

Bulletin

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

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NOW
TWICE A
WEEK!

VOLUME TEN NUMBER EIGHT 344

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1974

UNION LABEL 6

FIFTEEN CENTS

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We have 289 Young Socialist subs towards our goal of 500.

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The lack of concrete decisions angered the truckers, who are demanding "more than just promises."

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January 31 unless fuel prices were lowered and hauling rates were raised. After hearing the report from Washington, many rank and file drivers proposed an immediate shutdown, but a FASH spokesman said, "We can't go back on our word."

A few truckers with loads plan on finishing their delivery and then will join the protest. One trucker said:

"Violence may be the only way to get answers and not more promises. This country was founded in violence."

FEW TRUCKS

The day after the meeting, few trucks were seen on US Routes 23 and 52, the main interstate highways. Most were parked at company lots or at truck stops. Only a few rigs owned by large cross country companies may continue work.

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"There's too much confusion. Our
(Continued On Page 12)

BY THE EDITORS

The big auto corporations are moving ruthlessly ahead with additional cutbacks in production that will throw thousands more auto workers onto the unemployment lines.

Only a few days after General Motors announced that an additional 75,000 workers would be put on a two to three week layoff, Ford declared that it was closing two plants, temporarily laying off 7400 and indefinitely laying off 1550.

Thirty-five thousand at the Oakville, Ontario plant will be laid off one week, starting February 4 and 4450 in Ford's Cologne, West Germany plant will be laid off two weeks.

At Ford's Mahwah, New Jersey plant, 3400 will be laid off for two weeks and the Los Angeles plant will be closed one week.

Additional cuts in production will go into effect at the Dearborn, Michigan frame plant; and the Lima, Ohio engine plant.

Of the permanent layoffs, 150 will be thrown out at the Nashville glass plant; 300 at the Buffalo, NY stamping plant; and 600 at the Livonia, Michigan transmission plant.

PRODUCTION

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At issue is the attempt of GM to break down seniority from a plantwide basis to a department basis in order to eliminate more jobs.

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Workers in Pontiac and Flint, Michigan are being hardest hit. At Pontiac, men with seniority back to 1968 are expected to be permanently laid off this week.

These layoffs represent another 21 percent cut in car production. GM says its sales rate is down 39 percent for the first two-thirds of January from the same period a year ago.

GM plans to build only 933,000 cars this quarter, a decline of 38 percent.

These coldly calculated statistics mean disaster for thousands of working people and their families.

GM's Southgate plant in California will only be open five out of fifteen working days beginning today and previously had operated only three out of 23 days.

In Michigan, it is estimated that the layoffs combined with auto related layoffs will swell the number of unemployed to half a million.

(Continued On Page 12)

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War Against The Postal Workers

Nixon's preparations for the destruction of the trade union movement have been clearly revealed by the government's response to last week's four-day wildcat at the US Postal Service facility in Jersey City.

Within hours of a walkout by about 1000 workers protesting an illegal revision of their schedules, hundreds of police were mobilized to break up the strike.

Pockets of workers standing on small picket lines outside the gates of the Jersey City facility were surrounded by cops employed by the Postal Service as well as those from Hudson County.

What We Think

Faster than the postal workers could paint picket signs, a federal judge had issued a restraining order demanding that the union members return to their

jobs. Copies of the court order were mimeographed and were distributed to workers on the picket lines by federal marshals as if they were leaflets.

Photographers with telephoto lenses scanned the picket lines, while police, management personnel, and court officials took down the names of strikers.

When workers at another facility a few miles away in Kearny attempted to support the Jersey City walkout by setting up their own picket lines, they were attacked by more than 100 police dressed in full riot gear and wielding billy clubs.

Seven workers were arrested and two workers—both women—were beaten up badly.

These attacks were organized by the Nixon administration. Nixon set up the corporation which now runs

the postal service.

The huge mail handling facilities, which resemble assembly-line industrial plants, were built in order to discipline the entire postal service work force in the wake of the 1970 strike which was broken by the national guard.

The interior of the facilities, with remote control cameras in every corridor along with armed guards and checkpoints, shows the conditions now being planned for all workers in order to increase productivity and drive down working conditions.

However, the reaction to the postal strike shows how the government is testing out new methods to defeat the working class in the major struggles that are now on the agenda.

We have seen during the past few months that strike after strike has taken on the character of a civil war in miniature. Every job action, even involving a small number of workers or occurring in remote areas have been met with police brutality, jailings, and court injunctions no matter how minor the issues.

The strike of Harlan coal miners enters its eighth month and not one day goes by without the threat of an invasion by state troopers or the national guard into the Kentucky hill country.

In Ohio, police attack the picket lines of workers on strike against the Kuhns foundry in Dayton and seventy-two construction workers are arrested in Michigan for picketing at a meeting of scab contractors.

Behind these attacks are the preparation of the government and big business for civil war under conditions of an insoluble economic crisis that has brought about a powerful offensive by the working class in defense of its living standards and basic rights.

Every strike is a political struggle that raises before

the working class the issue of fighting the government and preparing for power.

What workers face when police invade their picket lines and the courts issue injunctions is not simply an employer, but the capitalist state itself seeking to defend the profit system by smashing the unions.

Metro Area Postal Union President Moe Biller capitulated immediately to the courts. He refused to demand the support of the national leadership of the postal union for a nationwide shutdown of the postal service in order to defeat the attacks on the Jersey City workers, attacks which are planned for all postal workers.

Above all, he would not place the demand for political action by the trade union movement against Nixon through the call for a general strike to force his resignation and for the construction of a labor party pledged to socialist policies as the alternative to this government.

In fact, Biller attempted to mask the political significance of the wildcat and the police attacks against it by maintaining that the issue involved was merely one of the work hours.

The militancy of postal workers expressed their determination and that of millions of workers now entering into struggle to defend their rights.

But it is necessary to pass beyond the limits of trade union militancy to take forward a political struggle against Nixon, his police, and his courts.

This requires the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the trade unions to lead the struggle for a labor party against the bureaucrats like Meany, Woodcock, and Biller who seek to keep politics out of the unions in order to tie workers to the politicians of big business.

Italian Generals Plot Rightist Coup

A plot has been uncovered in Italy in which high ranking military officials are part of a fascist underground movement called

"Compass Rose" that has been planning to stage a right-wing coup.

Thirteen people have been arrested on subversion charges. The first one was

Lieutenant Colonel Amos Spiazzi from Verona. He had just received a promotion when police discovered a small weapons arsenal in his home.

The conspiracy became public last October when Dr. Gianpaolo Casucci was found with secret papers containing a list of leftists and politicians who were to be murdered after a coup. The dossier alluded to a group known as Compass Rose.

Casucci is the Italian representative of a German based group called Steel Helmet. He was a volunteer for the Nazi navy during World War Two.

The magistrate responsible for the Compass Rose investigation discovered that in 1969, the Italian police force had discovered a copy of the secret documents.

Instead of making the case public, the police turned the dossier over to the government's Interior Minister.

The military personnel that have been arrested are charged with aiding Compass Rose by setting up anticommunist defense groups throughout the country.

The Compass Rose is affiliated with the secret service in Greece which is controlled by the US Central Intelligence Agency.



The oil crisis and slashes in aid means disaster for India's grain harvest. India has no money to buy the oil needed for the production of fertilizers.

French Miners Renew Walkout

BY MELODY FARROW

A struggle of decisive importance for the French working class is unfolding in the coal mines of northern France.

Less than three days after 400 rail workers who run the coal trains underground were forced to end their strike, 10,000 miners voted to walk out on January 21.

The miners are demanding that the management pay them for the days they were locked out as a result of the rail strike.

The rail men went out January 9 to fight for upgraded classifications and higher pay. They rejected an offer to take 40 francs a month with no guarantee of new classifications.

The miners rejected an offer of 40 francs a day compensation to be taken out of their bonus.

Immediately after this decision, the Stalinist led union CGT (General Confederation of Workers) openly tried to split the unity of the rail men and the miners and called a meeting to force them back.

The CGT spokesmen told the men to accept the compromise by saying: "These 100 francs are already a victory."

The speaker was met with hoots and jeers and 10 additional CGT officials had to speak in a desperate attempt to push the proposal through. The other union in the pits, the CFDT, was for continuing the strike.

REFUSED

The CGT refused repeated demands to put the proposal back to a vote, knowing they would lose. Instead, they finally walked out of the meeting as a way of telling the men they would have no official support if they stayed out.

The vote of the men who remained was 52 to 37 to go back.

On January 17, 557 miners of Algerian and Moroccan descent also went on strike at another mine.

The determination expressed in the mine struggle is throwing the Stalinists of the French Communist Party and the CGT into a crisis. While they openly play the role of strikebreakers, more and more French workers are defying their leadership.

Strike Wave In Bolivia

BY A CORRESPONDENT

The growing strike wave against the right-wing dictatorship of Bolivian President Hugo Banzer gained strength Thursday with a 24-hour walkout of bank employees and insurance clerks.

The strikers have held mass demonstrations in the streets of La Paz to protest the government's doubling the cost of basic foods.

More than 50 demonstrators have been arrested since workers took to the streets last Monday. They have been joined by thousands of women protesting the chronic shortage of food.

The unions have also rejected the government's offer of a \$20 a month wage increase and are demanding triple that amount.

One hundred thousand miners, industrial and white collar workers are also on strike. Printers, truckers, and oil field workers will strike next.

The living standards of Bolivian workers have been slashed mercilessly since the Banzer regime came to power through a bloody coup on August 21, 1971. Banzer, backed by the fascists, immediately began a ruthless repression of leftist militants throughout the country. Thousands of workers were murdered.

Two years ago, Banzer devalued the peso which led to a 60 percent rate of inflation in 1973.

However, in spite of ceaseless repression, the resurgence of the Bolivian workers movement now threatens to topple Banzer.

