

# Socialist Worker

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Women coal miners meet: see page 5

JULY 1980



NUMBER 39

# ONE MILLION MORE JOBLESS

**SUMMER FORECAST: DEEPER, LONGER RECESSION, INFLATION, CUTBACKS AND ROCKETING UNEMPLOYMENT**



Every day there are more layoffs and cutbacks. Every day the price of basic food, clothes and shelter goes up.

Unemployment is now running at 8%. Inflation is 15%.

And it's getting worse. Today's recession is already worse than the 1974-75 recession. And the capitalist class doesn't know what to do about it.

In 1978 Carter told us that there would be no recession. He was wrong.

In 1979, he told us that even if there was another recession, it would be shorter and shallower than in 1974-75. He was wrong.

Now in 1980 he is telling us there is indeed a "recession," but that we can fix it by putting less money into the economy. Wrong again.

The problem is not the amount of money. The problem is the system, the capitalist system.

Last month Carter and his advisors told us the recession would bottom out by mid-1981. Can we believe him? No.

The truth is that the economy is in crisis, not recession, and neither Carter nor the bosses and bankers knows how to solve it. And they're getting desperate.

They don't even know what caused the crisis.

According to *Business*

by NEIL SMITH

*Week*, the ruling class bible of weekly business news, the present crisis is caused by the capitalists' "state of mind." American bosses, according to *Business Week*, are not ruthless and competitive enough. They've gone soft.

The crisis can be solved, *Business Week* says, by a different state of mind. That's desperation. Go tell an auto-worker he was laid off by a "state of mind."

So, to try and solve the crisis, the capitalists are mounting a major offensive against the workers. It is more systematic than ever before.

## RECORD

First, they are making record layoffs and cutbacks. 300,000 autoworkers are already on permanent layoff. Things are so bad in the auto industry that all but one of Ford's U.S. plants will be closed in July.

The crisis is spreading—to the construction industry, rubber, electronics, even service workers are beginning to be laid off. Cutbacks for those still working are also at a record level.

But the ruling class is doing a second thing. At the same time as they are laying people off by the thousands, to protect their profits, they're investing millions of dollars in new factories, in the south and abroad. While Ford workers are idle for July, the company is investing \$365 million for a new plant in Mexico.

This is part of the offensive, an attempt to divided the class internationally. But it is also an attempt to revitalize the economy for another phase of rapid growth.

This is the capitalist solution to crisis.

But there is also a working class solution. It's socialism. It's when workers run their own factories, not for profit, but to fulfill basic human needs—food, clothing, shelter.

But we can't expect the capitalist class to give us the working class solution to crisis. It has to be fought for.

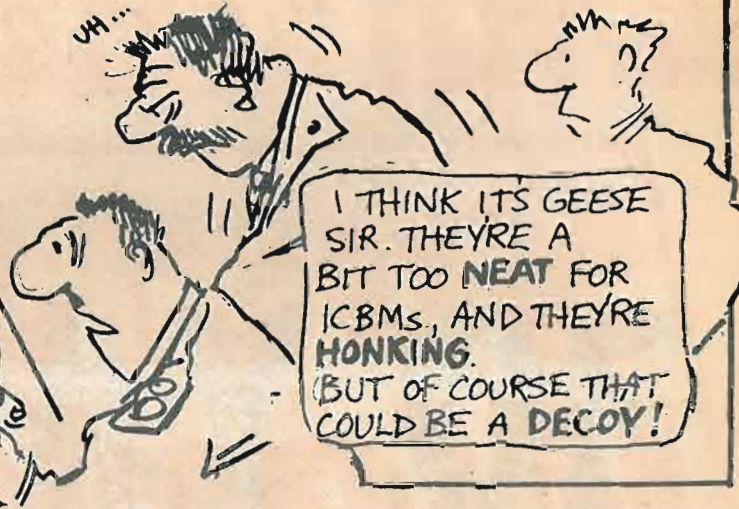
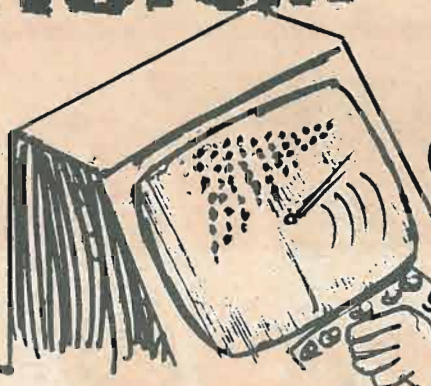
And it has to be the working class itself that fights—fights not for new reforms, but for workers control of society. For the working class, capitalism is a permanent crisis. The only solution to this crisis is socialism. □



# CORRECTION...



EVERY YEAR THE FARCICLE GEESE MIGRATE SOUTH FROM THEIR LAKE IN CANADA, AND GO TO MEXICO FOR THEIR HOLIDAYS. THEIR FLIGHT IS PICKED UP AT DAWN ON THE US DEFENCE RADAR...



I THINK IT'S GEESE SIR. THEY'RE A BIT TOO NEAT FOR ICBMS, AND THEY'RE HONKING. BUT OF COURSE THAT COULD BE A DECOY!

AT THAT MOMENT A DAWN PHONE RINGS IN THE WHITE HOUSE...



WE HAVE AN ALERT, MR PRESIDENT - BUT IT COULD BE COMPUTER MALFUNCTION - OR A SQUIRREL GNAWING THROUGH A SIX INCH DIAMETER STEEL CABLE...



UH. SQUIRRELS? (YAWN) OK I'M COMING OVER. OH YEH. SEND UP STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND!

AT A SITE IN SIBERIA...



THIS ROCKET WILL HELP US TO MONITOR -

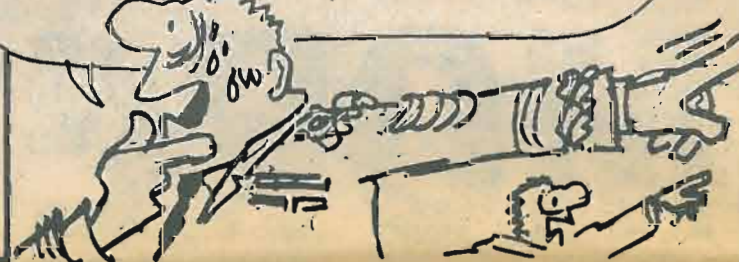
THE MIGRATION OF LEMMINGS IN FINLAND!



CALM DOWN LEONID. WE THINK WE'VE GOT A BALLS-UP THIS END...



SIR - WE HAVE A SATELLITE REPORT ON A LAUNCH IN SIBERIA - AND AN UNCONFIRMED FORMATION OF PROJECTILES IN SECTOR FOUR !!!



ALERT MINUTEMAN, POSEIDON AND POLARIS! PREPARE FOR NEUTRON CAPACITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE!



OPEN THE SILOS!

ELD ELD - IS ZERO ANYBODY? ZERE? ELD - OH DAWN YOU THEN! CLICK

THEY'RE MAD - THEY'VE DONE IT!

**FIRE PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE!**



IN THE RUSSIAN WAR ROOM...

GOOD GOD - WHAT'S THAT?



THE END

PHIL EVANS' COMMENT ON LAST MONTH'S TWO NUCLEAR NEAR-DISASTERS



# JULY 21: STOP THE WAR GAMES!

Draft registration begins this month. Four million 19 and 20 year old men will be required to register at their local post offices in the two weeks beginning July 21.

Demonstrations are planned for the first day of draft registration in major cities. In many more cities, anti-draft groups will leaflet post offices urging people to refuse to register.

The penalty for non-compliance is 5 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. If the last war is any indication, resisters will be detected through information provided by their high schools, colleges, employers, churches and families.

## REFUSE

Still, many young men will refuse to register. The government conservatively estimates a 5% failure rate—200,000 resisters. But that leaves 3,800,000 new names in the war computer.

The war makers mean business. The jingoism and war hysteria whipped around Iran, Afghanistan and the Olympic boycott are behind the registration and the draft. And as we slide deeper and deeper into recession—as the American steel industry limps into the corner—as hundreds of thousands of American workers

are thrown out of work—it is clear that the military spending, the probable draft, the possibilities of new Vietnams, have more than one use for Carter and the generals.

At the same time the military knows it cannot successfully intervene in, say, Iran or Nicaragua with the army it has now.

Of today's army, 34.5% are

members of minority groups. The main promise of the armed services, civilian employability after service, only pans out for about 9% of those who serve. 68% say they wouldn't fight in another Vietnam.

## FIGHT

In a recent Air Force poll, 36% said they wouldn't even fight to defend their own base.

The American military machine needs a friendlier sampling of today's young, and

they intend to get it—right now. In terms of technical military preparedness, registration at this point in the game is unnecessary. It will only save about 13 days in the time it takes to call up troops.

But in terms of preparing the nation—young and old, men and women alike—for war, draft registration is crucial.

It is for that reason that individual resistance is not enough. We vehemently oppose imperialist war and support all resistance to participation in the war effort. Young people should certainly be thinking of how they will individually respond to registration and the draft.

But the odds against our being able to grind the registration machinery to a halt by scattered resistance are staggering.

The machinery we are up against may be mad, but it is organized. It will take a massive, militant and well organized movement to seriously challenge that machinery and the war sentiment being drummed up around it.

## TEST

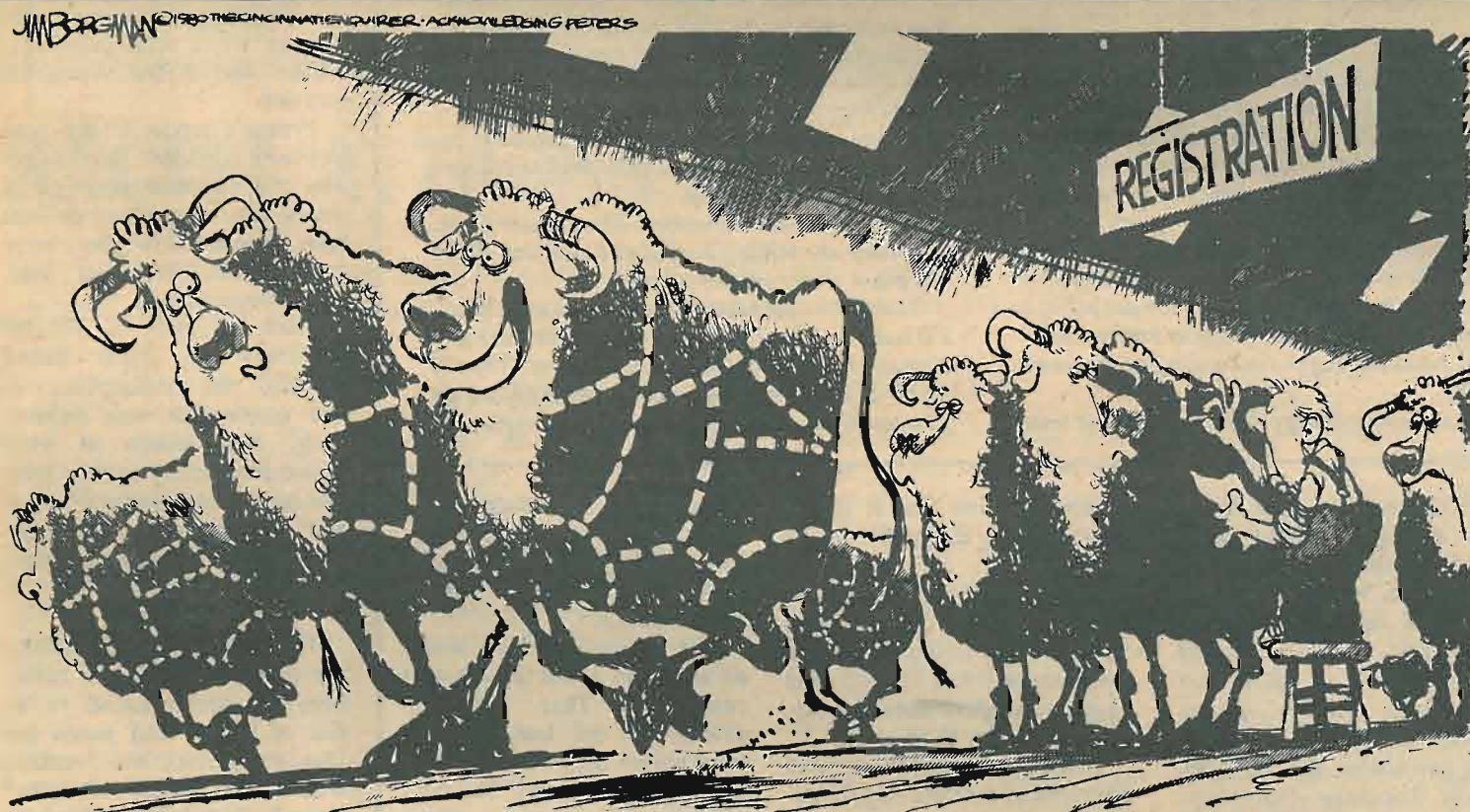
The test of the demonstrations and pickets beginning July 21 will not be whether they defeat the registration effort, but rather whether they begin to build the kind of movement which can ultimately block the road to imperialist war. □

