

# Bulletin

HOOVER

JUL 30 1976

INSTITUTION

NOW  
TWICE A  
WEEK!

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

VOLUME NINE NUMBER FORTY FIVE 320

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1973

UNION LABEL 6

UNION LABEL C748

FIFTEEN CENTS

## Statement To Labor Movement

# WE CAN BRING NIXON DOWN



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He has won absolutely no support for his plan to appoint a new special prosecutor. In his press conference Friday, Nixon did not explain why he fired Cox, and stated that the new prosecutor would not be allowed to obtain confidential presidential documents.

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This is why Cox was fired and why, during Friday night's press conference, Nixon launched the most brutal and vicious attack ever on the news media, which like Cox have been relentlessly hounding Nixon's trail. This is why Nixon was forced to defend Rebozo as a "totally honest man."

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In the meantime, impeachment proceedings are getting underway in the House with formal hearings to determine if there are sufficient grounds for impeachment.

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Forces must be organized in every union now to demand the AFL-CIO, UAW and the Teamsters call demonstrations in every major city demanding Nixon resign and a new election be called.

It is through this mobilization that the forces will be built for a

Congress of Labor which must construct a labor party. Only we, the working class, can provide and build an alternative to run against Nixon, the Democrats and Republicans.

The Workers League and the Young Socialists now have the responsibility to carry forward this fight.

Join the Workers League!  
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### In The Weekend Edition:

•Report on Founding meeting of the Cleveland Workers League.

•"Build A Labor Party Now," Part Three of Perspectives for the American Revolution, passed at the Workers League Fifth National Conference.



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AMERICAN LABOR UNION LABEL 7

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# Dictatorship and Democracy In America

Nixon's defiance of the courts last week and his attempt to overthrow the Constitution represents a historic break with the traditions of capitalist democracy in the United States and opens up a period of direct struggle against this government by American workers in defense of their democratic rights.

By refusing to hand over the Watergate tapes and by firing Archibald Cox for carrying out his investigation of the criminal and corrupt practices of this administration, Nixon moved toward establishing a one-man dictatorship in this country.

## What We Think

Nixon takes these steps toward dictatorship under conditions of a revolutionary movement of Arab workers against imperialism in the Middle East and in preparation for an all-out confrontation with

workers in this country.

Behind these actions stands the deepening economic crisis. The wild inflation and threatening trade war that is the product of the breakdown of the Bretton Woods monetary system on August 15, 1971 is now producing an actual downturn in production in the United States. The impressive profit reports bloated by inflation can mask but not do away with the desperate weakness in industry.

Nixon can defend this system only through ruthless attacks on the living standards of American workers, with wage cuts and massive layoffs. But these policies cannot be carried out without attacking the basic democratic rights of the working class.

This is why Nixon now seeks to overthrow the Constitution, place himself above the courts, above the Congress, and above all laws. He is trying to rule the United States differently than it has been ruled in the past.

But American workers will not accept dictatorship. The democratic traditions that exist in this country were established through the 200 years of struggle by the working class in this country. No rights were given to American workers. They were fought for.

As the country expanded and capitalism developed, the growing working class saw that the capitalist politicians of the major parties of the period, the Whigs and Democrats, worked with the bankers, businessmen and slaveowners to prevent workers from exercising their democratic rights.

The working class fought back to defend its basic rights by establishing its first newspaper in the 1820s: *The Workingmen's Advocate*. Workers also set up the first labor party.

Workers moved into the West and settled new land in the face of terrible hardship in order to improve their living conditions and free themselves from the grip of those who exploited them in the manufacturing and commercial centers.

Everything that these farmers and workers in the East and in states like Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota had built up in the first half of the 19th century was threatened by the slave system in the South.

Just as Nixon says that the Constitution grants him "executive privilege" to do whatever he wants and defy every law on the books, the slaveowners said that the Constitution gave them the right to take their slaves wherever they wanted and trample over the rights of free farmers and workers.

The old political parties collapsed over this issue. Millions deserted the Democratic Party when they saw it betray their interests to the powerful minority of slaveowners. It was necessary to create a new party and the Republican Party emerged almost overnight.

When the Republican Party came to power in 1860 with the election of Lincoln, the slaveowners decided to rebel and break up the country in order to maintain their wealth.

They defied the Constitution, split from the United States, and invaded the North in order to impose the slave system upon the entire North American continent.

When Nixon defies the Constitution today, it is because he, like the slaveowners 100 years ago, can defend the wage slavery of capitalism only by taking away the rights of American workers and destroying their living conditions.

Just as the Constitutional crisis of 1861 was fought out, American workers will fight out this constitutional crisis. It will not accept dictatorship.

American workers will turn to politics and build a labor party to defend what is theirs. In the depression of the 1930s, all the conditions existed for workers to build their own party. This step had been prepared in the struggles dating back to the 1820s when *The Workingmen's Advocate* had led the fight for an independent party of the working class.

For a long period after those early struggles, American workers were turned away from their own independent political development. This occurred through the collaboration of their trade union leaders with capitalist politicians around Samuel Gompers' slogan: "Reward Your Friends"—meaning the Democratic Party.

This turn away from politics also was reflected in the development of militant trade unionism and the belief that the strength and militancy of the working class was enough to defeat the capitalists.

But in the 1930s, when the capitalists were prepared to starve millions, workers not only built the great industrial unions, but came very close to building their own labor party.

This turn towards politics was sabotaged by the Stalinist Communist Party, which used its influence in that period to tie workers to Roosevelt. They prevented workers from having a party that could fight Roosevelt's entrance into World War Two and ruthless attacks on living standards and basic rights.

These policies pose tremendous dangers today when workers can throw out Nixon and prepare their own alternative to Nixon through the building of a labor party. Those forces in the capitalist class who are today discussing Nixon's impeachment do so only to clear the way for a government backed by the military, capable of defeating the working class.

The call of the AFL-CIO for Nixon's impeachment shows that the attempt by the government to establish dictatorship has brought a political collision between the government and the working class.

It is because the crisis can be resolved only through the struggle of workers for socialism that we must construct the Workers League and Young Socialists.

## Japan Dockers Halt Night Cargo

BY A  
CORRESPONDENT

The work action of Japanese longshoremen that began in seven ports October 23 is becoming a trial of strength between the union and the Tanaka government.

The Japan Council of Port and Harbor Transport Workers Union began phase two of their action, a ban on all night cargo handling after 5:30 pm, after the repeated refusal of the shippers to discuss a new contract.

Dockers have been working without a contract since last April. The union is demanding an eight hour day with one hour rest, overtime restricted to less than 50 hours a month and no slashes in daily income.

### CUTOFF TIME

Not all locals are following the national union's proposed 5:30 cutoff time for night cargo handling. At some ports, the dockers are working beyond that

ing off earlier.

The lack of unity on the docks

is created by the union leadership's hesitation to call a nationwide strike. A spokesman for the union said if the present stoppages do not produce negotiations, "we will have to resort to the third stage, a refusal to load and unload container vessels.

### DEMAND

"If we have to launch this stage, then we are going to demand that our members enjoy freedom from work on all national holidays and Sundays and have a guaranteed minimum monthly wage system."

### CRITICAL

This strike takes place in one of the most critical areas of the Japanese economy at a time of intense trade war between Japan, Europe and the United States. Some of the most automated containers have been built by Japan.

Tanaka is seeking a showdown with the longshoremen. The demands of the union reveal that the shippers want to impose the most oppressive conditions on the dockers to strengthen their competitive position in the international shipping war.



Israeli soldiers run for cover under fire from Syrian troops on the Golan Heights.

## NLF Smashes Thieu Battalion

BY A  
CORRESPONDENT

Full-scale war involving heavy tank and infantry battles has broken out all over South Vietnam between the National Liberation forces and Saigon dictator Thieu.

Last week, the NLF completely smashed a full battalion of Saigon troops fighting to take the Le Minh Ranger base in the Central Highlands. This was Thieu's second major defeat in the Pleiku area this month.

The Thieu government has launched vast "land-grabbing" operations against NLF controlled territory in the Mekong Delta and the Central Highlands.

Now there are growing signs that Nixon is preparing open intervention again to prop up Thieu whose support among the South Vietnamese people is lower than ever.

This is the reason for the

sudden reports of "American intelligence" that 70,000 North Vietnamese troops and 400 tanks have been moved into the South.

In language reminiscent of Kissinger's news conference on the Middle East, the *New York Times* wrote: "A sharp debate is going on among the American national security officials about the significance of the North Vietnamese moves."

In his statement rejecting the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded

jointly with Henry Kissinger, Le Duc Tho, chief North Vietnamese negotiator, charged:

"The Saigon administration, aided and encouraged by the United States, continues its acts of war."

In Cambodia, the US embassy has been forced to reveal that Lon Nol's local commanders are still pocketing the wages of non-existent soldiers while the demoralized draftees at the front get no pay at all.

## Building The Bulletin

We are now entering the final week of our monthly subscription drive to get 3000 new subscriptions to the twice-weekly. This week we received 301 subs, bringing our total to 2212.

This week New Haven led the drive getting 43 subs; Boston got 32 and Minneapolis 30. We now must receive 788 subs this week if we are to meet our goal by November 1. This means a big drive is needed by the New York branches and West Coast branches.

A full report on the Ohio Trailblazers, who have signed up 500 new subscribers so far in the drive, is on page 5 of this issue. Trailblazers left this week for Portland and Los Angeles.

This week we received 171 new subscriptions to the Young Socialist towards the monthly goal of 900. We now have a total of 396. The drive for YS subs must be at the center of the campaign to build the Young Socialist First Annual Regional Editorial Conferences.

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS...All subscribers with the number 9 or 10 after their name must immediately renew so they don't miss an issue in November.



# Powers To Go Ahead On Strike

BY BRUCE McKAY

NEW YORK, October 29—Composing room workers may strike the three major daily newspapers here if tentative agreement on a new contract is not reached tomorrow.

Typographical Union No. 6 President Bertram A. Powers told the publishers last week that if a new proposal submitted by the union does not bring agreement, "alternative action will definitely be taken regardless of any request by the publishers or any other party for further postponement..."

In a notice to members, Powers said action could not be delayed further because the peak advertising season was slipping by and further postponement would allow "the publishers to further strengthen their position by the continued training of potential strikebreakers."

The union may strike in defiance of both a court order obtained by the New York Times and International Typographical Union President John J. Pilch.

## INJUNCTION

Under the terms of the Times's injunction, the union's contract, which expired March 30, will remain in effect and strikes or job actions prohibited until the contract is terminated by the International.

Inexplicably, Pilch has refused to terminate the Times contract, resulting in a \$250 fine against Powers, and has refused to grant strike authorization at any of the three papers.

According to Arthur DeIanni, composing room vice-chairman at the Daily News, telegrams were sent to Pilch both at the AFL-CIO Convention and at International headquarters in Colorado Springs requesting

authorization.

"We do not know what the conflict is," DeIanni said. "We have always gotten strike authorization in the past. This is the first time we have not gotten it. We are really in the dark. We have not heard anything from Pilch."

"We may have to strike without any benefits," he said.

An assistant to Pilch contacted by the Bulletin Friday refused to comment on the situation. "You are not getting any information from here. We do not give out any information on that," he said.

Although the Bulletin was unable to obtain an interview with Pilch during the AFL-CIO Convention in Florida, he was overheard commenting to other International officials about "that mess in New York."

Newspaper Guild members at both the Times and the Daily News may also walk out. Strike authorization has been received from the International, and local union leaders are meeting today to consider setting a strike date.

Interviewed at the AFL-CIO Convention, Newspaper Guild President Charles Perlik said the union will insist on "substantial wage increases."

"We want to recover the economic losses we have suffered under the Nixon administration's economic policies," he said. "I think that the employers are going to come to the realization that just because they have agreements with three unions that the rest of us are not going to go along with what we consider substandard settlements."



NY Times Guild workers discuss possibility of strike.

## Exclusive Report

# On The Road To Cairo

Workers Press, daily newspaper of the Socialist Labour League in England, is covering the Middle East war first hand. Foreign Editor John Spencer is now in Cairo. But to get to the war zone, he and a staff photographer had to travel 1000 miles from Benghazi in Libya to the Egyptian capital. Here he tells of his experiences along the desert road.

When Cairo airport was reopened following the signing of the abortive Middle East ceasefire deal, the 500-odd foreign journalists in the Egyptian capital breathed sighs of relief. They would no longer face the car journey back to Benghazi in Libya, over 1000 miles away.

Before the ceasefire Benghazi was the nearest available airport and the desert road where Rommel and Montgomery fought was the only route into

Egypt for our party of 11 British journalists which landed in Benghazi last Friday night. We arrived in Cairo almost exactly two days later—a better than average performance.

The journey provided a unique glimpse of the home front behind the battle lines.

Puritanical Libya, ruled by Colonel Muammer Gaddafi, has little time for the infidel foreigners on their way to the war.

The walls are plastered with cartoons showing John Bull and Uncle Sam on the wrong end of a hefty, well-polished military boot.

To rub the message in, English and other European languages have been completely obliterated from all street signs, hotel facades, posters and, worst of all, from the many and varied official forms.

Before we left London our passports had to be specially stamped and our life stories entered in Arabic because Libya refuses to recognize any non-Arabic travel documents.

European-language papers are kept under the counter in the Benghazi newspaper kiosks and treated rather like pornography, but the Arabization campaign is not quite as thorough-going as Gaddafi would perhaps like: on the roof of our hotel, carefully stashed away ready for a change of line, were the English language signs removed from the facade.

