

Socialist Worker

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CHINA AND VIETNAM AT WAR

see page 3

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS

JOIN THE FIGHT

It has never been more important to join the fight for women's rights than it is today. The most basic rights are still denied women. These include equal pay, equal work, childcare, the right to a free, safe abortion, freedom from forced sterilization.

Other rights, won in past battles, are being taken away. Affirmative action may well become a thing of the past.

It is particularly important that socialists be involved in the struggle—at every level. Women's liberation is, after all, a precondition for socialism. At the same time, genuine women's liberation is impossible, outside of a total, socialist, transformation of society.

This month there will be meetings and rallies to celebrate International Women's Day in nearly every city. Later, on March 31, there will be pro-abortion marches and demonstrations. Now's the time to get involved. Join the fight for women's rights—and see it through to victory! □



TEAMSTERS FACE CONTRACT BATTLES

see pages 8 & 9

14 YEAR OLD GETS 48 YEARS IN MISSISSIPPI



Robert Earl May Jr.

PARCHMAN, MS—Robert Earl May, Jr., fourteen-years-old, has been sentenced to spend 48 years in the state penitentiary.

He is imprisoned here along with 1,800 felons in one of Mississippi's most overcrowded prisons. He is not eligible for parole.

May, who stands 4 ft. 7 in., and weighs 75 lbs. was convicted of armed robbery in Brookhaven, Mississippi. Ronald Welch, director of the Mississippi Prisoners' Defense Committee, predicted: "He'll never live out his sentence."

Julie Ann Epps, May's Defense Counsel, said, "He's a terrified little boy who really doesn't understand what's going on. He doesn't know what 48 years is." □

Bitter lettuce strike continues



Striking lettuce workers fight troopers

LOS ANGELES, CA—Following the murder of Rufino Contreras, a member of the United Farm Workers (UFW),

by grower's goons, the California lettuce strike has grown increasingly bitter.

Cesar Chavez, the pres-

ident of the UFW, told mourners at Rufino's funeral that he had been a worker at the same ranch for 20 years, but when he asked for a decent share of the profits he helped produce, he was met with a bullet.

If Rufino were alive today, Chavez told the mourners, he would tell us, "Don't cry, don't be afraid, don't be discouraged. Organize yourselves."

PICKETS

The farm workers have done exactly that, and picketing has been stepped up despite a court injunction limiting the number of pickets to a field to 100.

Now the strike is shifting to the North as the lettuce crop shifts. The Salinas Valley is the next target of the strikers.

There will be additional obstacles for the strikers in the North, however. Most of the Imperial Valley workers lived nearby the fields they worked. In Salinas, the workers are dependent on the growers' housing.

One of the biggest lettuce growers, Sun Harvest, is owned by the United Fruit Company, and Chavez has announced a new boycott—this time against United Fruit's best known product Chiquita bananas.

Support the farm workers. They put the food on your table! □

Forced sterilization: a crime against the poor

by JEAN MAUNDER

Ask a translator in a public hospital or an abortion counselor serving black patients, or Constance Redbird Uri, a Choctaw-Cherokee doctor and activist, or officials in the federal government Office of Population.

They'll tell you that sterilization is the answer to a problem. But why they think so is another matter.

ANSWER

For poor and minority women, sterilization can mean an answer to the fear of unwanted pregnancy in the absence of ideal contraception and free, safe, legal abortion.

In the absence of equal opportunity in employment, pregnancy disability benefits, affordable health care and child care, decent housing and public education—the social conditions necessary for raising a healthy child with the opportunity to realize his or her own potential, sterilization can be seen as an answer.

For the federal government's Office of Population, a division of the Agency for International Development (AID), sterilization means an answer to political, social, and economic problems stemming from class and race inequality which are in its interests to maintain.

According to Dr. R.T. Ravenholt, director of the Office of Population, the U.S. should lead an effort to provide the means for "voluntary" sterilization of a quarter of the world's fertile women.

He has argued that population control is necessary to maintain "the normal operation of U.S. commercial interests around the world. Without our trying to help these countries with their economic and social development, the world will rebel against the strong U.S. commercial presence. The self-interest thing is a compelling element."

Sterilization is seen as a strategy to prevent continued population expansion in the Third World which, combined with intolerable social and economic conditions, might contribute to the development of anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. revolutionary movements.

Sterilization abuse exists in many forms at home and abroad.

It can mean that a woman undergoes the operation without her voluntary or informed consent, or with explanation in other than her native language.

Sterilization has been represented to many women as reversible when, in fact, it is permanent.

Threats have been made on women's welfare and medical benefits if they failed to submit to the surgery. It has been made a condition for abortion, or for employment.

The state has defended its right to define certain groups of individuals, particularly those in institutions for the mentally or physically handicapped or disabled, as incapable of making reproductive choices of their own, and hence undesirable to continue in the population.

Expressing a wide range of functional capacities, and having handicaps not always proven to be inheritable, many of these people are competent to bear and raise children, especially under supportive social conditions.

Most commonly, sterilization abuse is generated from the lack of completely dependable, safe, inobtrusive contraception and of free abortion services on demand.

FORCED

Women of all ages, races, and classes have been forced into sterilization as their final answer to these inadequacies.

But for poor and minority women, withdrawal of Medicaid funding for abortion while

federal funds have continued to assume 90% of the cost of sterilization, has forced the sterilization "choice" sooner and in greater numbers.

More white women and those in the middle and upper classes opt for sterilization in the post-childbearing years.

By comparison, black and Hispanic women are undergoing sterilization more often within their childbearing years, and in a significantly greater proportion relative to their numbers in the overall population.

In New York City's public and voluntary hospitals, twice as many black women and six times as many Hispanic women as white women have been sterilized.

Roughly 20-25% of the

Native American women of childbearing age have been sterilized in the 51 government-sponsored Indian Health Service Hospitals. At its hospital in Claremore, Oklahoma in 1973, one out of every four admissions was for female sterilization.

A documented 35.3% of all women of childbearing age in Puerto Rico have been sterilized—many of them involuntarily.

The fight for free abortion on demand and an end to sterilization abuse is a necessity. But it is only part of a fight for much broader reproductive freedom.

That is a struggle for radically different and better social conditions—for revolutionary socialism. □



The fight for full reproductive freedom

PRO-CHOICE ACTIONS CALLED

The International Coalition for Abortion Rights, based in London, has called for an international day of action on Saturday, March 31, around the demands: "Contraception and Abortion is a Woman's Right," and "No Forced Sterilization."

In the U.S., the March Coalition on Reproductive Rights has called for demonstrations in major American cities. The coalition has added the slogans: "Defeat the Hyde Amendment," and "Restore Medicaid Abortions."

Plans are underway for actions in Boston, Hartford and New York. Pro-choice groups in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Chicago have also called demonstrations.

SCHOOLS: NO CHANGE FOR OPPRESSED

WASHINGTON, DC—Twenty-five years ago the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Today, almost one half of all minority children attend segregated schools. According to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, about 46% of all minority students, about 4.9 million of them attend moderately, or highly segregated schools.

School districts in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, New Castle County, Delaware and East Baton Rouge, La. are accused of "having employed a variety of devices to prevent, obstruct or slow down desegregation," charges the Commission.

HIGHEST

Segregation is highest in the Northeast regions (65%) and North Central regions (68%) than elsewhere.

The Commission placed the blame on the US government for passing legislation to weaken desegregation, as well as refusing to enforce laws to integrate the schools.

There is also "an extremely high rate of non-compliance" with mandates for bilingual education. Yet, says the Commission, such programs are essential for educational equality for Hispanics, Asians, Pacific Island Americans, native Americans and Alaskan Indians. □

Cleveland: People Get Taxes

Mayor Dennis Kucinich has won a victory in Cleveland. On February 27, a small fraction of the city's voters turned out to vote in a 50% increase in city taxes.

Kucinich received help. Congressman Louis Stokes broke with the black leaders of Cleveland's city council and supported Muni Light. Even Ralph Nader came to Cleveland to campaign against selling Muni Light.

OPPOSITION

Kucinich was also helped by widespread popular opposition to Cleveland Illuminating Company (CEI)—which would have gained a virtual monopoly in the metropolitan Cleveland area.

So Kucinich has some time. The banks can hold off a bit longer. But the problems which led to default are all still here however—the new money will not cover Cleveland's debts.

Already Kucinich is drawing up new plans for cutting into the city's workforce and services—and here his plan to save Cleveland differs very little from his opponents. Regressive new taxes—and cutbacks—that is the program for Cleveland, no matter which capitalist party is in City Hall. □

CHINESE INVADE VIETNAM BLOOD TRIBUTE TO THE GODS OF THE SYSTEM

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

The suffering of the people of Vietnam seems endless. For nearly 40 years, they have had war inflicted upon them. Now China has added a further episode of slaughter.

Why had China invaded Vietnam: It serves no military function—the border is only lightly fortified. It cannot influence the war in Cambodia which is, in large scale terms, complete. There is no time for Vietnam to move troops to the north from Cambodia.

Is it an attempt to induce the Russians to attack Xinjiang province in the northwest? The Chinese have obligingly evacuated the border zones to make that possible.

A limited Russian invasion would be helpful in cementing loyalties at home, and confirm American hostilities toward Russia and links with China.

And if the Russians don't invade, Peking can proclaim

it a paper tiger and Vietnam defenceless.

Whatever the reasons, the action are clear cut.

Vietnam 'taught a lesson' to Cambodia. In reply, China has 'taught a lesson' to Vietnam.

To complete this sequence of complementary gangsterism, the Soviet Union must 'teach a lesson' to China; and dent the prestige of the new leadership after Deng's visit to the United States.

PRESTIGE

In Vietnam, from the perspective of Peking and Moscow, it is primarily Russia's prestige which is at stake. Both the Russian and American Pacific fleets are rumored to be steaming towards the South China Sea.

The ungovernable urge to 'teach lessons'—to flash the knife—is a gamble that



Endless suffering?

murder can be perpetrated with impunity. It flows from the logic of an imperialist system that encompasses alike both the so-called 'Peoples' Democracies' and so-called 'democracies'.

The smaller powers, each run by its own clique of comparable gangsters, are used in the prize fight by their respective Godfathers.

And the mass of people are dragooned to cheer, to defend the 'sacred motherland', to gloat at the pain and slaughter of men and women identical to themselves on the other side.

The one thing none of the contenders cares about is people, whether their 'own' or others.

In Canton and Hanoi and Shanghai and Phnom Penh, in villages across the land mass, the pain of death is the same, regardless of which flag flew above.

Widows weep again tonight as they did last night and will for many more nights.

The slaughter of their men, sons and daughters, is for nothing: just the blood tribute to the gods of the system, to make the world safe for the rich and powerful. □

FLASH!



A well placed source in Washington close to Socialist Worker has revealed, exclusively, that the only reason that the President has not

condemned his brother's anti-semitic remarks is that Billy Carter and Bert Lance know too much about the President's dealings with the 1976

campaign funds.

He is desperately trying to avoid upsetting his brother in case he spills the beans. We can but wait and see. □

DENG ON IRAN SOLIDARITY FOREVER

Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping took another peg out from under the myth of Chinese socialism when he told Japanese officials that he believed that the U.S. had failed to be firm in Iran.