by CHRISTINA BERGMARK



## Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK



"NO SWEAT!.... HE ASSURED ME HE HAS NO INTENTION OF SENDING US TO MARKET — HE JUST WANTS TO KNOW HOW MUCH MEAT IS AVAILABLE!"

## FIGHTING WORDS

"What to the American slave is the Fourth of July? I answer, a day that reveals to him more than all other days of the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him your celebration is a sham: your boasted liberty an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are to him mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States—at this hour."

Frederick Douglass on the Fourth of July, 1852



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# UAW CONVENTION: NO ANSWERS

It costs the UAW membership several million dollars to hold its 1980 convention in Anaheim, Cal. It is true that some delegates and their families got to see Disneyland, but what did the membership get in return for all that money?

New officers will be in charge of the Ford, General Motors and Farm Equipment departments. There will be

a new International Secretary Treasurer.

The press acclaims the new officers as worthy successors to those who are retiring.

## ABHOR

Those retiring and the new officers alike were educated in the Walter Reuther school of philosophy. They will promote "good labor re-

lations" with the employers. They abhor the class struggle.

They call it "improving the quality of life," but the workers call it speedup. The UAW leadership wants to halt the drop in corporate profits. To do so they are prepared to carry out the will of the bosses, even though it means the loss of thousands of jobs.

The delegates debated the

clause in the UAW constitution barring communists from holding office. Those wanting to eliminate the clause were defeated by those local leaders who are afraid of any opposition. With the large number of unemployed they may demand changes in the leadership as well as changes in the policies of the UAW.

Al Gardner, Chairman of the Tool and Die unit of Local

600, raised the question of a labor party, but, there being no resolution on the question, no serious discussion of the issue was possible. The resolutions committee failed to present a resolution on the issue.

The most controversial question to come before the convention was the increase in dues for the unemployed. Up to now \$5.00 was deducted from SUB benefits. Under the revised constitution, one hour's pay will be deducted. By 1982, when the change takes effect, the deduction will be upwards of \$10.00.

## AFRAID

One must ask why the increase in dues for those least able to pay? Having no answers to their problems, the machine politicians are afraid of the unemployed. They don't want them in the union. Few of them will voluntarily pay \$10.00 to an organization that has no answers to their problems.

After much debate on the question, a vote was taken. Many of the delegates thought the increase had been voted down. When a second vote was taken the chair ruled it had carried. The machine never loses in the UAW.

The casualty figures for the unemployed workers are beginning to come in. A report to Michigan Governor Milliken predicts 20,000 deaths from heart attacks, cirrhosis of the liver, suicides and homicides.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. Family stress brings on wife beatings, child beatings and drug abuse.

This pattern is becoming a terrible reality in Lyons, Michigan, where a Chrysler plant was closed last August. A catastrophe threatens this August when unemployment, SUB and TRA benefits run out.

Fraser's report to the convention sounded like a re-run of a Reuther report of 20 years ago. According to him new break-throughs were made. The best-ever contracts were signed.

With upwards of 300,000 members on open ended layoffs, the atmosphere of the convention was depressing. Negotiations of 1979 failed completely to deal with the most pressing problem of the workers—that of unemployment and job security.

## HOLES

The much touted cushion for unemployed UAW members has been found to be full of holes, and much too thin to protect the workers from a depression. A hundred thousand Chrysler workers have been looking over a precipice, fearing the bankruptcy of Chrysler.

Now they will have to wait until after the November election. Then they will learn the facts of life.

While the UAW leadership is fiddling, the state and federal governments are cutting social services to the bone. The wealth of the rich is not going to be touched to feed the unemployed. How long will the UAW membership stand for these injustices?

by JOHN ANDERSON



## 7,000 BALTIMORE JOBS GONE



### BETHLEHEM STEEL'S SPARROWS POINT PLANT: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point Steelworks sprawl over several miles of the southeast Baltimore suburbs.

Built first in 1887, it has been the largest industrial employer in Maryland and the biggest employer in Baltimore for decades, especially for Blacks and ethnic whites in East Baltimore.

Now, the economic crisis has hit the Point.

Layoffs at Sparrows Point now exceed the 7,000 mark. More are on the way. In a work force of a little over 18,000, this means that over 30% of Bethlehem's steel workers are on indefinite lay-off. Everyone thinks more layoffs are on the way.

The necessity for a fight back to save jobs has never been clearer. In spite of the company pleading poverty, last year profits jumped a cool 22.5% to \$275 million.

## CLAIMS

The company claims that steel imports and foreign cars are to blame. But at this moment nearly 37% of the Japanese steel industry is idle, compared to only 27% in the U.S. Japanese steel is in trouble too. There, as here, it is the workers who are being hit hardest by layoffs and cutbacks. The owners simply close down and open up somewhere else.

If people are buying foreign cars, it is because they are cheaper. And who can blame them? Bethlehem Steel itself just bought a fleet of Toyotas for some of its management. And the next pay day they were out there again explaining to those laid off that foreign steel is the real problem.

It's not just layoffs that

by CURTIS PRICE & NEIL SMITH

Stuart Taylor is a 58 year old Black worker at Bethlehem Steel's massive Sparrows Point plant. For 24 years he has worked there, after immigrating from South Carolina.

In an interview with Socialist Worker he explains what effect the layoffs are having on steel workers.

*Things have been getting bad down there for quite a while. This is the worst I've ever seen it since I started working at the Point and it looks like it's going to get even worse.*

*"The company really doesn't care how it treats its workers. They only care about themselves. With my seniority, if they lay me off they would have to pay me 80% of my wages, but you know what they've done? Instead, they've shifted me back to the lowest job rating and cut my pay almost in half so they could avoid paying me according to my years put in.*

*"It's making things difficult. You get used to*

*taking home a certain amount each week and you live up to it. Now I'm making half of what I used to make and yet still have to make my car payments, rent and all the other bills I made when I was taking home twice as much. It just isn't fair.*

*"I think things started getting worse about five years ago when they brought in that automation stuff. One man could run three or four jobs after that. A lot of jobs have been lost since then. Now a lot of these people laid off will never come back. I go in each day not knowing what to expect next. It makes you insecure about your future.*

*"The area where I work is like a ghost town. And they are talking now about shutting down the plant every second week.*

*"I don't know where it's going to end. But I'll tell you this. There's some people here getting angry. Especially the young ones. They'll fight. You have to know you're right before you can fight, and they know they're right."*

affect the workers. For those lucky enough to have kept their jobs, the cutbacks have been severe. Workers' ratings have been cut, and so have their wages. And while 7,000 have been laid off, there are now newly hired young workers working double—doing two shifts. It is cheaper for the company that way. They save on benefits and wages.

## CUTBACKS

Also, the company has cut back on repair and maintenance, as well as on safety conditions. In 1978 and 1979 there were a total of 15 deaths on the job in the Sparrows Point complex. In the four years previous to that there had been only four deaths.

As layoffs increase and working conditions get worse, the mood at the Point gets more tense. Many are disillusioned. They accept the

company's line that it is imports causing the problems.

But it isn't.

It's the fault of the economic system we live in. This system cannot even make sure that everyone in it has enough food to eat, enough clothes to wear, enough money to pay rent.

In fact, the capitalist system survives by making people unemployed just so that profit rates can be kept high. And a system that works in this way works against the working class, and in the interest of the capitalist class. Who gets the profits, after all, which these layoffs are meant to protect?

## SWEAT

More and more workers at the Point see this, as the crisis deepens. Bethlehem Steel's \$275 million profits didn't come from maneuvering on the stock market or from board room strategy. It came

from the sweat of Baltimore's Black and white workers. Yet it is they who have to pay when the company cannot make a profit.

The unions can't or won't do anything about layoffs and cutbacks. That became evident in the last contract talks where they weren't even brought up as issues. The only alternative is for the workers themselves to do something. And it can be done.

In Baltimore during the 1960's, the Sparrows Point plant was closed down time and time again by wildcat strikes. The reason? Racial discrimination against Blacks. The Black workers won a total victory, forcing the company to admit Blacks to the better paying jobs.

Without jobs, workers and their families have no control over their own lives. This is the best reason for taking control of our own jobs.



## WOMEN COAL MINERS MEET IN BECKLEY

# WOMEN MINERS CAN DIG COAL TOO!

BECKLEY, WVA—"Keep fighting and stand up for your rights!" was the message from Florence Reece, long time activist who wrote the world famous union organizing song "Which Side Are You On?"

The occasion was the Second National Conference of Women Coal Miners which was held on May 30 to June 1, at the National Mine Safety and Health Academy in Beckley, West Virginia.

The conference was sponsored by the Coal Employment Project & Coal Mining Women's Support Team and drew about 250 people.

### LIVING

As recently as 1973, there were no women coal miners according to national statistics. Today, 3,000 women earn their living mining coal.

by  
**CINDY  
SENEFELD**

Women have always been active in the labor movement and in the effort to earn a fair wage in a safe workplace. But for the first time, women are speaking out within the UMWA as miners—not miners' wives and daughters. Many of their concerns are the same as their male co-workers—health and safety, fair pay, job bidding opportunities, disability benefits and pension funds.

Yet some of their concerns are unique—child care, sexual harassment, sex discrimination and maternity benefits.



There are 3,000 women coal miners in the U.S.

The conference consisted primarily of workshops. They offered these women, who are often isolated from other women miners, the opportunity to share their experiences and information, build networks of communication and solidarity and plan for their future together.

