir la inspiración y poder de esta lucha clave.

La marcha será el tema de conversación en las fiestas de Thanksgiving de los negros en el norte de Mississippi. Será la razón que negros, blancos y latinos viajarán en autobuses 12 y hasta 20 horas hacia el llano paisaje de Mississippi. Filas tras filas de manifestantes estarán "caminando y hablando" acerca de acción afirmativa en empleo, alto a la brutalidad policiaca y el terror del Ku Klux Klan, y la pobreza de la esclavitud moderna del "nuevo sur."

La acción del fin de semana de Thanksgiving viene en un periodo en que los oficiales de la ciudad de Tupelo han sido forzados a hacer algunas promesas de acción en respuesta a las demandas de la Liga Unida. Los meses de boicot contra los negocios poseídos por blancos han dañado severamente las ganancias, particularmente en el centro del pueblo. Las casi semanales manifestaciones en Tupelo y en los condados vecindarios han movilizado e inspirado a cientos. Cuando la noticia de la lucha se difundió a través de la nación un movimiento de apoyo activo creció en el norte.

Un punto alto en la lucha fue la demostración el Día de Labor en la cual 800 personas se enfrentaron a las provocaciones de 50 miembros armados del KKK.

Los marchantes de la Liga Unida, reforzados por un contingente de 150 partidarios de las ciudades del norte, se mantuvieron firmes mientras los racistas armados trotearon por el lado de la protesta. La respuesta desafiante de los negros a estas tácticas terroristas inspiró aún más lucha cuando miles vieron las noticias de la lucha en noticieros nacionales.   
vease pagina 3

Carter recientemente anunció su plan "anti-inflacionario," un sistema de controles de salarios y precios voluntarios. Los capitalistas están en un aprieto económico, y el plan de Carter es otro engaño que alludará a los ricos al detrimento de la clase obrera. El plan es una decepción porque no pondrá alto a la inflación, es inejecutable, y permite que los capitalistas suban los precios más que los salarios de los obreros.

Los controles de precios y salarios son un ataque al estándar de vida de los obreros. Son un esfuerzo para limitar los aumentos de salario para 1979 un año importante para contratos - camioneros, auto, construcción, goma, ropa, alimentos, mataderos, y otros. El programa de salarios pone un límite a los aumentos de contratos de 7% - incluyendo no solamente salarios y asignaciones para el costo de vida, mas todos beneficios como seguro de salud, pensiones, vacaciones pagadas, etc. Pero los precios si pueden subir hasta 9.5% y aun esto tiene exenciones. Por ejemplo, los ferrocarriles ya han pedido aumentos de tarifas en exceso de los controles a pretexto de una clausa que dispensa a compañías en "situaciones de dificultades extremas o grandes injusticias."

Las corporaciones están felizmente dispuestas a batallar, con la ayuda del gobierno, a mantener los aumentos de sus empleados a 7% o meno. Según el plan, aumentos más altos se pueden conceder solamente si las uniones

ceden reglamentos tocante condiciones de trabajo, seguridad y las tasas de trabajo.

El plan de inflación no parará la inflación, y posiblemente ni la limitará. Los economistas del gobierno calculan que solamente le cortará .5% a la tasa de inflación para el próximo año. En general, los economistas y grandes negociantes tienen poca fe que los controles tendrán mucho efecto contra inflación, pero eso es lo que quisieran que creamos.