Sentence Arabs To Death

A court of the fascist Greek regime has sentenced two Arab guerrillas to death for a grenade attack on the Athens airport last August.

The judge rejected the request of even the prosecutor for leniency and labelled the attack "a particularly odious crime." This makes the death sentence mandatory.

On hearing the sentence, Shafik Hussein el-Arida, a 22-year-old Palestinian, cried out, "Let's get it over with. Let them kill us. We've been in solitary for six months and cannot stand it any more."

Arida and his Lebanese co-defendant, Tallal Khaled Kaddourah, pleaded guilty and explained that they believed the passengers of a TWA flight were Jewish emigrants en route to Israel.

During the one day trial, Arida, a member of the Black September movement, said: "We are very sorry in our hearts that we injured Greeks but orders are orders and we do not question them."

This sentence is a measure of the ruthlessness of the new Greek regime which is using this sentence to intimidate its own opponents.

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New Jersey postal workers faced police harassment during their wildcat. See page 4.

France, Japan Face New Devaluations

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
The French decision to devalue the franc has sent the world monetary system into a round of competitive devaluations which the major capitalist powers are now helpless to prevent.

The continuous rise in the price of the dollar and gold which is approaching \$140 an ounce, express the hopeless situation faced by European and Japanese capitalism.

Faced with staggering import bills for oil and a US trade war drive, every one of these countries must increase their exports to stay afloat.

The recent yen and franc devaluations not only solved nothing but made it even clearer that it is only a matter of time before Japan and France are forced into new devaluations.

On Wednesday, the French and Japanese central banks were forced to intervene to prevent an immediate collapse of their currencies. The Japanese paid out over \$700 million in reserves to hold the line on the yen.

It is only a matter of time before the German government,

already in a bitter war with Japan for markets for autos and machinery will retaliate with a mark devaluation.

The crisis today is far more serious than the monetary and trade upheavals of the 1930s because, as the recent International Monetary Fund conference in Rome reveals, every currency is now severed from gold and there is no currency able to replace the dollar as the major standard for international trade.

PRESSURE

The United States is increasing the pressure daily to bankrupt its European and Japanese rivals. On Thursday, Robert S. Ingersoll, Assistant Secretary of State, with major responsibility for Asian affairs warned Japan that it would face major retaliation if it attempted to increase exports to the US.

US officials are demanding that the Germans assist the US in its export drive by selling reserves in order to hold down the dollar against the mark.

The proposal from Common Market Economics Commissioner Wilhelm Haferkamp that the European governments sell gold at free market prices to pay for deficits would mean the destruction of paper money and credit.

Such a move would triple the declared reserves of gold-holding countries such as France and Germany creating inflationary explosions.

With inflation already approaching 15 percent in Europe and over 20 percent in Japan, these last ditch attempts to gear up for trade war will mean all-out war on the conditions and wages of the working class in every country.

Japanese unions are demanding wage increases of over 30 percent with some of the largest insisting on 40 percent.

Large-scale strikes are inevitable and Prime Minister Tanaka has scheduled a series of Heath-like talks with the unions in an attempt to head off a growing movement towards a general strike.

Food Prices Will Hit New High In January

The statistics released by the Department of Labor show that real wages declined drastically in 1973 as the average contract settlement was below even the 5.5 percent limit imposed by Nixon.

While the rate of inflation reached 8.8 percent, the average annual pay increase over the life of a contract was 5.2 percent, down from 6.4 percent a year earlier.

Agriculture Department experts predicted that January prices will reach record levels.

During the final months of 1973, the cost of the average family food market basket climbed at a rate of 12 percent a year.

The inflation is being used by Nixon to lower the living standards of the working class. The Independent Bakers Association charged Wednesday that the administration's policies have been a major factor in producing conditions that may send the price of a loaf of bread soaring to one dollar by the spring.

EATEN

While paychecks are being eaten up by inflation, the Bureau of Labor reports that the sharp rise in unemployment during the last month is largely the result of the "energy crisis."

New York Industrial Commissioner Louis Levine attributed the increase of 25,000 on the unemployment rolls to the shortage of oil.

However, in the midst of the oil crisis, the giant oil monopolies are reporting spectacular profits.

Mobil Oil told Senate investigators that its profits rose 68 percent in the last quarter of 1973, the period in which the energy crisis emerged. Its earnings between October and December totalled \$271.6 million.

Texaco's profits are up 70 percent for the same period. Its profits for the entire year

reached the figure of \$1.29 billion.

Not only the oil companies are recording record profits.

General Electric, which laid off 6000 workers in the Cleve-

land area, announced Thursday that 1973 was "another record year." Its sales for the fourth quarter—the period immediately preceding the layoffs—totalled \$3.3 billion.

Cut In US Aid Means Starvation In India

BY A REPORTER

Democrats united with Republicans to overwhelmingly defeat a bill granting \$1.5 billion in aid to 41 underdeveloped nations.

Supporters of the bill had pointed out that without the grant, many countries in Asia and Africa will not be able to meet the higher costs of oil imports.

The Congressional action repudiates earlier assurances given by the United States at the World Bank talks at Nairobi last September that it would contribute \$1.5 billion over four years to a \$4.5 billion fund set up by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Under the pressure of the economic crisis, the US has broken up the Nairobi agreement and launched a new attack on the workers and peasants in the backward countries.

DEMOCRATS

The Democrats took the lead in defeating the grant. Democratic Congressman Wayne Hays of Ohio explained that he voted against the bill because the money sent to the backward countries would be used to pay the Arabs for oil.

Although the Nixon administration officially supported the aid grant, knowledgeable sources noted that it had made virtually no effort to get the bill

passed.

The World Bank's International Development Association is almost bankrupt. It is still owed \$320 million by the US from a loan pledged in 1971.

Last year, 30 percent of all the aid received by the International Development Association was sent to India.

The Soviet Union has also informed India that it cannot furnish their request for fuel oil in 1974 because of their own economic problems.

Every country seeks to push the burden of the capitalist crisis

Palestinian Groups Condemn Deal

BY MITCH PATTERSON

A major split has developed within the Palestinian liberation movement over Egypt's troop withdrawal agreement with Israel.

The left-wing section of the Palestine Liberation Organization has openly denounced the PLO's leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat.

The Executive Committee of the PLO, which includes representatives from all major Palestinian liberation organizations, met recently and in Arafat's absence drafted a statement which attacked the deal:

"This bilateral partial solution will lead to consolidating the positions of Israel and American imperialism by drawing Egyptian fronts out of the

onto the underdeveloped countries. These cutbacks will lead to the collapse of any industrial production, drastic food shortages, and virtual starvation for millions of people in Africa, Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.

These conditions are behind the mass strikes and demonstrations against rising food prices that are sweeping India.

In the Indian state of Goudjerat, 20 people have been killed in the last two weeks in violent street fighting when police opened fire on demonstrators.

conflict one after another."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine stated: "The surrender step taken by the Egyptian regime in agreement with the Zionists and American imperialists is in preparation for handing over the region and its peoples to the imperialist Zionist octopus.

DEFEATIST

"This attempt is an open treachery against our masses because it has a defeatist and surrenderist political implication, in addition to serving as a means for the US to dominate the region.

"Fighting against the Zionist enemy will be escalated until all occupied Palestinian soil is liberated."

Arafat on the other hand has given Sadat's agreement with

Kissinger his full support. Arafat was with Sadat when the final agreement with Israel was signed on January 18.

OPENED FIRE

Several months ago, Arafat's gunmen opened fire on left-wing guerrillas who demonstrated at the PLO headquarters in Lebanon against the cease-fire deal.

Sadat, and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad are now attempting to negotiate a deal for the disengagement of troops in the remaining battle zone on the Golan Heights in Syria.

In all of these negotiations, the US, Sadat, and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev have deliberately excluded the Palestinian question and the restoration of their lands which are illegally occupied by Israel.

Postal Men Ready To Go Out Again

**BY DAVID NORTH
JERSEY CITY, NJ**—Postal workers in the huge bulk handling facility here are prepared to strike again if negotiations between the union and US Postal Service over work hours break down.

Although the Postal Service agreed to rescind temporarily its latest revision of work hours in order to end the four day wildcat which broke out last week, it will not restore the schedules under which the union worked before its members were transferred from Kearny to man the new facilities here.

Metro Area Postal Union President Moe Biller did not officially sanction the walkout, and his main concern was to end the wildcat before it spread to other facilities.

As workers returned to their jobs Friday, they were angry over the brutal intervention of the police to break the strike.

"I was in Kearny when the cops arrested seven workers," said one worker who asked not to be identified. "A couple of pickets had stopped a car to tell

the driver about our strike and not to enter the facility.

"No sooner had we stepped out when there were police all over the place. All we saw was a lot of clubs. They charged us in a V-line."

He said that the police had been called in by the management of the postal service under the direction of the government.

NIXON

"I think this was Nixon's fault. I think that Nixon should have been out a long time ago. Something's going to burst. This business with the police here is nothing compared to what's going to happen.

"I am talking about the entire country. I know from things people say while they're working. Even the pro-Nixon people are really against him. Every little thing that is happening is contributing to this. The cost of living is up. Then there's no gas. You get a little raise and you don't even notice it."

The postal workers returned to their jobs, but strong opposition was voiced to Biller's failure to back the walkout and win guarantees of a full rollback to the normal schedules.

Even Biller was forced to admit that, "There is substantial opposition to the agreement because the people did not get the hours they are entitled to."



Truckers rallied in Washington, DC against Nixon's energy measures.

Date Changing Fraud On Nixon's Tax Returns

BY A REPORTER
California officials have charged that the \$482,000 tax deduction which Nixon obtained through the donation of his vice-presidential papers may have been arranged by falsifying the date on the deed

which confirmed the gift.