MEASURES

"In the United States, we were guests and we were therefore unable to critic-

ize the host," Deng said on his way home from the American trip. "The measures the United States has taken in Iran and in dealing with Cuba are no good. The United States should move responsibly. The Soviet Union will never be impressed by halfway positions," said Deng.

Presumably the Chinese idea of "responsible" foreign

policy is now being demonstrated on the northern borders of Vietnam.

Deng also told the Japanese that he was worried that the revolution in Iran could spread. "If the chaos continues in Iran it will produce a chain reaction in Saudi Arabia," Deng said. "There is a sign that the chain reaction has reached India."

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Students oppose tuition hike

BOSTON, MA—Despite the protest of almost 100 students, the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees voted 20-2 on February 7th to more than double tuition for out-of-state and foreign students here at U. Mass., Boston.

The Committee to Fight the Tuition Hike, formed shortly before the demonstration in front of the Board's conference room on campus, is composed of foreign, out-of-state and in-state students who feel that the increase (from \$1,500 a year to \$3,350 a year) will result in a loss of revenue for the school.

Many of the students can

hardly afford tuition now. The increase will also add to the attrition rate, and lessen the diversity of the student population.

The State Legislature passed the increase a month ago, and sent it to the Board of Trustees for approval. There are other bills now in the legislature which would modify the planned increase, but all of the legislators and Trustees accept, in principle, the hike.

The Committee plans to coordinate with students at Lowell and Amherst to build for a state-wide demonstration at the state house early this

month. Our program is short: No tuition hike for in-state or out-of-state, no extension of the residency requirement, and in-state tuition rate for all students. In only two days 1,200 students at U-Mass Boston signed a petition with these demands. Out of a student body of 7,000, that's not bad!

At a time when prices are going up and wages are standing still, the cost of education becomes crucial. Eventually we want to see a society which provides education as a right, rather than as a luxury. □

by KENT WORCESTER

Southern Africa solidarity actions planned

NEW YORK—Plans are underway for the April 4-11 nationwide week of anti-apartheid demonstration. On February 24 the steering committee of NECLSA (Northeast Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa) met to coordinate actions in the Northeast.

A statewide meeting for students in New York will be held in March. Boston students are planning a citywide demonstration. Plans will be made at

a meeting at U—Mass Boston on March 10. On February 17, the Delaware Valley Southern Africa Support committee met in Philadelphia.

In the midwest a demonstration is being planned to protest banking in South Africa. A rally is planned in downtown Chicago on April 11.

On March 3, Minnesota students will hold a Minnesota Anti-Apartheid Conference at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis campus. □



By Any Means Necessary

BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA

THE BLACK WOMAN

The myth of black matriarchy has permeated every section of American society including the black community.

The capitalist system, in an attempt to develop splits between black men and women, has distorted our history. The reality for black women is that they are at the bottom of the society. They are exploited as workers and oppressed as women and blacks.

HARSH

Historically we as blacks were subjected to the harsh cruelties of the white master. The black man was emasculated, lynched and brutalized, while the black woman has been violated sexually, abused by the racists and has been forced to suffer the worst form of economic exploitation.

The capitalist economic system finds it imperative to subject women to a state of enslavement. Black men are subject to various "dehumanization tactics" initiated by the elite.

They are exploited as workers and oppressed as a minority. Black women remain doubly oppressed, as women and as a racial minority, compounded by the existing exploitation of workers.

Black women are primarily employed by the most exploitative industries in this country. These industries, domestic and hospital, continuously serve to propagate the illusions created by the ruling class, by placing us in stereotyped jobs. These jobs help only to continue the myths created about black women.

This exploitation and oppression is further illustrated by the proportionate amount that black women receive as wages, they are constantly represented at the bottom of every sector.

This systematic exploitation allows jobs specified for

by
KAREN PERRY-LLOYD

women to be the lowest paying, while further placing black women lowest on the list for hiring. The lies told concerning black women faring better in the job market, because they are able to fill two requirements are erroneous. The cases in which this is true are the exceptions rather than the believed rule.

UNIONS

The tradition of conservative union leadership further oppresses black women and men. They have historically been racist and sexist in policy. There has existed no struggle on their behalf to combat the racism of some white workers or the system's economic exploitation of the women workers.

The effects of the system on black women can be seen in a multiplicity of ways. The most striking has been the increased rate of suicide among black women—up 80% in the last 20 years. Among the black youth, it has risen at a shocking rate of 300%.

The racism and sexism of the system has also caused antagonistic feelings within our own community. They have created roles for which we as women and men are to be placed. These false categories represent the master's ideas of manhood and womanhood.

This in turn has been used by the system in the creation of another myth. That one being that black women are responsible for the oppression of the black man. This miseducation serves only as a detriment to all oppressed sectors. In the struggle for liberation it is necessary to involve all the oppressed sectors, to ensure that those institutions which permit racism and sexism are abolished.



The last effect I will mention symbolizes the great dedication we as black women have to the struggle. The fact that we are doubly oppressed and suffer the worst form of exploitation tends to increase our dedication. Beginning with the colonial rule, women have continuously fought the oppressor side by side with their men. Women from Hatsheput to Yaa Asantewa symbolize the bravery and dedication of the women warriors in their attempts to free themselves from colonial domination. In this country, wom-

en such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman were dedicated to the freeing of their people.

Being of the most oppressed sector of the society we must dedicate ourselves to smash the chains of the oppressors. Understanding the operations of capitalism and imperialism it is necessary to accept the realization that this exploitation and double oppression serves only to further the interests of the ruling class. It thus becomes essential that we as revolutionaries reject the master's myths of man-

hood and womanhood.

Given the commitment of black men and women to the struggle it becomes imperative that every individual participates. Our unity is a necessity for the liberation of all oppressed people. The myths created about the black men and women are examples of "the most pernicious of insults and a legacy that continues to plague us." These myths should be consigned to a quick burial. □

SACRIFICED FOR PROFIT

The scandal of infant formula in the Third World

"Bottle Baby Disease" the world's most profitable illness, has been brought to us by Nestle's, Abbot Labs, American Home Products and Bristol Myers.

Ten million babies are starving; some will suffer all their lives. The lucky ones will die.

In order to swell profits, these multinationals turned to the Third World and have been pushing baby formula extensively since 1960.

ARTIFICIAL

They created a completely artificial need for infant food formula products. These "modern" substitutes for mothers' milk benefit only the multinationals.

These products gross over a billion dollars per year from Haiti to Venezuela, from Nigeria to the Philippines.

These countries and many more are starving not from natural disasters but from the greed of the multinationals.

Annual sales by the companies are often greater than the Gross National Product of the victim countries.

Mothers have been conned by advertising and company representatives into believing that bottle feeding is the only

by
COLEEN THOMPSON

way to care for your baby in the "modern" world.

The companies pretend that they are satisfying a need in the Third World rather than their own greed for profits through the exploitation of women who only want the best for their children.

The formula industry is controlled by men who manipulate women. Their advertising campaigns use slogans like "Breast milk is best, but when you don't have enough..."

Supplementation psychologically undermines a mother's ability to feed her child and the use of formula products causes the natural milk supply to dwindle.

CLAIM

Now the multinationals claim to have stopped direct advertising. Now formula products are pushed through hospitals by company "milk nurses."

These are saleswomen who dress in nurse uniforms and go around maternity wards talking about child care and giving out free samples of formula.

This direct contact is persuasive, and it drains qualified medical personnel from the health services to better paying jobs with the formula companies.

Doctors are encouraged to turn a blind eye to all this with gifts of medical equipment and money for research. Thus in many cases infants are given a bottle of formula in the hospital.

After 24 hours a mother will no longer be able to lactate. Then the mother discovers the tremendous cost of the formula.

COST

In Uganda, for instance, formula costs one third of the average daily wage.

The average Jamaican or Pakistani mother would have to spend nearly half of a day's wage to keep her baby properly supplied.

So what happens is that one can of formula that should last 4 days is diluted to last up to a month or more.

"Safe" bottle feeding requires sterilization and meticulous care in the preparation of the refrigerated product.

This takes much longer than breastfeeding and is a chore most men would never do.



West Indian baby, bottle fed from early weeks of life with overdiluted, contaminated infant formula. The result — marasmus, diarrhea and death.

In most third world countries tap water is far from sterile, the product can't be refrigerated, and instructions written in foreign languages are not understood.

Thus a child receives a potentially infected, non-nutritious substitute for its mother's milk.

It has been proved that even underfed mothers can provide adequate nourishment for at least the first 3-4 months of their babies' lives. But death from malnutrition peaks during these months.

The infant formula compa-

nies are directly responsible.

The question remains, what can we do?

The Nestle boycott, organized by the Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFACT) is a start, but that alone will not challenge the real power of these companies.

And this power can be challenged. The workers of Iran have shown that it is possible to challenge the power of big business.

Our job is to support them, right here where the multinationals have their headquarters. □

UPSurge: Contract countdown begins

"The countdown has begun. There are now just two months left til the national contract expires."

Anne Mackie, the editor of UPSurge talked to Socialist Worker about the contract soon to be negotiated between UPS and the Teamsters union.

UPSurge is a national rank and file UPS workers' paper.

Mackie said UPS workers face two key problems when their contract expires on April 31.

"The first is productivity. The company wants the right to set productivity standards. They also want the right to discipline workers who don't meet them.

"The second is more complicated. This is the first national UPS contract. It covers nearly 90,000 workers.

"Up til this point there have been great differences in contracts and conditions from region to region, city to city.

"We want conditions all brought up to the best—a uniform national contract. The company wants to use the national contract to take more away from us. For example, in the East, where there are still full-time inside workers, they want to end that.

TAKE

"We have already heard that the international union is putting pressure on local leaders in the East to prepare their members to accept a take-back on conditions."

UPSurge is organizing to see that the company is not successful.

UPSurge demands have

been presented in dozens of union meetings across the country.

Rank and file meetings have already been held in several cities and more are planned.

On March 24 the first Southern regional meeting will be held in Atlanta. A national rank and file rally is planned for April.

"We have to make the

union stand up and fight," said Mackie, "and we'll have to be prepared to strike if necessary. There's no other way to beat this company." □

ARMED GUARDS THREATEN CLEVELAND STRIKERS

CLEVELAND, OH—Armed security guards told strikers at Ad Art Litho that they would shoot anyone who set foot on the company's parking lot in front of the building.

This prompted Sebastian Lupica, the executive secretary of the Cleveland AFL-CIO to make an appearance on the

picket line, a rare gesture for the Cleveland bureaucrat.

The situation's no joke, however. Last year a striker was shot and killed by a guard while on a picket line at an East Side metal fabricating plant.

"I'm concerned about armed guards," said Lupica. "We

don't need any more trigger-happy security guards here in Cleveland."

Thirteen members of the Graphics Arts International Union 24-P have been on strike against Ad Art since January 24. Ad Art manufactures menus. They want a union contract. □

The white man's "burden"

In 1870 most of Africa was still ruled by Africans.

By 1914 the continent had been almost completely carved up by the European powers. Only the U.S. puppet state of Liberia and the precariously independent Kingdom of Ethiopia survived.