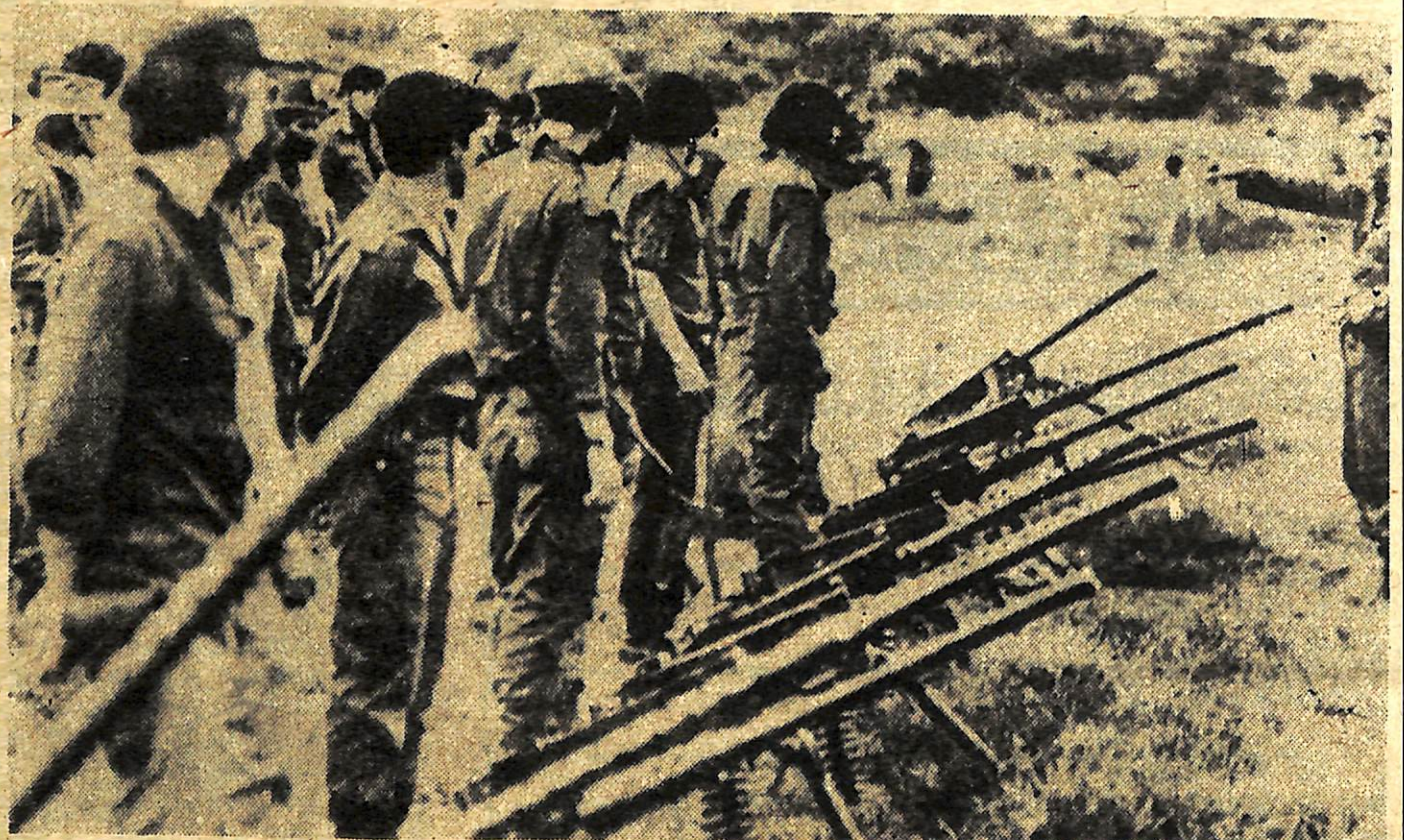
La idea básica de luchar contra la inflación por medio de controlar   
vease pagina 4



Jimmy Carter estará en lío con los obreros.

## NICARAGUA

Pagina 3



Guerilleros Sandinistas preparan nueva ofensiva anti-Somoza.

# Ninguna Paz En Medio-Este

Paz en el Medio Este ha sido noticias grandes desde la reunión en Camp David entre Israel Egipto y los E.E.U.U. Prime Minister Begin y el Presidente egipcio Sadat van a recibir El Premio Nobel Par Paz. Israel y Egipto estan negociando un pacto de paz. Pero el hecho es que este pacto no toca las razones basicas de la lucha en el Medio Este.

Este nuevo pacto de Camp David virtualmente ignora el pueblo Palestino, echados por fuerza de su propio pais y viviendo como refugiados. Ademas, el pacto continuara la opresión del pueblo Palestino vi- viendo abajo el mando de Israel.