The deepening crisis of the Nixon administration is reflected in the reports that Treasury Secretary George Shultz will soon resign because of the unending flow of fresh Watergate scandals.

Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Quinn declared that he has irrefutable evidence that the deed was dated more than a year before the document was actually signed. The date which appears on the deed is March 27, 1969, but Quinn stated it was signed on April 10, 1970.

The apparent reason for the false date on the deed was that Nixon was trying to find a way to get around a law severely limiting the amount of money to be made from the donation of vice-presidential papers. This law went into effect in July 1969.

Calling the date "obviously false," Quinn also noted that the deed was typed on a typewriter that Frank DeMarco Jr., Nixon's tax lawyer, had purchased in July 1969, four months after the date on the deed.

The latest revelations of Nixon's shady financial dealings have cast a pall over the claims by Egil Krogh, former head of the White House plumbers, that the President knew nothing

about the Ellsberg burglary. He made this claim as he emerged from a court trial which concluded with the imposition of a six month sentence.

However, his claims conflict with the evidence presented by John Dean last summer, when the former White House counsel told the Watergate Committee that Krogh admitted that his orders "came right out of the Oval Office."

Now, Krogh says that he cannot remember exactly what he told John Dean.

Informed sources said that not much weight is being given to Krogh's claim, and the fact that Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski plans to use Dean as a witness for the grand jury is an indication that Dean's damning testimony against Nixon has stood the test of intense investigation.

No End In Sight For Maryland Tuition Hikes

BY A REPORTER
COLLEGE PARK, Md.—Tuition has just been hiked by \$50 at the University of Maryland here.

This increase marks the second of its kind in less than a year, and is the seventh time that the university has increased tuition.

University officials have stated that there is no end in sight to annual tuition increases. Next year's tuition of \$748 for state residents will be more than double the tuition bill for the academic year, 1966 to 1967.

There is already a decrease in full-time undergraduates enrollment, as students from working class and middle class families find it impossible to attend school or are forced to go to school part-time while working.

In 1970, there were 25,032 full-time students and 1679 part-timers. At the end of 1973, the first group had decreased to 23,424, while the latter had increased to 2768.

Student government association spokesman David Iannuci, has predicted that Maryland, a state-grant college, will become an "all-rich, all white, aristocratic elite college within 10 years."

The answer is not in pressuring the state government or state legislature, but in mobilizing the students behind the strength of the labor movement

as it heads into a collision course with the government.

College Park student Jim Hosinski stated: "I have been forced out of school because I cannot afford the cost.

"And now that I have to find a job, I cannot find any. I am on food stamps. But the way I see it, it is going to take a revolution.

"I see 1974 as an important

Goodrich Cancer Death

The death of an employee of B.F. Goodrich at the Louisville, Kentucky plant has touched off an investigation into the physical effects of exposure to hydrocarbons and other chemicals used in making vinyl.

The worker died last December of a rare form of liver cancer called angiosarcoma. Only 21 people in the country died of this disease last year. A review of medical records has uncovered two other workers who died of the same disease and a fourth who died of another form of liver cancer.

All the workers involved worked in the vinyl division and were exposed to polyvinyl chlorides for at least 20 years. 270 out of 1200 workers at Louisville work in this section.

Only recently, workers at Borden's vinyl-materials plant in Columbus, Ohio were stricken by peripheral neuropathy which can

lead to paralysis.

Goodrich has four other polyvinyl chloride plants in Avon Lake, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, and California.

Chain Bike Employees Strike In Bethlehem

BY ALICE ADAMS & DAN MARTIN
BETHLEHEM, Pa.—The Teamsters Local 773 of Chain Bike Corporation in Bethlehem, Pa. has been on strike since Tuesday, January 15, the day after the extended contract expired.

The new contract which the management offered included a paltry 70 cent increase over a period of two years, and a complete Blue Cross and Shield package.

As of now, only 28 out of the 342 workers would qualify for the 2.5 day vacation. The 70 cents is

practically worthless as Chain Bike wages are already far below others in the area.

Out of 321 full union members, only 26 opposed the strike. The workers, who are predominantly Spanish-speaking, are demanding better wages, two weeks vacation after one year, a pension plan, and the major medical program.

They are suspicious of the union leaders who they feel are "not strict enough" with the management.

As one worker put it: "We are the power...the people know what they want and they are going to get it!"

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50th Anniversary Of The Left Opposition



Over 300 trade unionists and youth commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Left Opposition and the 50th Anniversary of Lenin's death, at a meeting in New York City on January 23.

The meeting began with a slide presentation which traced the struggle of Lenin and Leon Trotsky to build the Bolshevik Party and how in the period after Lenin's death, Trotsky took up the fight against Stalinist bureaucracy and founded the Fourth International.

A film, *Bolshevik Victory*, which included actual film clips of the Russian Revolution, was received with great interest and enthusiasm.

Over \$1000 was raised for the Bulletin and many in the audience responded to an appeal of Helen Halyard to come forward and join the Workers League.

Following the film, Tim Wohlforth, National Secretary of the Workers League, brought out the lessons of the period of the Russian Revolution and the period we are in today.

"We are now in the period of revolution, we are already in it. It is not just a question of revolutionary events in Vietnam and the Middle East, but of prepara-

past period of war and attacks against the Vietnamese people was preparation for struggles in this country.

The ruling class of both the US

attend a Board of Education meeting. It was the same conditions of tremendous inflation and unemployment that created the fascist movement in Germany in the 1930s.

The Nazis feel confident to emerge openly today because they sense there is a future for them. They are backed up not only by wealthy rightwing forces and the police, but by "liberals" such as Democratic Mayor of San Francisco, Joseph Alioto.

This development is a warning that such forces as the Nazis will be used against the working class and the unions as the capitalists turn towards a dictatorship.

Comrade Wohlforth said that the American workers must turn to a study of history because today the working class must carry out the historical task of overthrowing capitalism.

experienced, he was forced to confront the limitations of his former trade union activity and of fighting the court injunctions and repression of the state by strike action alone.

He realized that the workers had to begin to fight politically to get the source of their oppression which was not just the employers, but the capitalist system.

ABSTAINED

Throughout his life, Debs never abstained from any strike or struggle of workers. Even if only five or ten workers were involved, he would travel miles to speak to them. Each time he spoke, he always fought to bring an understanding of socialist politics to the working class.

After World War One, in 1917, the Russian working class overthrew first the Czar, and then the capitalist Provisional government. Debs unflinchingly spoke out against the imperialist war and supported the Russian Revolution.

He was arrested again because he gave a speech in Canton, Ohio, only 10 miles from where the Lordstown auto workers were recently arrested, in defense of the Bolshevik Party which led the revolution.

Wohlforth explained: "We live

where the capitalists are turning towards a dictatorial solution. This is the meaning of the spying on individuals and parties revealed in Watergate, and of the increasing powers of the military.

In Debs's time, America was just beginning its development as a major imperialist power, while today, American imperialism dominates every country of the world.

Today, however, it dominates the world at a time when it is in decline and crisis. Today, the crisis in England and in every country is centered in the crisis of American capitalism.

This crisis gives great strength to the working class in the struggles ahead. As the American worker fights to defend his rights, for his very survival, he fights together with workers in Britain, India, France, Vietnam, and every country.

Wohlforth said that today masses of workers will come towards the need for socialism just as Debs did, but they will not repeat his experiences in the same way. Today, we must begin where Debs stopped and turn to the task of constructing a revolutionary party.

In order to do this, Wohlforth said: "We must study and learn



Tim Wohlforth speaking on the lessons of the Russian Revolution, above right. Great interest in Spanish literature table, right; a section of the audience, above, which came from as far as Philadelphia.

tions for revolutionary developments in the major capitalist countries, in the US, in Britain, France and Italy.

"There is no turning back now. It is a question of power. Who will be the future, who the future will belong to, is now the central question.

"You can see it in England. The British government has put the working class on a three day week and is consciously pushing unemployment to use as a weapon to break the trade unions.

"Miners have refused to limit their wages under conditions of soaring inflation. Unemployment is a preparation to have it out with the working class.

"A few weeks ago, troops were brought in around the airports, under the guise of a terrorist attack. The Tories are testing these troops out to use against the British working class."

Wohlforth stressed that the very same developments are being prepared here. Just as the British government has prepared for the present confrontation by its brutal military occupation of Ireland, the whole

and Britain are collaborating in repression against the working class. Nixon has sent in 40 CIA agents to aid in the witch-hunt against militants in the British unions and to try and destroy the development of revolutionary leadership.

UPHEAVALS

"All the elements of revolutionary upheavals are present in Europe.

"In the United States, Nixon is introducing unemployment consciously to use as a weapon against the employed workers, to create conditions to crush the working class."

Wohlforth said the massive strike of 1000 postal workers in New Jersey showed the way the government is preparing to deal with the whole working class. Hundreds of state police were mobilized around the post office to provoke and attack the workers.

"What is happening in New Jersey is the future of the American working class in the next immediate period."

On the West Coast, the Nazis now come out in full uniform to

There was much to be learned, he said, from the history of Eugene V. Debs, one of the key leaders of the workers movement in the United States, who ran for President in 1920 from a jail cell and won one million votes.

The period of Debs was the early 1900s when the United States was first emerging as an imperialist power, invading and taking over Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines.

PERIOD

This was a period in which the relations between classes was one of open war. While in 1861, the whole country was plunged into civil war, in the early 1920s, it was a war between classes. Civil war was expressed in every individual strike and battle that took place.

Debs became a worker at the age of 15 and organized the National Rail Union. In the 1890s, he led the Pullman strike which paralyzed rail service all over the country. Troops were called in and Debs was sent to jail.

While Debs was imprisoned, he began a study of Marxism. Out of the bitter struggles he had



in a similar period as Debs, but history does not just repeat itself. It moves in a spiral."

On the surface, he said, it might seem that history repeats itself and that we have come full circle from the period of class war of Debs through a period of relative class peace in the 1950s, to a new period of class war today.