Gaddafi's fiercely anti-communist fiefdom ends at Salum on the border with Egypt. The border post was badly knocked about earlier this year when Colonel Gaddafi's demonstrators drove through to present their petition signed in blood demanding that Egypt and Libya unite.

Any damage they did merely added to the chaos, with three rows of taxis drawn up in an area knee-deep in luggage unpacked from suitcases and cartons.

The little cafe just the other side of the border had the usual portraits of Sadat and Nasser on its walls, together with a photograph of Karl Marx, cut from a German calendar.

The desert road passes through towns and villages made familiar in World War II: Tobruk, Sidi Barani, Mersah Matruh, El Alamein.

After nearly 20 hours on the road—including any number of police and military checkpoints—we had visions of being lynched by the very people whose cause we had travelled thousands of miles to report.

At one point the crowd formed up along the side of the car and made as if to turn it over.

We were saved only by the prompt intervention of the army. The refinery guard dispersed the crowd, using their rifle butts on some of the more obstinate proponents of the myth that we were Israeli spies, and took us into protective custody inside the factory.

With the factory manager acting as interpreter, we managed to establish our bona fides with the angry civilians and continue our journey.

We were struck by the calibre of the soldiers we met in Alexandria, clearly drawn from some of the most active and intelligent layers of the country's youth and well trained and led.

The soldiers seemed confident that they would win the struggle against Israel and the atmosphere at the Alexandria headquarters relayed efficiency.

The Egyptian people have made tremendous efforts since the defeat in 1967 to build up a fighting machine capable of matching the US-backed Israeli forces. "Everything for the battle," was President Sadat's repeated exhortation, repeated time and again.

In some respects the building of an efficient regular professional army is the highest achievement of Egyptian bourgeois nationalism.

But as the temporary acceptance of the ceasefire deal shows, nationalism is interested in territory first and can carry the struggle against imperialism only to a certain stage.

The thoroughgoing victory of the Arab Revolution will be assured only through the arming and training of the workers and peasants who desperately want to fight and yet lack the leadership to do so.

The millions of workers like those who wanted to kill us in Alexandria are the most revolutionary force in the Middle East, because they literally have nothing to lose from revolutionary struggle and everything to gain.

# Brezhnev Imposes Ceasefire

BY A REPORTER

The Zionist government and the Egyptian government of Anwar Sadat have said they will now meet to work out the enforcement of the ceasefire in the Middle East. This ceasefire has been forced by the combined secret diplomatic efforts of the Soviet bureaucracy and US imperialism.

A road will be opened to resupply the Egyptian III Corps trapped on the east bank of the Suez after the ceasefire was announced. This comes after the Soviet Union warned that it would move to defend these forces. It was over the Soviet's demand that these troops be protected that Nixon threatened war with the Soviet Union.

The ceasefire will be used now to rob the Arab masses of the gains they made in this war.

This agreement follows the worldwide military alert ordered by Nixon which threatens not only the Arab states but the Soviet Union. The alert and Kissinger's open threats to the Soviet Union explode the Soviet bureaucracy's reactionary policy of "detente."

Kissinger said in his press conference: "We possess, each of us, nuclear arsenals capable of annihilating humanity. We, both

of us, have a special duty to see to it that confrontations are kept within bounds that do not threaten civilized life."

The Brezhnev bureaucracy talks about detente with Nixon, the leader of anticommunism and counterrevolution throughout the world, who is prepared to threaten World War Three to preserve the interests of imperialism.

The Stalinist bureaucracy now denounces Nixon's explanation for the alert as "absurd," but they opened the door to Nixon's threat of intervention through their policies of peaceful coexistence.

It was Brezhnev who welcomed Nixon to Moscow and traveled to the US boosting his government as the "progressive" force for "peace" in the world. The Stalinists imposed a sellout on the Vietnamese people after Nixon had

opened up massive bombing and destruction in North Vietnam.

Immediately after this deal was sealed Brezhnev called for a Vietnam like settlement in the Middle East which would sacrifice the rights of the Palestinian people. But it was the revolutionary movement of the Arab people and the unprecedented unity of the Arab states that disrupted the "detente."

The Stalinists, despite Nixon's threats, move openly with imperialism to crush the Arab revolution. The successes gained by the Arab armies undermined the whole basis for peaceful coexistence and jeopardized the stranglehold of the oil monopolies in the Arab world.

The Trotskyist movement can and must be constructed in every country to defeat Stalinism and provide the revolutionary leadership necessary to assure the victory of the working class.



# Artists Join Rally For Modern Museum Strike

BY DAVID NORTH

NEW YORK, Oct. 25—More than 100 people rallied today outside the Museum of Modern Art in support of the institution's staff who have been on strike for two weeks.

The staffs of the most important museums in the city sent delegations to the demonstration, which was also attended by supporters from the public and many artists.

"I think that the demonstration shows that this strike is very strong," curator Betsy Jones told the *Bulletin*. "There's a lot of determination."

## DETERMINED

She said that the striking workers, members of the Professional and Administrative Staff Association of the Museum of Modern Art (PASTA MOMA), were determined to win their demand for an annual minimum wage of \$7200.

Many of the striking workers earn no more than \$88 per week.

The size of the demonstration was a blow to the museum's management—led by the Rockefellers—who are trying to prove that the institution can do without the staff which plans and creates its world-famous displays.

British artist Barry Flanagan joined the demonstration and postponed his exhibit at the museum until the management meets the union's demands. Sol Le Witt, the well-known abstract

artist, was also on the picket line.

"My support for the staff here comes out of the fight we had in England," artist Keith Milow stated.

"The Tories are trying to impose a museum entrance charge which is contrary to the original charters. Their excuse is that all the other museums in Europe charge money.

"I feel very strongly about this strike. Because the Museum of Modern Art is a private institution, it is able to exploit the people working here more effectively."

The staff workers have become more militant since the strike began. Few students or youth cross the picket line to enter the museum.

But those well-to-do "art lovers" who violate the line get a strong dose of insults as they enter and leave the museum.

"Get your crock of culture if you need it that badly," one striker shouted at a portly lady wrapped in fur as she pushed through the revolving door.

A Wells Fargo truck stopped in front of the museum to pick up the day's revenue, but the drivers refused to cross the picket line and drove away.

## Lab Ranks Back 1199 Opposition

BY AN 1199 MEMBER

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—The move to recall Local 1199 delegates Fred Mazelis and Nathan Gershon, supporters of the Workers League and its newspaper the *Bulletin*, has been overwhelmingly rejected by the laboratory workers at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center at a special meeting October 25.

The 46 to 16 vote against recall is a stunning blow against the attempts of the Local 1199 leadership to silence opposition to their refusal to mobilize hospital workers to force Nixon out of office.

1199 Guild President Jesse Olson made it clear that it was the Davis leadership which spearheaded the petition against Mazelis and Gershon by unsuccessfully trying to prevent any discussion at the meeting.

The members who had begun the recall move claimed that Mazelis and Gershon were not fulfilling their delegates role because they refused to present a motion to the delegates assembly in support of Israel in the Middle East war.

In his reply Mazelis pointed to Olson and said: "This leadership is out to get us. The question is why? They refuse to fight for our wage increase, they refuse to fight against Nixon. They want to remove delegates who tell the truth about their policies."

Gershon called the charge of not representing the members a "lie" and stated, "We are well known as fighters for the labor party and we've carried this policy at Kingsbrook chapter meetings."

Delegate Jim Davis said the recall attempt was a "witch-

hunt" and pointed out that he was never asked to present the motion on Israel.

By encouraging this petition behind the scenes, the 1199 leadership lined up with right-wing, pro-administration members who back the imperialist, Zionist regime of Israel.

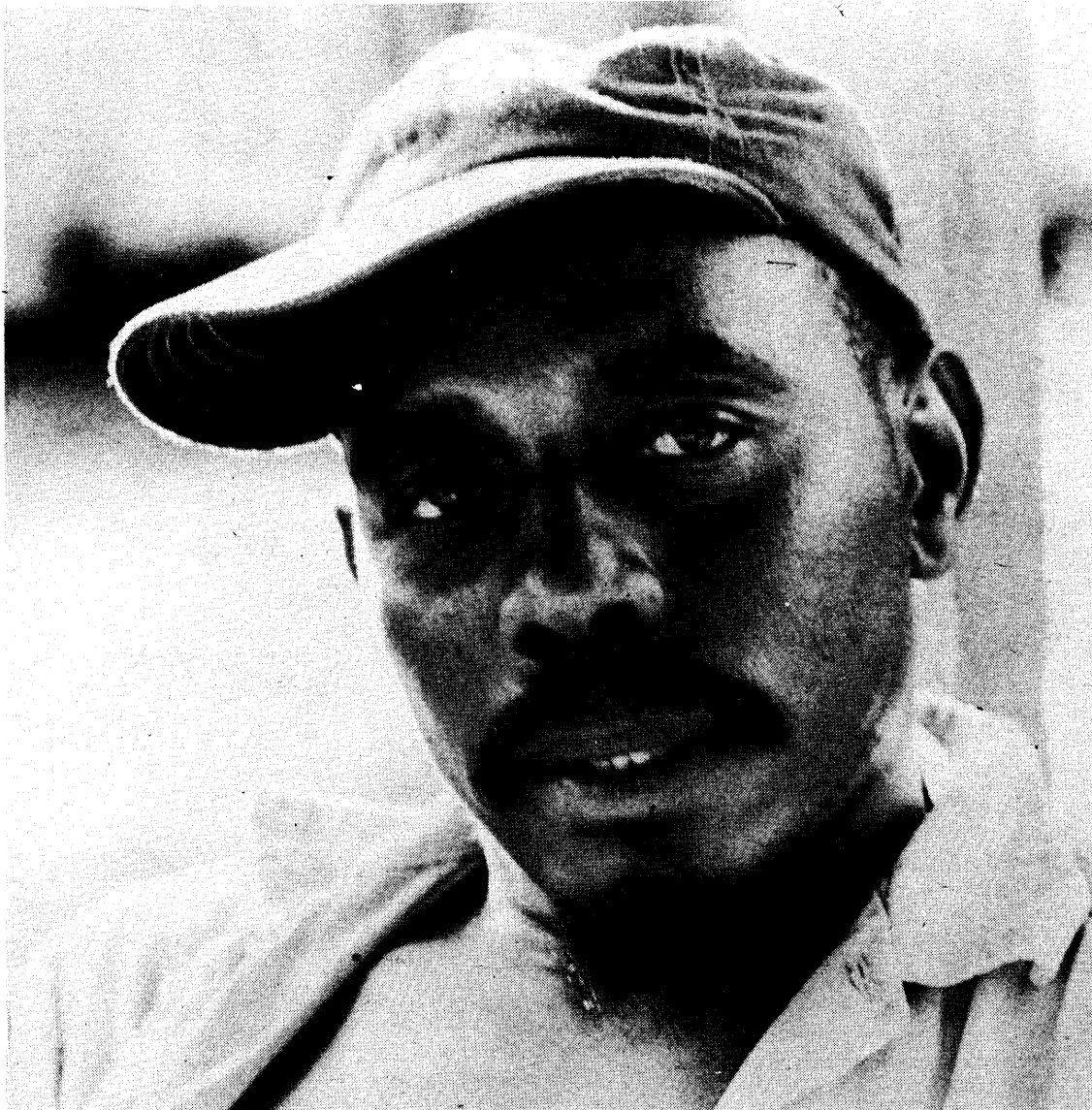
## UNABLE

Olson was unable to answer a single charge, only lamely asserting that he did not "care much" whether the recall vote succeeded or not.

Kingsbrook workers are disgusted with President Leon Davis's refusal to take action to win a 7.5 percent increase due last July 1. Action scheduled for October was cancelled.

At the hospital, cafeteria prices have risen nearly 50 percent. Laboratory workers are being forced to work without the most basic supplies. The job freeze has been tightened and vacancies on the night shift have not been filled.

An important element in the victory was the sympathy and support Mazelis and Gershon received by most other delegates and many union members in other departments. Only two weeks ago, Davis had attacked these delegates by saying, "They



Earnest Fleming, UFW steward, tried to get resolution for labor party before the UFW Convention.

## Fitzsimmons Refuses To Halt Attacks On UFW

BY BRUCE MCKAY

BAL HARBOUR, Fla.—President George Meany revealed in a special report to the AFL-CIO Convention that the Teamsters union leadership has so far refused to honor an agreement to halt its attacks on the United Farm Workers.

Under the proposed agreements the UFW would be free to organize farm labor without interference, while the Teamsters would have jurisdiction over packing-house workers.

Now the possibility is raised that Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons will once again act as a strikebreaker for the growers and send his hired thugs to break up UFW picket lines.

The *Bulletin* interviewed

Earnest Fleming, a UFW steward in Avon Park and a delegate to the UFW's first convention in California last month. Fleming discussed the situation facing farm workers today and threat brought about by the government's attacks on all the unions:

"They need more protection for the farm workers out there (in California), because the growers have all the cops and everything. This is supposed to be a non-violent union, and the growers take advantage of this by sending in the Teamsters thugs and the cops," Fleming said.

"But you can't really beat the law by force. You're never going to beat them by force alone. You've got to form your own political party."

Fleming helped try to get a resolution on the floor of the UFW convention calling for a Congress of Labor to mobilize the unions against the government's attacks and to build a labor party.

"If all these people here would join the unions we could have a better government and our own party," Fleming said. "Right now you've got two ways to vote and they're both the same."

"What I think is that we've got to get rid of Nixon. Now he says he'll give up the tapes when for months he wouldn't do it. With this impeachment talk he's willing to give up the tapes but he still wants to be President."