El pacto de Camp David da la primera aprobacion internacional a la presencia de 6000 soldados de Israel en el West Bank y el Gaza Strip. Estas secciones han estado bajo ley marcial Israelita. Con el nuevo pacto, los Palestinos no ganaran ni una fuerza militar o un policia en el area. Un nuevo "gobierno autonomo" se establecera (en el futuro, no hay fecha en un procedimiento decidido por los gobiernos de Israel, Egipto y Jordan, pero esta autoridad tendra muy poco poder.

La Organizacion por la Liberacion de Palestino ha sido excluida de todo este proceso. Pero esa organizacion ha sido designada por los Palestinos en exilio y abajo de la ocupacion como su unico representantes. Esto se reafirma por los estados Arabes y por las Naciones Unidas en 1974.



Demonstradores en Nueva York contra pacto del Medio-Este

Cuando el pacto de Camp David se publico, 100 lideres palestinos del "West Bank" desafiaron una prohibicion por los Israelis de reuniones. Los lideres se reunieron para negar el pacto y par decir que la O.L.P. es su unico representante. Una reunion masiva en Bethlehem afirmo esas demandas y repitio las demandas del pueblo - la "auto-determinacion," el regreso de todos

los refugiados palestinos a su propio pais, y la creacion de un estado independiente por ellos en su pais.

Begin ha dicho claramente que el pais de Israel planea mantener sus colonias en el "West Bank" y el ha afirmado de nuevo que "los derechos completos del pueblo judeo para colonizar cualquier parte del pais de Israel - incluyendo la Judea y la Samaria (el West Bank) y el Gaza.

No hay nada en el pacto sobre los "Golan Heights" que fueron tomadas de Siria en 1967 por Israel.

Porque el ha vendido el pueblo palestino y todo el pueblo arabe, Sadat recibira el apoyo economico de los E.E.U.U. y recibira el area de Sinai. El los necesita porque la economia egipcia esta cayendo.

Los israelis han logrado fracturar el frente unido de los paises arabes contra ellos, fronteras relativamente seguras, y billones de dolares en ayuda de los E.E.U.U. Carter ya prometio que construira dos bases para reemplazar las bases que Israel perdiera en el Sinai al precio de \$1 billon. Tambien habran billones en ayuda economica.

Los EEUU aumentaran su influencia en un sitio muy importante en su lucha por dominacion mundial contra la Union Sovietica. Pero tambien hay grand peligro que los EEUU se metan en una guerra en el Medio Este en el futuro. Ya hay personales envuelto en la situacion y se habla de construir un base militar.

No puede haber paz en el Medio Este mientras quel pueblo palestino no tenga el derecho de auto-determinacion y Israel ocupe territorio arabe. Ahora hay más unidad entre los paises arabes contra lo que hace Sadat. Ellos se estan uniendo para oponer los acuerdos de Camp David y un acuerdo de paz entre Israel y Egipto.

# Somoza Permaneze, Odiado por Todos



Anastasio Somoza.

Con ataques masivos contra el pueblo por su Guardia Civil, el Presidente Anastasio Somoza de Nicaragua vencio la insurrección popular que temblo el pais pequeño de America Central. El odio contra la dictadura de Somoza, que es apoyado por el gobierno de los E.E.U.U., esta creciendo. Escaramuzas entre el pueblo con pocas armas y la Guardia continuan. Las ciudades caen en ruinas y la economia esta casi destruida - y Somoza esta dicidiendo que habra una cosecha "militarizada." Nadie se pregunta si las batallas comenzaran de nuevo. Solamente se preguntan cuando.

Porque la insurrección erupio espontaneamente entre el pueblo, ellos sufrieron la mayoria de las perdidas. Los soldados y el liderato del Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional estan intactos, a pesar de su papel activo en la lucha. Si ellos hubieran planeado la insurrección, un lider del Frente conto a un reportero americano, "El pueblo hubiera estado mejor armado y mejor preparado."