Workshops were held on the following topics: Union Con-

tract and Grievance Procedures, Workers' Comp, Sex Discrimination on the Job and in Hiring, Mine Safety, Sexual Harassment in the Mines, Union Organizing and Building the UMWA, Pregnancy & Health, Organizing Support Groups.

There are women miners in 13 states, primarily in the Appalachian coal fields, with one-third concentrated in West Virginia alone. But there are also women miners out West where the mining is somewhat different—primarily above ground, non-union strip mining.

### OPPORTUNITY

Most women claim that their work in the mines is the best they've ever had, a rare opportunity to make a decent salary. According to a survey prepared by the UMW, at least 53% of all women miners are the sole supporters of their families.

Once women get jobs in the mines, they are subject to harassment of every possible kind. Some is sexual—this can range all the way from rapes on the job to not so subtle suggestions from foremen to women workers that extending favors to the foreman is a condition of advancement, or even of keeping one's job.

Harassment also takes the form of deliberately giving women wrong information about the workplace to make her look foolish, being told the incorrect names for pieces of equipment, being given the lowest status, lowest paying, most undesirable jobs.

Brenda from Harlan County, Kentucky, wanted to be a repair person, but the man who trained her said he could not work with a hard on so they took her off the training.

Debby from Wyoming saw two men she was hired with be trained on equipment while she was told to clean out the foreman's truck. After filing a complaint of sex discrimination with the EEOC, she was fired for 'insubordination'.

### BRANDED

She was branded the resident radical and she was baited in every possible way, accused of being a 'women's liber,' lesbian and red. She never considered herself any of those things, but feels the experience has done exactly that—radicalized her.

Women coal miners are here to stay and they are inspiring to workers everywhere. They are struggling and fighting against the coal companies, sexism and capitalism every day.

## RACIST ATTACKS IN DETROIT

DETROIT, MI—On Friday, June 27, a mob of 30 white racists attacked the new home of Anna Parry, the only Black resident of a neighborhood on the West Side.

Although it is in Detroit, this neighborhood borders Dearborn, Michigan, the home of the Ford Motor Corporation. It is a city well known for its racism.

Soon after Ms. Parry moved into her home with her boyfriend, the vandalism and harassment began.

Racist slurs, including the KKK slogan, were spray-painted on the front of the house.

Finally, after three weeks of harassment, Ms. Parry called the Detroit police department. Following a police investigation, 30 white people surrounded the house and began breaking out the windows. The five people inside the house had to call the police for aid and were escorted to safety.

### ARSON

One of the vandals was arrested and another suspect is under investigation in an arson attempt on the Parry home.

Unfortunately, this case is not an isolated one. Several times in the last five years, Blacks have been forced out of their homes in isolated

by **RETHA HILL — RED TIDE**

pockets of all-white neighborhoods scattered throughout Detroit.

However, this particular case of racism occurred just days after the local nazis and Ku Klux Klan put in a joint request to Detroit City Council for a permit to march on August 23rd.

The fact that these two events occurred within a three week period gives the impression that the Nazis, and especially the Klan, are a substantial and growing force in Detroit.

However, the exact opposite is true. The Nazis, alias the Klan, is a small group of burn-out young people around Bill Russel, a publicity seeker and ignorant bigot.

Frustrated from having three Nazi bookstores closed by anti-Nazi forces in 1977 and 1978, Russel switched over and became the Klan last summer. So, depending on the occasion, Russel's main decision is which costume to wear—his all black SS uniform, or the cooler summer outfit of a white sheet.

Although the Detroit City Council is split on the decision to give the Nazi/Klan permit, anti-fascist forces are clear on where they stand if the Nazis/Klan try to march. This was shown on June 26, when 700 people attended a hearing on the issue.

If the Klan tries to march they will be met by a militant counter-demonstration. In the words of one woman at the hearing, "They'll receive the keys to the city with bricks and bottles." □

## Socialist Worker

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# Graffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

## Riot insurance...

Jimmy Carter is handing out the money—but selectively.

This summer, 19 cities are receiving federal grants for "urban problems." Cleveland, for example, will get \$3.5 million for jobs for youth.

Is Jimmy getting soft in his fight to trim the budget? Not quite. Even his own staff refers to this post-Miami program as "riot insurance." □

## Rally round the flag...

Don't let anyone tell you the capitalist class isn't organized internationally.

Remember the old stories about Ford and GM producing tanks and trucks for Germany in the Second World War?

Well, how about this one?

A Teheran bank is among the 600 international banks helping with the Chrysler bailout.

Chrysler seems to have forgotten how much it hates Iran, and the Iranian bankers are just doing their bit to keep capitalism alive. □

## Freedom of choice...

Carl's Jr. hamburger chain contributes millions each year to the National Right to Life Committee and its fight to stop any woman from having an abortion.

It is with great cynicism and disgust that one views their latest billboards and advertising.

In glorious color are four different hamburgers. The logo below it reads "Freedom of Choice." □

## In the best interests...

This last year at Atlantic City High School graduation ceremonies, valedictorian Tina Bahadori withdrew from that honor.

A majority of teachers at that high school signed a petition opposing her because she's an Iranian national.

The city's board of education did nothing to protest the teacher's action and even passed a resolution stating the board believed it was "in the best interests of the young lady that she accede" to the decision.

Bahadori, a straight-A student, who lives with relatives in the area and has been non-political concerning Iran, was condemned by the board for her academic performance. □

# Pay the Detroit city workers!

DETROIT, MI—9,000 city workers here are out on strike.

The striking garbage collectors as well as the clerical workers in city hall, the art institute and the recreation departments are all members of AFSCME Council 25.

## COLA

They are demanding COLA and 3, 4 and 5% pay increases

over the next three years respectively.

Chemists at the Water Board also struck, but a rapidly produced court injunction has forced them back to work.

Bus mechanics, members of AFSCME Local 312, are also out. And although the bus drivers are not on strike, they are refusing to cross picket lines. Altogether the strike is a real

show of power and solidarity.

The city workers only received a 3% increase 3 years ago, and this time they are determined to do better.

But, led by Coleman Young, the city has launched a massive campaign against the striking workers. Young made a special broadcast on all Detroit TV channels denouncing the strikers and charging them with sabotage.

The city claims it's in the red. Yet Detroit is to host the Republican convention.

Already it has spent \$3 million of taxpayers' money on the convention.

## PAY

This is crazy! To hell with the Republicans, Pay the workers! □

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

But isn't the trend toward more and more equality in America?

In the decades after World War II, liberal social scientists in America were optimistic that long-term economic expansion would equalize wealth and opportunity in America, or at least bring inequality within "Manageable" limits.

In 1960, Arthur Burns celebrated the post-war boom as the "democratization of the distribution process," and "one of the greatest social revolutions of history."

Seen from the vantage point of 1980 and deep economic crisis, it's obvious that he was wrong.

Inequality has always been a major part of American life, and the disparity between the rich and poor growing daily. Statistics on inflation provide one example of how economic crisis takes basic inequality and makes it worse.

## BASICS

The overall inflation rate for the first quarter of this year was just under 20%. But for the past four years, prices for the basic necessities—food, housing, medical care, and energy—have risen about one-third faster than the overall average. And two-thirds of most families incomes go for these basics.

Another example can be found in wage levels. While real wages (corrected for inflation) have not increased overall since 1970, those paid to white, male professionals and managers rose by nearly 25% in the same period.

Then there's unemployment, which will soon total 8 million "officially." Between June 8-14, 1980, 675,000 workers filed new applications for unemployment insurance, the highest number ever in a single week. These workers and the millions they joined are having a hard time making 100% of the pittance the government gives them to cover even those four basic necessities.

It's painfully obvious that the cold-war sociologists' "natural trend towards equality" had no basis in reality. Despite long-term economic expansion and the growth of



Blacks: there is less equality today than twenty years ago

public education and social services, distribution of income remains today essentially what it was in 1910!

The poorest 20% of the population get about 5% of the personal income, while the richest 20% get almost half.

Furthermore, the introduction of inheritance taxes earlier in the century has done nothing to alter the distribution of wealth. The richest 1% of Americans own half of all corporate stock, and the other half is owned almost entirely by the wealthiest fifth of the population.

Ironically, the U.S. government keeps records of this kind of thing, and if you're willing to dig a little, it's easy

to confirm what your eyes have already told you—that America is only the land of opportunity for the rich.

But our task as socialists is not simply to expose the facts about inequality, nor can we just brand it as "unfair." Millions of people who aren't socialists at all agree that it's unfair.

Socialists' job is to show again and again that the inequality of our society is the result of exploitation. The rich are not rich because they were born with the ability to create wealth, but because they take the wealth created by others.

Inequality is based not on nature but on organized robbery,

# This system is organized robbery

by DEBORAH ROBERTS

robbery, robbery by the class at the top. They take the wealth created by human labor, by those at the bottom.

Several years ago, the *Wall Street Journal* stated that in American production industries, workers produce an average of \$3.43 in goods for every \$1 they are paid in wages. Thus, if you work 8 hours, with average machinery and at average wages, you spend the first 2 hours and 20 minutes producing your own livelihood, and the other 5 hours and 40 minutes for the boss.

From the capitalists' point of view, the workers are being paid a "fair" amount if they earn enough to keep them working and bringing up their children as a new generation of workers. But the amount of money required to keep workers alive and working is considerably less than the amount of wealth they create.

But after they've agreed, they say in a resigned way, "Why should people expect to be equal? Some people are born stronger, or faster, or smarter than others. Life is unfair."

## FRACTION

To repeat, wages represent only a fraction of the value workers produce. The difference is surplus value, and it is appropriated by the owners for their own use.

This is the fundamental inequality, the basic injustice which underlies all others. To get control of our lives and our society, we have to see this relationship for what it is and act together to stop the robbers.

An old labor song called "Bread and Roses" written during the Lawrence textile strike in 1912 tells what inequality and exploitation have to do with each other, and what we're fighting for:

"No more the drudge and idler,  
Ten that toil while one  
reposes,  
But a sharing of life's glories,  
Bread and roses! bread and roses!"



# Hands off Jamaica!

The reactionary forces in Jamaica have attempted to overthrow the government of the Peoples National Party (PNP).

On June 22, it was announced that 26 military personnel and 3 civilians had been detained. The detentions were ordered when a soldier chickened out of the plot and went to the government with the details.

So far the details emerging describe a course of action that would have led to the assassination of Prime Minister Michael Manley and the setting up of a military government.

The plot to overthrow the government is the climax of a de-stabilization plan carried out by the American Central Intelligence Agency, the United States ruling class and the right wing Jamaican Labor Party, led by Harvard trained economist, Edward Siago.

The Peoples National Party is a Social Democratic party. In 1972, 12 years after Jamaica's political independence from British colonialism, the party won an overwhelming electoral victory for a mandate of change. The slogans the party campaigned around during the elections reflected the deepest aspirations of the working class and oppressed in Jamaica: "Land for the Landless," "Jobs for All," "End Victimization," and "End Corruption."

And so fired by the hope of change, the vast majority of the Jamaican people voted the Peoples National Party into office in 1972.

## WORDS

In 1974 the party declared itself to be a democratic socialist party. It also declared itself anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist.

But like so many social democratic parties the declarations were words. The party has not consistently fought United States imperialism.

The reason is simple. For a consistent struggle against imperialism, the masses have to be mobilized. It is one of the greatest failures of the social democratic parties—and the PNP is no exception.