In Asia the remaining independent states were either conquered like Burma or effectively partitioned into "spheres of influence" by the great powers as in the case of China.

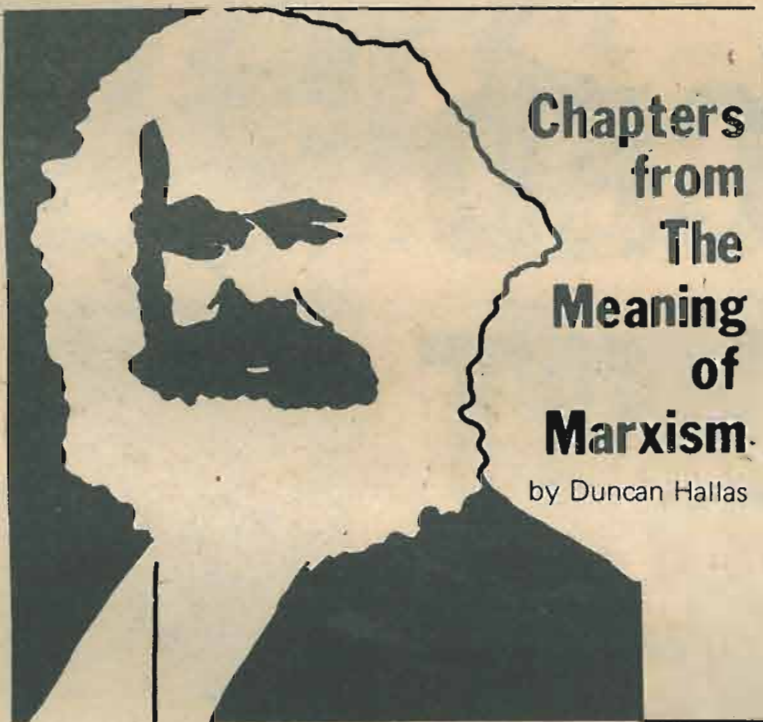
CONFLICTS

Such nominal independence as remained to states like Iran or Turkey was due entirely to the conflicts between their would be conquerors. So too with Oceania and South America.

The powers of Europe and North America ruled almost the whole world. These were the peak years of imperialism in ideology as well as in fact, the years of Kipling's "white man's burden," of Taft's "manifest destiny," of Rhodes, "I would annex the planets if I could."

They were also the years in which European and U.S. capitalism was undergoing profound structural changes.

"Laissez-faire" capitalism was giving way to monopoly capitalism. In Germany by 1914 "less than one-hun-



Chapters from The Meaning of Marxism

by Duncan Hallas

...dredth of the total enterprises utilize more than 3/4 of the steam and electric power . . . small enterprises, representing 91% of the total, utilize only 7% of the steam and electric power."

In the U.S., "John Moody in 1904 cited 318 trusts, most of them formed after 1898, as evidence that control of business and capital was rapidly

concentrating into fewer and fewer hands.

Similarly, though in varying degrees, with every capitalist society, Marx's prediction that "one capitalist always kills many" was coming true with a vengeance.

That these acts were connected with one another was the essential argument of Lenin's theory of imperialism.

"Under modern capitalism, when monopolies prevail, the export of capital has become the typical feature.

In order to safeguard the investments of their ruling classes the governments of the imperialist powers were forced to impose direct foreign rule over the "backward" countries.

Other factors driving them in the same direction were the struggles for control of raw materials and for markets protected against competitors. But monopoly and the export of capital were the key features."

EVIDENCE

The evidence for Lenin's case was impressive and at the time it was written it undoubtedly had a large measure of truth.

Take the case of Britain. The pioneer investigator of British imperialism, J.A. Hobson, showed that "British foreign and colonial investments increased from 1883 to 1893 at the rate of 74% per annum. In 1899 the profits on these investments totalled between \$180 and \$200 million; in 1909 they had risen to \$280 million and in 1915 to about \$400 million, that is to about 1/4 of the income of the upper and middle classes, since total incomes subject to tax were about \$1.8 billion.

The same tendency was, in varying degrees, present in all the imperialist countries. The relative stability of late Victorian and Edwardian capitalism rested upon this export of capital. A way had been found of alleviating the inherent instability of the system—for a time and at a terrible price.

In purely economic terms the problem for the capitalist class is that accumulation of capital, which is forced on each capitalist concern by its competitors, drives up the demand for labor power and hence its price—wages.

This in turn eats into the surplus value and the resulting erosion of the rate of profit checks accumulation and precipitates recession. Unless, of course, the connection between accumulation and the rising demand for labor power can be broken.

This is exactly what the export of capital to "backward" areas helped to achieve from about 1880 onwards.

The Indian jute mill workers, the African miners, the Chinese cotton spinners could be and were paid even less than the "historically determined price" of their labor power.

With the disruption by capitalism to the traditional pre-capitalist economies, a great mass of pauperized labor was available in the colonial and semi-colonial world. Hence the "super-profits" of imperialism.

And if "the natives are restless," the whole force of the imperialist power is available to prevent them obtaining even the most elementary democratic rights.

ESSENCE

No socialist agitator ever expressed the essence of imperialist politics better than the U.S. Major-General Smedley D. Butler: "I spent 33 years and four months in active service as a member of our country's most agile military force—the Marine Corps . . .

"And during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short I was a racketeer for capitalism . . . Thus I helped to make Mexico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped to make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in . . .

"I helped to purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped to make Honduras "right" for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927, I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested."

The price of imperialism was paid by the super-exploited workers and peasants of the colonial world. It was also paid, contrary to Lenin's view, by the workers of the developed capitalist countries.

Again, taking Britain as the example, real wages rose irregularly but considerably until the middle 1890s. From 1896 to 1900 they were fairly steady. Thereafter they began to fall. "Between 1899 and 1913 real wages actually declined by about 10%." The export of capital was taking its toll.

SLAUGHTER

A far greater price was required. In 1914 the rivalries and conflicts of the great robber powers exploded into the greatest organized slaughter the world had yet seen. Tens of millions of working men fought for their masters. Millions died.

The high noon of capitalism was over, the "century of wars and revolution" had begun. □



By PATRICIA GILMAN

Now for romance!

Add this to the growing list of disgusting remarks made by judges on the subject of rape.

Judge Loren Miller, Jr., presiding in the Pomona, CA, superior court, was hearing the case of a man accused of raping a woman twenty years his senior.

After the deputy district attorney described what he called "the insanity of this sex on an air conditioner in the rain," Judge Miller quipped, "You have no romanticism about you."

He then acquitted the defendant. □

IT'S JUST BUSINESS...

Robert Nethercot brushed the snow away from the grave marker yesterday and said: "There are so many good people. Nothing's ever touched me more."

Nethercot was talking about strangers from across the nation who donated

more than \$1450 so the marker could be restored to the grave of his son, Bobby Lee, who died August 29 at the age of seven from kidney failure.

When Nethercot couldn't pay the bill for the marker and was forced to declare bankruptcy, officials of

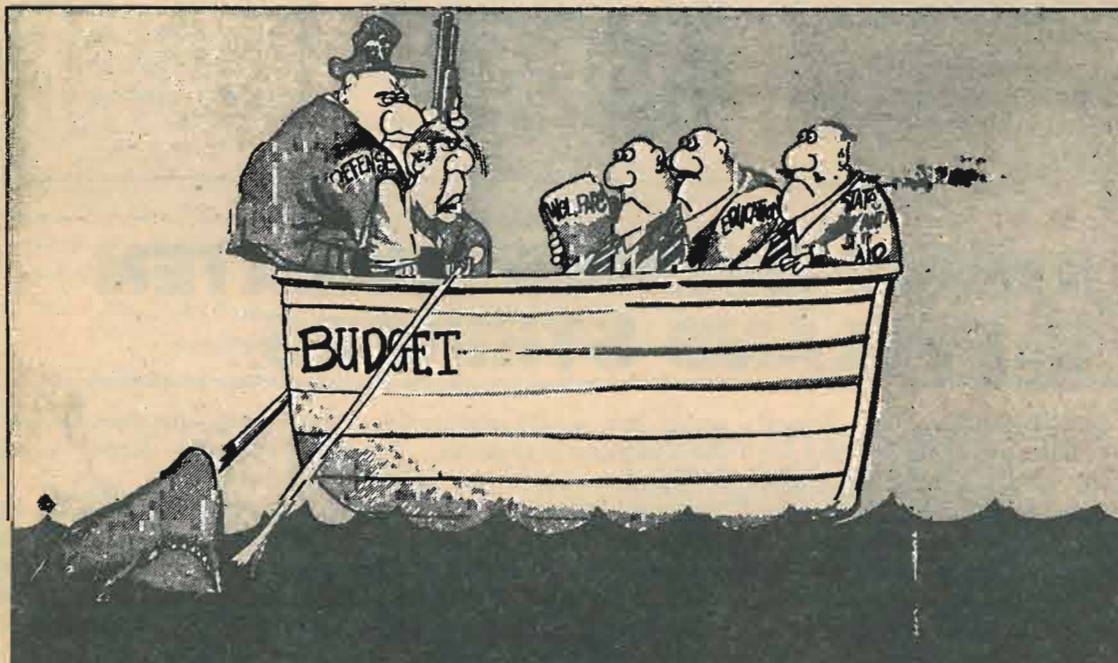
Resthaven Cemetery in Wichita, Kansas, removed it. The maintenance supervisor is returning \$200 in excess money to the donors. "There are so many good people," he repeated. □

If removing a grave marker for non-payment of a bill doesn't grab you, how about repossessing a wheelchair from an invalid.

"I wouldn't do that to a dog," says Marjorie Lindsey, 39, of Lenox, Massachusetts.

She was crippled in a car accident last April, and when she and her unemployed husband Edward fell \$365 behind in the payments, Roy's Orthopedic Appliances in nearby Pittsfield took the chair back. Mrs. Lindsey has since been using a chair lent by her lawyer.

Roy's owner, Everett Cook, says he repossessed the chair after Lindsey swore at him over the phone. "I can't operate a business on borrowed money," Cook insists. □



"We'll have to lighten the load or sink—I need three volunteers to swim ashore."

Then, of course, there is Billy Carter, who, responding to critics of his friendship with the Lybians, said, "They (the Jews) can kiss my ass." □

A Letter from London

THE POWER OF THE PICKETS

Here in Britain there's a newspaper called the Daily Mail.

For generations it's been run by a disreputable bunch of millionaires called the Rothermeres, who drunk, drugged, or just plain asleep have always easily out-citizenized Citizen Kane. And they're at it still.

In the 1920s, they published articles glorifying Mussolini. They helped bring down the 1924 Labor government by publishing the notorious fake Zinoviev letter.

PROVOKE

They connived with the government of the day to print a "King and Country" editorial which helped provoke the general strike of 1926.

After the General Strike, they went on to support Hitler and drum up membership for the Nazis' British counterpart, the Blackshirts.

With that kind of pedigree you wouldn't think the Daily Mail would be in a hurry to call anyone a fascist. But that's what they've been doing in recent weeks.