No hay un ejercito en Nicaragua. No hay fuerza de policias. Hay la Guardia Nacional - mandada por el hijo de Somoza, un graduado de West Point, y alojada en cacas separadas del resto de la población, con sus propias escuelas, hospitales, y tiendas. La Guardia no recibe gran salario, pero, se le permite, aún alentados, ser corrompidos y criminal en sus relaciones con el pueblo. No se le permite tener cuentas de banco fuera del pais. Consequentemente, tienen lazos estrechos con Somoza y sus regimen de 40 años, que vino a poder con la intervencion militar de los E.E.U.U. y ha tenido su apoyo financiero desde entonces.

Despues de dos semanas de lucha armada la Guardia aplasto la rebelión tan brutalmente quel Arzobispo de Managua, la capital del pais, amenazo excomunicarlos todos. La Cruz Roja estima que se mataron entre 8 y 10 mil, y que se perdieron o se herrieron 30,000 (la población del pais es 2.3 millones).

La ciudad de Esteli, ametrallada desde el aire por 5 dias, ha sido aniquilada. Los centros de muchas ciudades mayores han sido destruidos.

Ninos y jovenes fueron secuestrados de sus familias y asesinados como "una lección a la juventud." Familias enterraron sus muertos secretamente por miedo de represalias. Jovenes con más de 14 años generalmente han desaparecido de las ciudades - muertos, herridos, en exilio, o en las montanas con los guerrilleros sandinistas.

Un reportero para el periodico de Inglaterra, el Manchester Guardian, dijo, "Lo que permanece ahora es el odio. Los 80 correspondientes extranjeros que durante la crisis viajaron por todas partes del pais han llegado a la misma conclusion - la dictadura de Somoza es detestada por el pueblo. Es un sentimiento que es transmitido de una generacion a otra exactamente como la familia de Somoza ha estado perpetuando su poder por más de 40 años en Nicaragua.

El sentimiento prevalente hoy es el deseo por venganza más que tristeza por la derrota."

Las dos cosechas principales, cafe y algodón, estan amenazadas, segun investigadores del Congreso Norte Americano acerca de America Latina en N.Y. Aviones que normalmente se usan para rociar cosechas con quimicas fueron usado por Somoza para bombardear las ciudades rebeldes y a resultado la cosecha de algodón va a ser muy mala. La ultima huelga general duro 39 dias. Prestamos por bancos Internacionales no se han materializado. Somoza tiene muchos problemas y dice que hara la siega por metodos militares - probablemente significando que pondra la Guardia en los campos.

Las Sandistas han cobrado fuerza. Los conflictos entre las facciones dentro de los guerrilleros se estan resolviendo. Sin ayuda substancial militar y economica de afuera del pais, los rebeldes Nicaraguenses estan entrenandose para empujar hasta la victoria la guerra prolongada contra el regimen oidoso de Somoza.

**EL OBRERO** 25c

**Subscribase \$4.00 un año**

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Manda su cheque a:  
El Obrero  
c/o Centro de Obreros Revolucionarios

P.O. Box 6819  
Main Post Office  
Chicago, Ill. 60607



## Pueblo Del South Bronx Desenmascaran Promesas de Carter

Arriba se ve el lugar exacto en la Calle Charlotte donde Jimmy Carter le prometió a los residentes de uno de los peores barrios bajos en la nación, el South Bronx, que iba a gastar \$1 billión para renovar el area. Esto demostraría que la administración de Carter está cometida a ayudar a los pobres.

El orador es un miembro de una coalición de obreros de construcción negros y puertorriqueños, una de varias organizaciones que se unieron a la marcha hasta el sitio, exactamente un año después del discurso de Carter.

Un año después y no había pasado nada. Ninguna construcción. Ningunos

trabajos. Ningun dinero. Ningun programa para ayudar la comunidad. En vez, hay colera. Esto fue la causa de la manifestación de 200 el 7 de octubre.