"Really, things are going to get out of hand. I used to go downtown with \$50 to buy food, but now I need \$75 to feed a family. Wages have been going down and prices up. This is going to cause a revolution."

don't represent their members."

This support must now be taken forward with a fight for immediate citywide strike action at the joint delegates meeting November 1 if the Cost of Living Council cuts the increase and to demand that the labor movement mobilize mass action to force Nixon out.

## Meat Cutters Union Strikes Washington Giant Food Chain

BY C. WOODS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The 3000 members of Amalgamated Meat Cutters Local 593 are striking the Giant Food Stores, and are winning important support in the labor movement.

But although Local 593 includes Washington, Virginia, and Maryland meat cutters, the union refused to carry forward the fight for rank and file demands and voted to strike against only one store chain, Giant.

In the union leaflet they stated: "We are striking Giant Food Incorporated only so that our friends and neighbors can buy their food at other chain stores, although we have similar problems with other chain stores in the Washington area."

The local says the issue in the strike is not higher wages. According to one meat cutter, they are willing to accept the 5.5 pay increase in return for better fringe benefits concerning pensions, health plans, welfare and

seniority.

On the first day of the strike, retail store employees Local 400, cooks and cashiers, honored most of the meat cutters picket lines.

But on the second day, some members of Local 400 began to cross the picket lines so that many of the Giant stores could reopen. Supervisory personnel have been called in from other area stores to cut and pack the meat.

The leadership of Local 400 retail store employees union has refused to insist that the picket lines be honored.

As the strike moved into its third day, other area stores, Safeway, A&P, Grand Union, Food Fair, and Acme locked out the meat cutters in retaliation against Local 593 in hopes of dividing the workers and forcing a sellout settlement. These stores made it clear that the rest of the stores would remain open for business as usual.

In a late development, the Teamsters have voted to support the locked out meat cutters.



# Trailblazers Hit Cleveland Workers League Launches New Branch

SPECIAL TO  
THE BULLETIN

**CLEVELAND—Just as Nixon is forced to carry out an open move toward dictatorship, government in Cleveland has literally broken down.**

Workers and youth here continually refer to the political crisis in Cleveland in terms of another Watergate situation.

Republican Mayor Perk has frozen the wages of all city employees and slashed the budget for all youth services and education. He is up to his neck in accusations of corruption and investigations of the murder of the Model Cities director and the disappearance of Model Cities funds.

Mayor Perk stands unopposed in the upcoming runoff election.

cause of the massive concentration of industrial workers: "The American Revolution will begin in Ohio."

Yet the Stalinists, despite an important influence in a number of key plants in Ohio, are running a 75-year old candidate in the blandest of write-in campaigns.

The Socialist Workers Party candidate, Roberta Scherr, finished third in the first election and is running a legal challenge to have her name placed on the ballot to replace the Democrat who withdrew.

The Scherr campaign is a



Trailblazers discussed the fight for the labor party with young workers in the communities of East Cleveland, Cleveland and Lorain. Workers in Cleveland are determined to find an alternative to Nixon.

younger people and kick these rich people out. The trouble with the older worker is that they get set in their ways and don't realize that it is the system itself that is bad.

"Here the majority is controlled by the minority. What we have got to do is get together and kick these guys right out of the country."

It is in this explosive situation that the Workers League trailblazing team came into the Cleveland area determined to establish a branch that could bring these traditions together with the new forces emerging from the working class and the youth, because of the present crisis, to construct the revolutionary leadership.

In the first week alone, the campaign was carried to Oberlin College, Cleveland State, Cuyahoga Community College, Western Reserve, and three major high schools; to the giant US Steel plant in Lorain, the Fisher-Body plant in Cleveland, and into the working class communities of East Cleveland, Cleveland, and Lorain.

The enormous response to the policies of the Workers League was expressed in the sale of over 500 *Bulletin* subscriptions in the first week and the establishment of a Workers League branch now set up and functioning in the Cleveland area.

Everywhere the trailblazers fought for people to understand the urgency of the situation and the necessity for the construction of a revolutionary leadership.

Thousands of workers and youth see clearly the drive of the government towards intervention in the Middle East and identify with the Arab struggle as their own. One youth who recently joined the air force told the *Bulletin* that at Wright Air Force base: "There were at least 100 jets they were loading up with all kinds of weapons to send to Israel."

For this youth, this was a clear sign that once again preparations were being made to ship thousands of American youth to their deaths in defense of the profits of the rich, as in Vietnam.

The desire for theoretical understanding and the need for revolutionary leadership finds many expressions in the Cleveland area. At Oberlin College, over 100 youth attended an SWP forum on Chile. The Workers League literature table was literally mobbed by students, many of whom were beginning to confront the fact that capitalism was at a dead end.

Mobilization at the high schools sold as many as 50 to 60 papers, and on one sale at the Lorain Steel plant 60 papers were sold with half a dozen workers pulling their cars over to the curb to buy subscriptions.

A student at Cleveland State who purchased a sub told of his own father, who is employed by National Screw, being forced to take a wage cut last year and now working 50 hours a week in order to make ends meet.

A student who bought a sub on a door-to-door drive told the *Bulletin* that she was receiving aid from her family and had tried for months to get a job. "They are trying to lower wages for youth so older people cannot get a job."

## EMPLOYMENT

She said that at the Ohio Bureau of Employment, most jobs were for skilled men with years of experience, and that there were some jobs available that paid as little as 90 cents an hour. She also told us that the NYC program for youth had been taken over by Mayor Perk last summer and that many youth had still not received their full pay and were fighting for compensation.

A group of girls at Cuyahoga Community College chipped in to buy a *Bulletin* subscription. All of them were working at low wages at temporary office jobs to get through school.

One of them told the *Bulletin*: "Now I see the connection between what happened at Kent State and the Watergate Con-

spiracy."

Another told us: "I went to an election debate. Most of the candidates are crooks. But the socialist candidate Roberta Scherr is a very uninspiring speaker."

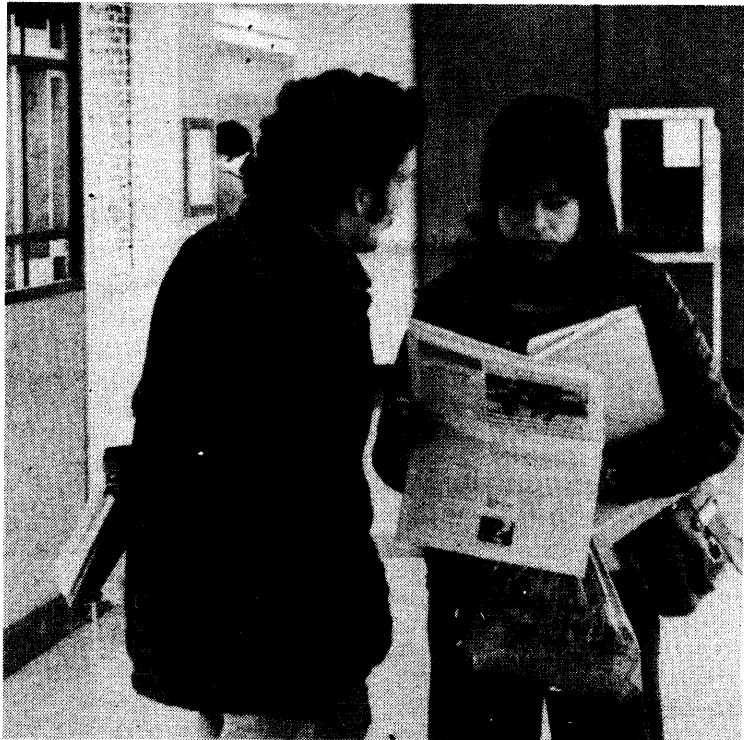
Here was a working class youth looking for a socialist alternative and turned away by the inability of the Socialist Workers Party to offer a real alternative.

Another youth from Cuyahoga joined the Young Socialists and is now working to build a branch.

Among trade unionists, there is a growing determination to fight and a big awareness that it is the government that has to be taken on and defeated. One worker, a cook who is paid \$1.95 an hour, told us that he feels the government is out to smash up the press. "Look at those uniforms Nixon thought up for the White House guards. It is like fascism."

Virtually every Ford worker we spoke to on the subscription drive was convinced that a long strike is on the way. One Ford worker told us: "Look. I do not think a labor party is enough to stop what is going on. In our union Local 1250 the leadership is working with Ford to keep us from getting what we deserve. I think what we need is to get rid of these leaders and this system completely."

It is precisely the construction of a Workers League branch and the construction of a mass Young Socialists in Cleveland that will make this possible.



Building support for the Bulletin on the campus...

His Democratic opponent, facing charges of corruption himself, rather than face complete exposure withdrew from the election.

Thousands of workers now find themselves without even the semblance of a political choice. As one young General Electric worker put it: "With the Perk situation we have no choice. He has cut everything—all the salaries of the workers, Model Cities funds. He even murdered the director to create a scandal. We have no choice in this election, so why vote?"

In this explosive political situation, the Workers League is building a branch to fight for the construction of a labor party as the only way to defend the interests of workers.

Workers here face unemployment, vicious attacks on the unions, deteriorating schools—25 percent of the Cleveland youth having a reading level below the national average—and the open decay, corruption and bankruptcy of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The bankruptcy of Stalinism and revisionism is sharply exposed in this situation. Gus Hall, head of the American Communist Party, remarked at his sixty-third birthday celebration, held here on October 14, that be-

propaganda struggle confined only to the campus and leaving out all the political questions facing the Cleveland working class and youth. Even so, the ruling class through the courts is working desperately to keep her name off the ballot for fear of the massive vote any candidate identified with socialism might receive.

There is no question that a socialist campaign taken out into the working class communities could rally enormous support from workers and youth and would stand a very good chance of winning. All the traditions and the rich history of the working class in Cleveland and Ohio can now be brought forward into the present situation through the construction of the revolutionary party and the battle for a labor party.

During the 1920s in Ohio, the Communist Party paper, *The Ohio Socialist*, reached a circulation of 50,000. Ohio was the scene of bloody battles, the Toledo Auto-Lite strike, and the massive sit-down strikes of the 1930s that forged the CIO.

The traditions of militancy and solidarity were best summed up by an older worker who told the *Bulletin*: "What we older people have got to do is get behind you

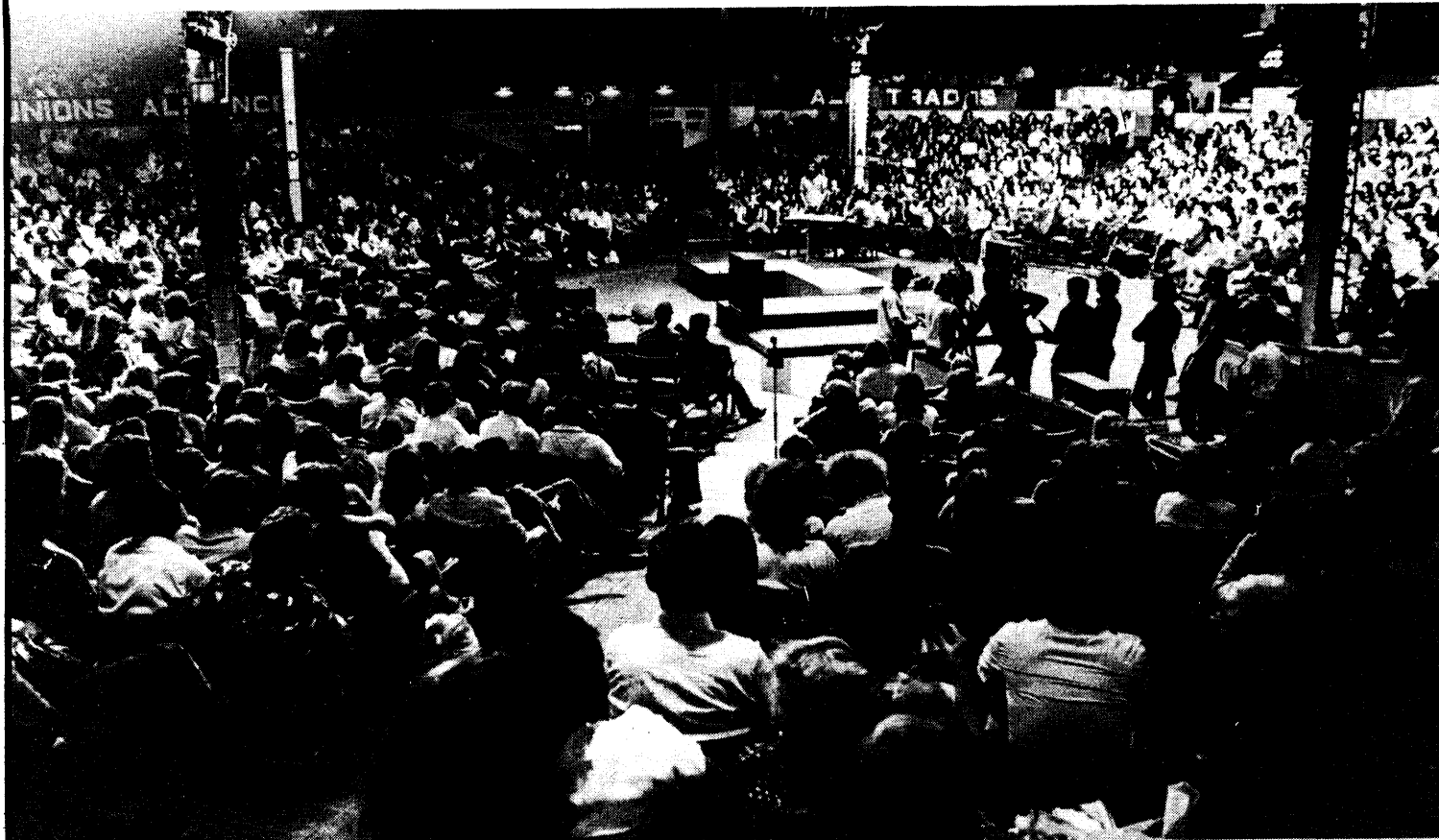


...and on the street corners.