History actually proceeds in a spiral, that is, the working class today is entering a similar period of struggle, but on a higher level.

Today the working class enters class battles with highly organized and powerful unions. While in the 1920s, the corporations sought to prevent the growth of unions, today we face far larger and more concentrated monopolies which seek to destroy the gains made decades ago.

The workers today enter these class battles under conditions

from the struggles of the Russian working class and of Lenin's struggle to build the Bolshevik Party. We must learn the lessons of our own past. This is central to the development of a party.

"Trotsky's struggle was above all always a struggle for Lenin's policies, for the revolutionary party. Only those who fight for this can bring an understanding of what must be done today into the struggles of the working class."

Wohlforth said that to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Left Opposition and to honor Lenin meant building a revolutionary party in the United States as the instrument to lead the working class to power.

"There is tremendous strength and power in the working class in every country. To bring forward this strength will require the construction of a revolutionary party."

Letter from David Herreshoff

January 4, 1974

Editors, The Bulletin
Labor Publications, Inc.
7th Floor
135 West 14th Street
New York, New York 10011

Fellow Workers:

Permit me to comment on the three-part review you ran on my book, *The Origins of American Marxism*. Your reviewer has mistaken my motive for writing the book. Far from setting out to prove that a socialist revolution is impossible in the United States, my object was to inform serious militants about early efforts to organize a class-conscious workers movement in America. Access to that history, I hoped and still hope, will help continuators of the movement to avoid old errors and preserve old insights. Your reviewer himself has fallen into errors about that history which closer attention to my book would have spared him.

He is, for instance, misinformed about Emerson's participation "in various utopian schemes like Hope Farm." Emerson never joined a utopian socialist com-

stand that the labor movement must transcend pure-and-simple unionism to become the tribune of all the oppressed and especially of the Black and women's liberation movements if it is ever to attain the full consciousness of a class-for-itself. This is right-wing thought to your reviewer, but I do not feel that I am to the right of Gompers, Commons, and your reviewer on this issue.

Your reviewer's attempt to paint Daniel De Leon as a gradualist is a smear. De Leon was a proletarian revolutionist who was thoroughly convinced that this country was in a period analogous to the 1850s, a period of decisive challenge to a doomed ruling class and property system. No dispute existed between De Leon and Debs or Haywood concerning the proximity of revolutionary events in America despite your reviewer's belief that the "great revolutionary labor leaders" Debs and Haywood fought De Leon, the alleged middle class reformist. An important dispute did occur between De Leon and Debs on one side and Haywood and the anarcho-syndicalists on the other about the usefulness of violent rhetoric in organizing a mass class-con-



David Herreshoff right, with George Novack of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party.

munity and "Hope Farm" is an invention of your reviewer. He cannot "thus" show "the close connection between American radicalism and American monopoly capital." In order to show close connections, it is necessary to get the facts straight. American radicalism before the Civil War, in fact, was undergoing polarization as class antagonism developed. The emerging labor radicalism both continued and negated the heritage of the English, French, and American bourgeois revolutions. Your reviewer says nothing about that. For him American radicalism is a bourgeois monolith. Yet he accuses me of avoiding "the question of class and contradiction." It is not I but he who is blind to the contradictoriness of American radicalism. To assert its "close connection with monopoly capital," as he does, is like calling Hegel a precursor of fascism. It is not historical materialist thought; it is formal, one-sided, nondialectical.

Your reviewer's conception of the American labor movement of the period of the First International as being "continuously undermined" by "reformist rebellions of the middle classes" is not novel. He gets it from the John R. Commons school of apologists for the AFL bureaucracy's doctrine of pure-and-simple unionism. Your reviewer here has more in common with Gompers than he does with Marx. In my book, I take the

conscious workers movement. But that was a tactical dispute among revolutionaries. Again your reviewer has failed to get the facts straight. By the way, De Leon and Debs were right in that dispute. And if their advice about avoiding blood-drenched language and appealing to reason had been more widely remembered, many Weatherpeople and Panthers who talked themselves into adventures (with help from provocateurs) might have been saved from committing revolutionary suicide.

Finally, your reviewer charges me with speaking of "America as a country with an aversion (sic) to violence and a place inclined to gradualism." That's not even a half truth. In fact I accept Martin Luther King's description of America as the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. As for gradualism, it is one aspect of social development in America as elsewhere. History produces both the slow accumulation of tensions and transformational revolutionary leaps. Because your mechanistically-minded reviewer fails to grasp this thought, he does violence to my book. Shouldn't you reassign him to some other work, replacing him with a reviewer who is less rude, more loyal, more attentive to books you choose to review?

Fraternally,
David Herreshoff



The questions raised in Professor Herreshoff's letter happen to be very immediate. Because there is now developing a new movement within the American working class under conditions of a deepening economic and political crisis of capitalism, the historic relation of American radicalism to the labor movement is becoming current. A section of the labor bureaucracy, most particularly Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers, as well as Arnold Miller of the United Mine Workers, turns to radical protestism as a way of avoiding its responsibilities in the class struggle to fight it through for its membership against the government.

This can be seen most clearly in the farm workers boycott which avoids a direct fight in the fields and a direct confrontation with the government. Instead, workers are combined with middle class elements to conduct

protest-type marches, etc., whose real aim is to hope, after the model of Martin Luther King, to put pressure on the government to influence in turn the growers. This is why Chavez's tactics are closely linked with his participation in the capitalist Democratic Party.

Now the Socialist Workers Party, whose publishing house issued Herreshoff's book, has stepped up its activity in relation to this strata of the labor bureaucracy. It uncritically supports all these radical projects, hoping in this way to enter the labor movement through its bureaucracy. It acts openly to push this protestism on to the working class, diverting it from its central task of throwing out the existing leaderships, including the Chavezes and Millers, and constructing a labor party dedicated to socialist policies.

The heart of the difference we have with Herreshoff is over the class character of radicalism. Our position, which is reflec-

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Radicalism And The American Working Class

A Reply To David Herreshoff

by Tim Wohlforth

Eugene V. Debs

ted in the review, is expressed more thoroughly in "Three Lectures on American History" (October 16, 19, 23 Bulletin) and in "Radicalism and the Birth of the American Working Class" by Nancy Fields (Bulletin, December 11, 14, January 1, 4).

We see radicalism as a middle class tendency. It represents the rebellion of sections of the petty bourgeoisie against the tendency inherent in the very nature of capitalism to destroy whole sections of the petty bourgeoisie. It accepts capitalism as a system, seeking change only within the capitalist framework.

Radicalism, of course, has a relationship to the working class. In its early period the American working class's first strivings for class independence were continuously being smothered and circumvented by domination from middle class radicalism. The great significance of the struggle within the American sections of the First International in the early 1870s was that on an

international scale, American radicalism was repudiated and defeated by the early American Marxists with the assistance of Marx himself. Herreshoff chooses not to comment on this aspect of our review of his book.

To speak, as does Herreshoff, of "labor radicalism" is to consciously promote the same kind of confusion as do those centrists and revisionists who speak of "democracy" as a category which includes a proletarian variety and a bourgeois variety. Herreshoff's use of the term "radicalism" is devoid of any class content. He sees it as an empty form which can have a working class or a middle class content much in the way Kautsky approached democracy. This is then covered over with talk of recognizing "contradiction" within radicalism.

It is Herreshoff who denies the class contradiction between the political outlook of the middle class and the political outlook of the working class. The development of

middle class radicalism—there is no other kind—is of course quite contradictory. But this is because it reflects the contradictory position of the middle class in capitalist society and not because there exists two opposite class forces within it.

Clearly, Herreshoff's denial of a distinction between the working class and middle class radicalism is because politically he favors the class subordination of the former to the latter.

This author never attempted to show the "close connection between American radicalism and American monopoly capital." What we did intend to show, as we stated, and Herreshoff misquotes, was "the class connection between American radicalism and American monopoly capital." Emerson certainly does show this.

Contrary to Herreshoff, Emerson was connected with "various utopian schemes" though the mention of "Hope Farm" is clearly a typographical error and the famous Brook Farm is meant. It was Emerson who wrote: "We are all a little wild here with numberless projects of social reform. Not a reading man but has a draft of a new community in his waistcoat pocket."

Not only was Emerson the philosophical mentor of Thoreau in his utopian individualistic retreat to "Walden," but he was a leading light of the Transcendental Club of Boston.

Its members in turn were involved in two utopian projects: The Hopedale Community, which was religious in orientation, and the more famous, highly intellectual, Brook Farm.



"We are all a little wild here," Emerson wrote at Brook Farm, "with numberless projects of social reform. Not a reading man but has a draft of a new community in his waistcoat pocket."

While Emerson did not himself live at Brook Farm for an extended period of time, he did spend time there visiting it frequently and participating in its educational activities. "It was," Emerson wrote approvingly, "a perpetual picnic, a French Revolution in small, an Age of Reason in a patty-pan."

Emerson was without a doubt the most influential and representative thinker of the American middle class of the first half of the nineteenth century. He was first of all and above all an idealist. His transcendentalism was an idealist religious belief of an "Over-Soul" which acted through men and through their activity.

Thus one expressed this "Over-Soul," which was universal, through specific individual labor. He preached, therefore, for each individual to express himself and communicate with God through carrying out his own individual labor:

"All that Adam had, all that Caesar could, you have and can do. Adam called his house heaven and earth; Caesar called his house Rome; you perhaps call yours, a cobbler's trade; a hundred acres of ploughed land; or a scholar's garret. Yet line for line and point for point, your dominion is as great as theirs, though without fine names. Build therefore your own world."

So for Emerson, this means for some to retreat into a hermit's existence living by a pond, for others a communist utopia on a farm, but for still others, amassing great fortunes in a commercial house in Boston.

