

Solidarnosc

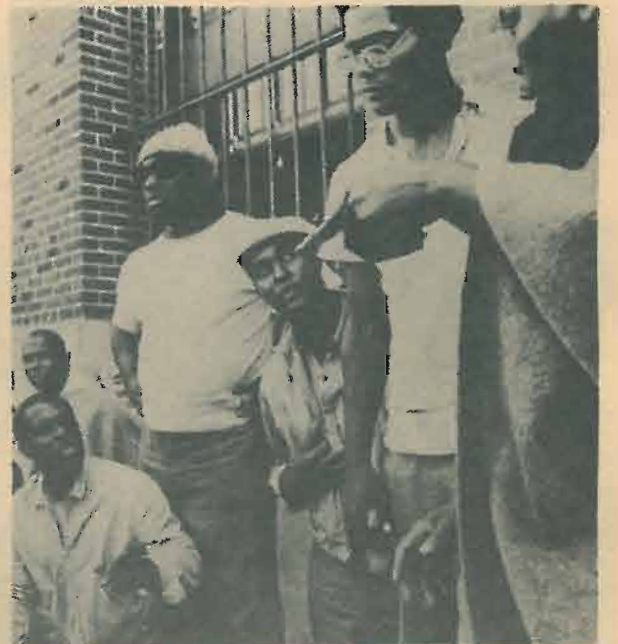
SEPTEMBER 19, 1981-WASHINGTON, D.C.

SOLIDARITY DAY

JOBS · JUSTICE · SOCIAL PROGRESS

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ATTICA REBELLION see pages 4 & 5

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PATCO STRIKERS APPEAL

“DON'T LET US DOWN”



The PATCO strikers are appealing for support. They deserve it. Here is why—in the words of striking air traffic controller, Gregory Pardlo, the president of PATCO Local 238, Newark, New Jersey—

“The vast majority of the people have to understand what’s going on here—union busting tactics being used against 12,000 highly skilled workers.

“If they don’t, it sounds the death knell for unionism. I mean what’s being done right now will be the precedent for all labor/management struggles.

“If they can fire all of us and cavalierly say they’re “going to rebuild the system”, what does this mean to semi-skilled and unskilled labor that relies on the union for their strength and negotiating and bargaining power.

“We need bodies on our picket lines. Wherever there is a PATCO picket line I’m sure they can use picketing help.

BELIEVE

“What we need is for organized labor and those who believe in the rights of organized labor and unionism, and those who just believe the government’s tactics in this instance have been wrong, to help us collectively—to pledge support to our assistance fund, to help on our picket lines, and, if nothing else, to just come to the Labor Day parades and the Solidarity Day parade on September 19, in Washington, D.C., to just show actual, physical support.” □

MORE ON PATCO

see page 3



“The fun administration”

They came to party . . .



In Ronald Reagan's Washington, many Republicans go to parties six nights a week. They also ride about town in chauffeured limousines.

They live in the most expensive sections of town and have vacation homes in California and Maine.

AUSTERITY

As officials, advisers and friends of President Reagan, they endorse austerity in federal spending, but in their personal lives many of the most visible administration players have shown a fondness for conspicuous spending of their own money in their first six months in Washington.

James A. Baker III, White House chief of staff, lives in a \$715,000 house. Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger has a \$707,000 house with a swimming pool.

Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan attended 28 social functions in one 30-day period recently. Nancy Reagan and her friend Betsy Bloomington wear designer gowns and elaborate jewelry.

“This is a fun administration,” says Robert K. Gray, co-chairman of the 1981 Presidential Inaugural Committee. “This president enjoys his position, and so do those around him. They work hard during the day and they like to have a good time at night.”

And that, in part, makes them different not only from the recently departed members of the Carter administration but also from other Republicans who have come to Washington.

The Reagan Republicans seem to enjoy Washington whirl more than their predecessors.

And if members of the new administration feel any conflict between their personal luxuries and the public sector's belt-tightening, no one is apologizing.

“The preponderance of these people are self-made,” said Charles Z. Wick, a member of Mr. Reagan's “kitchen cabinet” and director of the International Communications Agency. “They followed the American dream.”

Mr. Wick said he thought that economically pinched Americans of today enjoyed viewing the luxurious Washington way of life of the Reagan administration members, much as Americans who suffered in the Depression enjoyed watching Hollywood stars in the movies: “They loved those glamour pictures showing people driving beautiful cars and women in beautiful gowns, showing that people were living the glamorous good life.”