# Workers League Fifth National Conference Resolution: Persp

The following series is the draft perspective document of the Workers League passed at its Fifth National Conference in August. The military takeover in Chile engineered by the US government, Nixon's sharp moves toward dictatorship here and the deepening attacks on the working class' standard of living through inflation urgently requires a discussion on perspectives for building a revolutionary leadership among workers and youth to lead the fight for socialism. We urge all Bulletin readers to send in their comments on this resolution which will be carried in the paper in the following weeks.



signifies the breakup of the entire period of negotiation and compromise and the preparations for a massive political confrontation with the government. Sections of the ruling class now prepare for witch-hunts against the left, a showdown with the unions and the imposition of a Powell-type police state regime. It is under these conditions that the revisionists and Stalinists seek to bring about an historic defeat for the working class by refusing to fight for the defeat of the Tory government and its replacement with a labor government. Only the Socialist Labour League has begun at every point from the perspective of building the revolutionary party through the political fight for power. The American working class will now arm itself theoretically by learning from the great battles taking place in England. The Workers League must turn continuously to the developments in Britain to be prepared for the daily tasks ahead.

## The American Economy Today

The onset of recession in the US with a sharp downturn in production and retail sales has already begun. This must now intensify the drive towards trade war in order to export the commodities that can no longer be sold in a shrinking American market. The way is being prepared for overproduction to bring about a glut on the world market, massive unemployment and a vicious drive to up the rate of exploitation of the working class. These are the conditions for collapses like that of Equity Fund, declining stock prices and revelations of fraud which show that enormous masses of capital are vulnerable to being wiped out in

# Inflation Drives Back Workers' Living Standards

## August 15, 1971 Decisions

The August 15, 1971 decisions of Nixon were thus prepared by the whole period which had preceded them. The attempts to resolve the capitalist crisis, which took this inflationary form because of the Bretton Woods agreements, had completely collapsed. The action of the French workers in May-June 1968 made it clear that European workers would not pay for, through the destruction of their wages and working conditions, the tremendously bloated condition of American capital. At the same time, any effort to shift the burden to American workers met determined resistance, first from Black workers, then students, and finally in a wage offensive of the labor movement itself. It was this offensive above all which brought American capitalism to the very brink of a complete collapse and required Nixon to take the August 15th decisions. This makes it crystal clear that it is not possible for American imperialism to shift the burden of its crisis solely on the back of European workers, while any attempt to take on American workers will precipitate a revolutionary situation here as well.

The August 15th decision meant a whole new stage of the struggle internationally and within the US. Most fundamental was the decision of Nixon to remove the gold backing from the dollar altogether. This represents the end of the entire structure of international economic relations set up at Bretton Woods. Even more fundamentally, it challenges the very laws of capitalist development which are based on the production and exchange of goods on the basis of value. This indicates that the crisis of capitalism is now deeper than it was even in the 1930s. There can be no resolution of this crisis now outside of a confrontation between the two classes on an international scale leading to either the victory of socialism or the destruction of the workers' movement through fascism.

The August 15th decisions also initiated a policy of trade war internationally and attempts at wage restrictions within the country. However, Nixon held back from any serious efforts at credit restrictions or any other steps to decrease money supply and the general level of business growth. For this reason, prices were held partially in check in an artificial manner while the very forces which fed the inflation went ahead at a feverish pace. Nixon acted this way out of fear of bringing down the entire capitalist system through widescale bankruptcies of major corporations who are completely dependent on inflated credit arrangements and an expanding market.

This situation is now characterized by a tremendously explosive expansion of credit and uncontrollable inflation. As all fixed relationship between paper currencies collapses there is not the remotest possibility of finding any replacement for the Bretton Woods agreement destroyed by Nixon on August 15, 1971. As never before the crisis is now dominated by the closest interpenetration of politics and economics. The collapse of monetary stability now drives the ruling class to attack every basic right of the working class and to prepare new dictatorial forms of rule. The paralysis of the government in the Watergate situation reflects the tremendous strength of the working class which will not peacefully relinquish its democratic rights. This enormous political crisis has the immediate effect of deepening the economic crisis.

The August 15th measures by eliminating the connection of the dollar to gold removed all barriers to an absolutely uncontrolled inflation. The collapse in confidence in paper currency has now driven the price of gold to \$123 an ounce and led to frenzied speculation in commodities in the hopes of something that will retain value. An unprecedented expansion of credit has accompanied a declining rate of industrial investment and the creation of masses of fictitious capital much of it based on outright fraud.

This uncontrolled inflation has meant a

continuous devaluation of the dollar since August 1971 and the complete breakdown of the last remnants of the fixed parity system set up by the Smithsonian accords. Now the crisis is leading to the final break up of the European joint float, the destruction of Common Market agricultural agreements and the disintegration of the Common Market itself. There is no possibility of a European solution to the crisis. The deterioration of the dollar now provides American capitalism with enormous trading advantages against its European and Japanese rivals and sets the stage for a brutal assault on European and Japanese capitalism through the development of trade war. This means the development of conditions of civil war and revolution in Europe and Japan. Trade war will intensify all the political tensions that lead to armed conflict.

## The Coming British Revolution

Nowhere is this more sharply expressed than in Britain. The oldest capitalist country in the world is now being driven to the forefront of revolutionary developments in Europe. The old British capitalism is finished. The unprecedented financial crisis now destroys any ability of British capitalism to offset its industrial decline with its earnings as a trade and financial center. It is not a matter of further decline but an entirely new situation in which the Heath anti-union laws are aimed not simply at cutting wages but at the destruction of the unions and of the basic rights won in two hundred years of struggle. Inflation, which is being used by the government to whip up middle class hysteria and drive down workers' living standards, is now provoking an enormous movement in the working class.

The change in the situation is expressed in the fact that, after two years of discussion between the government and the unions, the AUEW has forced its president, Hugh Scanlon, to break off talks. This

spectacular bankruptcies.

Inflation must now have the most violent impact on the situation in the US. Nixon's Phase Four means an unprecedented attack on the standard of living of the American worker. Prices will now rise without limit while wages are frozen at 5.5 percent. Inflation will now be used to create conditions of panic in the middle class to turn it against the working class and towards acceptance of dictatorial measures. These are intolerable conditions for the working class which cannot live with the sort of settlements negotiated in rubber, electrical and trucking. The way is open for a confrontation between the working class and the labor bureaucracy which has rammed through acceptance of wage controls. A big clash now looms between labor and the government over wages.

All of this will now take place under new conditions in which the working class has gone through the political experience of the exposure of Nixon in the Watergate crisis and with the government shaken by an unprecedented constitutional crisis. The American worker will now come into these struggles under conditions of civil war in Europe and political crisis and preparations for civil war here. The conditions are rapidly being created for a unity in common struggle of the European and American working class.

The 1944 Bretton Woods agreement represented a major retreat of the capitalists before the strength of the working class. The decision to institute a policy of inflationary expansion expressed the inability of the capitalists to inflict a decisive defeat on the labor movement. Decades of credit and inflation have built up an enormous overproduction of capital which demands to earn its rate of profit through the exploitation of the working class. No amount of brutal increases in the exploitation of labor power will solve this crisis. What is required is the reduction of the standard of living to conditions like those of the 1930s and worse and this can only be done through wiping out entire sections of capital through stock



# Prospectives For The American Revolution/Part 2

collapses, bank failures, closure of entire industries and a catastrophic collapse in prices. Capitalism can only establish equilibrium through the most violent disequilibrium. The expansion of credit and inflation must now bring on a collapse in the sphere of circulation and this in turn means a catastrophic collapse in production. Capitalism is driven to the physical destruction of the working class itself through the creation of mass unemployment and the elimination of millions of productive workers. The monetary crisis expresses the fundamental crisis facing capitalism, the fight to reduce necessary labor time to a fraction of its present level. It is no longer possible to increase surplus value by automating as this more and more drives down the rate of profit. Under these conditions, the capitalists must drive to force the working class to another social level. There is no way out of this crisis. It is a question of socialism or barbarism.

The conditions of civil war already finding expression in the colonial and semi-colonial countries are a sharp warning to American workers. In Uruguay, a long tradition of democratic rule has been smashed by the army; the trade unions and all democratic rights have been abolished. These same conditions are now in preparation in the advanced capitalist countries as well. At the very center of the international crisis, in the US, the most serious political crisis in history has arisen out of the exposure of the Watergate conspiracy, shaking the capitalist class' ability to govern as the economic crisis forces them to dismantle the old forms of democratic rule. The crisis in the economic system has sharply exposed all of the deep contradictions within the American political system by ripping apart



Left: conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance in England voted unanimously to transform the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party in light of the intense political and economic crisis in that country. The preparations for dictatorship in this country are revealed in the Watergate hearings, below, and the depths of the economic crisis revealed in the empty slaughterhouses, above right.



the compromises between the classes which have formed the basis for capitalist democratic rule in this country since the Constitution was put into effect in 1789.

## The Political Crisis and Watergate

Even as Nixon is driving the capitalist class in Europe and Japan into civil war confrontations with their own working classes, his preparations for civil war against American workers are already far advanced—just how far advanced has been revealed very clearly in the Watergate disclosures, which have exposed the way in which Nixon rigged the 1972 election and developed a secret political police within the White House to attack the trade unions and the political leadership of the working class. Nixon has now carried these preparations a step further, bringing the military into the government with the appointment of General Alexander Haig as his Chief of Staff.

But Nixon's preparations for Civil War and his plans to impose a Bonapartist dictatorship on the working class are most sharply expressed in the political crisis which exposes the weakness of the capitalist class at the same time as it poses the greatest dangers for the working class. This

political crisis is now reaching the point of explosion as Nixon defiantly attacks the Bill of Rights and attempts to destroy the Constitutional and traditional powers of Congress to place restraints on the executive branch; in particular, the powers of the Senate to review the conduct of the President and his Cabinet and advisers. Without these powers, the Congress has no authority to enforce its decisions, especially in view of Nixon's stacking of the courts.

At the heart of this political crisis is the weakness of Nixon as he stands before the powerful American working class thoroughly discredited by Watergate and the scandals which headline the newspapers almost every day. The total corruption of his regime and his plans for dictatorship have been exposed. Nixon's weakness expresses the weakness of the capitalist class itself, which is deeply divided between the old capital of Wall Street and the big industrial cities and the capital based on the boom period. The capitalist class itself has been able to put forward absolutely no solution to either the paralysis which is gripping the government or to the international economic crisis itself. At the same time, the Constitution has proven to be an entirely unworkable document, providing nothing—outside of an impossibly cumbersome process of impeachment—which Wall Street can use to make the change in political leadership it

desires.

Even after the August 15, 1971 measures, Nixon still attempted to postpone the confrontation with the working class. These measures set the framework for the conflict with Europe through trade war. While beginning trade war internationally and wage restrictions at home, Nixon allowed the increases in credit and inflation to bring on a feverish boom leading to an explosion of the inflationary forces developing since 1944. His fear of the confrontation with the working class has been expressed in the desperate attempts to turn to the Stalinists and the labor bureaucracy for support. The labor leadership has entered an alliance with Nixon for trade war with Europe and Japan and has allowed him to launch brutal attacks on the youth, the unemployed and the unorganized sections of the working class, along with limiting wages to 5.5 percent. Nixon's policies have been marked by preparation and conspiracy against the working class with an inability to carry the fight through to inflict a decisive defeat. The labor bureaucracy is incapable of containing the struggle of the labor movement.

While Nixon had the enthusiastic support of the boom time capitalists in the 1972 elections, Wall Street, the big banks and the major industrialists were either pressured into supporting him or did so for lack of an alternative. They had no real confidence in his ability to take on and defeat the working class. The Watergate crisis now leaves Nixon paralyzed. Virtually every section of the capitalist class has deserted him while at the same time they are deeply split as to what to do. This is a period of the gravest danger. Nixon's policies continue to prepare for mass unemployment and a brutal assault on labor but it will require a corporatist state to carry it out. It is the determination of the capitalists that Nixon must go that has given the Senate investigation the green light to take the battle to the courts. The desperation of the capitalists is at the same time expressed in that they must carry out a campaign in the working

class against Nixon for popular support. This is the most dangerous situation as any government which replaces Nixon will be set up for the purpose of carrying through the attacks he cannot carry out.

The dangers posed to the working class now lie in the bankruptcy of its own trade union leadership, which has refused to wage any fight whatsoever to force Nixon out of office or to oppose his wage cutting campaign and attacks on basic rights and the trade unions. Beginning with the refusal of the union bureaucrats to take any action, the capitalists hope to use a middle class which has been thrown into a frenzy as their standard of living is wiped away by runaway inflation and economic collapse as a base of support for moving decisively against the trade unions and the democratic rights of the working class. This ruined middle class will not only support moves toward dictatorship, without the decisive action of the trade union movement, but will also serve as the material for the rapid growth of fascist movements.

