

Bulletin

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FIFT

CRISIS RIPS BRITAIN

BY DAVID NORTH

Civil war conditions are rapidly emerging in England, where the Tory government is moving deliberately toward a confrontation with the miners in an attempt to break the strength of the trade union movement.

The Tories have assumed unprecedented emergency powers against the miners, railroad workers, and electrical power workers who are deepening their "work to rule" actions.

The miners are leading the offensive against the Tory government by refusing to accept a pay hike within the framework of the government's wage control laws. The railroad men and the power workers are also demanding wage increases above the limits established by the Tories.

These emergency powers specifically authorize the use of troops against striking workers.

The Tories are attempting to prepare the grounds for such action by blaming the miners for the economic crisis now wracking England. Prime Minister Edward Heath has been seeking to split the working class and stampede the middle class against the miners with panic measures such as cutting the work week to three days and announcing the likelihood of drastic food shortages.

At the same time, Heath's political preparations for a full-scale attack on the miners and the establishment of dictatorial rule are revealed most clearly in the appointment of William Whitelaw as Employment Secretary.

While in charge of British operations in Ireland, Whitelaw masterminded the establishment of a coalition government in Ulster following lengthy negotiations with the reformist Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP).

But as he courted the support of the Irish labor bureaucracy, Whitelaw employed against the Catholic workers and IRA the most sophisticated methods of police terror, official torture, political assassinations, internment without trial, and agents provocateurs.

Now that he is in England, Whitelaw is engaged in a continuous round of negotiations with the reformists in the trade union bureaucracy and Labour Party leadership. While preparing political terror against the miners and railroad workers, he is sounding out the right wingers in the Labour Party about the creation of a "national unity" coalition government with the Tories, in order to disarm the entire working class politically.

Already, a large section of Labour Party leaders are openly opposed to the industrial actions taken by the working class against the Tories. Labour Party spokesman Prentice said, referring to the railroad workers slowdown: "I feel there is no justification at all for the action they are taking."

The treachery of the trade union bureaucracy has been exposed by the refusal Wednesday of the General Council

(Continued On Page 12)



Lobby of British engineers two weeks ago outside the Engineering Employers' Federation offices in London.

A Warning Of Police Provocation

The two documents that the FBI was forced to release to an NBC newsman, Carl Stern, on December 6 and reprinted in *The Militant*, weekly organ of the Socialist Workers Party, have exposed the government's strategy to attack left-wing and workers' organizations.

These documents, drawn up by former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, show that the government is not just spying on such organizations, but seeks to infiltrate them with provocateurs in an attempt to break them up from within.

The document directs FBI agents to "expose, disrupt and neutralize the New Left" and "capitalize on organizational and personal conflicts of leadership."

The Socialist Workers Party in particular is singled out for the disruption program.

How these plans are used can be seen in the trial of Salm Kolis, SWP candidate for City Council in San Diego. Kolis is being framed on a charge of falsifying her address and faces up to 14 years in jail.

The trial has revealed that an FBI informer has been an active member of the SWP for the past 12 years and was able to pass along important information on the SWP's defense strategy for the trial.

The fascist bombing December 3 of the New York offices of the Political Rights Defense Fund and the Committee for Justice to Latin American Prisoners also reveals the hand of the FBI.

In light of the fact that the FBI documents reveal police infiltration of right-wing organizations as well, not only did the police undoubtedly know in advance

about this bombing but most likely encouraged it.

These actions are not without precedent internationally. Gerry Lawless, a member of the International Marxist Group in England, was the first to claim that the Irish Republican Army was responsible for a wave of bombings in

Political Committee Statement

London last summer.

Lawless cooperated with the police investigation and even supplied them with "evidence." He refused to reverse his story even after the IRA officially denied responsibility and accused the police agents of doing the bombing themselves.

Even when it became clear that the bombs scares were government provocations to provide a pretext for a crack-down on the rights of the working class, the IMG leadership continued to defend Lawless and his actions.

There is increasing evidence that police from different countries are coordinating their infiltration and sabotage internationally.

This is the real meaning of Watergate. The secret spy plans are not merely "dirty tricks" but are being used against the democratic rights of the working

class and especially against all those who fight to build an independent leadership among the working class against the government.

We unconditionally defend the SWP against these attacks but we do not agree that this constitutes no cause for alarm.

Allen Myers writes in the December 17 issue of *Intercontinental Press* that, "It would be a mistake to regard these White House undercover units of having posed an immediate threat to 'American Democracy.'" He concludes that Watergate poses socialists with the task of "education."

The SWP sees no danger in General Haig's position in the White House and ridicules our warning of dictatorial moves within the government at a time when military advisors have been brought into the Energy Commission and are seeking close ties to big business leaders all over the country.

Instead, the SWP leadership reacts by turning to the liberal academicians and politicians to petition and pressure the New York Police Department to "investigate" the bombing and by a legal suit

(Continued On Page 12)

In The Midweek
Edition

•Part III of "Radicalism and the Birth of the American Working Class: From the First International to the 1877 Railway Strike," by Nancy Fields.

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The Young Socialists Take A Giant Step Forward

The Young Socialists Regional Conference on December 15 to launch a campaign against unemployment will provide a lead to workers in auto, steel, airlines and in every industry where thousands of jobs are being wiped out.

At this conference young students, workers and unemployed youth expressed their determination not just to fight Nixon, but to confront all the problems in building a revolutionary movement against the capitalist system.

What We Think

This showed the enormous changes in thinking among youth since the Founding Conference of the Young Socialists in December 1971, and since the First National YS Conference of May 26-27, 1973.

The December Founding Conference

was held only four months after Nixon's August 15 decisions to sever the dollar from its gold backing, opening up a new stage of the capitalist crisis.

Much of the discussion at this conference centered on the question of socialism and whether or not this was the solution. This reflected the contradictory way the youth's thinking was changing. While many youth were moving towards the revolutionary movement because of the conditions they faced, they did not yet feel the full impact of the crisis.

The May 1973 conference, was marked by a huge

increase in unemployment, inflation and the impact of the Watergate events. The Nixon government had launched an attack on all the basic rights of workers and youth.

This crisis dominated the conference. There was overwhelming agreement that Nixon had to be thrown out, that the conditions were intolerable, and of the need to fight back.

This spontaneous militancy was expressed in calls for immediate action and protests. Those who came towards the Young Socialists tended to react to the crisis by returning to the old forms of protest of the middle class radical movement.

The leadership in the conference took up a fight for the need for an understanding of Marxism, of the economic crisis, and what kind of movement was needed to fight the government.

The December 15 conference was held under conditions of an upsurge of the working class in the United States and in every country of the world.

Nixon's energy measures have slashed wages, sent prices soaring, shut schools and thrown thousands out of work. The truck drivers' rebellion against these attacks brought them into battles against the government, its police and the National Guard.

This movement of the working class was expressed in the conference in the contradictory struggle among the youth over questions of program and the construction of the revolutionary movement.

The changes in thinking were shown by the emphasis in the discussion on questions of how Nixon would be fought, of how to unite the working class and around

what program, and not just demanding immediate action as at the May, 1973 conference.

For the first time the Young Socialists members themselves took a lead in struggling against the thinking of the new youth attending the conference for the first time to show how the movement would be built.

Out of this struggle the working class is developing its own leadership that will take responsibility for building a movement that can defeat capitalism.

Our marches against unemployment will not be like the protest marches of the past organized by the revisionists and Stalinists.

These movements organized marches to Washington in order to put pressure on the government to grant concessions such as the job or civil rights programs.

The period of getting concessions from the government is over. The crisis forces Nixon to destroy every single reform won in the past.

We will march to demand that the working class take up an independent fight for jobs, that it organize on the basis of its own interests and fight for the labor movement to build its own party against Nixon and the capitalist parties.

We will urge workers to take forward this fight in the unions to demand that the leadership take action to defend the unemployed.

Through this struggle we must build our own alternative, a revolutionary movement that will build new leadership in the unions and among the youth to take this fight all the way and prepare the working class to take power.

Pentagon Plan To Renew Viet War

BY DAVID NORTH
Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese Minister Le Duc Tho are meeting this week in Paris, their first parley since June 13.

Overshadowing these talks are the disintegration of the one-year-old cease-fire accords and the well-advanced preparations for a renewed American military intervention against the workers and peasants of Indochina.

The ominous protest made by the Nixon government over the death of Capt. Richard M. Rees last week in Vietnam indicates that the American militarists are searching for a pretext to resume heavy air activity against North Vietnam.

Furthermore, the death of Rees shows clearly that the American military is already deeply engaged in military actions alongside the puppet army of President Nguyen Thieu.

American military spokesmen charge that Rees was shot while engaged in an unarmed search mission for the remains of a helicopter crewman shot down in 1966.

However, this flimsy cover for what was obviously a military mission was unmasked earlier by Le Duc Tho, who charged that "there are 24,000 American military advisers disguised as civilians" now operating in South Vietnam.

The actual state of American preparations for a new imperialist intervention was revealed at a closed Congressional hearing in late November on the Pentagon budget from 1974 through 1976.

The following dialogue occurred at one point between Congressman Giaimo and General De Luca:

GIAIMO: Is there in the 1974 budget funds for the financing for some sort of sorties?

DE LUCA: For the bombing of Southeast Asia?

GIAIMO: Yes, for the bombing of Southeast Asia.

DE LUCA: Yes.

In order to underscore the likelihood of American intervention, the Pentagon said that the \$275 million being allocated for these military plans are well above what would be normally spent in peacetime.

The Pentagon plans to replace the older F-5A fighters now used by Saigon with the more modern F-5E. Twenty-two of these machines are to be delivered in 1975 and 49 are to be shipped over in 1976.

Drawing on funds already voted by the Congress but not yet used, Washington will be able to furnish South Vietnam and Laos with more than \$1,800,000 this

Greek Fascists Fear New Demonstrations

BY A CORRESPONDENT

The new military regime in Greece that overthrew Colonel George Papadopoulos on November 25 is growing increasingly unstable and divided.

On December 16 all the universities were closed down a week early for fear of new demonstrations. Hundreds of students and workers are still in jail despite General Pheadon Gizikis's pledge to free them all immediately.

Former right-wing leader Panayotis Canellopoulos and

year. Most of this money will go directly to Saigon.

Other funds, distributed through the CIA-dominated Agency for International Development (AID) will be used to strengthen the brutal Saigon police force.

There are also special funds allocated for the maintenance of American military advisers.

The 1973-74 budget has taken into account the expansion of the US arsenal of 2000-pound MK-84 bombs. There are plans to manufacture 215,700 of the smaller 750-pound M-117 bombs. This figure represents an increase of 86,797 over the earlier number of bombs ordered by the Pentagon.

These figures, drawn from the censored transcript, form a clear picture of Nixon's imperialist war plans that are in glaring contrast to the attempts of the Stalinists to negotiate yet another deal in Indochina.

Le Duc Tho arrived in Paris via Peking and Moscow, where he came under heavy pressure to abandon the liberation forces fighting in the South.

centrist leader George Mavros have been accused of being instigators of the occupation at the Polytechnical School in Athens last month.

Only one week after Gizikis and General Ioannis Zigidis took power, a group of youth on a bus started chanting, "We are hungry." The entire bus was stopped by 17 police cars in the middle of Athens and all 30 passengers were arrested when they refused to single out the youth.

The arrest of the right-wing leaders exposes the generals' inability to establish any form of political facade for fear it will provide an avenue for renewed protests.

In defeating an attempt by the "moderate" generals to make a deal with the rightist political parties, the hardline Ioannis faction has emerged as the dominant group in the government.



President Gizikis, right, with Androutsopoulos, now Premier.

Ten Workers Go To Trial In Spain

BY MELODY FARROW

Ten leaders of the underground workers commissions in Spain will go on trial December 20 amid a growing wave of strikes, occupations, and demonstrations against the Franco dictatorship.