As Coppleston says: "It is not unreasonable to see in Emerson's moral doctrine, the expression of the spirit of a young, vigorous, developing, and competitive society."

We go into this matter of Emerson at some length because in the original review, the absurd views of Herreshoff on the matter were not fully answered. The first chapter of the book is entitled "Marx and the Transcendentalists." Herreshoff writes:

"The socialist and individualist movements of the nineteenth century had common intellectual origins and grew with more or less vigor in Europe and America: a Marx in that century could only have been seminal in Europe and an Emerson in America. The palpable contrast between Marxian socialism and Emersonian individualism, however, conceals the cognate character of the two schools. The writings of Emerson and of other transcendentalists, such as Thoreau and Brownson, are freighted with elements of an American Marxism."

This "freight" which Herreshoff finds as the "cognate" connection between Emerson and Marx is nothing more than Emerson's petty bourgeois criticisms of the big capitalists of his day. But Emerson all the while contributed more than any other single thinker of his day to the development of American capitalism through his encouragement of the virtues of hard work and individualism.

Herreshoff seeks to merge Marxism itself with bourgeois radical thought. While, of course, Marx himself began as a bourgeois radical thinker, he decisively broke with this to become a Marxist. It is this actual contradiction which Herreshoff seeks to transform into nothing more than quantitative differences. His first chapter is de-

voted to weighing the quantity of similarity and dissimilarity between Marx and Emerson.

This helps us understand what he means by the following:

"The emerging labor radicalism both continued and negated the heritage of the English, French, and American bourgeois revolutions." (my emphasis, TW.)

This is actually George Novack's (the philosophical spokesman of the Socialist Workers Party) view of contradiction as containing elements of continuity which somehow survive the process of negation linking the past to the present. What Herreshoff denies is that continuity with the past is established precisely through negation. The American working class emerges as a conscious class only to the extent that it breaks with the political program, the political parties, the theoretical outlook and method of the bourgeoisie. It is precisely in this break that the continuity is established with previous revolutionary struggle under the bourgeoisie.

Herreshoff claims that we counterpose "reformist rebellions of the middle classes" to Gompers's pure and simple unionism, supporting the latter. We consider the two tendencies to be quite complementary. Both are rooted in the pragmatic thinking of the capitalist class and both oppose the independent political development of the working class. Herreshoff wishes to "transcend" pure and simple unionism with middle class radicalism of the "Black and women's liberation movements." Here, he repeats the positions of Victoria Woodhull, who led a middle class radical group which was defeated in the First International with the help of Marx and Engels.

TO BE CONTINUED



Radicalism And The American Working Class

A Reply To
David Herreshoff

by Tim Wohlforth

Eugene V. Debs

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editor's notebook

Remember Mr. Nixon?

On May 19, 1971 when the House Judiciary Committee was considering impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, President Nixon wrote the committee as follows:

"The power of impeachment is, of course, solely entrusted by the Constitution to the House of Representatives. However, the executive branch is clearly obligated both by precedent and by the necessity of the House of Representatives having all the facts before reaching its decision, to supply relevant information to the legislative branch, as it does in aid of other inquiries being conducted by committees of the Congress, to the extent compatible with the public interest."

On the basis of this letter, President Nixon issued instructions to provide the investigators with hundreds of documents including FBI and CIA reports to assist in the witch-hunt of the liberal jurist.

One would think that the president's statements and subsequent actions in this case made his position "perfectly clear."

But now that that the shoe is on the other foot and the president has vowed to "fight like hell" to beat back impeachment moves, it is reported that he has his legal staff burning the midnight oil to prove that his letter on the Douglas case applies only to judges and not to presidents.

Warfare Indeed

A British economist who now teaches at the University of Dallas in Texas has just published a book that should make the best seller list on sales to corporate executives alone.

The book, *The Strike Threat System*, by W. H. Hutt has concluded that the strike is "a type of warfare" against the social order and should be outlawed as a form of conspiracy against the public interest.

Mr. Hutt indicts the unions for insisting on high rates of pay and "standard" wages that apply not only to companies, but to entire industries and regions. He also attacks union insistence on minimum wages for making it impossible for poor and unskilled workers to find employment at even lower ages.

Mr. Hutt is all for reforms such as outlawing compulsory union membership, but anticipates no major benefits until the strike itself is banned.

The Dallas professor proposes a return to old British common law in which workers could sell their labor for any price they saw fit, but could be prosecuted if they organized with other workers to stop work.

As a start, Professor Hutt would repeal the Clayton Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, and the Wagner Act which gave the unions a legal charter in the US.

They would be replaced with an Emancipation of Labor Bill ensuring the "right of every person to accept any lawful employment" on terms that "will enable him to better his condition or prospects."

At \$11.95 a copy it is clear that Mr. Hutt does not expect to win the working class to his proposals, but *Fortune* magazine saw fit to give him a generous two page review concluding: "Anyone who reads the book will never be quite the same again."

End Of A Career

Things are really bleak for the bright young men who have had their brilliant careers in the Nixon administration dashed to pieces.

One of these rats joining the ranks of the unemployed is Edward Morgan, who was deputy counsel for the President in 1969. Morgan was the man who signed the deed which enabled Nixon to get a tax deduction of \$576,000 for donating his presidential "papers."

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Morgan gave us a peek at the deepening gloom inside the White House:

"This is a war and I hate wars. Month after month, it drags on, getting murkier and murkier..."

"The tanks are coming. They're coming down Pennsylvania Avenue and into the Oval Office. If you think 1973 was bad, wait until Christmas 1974 rolls around."

"Don't get me wrong. We had good times at the White House and there was a feeling we were accomplishing something. But that's evaporated over there. Morale at the White House is zero. No one knows who's doing what or who's reporting to whom."

Morgan also complains that he has no money because he spent most of his over \$40,000 yearly salary he made but things aren't so bad. "Maybe I'll go to Bermuda and sit on the beach and think this whole thing through."

There's just one thing that worries Morgan: "Who's going to hire a Nixon aide? That's the question everyone is asking."

In The Poorhouse

Former Vice-President Agnew is a man with a lot of unpaid bills. The former "law and order" man recently appeared before a hearing to plead that his license to practice law not be revoked as he has no other way of earning a living.

But he is still trying. The *Washington Post* reported on Thursday that Agnew met with the representative of an unnamed publisher with an outline, one chapter, and notes for a novel.

According to the *Post* story, the book is about a Vice-President "programmed for disaster by the Chinese Communists."

The publishing house turned down the book, claiming that the rejection was based "on its merits."

Perhaps Mr. Agnew should go back to the drawing board and try another book about a Vice-President who is programmed for disaster by a group of sinister construction contractors. At the sight of money, the poor man is seized by an irresistible urge to award them fat contracts.



Teachers and students at funeral of murdered Principal Rudolph Jezek.

Teachers Blast Board

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE

CHICAGO—In an exclusive interview, a member of the Chicago Teachers Union House of Representatives revealed the conditions which led to last week's murder of an elementary school principal by a 14-year-old boy.

Steven Guy now faces possible trial as an adult for shooting Clara Barton School principal Rudolph Jezek and wounding three others after he was transferred from the school to the Mosely Social Adjustment Center.

At a stormy CTU House meeting the next day, the Barton faculty fought for new action to force the school board to act on the overcrowding at Barton.

The grade school, on the Southwest side of Chicago, now has over 600 more than its capacity of 1200 students. Gym classes are held in the hallways, because three separate classes run all day in the gym.

For three years, grievances have been under negotiation about conditions at Barton, while the school board has been negotiating to buy the building vacated by the nearby church. Last fall, Barton teachers demanded authorization to strike and CTU President Healey said it would be considered if the school was not made available by the January 1 contract deadline.

STALL

The school board has continued to stall, in order to avoid hiring extra teachers this year.

In a statement to the Board of Education, after the shootings, the faculty and staff at Barton said:

"At a meeting at our school in October, one teacher asked if the roof had to cave in before the Board did anything... We know that the horrible conditions at Barton caused by overcrowding have brought greatly increased tension to every child and adult here. These conditions we squarely blame on the Chicago Board of Education."

A student at Gage Park High School reported that the reactionary backers of white youth gangs are attempting to break

apart a "peace treaty" negotiated at the start of the school year. This student is continually harassed by school officials and cops who patrol the school area, because he fought to establish the treaty and to support the right of teachers and students during last year's boycott at the school.

"Most days, I can get only half-way to the bus stop and the cops have picked me up."

SHOVE

"They shove me in the car and drive me somewhere like Cicero and try to get me to tell them what is going on. I cannot talk to anyone in school, not more than a few minutes, without them asking me for my ID."

"Someone is listening to everything I say, in the halls, in all my classes."

The school board brings cops into the schools to keep "order," while they continue the budget cuts and understaffing that cause the problems. When the youth try to fight back, they are put on probation and tailed every time they turn around, or sent to special schools like Mosely where they are told the problem is that they have the wrong "attitude."

The reactionary campaigns on the Southwest Side have been organized and led by Father Francis Lawler, who is Alderman for the district and has the

full support of city officials.

Behind all these attacks lie the real estate interests, who reap huge profits out of the sale and resale of the area's homes. Hysterical law and order campaigns, block-busting and phoney building code inspections are all used to force families out of homes they have spent a lifetime working for.

POLITICAL

As one teacher put it: "This is the way Nixon has put us. It sure is political."

"If the family is not qualified for good employment, you are at the mercy of the city."

"If you live in a project, or welfare pays your rent, they can put you on the street for trying to fight back."

"They are making the rich man richer and the poor man poorer—and the one in the middle gets squeezed to death."

"People have to live. You have to stay warm. You have to eat."

"It is not just Nixon himself, it is the power that has been given to him now."

The Young Socialists on the Southwest Side have already begun to take the campaign against unemployment into every section of the area, fighting to unite all youth and workers to defend their rights and fighting for the unions to mobilize their strength against the racist campaign.