The fascists, according to the Mail, are the hospital porters, ambulance drivers and garbagemen of Britain's National Union of Public Employees.

Why does the Mail describe these people as fascists?

Because they've given up working their asses off for a pittance and decided that without a basic wage of \$120 a week (about 1/3 of what a Daily Mail journalist gets) Britain's health and social services will collapse.

They are, of course, entirely right. The free health and social services for which Britain was once admired are in a shocking state. Unemployment is high and rising.

ESSENTIAL

For the Daily Mail such a situation is not only acceptable but absolutely essential. In their view, British workers must accept lower wages. There must be less resistance to unemployment and new technology applied with a view to destroying jobs.

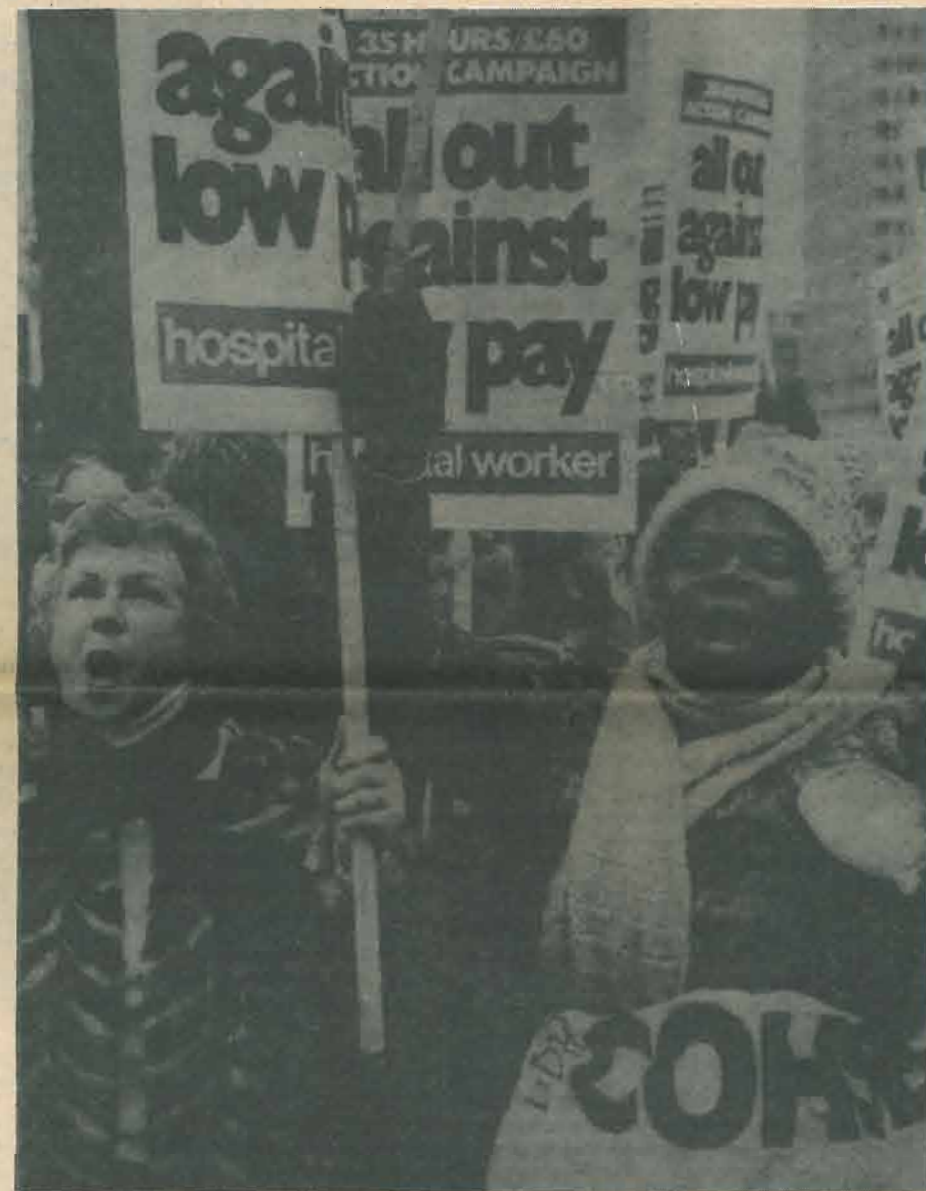
There must be "more orderly closures of factories" and above all the independent power of the organizations of the working class must be broken.

The point was made explicitly in a dreadful series of articles being published by the Mail as I write. The series title, "Britain and the Unions," is bromide enough, but the main headline on Day 2 lays it out clear and strong: "The fight back and where it must begin."

I was lucky enough a few weeks ago to see the trade union terror machine in action at first hand. It proved to be a most entertaining experience.

I was in Hull, one of Britain's major ports, and I had to see the regional secretary of the transport union on business. It was the right union in the right place at the right time.

Hull was in the forefront of the truck drivers' strike. The union's offices, Bevan House, were packed with people standing in a huge line. They were well-dressed people in good suits—often with chauffeurs and flashy cars outside.



"Among rank and file workers there is a searching going on . . ."

If I had been a Daily Mail journalist I might have taken them to be greedy mineworkers, or insatiable truck drivers, displaying the spoils obtained from years of holding the country to ransom on a salary of \$120 a week.

But, in Britain, their accents gave them away. It turned out that they were all members of a new oppressed

were powerless; taught to look on workers as factors of production, mere appendages of machines, they were nervous, embarrassed, and dare I say it, subservient. For once in their lives they were feeling what it's like to be a clog in a wheel that is driven by another wheel entirely.

But Hull was significant for a reason

"In Britain today there is no power greater than that of the labor movement."

group over which the British press is now shedding oceans of tears—poor, innocent, victimized and over-taxed company directors.

Certainly in Hull they were on an uncomfortable mission. They were lining up to ask a workers' committee permission to move goods, trucks or whatever across town, or to crave dispensations to restart production.

It was an extraordinary experience to watch them there, important people on whom, for once, the tables had been turned. Trained to command they

beyond the discomfort of some employers. The roads into and out of the town were picketed by the drivers, the docks were at a standstill.

The truck drivers who had honored so many picket lines at the end of their journeys were calling in the debt. They were picketing other firms, trying to stop anything that moved, insisting on solidarity, determined to win.

In the course of their struggle, so as not to hurt the sick or to deprive farmers of badly needed feed stock for their animals, they had set up a committee, a dispensation committee.

Overnight it had become a power in the town, the employers referred to it in hushed and fearful tones, for them this was the "committee for public safety," late of the French Revolution or the "soviet" of Russian pedigree.

For the Hull and District Chamber of Commerce, law and order had simply broken down. Not that anybody was being attacked on the streets or property being looted, just that power had passed outside the channels with which they are so familiar and, worst of all, they simply didn't know what to do.

That's what's behind the "Britain of the slimpery slope/Crisis/End of Civilization as we know it" garbage that fills the British and American press. No longer are workers disorganized or cowed or subservient here in Britain. No longer do they owe fealty to the empire, the industrial barons or the aristocratically elevated descendants of rustlers like the Duke of Westminster who died last week leaving—in this country where there's no more money—assets to the value of \$4,000 billion.

POWER

Despite the tough wage controls, rising unemployment and endless attempts to destroy shop floor power in recent years, union organization in Britain has continued to grow.

In Britain today trade union membership is up around 12 million and still climbing, despite massive unemployment. Some 58% of all workers are unionized and in factories with over 300 workers the rate of unionization is over 90%.

Office workers and women workers are unionizing particularly fast. The shop stewards' movement, defeated on the shop floor in engineering and betrayed politically by the departure of a much-loved and self-declared Marxist Hugh Scanlon for a seat in the house of Lords, has spread through the public sector and into road haulage.

So, in a sense, the fears of the Hull employers and the rantings of the Daily Mail have some grounding in reality. In Britain today there is no power greater than that of the labor movement.

But that power has yet to be harnessed for positive social change. It's still kept captive to a considerable degree by the trade union leaders and those who staff the Labor government. They simply cannot conceive of any option or any alternative but the continuation of capitalism. And they are doing their level best not to lose their grip.

Among rank and file workers, however, there is a searching going on, born of a feeling that British society is going nowhere, but as yet there isn't confidence that the rank and file can trace out the pattern of a different way of living in this and other lands. Working people are still fearful of the future.

Nevertheless these are auspicious times which provide soil in which a full-blooded socialist movement can be reborn. Any society created by that movement might just find a place for some back numbers of the Daily Mail—as a museum piece or on a stand in the chamber of horrors. □

TEAMSTERS FACE CARTER, COMPANIES, AND FITZSIMMONS

by DUNCAN WEST, IBT local 208

Jimmy Carter, Frank Fitzsimmons, and the biggest trucking companies are busy cooking up a deal for the 300,000 motor freight workers covered by the National Master Freight Agreement (MFA) due to expire midnight March 31.

Jimmy wants his 7% wage guidelines adhered to. If the Teamsters, who have a reputation for economic militancy, can be held to a 21% wage increase over the three years of the contract, it will be easier for Carter to hold auto, rubber and steel workers in line.

In the last contract, freight workers got a 34% increase when cost of living raises are included.

INVESTIGATIONS

Frank Fitzsimmons, international president of the Teamsters wants an end to pesky investigations of union pensions and health and welfare funds. He doesn't want any changes in the government regulation of trucking.

The current system is comfortable. Fitz doesn't have to fight very hard because companies pass on wage increases by raising rates. He also needs a contract he can force on the membership without open revolt.

A change in government regulations would also threaten the companies' profit margins.

They are willing to use the deregulation threat to make it

appear that they have a common interest with the union and its members, and to bludgeon an increase in productivity from the workers. That's known as having your cake and eating it too.

All of these groups and individuals are conspiring to shaft the working Teamsters—on the road, in the city, on the docks and in the offices.

We will get a raise which will not keep up with inflation, much less advance our real take home pay. In return for whatever raise we get we will be told to give up key working conditions and submit to some kind of company controlled productivity plans.

PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity is the key to the bargaining. If the union relents on this issue, which they will, Carter and his little inflation watching pills have stated that they will permit a raise higher than 7%.

The companies have submitted a proposal which would permit the employer to "... establish reasonable work standards..." No such clause has ever existed before in a national freight contract.

Freight varies so much in weight, size, bulk, and ease of handling it is impossible to establish an accurate standard. Instead, the companies will pit employees against an arbitrary average.

This system would allow the companies to discipline and

fire workers for not working as hard as their co-workers who are working harder so they won't be disciplined.

It is an insidious system where the company always wins and the workers are worked to death, forced out, or fired. The companies also have a proposal for replacing the casualties. They are asking for a new-hire rate of pay which requires two years to work up to full union scale.

What a hell every freight dock would turn into if the employers get this system: workers running to beat the average which they are constantly raising. Older workers getting out or dying on the job can be replaced by younger, fresher workers who earn less.

This is what Carter and the companies want us to swallow if we demand more than a 7% wage increase.

INFLATION

Between the last raise in April of 1978 and April of 1979 inflation will have risen 10%. Pension benefits have not been increase since 1973. Health and welfare benefits have not been increased significantly in the last three years.