The militants face jail sentences of 12 to 20 years imprisonment on charges of "illicit association" and "illegal meetings."

They were arrested on June 24, 1972, but the trial has been constantly put off because the government fears a general uprising of workers throughout Spain in their defense.

It was the strike action of workers in the Basque region that forced the regime to pardon the militants of the Basque separatist movement, ETA, in December 1970.

DEATH SENTENCE

Three young members of the Iberian Liberation Movement were also scheduled for trial last week. The government is demanding the death sentence for one, a 26-year-old student, Salvador Puig Antich, which would automatically be carried out within 48 hours.

The workers commissions are banned by the fascist Franco regime which established corpor-

ate unions controlled by the state. These are completely ignored by the Spanish workers.

At the end of November, 700 textile workers occupied their factory in Barcelona. Fifteen workers were thrown back in jail for not paying a fine after they had been freed. Miners in the Asturias coal fields have been on strike for three weeks.

UNIVERSITY

At the same time, students at the University in Madrid declared "a day of struggle" against the university and clashed with military police who took over the school.

The ETA has launched a new wave of attacks in the Basque region. Last month, they entered a Yacht Club in Bilbao, the gathering place of businessmen, doused it with gasoline, and set it on fire. Two ETA members have been arrested in relation to a bomb explosion.

ZAMORA

One of the leaders of the workers commissions, a Jesuit priest, has been on a hunger strike in the Zamora jail since November 25 and is reported to be seriously ill.

The Franco regime is growing desperate. It can no longer isolate and destroy the leaders of the workers movement. The groundswell of rebellion of workers and youth against Franco is rapidly outstripping the government's ability to suppress it.

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Angry Stewards Voice Opposition To TWA Contract

BY A REPORTER

NEW YORK—Using the threat of mass layoffs and the effects of the oil crisis on the airline industry, the leadership of the Transport Workers Union rammed through a new three year contract for stewards and stewardesses of TWA.

A meeting held here at the Hotel Americana brought out nearly 3000 workers who expressed massive opposition to the terms of the agreement.

The contract which will run until July 31, 1975 includes none of the original demands that brought the flight attendants out on strike for over six weeks.

The union was demanding an 8.5 percent raise the first year, a cost of living escalator and the hiring of additional workers to man crowded flights.

Instead the leadership settled for 13.5 percent over three years with a 5.5 percent retroactive to August 1, 1972. This includes no cost of living and no new gains on fringes.

In addition, the 503 workers laid off on November 3 will not even receive retroactive pay and there is no protection for the hundreds who will be furloughed the day work is resumed.

A stewardess beginning work on domestic flights will start at \$531 a month and \$581 for international flights.

A steward told the Bulletin: "I did not stand in the rain for six weeks for this piece of paper, I want a contract."

"All flight attendants hired last summer have been furloughed and 360 pilots are out. All people with three to four years seniority will be out when we go back."

"We can only hurt them if we stay out through the holiday season. If they push us out, it is the whole industry next. TWA is the test case. This union leadership is on the other side."

"I think the unions have to be more like the 1930s or even the 1870s. We are up against the government."

"I think the union should represent us in bargaining and politically as well, by running local members for Congress."

A stewardess told the Bulletin: "They are selling us down the river. We are under the Railway Labor Act. They can legally tie us up in negotiations for sixteen months after the contract

expires like they did this time.

"We cannot strike now until 1977. They use the 16 months to do everything they can to break us. This time, the vice-president of labor relations was sending out letters telling us to quit the union."

An international flight attendant claimed that the contract made no provisions for the new conditions in Europe.

"The dollar is no good over there any more. We lose out on exchange and the prices there are higher than here."

A pilot who had just been furloughed from TWA and was waiting outside the meeting hoping for a rejection said:

"I was reading *The Wall Street Journal* the other day about the strikes in Europe where they work by the rule book and slow everything down. We are going to have to do something like that here."

"Right now we just read off our check list. If we really went by the book, the airports would be clogged up. I think that now is the time for some real union action like this because I feel the government has never been so vulnerable."

It has been reported that the contract has been ratified, but the vote was not disclosed.



TWA stewardesses register for union meeting.

Arabs Oppose Mideast Deal

BY MELODY FARROW

Massive opposition is growing throughout the Middle East against the conspiracy of the United States and the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Soviet Union to rob the Arab people of their victory against Israel.

Early this week, close to 50,000 Arab workers rallied at the headquarters of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Beirut, Lebanon on the day Kissinger arrived to discuss the

Geneva conference scheduled to begin December 21.

Demonstrators carried signs saying "Kissinger is the Apostle of Defeat, Not Of Peace" and "A Popular War Is The Road To Victory."

Syria has now declared that it will not participate in the conference. A Syrian official denounced Israel's "maneuvers" and stated that since Egypt's release of Israeli prisoners, "There has been nothing but stalling on the agreement to pull back Israeli forces to the positions of October 22."

The Geneva conference is aimed at depriving the Palestinian people of their legitimate national rights and preserving the existence of Zionism as an imperialist post in the Middle East.

Nixon and Kissinger's strategy is to use these talks to gain time, disarm the Arab leaders, and prepare a new intervention just as they did in Vietnam. Their most vital ally in this is the Stalinist bureaucracy.

The Stalinists intend to chair this conference jointly with the US. They want a solution to the Palestinian question along the lines of Jordan's King Hussein's proposal for a federated state on the west bank of the Jordan River. This settlement is opposed by the Palestinian people. The leadership of the PLO under Yassir Arafat is also going along with this.

This terrorist attack is the product of the frustration of the Palestinian people who see years of struggle for the land occupied by Israel about to be sold out by the present conference.

It is the Stalinists and the bourgeois leadership of the PLO who have refused to lead a revolutionary struggle against Zionism and to fight for the unity of Jewish and Arab workers who create conditions for individual acts of terrorism as in Rome.

Now masses of Arab workers are turning against their own bourgeoisie and the nationalist leadership of the Palestinian movement. This has created new conditions to construct a revolutionary party in the Middle East, as part of the International Committee of the Fourth International. This is the way forward for the Arab people.

Now the Stalinists line up with imperialism in condemning the Palestinian guerrillas who bombed the Pan Am jet in Rome.

Youth Speak On YS Conference :

"Now I Am Going To Join"

During the Young Socialists Conference, the Bulletin interviewed several youth from other cities who were attending a YS Conference for the first time.

Luther Benjamin from Boston said:

"I think the conference is super. In Boston, they are cutting back on work days. A lot of people were laid off in the shipyards. They have closed a lot of gas stations. In order to get any job, you need a high school diploma."

Luther said that police harassment has intensified since the press and police created a panic after a white girl and an older man were killed in the city.

"Now when you walk through Roxbury and you look suspicious, they can just take you in on suspicion."

"In Dorchester, we were just standing in front of a club and the cops were cruising four in a car. All of a sudden they jump out, flash their lights on us, pull out their sticks, put us against the wall and shake us down."

His friend added:

"The cops have killed people by accident with .38's. Imagine if they have these shotguns, what would happen. They could fire on a whole crowd of people."

Bill Svehla is a Metis, that is, part Indian, from Montreal, Canada. Before attending the conference, he was involved in a militant Indian organization called the Warrior Society.

"The Warrior Society declared to all non-Indian families to get off the reservation. They gave them notice."

"A lot of members of AIM (American Indian Movement) came down. They started to evict these families and there were some violent incidents."

"Five hundred provincial police came and the police were on the reservation for four or five days. The Indians went to the long house and started to dig trenches."

Bill explained that the number of white families had grown to 700, meaning that

the Indian families have no place to live.

A student from Trinidad has been in Canada about a year.

"There is no government in Trinidad. There is the same capitalist crisis over there and the same divisions between Black and white."

"There was a revolution in 1970 and now the high school kids realize that this racism is what the capitalists want and all the youth got together. After 1970, many underground movements against the government began."

"They started to ration gas in Trinidad too, even though there is gas there. We have Texaco, British Petroleum, and Esso."

He said the job situation in Trinidad was very bad. "You come out of school and there are no jobs."

"I heard about the Young Socialists just yesterday and now I am going to join, and when I go back I am going to get a lot of others to join also."



workers league young socialists public meeting

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Lockheed Heads Toward Bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES—Chairman of the Board Daniel Houghton has disclosed that the loan ceiling of \$650 million will not provide adequate cash for Lockheed's operation in the coming year.

Lockheed was to have made payments on the \$650 million loan by the end of this year to bring it down to \$595 million. Instead, they first requested an extension when Eastern and PSA delayed deliveries for the L1011 until 1975 and 1976 because of the slump in air traffic and the fuel crisis.

Now Lockheed says they need more money in order to operate and to compete with other aerospace companies. As all airlines seek maximum efficiency, Lockheed can only provide the L1011 which is a medium range aircraft, putting them far behind Boeing and McDonnell Douglas which have three ranges of aircraft with interchangeable parts.

DEFENSE

Lockheed, the number one defense contractor in the nation, has staked everything on the Tri-Star L1011, a commercial plane. The L1011 calls for the use of engines made by Rolls Royce, which went bankrupt in 1971 and precipitated Lockheed's crisis in the same year.

Lockheed was saved by a last minute infusion of credit from several large banks after

Congressional legislation guaranteed a \$250 million loan from the US government.

Lockheed's financial crisis can only be solved by complete bankruptcy or wiping out huge sections of its empire, immediately the L1011 project.

This will send shock waves throughout the entire economy. Immediately, it will wipe out hundreds of millions of dollars in debt owed to major banks, such as the Bank of America. Many smaller banks will go under in the face of tremendous losses.

Lockheed has launched a conscious policy of making its workers pay for the corporation's crisis. By the end of the year, almost 10 percent of the plant's 28,000 employees will be out of work with no hope of being called back. With the newest announcement that more funds are needed, the plant's entire workforce faces shutdown.

LARGEST

Lockheed is the largest employer in the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys, providing jobs indirectly to tens of thousands of workers.

Neil Van Der Cook, spokesman for the International Association of Machinists admitted to the Bulletin: "Big dangers are posed now and it seems unlikely that the government will step in this time."

But then he added: "I do not think there will be further layoffs." He said the union had no plans to stop the layoffs, but could only "negotiate for severance pay" and added: "We will continue to exert pressure on our friends in Congress."

Allegheny Fires 1288

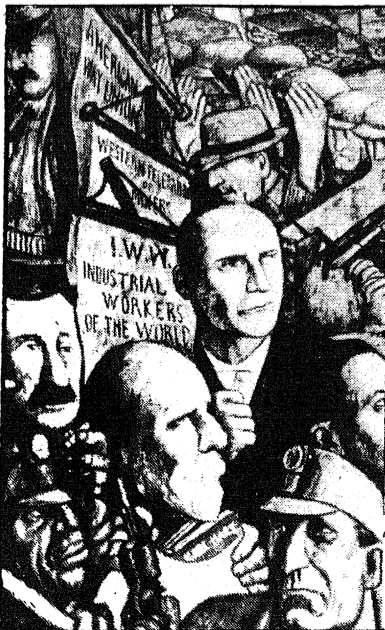
BY HAL STANTON
PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Allegheny Airlines has announced plans to lay off at least 1288 of its 8000 employees by January 7, 1974.

The cutback will hit virtually every department and every city's service of the airline's 20 state system.

The airline has already cut the number of its daily flights out of Greater Pittsburgh International Airport from 165 to 113.

Allegheny Airlines blamed the fuel sanctions imposed by the Nixon government for the cutbacks. However, International Association of Machinists Local 1044 President Angelo Berardi, told the Bulletin:

"This comes as no surprise to us. The airlines have been trying to impose these cutbacks for years, but the government would not let them. Now they finally got the government to claim a fuel shortage."