The US now stands as the main prop for every reactionary force in the world. It is US aid to Portugal that makes possible the brutal massacres in Mozambique. The Vietnam War shows clearly the position of the colonial countries in this situation. The brutal bombing of Hanoi, ruthlessly resorted to after weeks of talk of peace, expresses the real face of Nixon toward the workers and peasants of the underdeveloped countries. Today the crisis of capitalism has reached the point where it must attack the colonial peoples simultaneously with its war on Europe and on American workers. This is the meaning of the decision to do away with SDR's and not accept these as payment on the part of the colonial countries for their debts to the imperialist countries—especially the US. The US is determined to destroy the last shred of economic stability in these countries, creating conditions for the revolutionary movement of the industrial working class as well as the peasantry in Latin America, Africa and Asia.



# LABOR TODAY

## The Crisis Hits Bal Harbour

When George Meany opened the AFL-CIO Convention in the posh surroundings of Bal Harbour's Americana Hotel, he had no intention of bringing the trade union movement into a head-on clash with the Nixon government.

Quite the contrary. In his keynote speech, Meany's remedy for Nixon was politics as usual: "We have a lot going for us—and we have got to put it all to work next year to elect a Congress that can get this country back on the track again."

Meany wanted to use the convention to strangle the movement of workers throughout the country against Nixon and the government. He had every intention of burying the resolutions passed by the Iowa and Minnesota AFL-CIO Conventions demanding Nixon's resignation or impeachment.

Meany wanted to dissolve the anger of the ranks in a massive campaign to get Democrats elected to a "veto-proof Congress" next year.

Meany was unable to do any of this. Instead, the convention unanimously adopted a resolution presented by Meany and the Executive Council demanding Nixon's resignation and calling on Congress to begin impeachment proceedings should he refuse.

This conservative labor leadership was forced to do what even the British Trade Union Congress has refused to raise against the Heath government. They were forced into this collision with the government by the deepening economic crisis and Nixon's attacks on the unions.

The convention was forced into action by the anger of millions of workers demanding that their leaders put a stop to Nixon's corrupt government and his threat of dictatorship.

The economic crisis confronting the capitalist class demands that the big corporations push workers back to the starvation, mass unemployment and sweat shops of the 1930s in order to preserve their profits.

This has been the aim of all of Nixon's policies since August 15, 1971, when Phase One was announced and wages were frozen. Inflation has eaten away workers' standards of living while the government has limited wage increases, and Meany and the rest of the labor bureaucracy have cooperated in this attack on workers every step of the way: by serving on the Pay Board and Labor-Management Advisory Committee and by preventing any real fight against either the employers or Nixon.

But the crisis has entered an entirely new stage. It is no longer enough to simply limit wages while inflation does the work of cutting them. The employers and the government must now **destroy** workers' living and working conditions and either incorporate the trade unions into the state itself as a means of regimenting the working class or completely destroy them.

Workers today face the choice of fighting the government for power or facing dictatorship and world war. This is what the events of the past ten days mean.

By firing Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Assistant Attorney General William Ruckelshaus and forcing Attorney General Elliot Richardson to resign—all in order to halt the investigation of his criminal activities—Nixon assumed dictatorial powers and announced his intention to destroy the democratic rights of the working class.

Workers must now take forward the AFL-CIO resolution calling for Nixon's resignation or impeachment. Demonstrations must be called by the unions in every city by the entire labor movement demanding Nixon resign.

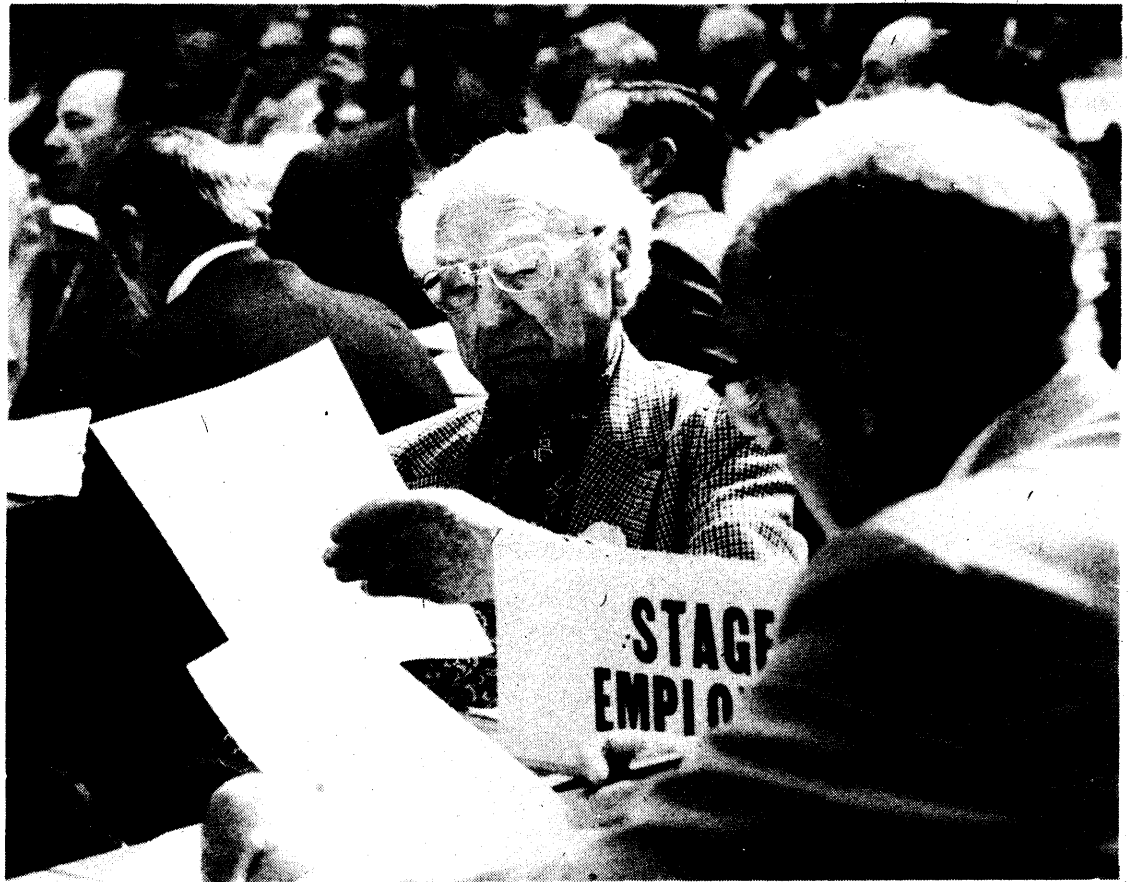
Out of this movement against Nixon, the trade unions must organize their own party, a labor party, as the only alternative to Nixon and all the politicians of the Republican and Democratic Parties. The labor party will unite the entire working class in a political fight with this government.

Workers today face a period such as German workers confronted during the Weimar Republic, when all the institutions of capitalist democracy crumbled under the weight of runaway inflation and economic depression, creating the conditions for the rise of fascism.

But like the German trade union leaders in the early 1930s who opposed the government but refused to mobilize the working class to defeat Hitler, Meany intends to do nothing more to fight Nixon than call on labor's Democratic "friends" in Congress to consider impeachment.

This is why a new leadership, a Marxist leadership, must be constructed now to lead the fight for a labor party based on socialist policies, to prepare in every struggle today the fight for power.

bruce mckay



Delegates to the AFL-CIO Convention examining the schedule of events: at first without any intentions of bringing the trade union movement into a head-on clash with the Nixon government.

## Woodcock At Harvester Talks

BY DEBRA WATSON

CHICAGO—Massive opposition is building up among striking International Harvester workers against United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock's blatant attempts to force them back to work on the same sellout terms which were imposed on Chrysler ranks.

Woodcock made a quick trip here this week to attend a special negotiating session with the company. In spite of the news blackout, it was learned that earlier claims by the UAW about having forced International Harvester to drop its demands on compulsory overtime were

entirely fraudulent.

The company is demanding that Woodcock give up the eight hour day as he did in Chrysler.

There is also strong feeling against the pattern wage settlement established in Chrysler. "The mood of the ranks is definitely against the three percent," Local 6 President Norman Roth told the *Bulletin*.

One worker expressed the determination of Harvester, "I have been here for 37 years.

"I was one of those that started the union here. We have never had involuntary overtime before.

"A man has to be crazy to accept that. It is like being locked up in a prison. If you want to work overtime you would really be a fool not to get in that extra time when you could.

"But if you want to take a Sunday off to go to church and they say no, work comes first, you are a fool to accept a contract like that. That is what they have at Chrysler. We are trying to turn that around here."

## Rail Local Charges Amtrak Union Busting

BY JEAN BRUST

ST. PAUL—A law suit filed by Dining Car Employees Union Local 516 in St. Paul Tuesday charged that Amtrak has engaged in an all-out systematic union busting campaign since taking over direct charge of Burlington Northern (BN) dining service June 10.

Wages have been cut from \$4.89 to \$4.25 an hour for BN porters and from \$5.60 down to \$5.20 an hour for chefs. In addition, Amtrak has cancelled payroll deductions of union dues, ignores a union shop agreement, cancelled a hospital and health service plan that had its beginnings 100 years ago, and established new work rules without consulting the union.

The 300 members of Local 516 include workers employed by the BN system as chefs, cooks, waiter attendants, and porters. BN headquarters are in St. Paul. Milwaukee road workers are facing the same attack by Amtrak, but Robert Patterson, general chairman of Local 516 reports these workers are headquartered elsewhere and he does not know their plans for fighting the attack.

Patterson described the events leading up to Tuesday's suit. Amtrak took over most of the nation's passenger lines on May

1, 1971, but the lines continued to be run under the control of the railroad companies and with the same union contracts in force.

On June 10 of this year Amtrak assumed what they called "direct control" of the dining car employees of the BN and the Milwaukee roads.

"Since then we have been working without a contract and everything under the old contract has been abrogated," Patterson reported.

The union requested recognition from Amtrak shortly after June 10, but they said they would not "recognize us as the representative of the employees we have represented for the past 40 years."

So insolent are the Amtrak officials that they will not even maintain one man in St. Paul to deal with their employees. Instead, each worker must place a long-distance call to Chicago even to call in sick.

When challenged on his policy of fighting this through the courts, Patterson acknowledged that his union really had little faith in the courts as impartial bodies. "Our men are ready to strike," he said. "And it may come to it, that we will have to withhold our services."

But he stressed the danger of an isolated strike and the extreme urgency of getting support from the operating crafts.

A real fight must be waged to mobilize that support now. The destruction of Local 516 will be the signal for Amtrak to use "direct control" as a weapon against the operating unions of the rails.

## No Pact At Seiberling

SPECIAL TO THE BULLETIN

AKRON, Ohio—There is no sign of a settlement of the month long strike of rubber workers against the Seiberling Company.

"We cannot get together on the main issues involved and there are quite a few of them," Gerald Somody, president of United Rubber Workers Local 18, told the *Bulletin*.

He said that the wage issue had been resolved by the national Firestone pact, but that the men were fighting to change the way the company determines hourly wages.

Picketing has been sharply limited by a court order. Mass picketing was outlawed two weeks ago, and 20 workers were jailed when they defied the injunction.

Seiberling is now able to move supplies in and out of the plant and resume limited production with nonunion personnel. Mass picketing had forced a complete halt in production.

Somody said that Local 18 had to go along with the national 5.5 percent wage settlement, but declared that "it is way below what we need."

The striking Firestone Local 7 voted Friday on the latest management offer.



**midwest news**

# Ford Pact Sparks Wildcats

BY KEN WESTON

DETROIT—Ford workers, poised to strike the world's second largest auto producer, reacted angrily to the Friday morning announcement by United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock and UAW Ford negotiator Ken Bannon that an agreement had been reached with the company only hours before the 10 am strike deadline.

Reports of walkouts by Ford men before the deadline have come in from the River Rouge plant, the Sterling Stamping plant in Detroit, as well as from plants in Chicago, San Jose, Kansas City, and Canton, Ohio.

Extreme precautions were taken by the International leadership in cooperation with management to keep Ford's 185,000 US workers in the plants and working.

Inside the immense River Rouge complex, officials from both labor relations and the union filled the aisles in an attempt to keep the men from walking out Friday morning. The assembly division at Rouge did walk out, while on the foundry side, army men milled around outside talking angrily about the early settlement.

"How could they (the company and the union) be so far apart one day and so close the next, unless this is a complete sellout?" one foundry worker said to this reporter.

Full details of the agreement will not be released until they are presented to the UAW Executive Board on Monday and to the union's 200-member Ford

Council on Tuesday.

However, it was learned earlier that the wage increase parallels the three percent increase annually plus 12 cents for the first year agreed to at Chrysler.

It is not known if any concessions were made by the company to the foundry workers demands for a 25 year and out pension provision.

As G. Young, a worker at Ford's Woodhaven stamping plant, put it: "Woodcock talks about impeaching Nixon, and he is part of Nixon's government. There cannot be much right in what he says, as if he is an innocent bystander to all this."

The Stalinists of the Communist Party support this deal with Ford. They refused to demand strike action against the three percent deal with Chrysler upon which the Ford pact is modeled.

Only the Trotskyist movement in the United States, the Workers League, has fought these betrayals by Woodcock and the Stalinists by preparing a leadership for the political struggle against Nixon.

Every auto worker must reject this contract and demand that the UAW break with Nixon and establish a labor party.



Minneapolis Young Socialists plan campaign to build twice-weekly Bulletin.

## Hospital Strikers Stick To Demands

BY A REPORTER  
ST. LOUIS—Hospital workers here face their sixth week on the picket line without management budging on any of the issues. The strikers, members of Service Employers International Union (SEIU) Local 50, are fighting for union recognition, a minimum wage of \$3.50 per hour, and fringe benefits.