## Tony Bogues reveals the C.I.A. plot to overthrow the Michael Manley regime in Jamaica

However, in 1974, while the party raised in words and in action, reforms inside the system, the ordinary Jamaican struggled for fundamental revolutionary changes in the system.

Numerous land occupations occurred in the rural areas, as landless youths seized some of the properties of the descendants of the ex-slave masters. At the same time the national liberation struggles in Angola and Mozambique, coupled with their own specific struggles, led to a dramatic increase in the class consciousness of the Jamaican worker.

As the process developed in the island, United States imperialism, through economic pressure, tried to curb the reformist activities of the Peoples National Party regime.

In 1975, Henry Kissinger asked the government not to recognize the Angolan MPLA. The PNP refused.



Above, Jamaican sugar workers, right, Tony Bogues

Kissinger returned to the United States and the CIA was directed to de-stabilize the country.

The campaign followed the one in Chile. Violence, intimidation, anti-communist propaganda, bosses' strikes, disinvestment by foreign capitalists, the formation of numerous anti-communist groups both nationally and internationally, the use of the daily major newspaper, the *Daily Gleaner*, in the way the *El Mercurio* was used in Chile.

In the 1976 election, the PNP campaigned around the slogans of anti-imperialism and won an even larger mandate than 1972.

It was then that United States imperialism and their local agents placed into effect the campaign that has led up to the recent aborted coup.

Because of the illegal flight of capital, \$365 million dollars in 1976, the Jamaican economy was half crippled.

Under pressure from the imperialists the PNP went to the International Monetary Fund requesting a loan. The imperialists used the opportunity and granted the loan under very harsh conditions.

The conditions imposed by the IMF included: a 22% guaranteed profit to the foreign capitalists; 15% wage guidelines; devaluation of the Jamaican dollar; a tightening of public spending and therefore a cut in the reformist programs of that were being carried out by the government.

## UNBEARABLE

The aim of the International Monetary Fund was to create such unbearable social conditions that the masses would revolt and turn to the rightist Jamaican Labor Party.

And it worked for a while: Unemployment rose from 18% in 1976 to 25% in 1979. Real wages fell over 30% Inflation rose to 47%.

And social reform programs were cut back by the government.

This was coupled by an active campaign by the business class to sabotage the economy. Plants making handsome profits were closed down. And hundreds of workers were laid off. Business organizations like the Jamaican Manufacturers Association and the Chamber of Commerce called for the resignation of the government.

In all this, the PNP followed the middle course. At all times the government attempted to straddle the interests of the exploited and oppressed and the ruling class.

The attempts were unsuccessful as the capitalist class refused to budge from their hostility to the government.



And the masses grew more discontented.

This is the background to the present situation. The recent activities of the Jamaican Labor Party in America has come to the notice of the Jamaican people.

Siago visits the John Birch Society. He is sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute, a brain-trust of multinational corporations. He has been described by the State Department as an intelligence source to the American ruling class.

Recently when the leadership of the party was questioned about who it would support in the upcoming American elections, the party said Reagan because Carter was too soft on communists. For Jamaica the party advocates the Puerto Rican model of development and is an open invitation to foreign investors to exploit cheap labor.

## EMBASSY

A recent television interview revealed that the Jamaican Labor Party was connected to known CIA offices in the United States.

It is therefore not surprising that some of those arrested in the aborted coup had frequent meetings with the American military attache in the United States embassy on the island.

## THE YOKE OF IMPERIALISM

Jamaica today is dominated by United States imperialism. 47% of the economy is owned by foreign capitalists, 33% by local capitalists. The multinational corporations—ITT, Alcan, First National City Bank, Pan Am, Exxon, Texaco—all suck the lifeblood of the Jamaican workers and oppressed.

In March this year, the PNP, under pressure from the masses of the Jamaican people, rejected the IMF. The rejection did not make the party a genuine socialist one.

It only demonstrated the strength of the masses of Jamaican people.

## CHILE

However, for the imperialists, the rejection was a signal for them to increase their destabilization plans! A meeting in April of the American National Security Council declared that the Manley regime must go by June.

But like Chile in 1973, even though the first attempt has been thwarted, a second attempt is on the cards. At the moment the PNP is attempting to hold the loyalty of the military officers who uphold constitutionality.

They have not learnt the lesson of Chile: No reliance on the army, on the bourgeoisie—only the armed mobilization of the oppressed and exploited, in particular the workers, can defeat the plotters and imperialists.

Among the workers, because of the demoralization that occurred during the IMF period, the fighting spirit remains dormant. It can only be raised by struggle and clear revolutionary politics that point the way forward.

The Jamaican people are under attack by the US government. Socialists in the United States must raise the demand "Hands off Jamaica!"

In the last week United States imperialists have killed Walter Rodney in Guyana, and three days later tried to blow up the revolutionary, anti-imperialist leadership of Grenada.

On Sunday June 22, they tried to put Jamaica under military rule.

The US has increased its activities in the region. But the exploited and oppressed in the region will never rest until they are free from imperialism and the domination of the present ruling class.





**Four  
has ex  
the le  
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Gener  
than t**

# SOWETO

## The

"Weary South  
police in camoufla  
were drinking coff  
lice station in or  
Town's northern  
when the phone rang

"A sergeant who  
Ernest Borgnine pi  
phone, listened ca  
then nodded his sh  
grinning broadly.

"He put down t  
and announced: "

says we can shoot t  
"Everyone cheer

(*London Daily Mail*)

The next day P  
ter Le Grange ann  
the 'shoot to kill'  
been withdrawn.  
said, "an unfortun  
of words."

But then the wor  
since the 1976 Sow  
had taken place. I  
hours the South  
police killed 60 an  
hundreds more in  
class townships  
Town.

Why?

For the last tv  
'colored' school s  
Capetown have  
schools and march  
the streets in prot  
the inequality of th  
system. Two had  
before last week  
River township,  
bloodshed began.

This sparked off  
anger that swept  
townships on the  
versary of Soweto.



## The Soweto

It was June 1976. Autumn  
in South Africa. Throughout  
the summer war fever gripped  
the country.

South Africa was engaged  
in its largest military mobiliza-  
tion since the Second World  
War.

In Angola white South Afri-  
can troops were fighting  
alongside the Portuguese in a  
last desperate effort to stop  
the MPLA. It won them  
nothing but humiliation.

In Black African capital  
cities white South African  
prisoners of war were on  
display.

### BEATEN

The most powerful military  
machine in Africa was had  
been beaten by Black fighters.

In South Africa a huge Black  
audience watched news of the

defeat on television.  
of casualties were cl  
the echo.

The *Johannesbur  
cial Mail*, (South  
equivalent of the *W  
Journal*) commented:

"Our involvement  
a military miscalcula  
a diplomatic disaster  
the country may have  
very high price indeed

That was in Janu  
months later the whit  
began to pay that pric

In June a youth  
exploded in the Bla  
ships of South Africa.

It was rooted in cor  
Black could and had  
white. It was fuelled  
oppression.

Unemployment th  
reached two millio

Clockwise: South African workers; a funeral in Soweto; a wounded student; a government soldier



years almost to the day of the Soweto uprising, Black South Africa died. This time it is the coloreds—people of mixed race—who are in

Africa's white rulers have reacted with their usual brutality. Police Mike Geldenhuijs issued a 'shoot to kill' order. But it will take more acts to stop the Black revolt.

# THE AFRICA

## Worst massacre since 1976

Students built barricades and burned down stores and factories. They appealed to the Cape Town workers to strike—to 'stay at home.' Thousands responded.

Then the heart of the South African auto industry in the Eastern Cape was hit by the biggest strike wave since the

Natal mass strikes in 1973.

Fifteen factories were shut last week, many of them with familiar names—Fords, Volkswagen, Goodyear.

### COURAGE

These strikes and the dozens that preceded them are a testament to the growing mili-

tancy of Black workers.

The Black youth of South Africa have a courage that is almost unimaginable, a courage born of knowing that survival means struggle.

But they cannot topple apartheid by themselves. Only the Black working class possesses that power. □

## Pieter Botha on the brink

When P.W. Botha was elected Prime Minister of South Africa in September 1978 he was cheered by a crowd of coloreds outside the Senate House in Cape Town.

There has always been an ambiguous relationship between the Afrikaners who rule South Africa and the coloreds, who share their blood, language, religion and culture.

Botha comes from the Cape, where most coloreds live, and is the leading advocate of a policy of treating the coloreds as 'brown Afrikaners.'

Coloreds have always been an anomaly for the apartheid system—the product of racial mixing, not racial separation, with no tribal 'homeland' like the Bantustans, to which Africans are supposed to belong.

As part of Botha's strategy of dividing coloreds from the African majority, the western Cape has been declared a 'colored preference area'

where they will have their own self-governing community. Africans are being forcibly removed from the area.

But the harsh reality of apartheid is little different for the coloreds than it is for other Black people in South Africa.

### HOMES

Under the Group Areas Act they were removed from their homes in parts of central Cape Town such as District Six, and rehoused miles out of the city Cape Flats, a row of sand dunes by Table Mountain.

Recently bus fares were doubled. The colored townships exploded with anger and have been boycotting public transport ever since.

The regime's policy of divide and rule has failed. In 1976, colored school students joined their African brothers and sisters in the great revolt of that year.

In April this year soon after Robert Mugabe's election in

Zimbabwe, they launched another school boycott. In many Cape schools the damage caused by the 1976 riots has been left unrepaired.

There are also signs of growing unity between African and colored workers. Cape province has been the shaken in the last year by a series of strikes—including the longest in South African history at Monis & Fattis mills—in which Colored and African workers have united against the bosses.

The question now is whether the struggle, so far confined to the Cape, will spread to the two main industrial centers in the country, around Johannesburg and Durban.

### DOOMED

There have already been strikes in Durban textile factories. If the anger and courage of the school-students is married to the industrial muscle of Black workers on a national scale then Botha is doomed. □



## rebellion: "I was, I am, I will be"

country whose population is 25 million.

Food prices had gone up by 30 per cent, fuel prices by 18 per cent. And winter was coming.

### TOTAL

In 1976 the increase in defense spending was more than the total allocated to African education.

After all, this is the apartheid state whose founder, Verwoerd, once proclaimed: "There is no place for the African in the European community above the level of certain forms of labor. . . for that reason it is of no avail for him to receive a training which has as its aim absorption into the European community. What is the use of teaching a Bantu

child mathematics when it cannot use it in practice?"

It was explosive material. And it was ignited when Black school children in Soweto rebelled against the final indignity—having to do their studies in Afrikaans, a foreign language, the language of their masters.

Soweto is a vast Black city, on the outskirts of Johannesburg. One and a half million people live there.

But 'living' is the wrong word to describe such an existence.

It is a desperately poor city, without facilities, without food and without jobs.

And it was school children with the prospect of nothing but unemployment and starvation wages ahead of them, and young unemployed workers

who led the rebellion in Soweto.

They demonstrated and were shot dead by the police. The protests spread throughout South Africa. In every Black township students were joined in a massive rising against apartheid and its foul laws.

### BULLETS

Most were little more than children. Ten, 11 and 12 year olds, armed with stones, shielded with garbage can lids, braved tanks, armored cars, tear gas, dogs and hail upon hail of bullets.

In South Africa's winter of '76 dozens of young lives were laid down. No-one knows the final toll.