Essential Reading

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Dayton sheriff's deputies and police hold an Ohio truck driver after he tried to stop a police escort from accompanying six trucks out of the struck Texaco truck stop on Route I-70.

Court Hits Essex Strike

BY A REPORTER
NEWARK, Dec. 15—Students are continuing their strike against Essex Community College in spite of an injunction issued last Thursday.

Faculty members are now barred from giving any direct or indirect support to the strike, which began two weeks ago in opposition to the appointment of Carl Baratta as the new vice-president of Essex.

The board of trustees acted in defiance of a special student-faculty-administration selection committee by appointing Baratta, a cost-cutting expert who is a firm advocate of budget slashing.

The injunction also prohibits students from using picket lines to prevent students from entering the college and attending the classes that teachers are now forced to give.

"The general idea behind the injunction was to intimidate the students from opposing Carl Baratta," declared student leader Marvin Hall, "but in actuality, it is not stopping the

struggle."

He said that the strikers would use the upcoming vacation period to plan strategy and seek the support of Newark workers.

Most of the school's 5000 students are not attending classes, and there are no negotiations at this point between the students and the board of trustees.

Mayor Gibson has sent a telegram "urging" the trustees to settle the strike.

However, Gibson—as has been shown during his three years as mayor—fully supports the budget-cutting program that Baratta intends to implement in Essex.

Oil Crisis Smashes Common Market 'Unity'

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
The worldwide energy crisis and the breakup of the international monetary system dominated the recently concluded summit of the nine members of the European Economic Community.

Behind a facade of "European identity" is the widening split between Europe and America and the rapid disintegration of the Common Market.

The oil crisis only brings to a head the tendencies toward breakup already developing in the Common Market.

Not only is the EEC incapable of agreeing on a joint strategy, but national policies aimed at protecting oil supplies are being pursued at the expense of trading partners.

The conference was marked by a sharp division between Germany on the one hand and France and England on the other.

Germany, with the most powerful economy in Europe, has been the main target of American trade war policies aimed at destroying the German export industry.

Faced with an increasingly militant working class, a rapidly developing slump that has cut automobile orders by 50 percent

over 1972, an inflation that has been intensified by the inflow of billions in American dollars, many German industries and banks are on the brink of collapse.

The rivalry with the United States has forced Germany to become the leading advocate of European economic and political unity against the working class of Europe and as a means of meeting the American and Japanese trade threat.

The German government argued for a policy of solidarity with Holland, the main target of the Arab oil boycott because of their close ties to Israel. Germany receives a large part of her oil through the Dutch port of Rotterdam.

SAFEGUARD

Both France, which faces a massive trade deficit, and England, which is on the verge of a massive showdown with the British working class, have been maneuvering with the Arab states to safeguard their oil supplies.

They sponsored the visit of the representatives of the Arab oil producers to the EEC meeting against the opposition of Germany.

The Arab leaders made it clear that there would be no letup in the pressure on Europe until they gave complete support for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory.

According to the Wall Street

Journal, the Sudanese Foreign Minister informed the Europeans that "dimming lights and padlocked gasoline stations are nothing compared with the hundreds of thousands of drought-stricken Africans starving to death for want of European and American aid."

The Algerian Minister declared that "peace in Europe" is at stake unless Europe helps the Palestine refugees.

The joint European declaration on the oil situation was nothing more than a vague promise to "study" the situation.

This means in effect that the bitter struggle for oil will now intensify. Even the Dutch have threatened that "we could get nasty," hinting at a shutoff of the oil flow through Rotterdam.

At the same time the deteriorating monetary situation intensifies the rivalries in Europe. The joint float of European currencies is virtually impossible under conditions of uncontrollable inflation. Britain and Italy have refused to participate.

Discussions on a common policy on currency, stocks, investment and banking have been postponed by the EEC until sometime in the very distant future.

What the EEC meetings reveal is that the only thing holding the European capitalists together is their desperate fear of their own working class and the impact of the US trade war drive.

BY MARTY MORAN

On October 18, the billion dollar United States National Bank of San Diego was declared insolvent. This is the largest bank failure in the history of the United States.

This unprecedented financial collapse points out the direction in which the entire banking and credit system is moving.

The first section of capitalists to face ruin in the economic crisis are the speculators, operators, and swindlers, the new money men of southern California and Florida, on whom Richard Nixon based his rise to power.

The US National Bank is owned by C. Arnholt Smith, a 74-year-old tycoon who has been Nixon's closest supporter throughout his political career.

Smith began in San Diego as a teller at the Bank of Italy, which later became the Bank of America. He worked his way up to divisional vice-president and then took advantage of the 1929 collapse to strike out on his own.

With his savings and money from his brother, he bought the US National Bank of San Diego for a song in 1933 when it had assets and liabilities of only \$1.7 million.

San Diego was then a small city notable only for its climate. The war and the postwar boom had the most spectacular effect on San Diego of any city in the country, skyrocketing the population to over 700,000 by 1970.

All this was accomplished while virtually nothing of any value was being produced in San Diego. Turn of the century boosters had been unable to draw industry from Los Angeles, and instead turned to "coining the climate" through tourism and sales of land for vacation homes away from home for the rich.

This was followed after Pearl Harbor by the development of the largest naval complex on the West Coast and later, huge marine and air force bases, which drew in tens of thousands of military personnel and fueled the runaway real estate boom.

Smith's bank boomed as the city boomed. In 1960 when the bank had several hundred million dollars in assets, he established the Westgate-California Corporation. This conglomerate combined Smith's investments in tuna packing and real estate with some of his bank stock and served as the launching pad for all sorts of financial adventures.

Smith systematically bought up Yellow Cab operations in 13 major cities in California. He bought the San Diego baseball franchise in the National League for \$10 million and the intrastate commuter airlines Air California and Golden West Airlines.

By 1973 Westgate-California controlled forty companies doing \$215 million in business, while US National Bank had topped the billion dollar mark. Smith was named "Mr. San Diego of the Year" and later "Mr. San Diego of the Century."

Like most of the fast growing conglomerates of the 1960s, Westgate had problems due to constant borrowing to finance expansion. Smith, however, had a handy solution, since he owned his own bank.

The wheeler-dealers who built up the conglomerates accomplished their financial wonders by a method that approximates lifting yourself up by your own shoelaces.

They borrowed heavily from the banks, insurance companies, and mutual funds, either directly through loans, or through issuing high-risk stocks to the market. The cash obtained was used to buy up existing com-



The Rise and Fall of "San Diego" Smith

panies.

These companies were expected literally to pay for their own acquisition as their earnings went to pay interest on the loans taken out by the speculator as well as dividends on stock.

This meant that the number of paper claims on the company's profits increased drastically. An enormous mass of fictitious capital based on credit was built up which demanded a return.

But the workers could only produce so much profit, no matter how much paper capital was piled upon their backs.

The conglomerates were thus chronically squeezed for profits. The solution was always still more expansion, using the assets of companies bought up to secure more loans from the banks, to pay off the old loans and give the illusion of real value behind the blizzard of stock issues.

In this way, chains of companies were stuck together with no relation to each other in terms of production. Smith put together tuna fish, taxis, and baseball, while on a larger scale ITT linked telephones, insurance, Sheraton Hotels, and Wonder Bread.

As long as the inflationary postwar boom lasted, this kind of activity could be sustained. Everything was going up in value, it seemed, so buying up more companies automatically meant buying more sources of profit, new assets to get loans with, and ready cash.

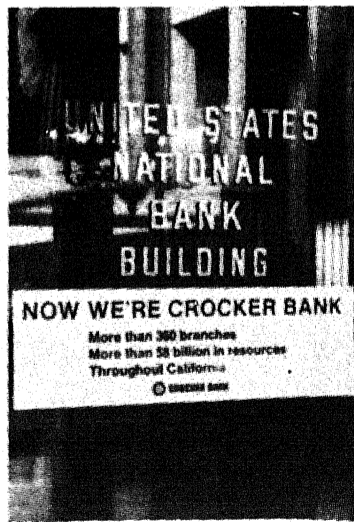
ON ALL SIDES

Smith's control over US National Bank added a new twist to this time-honored process. As *Business Week* put it, he "was on all sides" of these deals.

His practice was to pass assets from one of his subsidiaries to another, each time jacking the price up to make a big profit, and financing these deals through US National Bank.

For instance, Smith established Westgate Life Insurance Company, owned by his personal corporation, US Holding Company. In 1963 US Holding sold it for \$610,000 to Smith's brother John. A few months later John Smith sold Westgate Life to Westgate-California Corporation for \$1,260,000. All the while Westgate Life remained stuck where it was, with \$238,000 in assets, and earnings of only \$50,000.

Smith established the most complicated relations with a



Crocker bought the assets of Smith's defunct bank for \$89.5-million.

series of companies controlled by Kansas City financier Michael J. Coen, whom government banking officials later ruled was in effect Smith's agent.

The main company was British Columbia Investment Company of Kansas City (sic). This company began as Barnes-Champ Advertising Company of San Diego and served in 1968 to funnel illegal contributions into Nixon's presidential campaign. Later the company was moved to Kansas City to give the appearance of independence from Smith.

Smith had the closest ties to

the politicians of both capitalist parties. A lifelong Republican, he backed Democrats as well when it was profitable.

In 1958 and 1962, he supported Democrat Bert Betts for State Treasurer. During Betts's terms in office, deposits of state funds in US National Bank increased from \$813,000 to \$15.6 million. Smith said, "I think it would be dishonest to say they weren't related. He appreciated what we had done for him and he reciprocated."

NIXON

But there is no doubt that Richard Nixon was his favorite. Smith financed every campaign from the 1950 Senate race. In 1968, he raised one million dollars for Nixon, one quarter from his own pocket. In return, he was a delegate to the Republican Convention and watched the election returns with Nixon's inner circle.

Smith led the group that originally obtained the 1972 convention site for San Diego, pledging \$1.5 million.

As a member of the ultraright-wing Lincoln Club, Smith shared Nixon's antilabor and anticommunist views.

The turning point in any speculator's career is when he goes to the credit well and finds it dry, when the bank president no longer smiles at him, when the stock market greets his latest offering with a groan.

This began in a wholesale way after Nixon removed the gold backing from the dollar in August 1971. This unleashed a complete lack of confidence in paper money and led the banks to tighten up drastically on credit. Interest rates went on a steady upward march, reaching a record 10 percent this summer.

With the orgy of easy money ended, company after company faces bankruptcy as old loans fall due and no new loans are available to pay them off. The

direct agents of this liquidation are the big banks, whose power now becomes life and death.

LOOTING

Smith was thus in a unique position, since as his own banker he was not about to liquidate himself. Instead he turned from ordinary inflationary speculation to the outright looting of US National Bank and Westgate-California to benefit himself personally.

Smith sold assets of Westgate at bargain prices to British Columbia Investments and other Coen companies which then sold them right back to Westgate at much higher prices. The difference in price found its way into Smith's pockets and US National Bank.

After a *Wall Street Journal* article exposing him in 1969, Smith's financial survival became more and more of a tight-rope act. He changed auditors four times in three years, quarrelling over his juggling of loans from US National to Westgate.

Eventually Westgate's borrowing from US National brought Smith to the attention of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the comptroller of the currency, who regulates banks.

The SEC declared in 1971 that since Smith owned a majority of Westgate stock and Smith and Westgate combined owned a majority of US National Bank stock, Westgate could be considered a subsidiary of the bank and brought under regulations which strictly limited the amount the bank could lend to it.

Smith then sold Westgate's stock in US National to British Columbia Investment and his agent Coen. This transparent device was good enough as long as Nixon was able to protect him from federal investigation. But with the Watergate revelations, the storm broke.

On May 31, 1973 the SEC filed suit against Westgate, charging fraudulent use of Westgate assets by Smith to cheat the stockholders and asked that Smith be barred from acting as officer or director.