In fact, they have been eliminated for those who take an early disability retirement. Increases will be needed in order to maintain benefits, much less return us to 100% medical and dental coverage.

Will we get the monetary in-



Teamsters face big companies like Roadway

creases and stay within the 7%? No way! Will Fitz fight the 7%? No way!

Instead he is cooking up a deal in return for acceding to the guidelines. He will allow productivity clauses that will more than offset the wage increases.

Rumor has it, and that is all the rank and file has at the end of February, we will get a 9 to 10% wage increase in the first year and increases in the health and welfare and pension contribution.

With that money, Fitz will sell the productivity clauses to the rank and file.

It will only take one third of the membership to approve the contract. Without a strike vote, it takes two thirds opposed to reject a contract and the international often counts unreturned ballots as yes votes.

It is clear that the trucking companies gain in this program. Labor costs make up

61% of the expenses of revenue.

If they can cut their labor costs by just 2% through productivity plan, they cover 1% to profits for revenue. Because they usually average four times as much revenue as they have invested in the company they will increase their profits their investments by most 5%.

GREED

They already have an average return on investment of 20%. The rest of U.S. industry has an average return of 15%. These are some greedy suckers.

Carter gains. He will be able to say that the Teamsters stayed within the guidelines when increases in productivity are included. He can use that victory to pressure other contract negotiations coming this year.

Fitzsimmons gains.

TWO RANK AND FILE LEADERS TELL W

I think Teamsters ought to be very careful of what they ratify this year. Kahn is saying that the only way for us to get money is to bend with the companies productivity demands.

I've worked in the industry a number of years, however, and I think truck men are working 100% right now. The companies want more. They'd like a city driver to do 10 more stops a day. We have to stop this. To impose more work on the people in this industry is outrageous—barbaric.

I also think our standard of living is at stake. Money has become a crucial issue. Wage and price guidelines might sound good in theory, but its ridiculous to think that prices in the industry can be controlled.

If ever there was a need for Teamsters to unite, it is now. The message PROD is trying to get out is this: now is the time to fight. If we don't do something now we'll have to live with a rotten contract for three years.

We have to visibly show that we won't accept a bad contract. We have to look beyond the money issues—to working conditions, productivity, hours of service—to all the crucial aspects of the contract.

We're spending this last month traveling, holding meetings, we hope to regenerate and unify the members in mind and thought.

We want to make Teamsters aware of the fact that if they stick together they can be just as strong as the mixers—we can stop the leaders of the union from jamming a contract down the throats of the rank and file.



Paul Poulos is a national organizer for PROD. He is a truck driver, a member of IBT local 390, Miami

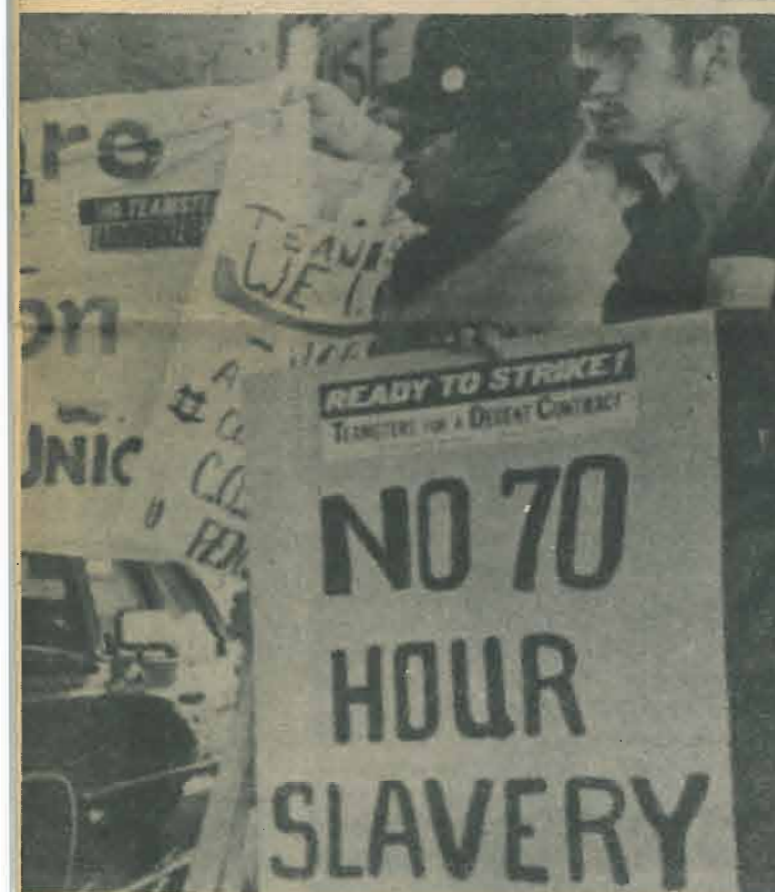
The government and Teamster negotiators in the rank and file and PROD have been pushed

The only way the rank and file can get anywhere near what we need is to get together to put as much pressure on management is.

TDU is attempting to do live with in local unions. We think we can have some

One of the things that we need to fight against is guidelines. In our fight against working conditions. We need to get away from after talking to members of the union is getting away from like productivity, which will

Support the rank and file



What does the International Brotherhood of Teamsters stand for? A militant, powerful union? A weapon in the hands of its members?

Hardly. It is known for corruption, for its ties with gangsters and the mob. It tried to smash the United Farmworkers Union. Its leaders killed Jimmy Hoffa. Hoffa himself had oppositionists killed. The list goes on.

The Teamsters union is an example, extreme to be sure, of just about everything that is wrong with American unions today. It is business unionism at its worst.

Until recently, the Teamsters has seemed a monolith, the personal property of a small army of Cadillac driving, heavily armed bureaucrats.

CHANGE

Things are changing. This year there is opposition—both to the way the union is run, and to the companies who thrive on their relationship with the IBT.

PROD (the Professional Drivers Health and Safety Organization) and TDU (Teamsters for a Democratic Union) are standing up to Fitzsimmons and his machine, organizing freight workers to improve their conditions and change their union. Each has a small but significant base among freight workers.

At the same time, UPSurge, a rank and file group of United Parcel Service workers, is organizing for a fight against UPS when its contract with 90,000 Teamster members expires at the end of April.

rank and file Teamsters. We don't get any new money. We will not get significant pension increases. We will get speed-up: the worst kind, the kind that pits us against each other; the kind with an ever increasing standard, which as we hustle to beat it, rises even higher.

Jimmy Carter and the trucking companies don't care about our standard of living off the job or our safety on it.

CUT

As long as our union leadership sees a common interest with them it doesn't care either. Carter wants to cut trucking rates, that's what deregulation is about.

The companies are willing to cut rates so long as they can keep on increasing their profits. Everybody is willing to screw us to further their goal.

As long as the union leadership and a part of the membership is concerned with company profits we will continue

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK



UPS workers discuss contract demands

These efforts should be welcomed and supported by socialists. They show, once again, that American workers are changing—even in the Teamsters.

The reform movements are far from perfect. PROD still includes a strong strain of anti-communism, so strong in fact that an effective alliance with TDU was ruled out, even though the two groups have virtually identical programs.

TDU increasingly sees its task as winning posts in the bureaucracy (inside the Teamster machine) rather

than basing itself in the struggle on the shop floor.

Both groups place far too much faith in the possibility of reform from above—from the Congress and the courts.

The point now, however, is to support these movements. In addition, there may be strikes this spring—by freight workers in April, by UPS workers in May, and/or car haulers in June.

Socialists should get involved, help build solidarity, support these strikes. A victory for the Teamsters would be a victory for us all. □

to be sold-out at the bargaining table.

We didn't set up regulations—our union's strength should not depend on it. Our power to stop the nation's economy is what makes us strong.

When we begin to use that for ourselves, regardless of presidential desires, and company balance sheets, we can start to win back what Frank has sold away. □

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Employer are pushing the Teamster contract that will be less than what the simple solution is what TDU come time.

It is possibly get a contract that is for the rank and file to join to the negotiators as the govern-

NOTE

organizing for a contract we can at barns all around the country.

Government is talking about is wage guidelines we can't lose sight of. In the Los Angeles area that the needs of working conditions and will not accept.



Doug Allan is the national Co-chairperson of the TDU. He is a member of IBT local 208, Los Angeles

an i.s.o. pamphlet

WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST

by CAL WINSLOW

Why Socialism is the only alternative for working people in the United States

Available \$1.00 from Hera Press
Box 18037
Cleveland, OH 44118

WHERE WE STAND



WORKERS' CONTROL

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggles of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, the courts, army and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda—newspapers, radio, television, movies. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the working class can trust and use in their fight against the present system.

FIGHT OPPRESSION

Capitalism divides the working class. It pits men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to prevent the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups—blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, youths, gays—suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation. We are for equal pay for all women workers. We fight for an end to forced sterilization and for free abortion. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for the opening up of jobs for women and an end to sexual harassment and firings. We are for an end to discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

RANK AND FILE ORGANIZATION

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped fighting seriously for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders either act as brakes on workers' struggles, or as police, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to change this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, power must be built on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

INTERNATIONALISM

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international and that is why the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico, from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The activity of the ISO is directed toward the initial steps of building a revolutionary party in a working class that is today fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the day-to-day struggles of workers and other oppressed groups at the work places, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that will strengthen the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

Join the International Socialist Organization

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO) please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118

What's ON

BOSTON

"Cancer and Capitalism," a talk by Bob Goldman, March 16, 3:30 p.m., U-Mass, Boston, call 522-5421 for details.

CHARLESTON

"The State of the Unions" a talk by Pat Morgan. March 3 at 5 p.m. Call 925-8783 for details.

CHICAGO

"Marxism and the State," a talk by Colin Barker. March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Call 477-7363 for details.

CINCINNATI

"Marxism and the Party," Colin Barker, March 15, 8 p.m., TUC, U. of Cincinnati.

"Women in China," a talk by Barbara Winslow, March 31, 7:30 p.m., call 561-8567 for details.

BLOOMINGTON

"Eurocommunism, Marxism and the State," a talk by Colin Barker, March 12, 4 p.m., 306 Ballantine, U. of Indiana.

LOS ANGELES

"Why We Need a Revolutionary Organization," a talk by Cal Winslow. March 10, 7:30 p.m. Call 637-1033 for details.

NORTHAMPTON

"Revolution in Iran" by Ahmed Shawki, March 14, 8 p.m., Thompson, Room 102, U-Mass, Amherst, MA.

PROVIDENCE

"Marxism and the Party," a discussion. March 6. Call 831-0952 for details.

Picket the Urgan, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Barus-Hollie 166, Brown University.

"Cancer and Capitalism," a talk by Bob Goldman, March 13. Call 831-0952. for details.

WASHINGTON

"The Politics of Health and Safety," a talk by Bob Goldman, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Georgetown University.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



CELEBRATE WITH US

BERKELEY: The award winning film "Blow or Blow" plus a talk by a member of Union WAGE (Women's Alliance to Gain Equality), March 8, 7-9 p.m., 2003 Life Science Building, University of California.