It was the Black youth above all who fuelled the rebellion. It

was they who ~~led~~ maintained the offensive in both Soweto and Cape Town.

The rebellion shook the regime to its very limits. But in the end 'order' was restored.

Remember, however, what Rosa Luxemburg wrote after the German Spartacists were smashed in 1918, and the authorities proclaimed that order reigned:

"'Order reigns in Berlin!' You stupid lackeys! Your 'order' is built on sand. Tomorrow the revolution will rear its head once again and, to your horror, will proclaim, with trumpets blazing:

"I was, I am, I will be!"

Young unemployed Blacks and schoolchildren alone do not have the power to topple apartheid. That power lies

only in the hands of the Black working class.

Workers acted in the winter of '76 and acted on a massive scale but only in response to, solidarity with, their sons and daughters.

But it was an explosion which shook the world. The highest point ever reached in a long and bitter struggle.

### MILITANT

On August 6, 1976 the *Financial Mail* wrote:

"Today's Black youth are clearly far more militant than the youth of yesterday.

"What may happen when they themselves enter the labor force and start taking jobs in factories, mines and offices is a chastening thought."

That time is coming. □



# New York: largest gay pride march

NEW YORK—Following a triumphant mixed group, and the New York Gay Community Marching Band, an estimated 100,000 Lesbians and Gay men flooded Fifth Avenue in the largest Gay Pride Day march ever held here. Sunday, June 29 saw Gay Pride celebrations across the country—over 100,000 turned out in San Francisco. There have been Gay Liberation events around the world for the past month. Mexico recently had its first Gay Pride Day.

## MOVEMENT

Gay Pride Day commemorates the Stonewall Riots, the official beginning of the movement in 1969, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a New York gay bar, and gays retaliated against their oppressors.

It was not the first time gays had resisted, nor the first time they had fought back, but Stonewall started a movement. Eleven years later there are important things to celebrate. Lesbians and Gay men can no longer be locked up in mental institutions just because of their sexual preference, and many anti-discrimination laws have been passed.

However, the increasing attacks from the right and center—from Anita and the Klan to CBS—show all too clearly that a few laws don't go very far toward equal rights.

So Gay men and women will continue to fight in larger numbers. This year's march from Christopher Street to Central Park began with a block of third world lesbian groups followed by other gay male and lesbian groups and

by  
**ALLYSON SMITH  
and ANDY MOSSO**

thousands of non-affiliated marchers. There were contingents of women-only, of gays and lesbians active in the anti-nuclear struggle, of third world gays and lesbians, coalitions of transpeople (transvestites and transsexuals), and school, youth, political and community gay groups.

## CONNECTIONS

Organizations included Dykes Opposed to Racism Everywhere, the Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse, Parents of Gays and Lesbians, the Lavender Left, and many others, including two marching bands and a men's chorus.

Both the march and the rally afterward made numerous connections with other struggles and other issues. Many were made because of the double or multiple oppression people face by being both gay or lesbian, and members of other minority groups as well.

A speaker from Gay Blind spoke of the oppression the physically different face, problems of discrimination, being thought asexual, and of having their homosexuality denied by "benevolent" institutions. A Black lesbian spoke of her struggle to retain her son, who the state would rather see living with strangers than with his mother. She won her fight, unlike many others who do not.

A member of Gay Youth



Gay activists on the march

spoke on the oppression of young people, especially sexually and by the age of consent laws. Also speaking at the rally were members of various third world groups, a Native American, and several entertainers.

## PROUD

The mood of the rally was unusually festive, as gays shared the rare opportunity of being together in numbers. For most gays, it is not often that one can be out and proud of being gay.

Few can be openly homosexual at work without fear of losing their jobs. There are few places where gays can walk down the street without running the risk of being harassed.

The Gay Pride March is a chance for lesbians and gay men to find strength for the fight that lies ahead. □

## KENT STUDENTS WIN APPEAL

KENT, OH—Last month we reported on the expulsion of one Kent State University student and the suspension of six others by the University. These were the sanctions for participating in a protest meeting billed as a "sleep-in." The protest was against new dormitory regulations that will make overnight visitation illegal.

In June the seven students appealed their decision to the

Dean for Student Affairs, Milton Wilson. His decision on the appeal was to reduce the sentences to disciplinary probation, the most severe sentence possible, short of removal from school.

The terms of the probation are that the seven students may not hold positions of "leadership" in any student organization, and will be dealt with more harshly the next time they violate university policy.

What this means is that the three students elected to the undergraduate student government (a nine-member body) lose their seats. The dean has removed one-third of the duly elected student government.

## "TROUBLE"

Round one of the fight over dorm regulations at Kent State is thus concluded. Round two will begin in the fall, when the university tries to implement its new policy. The university will go into the second round without having to worry about the "trouble-makers" on the student government. It will also hold a threatening club over the heads of any student activist, and especially those singled out this time (four of whom were ISO members).

The students should come back in the fall with a better idea of just what they are up against. They now know that the university is willing to go to great lengths to silence dissent, even over issues like living conditions.

They also know that one of their greatest weaknesses must be overcome. In May only dozens of students were organized against the new dorm rules. In September it will have to be hundreds, if a decent fight is to be waged.

## THE CRISIS: WHERE THE BLAME LIES

The ruling class is blaming the present crisis on everyone and everything but themselves. They have to. But it is clear where the real blame lies.

### They say...

1.) Cheap foreign imports are unfair competition and are the cause of the crisis.



2.) Low productivity is the problem. Workers don't work hard enough.



3.) Inflation is caused by workers demanding more wages.



4.) Military intervention may be necessary to free the hostages or stop Soviet aggression."



### But...

1.) Much of the foreign steel and the foreign cars are imported by the big multinational steel and auto companies themselves. 30% of the steel used by U.S. Steel they import. And aren't these the same bosses that tell us free competition is the heart and soul of capitalism?

2.) Low productivity is caused by old, worn out machinery. The employers will not replace it because it is cheaper to move where wages are lower. Meanwhile, workers are being made to work harder than ever through speed-ups and in sweatshop conditions. The bosses are trying to squeeze out the last drop of blood and the last dollars of profits.

3.) Inflation is caused by the bosses. In a mad rush to out-compete their competitors, they have to borrow more capital than they can pay back, forcing the government to print more dollars. With productivity declining and more dollars in the economy, each dollar is worth less and less. Prices go up. That's inflation.

4.) The ruling class is plotting war over oil, not hostages. They think they have a natural right to Arab oil. The hostages in Iran or the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan are just excuses. The rulers are hoping not only to get cheap oil, but also to boost the whole American economy out of crisis by putting it on a new footing.



# "no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



## Thomas Paine and revolutionary America

In 1774, Tom Paine, an uneducated staymaker and former tax collector from England, arrived in Philadelphia. Political change was in the air.

It dominated the discussion in the taverns and the coffee houses, workshops and homes.

Already the port of Boston had been closed as punishment for the Boston tea party of 1773.

In 1774 the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia.

The political debate was about the possibility of independence from Great Britain.

But Paine had come to America simply for the purpose of setting up a school for women—hardly a radical idea.

Within two years, however, Paine had written one of the most important political pamphlets of the American revolution—if not in the English language.

*Common Sense* was a brilliant, passionate and forceful argument for colonial independence from Britain, and for the superiority of a republican form of government over hereditary monarchy.

John Adams, one of the leaders of the American revolution, described Paine as a man who "has genius in his eyes."

Enemies of political liberty called Paine "a crack-pot zealot for democracy."

### REVOLUTION

The American revolution was part of the revolution of the 17th and 18th century—revolutions in England in 1640, France in 1789, which resulted in the triumph of capitalism and the rise of a new class to power, the bourgeoisie.

The American revolution was, of course, conducted and controlled by an alliance of colonial ruling classes—merchants, lawyers, landowners and slaveowning planters.

But like all colonial movements for independence, the struggle against Britain involved others—artisans, women, slaves, free Blacks.

John Adams, responding to his wife, Abigail's demand for the vote, described what was happening, "We have been told that our struggle has

"The motive and object in all my political works beginning with *Common Sense*, the first work I have ever published, have been to rescue man from tyranny and false systems and principles of government and enable him to be free."

—Thomas Paine, 1806

loosened the binds of government everywhere—children and apprentices, schools and colleges, Indians and Negroes grow insolent..."

In fact, it was the common people who moved the American revolution always to the left, who demanded even more than just separation from Britain, who demanded full legal and political equality for everyone.

A Black seaman, and fugitive slave, named Crispus Attucks was the first person to die for political independence at the Boston Massacre in 1770.

The Sons of Liberty, who were responsible for the Boston tea-party, was made up of rope-makers, sail-makers, ordinary seamen, and other artisans and laborers.

### SPHERE

The Daughter of Liberty organized the successful boycott of British tea and cloth. When their enemies criticized them for "stepping out of women's sphere," the Sons of Liberty proclaimed, "with the

Ladies on our side we can make every Tory tremble."

Free Blacks and slaves responded to the cries for liberty.

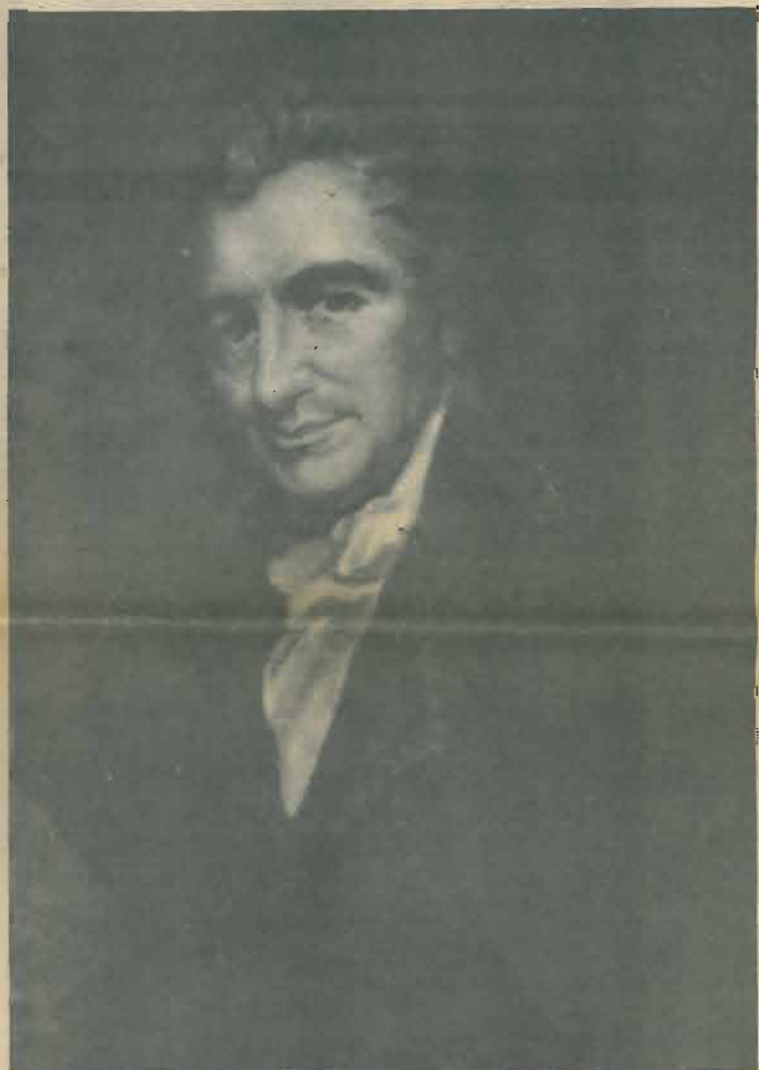
Thousands ran away. 25,000 escaped in South Carolina. Georgia lost 75% of her 25,000 slaves. Free Blacks petitioned for an end to slavery and for the right to fight in the continental armies.