Last ditch efforts are still being made to save Westgate-California, whose collapse would destroy 15,000 jobs and cripple San Diego economically. In November, a San Diego District Court Judge quashed an internal revenue service tax lien of \$4.1 million on Westgate on the grounds that it would force the company into bankruptcy.

SPECTACULAR

Smith's fall is unusual and spectacular because by using his control of his bank to defend his conglomerate he succeeded in bringing them both to ruin.

A savage competitive struggle has been unleashed over whose capital is to be destroyed first. The established banks and industrial monopolies are moving first of all to mop up the fly-by-night operators. Smith had his feet in both camps and so was in an impossible position.

But his predicament is really that of all the big banks, for by bringing about a liquidation of sections of capital they create conditions for their own collapse as well. Bank of America may lose over \$50 million since turning off the credit even to a middle-sized company like Memorex. The collapse of a big debtor like Lockheed would be disastrous.

While the crisis of the boom-time speculators like Smith is the source of the desperation so visible in Nixon's actions of the last few months, there is no doubt that the Rockefellers and the Morgans are going in the same direction.

SWP Refuses To Discuss 1953

December 12, 1973

Dear Comrade Barnes,

Our attention has been drawn to your letter of October 20, 1973 to Comrade Tim Wohlforth. The letter is a reply to Cde. Wohlforth's request to meet with a representative of the Socialist Workers Party. His purpose was "to seek the support of the SWP in urging upon the United Secretariat, with which it is in political solidarity, a discussion as outlined in the IC statement 'For a Discussion on the Problems of the Fourth International' (Workers Press, August 29)."

Your reply rejects this request on the same grounds as those given by the United Secretariat in refusing a discussion in 1970, viz., that the IC and its sections have denounced the SWP and the United Secretariat as "revisionists," as having decided to "sell out to the Stalinist bureaucracy and the imperialists," as being "outside the camp of Trotskyism and of the working class," etc.

We can only construe this argument as an evasion, to avoid discussion. It is contrary to all the traditions of the revolutionary movement to which you avow your adherence. The most fundamental division at the base of the independent existence of the Trotskyist movement, the division between Marxism and counterrevolutionary Stalinism, did not prevent Trotsky from constantly engaging the Stalinists in public debate. He did not withdraw his characterization of Stalinism's counter-revolutionary nature to do so.

When Trotsky delivered his historic statement "I Stake My Life" to the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky, he was not unaware (any more than were James Cannon and the leaders of the SWP!) that this Committee contained liberals and Social Democrats whose political actions placed them in the camp of reaction. These were the attitudes taken by Trotsky in cases of unmistakable and unchangeable class positions of the tendencies involved.

Furthermore, your use of the United Secretariat's statement of 1970 as the basis of your reply is calculated to give the impression that you are in agreement with them. However, it is precisely on the questions we propose for discussion, fundamental historical questions, that such agreement does not exist. We remind you once again: the SWP has been obliged to raise, (along with other political disagreements) public differences with the United Secretariat about the split in the world movement since 1953. The SWP's own picture of itself as the defender of Marxism then and since is a gross distortion, but the point here is that the IC could not get the SWP into a discussion on these same questions in 1961-63! Instead, the questions were suppressed on the grounds that they would obstruct the phony agreement for "reunification" in 1963. Now that the fundamental questions lever their way to the front, the SWP suppresses discussion once again!

Indeed in 1961 the discussion proposed by the SWP was actually agreed to begin, so far as the International Secretariat (the name then of the United Secretariat) was concerned.

It was the SWP who blocked the discussion. It was the same story after the split with Pablo in 1953. In the months following, the IC sections in Europe were in favor of a discussion with the Pablotites to get to the roots of the split, and it was the SWP who refused.

The SWP cannot treat the history of the 1953 split as its exclusive property, something it can bring out of storage and use for

Letter from Tim Wohlforth to Jack Barnes October 5, 1973

October 5, 1973

Jack Barnes
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party
15 Charles Lane
New York, New York

Dear Comrade Barnes,

As you know, I have been seeking to meet with a representative of the Socialist Workers Party. I have made several phone calls to this effect making it clear that I was taking this initiative on behalf of the International Committee, with which the Workers League is in political solidarity, as well as on behalf of the Workers League.

The purpose of this initiative is to seek the support of the Socialist Workers Party in urging upon the United Secretariat, with which it is in political solidarity, a discussion as outlined in the International Committee statement "For a Discussion on the Problems of the Fourth International." This statement appeared in the Wednesday, August 29 issue of the Workers Press and the September 24 issue of the Bulletin.

We continue to be interested in holding a discussion with you or any other representative of the Socialist Workers Party to see if a way can be found to bring about such a genuine discussion as outlined in the above mentioned statement.

We are hoping to hear from you in the near future.

Yours fraternally,
Tim Wohlforth
National Secretary
Workers League

cc: G. Healy

Letter from Jack Barnes to Tim Wohlforth October 20, 1973

October 20, 1973

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

Dear Comrade Wohlforth,

I have attached the September 19, 1970, United Secretariat statement on the "unity" discussions then being sought by Gerry Healy in behalf of the "International Committee." It closed as follows:

"To summarize: The International Committee has characterized the United Secretariat of the Fourth International and the Socialist Workers Party as 'servants of the class enemy,' who 'decided to sell out to the Stalinist bureaucracy and the imperialists,' whose actions have placed them 'outside the

its own immediate purposes in relation to the United Secretariat. The 1953 split questions concern the whole movement of world Trotskyism. All the participants, and all those who have joined the movement since under the conditions of the split, must have the opportunity to discuss it. It is a necessity for rearming the Trotskyist movement, just as it was in 1961-63. For the SWP

camp of Trotskyism and of the working class,' and who must be dealt with as 'political scabs of the worst sort.'

"No other conclusion is possible: Either (1) in making advances towards us, the leaders of the International Committee have decided to sell out to the Stalinist bureaucracy and the imperialists, and are following a course that will place them outside the camp of Trotskyism and of the working class; or, (2) the leaders of the International Committee have begun to recognize how wrong they have been in their characterization of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International and its co-thinkers in other countries but do not want to acknowledge their grievous errors, still less engage in public self-criticism.

"If the leaders of the International Committee have changed their opinion, then it is their duty to make public their 'political reasons for changing. On what specific political issues have they altered their views? We await their explanations with interest.

"Of course another possibility exists—that Comrade Healy's 'approach' to the Socialist Workers party, are only part of a 'unity' maneuver in the 'war' being conducted by the leaders of the Socialist Labour League against the Fourth International and the organizations sympathetic to its views.

"This would seem to be the most likely possibility were it not for the fact that Comrade Healy has expressly issued a public assurance that he has 'no intention' of engaging in 'factional maneuvering' over unity 'as such.'

"Comrade Healy's public avowal that no unity maneuver is involved makes it all the more imperative that the International Committee publicly clarify its stand on the alternatives indicated above."

Since that time neither in their actions nor their press have the Socialist Labour League or the Workers League indicated any reconsideration of their characterizations of the United Secretariat and the Socialist Workers Party. In fact, the very public statement by the "International Committee," which you now advance as a basis for "discussion," characterizes the United Secretariat and the Socialist Workers Party as "revisionists" totally unable "to return to the basic principles of Trotskyism." The Socialist Workers Party is slandered as having "opportunistically degenerated even further in the last ten years"; that is, further than being "servants of the class enemy," deciding "to sell out to the Stalinist bureaucracy and the imperialists," and engaging in actions placing the party "outside the camp of Trotskyism and of the working class."

In view of your failure to respond to the United Secretariat statement of September 19, 1970, your failure to indicate by any other means that you have modified your views of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International and the Socialist Workers Party, and your persistence in continuing up to this moment to publicly misrepresent and lie about our political positions, we see no reason for altering our previous refusal to engage in private parleys with representatives of the "International Committee."

Fraternally,
Jack Barnes
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

cc: United Secretariat
Gerry Healy

to put forward its own one-sided version of the 1953 split, and to reject discussion yet again after 20 years, is indication of a narrow national outlook, a contempt for the international movement.

And to add to this, the transparent excuse that it is impossible to discuss with opponents who condemn you politically—that is fraud. Did not Lenin characterize Trotsky



Jack Barnes

as "Judas Trotsky" and find many other choice epithets for him in the years before 1917? Did these mean that no discussion was possible? Look for example at one of Lenin's articles, warning the young generation of revolutionists against Trotsky:

"... he is typical of all the five coteries abroad, which, in fact, are also vacillating between Liquidators and the Party.

"In the period of the old Iskra (1901-03) these waverers, who flitted from the 'Economists' to the 'Iskra-ists' and back again were dubbed 'Tushino' deserters (the name given in the Turbulent Times in Russia to soldiers who deserted from one camp to another).

"When we discuss Liquidationism, we discuss a definite ideological trend which grew up in the course of many years, the roots of which are interlaced with those of 'Menshevism' and 'Economism' in the 20 years history of Marxism, and which is connected with the policy and ideology of a definite class, the liberal bourgeoisie."

Lenin's verdict that the political tendencies outside Bolshevism had roots which were "connected with the policy and ideology of ... the liberal bourgeoisie," did not and could not serve as a block to any discussion, on his part or on the part of Trotsky. It is necessary to begin from the objective needs of the movement, and today that means involving all sections of the International Committee and the "Unified Secretariat" and those in solidarity with it, including the SWP, in the discussion which has become necessary, and has begun, on the roots of the 1953 split. Indeed Trotsky's own development necessitated the overcoming of his earlier objections to Lenin's objectivity and centralism, and the SWP would do well to recall his verdict on those pre-1917 years (My Life, pp. 161-2.):

"Revolutionary centralism is a harsh, imperative, and exacting principle. It often takes the guise of absolute ruthlessness in its relation to individual members, to whole groups of former associates. It is not without significance that the words 'irreconcilable' and 'relentless' are among Lenin's favorites. It is only the most impassioned, revolutionary striving for a definite end—a striving that is utterly free from anything base or personal—that can justify such a personal ruthlessness. In 1903, the whole point at issue was nothing more than Lenin's desire to get Axelrod and Zaslitch off the editorial board. My attitude toward them was full of respect and there was an element of personal affection as well. Lenin also thought highly of them for what they had done in the past. But he believed that they were becoming an impediment for the future. This led him to conclude that they must be removed from their position of leadership. I could not agree. My whole being seemed to protest against this merciless cutting off of the older ones when they were at last on the threshold of an organized party. It was my indignation at his attitude that really led to my parting with him at the second congress. His behavior seemed unpardonable to me, both horrible and outrageous. And yet, politically it was right and necessary, from the point of view of organization. The break with the older ones, who remained in the preparatory stages, was inevitable in any case. Lenin understood this before any one else did. He made an attempt to keep Plekhanov by separating him from Zaslitch and Axelrod. But this, too, was quite futile, as subsequent events soon proved."

The response of the SWP to take up the IC's and Comrade Wohlforth's approaches

for discussion is in marked contrast to the failure, within the United Secretariat, to take up principled questions in case they cause organizational problems.

We refer in particular to the notorious Lawless question in the IMG in Britain. In case the SWP is not familiar with the facts of this case, we will summarize them. Here is a man, Lawless who remains a member of the IMG and is publicly defended by them, despite the fact that his activities throughout the recent "terrorist bombs" campaign in Britain are incompatible with membership of any organization claiming to be revolutionary.

To highlight just some of the aspects of his conduct: He took a telephoned statement from Dublin, purporting to come from the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau (IRPB), and took it to the Press Association with the intention of making some money as a freelance journalist.

He also telephoned Scotland Yard and told them he had a statement from the Provisional IRA claiming responsibility for a bomb campaign in the West End.

He has variously claimed that he made this call to protect himself from possible prosecution and to gather information for the article he was writing. Neither of these mutually contradictory statements can be condoned.