U Of Minnesota Puts YS On Probation

MINNEAPOLIS—The University of Minnesota administration has ruled that the Young Socialists are guilty of charges that it "did exclude verbally and physically, Mr. S. D. Lipshitz, a University student, from attendance at an open meeting on November 1, 1973, in Coffman Union."

The Committee on Student Behavior put the YS on probation through the spring quarter and stated that the YS would be expelled if it did not respect the restrictions placed on its functions on campus.

The Young Socialists had excluded Lipshitz from a meeting called to defend the Arab revolution and jointly sponsored by the YS and the Arab-American Club.

Lipshitz, a South African Zionist, is a known provocateur who has repeatedly disrupted YS, Young Socialist Alliance, and Arab meetings.

The Young Socialists produced nine witnesses, including students, members of the YSA, and members of the Arab-American Club, who testified that Lipshitz attempted to disrupt the November 1 meeting and had disrupted other meetings before.

All their testimony was ruled out of order on the grounds that Lipshitz has the right to attend "open meetings" no matter what his motives or intentions.

The probation restricts the rights of the YS to use campus facilities. Each meeting held on the campus must have its format scrutinized and approved beforehand by university authorities.

midwest news

GM Slashes 900 Jobs In Cleveland

BY PERRY IVERSON
CLEVELAND, Ohio—General Motors announced Friday the permanent layoffs of 900 Cleveland area workers.

According to the same spokesman, this is over and above the 75,000 nationally who will be laid off for temporary periods.

At the Fisher Body plant in Euclid, the work force is being reduced to 900 in preparation for a complete shutdown. According to Kenneth Worwood, Secretary of UAW Local 1045, "All the stuff we make here is for the Cadillac, and they could do this work in Michigan."

At the Fisher Body plant in Elyria, 311 workers will be laid off Monday. This brings the total to 654 laid off there in January alone.

But the hardest hit is the Fisher Body plant on Coit Road. Monday 540 workers will be laid off, in addition to 563 laid off two weeks ago.

According to one angry worker, "They're just getting ready to close the whole damn plant down, but they don't dare say it. They didn't even bother to give us a warning; nothing. They just sprang this on us in the last minute. It's Nixon who's behind it and we all know it. We ought to go down and hang him."

UAW Local 45 President Edward Takaes reported to the Bulletin: "I think the American people have something to say about the decisions that are made in this country, and they're not going to put up with a handful of people running everything."

He had no comment about what he and the Executive Board of UAW Local 45 was going to do about the layoffs.

72 Jailed At Builders Picket

MADISON HEIGHTS, Michigan—Seventy-two construction workers, members of the Building Trades Union (AFL-CIO), and their supporters, were jailed on January 25 in one of the largest mass arrests in the city's history.

The men were arrested as they picketed a dinner-dance

sponsored by the Metropolitan Detroit chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

Some 300 to 400 union members had massed to protest what they termed ABC's refusal to hire union workers. Some 130 police officers from departments throughout south and central Oakland County were at the scene, wearing helmets and carrying truncheons.

Shortly after 7 pm, police gave pickets five minutes to clear out. Pickets formed circles to allow cars to get by. By 7:10 pm, police moved in and started arresting pickets. As workers went to jail, the dinner continued with a speech by Republican Robert Huber of Troy.

County Commissioner Bernard Lennon, a Democrat from Ferndale, a union electrician, accused ABC of "trying to ruin something we've worked 40 years to build up."

St. Louis Wildcat Hits Suspensions

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 24—In a show of solidarity with four suspended workers, 100 city workers have been on a wildcat strike for three days.

The four workers were suspended for what the city called "excessive absenteeism."

The leadership of Teamsters Local 610 has refused to support the city street workers and has asked them to go back to work.

The city has sent telegrams to all workers on strike threatening them with disciplinary action unless they return to work.

St. Louis is presently trying to reduce the number of workers on



Minneapolis youth shows support for YS Regional Conference held this past weekend.

Unions Rally At Pittsburgh U

BY HAL STANTON
PITTSBURGH—Striking maintenance workers at the University of Pittsburgh have been hit with a preliminary injunction which forbids the strikers from interfering with people entering campus buildings and limits picketing to two pickets at any one entrance.

The injunction was issued by Common Pleas Court Judge Warren Watson on Monday, January 21.

Only days earlier, on January 20, the judge had toured the campus in an attempt by the university to issue an injunction ordering the strikers back to work.

After his tour, the judge had decided that there was not enough "hazard" caused by the strike to warrant the back to work order.

The strike received tremendous support from the rest of the labor movement in Pittsburgh. Food service workers and operating engineers crossed the picket lines only after injunctions were issued forcing them to return to their jobs.

Most students support the

strike despite attempts by the administration to blame an upcoming increase in room and board costs on the wage demands of the union.

A strike support committee has been formed by students at the university and a rally was held on campus on January 24 in support of the strikers.

MAINTENANCE

Ralph Terry, the secretary-treasurer of Local 29, Service Employees International Union representing the maintenance workers, told the crowd of students:

"The university is going through the courts, trying to win the strike in the courts. My people are militant. They will be out here come hell or high water.

"Your officers are out here with you, we are going to jail if we have to."

Representatives of the United Farm Workers, the Pennsylvania office of the National Education Association, and the Pittsburgh Professionals Union (AFT) spoke at the rally in support of the strikers.

Lou Antal, president of District 5 of the United Mine Workers, and John De Fazio, president of the United Steel Workers local which represents the workers at the Hazelwood part of J&L Pittsburgh plant, sent telegrams supporting the strikers. De Fazio's telegram said in part:

"It is impossible for working people to exist with the wages and benefits offered by the University of Pittsburgh.

"Both the United Steel Workers and Local 29 have a common problem. Our employers will not bargain in good faith."

According to Local 29 Business Agent Kelly Boyd: "The administration is using union-busting tactics to avoid paying a living wage.

"They are using students to scab, resorting to technicalities in the law, and refuse to bargain in good faith."

Boyd told the union: "Nixon should be impeached and the Republicans should not be in charge again for the next 50 years.

"Labor should consider forming a party of its own."

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Drivers Reject Markets Offer

DETROIT—Teamsters Local 337, Warehousemen and Truck Drivers, has rejected a modified contract with the Rigley, Kroger and Farmer Jack supermarkets.

The same contract was accepted at Great Scott and Chatham supermarkets but the employers insist that the contract must be approved by the majority in all the chains.

The entire strategy of the formation of industry chains has been aimed at breaking the union.

Pickets are still up at Chatham where the employers are driving trucks themselves to resupply the store.

The conflict centers around management policies of replacement of absentees, split work week schedules, rearrangement of driver routes, probationary periods and pay rates for new employees.

The final management proposal on new employees was that they would be hired at 50 cents an hour below union rate for 30 days and at 25 cents an hour for the next 30 days. New employees will become members after 30 days.

TV Trial By Fire

by Brian Fleet

"Lincoln: Trial By Fire," a one hour feature on NBC last Sunday, was an excellent study of the development of the Civil War from the standpoint of the internal conflict raging within the country over the question of how to win the war.

Director Ed Spiegel focuses the film around the questions Lincoln had to face: was slavery as a system to be totally destroyed or was it just to be

the Washington Army.

McClellan was by no means a man intent on destroying slavery in the South. Instead, he sought to play cat and mouse with the Confederate Army.

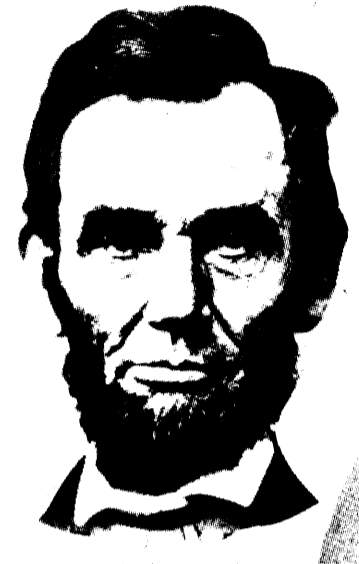
What must have obviously come as a surprise to McClellan and Lincoln was the tremendous seriousness with which the Confederate Army took the war. In the first battle at Manassas, the South inflicted tremendous losses upon the Union army, who treated the engagement like some sort of sporting event; as an army not yet aware of what was necessary.

McClellan thought that the South would change its mind and come to a policy of compromise. This was not the case.

In March of 1863 at Sharpsburg, Virginia, perhaps the most important battle of the Civil War took place: twenty-two thousand soldiers lost their lives in one day.

The Union had to now have a clear policy of defending itself and defeating the Confederates, otherwise, support would dwindle rapidly for Lincoln from both Europe and the North. Slavery had to be destroyed.

Shortly after the Sharpsburg battle, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which served to rally important political support from the working classes of both Europe and America. McClellan was



Abraham Lincoln

stopped from advancing in the West beyond Missouri?

From all indications, Lincoln was at first in favor of a policy of pressuring the Southern slave-owners into accepting a deal



McClellan surrendering his command of the Union Army.

which would limit the expansion of slavery. He was for the emancipation of slaves "not controlled" by the already existing boundaries; in other words, for the preservation of slavery in the South.

Lincoln's first big decision was to place General McClellan, a young outspoken military man who supported slavery but saw the need for a Union, in charge of

recalled and replaced with men who would carry out the task of defeating slavery. Lincoln carried out these tasks; faced up to historical necessity, and recruited the forces to do it, although Lincoln postponed this decision to wipe out slavery until the last possible moment—1863.

Spiegel's production brings out this conflict, with excellent battle scenes and acting.



San Francisco will leave 150 families homeless with demolition of part of Hunters Point projects. See page 11.

NLRB Ruling Backs Labor Bureaucrats

BY DENNIS BREHM

LOS ANGELES—The National Labor Relations Board has just ruled that employees of unions or companies can be fired if they oppose the reelection of incumbent officers.