### BLACKS

It was the presence of Blacks fighting for independence and for abolition of slavery which led to the beginning of the anti-slavery movement in the US. In 1787, due to pressure from below, slavery was abolished in the Northwest territory.

Tom Paine stood for, and championed the rights of the common people. He was an internationalist, a feminist and an abolitionist.

In 1775 he criticized the colonists who "complain so loudly of attempts to enslave them, while they hold so many



Thomas Paine: revolutionary author and agitator

hundreds of thousands as slaves."

His first pamphlet *Common Sense* had a press run of over 350,000. This meant that every literate person in the colonies had bought the pamphlet.

*Common Sense* literally transformed the political language. Once the words republic and democracy were terms of abuse, Paine turned them into ideal forms of government.

His crisis papers, first published in 1776, began with words that are now immortal:

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in the crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands up now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

### UPSURGE

In 1787 Paine returned to Europe where he wrote two other great pamphlets, the *Rights of Man* and the *Age of Reason*.

Both pamphlets helped inspire an upsurge in popular radicalism in England, and he was elected a delegate to the national convention of revolutionary France.

But when Paine returned to America in 1802, he was vilified and ignored. Above all this was because he stood for the rights of men and women, for reason above religion, for revolution and republicanism, against monarchies and despotism.

### ANTHEM

Thomas Paine was also remembered, however, by the people whose cause he championed.

In England, the workers and artisans sang new words to the tune of their national anthem:

*God save great Thomas Paine  
His Rights of Man to explain  
To every soul  
He makes the blind to see  
What dupes and slaves they be  
And points out liberty  
From pole to pole.*



# 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, the education system. 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 the fight against the present system.

## • Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class — pitting men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups — blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, gays, youth — 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, supporting equal pay for all women workers. We fight for free abortion and an end to forced sterilization. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for equal hiring opportunities for women and an end to sexual harassment and hirings. Discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities must be fought.

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 truly fighting for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders act either as brakes on workers' struggles, or as cops, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to put an end to this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power 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, so 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 at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens 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.

## ISO NEWS

# What's ON

### BALTIMORE

John Charlton on **The Coming Third World War?** July 15, 7:30 pm, call 367-5417.

### BOSTON

Celia Petty on **Revolutionary Feminism.** July 6, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.

John Charlton on **What Would Socialism be Like.** July 17, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, call 661-8765.

Cal Winslow on **Why You Should be a Socialist.** August 3, 7:30 pm, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, call 661-8765.

### CINCINNATI

5th of July picnic. John Charlton, on **Socialism What will it be Like?** July 5, 2 pm, Madisonville.

John Charlton on **The British Anti-Nazi League**, sponsored by the Anti-Klan Network, July 9, 7:30 pm, UCM, Clifton Ave.

### CLEVELAND

Black History Series, pt. 2, John Charlton on **Black Reconstruction**, July 11, 7:30 pm, call 321-6143 or 231-1278.

Black History Series pt. 3, Cal Winslow on **The Long Hot Sixties.** July 25, 7:30 pm, call 321-6143 or 231-1278.

### COLUMBUS

John Charlton on **The British Anti-Nazi League.** July 9, 7:30 pm, Sponsored by TUFF (Those United to Fight Fascism) call 299-2810.

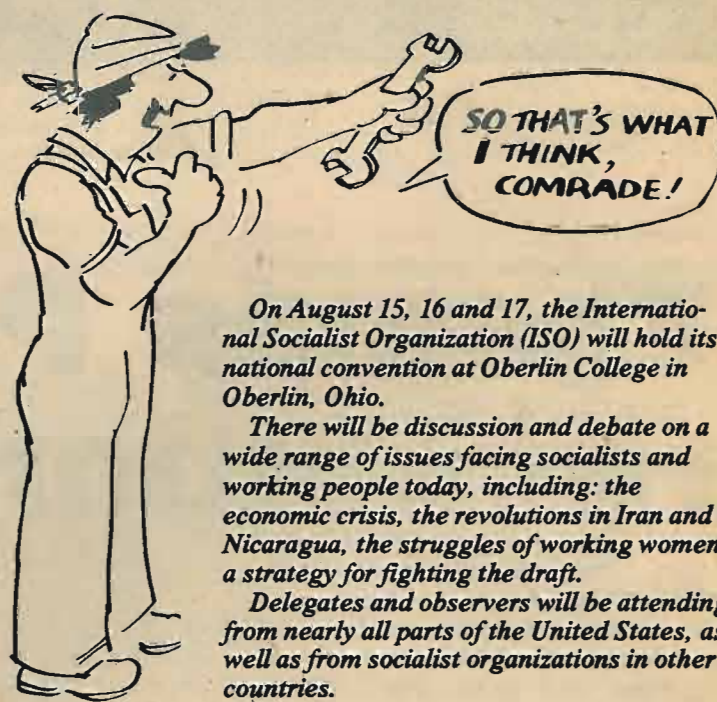
### DAYTON

John Charlton on **The British Anti-Nazi League.** July 7, 7:30 pm, call 222-3562 for details.

### KENT

John Charlton on **Is Socialism Possible?** July 8, 7:30 pm, call 231-1278 for details.

## ISO NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 15, 16, AND 17 OBERLIN COLLEGE, OBERLIN, OHIO



On August 15, 16 and 17, the International Socialist Organization (ISO) will hold its national convention at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

There will be discussion and debate on a wide range of issues facing socialists and working people today, including: the economic crisis, the revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua, the struggles of working women, a strategy for fighting the draft.

Delegates and observers will be attending from nearly all parts of the United States, as well as from socialist organizations in other countries.

The convention will be open to all ISO members and to observers. There will be childcare available at all the sessions, and room and board is available at Oberlin College.

Please contact the ISO at Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118 for information concerning attendance, registration and room and board.

WELL THAT'S WRONG FOR A START! LOOK AT IT MY WAY...



**NEW YORK CITY**  
ISO Day School, **Perspectives for the 80's.** Speakers: Barbara Winslow on **Exploitation, Oppression and the Fight for Socialism**, John Charlton, **Is Socialism Possible?**, and Cal Winslow, **The American Working Class in the 80's.** Saturday, July 12, 1 pm to 5 pm, 507 Butler Library,

Columbia University, 116th and Broadway.

**SEATTLE**  
New documentary film on South Africa, **Crossroads**, Saturday, July 12, 7:30 pm, East Cherry YWCA, East Cherry & Empire, call 324-2302 for details.



Socialist Worker is now available from the Red Tide in Detroit, c/o 48 Elmhurst, 2-w, Highland Park, 48203, 368-2932.

Red Tide is a Detroit based revolutionary socialist organization.

**"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 cities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Berkeley, CA
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- New Haven, CT
- Northampton, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Providence, RI
- Rochester, NY
- San Diego, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Trenton, NJ
- Washington, DC

ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118



**PAINTING  
THE  
PICTURE  
OF  
AMERICAN  
CLASS  
SOCIETY**

# War and an Irish town

*American Class Society in Numbers*, edited by Bob Howard and John Logue is a good collection of essays prepared by Kent State University students and faculty. Its intention is to "make the impact of class—on income, wealth, taxes, education, crime and punishment, health, and politics—statistically clear."

**AMERICAN CLASS SOCIETY IN NUMBERS**, edited by Bob Howard and John Logue, Kent Popular Press, PO Box 715, Kent, OH, 44240. 98 pages. \$2.95.

It fills a long-standing need by presenting information that is all too hard to find, normally.

Intuitively, many of us know that what class you come from has a great effect on the quality of life. What this book does is provide statistical backing for that impression. It is a useful, readable statistical portrait of the class structure in America.

The book relies heavily on official U.S. government collected data. This makes it particularly helpful in arguments with those unconvinced of the actual inequalities in American life.

But this also results in the major, but understandable, weakness in the work: the failure to consistently employ a strictly economic definition of "class." Because of the way the government collects information, breakdowns according to occupation, income and education must be used.

## POPULAR

The best thing about the book is that it is written for a popular audience. Without a deep background in statistics, the arguments in the book can be understood.

Most of the essays included are consistent with the general theme. Only the essay "Women: An Underclass," is strangely out of step from the rest. According to the author of the essay on women, sexual oppression and class are unrelated. The editors have promised that the forthcoming third edition will remedy this with a new essay on women.

Lastly, a technical point: The present edition suffers because it was not properly produced. It was typewritten and reduced, instead of being typeset (no doubt due to lack of funds), and its quite readable content is handicapped by its hard-to-read form. It is hoped that this minor point is corrected in the new edition. □



"The worst thing that ever happened to me was when I was in the toilet outside and a Bloody Brit came and kicked the door open. If you can't even go to the toilet in peace, that's it, you're finished."

Eamonn McCann's updated version of *War and an Irish Town* succeeds brilliantly in presenting the reader with a refreshingly sober and highly readable account of the background to the war in the north of Ireland, including a review of the events of the past decade and a much-needed analysis of the Provisional IRA.

**WAR AND AN IRISH TOWN**  
By Eamonn McCann. New updated edition, Pluto Press, 1980, \$3.95.

First published by Penguin in 1974, the book was banned by the British government. If this alone does not suggest that the book is important reading for socialists, then the fact that the updated version contains a generous portion of even more subversive insight should.

McCann's book is more than an historical account of the last ten years—though it accomplishes this quite well. It is more than a political autobiography, and a thousand times more enjoyable to read than most Marxist theoretical works.

Still, it contains a healthy amount of each of these ingredients, and for those reasons it is an important, groundbreaking contribution to the existing socialist literature on Ireland.

## REVIEW BY BRIAN O'CEALLAIGH

The fact that McCann was born and raised in the Bogside (a Catholic working class ghetto in Derry, N. Ireland) and that he has been active in revolutionary politics for the past twenty years or so is significant in making the book a success. The reader is shown, from an insider's point of view, how the sectarian institutions of the Northern Irish state affect the everyday lives of the Catholic working class. The grim reality of life in the Bogside is made clear:

*"At the moment, the male unemployed rate in the Bogside is about one third, which is usual. There is plenty of work for the women in the shirt factories. Young men would emigrate to England at the age of 18 or 19. There was scarcely a family without the son away... Those who stayed signed the dole twice a week and stood around the corner in the evening cursing the government. Many afternoons were spent in the bookies', studying form before risking the last few shillings."*

We are given a pretty full rundown of how Catholics were socialized into accepting this arrangement—the role of the Catholic Church, the edu-

cational system, the moderate Catholic politicians, etc. We are presented with a clear picture of what the "arrangement" meant for Catholics (unemployment, inadequate housing, political repression.)

All of this is done in a way that should make it easy for anyone unfamiliar with Irish history to understand the background of what is going on today.