When the Provisional IRA repudiated the so-called IRPB statement issued by Lawless to the capitalist press—they say it is "bogus" and a "hoax"—Lawless persistently refused to admit he had been wrongly or unwittingly misled. On the contrary, he proceeded to give a series of interviews to the capitalist press, radio, and television in which he insisted that the Provisionals were responsible and the police were not taking the situation seriously enough.

This opened the door for the Tory government, Scotland Yard, and the capitalist press to create an atmosphere of hysteria and repression in which Irish workers, republican groups, and left-wing organizations, including the IMG itself, were subjected to raids and harassment. It also provided the state with a vicious anti-IRA climate on the eve of the Belfast Ten trial.

When Detective Chief Superintendent Roy Habershon, one of Scotland Yard's leading political police officers, "requested" that Lawless make a statement, Lawless volunteered to visit Scotland Yard and sign a statement, the contents of which have never been made public.

Now, the IMG is the recognized British section of the United Secretariat, and defends Lawless. Can the SWP coexist in solidarity with Lawless, the IMG, and the United Secretariat? Assuming that this is the first time the SWP has been made familiar with the facts of this case and the dangers obviously resulting from it, will the SWP act alongside the IC in driving Lawless out of the movement? The question cannot be avoided; it was carried by Lawless and by the IMG into the midst of the capitalist press.

To allow this case to be covered up, while at the same time refusing discussion with the IC on the grounds that we characterized you politically in class terms—that would be opportunism of the worst order. We therefore hope you will urgently reverse your decision to reject the approach made on behalf of the IC by Cde. Wohlforth. The discussion proposed is an objective need of the whole revolutionary movement.

Yours fraternally,
International Committee.



The Wild Expansion Of Credit

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and the Penn Central Railroad will go down in history as synonyms for bankruptcy and collapse.

Both have once again appeared on the front pages of the financial papers as a new crisis threatens their total liquidation.

Lockheed, which only managed to stay afloat since 1971 on the basis of \$650 million in credit arranged through the banks and government guaranteed loans, owes over \$850 million.

Despite wholesale rationalization and layoffs of thousands of workers, the fuel crisis and the slump in the aircraft and aerospace industry have forced delays and cancellations in hundreds of orders, producing a situation in which payment on current debt cannot be met without financing new loans.

Penn Central, which collapsed in 1970, faces a similar situation: losing millions each month.

But these two corporations are only the tip of the iceberg in the unprecedented credit-inflation crisis now developing.

Nixon's emergency measures on August 15, 1971 severed the link of the dollar to gold. At one stroke, the value of the huge hoards of paper dollars and credit became completely indeterminate. This set into motion the collapse of confidence in paper money, wild expansion of credit and frenzied speculation in commodities and gold, sending prices soaring.

The ballooning of credit since August 15, 1971 has assumed staggering proportions.

Mortgage debt has been expanding at the rate of \$50 billion a year and installment debt—for cars, appliances, etc.—has been rising at a \$20 billion a year rate. Both of these figures are more than double any previous increase.

All of this is owed to commercial banks, finance companies, credit unions and retail outlets.

Corporation debt has been exploding as well with \$900 billion now owed—over double what it was in the mid-1960s.

Nearly a quarter of all wages are being paid out for installment loans, while corporations must come up with over \$40 billion in interest payments alone.

Corporations have only 20 percent of the cash on hand to meet liabilities due over the next 12 months.

All of this expansion was based on the illusion of an ever-increasing boom and the ability to finance and refinance old debts on the promise of future earnings by selling new shares of stock or floating new bond issues.

Now the development of a worldwide recession coupled with the disastrous impact of the oil crisis turns everything into its opposite.

Millions of workers, facing the loss of their jobs and astronomical increases in the cost of the basic necessities will be forced to default on loan payments.

Even the largest corporations faced with cuts in sales, large inventories and big increases in the cost of production due to the inflation can rapidly find themselves in the position of Lockheed or Penn Central.

Any attempt to keep the boom going by continuing to expand credit threatens inflation of the proportions of Weimar Germany in the 1920s.

All of these corporate debts represent claims on future profits to be extracted from the working class. Every industry is now driving for the most brutal increase in its rate of exploitation through speedup, longer hours, and the slashing of living standards to increase profits to meet the demands of its creditors.

But no amount of wage-cutting can satisfy the ever-growing claims on profit. The large banks facing massive defaults must ultimately cut their losses by destroying huge sections of capital and liquidating entire industries to force repayment of the debts.

The huge stock market declines wiping out over \$120 billion in paper values over the last two months is a sharp indication of this situation.

The working class must take warning from these developments. The fight for wages is in no way simply a trade union question. The crisis forces the employers and the government not only to move against wages, but to attack every historic gain of the working class.

The fight is now directly political, requiring the building of the revolutionary party through the struggle to construct a labor party, pledged to abolish capitalist anarchy with a socialist government.



St. Louis diesel pumps shut down by truckers during the nationwide protest. Over 80 percent of the trucks did not drive in the Missouri-Illinois area. One attendant told the Bulletin: "We support the truckers."

Truckers Press For Wages

BY DAVID NORTH
Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons announced Tuesday that trucking employers will have to renegotiate their current three year contract to compensate drivers for losses caused by Nixon's emergency fuel crisis measures.

Having failed to persuade Nixon to lift the 55 mile per hour speed limit, Fitzsimmons invoked a contract clause that permits renegotiation in the event of a "declaration of emergency or imposition of economic controls."

Fitzsimmons declared that the union would specifically seek wage and benefit increases higher than the seven percent increase negotiated in the contract last July.

Long-haul drivers have been putting heavy pressure on Fitzsimmons, who has been Nixon's staunchest ally in the labor movement and a firm advocate of wage controls.

However, an increasing number of Teamsters have been participating in the strikes and blockades by owner-operators. The average long-haul driver, who is paid 16 cents for each mile, has suffered a 20 percent wage cut because he now can drive—under the 55 mph limit—only about 350 miles in the regulation 10 hours.

Drivers are accustomed to making at least 450 to 500 miles per day.

Independent driver-operators as well as many Teamsters are, in the meantime, preparing for a massive shutdown of over the road commercial transport in January unless Nixon rescinds the speed limit, lowers diesel fuel prices, and increases fuel allocations to truckers.

OWNER-OPERATORS

Owner-operators near Dayton, Ohio—many of whom are Teamsters—voted Tuesday night to end their current strike. However, they also decided to organize a more powerful strike in 30 days if their demands are not met.

The truckers have already been guaranteed the support of the American Truck Stop Association and the Fraternal

Association of Steel Haulers.

The Dayton strike was met by vicious attacks by state troopers. Drivers had been flagging down trucks passing the Franklin truck stop on Interstate 70 and also the Texaco truck stop. On Friday, between 500 and 700 truckers refused to move from the two stops.

Police attempted to escort six scabs out of the truck stop. When one striking driver attempted to stop the police car, he was brutally beaten by an off duty plainclothesman, Louis Blankenship, with a billy club. The driver was then dragged off to jail.

Bill Hill, president of the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH), denounced Fitzsimmons for having refused to lead a fight against Nixon's attacks on drivers.

"I think it is a crime," he said, "the way Nixon and Fitzsimmons are friends."

He stated that FASH—an organization set up by owner-driver Teamsters after the International betrayed a 13 week wildcat—supported further actions in January.

"If we do not get what we want," Hill declared, "there will be another shutdown a hell of a lot longer than 48 hours."

More Layoffs In St. Louis

BY A LOCAL 819 MEMBER

ST. LOUIS—Over the past three weeks, 200 employees at Carter Carburetor Corporation, a division of ACF Industries have been laid off.

Due to the cutbacks in production of large cars, Carter has cut its production of large four barreled carburetors from about 3000 a day to 500 a day.

Last week, about thirty people were laid off in the assembly division. Very few parts are being made for the large carburetors in any of the parts departments. It has been reported that, because of the oil crisis, vital plastic tubing for the flow test department is in short supply. This may force Carter to shut down completely.

United Auto Workers Local 819, representing Carter's 2300 workers is now going into contract negotiations with the company as the present contract expires in June. Carter hired about 1000 workers during the past year. Many will be faced with going from \$150 a week down to \$63 unemployment pay. No action on this has been taken by the union leadership.

STREETS

As one worker put it: "If we do not do something about Nixon,

we will all be out on the streets."

Carter may go into production on small carburetors, but only about half the employees would be needed because only half the parts would be needed.

"During the last slowdown in production, there were people laid off with 18 years seniority," said one 819 member.

"Our production has been based on manufacture of the large quadrojets and thermoquads for GM and Chrysler. If they go, it will cut over half the employees again."

Another said: "Several years

ago, they sent a lot of work down to Arkansas and Tennessee at nonunion plants. They are not even producing a decent product down there."

Auto plants throughout the St. Louis area are closing down and laying off. At the Chevrolet plant here, all passenger car production has been halted for three weeks, laying off 4500 UAW members, while the Chrysler truck line has been closed for the last three days. Thirty-five hundred workers are involved in the Chrysler truck line closure.

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Detroit Teamsters Wildcat

BY PETER KELLY

DETROIT—Truckers and warehouse workers in Teamsters Local 337 walked out last Sunday at midnight in defiance of their local president, Robert Holmes, and against a temporary restraining order issued by Judge Thornton.

The wildcat strike, originally affecting five warehouses in southeastern Detroit, is causing shortages in the supermarket chains. After almost two days, strikers at two firms returned to their jobs, while workers at Kroeger, Allied, and Borman's remained out.

Negotiations continue between the company and the union

leadership. The employers have threatened to disown all previous agreements if the work stoppage continues and are seeking to make the temporary restraining order permanent.

The strike centers on the company's demand that it be allowed to bring in new workers to replace "absent" union members. This would be used to hire scabs and break the union during a strike.

The company also wants to double the probationary period for union membership from 30 days to 60 days and has requested the right to give 15 percent of their workers split days off.

The union leadership claims that these are non-economic issues, but the majority of workers feel it is an attack on the union. Many claim that these provisions would cut overtime and create job insecurity.

'I Will Just Stop Trucking'

CHICAGO—The Bulletin interviewed union and non-union truckers at truckstops on the South Side here during last week's wildcat.

Two drivers for American Van Lines, with over 20 years of driving experience each expressed the determination of all the men:

"I am not buying the high price gasoline. I am not moving my truck until the increase in fuel goes down."

"Every time they call for a shutdown on fuel, I am going to shut down too. I am not going to truck until the shutdowns shut down. And if they do not, I will just stop trucking."

A union driver told a skeptical TV reporter: "Sure I am with them. I have been with them since 1934."

The angry drivers told about increases, not just in gas, but in every one of their expenses. Drivers estimated that fuel prices are running three to four times what they were in 1960. Chicago area dealers have been caught charging up to 80 cents a gallon in the last week.

Many Western states have now imposed a mileage tax for drivers passing through, adding \$5 plus 1 cent a mile in California, \$41.95 in Arizona, and so on. For independents who pay their own loading dock charges, costs have skyrocketed. For instance, the Chicago markets now charge two dollars per crate for unloading, plus a two dollar parking fee, twice the rates of a year ago. And a recent crackdown on overweight loads had led to massive fines and trip delays for drivers going through Illinois.

As one driver put it: "There is a \$50 fine for missing a weighing station. Or a \$150 or a \$1000 or they will confiscate your truck if they feel like it. This is a railroad state."

Some stations are now imposing purchase limits, in an obvious attempt to harass the independents and force prices up. A driver pointed out that the truck stop he was at was limiting drivers to 38 gallons (less than a quarter of a tank), but he knew of a place a few miles north where they could fill up any truck at four cents a gallon less. A newsman had refused to publish this, even after the trucker had driven him to both stops to show him personally.