Although July is normally a slow period in Washington's social calendar, last month included these entertainments:

- A black-tie dinner on the Mall was held in honor of Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, who ran the Reagan campaign. Mr. Gray, the host, served cold tenderloin of beef and provided fans powered by an electric generator to cool his guests.

BULL

- A lawn party, a Western-style barbecue for 300 at the \$765,265 home of Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan, marked by two bands, a mechanical bull, open pits of sizzling beef and pork and guests in cowboy hats. Vice President Bush and David A. Stockman, the budget director, were there.

- A birthday party for Mrs. Reagan was thrown by her old California friends. They rented a Virginia plantation, chartered a bus, hired a country music band and flew food from Chasen's restaurant in Beverly Hills. Drinks were served on the bus by Frank Sinatra. □

Detroit: the Nazis routed again

DETROIT, MI—The Nazis were once again run out of the city of Detroit.

The Nazis, under their latest name, the SS Action Group, were granted a permit by the city to hold a rally at Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit. So, the Nazis were provided with police protection.

The Black president of the city council, Erma Henderson, displayed the bankruptcy of the liberal Detroit establishment, when she stated that the “problem was not the Nazis, but the anti-racists who wouldn't just ignore them.”

But fortunately, hundreds of us won't ignore the fact that the Nazis-Klan have committed assassination attempts, bombings and stabbings against Blacks and leftists in the recent past in Detroit, even if those in power are willing to ignore them.

BROKE

And on the day, the Nazis instilled little terror. 500 angry anti-Nazis broke through police lines and attacked the Nazis. Only 2 of the dozen helmeted and shielded “storm troopers” made it out of the basement of the Square's podium. For a few brief seconds, they dodged rocks, bottles, pieces of pipe, eggs and batteries, and quickly fled inside without being able to utter a word.

by FRANK RUNNINGHOR

The police certainly didn't ignore the anti-Nazis. In what *Detroit News* described as “one of the most violent afternoons in the Square since the protest of the sixties.”

The cops arrested eight nants, including several anti-Nazis, beat them, and many others.

Several demonstrators, men and female, were bloodied and split heads by club-wielding cops. Others were trampled by mounted police in ten minutes of sporadic street fighting.

Nevertheless, the anti-fascists were victorious. According to *Detroit News*: “I told them (the Nazis) to leave,” said police commander Jerome Miller. “It was evident that we couldn't guarantee public safety.”

Many young Blacks and people off the street came out, including around 100 young Black men on ten speeds that arrived ten minutes too late to chant “Where are they?” and blow whistles.

A defense committee has been formed to take up the legal defense of the three workers arrested and charged with assault on battery. All other cases have been disposed of.

‘SOCIALIST’ MITTERRAND AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS

Francois Mitterrand, the new ‘socialist’ President of France, has allowed the sale of a massive 900 megawatt nuclear reactor to South Africa!

He explained, by way of justification, ‘contracts must be honored however ideologically objectionable they may be.’ It

would have been more honest to admit that France depends on South Africa for strategic minerals, like 60 per cent of its Titanium, 30 per cent of its chrome and 10 million tons of South African coal a year.

PATCO: The time to

Everyone agrees that this is it—either the labor movement does something to slow Ronald Reagan down, to stand up to his attempt to destroy the air traffic controllers' union, PATCO, or it is open season on organized workers in this country.

MESSAGE

Jerry Wurf, the liberal president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), put it this way: "It's a terribly important strike. There is a message being sent. The administration in power is hostile to the ambitions of trade unions and it's going to bang labor in the head wherever it can."

Forget for the moment that the plan now being used to break the PATCO strike was developed when Democrat Jimmy Carter was the president of the United States. All Reagan had to do was put it into action.

The point now is that PATCO is being smashed. Some 13,000 workers have been summarily fired. Forty or so PATCO officers still face felony charges in court. The nation's airlines are operating under the direction of scabs in the terminal towers and air traffic control centers.

The *New York Times*, in an editorial on August 30, actually called the strike over, saying it was "lost" and that now was the time for Reagan to be merciful.

Surely the conclusion, if Wurf and all the other AFL-CIO presidents who say they share his fears are right, is that it's time to do something about the PATCO strike. And it shouldn't be so difficult. One writer put it this way in the *Boston Globe*: "It's not too late to act. It's quite simple

strike is now!