Otro orador, Jose Rivera, de United Tremont Trades y residente por toda su vida de South Bronx, lo puso de esta manera:

"Yo recuerdo que en 1953 el Alcalde Wagner vino a South Bronx y dijo que iba a ayudar a reconstruirlo. Entonces fue el turno del Alcalde Lindsay. Y después el Senador Kennedy. Y ahora es el Presidente Carter. Todos vienen al South Bronx. Y todos dicen, 'Dios mío, tenemos que hacer algo.' Pero mira alrededor, y ve lo que han hecho. Nada. Estamos aquí hoy para decir que no vamos a quedarnos sentados aquí mientras el plan de South Bronx de Carter no hace nada."

## TUPELO...

viene de pagina 1

onal. El esfuerzo de los líderes oficiales de Tupelo de vender a Tupelo como un sitio perfecto para expansiones industriales se fue por el suelo.

El 4 de octubre el alcalde de Tupelo, Clyde Whitaker anuncio que la ciudad estaba haciendo un plan de acción afirmativa para empleo que será presentado algún tiempo en Noviembre. Este fue el mismo Clyde Whitaker que se había reunido con enmascarados miembros del KKK en su oficina en Mayo. El mismo Whitaker que anteriormente había rechazado todas las demandas de la Liga Unida. También anuncio que designaron un negro como inspector de edificios, que han puesto un negro como capataz sobre un grupo de personal de acueductos de la ciudad, que emplearon algunos maestros de primer grado y que algunos negros seran empleados en el centro medico.

Las concesiones que han ganado hasta ahora es prueba del poder del movimiento, pero solamente comienzan a eliminar la discriminación en Tupelo. Negros tienen solamente 6 de las 44 posiciones elegidas en las juntas civiles. Solamente 14% de los departamentos de policía y

bomberos son negros, mientras que en la ciudad son 25%. La gran mayoría de los empleados negros de la ciudad trabajan en sanación. En negocios locales y en industria la situación es igual o peor. En ellos los negros están relegados a trabajos sin diestra y con los más bajos salarios o al desempleo. No hay ninguna propuesta para cambiar esta situación.

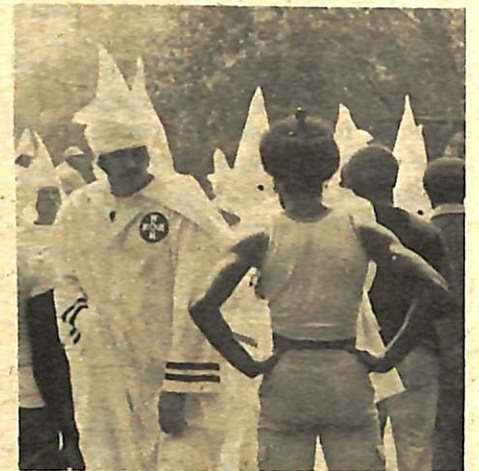
La respuesta de la Liga Unida es seguir adelante con los planes para la marcha nacional. Jim Agnew, coordinador de la Liga, lo dijo así, "Nosotros no estamos pidiendo. Estamos demandando. Y cuando demandamos \$10 estamos supuestos a quedarnos callados cuando nos dan \$3?" Otro miembro dijo, "Nosotros no podemos desilusionarnos ahora ya hemos arriesgado mucho." Los negros en Tupelo han aprendido que es solamente a través de lucha resoluta que la montaña de injusticias será atacada. Las palabras de una canción evangelica que comienza muchas de las manifestaciones dicen, "O Señor yo no quiero que muevas las montañas, solo dame la fuerza para escalarlas."

Fue esta actitud que forzó al gobierno de la ciudad a botar dos policías racistas la primavera pasada. Ahora está ganando algunos trabajos para los negros en varios trabajos publicos. El clima de lucha

es tan extenso en el norte de Miss. que los estudiantes negros en una escuela secundaria en el pueblo de Okolona, cerca de Tupelo, empezaron un boicot de la escuela demandando más maestros y "cheerleaders" negros. Y cuando tipos al estilo del Klan dispararon algunas armas en las calles de Okolona, residentes de esa comunidad demandaron que los asaltantes fueran acusados. Las cortes decidieron que los miembros del Klan eran culpables y los sentenciaron a la cárcel con multas. Miembros de la Liga consideran esto como una victoria grande, especialmente porque antes el Klan tenía mucha influencia en las cortes.