OIL EXECUTIVES

"They are drafting 250 oil executives to sit on the energy board," a young driver added. That is just like having the mafia sit on the crime board."

An independent driver explained his situation this way: "I go from state to state. Now we call it 'coast to coast on a piece of toast'—we cannot even afford bread at these truck stops.

"I just came from California. It usually costs \$180, this time it cost \$480. What does that leave me? I would rather sit and starve than run and starve."

He explained that the fuel usage for diesel trucks is different than four cars. Cars use the least fuel at about 50 miles per hour, but trucks use less fuel at higher speeds.

At 45 or 55 mph, the fuel consumption goes up to three or four miles per gallon. Now that Congress has passed the 55 mph limit, and with the fuel prices skyrocketing at the same time, the independent truckers are faced with costs two to three times higher than before. It is this that has forced the truckers to come out against the government.



Part of mass demonstration of butchers and meat cutters from New York and New Jersey protesting Iowa Beef Processors' low wages.

editorial

Nixon's Agents Attack YS

The atmosphere of "law and order" created by Nixon is encouraging the most right-wing elements to come out of hiding and aid the capitalist class in attacking our rights.

Just like the Watergate burglars, right-wingers operating at night broke into the van owned by the Chicago Workers League while it was parked on a residential street on the South Side and set a box of literature and papers on fire.

A Young Socialist member happened to see the flames in time to save the van from blowing up.

This was a conscious attempt to stop the building of a revolutionary movement in the neighborhood. Just as the South Side branches were holding their regular class on Marxism, these agents set fire to books and pamphlets on Marxism being carried in the van. They also tried to destroy a new shipment of Young Socialist papers.

This cowardly book-burning is the same tactic used not just in Nazi Germany, but in the recent coup engineered by Nixon in Chile.

The neighborhood where this occurred has been the target of a continuing racist campaign designed to divide the workers, especially the youth. Gage Park High School was closed for several days last year after fighting broke out at the end of an extended boycott by white students. The students there are still harassed by stringent security measures and extra police details.

The American Nazi Party has openly recruited in this area, holding a march and a meeting in a city park building last year with full cooperation from the city officials.

In addition, there has been a

series of fires in the past two months, all in the same one block area of small frame houses and duplexes where the van was burned.

The YS has fought tenaciously for nearly a year to unite white and Black youth against the rotten conditions at Gage Park High School, and against the growing unemployment. Because of this fight, we have rallied massive support and recruited widely in the area. Over 300 families now subscribe to the Bulletin and Young Socialist. Our quota for the Twice-Weekly Fund could never have been met without the contributions and the activities organized by our supporters and new members on the Southwest side.

The very night of the fire, the YS went ahead to establish a new branch in another South Side neighborhood and two youth were recruited into the Workers League.

Now we must go forward. The capitalist class knows their weakness and recognizes our strength. That is why they allow the Nazi Party to build itself up. That is why they plan and carry out harassment and open attacks on our movement.

We warn everyone that these elements are backed by the United States government itself. They will not be stopped without a battle to unite the working class around socialist principles. There is no time to wait!

Only through a political fight to bring down the Nixon regime and establish a labor party can we defend our basic rights.

- Join the Workers League.
- Join the Young Socialists.
- Plan now to attend the Young Socialist 1st Regional Conference Saturday, January 26 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Court Acquits GM

DETROIT—US District Court Judge John Feikens recently dismissed the charges against General Motors Corporation and Ford Motor Company for price fixing and "conspiring to monopolize the \$2.5 billion annual market for automobile fleet sales."

These charges were originally filed by the federal government.

For 13 weeks, the jury has been hearing the case which was initiated on May 1, 1972.

Throughout the hearings, Feikens completely sided with the auto companies. He stated

just before the acquittal that "The Justice Department's evidence shows not an intent to monopolize, but an intent to compete."

It is no surprise that this decision, in addition to new price increases authorized by the Cost of Living Council, comes directly after United Auto Workers union president Woodcock accepted the rotten contract proposed by the auto companies.

The federal courts have given the auto companies the green light to make huge profits while auto workers face unemployment, intense speedup, and wage cuts.

YOUNG SOCIALIST REGIONAL CONFERENCES

\$2 Conference & Dance

All conferences begin at noon

Speakers: Tim Wohlforth, Workers League National Secretary, Adele Sinclair, Young Socialist editor, and Lucy St. John, Bulletin editor.

MIDWEST

MADISON
(Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, St. Paul)
SAT., JAN. 26
Univ. of Wisconsin YMCA
306 North Brooks
608-251-7622

CLEVELAND
(Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Dayton, Detroit)
SAT., FEB. 2
Cleveland State Univ.
Euclid & 21 St.
216-851-8822



WEST COAST

LOS ANGELES
SUN., JAN. 20
Embassy Auditorium
839 S. Grand Ave.
213-678-3528
LIVE BAND

SAN FRANCISCO
SAT., JAN. 19
Mission YMCA
4080 Mission
415-824-4096



PERSPECTIVES FOR THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Speaker:
Tim Wohlforth,
National Secretary,
Workers League

CHICAGO

FRI., DEC. 28
Little Flower
Grade School Gym
(81st & Honore)
7:30 PM
\$1.00 Trade Unionists
.50 Youth and Unemployed

BETHLEHEM
THURS., JAN. 10
7:30 pm
Hotel Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley
Suite East
Admission 75 cents

The Bulletin will not be published next week due to the Christmas holidays. The next issue will appear Tuesday, January 1.

FILM

by Collette Windsor

The Honest Cop

Many films have been made concerning various aspects of police activity, but there has never before been one seriously devoted to police corruption.

Serpico, the film about an honest cop—whose posters are plastered on virtually every corner of New York City—is based on the true story of Frank Serpico, an NYPD plainclothes policeman who, as the story goes, would not be bought.

The film begins with a wounded Serpico being frantically driven to a hospital and then delves back to the start of his career as a policeman.

Al Pacino, playing the part of Serpico as he transfers from one precinct to the other, finding more and more corruption, every man on the force on the take, beating his head against the wall of bureaucracy which knows full well about it and refuses to do anything, performs the role of the man against the system without the usual wild-eyed fanaticism, but with the air of a doomed man. He knows, and says, the system is corrupt and yet he persists with the partial aid of a friend in another bureau to try to expose the incredible extent of corruption.

Starting out in the Bronx, Serpico is exposed almost immediately to the carelessness and indifference of the department in responding to any calls for aid. His first night on duty, he has to fight his superior officer to take a call on a rape in progress. In the precinct, after apprehending one of the youth involved, through no help from his superior officer, Serpico quickly exits to fill out forms while the youth is "questioned"—by being slapped around and kicked in the stomach.

The brutality of his fellow officers is not out of disgust for the crimes committed, as the film intimidates at first. The same desperate brutality is extended to the gamblers who pay off the cops, should the gambler miss a payment.

In the Bronx, \$800 a week from the various gambling concerns is about the usual take per cop. Since Serpico refuses to take money, his partner saves it for him, just so Serpico will not get a bad name with the rest of the force.

Moved to the narcotics division in Brooklyn, he is warned explicitly by a gold badge detective that the Bronx cops made peanuts in payoffs. Just three cops in the narcotics squad in Brooklyn take \$120,000 a week payoffs from just one dealer and Serpico had better not interfere with that. Serpico nods his head, stubbornly refusing to go on the take, while seeing his partners do so and while knowing virtually every other cop from the patrolman on the beat to the highest ranking officials accept payoffs as a way of life.

Serpico's strange habits earn him at first the distrust of his fellow cops: "Look, Frank, a cop who doesn't take money just can't be trusted." After his appearance before a Grand Jury investigating his claims, they earn him the hatred and fear of any precinct he works with.

In his desperate attempts to make his claims known, with the aid of his friend and an inspec-

tor, Serpico goes to The New York Times. The ensuing publicity and the expected denunciations from the Police Commissioners office lead to the mayor establishing the Knapp Commission, a permanent committee to investigate charges of police corruption.

In the end, Serpico is shot in the face while attempting to enter a dealer's apartment.

This scene, which portrays Serpico's two partners as standing frozen, knowingly refusing aid as Serpico shouts for them to do something, has prompted the threat of a lawsuit against the producers by one of the real Serpico's partners.



Al Pacino's talent evokes from the audience the same sympathy and hopelessness Serpico feels for himself and the only weak point of the film, which is solidly produced in all aspects, is that Serpico's principles and motives are never explained.

Serpico makes no attempt to explain why he will not take money, or for that matter, why he even remains on the force in the face of tremendous hostility and knowing full well he will be done in.

Serpico is a film portrait of an individual. It takes no sides, and draws no conclusions. Almost documentary-like, the film exposes not police corruption, which is taken for granted by most, but shows us Serpico, the man. Since the character's complexities and underlying driving forces are ignored, Serpico is somewhat of a sterile figure.

Serpico, is, however, an enjoyable and interesting film, and Al Pacino is one of the few young American actors who can carry out an intense character study successfully.

CORRECTION

"Minneapolis 1934-40," last issue, page 7, last column, paragraph 6, should read: It is to Dobbs's credit, and to Skoglund's credit who fought to train him as a party man, that he did do this.

PSA Strikers Fear Layoffs After Strike

BY SHEILA BREHM
LOS ANGELES—The strike of 1400 airline workers against Pacific Southwest Airlines enters its second month with the threat of layoffs looming.

Striking mechanics from Teamsters Local 2707 want a wage increase of 90 cents an hour to give them parity with other airline mechanics.

Several other airlines, including Pan Am, TWA, and United have already slashed their flights and thrown thousands out of work.

Flights for the San Diego based airline were already cut back on November 1 because of the energy crisis, before the strike began. A total of 900 flights per month were chopped, with layoffs for 100 flight engineers, flight attendants, and mechanics.

During the holiday season last year, PSA flew 200 flights daily. A spokesman at PSA headquarters, Terry Henry, reported that with the cutbacks and the strike, flights have been reduced to around 115 a day.

OPERATE

Stewardesses and pilots, organized into a company union, continue to operate the airline along with supervisory personnel.

Service has been completely halted at Stockton, Long Beach, Fresno and Ontario.

Strikers fear that once the strike is settled, more layoffs will occur. One picket told the Bulletin: "It might be a rumor, but we heard that flights in those four cities will never be resumed again."

"The corporations are really taking advantage of this energy

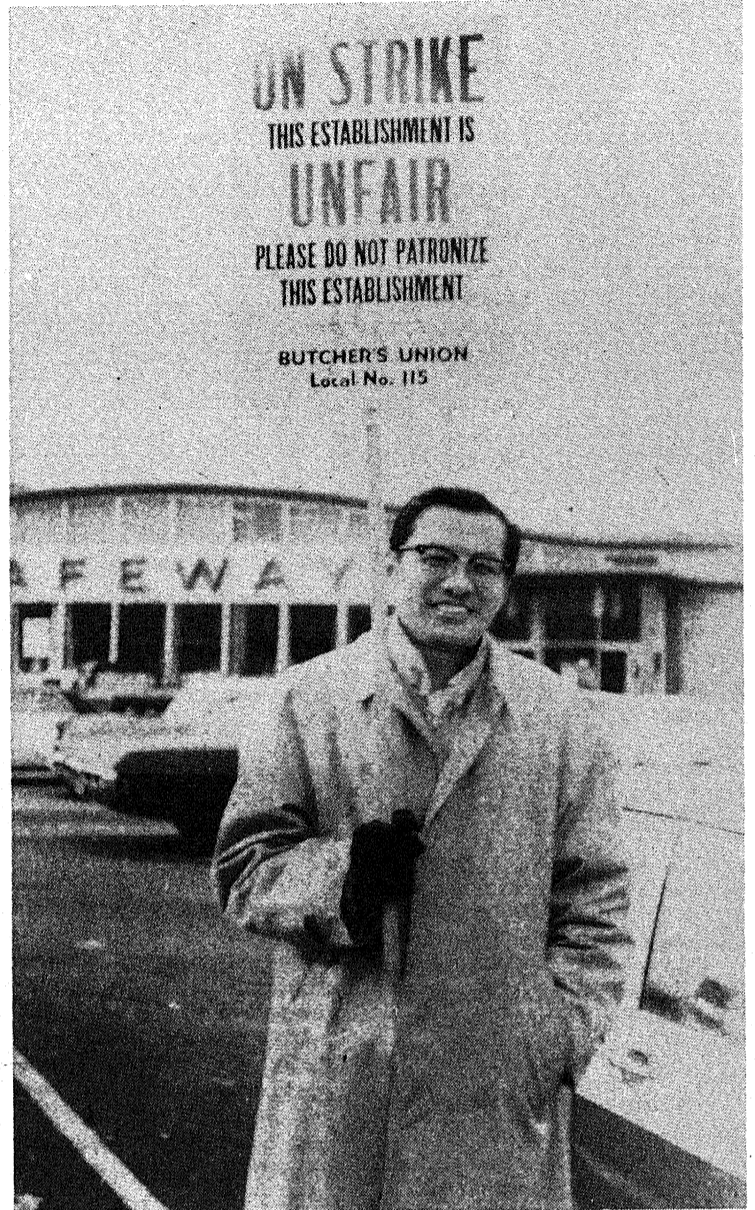
crisis and making us suffer."