The determination of the workers was expressed by one of the pickets at Normandy Osteopathic, the largest of those presently struck. "We are going to win this. I do not know how, but

we are going to win."

Other pickets discussed with the Bulletin the major points of the strike. "I think the major issue is wages as well as job-overloading. Some nurses are only getting \$2.60 or \$2.80 per hour.

"My weekly food bill is now \$75 for the family. We need wage increases to meet the rising prices. That is why I think all hospital workers should be in the union.

Another picket talked about working conditions: "We had no male orderlies to help us and we could not lift the heavy loads without straining ourselves.

There is no doubt that their isolation has weakened the strikers. The union leadership must bring thousands more hospital workers into this struggle. At the same time, Local 50 must call for support from the Labor Council for general strike action in St. Louis.

### PERSPECTIVES FOR THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Speaker: Adele Sinclair, Editor, Young Socialist

#### MADISON

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donation: 50 cents

#### ST. LOUIS

THURS. NOV. 8  
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Wilson Hall  
Room 112  
7:30 p.m.

#### DETROIT

FRI., NOV. 9  
King Solomon Church  
14th & Marquette  
7:00 p.m.

#### CLEVELAND

SAT., NOV. 10  
East Cleveland YMCA  
4:00 p.m.

## Oil Crisis To Shut Schools

BY J. NELSON

As winter approaches, 75 percent of Minnesota public schools face danger of closure because of fuel shortages.

Some schools in rural Minnesota have fuel supplies which will be exhausted as early as November which could mean for teachers and students of Hubbard county, for example, five months without school.

Minnesota education officials are considering shortening the school year by from one to several weeks during the winter to conserve and distribute what

fuel remains.

Preparations are already underway for shutdowns in Twin Cities schools. One student at the Minnesota Work Opportunities Center reported to the Bulletin that students have already been warned that the center would either have to curtail classes or shut down altogether this winter for a few weeks.

Another student from Minneapolis Vocational High School said that he was afraid that Nixon would use the fuel shortage as an excuse to go to war against the Arab countries.

## Injunction On Chrysler Strike

BY JOHN WERNER

DAYTON, Ohio—The two-party court system has moved sharply against Ohio workers in Dayton, Ashtabula, and Vinton County. They work in close concert with the corporations and school boards against Ohio workers.

In Dayton an injunction and fine was slapped on Chrysler Airtemp International Union of Electrical Workers Local 775. Only after the union withdrew the pickets was the fine lifted.

Now Chrysler boasts that having broken the picket line at this key warehouse, other Chrysler plants will be supplied with Dayton parts for a long period despite the strike.

This week 400 Hewitt soap workers went on strike for an improved pension plan. Kenneth R. Wilcox, president of the Independent Union, stated that under

the present pension plan, a worker after 40 years work would retire at \$160 a month.

The union is seeking to double this. Immediately, the courts slapped an injunction on the plant and warehouse limiting picketing to two workers per gate. Nonetheless, no trucks have gone in or out of the plant. The Teamsters have held solid honoring the picket line.

Police have been ever present by the picket line.

In Ashtabula, the school district is asking for a court order forcing teachers back to work. In Vinton County, utilizing the anti-public workers Ferguson Act, the Board announced it was "terminating" all the striking teachers.

The Ohio Education Association Executive Secretary Dr. Stayner F. Brighton charged that the Ohio School Board Association "seems determined to make collective bargaining a dirty word in Ohio Schools...the position of the OSBA seems to be that a capricious board can deny that right (collective bargaining) and be backed up by the law."

### CLASSES ON MARXISM

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  - Dialectical Materialism —Marxist Theory of Knowledge
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## TV by Melody Farrow

### In Pursuit Of Coal

The Buffalo Creek, West Virginia mine disaster on February 26, 1972 killed 125 people when a 40-foot high wall of water burst from a company built dam. The valley was flooded in a matter of hours, leaving 4000 homeless.

The complete contempt of the capitalist class for the lives of workers and the bitter, bloody resistance of the working class dominates coal production.

ABC television documented the power of the coal producers in West Virginia and the conditions of the miners in its October 18 premier of a new "Close-up" series.

In a documentary entitled "West Virginia—Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Coal," producer-director-writer Stephen Fleischman captures on film the total arrogance of the coal bosses and the hypocrisy of the politicians and the federal government. He exposes the fear for their lives and homes that the workers live with.

"It's a hazardous business, but this is unfortunately one of the hazards of being a miner," the Governor of West Virginia



stated after the explosion at the Farmington Consol Mine No. 9 in 1968, which left 78 dead.

Over one and one-half years after the Buffalo Creek disaster workers are still living in "temporary" mobile homes and nothing has been done to drain any of the more than 100 other such dams built by the companies out of slag and waste in the state.

Following the disaster, the Governor pledged that all such ponds created by these dams would be drained. The State Capitol in Charlestown appropriated \$200,000 to drain these ponds—and the funds have yet to be put to use.

Today Pittston Coal is back in business and thriving. One Buffalo Creek woman said, "Coal runs the state, everyone knows that." It was the railroad used for transporting the coal that was rebuilt before anything else in Buffalo Creek.

### Fear

Water dams like the one at Buffalo Creek are no better. Pocahontas Fuel, a subsidiary of Consolidation, which has the worst safety record of any coal company, has a huge dam built directly over the town of Pagton. If the mammoth dam were to burst 5000 people would be hit. "Day and night we are living in fear," workers told the interviewers.

Ira Latimer, West Virginia's director of natural resources, refused to comment on the situation. When ABC asked him if he is sure that these dams would not break, he said he could not answer.

The Army Corps of Engineers

which has surveyed the construction of these dams says a big storm or hurricane would create a "catastrophe."

After the Buffalo Creek disaster, hearings were held in Washington and the Public Service Commission revealed that Consolidation never applied for a permit to build the dam, as required by law. Today there are still no permits.

### Resign

The Mine and Health Safety Act was established at the same time. The first director of the program was asked to resign when he attempted to fine the coal companies.

For a year afterwards, there was no director. The next appointee was Edward Thaler, whose credentials were earned as the Regional Director for the Goldwater for President Committee and president of a coin laundry chain in Iowa. He eventually left to join Nixon's Committee to Elect the President.

Schlick, the next director, used to send "fatalgrams" to the coal companies every time there was an accident. In most cases he blamed the miners.

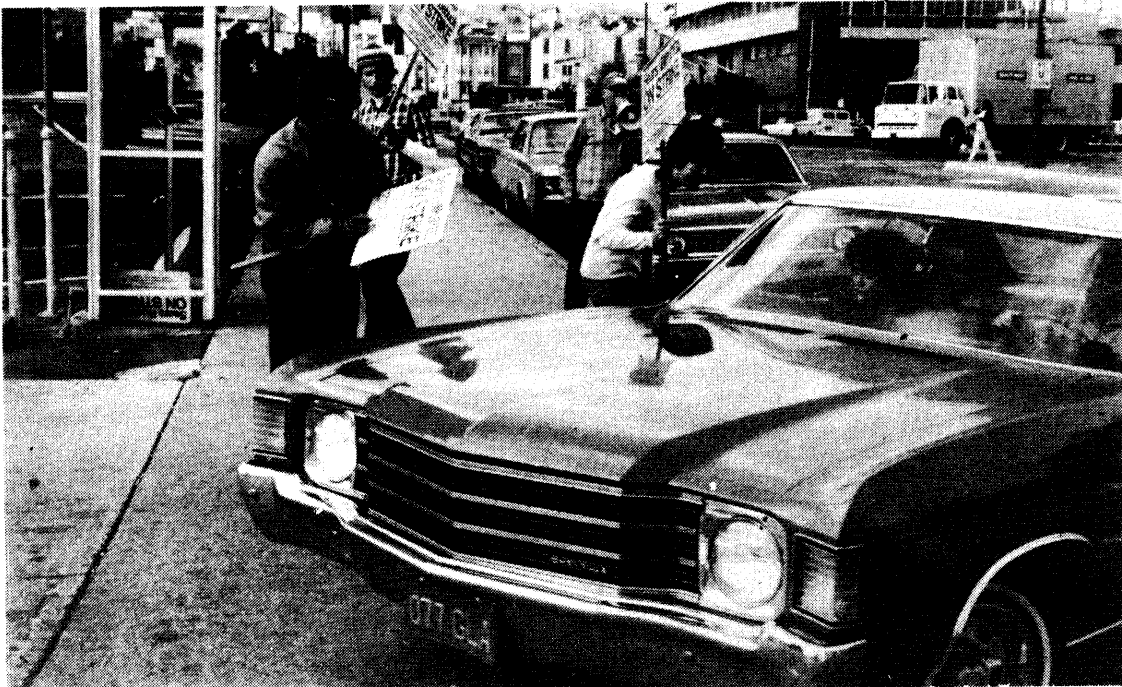
### No Intention

In one very revealing interview with Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton—whose brother is on the board of Pittston Coal—the reporters found that Pittston has no intention of paying more than a few thousand dollars in damages.

"Some companies just decided they don't like the law," Morton states. There are now 91,000 unpaid fines totalling \$20 million.

While "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Coal" provides important insight into the ways and means of big business and the government, it stops short, failing to show how the strength of the industrial working class, organized in the most powerful unions in the world, will be the decisive force in eliminating these conditions by eliminating capitalism itself.

Fleischman instead concludes the show with an interview with United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller on mine safety. Miller takes ABC on a tour of a "good mine," apparently attempting to point out that the problem is being solved. But the economic crisis is hitting the hardest in basic industry, and the downturn in production means above all else big confrontations between the miners and the bosses.



Teamster picket line at Sears in Santa Clara asking for support from fellow Teamsters.

## NLRB Out To Break Teamsters

BY MARTY MORAN  
SAN FRANCISCO—The leadership of the Teamsters and the Ad Hoc Labor Support Committee are now openly abandoning the strikes by beer drivers and Sears workers.

A full-scale political assault is taking place against the strikers. The National Labor Relations Board has sponsored elections decertifying beer drivers Local 888 at more than a dozen barns throughout the East Bay. Some union drivers have returned to work at Lucky's without a union.

Teamsters Local 287 has abandoned the strike at the open shop Sears Santa Clara warehouse and police are still escorting Teamsters across picket

lines set up by other Sears strikers.

Six FBI agents are now following Teamsters around trying to harass the leadership.

"They cannot investigate Nixon, but they can investigate us," Bay Area Teamster leader Jack Goldberger said.

This witch-hunt is sure to be stepped up since the fire-bombing Wednesday night of Rossi's, a major San Francisco beer distributor.

The NLRB has refused to cite Sears for unfair labor practices, although the company has not bargained in 14 months.

Goldberger, Walter Johnson of the Sears clerks, and James Herman of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union have colla-

borated as co-chairmen of the Ad Hoc Labor Support Committee, posing for many weeks as militant trade unionists determined to fight government union-busting.

At the Ad Hoc Committee meeting Wednesday night, they said nothing about the AFL-CIO resolution calling for Nixon's resignation.

When tens of thousands of Bay Area trade unionists could be mobilized to demand Nixon be kicked out, the bureaucrats decided to call a protest rally against the NLRB with no mention of Nixon. Herman indicated he hoped a few hundred workers might attend.

Pickets at the Sears Mission street store said: "Nixon should have been pushed over the brink a long time ago. He is killing us with this NLRB. That is where you get beat, politically, with laws."

Another picket said: "They are trying to break us, but we are staying out until we win."

Another told the Bulletin: "We have got this city and the East Bay shut up pretty tight. It is that Santa Clara that is killing us. It is unbelievable, union men crossing other union picket lines."

At the Ad Hoc meeting, the leadership was forced by the few warehousemen still on strike in Santa Clara to call a labor rally there Monday.

The bureaucrats must not be permitted to turn the demonstrations against Sears and the NLRB into the kind of empty protests they led last month.

The San Francisco demonstration at the Federal Building must be turned into a mass labor mobilization to demand Nixon's resignation and the building of a labor party to force him out.

## Layoffs Hit Southgate GM

BY SHEILA BREHM  
SOUTHGATE—Just weeks before contract talks are to take place between the UAW and General Motors, union officials have announced that layoffs will hit the Southgate plant beginning November 1.

Auto workers with 90 days or less seniority are slated for the layoff.

Layoffs have already begun in the Hard Trim department where six workers were given notice, and in the Service Building for workers with 45 days or less.

GODFREY  
The announcement of the scheduled layoffs follows only days after GMAD boss Joseph Godfrey's visit to the plant. Plant foremen are already in full-swing preparing manpower reports to

do away with the "extra baggage."

The Southgate plant produces the big cars that consume huge amounts of gas. Sales are down drastically this month for these cars; this is no doubt the reason behind the drive to cut back production and to speed up the workers who remain.

### GRIEVANCES

Grievances continue to pile up, and more and more workers face disciplinary actions as GM now enforces shop rules and gears up to implement the layoffs and speedup.

Because of these conditions, and the dissatisfaction with the Chrysler contract, there is big sentiment for a strike here. However, Local 216 officials refused to allow a strike vote to be taken at the last union meeting.

## Spartacist Brings In The Police

Two weeks ago in San Francisco and Los Angeles the Workers League and Young Socialists held meetings to greet the twice-weekly Bulletin.

In both these cities the Spartacist League organized its supporters to try to break up the meetings. In San Francisco the meeting was held in a large downtown hotel, the Jack Tar.

After having been told that they would not be allowed into the meeting and would have to sell their newspapers outside the hotel, the Spartacist group led by Al Nelson sought to force their way into the meeting, attempting to provoke a fight and creating a disruption. At this point the management of the hotel, which had a high school dance going on in the room across from the meeting, called

the police and threatened to close down the meeting altogether.