## REPUBLICANS

While McCann certainly has his criticisms of the Republican movement, and particularly of the outdated ideology which provides its theoretical foundation, one is constantly aware while reading the book that it has been written by someone who is more concerned with contributing solid, constructive suggestions to the debate around how to build a revolutionary socialist movement in Ireland than with beating his own intellectual drum. This gives the book a relevance that is often lacking in political writing.

Perhaps the most interesting tribute to McCann's new book came in a review which appeared recently in *Republican News*, the newspaper of

Provisional Sinn Fein/PIRA. In that review, Martha McClelland wrote that,

*"Today, although no one can deny the impact of (IRA) action, few would disagree with McCann when he points out that 'without revolutionary theory, there is no action—or at any rate no revolutionary action with prospect of success."*

*"As the actions of the IRA in this war have brought the Irish people closer to victory than at any other time in history, the failure to develop truly revolutionary politics becomes a greater weakness and a more urgent task."*

## SOLIDARITY

*War and an Irish Town* is an important book for anyone involved in building a working class socialist movement. The problems confronted by revolutionaries in Ireland can be applied, in some way, to our own situation here in the belly of the beast.

McCann's work goes a long way in cutting through all the bullshit we have been fed about Ireland, and will be useful in helping build solidarity for the Irish struggle in this country. Besides that, it is a book that is a lot of fun to read—graphic, clear, and, in places, humorous, in places, humorous.

Buy it. Read it. Sell it. □





## on the picket line

# Baker Materials strikers rally

**BROOKLYN, OH**—On May 25th, over 400 striking members of UAW Local 451 at Baker Material Handling Corporation, held a rally at Baker's Brooklyn assembly plant.

The rally was to demonstrate the solidarity of the strikers in response to a series of letters issued by Baker President William Lorden in an attempt to divide the strikers and bring them back to work.

Baker is continuing a non-negotiation stance on economic issues as the strike enters its 12th week.

The primary issue with the strikers is seniority.

Only 10 cops from Brooklyn showed up at the rally site compared to 150 at last month's action in front of Baker. Some minor exchanges occurred between strikers and scabbing supervisors but the police did not intervene. Police did, however, video tape the entire rally.

### MISERABLE

Only 1 striker out of 500 tried to take Baker up on its offer to return to work. Baker's divisive plan failed miserably—when the would-be scab appeared at their offices for work Baker management threw him out on his ear.

Local 451 is planning to do the same.

Since the letter was sent telling strikers to return to work, Baker has been taking applications over the phone for potential scabs. Persons coming to the Brooklyn plant to apply have been turned back by the pickets.

Baker has continued production with supervisors and has been buying their lunch, showing movies in the plant, and even buying gas in an attempt to keep the scabs morale and attendance up.

Baker is also sending all striking employees their vacation pay in an attempt to fill any outstanding contract obli-

gations under the expired contract.

While Baker is lavishing extras on scabs, strikers collect a maximum of \$65 a week in strike benefits. But the strikers are determined.

### STALL

On July 1st Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas ordered Baker and William Lorden to stop stalling and negotiate non-economic issues as originally agreed. □

by BRIAN GIBBONS

**"Morale high,  
funds low!"**



Gloria Jordan

**LAUREL, MS**—The strike at Sandersons Farm, in Laurel, Mississippi is almost two years old. However, according to Gloria Jordan, vice president of Local 888 of the International Chemical Workers Union, the strikers are holding out well.

### CAPACITY

In spite of the presence of scabs, Sandersons is still not working at full capacity. Normally, Sandersons processes 100,000 chickens in an eight week period "from farm to hatchet."

However the scabs can only do 20,000 in this period. Jordan explained that "the chickens grow too fast, and get too fat." The chicken pens get overcrowded and the chickens ultimately die from overheated conditions.

Just recently, the scabs have upped production to 60,000, but Sandersons is still hurting.

The strike committee is attempting to link up the issues of the strike at Sandersons Farm with other issues relating to the Black community.

There is a housing project in Laurel called Brown Circle. Most of the people who live there either work for Sandersons Farms or are people living on social security. Rent is \$125 a month, but for people who draw only \$180 a month on social security, it is way too high.

The union local and people living at Brown Circle are trying to form a group to lower the rents and improve the housing projects.

Jordan says that "after we work on Brown Circle, we'll work in the white areas as well."

### SUPPORT

The Committee for Justice, which was organized to support the Laurel strike, is going to call another "march for justice."

Gloria Jordan stressed that while the strikers' morale continues to be high, strike funds are very low.

Please send money to:  
Committee for Justice  
ICWU Local 882  
Ellisville Boulevard,  
Laurel, Mississippi

## TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

# THE WORKERS CASE AGAINST IMPORT CONTROLS

Douglas Fraser, the high school dropout, didn't become president of the United Auto Workers because of his intellect. He became president because of his loyalty to the Reuther machine and his ability to perpetuate it.

A solution to the present crisis in the auto industry will not be found through machine politics. To protect his machine Fraser has moved closer to the camp of the employers. He has one foot in their camp and is ready with the other foot should his position be threatened by the rank and file.

### CAMPAIGN

His campaign for import controls is a form of flag waving and racism. He wants to take the attention of the rank and file away from the responsibility of the U.S. corporations and the UAW bureaucracy for the condition of the industry and the plight of the workers. He doesn't want the workers to become aware of the bankruptcy of American capitalism. As the crisis worsens, Fraser and his cohorts move closer to the employers.

The UAW leadership should examine the economic history of import controls. In 1931 and 1932 Britain and the U.S. adopted a protectionist policy. The depression that followed allowed the international cartels to tighten their hold over basic industries. Small businesses were wiped out. Prices went up. The consumers of the world suffered.

The labor bureaucracy has a limited vision of the worker. They fail to see him as a consumer as well as a producer. The principal market for American industry is the domestic market. Imports protect the consumer from the price gouging of the monopolies.

The late Walter Reuther and his

heirs have only paid lip service to the international solidarity of labor. This has given the top officers of the UAW an excuse to become world travellers at union expense. They have failed to translate their rhetoric into support for the struggles of foreign workers.

In 1979, when the British Vauxhall, a GM subsidiary, was on strike during UAW—GM negotiations, not one word about the strike appeared in *Solidarity*, the UAW paper. In 1980, when the British steel workers conducted their longest strike since 1926, the United Steel Workers made not a sound and gave not a penny in support of the struggle of the British steel workers.

While paying lip service to international solidarity, the UAW and the rest of the American labor movement avoids like the plague any semblance of political or financial support to the struggles of British, European and Japanese workers.

### TIES

The UAW leadership's ties with the employers and the capitalist politicians prevent them from supporting the struggles of foreign workers. The internationalism of the UAW is limited to Canada. The Canadian workers, having their "labor party" in the New Democratic Party, often balk at decisions of the UAW leadership. The UAW give-away program for Chrysler was a case in point.

The UAW, in its campaign for control of imports, is following a policy not in the best interest of the American workers, nor that of the world working class. They are probably ignorant of these basic facts:

1. Every country must exchange what it can produce most cheaply for what can be produced most cheaply



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

in other countries. To cut or weaken the links which make exchange possible is to impoverish the individual national economies.

2. If adopted on any scale, import controls push production backward and make the crisis of the system worse.

3. Preventing exports reduces the funds for the purchase of American products.

4. Cheap imports raise the standard of living. Without them inflation would be worse.

5. The main cause of the loss of jobs is advanced technology and rationalization. From 1947 to 1957, U.S. auto production increased more than 100 percent, employment only by 3 percent.

6. It was the economic warfare of the '30's that brought on the real warfare in 1939.

7. Production is not to protect workers' jobs, but to protect the profits of the corporations.

8. It is the union leadership that, in a crisis sides with the employers and other conservative forces, that is calling for import controls.

9. By crying about "American jobs" labor leaders aid and abet the exploitation of foreign workers by American and foreign capital.

10. Capital is international in its policies. It can only be defeated by international labor solidarity.

11. National loyalty, loyalty to the ruling class, is a weakness. It leads to defeat of the workers worldwide.





## OSBORN: FIGHTING BACK!

**CLEVELAND, OH**—280 members of UAW Local 538 went out on strike against Osborn Manufacturing on June 27. This is the first strike in 35 years.

In over a month of negotiations, Osborn refused to make an offer. But they did try to take some benefits away.

In times of spiralling inflation, Osborn wants to cap COLA at 50¢. At the same time, they want workers to pick up any increases in their Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage.

### SAFETY

And the workers have other grievances. One is health and safety.

After an accident last December, the company pro-

mised to hold regular monthly health and safety meetings. To this date there have been none. Nor have working conditions improved. In many areas ventilation is poor—or non-existent.

Osborn is also attacking shop-floor organization. Stewards are not given time on the job to file grievances and do other union related work.

And Osborn's owner, Giddings and Lewis, has a history of anti-union practices. Last February they succeeded in breaking the union at their main plant in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

But the workers at Osborn are determined to stay out until they win. The first few days of picketing were united and militant. It took a court

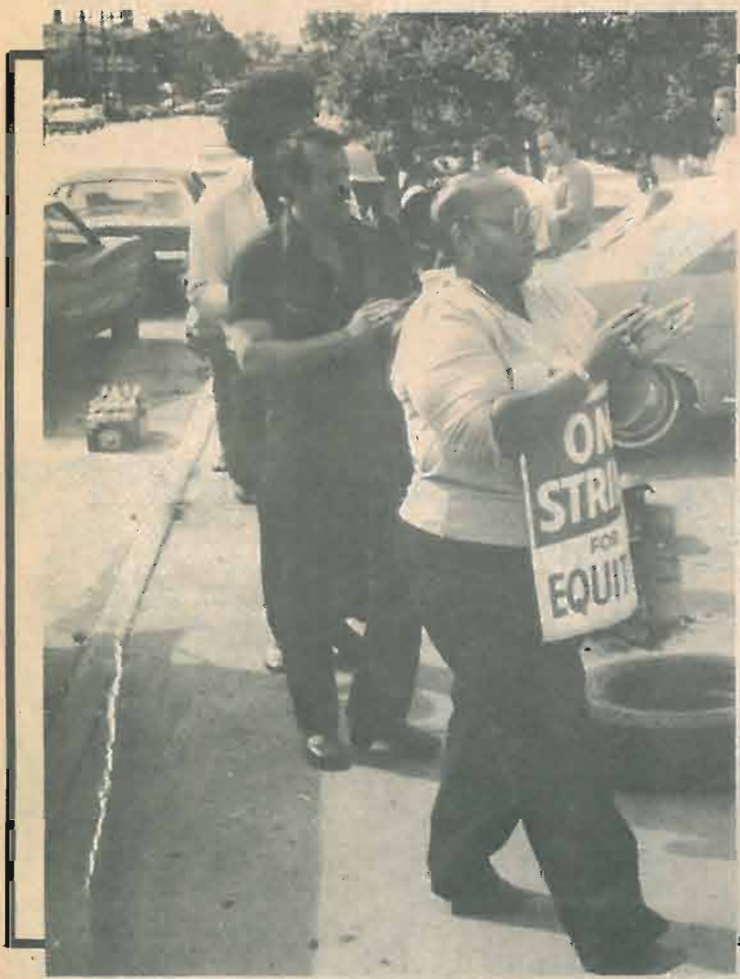
injunction, the cops and a strikebreaking firm to get Osborn's salaried staff through the lines to work. But no additional scabs have been hired and the Teamsters have said they will honor the picket lines.