La inspiración de la lucha en Tupelo se está difundiendo mucho más allá de la frontera del condado de Lee incluso Miss. En el pueblo pequeño de Wynne, Arkansa, 150 personas marcharon por las calles el 8 de octubre demandando que el Sheriff local y el Fiscal de la ciudad renunciaran por sus papeles en los asesinatos de dos negros en septiembre.

Skip Robinson y otros líderes de la Liga Unida han inspirado oyentes en Chicago, Milwaukee, Gary, Nueva York, Boston, y Pittsburgh. La jira nacional organizada por el Comité de Apoyo a Tupelo animo actividades de solaridad locales y levantamientos de fondos.



Liga Unida desafío racistas del KKK el Dia de Labor.

El impetu hacia la marcha nacional está creciendo. Miles de carteles anunciando la demostración están apareciendo en edificios abandonados en las ciudades a través del norte y del noreste. También se ven en tiendas y estaciones de gasolina en las áreas rurales alrededor de Tupelo. Tupelo se ha hecho más de una lucha en un area particular. Simboliza las aspiraciones de un pueblo que ha sido oprimido por demasiado tiempo - un pueblo que se está levantando a batallar una situación donde enfrentan creciente pobreza y racismo al paso que los monopolios le roban sus tierras y sus labor.

# 81 Salen-3500 Siguen En Huelga De GE

LYNN, MASS. — Varios miles obreros de avión en esta planta gigantesca de General Electric aplastaron una serie de obstáculos que han enfrentado muchas veces anterior para respaldar una huelga de 81 inspectores y para pararse por sus derechos comunes.

El asunto empezó a desarrollarse fuertemente en un mitin de unión el 12 de Octubre — una reunión loca por cualquier descripción. La unión, el Local 201 de el IUE, llamo la reunión una semana después de que 81 inspectores de aviones votaron por salir en huelga desafiando las recomendaciones del liderato de la unión. G.E. despido temporariamente a más de 800 obreros de avión "por falta de trabajo causada por la huelga de los inspectores," mientras que cada día daban más despidos.

Muchas de las personas apañadas en el salón de reunión de la unión temían que la huelga iba a cesar ahí mismo. En casos pasados los líderes del Local habían animado a los obreros despedidos a oponer huelgas por unidades pequeñas.

En la reunión 10 oficiales del Local hablaron en contra de la huelga que era dirigida contra acciones de la compañía que cambio las clasificaciones de trabajo. Pero a este punto los obreros de base comenzaron a hablar: "Yoy soy un torneador," dijo uno. "Estoy operando dos maquinas ahora en vez de una. Este el es mismo tipo de ataque que los inspectores estan batallando. Los inspectores estan luchando por todos nuestros trabajos." Uno tras otro los obreros insistieron en unirse a la huelga de los inspectores.

Al fin de la reunión, 570 de los 600 votaron por salir en huelga. Y votaron a recomendar que la Junta Ejecutiva y el Concilio de Stewards sacara a la división de avión entera en huelga.

Los obreros salieron de la reunión orgullosos que en este caso habían quebrado un acuerdo entre la compañía y los alcahuetes de la unión para parar la huelga primero y negociar después.

La cuestión central en la huelga es el degradamiento de clasificaciones y lo que significan, cortes en salario. Los 81 inspectores salieron en huelga el 6 de octubre sobre quejas acerca de tasas de trabajos que no habían sido resueltas por 18 meses.

G.E. esta usando los inspectores como un experimento para cortar los salarios en otras clasificaciones. Ya estan reemplazando los maquinistas de producción R-22 con maquinistas R-17. Estos cortes que vienen unidos a combinaciones de trabajos, políticas de promoción parciales, escarces de instrumentos necesarios, despidos sin respeto a antigüedad, novicios haciendo el trabajo de clasificaciones más altas, y suspensiones. G.E. ha intensificado estos ataques a la vez que ha agrandado su división de fabricar aviones en los últimos años. Además esta pensando del contrato nacional de 1979 que se acerca. Lynn es una de las plantas más importantes en el país y a G.E. le gustaria derrotar los obreros ahí, y en otras plantas, para establecer condiciones favorables a ganar un contrato más barato para ellos.