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK



Support rallies are good, but talk won't win

really. All the trade union movement has to do is announce that Solidarity Day has been moved up."

A good idea—but American labor leaders are unlikely to be convinced. Wurf himself, while bemoaning the "lack of militancy" in the labor movement, has refused to call AFSCME members out in support of PATCO, and at the same time has criticized PATCO for supporting Reagan in the presidential elections, for being "without concern for their brethren in the labor movement."

But since when has labor solidarity been based on political preference? Are we now to ask strikers about their voting records when we decide what to do at a picket line?

Lane Kirkland, the president of the AFL-CIO, has called Reagan "harsh and

vindictive" and is setting up a fund to help PATCO families. But he also sent a letter to all AFL-CIO affiliates in which he attacked the idea that labor join in a nationwide job action to support the strike.

"I personally do not think," he wrote, "that the trade union movement should undertake anything that would represent punishing, injuring or inconveniencing the public at large for the sins or the transgressions of the Reagan administration."

EMBARRASSMENT

So how does he think this strike will be won? Clearly he does not think it can be won, and the fund is simply an attempt to cover up a national embarrassment for the AFL-CIO.

William Winpisinger, the president of the International

Association of Machinists (I.A.M.), a man who calls himself a socialist, wins the prize for cowardice. He says he won't call for support for the strikers because he believes that his rank and file won't support him! Yet everyone knows that if the airline mechanics were to walk off the job, the airports would be closed down in a minute. Let the machinists settle their differences with PATCO in the future.

It's common to hear references to Poland and to the Polish independent trade union movement *Solidarity* at labor rallies in support of PATCO. And this is probably quite good, though a bit hypocritical, to say the least.

The fact is that the people who are now applauding *Solidarity* in Poland are opposing strike action in this country.

Were the Polish people "inconvenienced" when *Solidarity* called general strike after general strike, thousands of strikes over the past year? No doubt. But solidarity, more often than not, won.

PRACTICE

The Polish workers put solidarity in practice. They didn't just talk.

The point for socialists and rank and file militants today is to make this argument. Action is necessary. Now. The PATCO strikers cannot be allowed to be defeated. Support is necessary and every union member should fight in his or her union for solidarity with the air traffic controllers—and not just resolutions.

The PATCO strikers themselves should consider making stronger appeals for support. They should not be afraid to appeal to other rank and file workers to honor their picket lines—especially machinists, flight attendants, teamsters, even pilots, and other airline and airport workers.

ALTERNATIVES

It is difficult to think of a strike when the odds have been higher, or where the alternatives have been more stark: either shut the airports now, or sit back and watch PATCO die. Watch 13,000 workers lose everything, and give Ronald Reagan another victory, perhaps the biggest so far, in his campaign against the poor and working people of this country. □

REAGAN'S FOREIGN POLICY: REACTIONARY AND DANGEROUS

The Reagan administration's foreign policy grows bolder, more reactionary and more dangerous every day.

In August alone, the administration lifted the embargo on military aid to Guatemala and announced it was sending Green Berets to Honduras.

JETS

The Sixth Fleet sailed into waters claimed by Libya and shot down two Libyan jets. The Air Force provoked a similar confrontation in North Korea.

Then the state department backed racist South Africa's

invasion of Angola, saying the "incursion" had to "be understood in its full context."

This was said not to be support, but any doubts were cleared up a few days later when the United States, acting totally alone, vetoed a United Nations resolution condemning the South African invasion.

The full arrogance of Reagan's administration was shown when Hiroshima Day was chosen to announce plans to go ahead with full scale production of the neutron bomb.

The neutron bomb is the bomb that is designed to kill people but leave property intact! It is proposed for "limited wars" against Russian tanks in Europe, in the oil fields of the Middle East, or even Korea.

OMINOUS

There have been more ominous developments in the Middle East. The Israelis have been given full backing by the Reagan regime—in the form of the F-16 fighters. The bombing of Beirut and the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor have the official state department stamp of approval.

Now Iran is in deep crisis again. The assassination of the president and the prime minister bring the country closer and closer to civil war. The administration now admits that it supports Khomeini! And it is again threatening Iranian leftists in this country.

If there is a shift to the left in Iran, there will surely be

new war threats from the regime in Washington, D.C. And behind the threats, new plans for intervention.

There is only one answer to all this—we need an anti-war movement more than ever before.

This is particularly important now, as thousands of students return to college. Students have traditionally been the backbone of the anti-war movement in this country, though in past years the spirit has waned.