### THOUSANDS

This strike can be won. There are thousands of UAW members in the area and with solidarity and effective picketing, Osborn can be defeated.

But it won't be easy. The UAW's recent record for mounting an effective fight—whether against lay-offs or for better contracts is nothing to boast about. The rank and file has its work cut out. □

by AHMED SHAWKI



## SOLIDARITY AT BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL

**BOSTON, MA**—For the first time ever technical and clerical workers, nurses and doctors all threatened to strike at Boston City Hospital.

To avert this total shut-down, the city settled with the nurses, after the doctors had already gone on strike. The doctors have their own union called the House Officers Association.

They are among the lowest paid interns and residents in the country, averaging as much as \$2-3,000 less than those in other cities.

### INCREASE

Their six day strike won them an 18% increase, as well as clauses preventing them from doing ancillary jobs such as IV's and blood tests.

Nurses, including RN's and LN's, joined the picket lines during lunch hour.

For the first time at Boston City Hospital RN's and LN's were bargaining together. They formed a multi-racial and multi-age bargaining committee.

The LN's are more than 35% Black. After some long discussion, they decided they would strike.

But to avert a strike the city suddenly settled with both the doctors and nurses. The nurses won 10% across the board pay increases this year, and 10% next year.

The RN's and LN's are part of SEIU Local 285. Local 285 is a public workers local and is focussing on hospital organizing.

It also represents one thousand clerks and technical workers, who now also have contract negotiations with the city. The clerical and technical workers at Boston City Hospi-

tal are some of the lowest paid city workers in Boston, and also happen to be 30% Black and Hispanic, and 50% women.

The main issue among them is seniority, because these workers are the victims of Mayor White's patronage system. White's control over city jobs means that he lays-off whom he pleases.

But if the clerical and technical workers at Boston City Hospital win their seniority demands the workers with the most seniority will be protected against lay-offs.

Now a strike looms by the clerical and technical workers to win this demand. Strikes by municipal and state workers in Massachusetts are historically hard because they are illegal.

There has not been a strike by public workers in Boston in 15 years. Threats of fines and jail sentences are severely oppressive. Framingham teachers last year were fined and jailed for striking, as were teachers in Franklin two years ago. But as the situation becomes desperate, threats of strikes become militant.

There could well be a strike of clerical and technical workers at Boston City Hospital.

### SOLIDARITY

At any rate, during the past month there has been unprecedented inter-union and inter-worker solidarity, between doctors, nurses, and clerical and technical workers at Boston City Hospital.

This solidarity, has already won better contracts for the interns, residents and nurses, and is helping to improve health care services. □

by PATTY HEALEY & PETER LOWBER

**MIDDLETOWN, OH**—Three hundred anti-Klan demonstrators gathered here in a Black community city park to protest the annual meeting of Ohio's Ku Klux Klan on June 14.

A slightly smaller number of Klan supporters met on the opposite side of the city, including some 30 Klansmen in robes and hoods.

Organizers of the protest declined to march to the Klan rally, despite police plans to allow the march, so most anti-Klan demonstrators didn't even see the hooded racists.



Photo: David Beach



## Join Us

- I want to join
- I want more information about the International Socialist Organization

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# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

## JUNE 30: DAY OF INFAMY

"A day of infamy." That's how Margie Fine, of the Reproductive Rights National Network, described June 30.

For on that Monday five old men in the Supreme Court condemned thousands of women to the terror of the back street abortionist, to permanent mutilation, injury and to possible death.

In 5 to 4 ruling the Supreme Court stated that Congress may refuse to finance abortions for poor women, even when the procedure is medically necessary.

This ruling will adversely affect 300,000 women a year.

### Supreme Court rules against abortions for poor women

The court stated coldly that poverty is of no concern to the government.

In other words, if you get pregnant, and want and need an abortion, it's up to you to get the money. And if you can't get the money, go to the

back street butcher, or use a coat hanger.

Since the passage of the Hyde amendment in 1977, which originally cut off medicaid funds for abortion, over 3 million women have been denied the resources necessary to make their own decisions regarding abortion and sterilization.

The number of federally funded abortions dropped from 300,000 to 2,000. There are at least 6 known deaths as a result of the Hyde amendment. There is, as yet, no record of the numbers of women who have been maimed by self-induced abortion attempts.

Another direct result of this ruling will be an increase in sterilization abuse. 90% of the cost of sterilization is paid for by medicaid. This leads doctors and hospitals to coerce women, and in particular Black, Hispanic and Native American women to be sterilized.

The court's ruling means that the struggle for abortion funding now goes to the states. And in a period marked by the growth of the right, and the general move by legislatures to cut public spending, it is unlikely that states will provide funds for abortions.

States like Ohio and Illinois have not only passed laws restricting funds for abortions, but also funding for all health clinics.

Furthermore, Henry Hyde and other legislators have vowed that federal and state workers will also be denied medical payments that go for abortion as well.

#### NETWORK

It now becomes more necessary to organize the fightback. The Reproductive Rights

### 1,000 IN LOS ANGELES REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION

LOS ANGELES, CA—Close to 1,000 people braved sweltering temperatures to demonstrate for abortion and reproductive rights at the National Right to Life Convention in Anaheim on June 28.

The demonstration was coordinated by the June 28 Abortion Rights Coalition and was supported by 130 local, state and national organizations, including California State NOW, Sons of Watts, La Raza Health Alliance, Catholics for Free Choice, CARASA, San Vicente Hospital, union locals and other clinics and women's groups.

#### STRATEGY

The National Right to Life Committee was inside the Convention Center for four days, planning their future strategy of defeating pro-choice legislators in coming elections and working towards a constitutional convention. At this convention they hope to pass a human life amendment forbidding abortions to all women, no matter what the circumstances.

The rally, in support of women's right to an abortion, regardless of ability to pay, also called attention to the need for an end to sterilization abuse, an end to discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, and the rights to safe, effective birth control and comprehensive sex education.

Gracia Molina-Pick, of Comision Femenil Mexicana Nacional called on Latinas and

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

other minority women not to be taken in by the "right-to-lifers" claims that abortion rights meant genocide for people of color.

Rhonda Copelon, who argued the recently defeated McRae case in front of the Supreme court, gave some of the legal history behind the Hyde amendment.

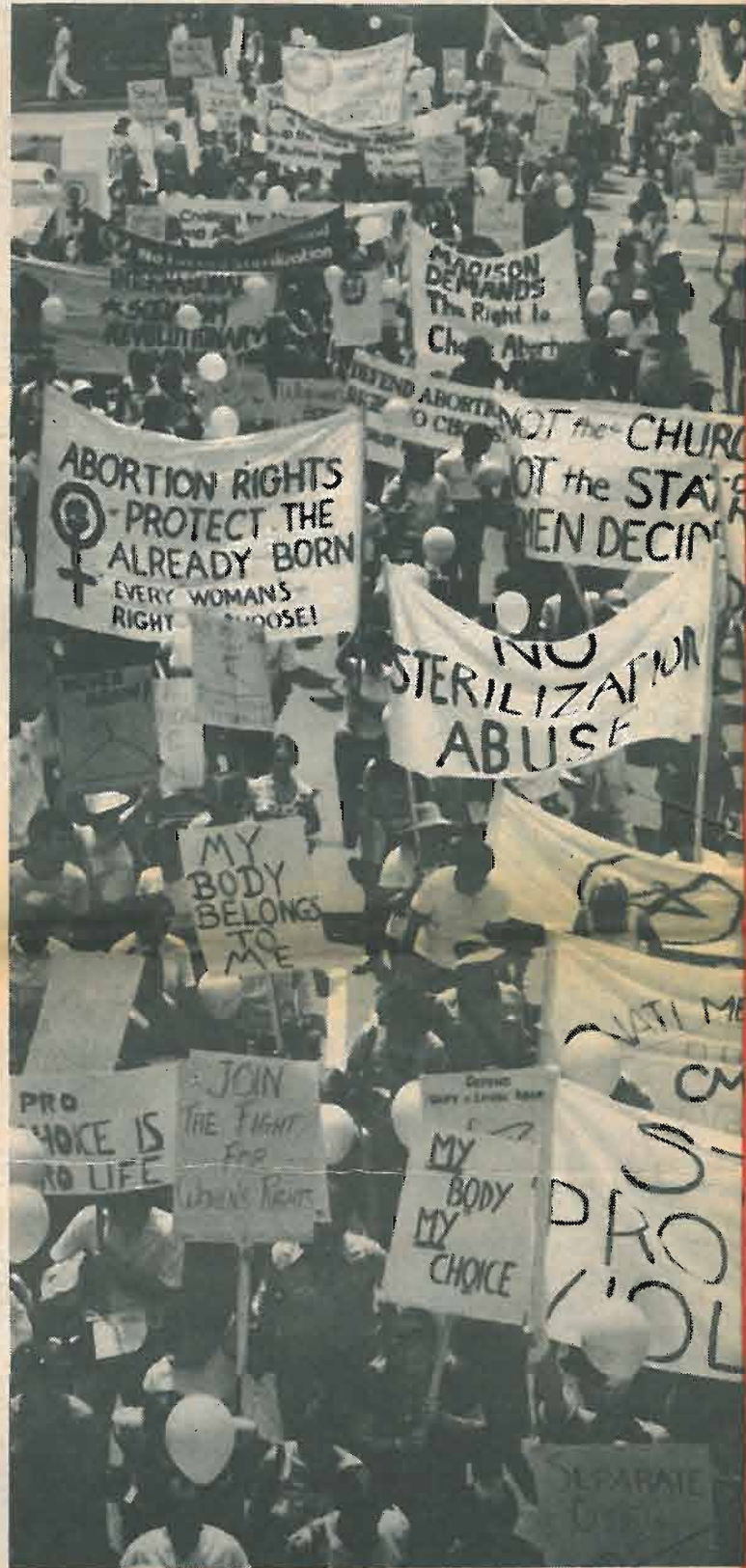
As the 1,000 chanting, banner-waving people streamed into the Anaheim Convention Center parking lot, anti-abortionists were seen pressed against the glass watching.

A few tried to crash the party, but were calmly suppressed.

Some of the groups within the June 28 A.R.C. plan to continue to work together and strengthen the network between Los Angeles and Orange county organizations.

#### COMBAT

The California Supreme Court may hear oral arguments in September of this year on the question of continuing to use California state funds for poor women's abortions. To combat this, reproductive rights activists will take actions ranging from educating people on legislator's voting records, to the courts, and most important, to the grass-roots public organizing of women to demand their right to a free, safe, legal abortion. □



Abortion rights demonstration in Cincinnati, June 23, 1979. Only mass action will win and defend women's rights

National Network, an organization of pro-choice, socialist and health care groups, has called for national demonstrations protesting this decision on July 10th.

Demonstrations have been called in Boston, New York, Cleveland, Chicago and San Francisco and Cincinnati.

Everyone involved in the reproductive rights movement should see that these demonstrations are large and militant.

Rallies are a first, and an

important step. But we also have to build a reproductive rights movement, a movement which has no illusions in the courts, in the Congress or in anyone of the people running for president.

It was the strength in numbers of the radical women's liberation movement of the sixties that forced the Supreme Court to legalize abortions in 1973. It will be the strength of the women that wins free abortions. □

### ALL OUT JULY 10!

Support the demonstrations against the Supreme Court anti-abortion decision

Call R2N2 (212) 675-2651 for details