Terry Henry denied that plans were in the making for more layoffs and said: "PSA's main concern is to keep the flights operating during the strike."

He said it was his opinion that

the strike could continue until mid-January.

Strikers are getting impatient and one picket complained: "We are being kept in the dark. I do not like the way our union lets other workers cross our line."



Picket in front of Safeways. See our report, page 11.

UTC Will Lay Off 218 Workers

BY MARTY MORAN
SUNNYVALE, Calif.—United Technology Center (UTC) here and in Coyote announced 218 layoffs of scientific researchers and production workers.

A \$106 million contract to research and develop the engine for the space shuttle was awarded by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration to Thiokol Corporation instead of UTC, which was the other major contractor.

Earlier this fall, the award of the contract for the Titan C-4 rocket engine to Thiokol forced UTC to lay off 100 workers.

The remaining 1000 workers at the two facilities face the immediate prospect of further layoffs. The company is hanging on to an old contract to produce the Titan 111-C engine, but orders have declined.

Company officials told workers earlier that either the Titan C-4 or the space shuttle contracts would have to come

through to maintain employment.

Thiokol Corp. is headquartered in Brigham City, Utah, and is completely nonunion, while UTC's Coyote production facility is organized by the International Union of Electrical Workers.

As the market for aerospace dries up, the government is systematically bankrupting unionized companies on the West Coast, such as Lockheed, UTC, and Aerojet, in favor of runaway plants like Thiokol.



Perfect for Christmas Gifts A Pictorial History of American Labor

By William Cahn. Contains over 750 illustrations, including woodcuts, drawings, documents, portraits and photographs. Traces the development of the American labor movement from colonial times to the present. Detailed text and many rare pictures document the struggles of the National Labor Union, Knights of Labor, AFL and the CIO. \$12.50

Labor Publications
135 W. 14 St.
N.Y. 10011

west coast news

Courts Act Against SF Carpenters

BY TIM NELSON
SAN FRANCISCO—As the courts move in to cripple the northern California carpenters unions, the striking carpenters continue to strengthen the wildcat against the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee.

Over a dozen major sites in San Francisco have been forced to completely shut down because the other trades have run out of work without carpenters on the job.

The Associated General Contractors are suing for \$50,000 a day in damages. The only defense of Victor Van Borg, the carpenters' lawyer is to stall. By placing the entire defense in Van Borg's hands, the union leaders are leaving the carpenters at the mercy of the courts.

On Tuesday, Business Agents AJ Melton, Max Vance, and Sam

Garcia of Locals 34, 1408 and Eureka respectively, plus the locals themselves, were cited for contempt of court. They must face these charges at a hearing Friday where fines and jail terms could be imposed.

Officials continue to refuse to sanction the strike, despite mounting support for the carpenters from the other trades. Other trades have chipped in to support the strike financially, establishing a strike fund of five dollars per day for each picket.

FLYING SQUAD

A picket on the San Francisco flying squad told the Bulletin: "If the officials do not come out and lead it, they should resign and let the rank and file take over the facilities of the local."

The main support for the union officials comes from the Carpenters for a Stronger Union, which has played a leading role in the strike.

Together with the bureaucrats, they have desperately attempted to isolate the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, exclude its supporters from open meetings, and prevent the men from reading the Bulletin by physical threats against Bulletin salesmen.

TUALP

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party is calling for: immediate strike sanction to bring out all trades and shut down the 46 northern California counties; send delegations to all unions in northern California calling for a massive labor demonstration to call for a Congress of Labor to kick Nixon out and build a labor party.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW

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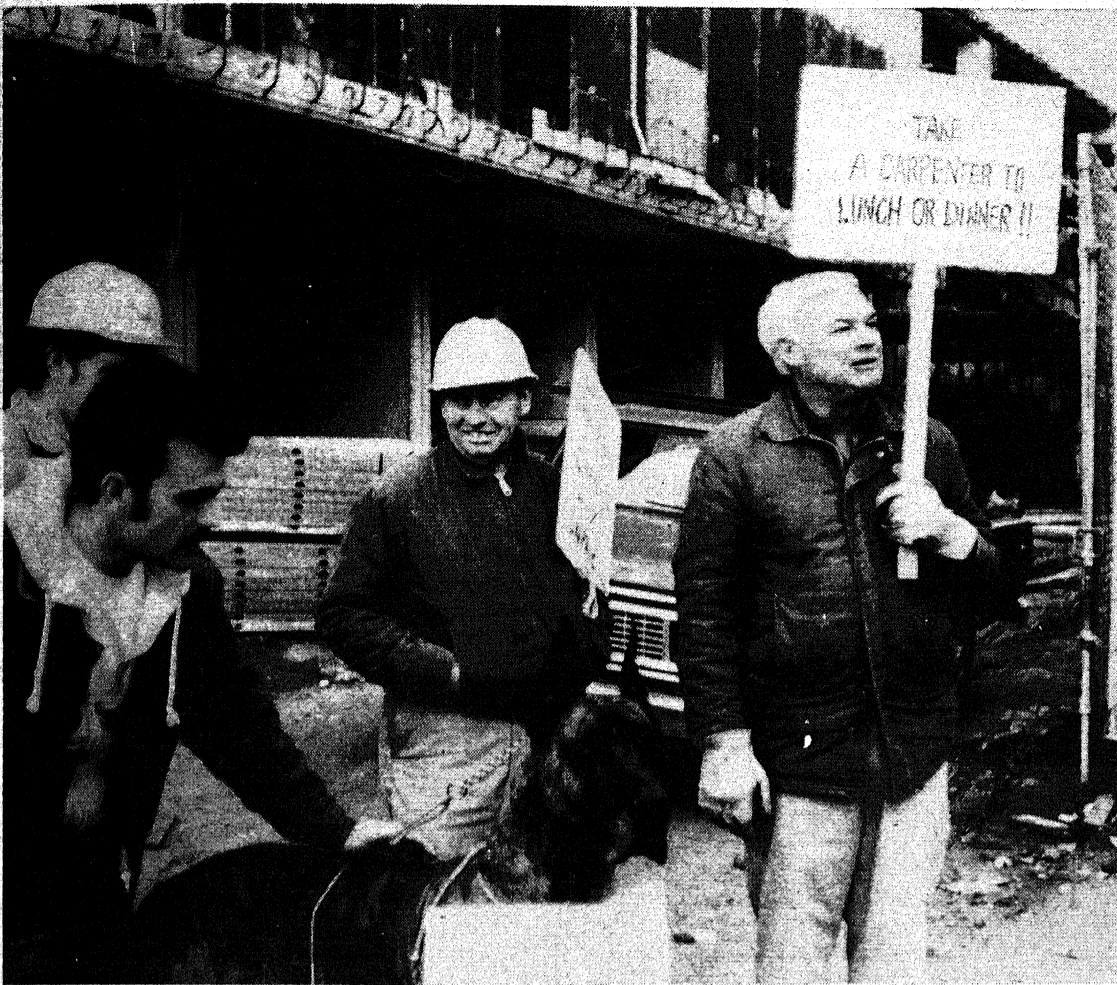
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Bay Area carpenters on the picket line told the Bulletin about the strike: "If the officials do not come out and lead it, they should resign and let the rank and file take over the facilities of the local."

IBT Heads Weaken Local 888 Drivers

BY TED BAKER

OAKLAND—In an act of unprecedented strike-breaking, eleven members of Teamster beer drivers Local 888 have been sent back to work.

According to Steve Conhan, attorney for all beer distributing companies: "We agreed to take them back if they made unconditional applications for reemployment.

"Technically speaking, they have forsaken the strike, and are working without a union contract."

The drivers were accompanied by Local 888 President Bob Biggins when they returned to work on Monday.

FINAL DECISIONS

This action took place as final decisions on union challenges to NLRB decertification elections were being made in Washington. Decisions by the regional labor relations board against union challenges at RJ Fossi in San Rafael, and Mark Stein in Pittsburgh, were upheld this week by the NLRB in Washington.

At least 20 other regional office rulings against the union will be decided in the next few weeks. Most are decertification elections challenged by the unions because scabs were allowed to vote.

Besides RJ Fossi and Mark Stein, Pittsburgh, Concord Beverages and Coors in Hayward have been officially decertified. New decertification elections have been scheduled already at Mark Stein in Oakland for January 8 and are expected to be scheduled at United Beverages, East Bay Beverages and Lloyd's distributing for the same time.

Local 888 officials would make no comment however on these latest moves when questioned by the Bulletin and claimed that negotiations had been reopened.

This was flatly denied by Conhan, who said the distributors have "absolutely not" reopened negotiations, and have no intentions of doing so. Union members have been kept in the dark by union leaders on the new developments.

One member told the Bulletin: "I do not know any more than you do, they do not tell us anything.

"Biggins was down there in Union City, but nobody knows what happened except that they fired the scabs and hired back our men. They let our men come back because of our unfair labor practices suit, but they have not signed anything, no contract. We do not even know if there are negotiations."

MIRACLES

Another member said: "We will have to wait to see what happens with Union City, but after what happened to us with San Francisco, I am not expecting any miracles."

Clerks Back Butchers

BY BARRY GREY

SAN FRANCISCO—The statewide strike by butchers against Safeway, Lucky and several other major food chains has entered into its third week.

Federal mediators have repeatedly predicted an imminent settlement in northern California, but the actual state of negotiations has been kept secret from the ranks.

The main demands in the strike are for a ban on centralized meat cutting and wrapping, and an unlimited cost of living escalator.

In southern California, the strike is being weakened by the refusal of the retail clerks leadership to call upon the ranks not to cross the butchers' picket lines.

SUING

The Food Employers Council is suing the union in southern

The beer drivers strike and the survival of Local 888 in the East Bay now hang in the balance. With decertification eminent, the union must now bring the rest of the Teamsters and the labor movement in the Bay Area to its defense.

San Jose Truckers Lose 3 Days Pay

BY ALLEN SALTER

SAN JOSE, Cal.—Every weekend, truck drivers coming into San Jose grind to a halt waiting for the Arco diesel fuel stop to reopen on Monday morning. The weekend shutdowns have now been announced as being permanent. This means many drivers now suffer a three day pay cut.

One independent driver said:

"You just cannot get gas. It is not just the price you are paying, which is bad enough, but now they are just closing down the stop every weekend.

"I just do not know what is going to happen. I will not be able to make it the way things are going."