This must be changed. There have already been calls for demonstrations, rallies, and anti-war conferences in the fall.

LINK

These must be supported and built—and they must be linked to the opposition to Reagan's domestic policies, particularly to protests such as that planned in Washington, D.C. on September 19.

It's truly a matter of life and death. □

FIGHTING WORDS

When the Union's inspiration through the worker's blood shall run,

There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun,
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one?

But the union makes us strong.

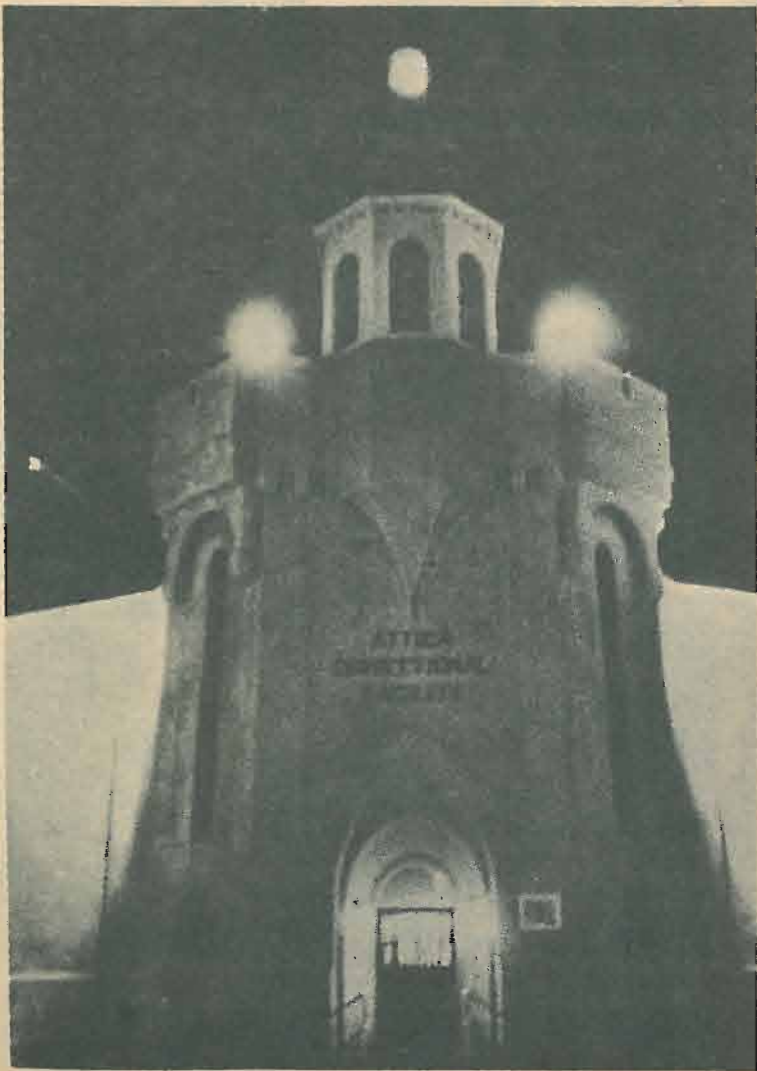
—Ralph Chaplin, Jan. 17, 1915
Song, *Solidarity Forever*

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The greatest prison rebellion ever



ATTICA

Ten years ago,
September, 1971; the men
at the bottom of society
rose up and demanded
an end to all oppression

In the early months of 1914, John D. Rockefeller organized a private army and declared war on Colorado miners. The miners and their families were on strike against Rockefeller's mining companies. Rockefeller's army killed dozens of them, men, women, and children.

On April 20, 1914, they burned to death eleven children and two women, in the Ludlow Massacre. The mining families of Ludlow had moved from town and set up a tent colony on the outskirts, as a sign of protest.

The massacre victims were burned in their tents, which first were cut with machine gun fire, then set ablaze by Rockefeller's army, reinforced by the state militia.

MASSACRE

Fifty years later John D. Rockefeller's grandson, Nelson Rockefeller, sent his army to storm the tent colony of Attica prison. Thus came the Attica Massacre, and with it

On Thursday, September 9, 1971, the prisoners of Attica in upstate New York rebelled—the greatest prison rebellion in history.

They seized cell yard D, took fifty hostages, and demanded a series of prison reforms, including the minimum wage for prison work, true religious freedom, realistic rehabilitation programs, a healthy diet, the right to communicate with the outside, and decent medical treatment.