BOSTON: "Women and Revolution," a series of talks including Joann Preston on "Women in the Portuguese Revolution," Sharon Smith on "International Women's Day," and Barbara Winslow on "Revolutionary Feminism." March 11, beginning at 5 p.m. with dinner. Childcare provided. 595 Mass Ave., 3rd floor, Cambridge, MA. For details call 522-5421.

CHICAGO: International Women's Day party, singing with Christina Bergmark. March 10. Call 477-7363 for details.

CINCINNATI: Guest speaker, Georgia Ellis of the Elwood strike, the film "Union Maids," singing with Maggie Kelly. March 10, all evening. University of Cincinnati, Old Chemistry Building, Room 681. Childcare provided.

CLEVELAND: The film "With Babies and Banners." Potluck dinner at 7 p.m., film at 9 p.m., party to follow. Unitarian Society, 2728 Larchshire, Cleveland Heights. Sponsored by ISO and the women's caucus of the Cleveland Lawyer's Guild with other groups endorsing. Childcare provided.

NORTHAMPTON: Barbara Winslow speaking on "The Meaning of International Women's Day." March 10, potluck dinner at 7 p.m., followed by talk, party. Childcare provided. Call 549-4019 for details.

PHILADELPHIA: "Eleanor Marx: Revolutionary Feminism," a talk by Sandy Meredith. March 8 at 7:30 p.m. Call 662-5406 for details.

PROVIDENCE: "Revolutionary Feminism," a talk by Barbara Winslow. March 9 at 7:30 p.m. Wilson 101, Brown University.

SEATTLE: A women's panel discusses American women. Talks on Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Gurly Flynn, Emma Goldman and more. March 9, beginning at 7 p.m. with potluck. Childcare.

"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

-Karl Marx

If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us. There are ISO members and branches in the following places:

Berkeley, P.O. Box 4580
Berkeley, CA 94704

Bloomington, P.O. Box 29
Bloomington, IN 47401

Boston, P.O. Box 104, Kendall Sq. Station
Boston, MA 02142

Brattleboro, P.O. Box 64
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Charleston, P.O. Box 1748
Charleston, W. VA 25310

Chicago, P.O. Box A-3698
Chicago, IL 60690

Cincinnati, P.O. Box 8909
Cincinnati, OH 45208

Cleveland, P.O. Box 18037
Cleveland, OH 44118

Dayton, Box 166, Wright Brothers Station
Dayton, OH 45409

Detroit, P.O. Box 2596
Dearborn, MI 48123

Gary, P.O. Box 1941, Glen Park Station
Gary, IN 46409

Indianapolis, P.O. Box 2191
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Los Angeles, P.O. Box 477
Lynwood, CA 90262

New York, P.O. Box 302
New York, NY 10011

New Haven, P.O. Box 2636, Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06520

Northampton, P.O. Box 284
Northampton, MA 01060

Philadelphia, 3909 Spruce
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Portland, P.O. Box 03285
Portland, OR 97203

Providence, P.O. Box 3961, Brown Station
Providence, RI 02912

Seattle, P.O. Box 9056
Seattle, WA 98109

Washington, D.C., P.O. Box 2115
Washington, DC 20009

A PAGE FROM WORKING CLASS HISTORY

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



The uprising of the 20,000

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAYS

*In the black winter of nineteen nine
When we froze and bled on the picket line
We showed the world that women could fight
And we rose and we won with a woman's might*

*Hail the waistmakers on nineteen nine
Making their stand on the picket line
Breaking the power of those who reign
Pointing the way, smashing the chain*

—from, *Uprising of the 20,000*



Scorned as too young, too ignorant, too foreign, too Jewish

On March 8, 1908, socialist women working in the garment trades in New York City, stopped working and left their sweatshops to demonstrate for women's liberation.

Organized by the women's section of the American Socialist Party, thousands of garment workers, most of them teenagers, all of them previously divided by craft, race, religion and national origin, united behind the banner of votes for women, an end to sweatshop conditions, and for child care centers and equal pay.

HOLIDAY

The Socialist Party proclaimed that March 8th was working woman's day—a working class holiday commemorating past struggles of working women and organized to get more women into the fight for women's liberation and socialism.

The next year, these young women again dropped the tools of their trade and organized one of labor's greatest strikes.

The uprising of the 20,000 was a general strike in the needle trades. It was called to provide the foundation of two of the first industrial unions—the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the

Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

These unions were organized by working women—women who previously had been ignored or scorned as too ignorant, too young, too foreign, too Jewish to be able to unionize.

They were Italians, Russians, Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians. They didn't speak the same language. They didn't worship in the same churches. They just got married and had babies. The men of the AFL said they were impossible to organize.

COMMON

But they were united because as women workers they faced a common oppressor. And they overcame the language, craft and religious barriers. They knew that women had to unite in order to change the intolerable conditions of their lives. They were socialists.

Most of them earned less than \$6 a week. Children earned \$1.50 for a seven day week. At one company, the Triangle Shirtwaist, hours were from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. In the busy season women worked with no overtime pay until 9 p.m. If a woman spent too long in the toilet she

was docked pay. If she was late, she was fired. Doors were locked from the outside, primarily to keep union and socialist agitators out.

There was no drinking water, little heat, no ventilation. Employers fined the women for petty infractions of the rules.

The strike began at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company and at Leisersons, two of the worst sweatshops. Both companies hired prostitutes to stand at the doors to fight off pickets in order to let the scabs go in. Over 100 women were arrested immediately.

Representatives from the AFL unions, the Women's Trade Union League and the Socialist Party called a mass meeting in the Great Hall at Cooper Union to discuss the future of the strike. The men leaders urged caution: "Our union is weak. Our treasury is low."

DECIDE

After two hours of this, a young striker rose and interrupted the speaker. Clara Lemlich, 19 years old and a veteran of earlier strikes, was recovering from a beating she received on the picket line two days before.

Making her way to the plat-

form she cried out in Yiddish, "I am a working girl; one of those who are on strike against the intolerable conditions. I am tired of listening to speakers who talk in general terms. What we are here for is to decide whether or not we shall strike. I offer a resolution that a general strike be declared—now!"

Instantly, everyone was on their feet, shouting, clapping, yelling "yes." The uprising of the garment workers had begun.

ASSAULTS

The strike was bitterly fought. But the women braved arrests, beatings, and sexual assaults by the police and voluntarily accepted the lowest strike benefits. They were the mainstay of the picket lines. The judges were totally unsympathetic. One judge, after imposing an unusually harsh sentence, charged that they were "on strike against God."

During the strike, employers attempted to bring black women in to scab. Mary White Ovington, a leader of the NAACP, brought this to the attention of the ILGWU and the Women's Trade Union League, which was aiding the women in the strike. While

there were very few black women employed in the needle trades at that time, they joined the strike, and answered the AFL's racist charge that black women were hostile to unionization.

In February, 1910, the strike was inconclusively ended. The garment workers settled in a shop by shop agreement. But the dedication and heroism of the young garment workers proved to be an inspiration for the future struggles of garment workers as they battled employers in order to win union recognition.

MOVED

In Germany, Clara Zetkin, the revolutionary feminist and leader of the International Workingman's Association, was so moved by the uprising of the garment workers that she called upon the Second International to proclaim March 8th International Working Woman's Day.

In 1917, in Russia, housewives, textile workers, and women munitions workers again made history the day they took to the streets on International Woman's Day and began the Russian Revolution. □

Letters

MORE ON JOHN AND GRETA

Shrink the heads

Dear Socialist Worker,
As a new reader of Socialist Worker and a new member of ISO, I offer my appreciation of a fine and readable newspaper and make one suggestion. Please shrink the interior headlines. The giant sensationalist headlines on every page give Socialist Worker a "National Enquirer" look.

Sincerely,
Nancy Gusack
Berkeley, CA

THE CETA CUTBACKS

Dear Socialist Worker,
Some of your readers may want to know what Carter's CETA cuts really mean for working people. I'm from Cincinnati where 750 of our 2,000 CETA employees are being dismissed as of March 3. They're being let go on a last-hired-first-fired basis. This means that many won't be eligible for unemployment.

This policy also goes against the purpose of CETA. CETA is a program designed to give working experience to the hardcore unemployed. So they should lay off the most experienced (longest employed) first.

Here are some concrete examples of what the layoffs mean. The University of Cincinnati will lose all its tutors (69). Counseling programs for handicapped students will be phased out. Many other programs at the school will be partially cut back.

City public service agencies will also severely cut their services after the CETA cuts. There is an endless list of these services. They include women's programs (such as the Battered Women's Shelter), hospital care, community development, services for new foreign residents and many more human services too numerous to list. As usual, it is women and minorities who will be hurt the most.

Elizabeth Hamilton
Cincinnati, OH



Capitalism's first son

"TOTALLY DEHUMANIZED"

Dear Socialist Worker,
The world did not become a better place after the death of Nelson Rockefeller, because the capitalist system will ensure that his enormous wealth and controlling interests will be inherited by others in the ruling class. However, I was still relieved at his death, be-

cause of what he had come to stand for. His own ruling class had raised him to become the antithesis of a socialist, for he behaved as a racist imperialist and as an unjust man, with no respect for those he controlled and oppressed. It is tragic that capitalism not only oppresses so many workers, but so total-

ly dehumanizes even the members of the ruling class that it is very hard to find any redeeming qualities in the actions of the person. His and his family's insatiable greed has set him up as the very stereotype of a capitalist.

David Jagger
Cincinnati

Socialist Worker,
There are two aspects of the aftermath of the Rideout trial that I would like to point out.

The first is their reconciliation, touted by the media across the country. This event has been used to trivialize the case.

The case has been referred to as "expensive marriage counselling."

The facts of the case stand for themselves. Greta Rideout had clearly been physically beaten and sexually abused by her husband.

Many women have chosen to return to abusive husbands for complex and individual reasons.

Until we are all free of the economic and cultural bonds of a sexist, capitalist society we will not always be able to choose freely.

The second aspect of the case that I want to point out is the true aftermath for all women.

Efforts to weaken the marital rape law in Oregon continue. Men who beat and rape their wives continue to be freed by the courts. Women continue to live in terror in their own homes.

We can support all women by supporting strong legislation, shelter homes for battered women and rape crisis centers.

We must work towards building a world free of sexism in which these protections will not be necessary.

Jackie Siegel
Portland, OR

The Rockefellers' industrial relations

Dear Socialist Worker,
There was an error in the February Socialist Worker. The article on Rockefeller's death read that "3 miners and their families" were killed at Ludlow. In fact scores were

killed. When women and children crawled into holes to escape troopers, the troops poured oil on the tents and set them on fire. Eleven children and two women, who had taken refuge in one of the holes

were burned to death or suffocated. This strike, a serious defeat for labor, was the first test of the "Rockefeller Plan"—a new method in handling industrial personnel relations—company unionism, Rocke-

efeller's program for containing workers.

B.W.
Cleveland

THEY BLAME THE VICTIM

Dear Socialist Worker,
I have the advantage in working in industry, of working for what is known as one of the safest, cleanest, healthiest companies—Proctor & Gamble. Proctor & Gamble prides itself on having an extremely low lost time accident rate.

As you enter the plant, the first thing you see is a huge billboard proclaiming "Proctor & Gamble insists on Safe Operation" with a graph showing the millions of safe hours worked.