Most drivers felt that a two day national truck stoppage was not enough. A driver from Denver stated: "What I think we need is for the Teamsters and the independents to go out together. But the union leaders are against us. 300 drivers shutting down cannot stop Nixon. This fight going on must involve every workingman, union or not."

Most of the truckers have been extremely angered over the press coverage which has been aimed at calling the rebelling drivers criminals.

"They are trying to take the pressure off Nixon and put it on us.

"I voted for Nixon, but now I am sorry I did. It is leading towards dictatorship.

"What they did in England, that three day week, I think Nixon is going to do it here. You can really see it coming."

Fitzsimmons has been forced to call for a reopening of the master freight agreement because of the resistance of Teamsters and independents to the higher fuel prices and the cuts in pay.

Fitzsimmons said the pay by distance formula has to be renegotiated to take into account Nixon's imposed 55 mph speed limit.

California, claiming \$25,000 worth of vandalism each day.

In northern California, the clerks are refusing to cross the butchers' picket lines. Safeway has shut down three stores in San Francisco and has moved the stock from these stores to supply the rest which are being kept open by means of managerial help and scabs.

A picket at the Safeway in the Mission district of San Francisco told the Bulletin that there are rumors that Safeway intends to keep the three stores closed for good after the strike.

She said: "I think Safeway wants to take over this country, period."

The union leadership is trying to reach a separate agreement for northern California. This would leave the butchers in the south in an extremely vulnerable position. The unity of the strike must be maintained statewide until all the demands are met.

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

Preparacion Para La Lucha

La Primera Conferencia Regional de la Costa del Este de la Juventud Socialista (brazo Juvenil de la Liga Obrera) celebra el pasado sábado 15 de diciembre, señala un paso de gran trascendencia en la construcción de un nuevo liderato en la clase obrera y la juventud.

Esta conferencia que tomó lugar en un periodo en el cual el gobierno esta atacando los derechos básicos de la clase obrera y la juventud, presentó a través de la asistencia de cientos de jóvenes y trabajadores que estos no han de permitir que sus derechos sean destruidos.

La campaña que la Juventud Socialista ha de llevar en contra del desempleo fue recibida con gran entusiasmo por los allí presentes. Esta campaña que ha de comenzar en la sección de Brooklyn conocida por Bedford-Stuyvesant, llevará su primera marcha el día 26 de enero.

Se organizarán marchas por todos los estados y comunidades más afectados por el desempleo, en particular en las ciudades de Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia donde el desempleo en auto e industrias de textiles se ha concentrado más severamente.

Esta campaña culminará con una marcha el 16 de marzo en Washington, D.C. frente a las oficinas centrales de la AFL-CIO (unión internacional, bajo la cual se han organizado más de 22 millones de trabajadores).

Con el creciente desempleo en las industrias básicas del país en los cuales cientos de miles de trabajadores con años de experiencia han sido despedidos indefinitivamente y que de acuerdo con los planes del gobierno los próximos meses serán millones los que se enfrentaran a esta situación de desempleo, la campaña en contra del desempleo tiene un carácter de urgencia.

Ante la imposibilidad del gobierno de proveer un trabajo a estos obreros adultos, las oportunidades de la juventud por un trabajo decente son nulas.

Es este periodo de crisis capitalista, la que por un lado ataca el derecho a un trabajo y por otro aumenta en forma astronómica los precios, crea las condiciones para la unidad entre los trabajadores adultos y los jóvenes.

Fue este entendimiento por parte de los jóvenes que contribuyeron a la discusión, la gran fortaleza con que se llevo a cabo la conferencia.

Esta campaña en contra del desempleo no son marchas de protestas para presionar al gobierno o rogarles a los políticos que intercedan a favor de los desempleados, son marchas para organizar un movimiento masivo de la clase obrera y la juventud y prepararlos políticamente en la lucha por la construcción de un partido obrero y un liderato revolucionario.

A través de estas marchas lucharemos por el apoyo de las uniones para que estan actúen en contra del desempleo, ya que son las uniones el principal blanco de ataque del gobierno. Es solo la lucha de los trabajadores conjuntamente con la juventud las que pueden ponerle fin a los ataques del gobierno.

La unidad en la lucha entre la juventud y la clase obrera due uno de los puntos más discutidos en la conferencia. La contribuciones señalaron un cambio cualitativo en la forma de pensar de estos jóvenes. Los puntos principales en la discusión estaban basados como construimos un movimiento masivo y como cambiar el modo de pensar de los trabajadores.

Chino, un estudiante de la Universidad de Brooklyn preguntó ¿Como vamos luchar dentro de las uniones si el actual liderato de las uniones esta vendido con el gobierno? Esta pregunta fue contestada por varios jóvenes trabajadores que presentaron las experiencias en sus uniones.

Patricia, una joven trabajadora del área de Nueva York dijo: "Nosotros no solo estamos luchando por los jóvenes, los obreros adultos también quieren luchar. Tenemos que unirnos con ellos. En mi unión, estamos supuestos a tener un nuevo contrato y en una reunión, los líderes de la unión nos dijeron los que ibamos a conseguir en el contrato para tratar de que no discutiesemos. Muchos de los trabajadores adultos no estuvieron de acuerdo con eso, pero no saben como luchar en contra."

Es cierto que los actuales líderes de las uniones estan vendidos, pero las condiciones reales a las que se enfrentan los trabajadores en las uniones prepara el terreno para que se construya un liderato revolucionario en contra de la bancarrota de estos burócratas sindicales.

La determinación de lucha de estos jóvenes demostrada en la conferencia es esencial en la construcción de un movimiento revolucionario y a la vez a través de su lucha, poder traer los elementos más conscientes y militantes de la clase obrera hacia el partido revolucionario.

La campaña de la Juventud Socialista esta basada en las demandas de que las uniones se movillizen para sacar a Nixon del poder y todos sus complices incluyendo a Gerald Ford (nuevo vice-presidente) del poder y que se construya un partido obrero como alternativa de clase.

Esta campaña en contra del desempleo comenzará de inmediato en todas las comunidades. Todo trabajador y joven debe de unirse y apoyar tal campaña como única forma de luchar por sus derechos básicos y construir un partido obrero en contra de las medidas del gobierno.

1199 Deadlocked In Washington DC

BY A REPORTER
The refusal of the leadership of Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers Union, to challenge the government is resulting in a bitter and protracted fight for union recognition at George Washington University Hospital in Washington DC.

The 45 workers who were suspended the first week of December for a sit-in demonstration in the hospital lobby are back but there is no guarantee they will be paid for the five days they missed.

Another 24 who were fired for the same action have not returned and the union is conducting a fund raising

campaign to help support them.

Workers at this hospital are now entering the nineteenth month of their struggle to organize a union at Georgetown.

The administration tried to prevent a union election by demanding to see all the union cards signed by the employees. They rejected Local 1199's offer to turn the cards over to the American Arbitration Board.

The hospitals will not recognize the union on the grounds that it is a "non-profit" organization and is thus exempt from the National Labor Relations Act. It refuses to meet with any union committee.

The hospital continues to claim that 1199 does not have a majority even though over 400 workers (more than 50 percent) have signed 1199 cards.

The 1199 leadership has organized no action to take this struggle forward and has

resumed its original activities of getting more cards signed. A union meeting on the firings and suspensions will not be held until January 23.

These are the policies of 1199 President Leon Davis which led to the betrayal of the New York hospital strike where workers were forced back with a wage cut.

At the point when the government begins arrests and threatens legal fines and injunctions Davis refuses to politically fight the government.

The attitude of local organizer Herle Quinn is that the union did not expect the hospital "to go so far."

What is needed now is not more protests, petitions and rallies but a campaign to unite the labor movement against all the anti-labor laws that are being used to deny hospital workers their right to organize.

BRITAIN . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

of the Trades Union Congress to call an emergency congress of the labor movement to organize opposition to the Tories.

Instead, the TUC leaders attended a conference of the National Economic Development Council—a corporate state planning organization—attended by Prime Minister Heath.

The developments in England are of burning importance to the American working class; for in Britain, every worker can see the shape of future developments in the United States.

The crisis of British capitalism is the highest expression of the international crisis of the system which is centered in the United States, the source of the world inflation that prepared the breakdown of the postwar monetary system.

The Tories are trying, as Nixon is attempting here, to place the full weight of the collapse of British capitalism on the backs of the working class. This is clearly revealed in the emergency budget introduced Monday by Tory Minister Anthony Barber, which is a blueprint for the impoverishment of British workers.

The highlights of this budget are:

- Credit restrictions on the purchase of cars, radios, and television;
- A \$600 million cut in capital spending for the nationalized industries;
- Another \$420 million cut in education and \$256 million cut in health services;
- Vast cutbacks in private loans from banks and finance houses.

ECONOMY

The state of the British economy was described by the London Times, the authoritative voice of the ruling class:

"Exports will fall; import prices will rise; unemployment will soar; many companies will go into liquidation or bankruptcy; and Britain will gradually slow to a standstill."

Throughout the labor movement, demand is building up for the mobilization of the entire working class behind the miners in a campaign to bring down the Tories.

Local branches of powerful unions like the Amalgamated Union of Electrical Workers

have forwarded such resolutions to the Trades Union Congress.

National Union of Miners Chairman William Anderson told the Workers Press, daily organ of the Workers Revolutionary Party: "There's got to be a confrontation with the government. The government says there's no increase above Phase Three, so obviously we're in a confrontation with them."

"The men are not prepared to give in. If it means the resignation of the government to get their demands—so much the better."

Only the Workers Revolutionary Party, British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, has waged a campaign throughout the working class for industrial action to force the resignation of the Tories and to return the Labour Party to power pledged to socialist policies.

The Stalinists of the British Communist Party are opposed to

STATEMENT . . .

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against Nixon.

The FBI is not only involved in sending its agents directly into an organization but also seeks to use one leftist organization to destroy and disrupt another.

LABOR COMMITTEE

This is the only conclusion we can draw from the provocative actions of the Labor Committee who have gone over from debating political differences to physical attacks against meetings of the SWP and the Communist Party, and the attempts of the Spartacist League to disrupt our public meetings.

At the founding meeting of the new Workers League and Young Socialists branches of Cleveland at the East Cleveland YMCA, Spartacist members, after being barred from entering the meeting, stood outside shouting slanders and grabbing those who tried to enter.

We cannot consider it a mere coincidence that one week later, an FBI agent visited the same YMCA and from then on we were banned from using its facilities.

We moved to the Cleveland YWCA, where another meeting was held December 13. Spartacist entered the meeting by

bringing down the Tories. Mick McGahey, a CP leader and vice-president of the National Union of Miners, recently declared: "I'm only conducting an economic struggle at this stage."

Events in Britain show very clearly that the question of the political struggle for power will be posed in every advanced industrial country.

It is for this reason that American workers must now construct the labor party as the political alternative to Nixon as they come into conflict with this government.

The fight for the building of a labor party requires the construction of a Marxist leadership in the working class as it enters these decisive struggles.

We call on all workers and youth to support the campaign launched by the Young Socialists against unemployment by participating in the marches that are now being scheduled and by joining the Workers League and the Young Socialists.

force and had to be physically removed. They continued to make a disturbance in the lobby outside the meeting, creating the conditions where the police could use the incident to prevent us from holding meetings anywhere in the area.

Police agents are obviously using the most frenzied and degenerate middle class groups like Spartacist and the Labor Committee as a vehicle to break up any serious opposition to the government.

While we do not question the sincerity of those individual members of these movements, we warn them that the unprincipled and factional atmosphere in these organizations provide a haven for police elements who want confrontations.

We call on the SWP to condemn the activities of Gerry Lawless in Britain, especially in light of the latest bomb attacks and the state of emergency in Britain.

We urge the Spartacist League and the Labor Committee to reconsider their present policy of disrupting our meetings and to look at whose interests these actions are serving.