This puts the NLRB clearly in the position of defending the present leadership of the unions, which has helped Nixon each step of the way in his attacks against the labor movement.

The precedent setting decision is a result of the case involving Local 770 of the retail clerks union of LA. Six office secretaries were fired from their jobs with Local 770 because they opposed the reelection of Joseph De Silva as president in 1971. De Silva claimed he had a right to fire his political enemies.

The NLRB upholds De Silva's contention by stating, "An employee of a union like any other employee has no protected right to engage in activities designed solely for the purpose of influencing or producing changes in the

management hierarchy."

De Silva's opponent in the 1971 election was Sam Matelson, who said the ruling "means that people who work for unions and apparently even corporations have lost their rights of free speech."

The NLRB's ruling from Washington overturned an earlier decision by Judge James Webster which had ordered the

six women to be reinstated with all back pay plus 6 percent interest. The new ruling means that the six will not receive the more than \$10,000 they would have earned over the one and one-half years they were out of the job.

The NLRB is clearly doing the bidding for the large corporations to try to squash any opposition to the labor bureaucracy from developing.

Magee Accuses Judge

BY ALLEN SALTER

SAN JOSE—Ruchell Magee was thrown out of his pretrial hearing on Thursday, January 24, after calling Superior Court Judge William A. Ingram a racist.

Magee was demanding that he be allowed to defend himself and that Judge Ingram be disqualified from the trial when the judge had him removed to the adjacent holding cell.

Magee charged Judge Ingram with allowing his rights to be "driven over," and called the

judge a racist after Ingram refused to accept a written affidavit by Magee in support of his motion to dismiss him.

Because of a recent law passed by the California State Legislature restoring the death penalty and making it mandatory for certain crimes, Magee now faces an automatic death sentence if convicted of kidnapping a guard.

Magee is being retried for kidnapping and conspiracy charges. A jury trial last year on these charges ended in a hung jury. The charges are a result of Magee's part in the August, 1970 courthouse escape attempt in which Jonathan Jackson, two prisoners and a judge were killed by police.

50 Jobs Slashed In BART Crisis

BY MARTY MORAN

SAN FRANCISCO—The Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART) announced today that it would have to go out of business within a year unless it received \$13 million in federal operating subsidies.

The system's operating deficit will be pushed by inflation to over \$30 million by 1977 to 1978. The board of directors stated, "It is not practicable and clearly not desirable" to raise fares sufficiently to cover all BART costs.

This does not include interest charges and repayment on hundreds of millions of dollars worth of bonds issued to build BART. These are paid through crippling sales taxes in three Bay Area counties.

It is possible that the financial crisis will close BART down even before it is completed. The billion dollar electric train system only began limited operations a year and a half ago. The Trans-Bay Tube connecting Oakland and San Francisco is still not open because of technical problems. Last week the BART

board indicated that the September 1974 target for opening might not be met.

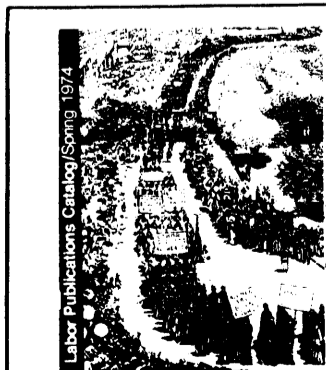
The directors are now turning to policies of cost-cutting which will result in mass layoffs. Already BART President B.R. Stokes has won approval of plans to lay off 50 workers and pull back from plans to create 65 new jobs. Several directors are pushing for much tougher action to cut the 2100-man work force.

SCREENED

Magee's trial itself is being held with virtual police state measures in effect. Anyone seeking to attend the trial is first being individually screened by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department.

The trial itself is now scheduled to begin on March 14.

The trade union movement must launch a massive campaign to demand that Ruchell Magee be freed.



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Workers on the day shift at the Fremont GM plant also face layoffs.

Additional Layoffs Hit GM Fremont

BY A BULLETIN REPORTER

FREMONT—The General Motors Assembly Division plant in Fremont is one of the plants scheduled to close down for one week on February 4.

Within the next two months, 15 other plants are scheduled for one-week shutdowns.

These shutdowns raise the immediate threat of thousands more permanent layoffs by GM and the other auto giants. Auto sales are now down by 30 percent over last year.

A Fremont worker told the Bulletin that only a small percentage of the cars coming off the line are marked for sale to the public. The rest are being put into storage.

Within the Fremont plant, there has been increased harass-

ment and speedup. Management is backing up this drive with the threat that the entire second shift may be permanently cut.

Shop Chairman Earlie Mays issued a leaflet calling for Local 1364 members to attend the Sunday membership meeting to discuss the layoffs.

The leaflet put forward no fight against GM to stop the layoffs and rehire those already fired.

NEGOTIATING

Instead, he suggested negotiating with GM on ways of spreading out the layoffs among all auto workers, for example, an across the board layoff one week out of every four for all auto workers.

CONTRACT

Mays has no criticism of Woodcock or of the recent contract which paved the way for these layoffs.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party is fighting for national strike action to reopen the contract around the following demands:

- No layoffs. Rehire all those laid off. 30 for 40. No speedup. Reopen the wages fight—\$1 first year raise.

- Nationalization of the auto industry under workers control.

These demands can only be won through a political fight to force Nixon out and build a labor party.

Local 1364 must give its support to the statewide Young Socialist march against unemployment which will call on the AFL-CIO and all unions to take up this fight.

191 Houses Axed At Hunters Point

BY ANN LORE

SAN FRANCISCO—An agreement has been signed between the San Francisco Housing Authority and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for tearing down 191 units of public housing in Hunters Point.

For months HUD has been demanding the demolition before it would consider financing new low to moderate income projects.

Now the agreement provides that actual demolition will not begin until the housing authority has money in hand for replacements.

Although this "peace treaty" has been concluded between the city and federal agencies, there is no agreement from the residents of Oakdale Ave who will be forced out.

There is still no guarantee that alternate housing will be provided and the rent in the new housing will be far above what the residents are paying now.

FRAUD

The fraud and arrogance of the housing authority's assurances to the people in Hunters Point came out at a community meeting Wednesday night to get "input" from the residents on what services are needed in public transit, street cleaning, police, recreation, and road control.

From the beginning of the meeting, housing authority representatives ruled out any discussion on the demolition or on the housing authority's upkeep of the projects.

The array of city officials offered their initial proposals to presumably bring Hunters Point up to the level of the rest of the city. These included one new bus line, a "crime prevention" program and two new men hired by Mayor Alioto to "listen" to the complaints of residents.

As soon as questions were allowed, everyone attacked the lack of services. In response, the tenants were told it was their own fault.

"Even if we cleaned them everyday," one official said, "we can't follow everyone around with a broom and dustbin. Litter is placed there by people."

OPERATING

The streets are cleaned between once and twice a month "if the machinery is operating."

In reply to complaints about bus service and police: "Do you call us when that happens? People in other communities do, then we can look into it."

One woman yelled out: "Yes, we call, and as soon as we say Hunters Point, they hang up."

It was clear at the meeting that the city is not even considering improvements in the living conditions on the Point.

Whether or not the new housing goes up is a long way in

the future. But the one thing which has been settled is that 191 units will go down and over 150 families will be tossed onto the streets.

The Young Socialists will be holding its first local march against unemployment through Hunters Point on February 2.

Everyone is urged to join the march to rally the working class to force Nixon out and build a labor party to fight for decent housing.

Nazis Hit City College With Racist Propaganda

BY BARRY GREY

SAN FRANCISCO—Last week, students in the printing department at San Francisco City College found recruitment leaflets from the American Nazi Party, the National Socialist White Peoples Party, in their wall lockers.

The leaflets have the full program of the Nazis on one side and on the other, propaganda blaming the Jews for the oil crisis.

Under the heading "A White America," the leaflet reads: "We must have an America without swarming Black filth in our streets and schools, on our buses, and in our places of work."

These leaflets appear right after the Nazis were given police protection when they attended a Board of Education Meeting in full uniform. The leadership of the teachers union defended their "right" to be present.

Don, a student who recently joined the Young Socialists, said: "It's different from going to the board of education and finding Nazis there."

"When they come out to cram leaflets in our locker, it's a lot closer."

RELEVANT

"It makes it a very relevant issue at City. This shows why we have to build a YS chapter out there."

"Until now, it seemed abstract. But when you find a Nazi leaflet in your locker, it brings the whole thing a lot closer."

"What bothers me, they are going to start recruiting gangs. I wouldn't be surprised to see

them beating up people out there. It indicates the system is becoming unglued."

"It's about time to start acting, to start doing something. As for freedom of speech, in Nazi Germany, Hitler had freedom of speech, but others found it stifling."

"It just means freedom of speech for the Nazis."

RESOLUTION

The Young Socialists at City College will take forward the resolution passed at the Bay Area Regional YS Conference on January 19 condemning the presence of Nazis at the Board of Education meeting and calling

New Loans Won't Save Lockheed

BURBANK—Lockheed Aircraft Corporation has been forced to borrow another \$20 million from the association of 24 banks which has been financing the aerospace giant for several years.

This raises Lockheed's current debt to \$620 million. The limit agreed upon in 1971 between Lockheed, the banks, and the government is \$650 million.

Lockheed as supposed to have cut its debt to below \$600 million, but the slump in the airline industry has removed the market for Lockheed's L-1011 Tri-star commercial jets.

This latest loan is an open admission that Lockheed is in serious danger of going bankrupt within the next several months.

JUST OUT!

AN INTRODUCTION TO MARXIST PHILOSOPHY

by Peter Jeffries

Excellent introduction for systematic study of dialectical materialism, this pamphlet goes into historical materialism and idealism. .50

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

lucha obrera

lucia rivera

Por Un Nuevo Liderato En 1199

El contrato de los trabajadores de hospitales expira el día treinta de junio del presente año. La lucha por este contrato presentará cuestiones fundamentales a los trabajadores de hospitales, como así también al movimiento obrero del país.