We have more safety meetings, equipment and newsletters, than any other industrial jobs I've seen or heard of.

We even get a free subscription to "Family Safety" mailed to our home monthly.

What this all means for the workers in the plant is two things. One—your chances of serious injury are less at P&G than most places. Two—if you get hurt, as in the three accidents in the last 9 months, you

are guaranteed to be found at fault.

So much for the safest industrial job. As with the 2 finger losses earlier in the year, an operator took complete responsibility for an accident—his hand mangled in a machine.

Even though Proctor & Gamble insists on a safe operation, they "can't control all of the inefficient and careless workers."

And until we stand together and refuse unsafe working conditions and false blame, even the best working conditions won't be good enough.

F.S.
Boston

Womens VOICE

Monthly from Britain \$1.00

REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM

A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN'S LIBERATION BY BARBARA WINSLOW

75 pages \$1.50

Joan Smith
WOMEN AND THE FAMILY

10 pages 50¢

LITERATURE ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION FROM HERA PRESS, BOX 18037, CLEVELAND, OH 44118

They rejected society's ideas about the role of women

With Babies and Banners

Flint, Michigan. 1936. 5,000 autoworkers at the huge General Motors complex sit down and occupy the factories.

Most of the workers are men. The women and the wives, the sweethearts gather anxiously outside the buildings.

The decide to form an auxiliary to help the strikers in what becomes one of the giant events in the history of American workers.

"With Babies and Banners" is the story, a film of the Flint sit-down, more specifically of the women. The film shows how, as the women began to work together—getting food for the strikers, picketing themselves, building support for the strike—how they gained a new confidence and sense of purpose.

MILITANT

They decided to form more than an auxiliary, they formed the Women's Emergency Brigade, one of the most militant women's organizations in U.S. labor history.

The old footage from the thirties is remarkable. It is clear and well edited. The film makers say that much of it was buried in union files for forty years.

The most incredible footage, the best part of the film, is from the strike itself, when the occupied plant is tear-gassed and the women charge through the police lines, swinging clubs and smashing all the windows in the factory so that the strikers can breathe.

The women are shown marching. They are shown fighting the police. It was often too dangerous for men to walk the streets of Flint in 1936—there were police and guardsmen everywhere.



But the women walked, and marched, and fought. They wore great heavy coats and carried their banners and placards on clubs. They sang union and socialist songs.

INTERVIEWS

The story of the Emergency Brigade is told through interviews with women today, women who were involved in the Brigade. They recall the strikes. They were sent out of the plant when it was seized. The men feared that the press would call the occupation an orgy.

They recall that the times were radical, socialists were involved, they remember.

They realize, in talking, how much their own role as women has been forgotten.

On the fortieth anniversary of the strike, the UAW held a reunion, an official event with all the top UAW personalities dressed in their finest.

The women aren't even invited to speak. It is only after an uproar, the whole crowd chanting "the UAW needs an ERA" that Genora Dollinger, the leader of the Women's Emergency Brigade, is given the platform.

The weaknesses of the film, unfortunately, are many. "With Babies and Banners" fails most strikingly in reviving the spirit of the struggle,



They rejected a woman's auxiliary

the emotion. Unlike "Union Maids," there is no sense of what really happened. It is a story which seems cleaned up, dressed up with fancy words—to make it acceptable today, not to radicals, but to bureaucrats and labor "statesmen."

"With Babies and Banners" was produced, it appears, with the support, with

input, with the blessing of the UAW. So no wonder it seems tame—as should be common knowledge, the UAW does indeed need an ERA, but it needs far more.

Still the film is worth seeing, if only because the story is so important. Genora Dollinger (then Johnson, a member of the Socialist Party) and the other socialists and communists (they were all radicals) who organized the Brigade were part of the last great rising of American workers, and they, the women, were central to that rising.

They consciously rejected society's ideas of women—the ideas of the men, the press, the union officials. They chose not to form an auxiliary.

They formed, instead, a militant, fighting, radical "Women's Brigade." They wanted more than a place in the soup kitchen—and this they won. They went on—united with the men—to win an even greater victory—the triumph of the UAW in Flint. □

by CELIA PETTY

A new weapon for women

WOMEN UNDER ATTACK: Abortion, Sterilization Abuse and Reproductive Freedom, a pamphlet published by the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse. \$2.50.

The issue of reproductive freedom—not only the right of women to have abortions if they want them, but also the right of all women to bear children free from forced sterilization is under attack not only from the right wing, but also from the president of the United States, the Supreme

Court and HEW secretary Joseph Califano.

CARASA, the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse, has just published an invaluable pamphlet for socialists and feminists. The pamphlet gives all the information we need to attack the myths that abortion is murder, or that welfare women do nothing but get pregnant so the state can pay for their abortions.

CONTROL

It proves how black, Hispanic and native American

women are used by the U.S. government as guinea pigs for "population" control experiments.

It places the struggle for reproductive freedom within a social context. It shows that as long as women are defined primarily as child rearers, control over pregnancy and childbirth are necessary conditions for women's participation in all spheres of economic, political and social life.

Finally, it makes the argument for a militant, radical movement, which fights for free abortion, no forced sterili-

zation, and full reproductive freedom; a movement that relies on the potential strength of working class women, and not on the Congress or a U.S. president.

WEAPON

CARASA has given us a useful weapon for our struggle for women's liberation.

Limited copies are available from Hera Press or they can be ordered from CARASA, P.O. Box 124, Cathedrale Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10025. □



UNIONISTS MARCH FOR SHIPBUILDERS

NEWPORT NEWS, VA—3,000 union members rallied here on February 24, in support of striking members of the United Steelworkers against the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.

The demonstrators marched two abreast along the main street in front of the shipyards. The march stretched for fifteen blocks. Marchers also demanded an end to "union busting in the South."

The Steelworkers union says that 85% of the yards, 16,000 workers are respecting the picket lines, despite claims of the company that 55% are crossing.

The key issue in the strike is union recognition. The shipyard, which is owned by the Tenneco conglomerate, refuses to bargain with the USW. Success for the union is felt to be crucial if union organizing is to advance in the South. □



8,000 LOSE JOBS

DAYTON, OH—8,000 workers are being thrown on the scrap heap by a General Motors subsidiary, the Frigidaire home appliance division. 16,000 jobs lost may be the effect of closing Frigidaire.

This will bring Dayton's unemployment close to the top of the national list—rivaling Youngstown as a disaster area in industrial Ohio.

Local 801 of the International Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union which represents the workers has done absolutely nothing to save the jobs.

They suck up to the company and, at best, are promising a "better" SUB deal.

They have mentioned the possibility of a strike if they don't get a "good deal," but this is only in an attempt to stem rank and file opposition to their sell out.

Local 801 has its roots in the McCarthy era, when company goons fought pitched battles

with members of the United Electrical Workers (UEW).

In the 1930s Frigidaire was the target of a huge unionization drive by the United Electrical Workers. In 1938 when GM and other automakers were forced to recognize the union by strike action mainly in Detroit, the UE was recognized at Frigidaire.

The right was won to represent most of the shops and factories in Dayton. Dayton was considered a UE town and Frigidaire the best place to work.

But in the fifties Dayton became a center for vicious red baiting mainly because of the strength of the UE. The International Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union which represents the workers today was set up to break the strength of the UE. They got their first recognized shop here in Dayton, with direct help of General Motor goons.

In 1976, during contract

negotiations the 801 local hall was packed with over 600 people, most of whom came to demand for a better contract.

Auto Workers United to Fight and several other rank and file caucuses based mainly at Frigidaire had packed the meeting and were gearing for a fight with the company.

The meeting had hardly begun when about 50 union thugs attacked the meeting shooting a black worker and putting 25 people in hospital.

One militant union steward lay in a coma close to death.

The contract was then pushed through by the union. This same union is now allowing the company to go ahead with its lay off plans.

The struggle is not dead yet however, several organizations and individuals have come together to plan a conference on jobs and full employment in an effort to unite the community in the struggles that lie ahead. □



An Opinion

John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW local 15 in Detroit.

GM: Grand larceny with a vengeance

Headlines in the press announced on February 6 that GM earned a profit of \$3.508 billion in 1978—over a billion in the last quarter of the year. A record year for profits, but not good enough say spokesmen for GM. It was only 5.5% of sales—lower than the 6.1% of 1977 and the 10.3% of 1965.

The net income of stockholders was 20%—nearly double that of most industry. From a profit point of view, less than a satisfactory year according to GM.

BONUS

Top executives of the company will share a bonus of \$168.4 million. This on top of their high salaries.

Thinking of these huge profits and bonuses to be paid stockholders and company executives, one should ask: did they earn them honestly? No, say the workers in the GM truck plant in Flint, members of UAW local 598. These workers voted to strike when they learned management had been secretly speeding up the lines in violation of the local agreement. The company was accused of stealing 16,000 trucks.

Having gone to work for GM in 1929 and having been chairman of the Fleetwood shop committee for a number of years, I have first-hand knowledge of how GM steals from the workers. They have a mechanism controlling the line speed in a restricted area. Only members of supervision have access to it. In violation of local agreements, supervision increases the line speed. This is done without the knowledge of the workers or their representatives.

In a letter to the UAW-GM locals in 1964, Leonard Woodcock, then Director of the GM Department, quoted a letter from the president of a GM local in Tarrytown, New York, as saying: "When workers are afraid of retaliation if they file a grievance, they'll accept whatever management wants them to do even if the contract provides otherwise."

Instead of fighting for the workers and exposing the grand larceny of the company, the UAW has become a police force

covering up for the thieving supervisors. The president of local 598 in Flint in an interview said he was forced to make the theft public when the workers in the plant became aware this stealing was taking place.

With most UAW representatives working in collusion with management—not exposing them like the workers in local 598 did—GM will continue to reap record profits. To avoid a strike the company settled with the local for \$750,000. A small price to pay for such grand larceny.

Stealing from the workers in Fleetwood is a daily occurrence. It has been going on for more than 40 years. The officers and the shop committee of local 15 maintain a conspiracy of silence about this thievery. They are afraid of losing their soft jobs or even being given penalty layoffs.

Linden UAW stooges

Taken from the "Skilled Tradesman" by Charles Dewey

"In 1977 at GM's Linden, N.J. plant 50, local 595 members were disciplined and 17 fired.

Their offense was campaigning against the entrenched UAW administration. GM came to the aid of its friends by launching an illegal campaign of harassment against their opposition.

The UAW administration not only chose to ignore the grievances, but the International Union intervened in the subsequent NLRB hearings in behalf of General Motors!

Despite the efforts of the UAW all members were reinstated and their records wiped clean of the phony charges.

The 17 discharged employees were returned with a total of \$350,000 in back pay. NLRB transcripts revealed a conspiracy between the company and the union with two administration committeemen named as company stooges who "fingered" dedicated union men in GM." □

Paper strikes down

SEATTLE, WA—The 7 month West Coast pulp and paper strike is winding down with settlements at Crown Zellerbach, Scott Paper and most Georgia-Pacific and Boise Cascade mills.