G.E. estaba en el lugar de las hechas a resultado de la huelga de octubre. Tres mil quinientos obreros estaban en huelga. La fecha de entrega de contratos militares es el 15 de diciembre. Jimmy Carter iba a visitar a Lynn y G.E. no queria saludarlo con una huelga mayor.

Cientos de obreros tomaron un papel activo en el Comité de Huelga

repartiendo volantes a obreros en otros departamentos y llenando los papeles necesarios para que la gente pudiera coleccionar los beneficios de Huelga. Los obreros que trabajan en una planta de avión de G.E. en Everett quisieron saber porque ellos no habían salido en huelga también. El apoyo estaba creciendo en la división de turbinas en la planta de Lynn.

Los obreros tomaron una posición rebelde contra el liderato de la unión, que ni tenían demandas claras o daban las últimas noticias en sus boletines de huelga, y trataron de aplastar la iniciativa de los obreros de hacer líneas de piquetes de información y organizar los obreros en Everett.

Para el viernes 20 de octubre era claro que si no se hacía un acuerdo los obreros de Everett saldrían en huelga el Lunes. Bajo esta presión y otras G.E. sometio un proposito. La oferta clarifico las descripciones de trabajo para las clasificaciones R-18 y R-20 un poco.

Obreros vinieron a una reunión el 22 de octubre y se enfrentaron con un liderato de unión pretendiendo haber ganado una victoria completa, algunas verdaderas victorias en la nueva oferta, y confusión sobre cuanto más se podía ganar. Votaron a favor de la oferta, 1000 a 50.

Aún, la mayoría de los obreros de avión estaban disatisfechos. Ahora estan esperando el periodo de 90 días de reviso y pensando como pueden seguir avanzando si la compañía no ofrece más dentro de 3 meses. Es cierto que la clasificación de trabajos sera una cuestión importante en el contrato nacional el próximo verano.

Muchos obreros estan de acuerdo que a G.E. no le sera facil forzar a los obreros a aceptar un contrato malo cuando el contrato presente se cumpla el próximo verano. Esto puede significar que los obreros demandaran más quel esquema de Jimmy Carter para parar los aumentos de obreros a 7%.

## CONTROL DE PRECIOS Y SALARIOS

viene de pagina 1

los salarios es errónea, porque aumentos en salarios no causan la inflación. Tenemos que luchar con el diablo para quedarnos a la par con la inflación — la inflación no sigue los aumentos en salarios, es al revés. Nuestro estándar de vida, nuestro poder de comprar verdadero, es un poco menos hoy que en 1972. Algunas de las causas verdaderas de inflación son, baja productividad causada por maquinaria vieja y fuera de moda, un deficit en el balance de comercio internacional causado por la dependencia en petróleo importado, y desde luego la avaricia insaciable de los capitalistas.

Los líderes altos de las uniones seran de poca ayuda en la lucha contra los controles de salarios. Casi todos ellos o favorecen el plan, rehusan atacarlo, o solamente exigen controles de precios y salarios madatorios. Esto es cierto de Meany del AFL-CIO, Fitzsimmons de los Teamsters, y Fraser del UAW.

El plan de inflación es inoperable. Le toca a los obreros, sin la ayuda de los alto líderes de las uniones, aplastar los controles de salarios. Ya una huelga en Texas se ha burlado de los límites sobre salarios. 4,000 maquinistas recibieron un aumento de salario de 39% a través de los próximos tres años. Una huelga el primero de Noviembre por la compañía de frenos de aire de Westinghouse, CWABCO, ha forzado a la compañía a admitir que es improbable que los salarios de los huelguistas seran limitados a un aumento de 7%.

## ACERO Noticias Y Opiniones

"Adelante a los años de 1980. Trabajos. Dignidad. Salud." Estas fueron los temas principales de la Unión de Obreros Unidos de Acero en su convención constitucional. Los temas fueron puestos por al frente del Salón de Convenciones en letras gigantes y en otras partes del salón.