La unión de hospitales, Local 1199 es la unión que agrupa a más trabajadores de hospitales en el país, con una membresía de cerca de 76,000 mil, representando esto solo un ocho por ciento de todos los trabajadores de hospitales en el país.

Esta unión fue organizada bajo el liderato de León Davis en los años treinta, pero no fue sino hasta mediados de los años cincuenta que se expandió, agrupando a otros sectores de trabajadores de hospitales, fuera de los trabajadores farmacéuticos.



Huelgas militantes de miles de trabajadores de hospitales, sacudieron la ciudad de Nueva York, en lucha por el reconocimiento de la unión. Los bajos salarios; de treinta a cincuenta

dólares de paga por 48 horas de trabajo bajo las condiciones peores de trabajo, la falta de seguridad de trabajo, así como la carencia de beneficios, lanzaron a estos trabajadores en lucha abierta en contra de los hospitales, enfrentándose los huelguistas a los ataques diarios de la policía.

Como contestación a la Fase Uno de Nixon, más de 25,000 trabajadores marcharon hasta City Hall en octubre del 1971, perdiendo la mitad de un día de paga, para hacerle ver claro al gobierno que ellos no iban a aceptar ningún ataque en sus salarios.

El liderato que fue forzado a llamar esta manifestación, trato de inmediato de prevenir cualquiera confrontación con el gobierno, al expirar el contrato en junio del 1972.

León Davis, presidente de la unión, presentó que ésta era una lucha en contra de los hospitales y no en contra del gobierno. La fortaleza presentada por los miembros de la unión y su determinación de luchar por sus derechos, fue desviada por Davis en una campaña de escribir cartas al Consejo del Costo de Vida.

Davis luchará hasta el punto en que sus relaciones con el Partido Demócrata no sean afectadas. Porque acepta que los capitalistas mantengan y aumenten sus ganancias, él maniobra dentro de los límites que el gobierno ha impuesto a los sindicatos.

Esta es la posición de la burocracia sindical, la cual no comienza con las necesidades básicas de la clase obrera, y capitula día tras día frente al gobierno y a los capitalistas. Fue esta la traición que Davis llevó a cabo en la última huelga en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Luego de una espera de diez meses por la primera parte del contrato, 1972-73, los trabajadores no estaban dispuestos a esperar meses por la segunda parte del mismo, en especial con el alto costo de vida en la ciudad. En noviembre del año pasado los trabajadores de hospitales se lanzaron a la huelga con la plena convicción de lograr una victoria.

La huelga fue declarada luego de cinco meses de espera por un aumento de 7.5 por ciento. Esta huelga ha sido la más poderosa que hasta el presente los obreros hayan participado. Pero la militancia de los obreros sola, no es suficiente para ganar las demandas de los trabajadores. Los trabajadores tienen que prepararse políticamente en contra de los ataques del gobierno y para tomar el poder.

Durante la huelga, los huelguistas se enfrentaron diariamente a interdictos, arrestos masivos y ataques físicos por parte de la policía. Davis regusó pedir el apoyo del movimiento laboral para que salieran en defensa del derecho de huelga de los trabajadores de hospitales.

Davis aceptó un seis por ciento de aumento traicionando así la huelga de semana y media. Fue la fortaleza presentada por los trabajadores lo que hizo que Davis tratara desde el primer día de finalizar la huelga. Tratando así de evitar una confrontación con el gobierno, hecho que día tras día le era más evidente a los huelguistas.

De esta lucha los trabajadores de hospitales han de sacar varias lecciones básicas. La lucha por un salario decente, beneficios y seguridad de empleo, tiene que sobrepasar los límites de la militancia sindical, a través de los cuales se organizó la unión años atrás.

Esta lucha debe ser conducida dentro del movimiento obrero, para destruir los controles salariales a través de una Huelga General y defender los derechos básicos.

La unión tiene que hacer un llamado para un Congreso de Trabajadores, para construir un partido obrero, con un programa de demandas socialistas en oposición a los demócratas, quienes han apoyado a Nixon y sus medidas en contra de las uniones.

Este es el programa que los miembros de la Alianza Sindical por un Partido Obrero (TUALP) llevan dentro de la Local 1199, para las próximas elecciones de la unión en abril. Todo miembro de la 1199 debe unirse a esta lucha por un contrato decente y para destruir todas las medidas del gobierno.



Unemployment lines in Britain increasing daily.

Heath Fears Miners Will Spark General Strike

BY A
CORRESPONDENT
On Wednesday, 280,000 British miners will begin balloting to empower their leadership to call a national coal strike by February 11.

The decision of the National Union of Miners Executive Committee to recommend a strike by a vote of 16 to 10 is the most fundamental challenge to the Heath government since the miners began their overtime ban 10 weeks ago.

The miners' leadership, strongly supported by the Stalinists, has used the overtime ban to head off a growing national strike movement claiming that the ban was an effective means of pressure on the Tories.

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

lucha obrera

lucia rivera

Por Un Nuevo Liderato En 1199

El contrato de los trabajadores de hospitales expira el día treinta de junio del presente año. La lucha por este contrato presentará cuestiones fundamentales a los trabajadores de hospitales, como así también al movimiento obrero del país.

La unión de hospitales, Local 1199 es la unión que agrupa a más trabajadores de hospitales en el país, con una membresía de cerca de 76,000 mil, representando esto solo un ocho por ciento de todos los trabajadores de hospitales en el país.

Esta unión fue organizada bajo el liderato de León Davis en los años treinta, pero no fue sino hasta mediados de los años



cincuentas que se expandió, agrupando a otros sectores de trabajadores de hospitales, fuera de los trabajadores farmacéuticos.

Huelgas militantes de miles de trabajadores de hospitales, sacudieron la ciudad de Nueva York, en lucha por el reconocimiento de la unión. Los bajos salarios; de treinta a cincuenta

dólares de paga por 48 horas de trabajo bajo las condiciones peores de trabajo, la falta de seguridad de trabajo, así como la carencia de beneficios, lanzaron a estos trabajadores en lucha abierta en contra de los hospitales, enfrentándose los huelguistas a los ataques diarios de la policía.

Como contestación a la Fase Uno de Nixon, más de 25,000 trabajadores marcharon hasta City Hall en octubre del 1971, perdiendo la mitad de un día de paga, para hacerle ver claro al gobierno que ellos no iban a aceptar ningún ataque en sus salarios.

El liderato que fue forzado a llamar esta manifestación, trato de inmediato de prevenir cualquiera confrontación con el gobierno, al expirar el contrato en junio del 1972.

León Davis, presidente de la unión, presentó que ésta era una lucha en contra de los hospitales y no en contra del gobierno. La fortaleza presentada por los miembros de la unión y su determinación de luchar por sus derechos, fue desviada por Davis en una campaña de escribir cartas al Consejo del Costo de Vida.

Davis luchará hasta el punto en que sus relaciones con el Partido Demócrata no sean afectadas. Porque acepta que los capitalistas mantengan y aumenten sus ganancias, él maniobra dentro de los límites que el gobierno ha impuesto a los sindicatos.

Esta es la posición de la burocracia sindical, la cual no comienza con las necesidades básicas de la clase obrera, y capitula día tras día frente al gobierno y a los capitalistas. Fue esta la traición que Davis llevó a cabo en la última huelga en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Luego de una espera de diez meses por la primera parte del contrato, 1972-73, los trabajadores no estaban dispuestos a esperar meses por la segunda parte del mismo, en especial con el alto costo de vida en la ciudad. En noviembre del año pasado los trabajadores de hospitales se lanzaron a la huelga con la plena convicción de lograr una victoria.

La huelga fue declarada luego de cinco meses de espera por un aumento de 7.5 por ciento. Esta huelga ha sido la más poderosa que hasta el presente los obreros hayan participado. Pero la militancia de los obreros sola, no es suficiente para ganar las demandas de los trabajadores. Los trabajadores tienen que prepararse políticamente en contra de los ataques del gobierno y para tomar el poder.

Durante la huelga, los huelguistas se enfrentaron diariamente a interdictos, arrestos masivos y ataques físicos por parte de la policía. Davis regusó pedir el apoyo del movimiento laboral para que salieran en defensa del derecho de huelga de los trabajadores de hospitales.

Davis aceptó un seis por ciento de aumento traicionando así la huelga de semana y media. Fue la fortaleza presentada por los trabajadores lo que hizo que Davis tratara desde el primer día de finalizar la huelga. Tratando así de evitar una confrontación con el gobierno, hecho que día tras día le era más evidente a los huelguistas.

De esta lucha los trabajadores de hospitales han de sacar varias lecciones básicas. La lucha por un salario decente, beneficios y seguridad de empleo, tiene que sobrepasar los límites de la militancia sindical, a través de los cuales se organizó la unión años atrás.

Esta lucha debe ser conducida dentro del movimiento obrero, para destruir los controles salariales a través de una Huelga General y defender los derechos básicos.

La unión tiene que hacer un llamado para un Congreso de Trabajadores, para construir un partido obrero, con un programa de demandas socialistas en oposición a los demócratas, quienes han apoyado a Nixon y sus medidas en contra de las uniones.

Este es el programa que los miembros de la Alianza Sindical por un Partido Obrero (TUALP) llevan dentro de la Local 1199, para las próximas elecciones de la unión en abril. Todo miembro de la 1199 debe unirse a esta lucha por un contrato decente y para destruir todas las medidas del gobierno.



Unemployment lines in Britain increasing daily.

Heath Fears Miners Will Spark General Strike

BY A CORRESPONDENT

On Wednesday, 280,000 British miners will begin balloting to empower their leadership to call a national coal strike by February 11.

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