However, Weyerhaeuser Grays Harbor Paper, and several other mills with 5,000 workers still on strike. As a new member of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, this strike taught me that militant, democratic unions still survive in some places in sharp contrast to "business unions" like the building trades and the Teamsters (which I used to belong to).

This strike was led by the older veterans of strikes on almost every contract expiration since the union was founded in 1964.

Mass picketing and traveling pickets used to shut down other forest products operations are a tradition and necessity in many small towns across the Columbia Basin and North Pacific Coast. Those arrested and served injunctions for this stuff were respected and supported by ranks and officials of many of the strikers and the International Woodworkers Association, which may need our support in their next contract battle in the sawmill, logging, and log trucking industries in 1980.

We had to accept 10, 9, and 8% on pay, but won some gains on pensions and benefits. Most important, the union survived and showed solid strength in a long strike. It's a continuing battle against the "tree killers."

by DAVE MOORE

Cabbies fight back-East...

CAMBRIDGE, MA—A group of cab drivers picketed City Hall here and about 120 of them filled the City Council Chambers to protest the changing of the rules to permit leasing.

The drivers spoke out against the change and the owners spoke for it during a Cambridge License Commission hearing.

Peter Lowber, a driver for Cambridge Yellow Cab, said, "Under leasing we would be 'self-employed.' As such, even though we would bear the same relationship to the company, the company would share no responsibility for our protection and security.

"The company would still own the cabs, but we, the drivers, would still have to pay for the lease and for gas. There would be no payroll. We would have to file our own taxes.

BONANZA

"We would not be covered by such fundamental security as workman's compensation and social security. Leasing is a bonanza for the owners, who

would become like landlords, merely collecting the rent."

Henry Yenovkian, business agent of Teamster local 496, representing Cambridge Yellow Cab in a current union drive there, said the drivers would lose their insurance coverage, could be sued, and called leasing a "rip off."

The owners claim they want leasing to be "optional," but the drivers pointed out that in Boston, the owners argued the same line when they had the law changed there in 1974 to allow leasing.

Since then leasing has become mandatory at almost every company (Checker Cab Co. being an exception. Drivers there won the right to an option after a 13 week strike last year against leasing).

The cab drivers at the hearing therefore demanded "NO LEASING." Despite the overwhelming sentiment of the drivers against leasing, the outcome of the hearing is uncertain.

The Licensing Board will announce its decision soon. □

... and West

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Yellow cabbies have been out on strike since January 15 to protect their right to be recognized as employees instead of "independent contractors."

It was a union bust from the start.

"We were sure to have a union," said one driver, but the union was enjoined from having elections until January 16. The scheme to forfeit employee status to prevent unionization was implemented on January 15.

BREAK

Jimmy Steel and his Yellow Cab cohorts are trying to break union organization by making drivers independent contractors who hire their taxis on weekly contracts!

This means Yellow Cab no longer pays any social security, health plan payment, workman's compensation, unemployment or vacation pay, which forces drivers "into setting up their own personal bureaucracies."

The company's bait was to reduce the daily gate charge from \$31 to \$28. Some cabbies were initially fooled but they realized they lost more than they gained, and eventually 50% of the workforce struck.

In spite of their policy of hiring any scabs available, they

still run 25 to 30% under normal capacity, and on the occasions I have been there, the parking lots have been full of normally operational cabs.

Many scabs have never operated a cab before and often don't even know the city. Not surprisingly there is a high turnover, since they cannot keep on cabbies who don't make money.

The strikers' case is so good even the San Francisco Police Commission was given the task of deciding the legality of leasing by the Police, Fire and Safety Committee.

The NLRB's preliminary hearing stated that Yellow Cab was guilty of unfair labor practices.

SUPPORT

Three other cab company's cabbies are supporting the strike. They know that their bosses are hopefully watching Yellow Cab: union busting in mind.

The strikers have a three-pronged offensive of picketing, public education and fund raising—so far quite successful.

The strike's chances of succeeding are gradually getting better. □

by TIM KINGSTON

MINERS' FAMILIES PROTEST LAY-OFFS

COLUMBUS, OH—Coal miners here are fighting for their lives again, this time in a conflict that threatens to wipe out the use of Ohio coal—and some 15,300 UMW jobs.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) wants Ohio's utility companies to put scrubbers on their smokestacks, so that EPA air pollution control standards are met.

The alternative, they say, is to stop burning Ohio coal—which is high in sulfur.

The utilities say they can't afford the scrubbers, and that the EPA is forcing them to turn to non-union coal produced in Kentucky and in the West.

JOB

The deadline for compliance is next October, but already Ohio miners are losing their jobs. North American Coal Company has let 1,100 miners go in Southeastern Ohio. Consol has fired 307 miners in Eastern Ohio.

On January 30, the EPA held hearings here in Columbus, and hundreds of angry miners and their wives attended, in an effort to defend their jobs.

Cynthia Bumbico, a miners' wife from St. Clairsville, Ohio, spoke at the hearing on behalf of the miners' wives from the Wheeling, W. Va. area. She told Socialist Worker about the problem of testifying along side the representatives of the coal companies and the utilities.

"People are angry here. They're being laid off. There's a strong feeling against the EPA.

"I feel that is wrong. I feel the utilities are to blame and I said that in my speech.

"There is a lot of pressure from the coal companies to lower the air pollution standards, and the miners here are caught up in it.

"The people I know think it's all the EPA's fault, but



Cynthia and Jason Bumbico

mainly because of all the propaganda they get around here.

"I think we're being manipulated by the coal companies and the utilities. I think it's just a big push to get the EPA to drop the standards.

BILLS

"But no matter what happens, we're going to have our electric bills raised. And the people understand that almost everything the utilities say is b.s.

"I think they blame the EPA because they know in their heart of hearts that the utilities are stronger, because they have so much money behind them."

Most of the miners and miners' wives attending the hearing argued against the EPA's standards, but when James Friedman, the lawyer for the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, told the panel that CEI couldn't afford the

scrubbers, there was a roar of boos.

"When he said that CEI cared about the environment, a coal miner said, 'All you care about is the almighty dollar.'

"I do care about the environment. I hate to see the environment destroyed. We have to breathe the air, too.

RIGHTS

"Anyway, I don't think the coal in this area will just be left in the group. You can't tell me these coal companies who own the mineral rights will just let it sit there.

"That's why I think it's manipulation.

"But people are angry, very angry. It's the layoffs, they're real now.

"I want to see something done about pollution. I used to live in Cleveland. I know what CEI does there. I think they should put on the scrubbers, they have the money.

"But we need our jobs too—there's no way we'll just sit back and watch them go." □

PUBLIC WORKERS MARCH

CHARLESTON, W.V.—500 teachers, state workers and supporters braved zero degree weather here to march on the state capitol carrying candles and demanding union rights for state workers.

The march was called by CURE (Coalition United for the Rights of Employees. CURE, organized chiefly by the West Virginia Education Association, is leading a campaign to get state workers the

right to bargain collectively.

West Virginia law, as it stands, bars state employees from bargaining, despite the fact that it is one of the most unionized states in the nation. □

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"African Liberation and Divestment" A new pamphlet available from the Bloomington Southern Africa Committee, 25¢. Write BSAC, Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401.

"War or Recession or . . ." An expose of U.S. domestic and foreign policy by Logan Martinez and Susu Jeffrey is now available from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118. \$1.00.

MASS Rank and File, a rank and file newsletter from Massachusetts state hospital workers is now available. Write Box 284, Northampton, MA 01060.

The March issue of UPSurge, the rank and file paper of UPS workers, is now available from UPSurge, P.O. Box 18213, Cleveland, OH 44118.



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THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTION

The freedom that has suddenly exploded in Iran can only be made to last if the masses do take control completely.

This is exactly what failed to happen in the two great revolutionary upsurges in Chile and Portugal in the early Seventies.

It is the working class in Iran that now has to take on the leadership of the revolution and chart its course forward. As Trotsky put it:

"Just as a blacksmith cannot seize the red hot iron in his naked hand; so the working class cannot directly seize power; it has to have an organization or party to accomodate this task."

SWEPT

Khomeini, swept to power in Iran by a revolutionary tremor that statted governments throughout the world, gave this message to the masses of people who put him there:

"Trust in your new government. Trust in the revolution. Please give up your weapons. Please go back to work."

The majority of workers have been on strike for about three months. Khomeini urged them to go back.

It is estimated that about 70,000 modern weapons are in uncontrolled circulation in Iran. Khomeini declared the buying and selling of weapons to be a haram (a religious prohibition).

He said that those who

opposed his decisions would be labelled 'Opponents of the Revolution'.

TV viewers in the West might be forgiven for thinking that the new regime in Iran is, indeed, a very revolutionary one.

Film clips of executed bodies of some of the Shah's dead Generals and hysterical noises about the impact of Iran's revolution on gasoline prices have dominated the news presentation.

The real picture is different. Dr. Bazargan, Khomeini's appointed Prime Minister, said he had not known of the executions. If he had, he most certainly would have opposed them.

For one of the most important features about his new administration is the number of former supporters of the deposed Shah who have been given positions.

The new Chief of Staff is General Gharehnay, head of the Tribal Affairs Department in Military Intelligence under the Shah.

COUP

In the early Sixties he was jailed for a short period for trying to organize a coup with the head of Savak!

The New Naval Chief, Genral Habibollahi, is a close relative of Ressai, his predecessor. Ressai was notorious for corrupt practices under the Shah..

How will Khomeini disarm the people?

Much depends on the at-



titude adopted toward the new regime by the two main guerrilla organizations, the Fedayin and the Mujahadin.

Members of both organizations were in the thick of the fighting and the distribution of arms.

Hastemi Sabbaghian, a deputy prime minister in the new Government, made plain the cynical State 'thank you' to the guerrillas when he was reported as saying: "They have no place in our revolution."

The main middle class party in Iran, the National Front, is backing Khomeini. They have members in the Government—Khomeini accepted them despite their attempts to do a dirty deal with the Shah only four weeks ago.

The National Front is backed to the hilt by local businessmen. It is the party that top professional people, like judges and senior civil

servants, have flocked to in recent months.

Its present alliance with Khomeini is a sure sign that private enterprise feels it can work with Khomeini.

Perhaps more surprising is the speed with which the pro-Moscow Tudeh (Communist) Party has rallied to the side of the new regime. They made public their support last week.

Some of their organizers have been helping get production restarted.

SHARP

One sharp indication of the character of the new regime is its expressed attitude to the reactionary Arab monarchs in the Gulf:

"They have nothing to fear from us", was the message taken by a leading Iranian mullah, Bahaeddin from Sharaz, in an interview in a Mosque in the oil-rich Gulf state of Qatar.

Reports over the weekend suggest that many Iranians are at least heeding Khomeini's plea for a return to work—even if there is less enthusiasm to give up the arms.

Yet a return to work does not in anyway mean the disintegration of the revolutionary movement.

Respect for managerial authority has all but been destroyed. In the oilfields, managers of the National Iranian Oil Company are complaining that they have to get permission from 'the Committee' before they can even take an official car out!

In the central banks counter clerks have had the audacity to scrutinise money transfer requests to see if they are justified!

It is workplaces like these that can become the mobilizing bases for taking forward Iran's unfinished revolution.

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