This was of course the whole purpose of the Spartacist's disruption: to provoke a situation in which the police would be called in and the meeting broken up.

In Los Angeles, Spartacist organized a picket line outside the hotel where the meeting took place. Last year they organized picket lines in front of hotels where the Young Socialists were holding meetings. Because of this, the Workers League and the YS have been denied the use of rooms in both the Holiday Inn and the Jack Tar hotels.

These are anti-communist actions of a middle class group hostile to the working class and to the construction of a revolutionary movement. In 1966 the Spartacist broke from the Inter-

national Committee of the Fourth International to build a middle class, radical circle in the US. Its existence since has been for the purpose of slandering the Workers League.

Their activities today take on a completely reactionary character as the Nixon government threatens the democratic rights of the working class and the workers' movements. The government today is using groups like the Labor Committee to physically attack working class organizations and democratic rights.

The actions of the Spartacist League are anti-communist in character and are open provocations. This is why the Spartacist League is barred from all our public meetings. We call on all tendencies within the workers movement to condemn the actions of Spartacist.



west coast news

# Cops Attack Harvester Mass Picket

BY A REPORTER

SAN LEANDRO, Oct. 25—Two hundred members of United Auto Workers Local 76 massed at the International Harvester plant here to stop nonunion clerical workers and management.

Local 76 has been on strike for a week as part of a national strike against International Harvester's demand for forced overtime.

The pickets had learned Wednesday that management was performing union work by taking inventory of the plant.

"They're doing our work while we are walking the streets," one UAW member said.

The call for a mass picket went out from the strike headquarters and a quarter of the workers showed up at 6 am.

Police attacked the picket line, trying to force the management through. One picket, Barry Holden, was hauled off to the station and incited for interference with policemen. Another was injured when a car ran over his foot.

"They say they asked Magmani (local vice president) to clear the crowd," a worker said. "That is a lie. They said, 'Get out of the way, we are coming through.'"

JAIL

One worker who had been at the scene of the police attack said: "If I touch the policemen's clothes, they can put me in jail."

International Harvester is suing the local, claiming \$5000 in damages were inflicted on management cars, with slashed tires, broken aerials, and smashed windshields.

International Harvester workers were determined to keep out anyone doing their work and another mass picket was scheduled for Friday.

A court injunction issued Thursday limiting pickets to four to a gate and twenty total. Vice-President Magmani told the Bulletin: "We are going to comply, I do not see what else we can do."

The local leadership is desperately trying to call off the scheduled mass picket to avoid a real showdown with the government.

One young worker spoke to the

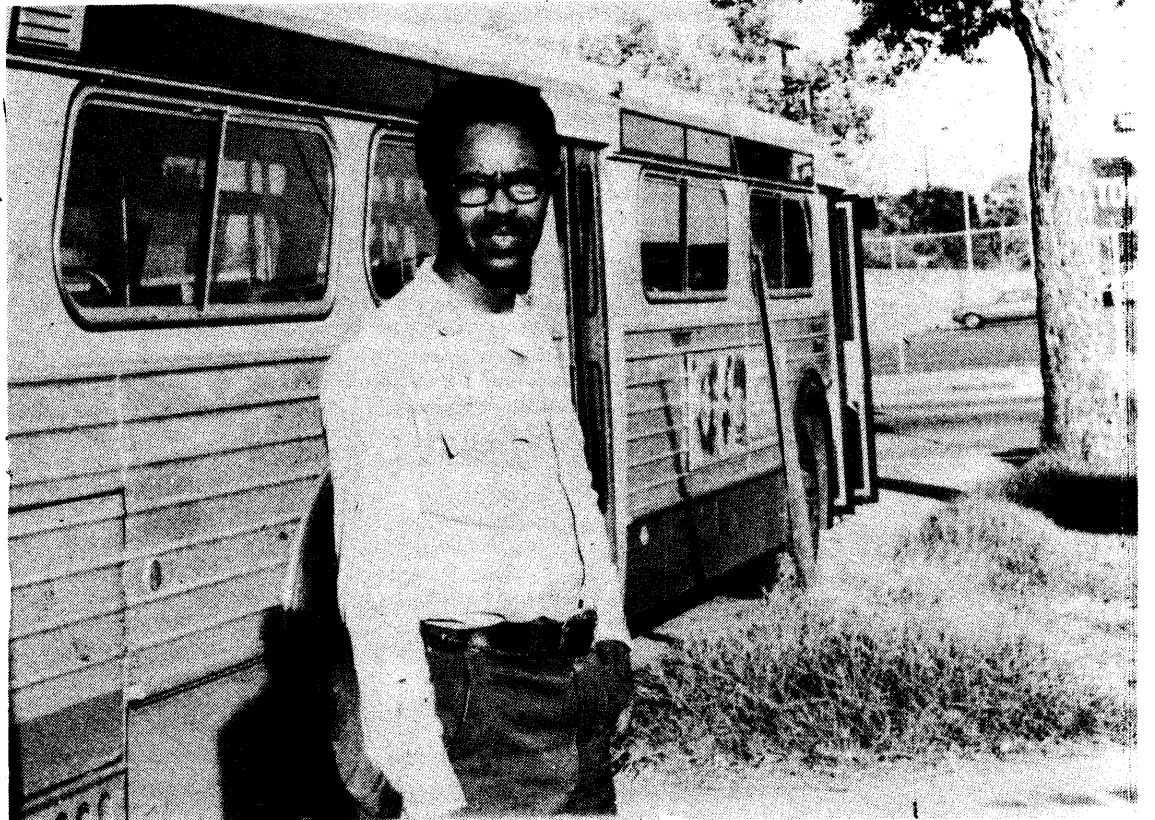
## ILWU Says Nixon Resign

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 23—President Harry Bridges and Secretary Treasurer Louis Goldblatt of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union issued a joint statement joining with the AFL-CIO in demanding Nixon's immediate resignation and, if Nixon refuses, calling upon Congress to initiate impeachment proceedings forthwith.

Bulletin: "We are going to have a new leadership. We ought to have one dollar an hour instead of thirty-five cents. I am making more money than 1966 and living worse.

"Nixon ought to resign. I have been waiting to hear him two nights running and he has cancelled out both times."

International Harvester workers must defy the injunction and call on Ford workers and the rest of the UAW to join them on strike.



Los Angeles bus drivers have shut down all bus service after the shooting of driver Edward Cusiter.

# Drivers Say Gangs Are Not To Blame

BY MITCH PATTERSON

LOS ANGELES—One hundred and fifty bus drivers, members of the United Transit Union, went on strike Thursday, refusing to drive their routes in Watts.



UFW boycotts stores that carry grapes and lettuce. Police have begun mass arrests of these pickets.

The strike is the outgrowth of gang violence that resulted in the shooting of driver Edward Cusiter on October 13. The bus drivers are demanding more protection by the Rapid Transit District against the youth gangs.

All bus service in Watts is shut down and the District has threatened to fire all of the strikers. The strike followed a packed union meeting last Monday night of over 400 drivers which voted to boycott bus runs in Watts.

Although the news media is using the gang violence to whip up a hysterical campaign against "Black gangsters" and youth in general, most drivers interviewed by the Bulletin blame the gangs on unemployment and the conditions in Watts.

George Wheaton said: "Youth join the gangs because there is nothing to do, there are no jobs. The problem starts at the top. President Nixon is supposed to set an example, but he is involved with a scandal himself. He is lying and cheating."

Al Moore drives line 92, the same as shooting victim Edward Cusiter. On the evening of the shooting, Moore called in sick and stayed out for two weeks.

THREATENED

He said that he has been threatened by the gangs on several occasions.

Another line 92 driver said: "Someone is getting the very young kids to do the work, but someone big is behind them."

Los Angeles Police Chief Edward Davis is leading a campaign in Watts to turn older workers against the youth. In a letter sent to community residents this month, he writes: "In an effort to combat this menace, the Seventy-Seventh Street area is promoting the Neighborhood Watch concept.

"What this means is that in order to drive the criminals from our door steps, the community, in conjunction with the Police Department, must unite to form a team."

Gangs are being used by the police to whip up hysteria about violence so the police can crack down on both youth and trade unionists.

## editorial

### New Assault On Farm Workers

The refusal of Cesar Chavez to take up a political fight against the government has opened the United Farm Workers to a new round of attacks by the growers and the police.

Over the last two weeks, more than 60 farm workers and supporters have been arrested for picketing in front of Safeway and stores which carry Gallo wines as part of the UFWU boycott of grapes and lettuce.

At the founding convention of the UFWU last month in Fresno, Chavez deliberately disarmed the farm workers. He said that if the farm workers called off the strike, gave their support to the liberals, like Kennedy, and pledged themselves to nonviolence, they could defend the union by means of a boycott.

Now the government is using the same police tactics they used against the strike to smash the boycott: court injunctions and mass arrests.

At the same time, the "peace pact" with the Teamsters has been exposed as a complete fraud. The pact left the lettuce fields of Salinas in the hands of Fitzsimmons until 1975 and agreed to call off the lettuce boycott. The grape fields were supposed to be turned back to the UFWU.

This pact was engineered by George Meany and Chavez in order to halt the strikes which were sweeping the grape fields last summer when the police and growers murdered two striking farm workers.

Now Fitzsimmons is refusing to sign the pact, and the growers are flatly stating that they will not give up the contracts they signed with the Teamsters.

The growers and Nixon are determined to break the UFWU, to take away all the gains which the farm workers have won through bitter struggle. The union can only be defended by going beyond trade union militancy and uniting the labor movement in a political struggle for power. Chavez stands with Meany and the rest of the labor leaders in their opposition to this fight.

Every step of Chavez's retreat has been covered by the Communist Party. The CP is the most conscious opponents of the building of a labor party.

Farm workers must demand that Chavez call immediately for a Congress of Labor to force Nixon to resign and to construct a labor party pledged to socialist policies.



La labor de esta columna es la construcción de un nuevo liderato en la clase obrera. Es por ello que necesitamos el apoyo de todos los obreros hispanos en desarrollar esta columna. Favor de dirigir su correspondencia a: Lucía Rivera, c/o Labor Publications, 135 West 14th St., New York, N.Y. 10011

# lucha obrera

lucía rivera

## La Crisis Del Sindicalismo

El Congreso Obrero Contra el Alto Costo de la Vida celebrado hace dos semanas en Puerto Rico señala con gran nitidez la falta de un liderato consciente de clase en el movimiento obrero que pueda preparar a este ha llevar a cabo las tareas requeridas en la época que vivimos.

Este congreso tiene lugar cuando Puerto Rico se halla en medio de una ola de huelgas. Dicho congreso fue auspiciado por más de 70 sindicatos muchos de ellos agrupados bajo el Movimiento Obrero Unido (MOU). Estos sindicatos representan unos 80,000 obreros casi la mitad de los obreros sindicalizados en la isla.

La huelga universitaria decretada hace dos semanas, se ha extendido a todos los recintos universitarios principales. La Hermandad de Empleados Exentos No-Docentes, sindicato que agrupa cerca de 1500 empleados se ha unido al paro universitario, presentando demandas de un salario de 75 dólares a la semana y en simpatía con el estudiantado. La Asociación de Profesores Puertorriqueños Universitarios (APPU) que busca reconocimiento por parte de las autoridades universitarias para que la APPU como sindicato tenga poder de negociar, ha respetado las líneas de piquetes de los obreros y estudiantes.

A la par con esta ola de huelgas, el gobierno ha intensificado sus ataques contra cualquier elemento u organización disidente. La Impresora Nacional donde se publica el periódico independentista **Claridad** fue quemada la semana pasada por segunda vez.

Angel Báez dirigente de la Unión de Periodistas, Artes Gráficas y Ramas Anexas (UPAGRA) ha sido condenado a prisión a cumplir entre seis a diez años por uso y posesión de explosivos. Este rancho contra Báez es una afrenta contra el movimiento obrero en general. Fue Báez uno de los principales dirigentes durante la huelga, de 9 meses de duración, contra el periódico **El Mundo**.

Esta es la situación a la que se enfrenta el trabajador en Puerto Rico y en la época en que este congreso toma lugar. Ninguna de estas cuestiones básicas fueron confrontadas por los 600 delegados al congreso.

Tratar de lidiar con el problema de la inflación fuera del contexto de una alternativa política de la clase obrera, es puro sindicalismo, la cual por su naturaleza tiene que aceptar la existencia del capitalismo. Fue con este pretexto que la delegación de la UPAGRA, presidida por el presidente de la unión Alfredo González, se opuso a que el congreso se pronunciasse a favor de la defensa de Angel Báez.

Las resoluciones sobre la necesidad de adquirir el poder de libre comercio con otras naciones; exigir la aplicación del salario mínimo federal en la isla; que se instrumente para el desarrollo de la industria pesquera y contra el alto costo de las rentas en la vivienda; se instaure un moderno sistema de mercadeo de bienes alimenticios, que fueron aprobadas en el congreso, se quedan trucas al mantenerse sus futuros ejecutores dentro de los límites del sistema.

A pesar de su importancia histórica; es la primera vez en más de 20 años que los obreros en la isla llevan a cabo un congreso para tratar uno de los problemas que más les afectan; no pudo estar a la par con los requerimientos de la época.

Pedro Grant, líder del MOU, miembros de la comisión política del Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño (PSP) fue uno de los principales oradores del congreso. El PSP ha glorificado la espontaneidad de los trabajadores, ha aceptado la burocracia sindical y justificado sus traiciones, es este el papel que ha jugado dentro del movimiento obrero.