Adelante a los años de 1980. . . . Lloyd McBride, el Presidente de la unión esta listo. El tiene un trabajo — y también un aumento. La convención dio a los Directores de los Distritos un aumento de \$5000 en salario, y McBride y los otros jefes de la unión recibieron un aumento de \$4000 para el costo de vida.

Dignidad? Ya McBride viaja con dignitarios y el permitio entrar unos presidentes de las compañías de acero a la convención. I.W. (no huelga) Abel también estuvo alla. Desde luego, el Presidente Jimmy Carter vino para vender su plan de guías para salarios y para precios, al costo de las cuotas de los obreros en la unión.

Salud? Porque McBride nunca visita a una planta, la salud de los obreros no le importa.

A pesar de toda las palabras sobre los avances económicos y sobre ganando más trabajos, la dignidad, y la salud, en verdad, la convención fue un ataque en dos partes contra la rebelión creciente de los obreros en la unión. La primera parte fue

un ataque de propaganda en que McBride trata de hablar a los obreros a un nivel de vida más alto. El dijo que los obreros de acero son miembros de los obreros más ricos — en la cumbre de la montaña económica.

La segunda parte del ataque es más sucio. En la convención McBride vencio la demanda de los obreros por derecho a ratificar sus contratos. Mientras que esta demanda recibio solamente 316 votos, la demanda tuvo mucho apoyo, casi unanime, entre los obreros en la división básica de la unión.

Después de vencer esa demanda, entonces McBride elimino unas reglas para crear dificultades por candidatos de la oposición corriendo contra los jefes presentes de la unión.

Aunque estos ataques sucedieron en la convención, McBride se enfrento con oposición creciente y más militante. En Atlantic City los delegados por el derecho de ratificar lucharon alrededor de muchas cosas y lucharon los 15 días de la convención. Entre este grupo habían unos nuevos delegados que se levantaron contra McBride en cada caso y rehusaron a sentarse o someter. Un delegado se levanto para decir a McBride que el debe presentar sus papeles al Presidente de la compañía U.S. Steel porque en verdad el estuvo dirigiendo la convención.

## Nueva Cerca Escala Represión De Frontera

El gobierno de los EEUU esta planeando una cerca de \$3.5 millones para serar la frontera con Mexico en El Paso y San Diego. Los planes para la cerca incluyen medidas para impedir excavaciones y para mutilar a cualquiera que trate de escalarla. El contratista para la serca — apodada la Cortina de Tortilla — dice que la cumbre sera tan aguda que cortara dedos. El nuevo programa reemplaza las presentes que son desbaratadas constantemente. Muchos grupos han protestado contra el estilo de estado policiaco de la barrera.

Hay resistencia extensa en el area de la frontera contra las condiciones de vida allí. Campesinos pobres migran al area para escapar el desempleo que llega a más de 50% en muchas partes de Mexico. La Patrulla de Frontera es frecuentemente hostigada por proyectiles y algunas veces balas. Además esta area ha estado marcada por luchas de masas contra los talleres opresores, brutalidad policiaca, y viviendas malas. La misma gente que viene a los pueblos de frontera como Matamoros, Piedras Negras,

y Juarez terminan como trabajadores de campo en huelga en los fincas de melones y lechugas o como luchadores por los derechos de latinos en las ciudades.

La cerca es una indicación del futuro. El proyecto de ley de Carter para deportaciones de 1978 estaba lleno de medidas dirigidas a hacer la frontera más segura, aumentar las deportaciones, y mantener a los obreros migrantes bajo observación constante. También contenia prohibiciones para hacer doble el número de agentes de la migra. La primavera pasada, manifestaciones masivas de oposición destacaron la resistencia latina contra la proposición. Carter fue forzado a diferir el proyecto de ley a causa de la gran oposición y de su inoperabilidad.

El aumento en la represión de la Migra simbolizado por la cerca esta destinada a aumentar la tensión en el area de la frontera. Un pueblo luchando por una vida decente contra un sistema represivo no se quedara dividido por las divisiones nacionales que la cerca de los ricos esta tratando de promover.