Hoy el PSP ataca a Alfredo González al este rehusar traer la defensa de Báez al movimiento obrero, pero cuando el mismo González aceptó a principios de año que la matrícula de su unión sería mermada por la empresa **El Mundo**, a esta introducir los últimos adelantos tecnológicos en la producción del periódico, el PSP utilizó casi una página de su periódico **Claridad** para justificar la capitulación de González.

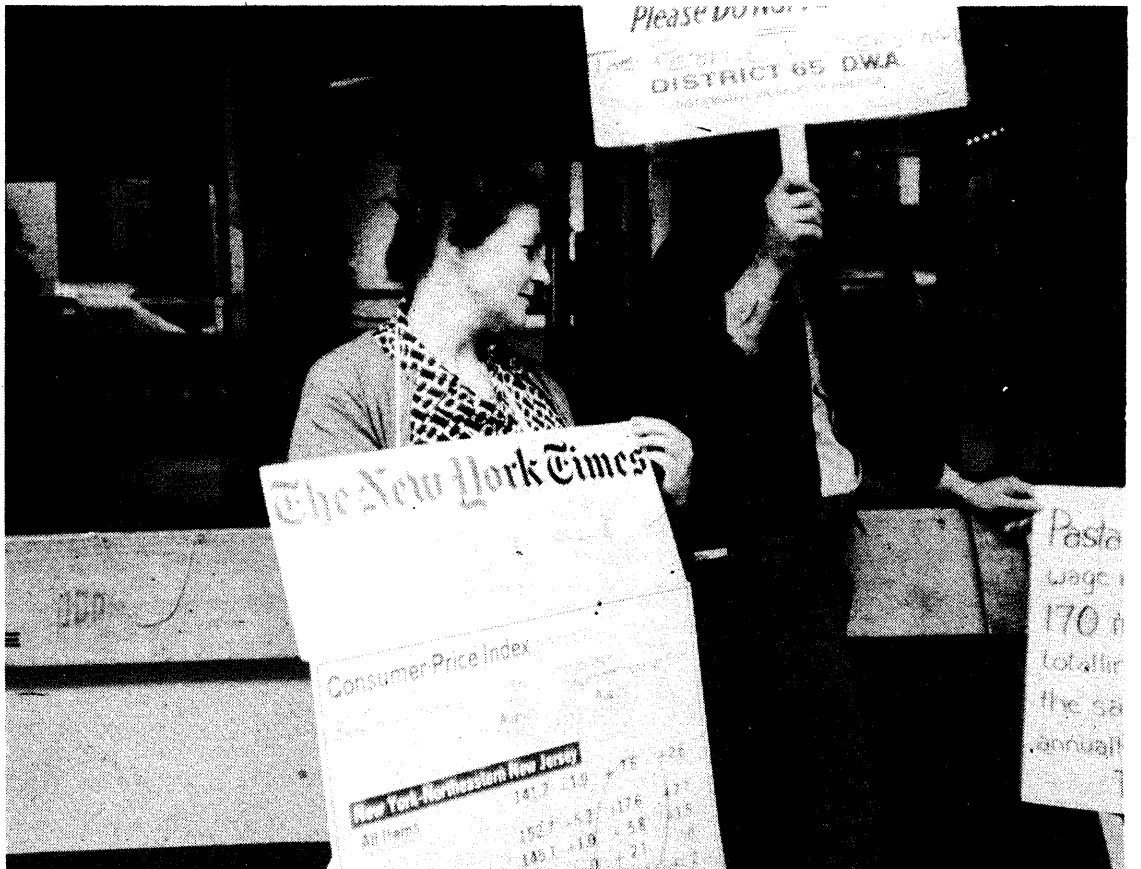
De acuerdo con Angel Agosto, encargado de los asuntos obreros del PSP, la clase obrera a través de sus luchas espontáneas sindicales puede llegar al entendimiento del marxismo. La espontaneidad de las masas refleja los deseos de lucha del proletariado contra las condiciones a las que se enfrentan, pero estas por arte de magia no pueden transformarse en una lucha política con perspectiva clara de clase.

La de transformar esas luchas en luchas políticas contra el gobierno es solo la labor de un partido revolucionario que se base en la ideología marxista y no en tergiversarla como hace el PSP.

El Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño no puede ofrecer esta clase de liderato por su ideología pequeñoburguesa, sino que tratará de maniobrar dentro del capitalismo y traicionar a la clase obrera.

Los trabajadores en Puerto Rico tienen que empezar una lucha dentro de sus sindicatos para que se construya una alternativa política de clase, un partido obrero, que una a todos los trabajadores bajo un programa de demandas socialistas.

Tanto la burocracia sindical, como los nacionalistas del PSP se opondrán a ello, pero es solo a través de esta lucha en que se les podrá desenmascarar y así defender los derechos básicos de los obreros.



Striking Museum of Modern Art workers, who refuse to accept an \$88 a week wage, carry signs showing the rise in the cost of living. See story page 4.

## Ford Wildcat Cripples Milpitas

BY BARRY GREY

MILPITAS, Oct. 26—Wildcats hit the Ford plant here last night and again this morning, completely shutting down the night shift and cutting production of Pintos in half during the day.

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La labor de esta columna es la construcción de un nuevo liderato en la clase obrera. Es por ello que necesitamos el apoyo de todos los obreros hispanos en desarrollar esta columna. Favor de dirigir su correspondencia a: Lucía Rivera, c/o Labor Publications, 135 West 14th St., New York, N.Y. 10011

# lucha obrera

— lucía rivera —

## La Crisis Del Sindicalismo

El Congreso Obrero Contra el Alto Costo de la Vida celebrado hace dos semanas en Puerto Rico señala con gran nitidez la falta de un liderato consciente de clase en el movimiento obrero que pueda preparar a este ha llevar a cabo las tareas requeridas en la época que vivimos.

Este congreso tiene lugar cuando Puerto Rico se halla en medio de una ola de huelgas. Dicho congreso fue auspiciado por más de 70 sindicatos muchos de ellos agrupados bajo el Movimiento Obrero Unido (MOU). Estos sindicatos representan unos 80,000 obreros casi la mitad de los obreros sindicalizados en la isla.

La huelga universitaria decretada hace dos semanas, se ha extendido a todos los recintos universitarios principales. La Hermandad de Empleados Exentos No-Docentes, sindicato que agrupa cerca de 1500 empleados se ha unido al paro universitario, presentando demandas de un salario de 75 dólares a la semana y en simpatía con el estudiantado. La Asociación de Profesores Puertorriqueños Universitarios (APPU) que busca reconocimiento por parte de las autoridades universitarias para que la APPU como sindicato tenga poder de negociar, ha respetado las líneas de piquetes de los obreros y estudiantes.

A la par con esta ola de huelgas, el gobierno ha intensificado sus ataques contra cualquier elemento u organización disidente. La Impresora Nacional donde se publica el periódico independentista **Claridad** fue quemada la semana pasada por segunda vez.

Angel Báez dirigente de la Unión de Periodistas, Artes Gráficas y Ramas Anexas (UPAGRA) ha sido condenado a prisión a cumplir entre seis a diez años por uso y posesión de explosivos. Este rancho contra Báez es una afrenta contra el movimiento obrero en general. Fue Báez uno de los principales dirigentes durante la huelga, de 9 meses de duración, contra el periódico **El Mundo**.

Esta es la situación a la que se enfrenta el trabajador en Puerto Rico y en la época en que este congreso toma lugar. Ninguna de estas cuestiones básicas fueron confrontadas por los 600 delegados al congreso.

Tratar de lidiar con el problema de la inflación fuera del contexto de una alternativa política de la clase obrera, es puro sindicalismo, la cual por su naturaleza tiene que aceptar la existencia del capitalismo. Fue con este pretexto que la delegación de la UPAGRA, presidida por el presidente de la unión Alfredo González, se opuso a que el congreso se pronunciasse a favor de la defensa de Angel Báez.

Las resoluciones sobre la necesidad de adquirir el poder de libre comercio con otras naciones; exigir la aplicación del salario mínimo federal en la isla; que se instrumente para el desarrollo de la industria pesquera y contra el alto costo de las rentas en la vivienda; se instaure un moderno sistema de mercadeo de bienes alimenticios, que fueron aprobadas en el congreso, se quedan trucas al mantenerse sus futuros ejecutores dentro de los límites del sistema.

A pesar de su importancia histórica; es la primera vez en más de 20 años que los obreros en la isla llevan a cabo un congreso para tratar uno de los problemas que más les afectan; no pudo estar a la par con los requerimientos de la época.

Pedro Grant, líder del MOU, miembros de la comición política del Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño (PSP) fue uno de los principales oradores del congreso. El PSP ha glorificado la espontaneidad de los trabajadores, ha aceptado la burocracia sindical y justificado sus traiciones, es este el papel que ha jugado dentro del movimiento obrero.

Hoy el PSP ataca a Alfredo González al este rehusar traer la defensa de Báez al movimiento obrero, pero cuando el mismo González aceptó a principios de año que la matrícula de su unión sería mermada por la empresa **El Mundo**, a esta introducir los últimos adelantos tecnológicos en la producción del periódico, el PSP utilizó casi una página de su periódico **Claridad** para justificar la capitulación de González.

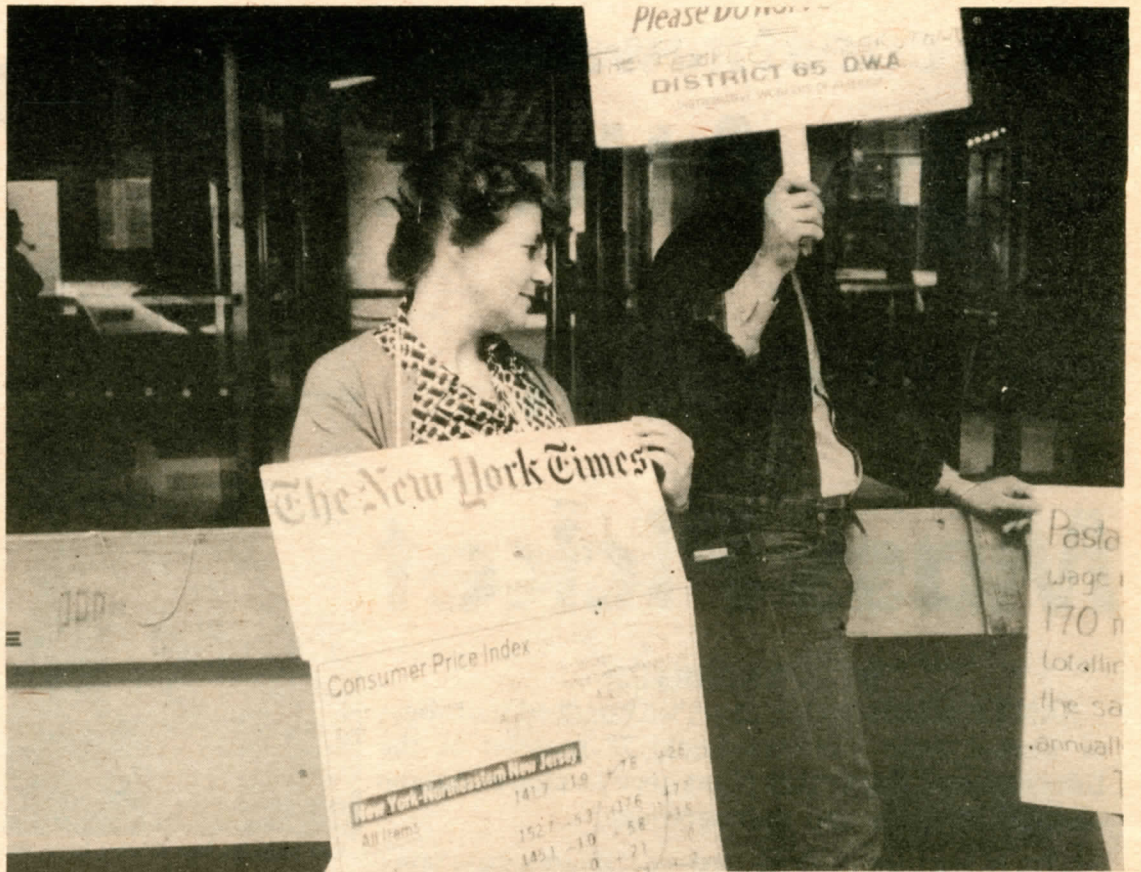
De acuerdo con Angel Agosto, encargado de los asuntos obreros del PSP, la clase obrera a través de sus luchas espontáneas sindicales puede llegar al entendimiento del marxismo. La espontaneidad de las masas refleja los deseos de lucha del proletariado contra las condiciones a las que se enfrentan, pero estas por arte de magia no pueden transformarse en una lucha política con perspectiva clara de clase.

La de transformar esas luchas en luchas políticas contra el gobierno es solo la labor de un partido revolucionario que se base en la ideología marxista y no en tergiversarla como hace el PSP.

El Partido Socialista Puertorriqueño no puede ofrecer esta clase de liderato por su ideología pequeñoburguesa, sino que tratará de maniobrar dentro del capitalismo y traicionar a la clase obrera.

Los trabajadores en Puerto Rico tienen que empezar una lucha dentro de sus sindicatos para que se construya una alternativa política de clase, un partido obrero, que una a todos los trabajadores bajo un programa de demandas socialistas.

Tanto la burocracia sindical, como los nacionalistas del PSP se opondrán a ello, pero es solo a través de esta lucha en que se les podrá desenmascarar y así defender los derechos básicos de los obreros.



Striking Museum of Modern Art workers, who refuse to accept an \$88 a week wage, carry signs showing the rise in the cost of living. See story page 4.

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