The immediate background to the rebellion was the killing of George Jackson on August 21, at Soledad prison in California. The rest of the story was crowding, repression, and racism.

The prisoners negotiated with prison authorities for four days—the drama captured world wide attention. There seemed to be the possibility of a peaceful solution.

Then, without warning, without informing the negotiat-

Nelson Rockefeller took his rightful place as head of the bloody Rockefeller clan.

One story of the Ludlow Massacre was told by the wives of the Rockefeller managers. "They are ignorant and lawless foreigners, every one of them that caused the trouble," one said. "I've often thought if we could have a tag, and tag all foreigners so you could recognize them at a glance . . ." "They're nothing but cattle," another said, "and the only way is to kill them off."

One story of the Attica Mas-

sacre was told by a prison guard: "I don't know what we're going to do with them, but we've got to do something or they'll wreck the whole country." This story was told too by state police who chanted "White Power!" as they left the scene of the massacre.

And it was told also by Nelson Rockefeller's chief prison manager, Russell Oswald, who said in a candid moment that the prisoners' insurrection represented anarchy, and freedom and anarchy cannot coexist. Did Oswald mean that the Attica prisoners enjoyed

ing team, Nelson Rockefeller, the governor of New York, ordered police to attack.

The prison's power circuits were turned off, a helicopter dropped CS gas onto D-yard. Marksmen began the slaughter.

In all 43 people were killed in the Attica rebellion—including ten hostages and 29 inmates killed in the final assault by the correction officers and state police. Three hostages and 85 prisoners were wounded.

No hostages were killed by the prisoners, two were injured.

This article, comparing Attica to the massacre of the miners at Ludlow in Colorado in 1914, was written by Charles Leinenweber, and published in the paper Workers' Power, in September, 1971.

It is reprinted here to help keep the memory of Attica alive.

the benefits of a free society, but sought to destroy their own freedom through anarchy? No, because even he would never say that prisoners are free.

"ANARCHY"

Oswald meant that he saw the Attica insurrection as part of a broader assault on American capitalist society. This was his only true and honest thought.

That thought was not lost on CBS News' Eric Sevareid. On the night of the Attica Massacre, Sevareid warned of an awesome white backlash against Black revolutionary extremism. The next evening, after it had been revealed that Nelson Rockefeller's army themselves had killed the prisoners' hostages, Sevareid was unmoved, and continued with his lecture.

Adlai Stevenson, he reminded white liberal viewers, had taken time out from his first presidential campaign to put down an Illinois prison insurrection, all the while refusing to negotiate. There had been no massacre then, Sevareid said, but times have changed. The prisoners of today are different. They hate the Establishment. They defy law and order.

So did the Ludlow miners: a town marshal told a reporter that the strikers had gotten so

unruly, he personally "had plant a few of them."

From the point of view John D. Rockefeller's soldier Ludlow had been a race war. So too was the Attica Massacre. The news media, particularly television, emphasized the racial aspects of the struggle. They called the hostages "white hostages" and the leaders of the insurrection "Black leaders."

REASON

Race is a strange concept. No less than 57 different languages and dialects were spoken by the Colorado mining families that fought John Rockefeller's army, but for the purposes of slaughter they were all grouped together as one race. And so were the Attica prisoners.

There is a reason for this. Where the most severe divisions in a society are racial divisions, race becomes the most convenient explanation for the ruling class' acts of repression. Race hatred becomes the motive force for the public support of repression and the uppermost factor for those entrusted with carrying out the acts of repression.

We can be sure that the state police and prison guard who carried out the Attica Massacre saw their victims as rebellious niggers. But so of the victims were white



State troopers count the bodies; ten were hostages



The prisoners in D-Yard

These would be seen as nigger-lovers. Dressed in prisoners' clothes, the white hostages who survived the killings reported that they had to beg police for their lives:

From the point of view of the Attica prisoners, race was much less important. A *New York Times* reporter who sat in on prisoner meetings writes:

"The unity displayed by the prisoners would have been impossible if there had been racial discord . . . None was apparent to observers. The human security chains were interracial; the leadership committee featured at least three white men, although the rebelling inmates must have been 85 per cent Black and Puerto Rican."

RADICAL

But, the reporter continues, as prominent as was racial harmony, "It was not so prominent . . . as were radical class and political views. Every orator pictured the rebelling prisoners as political victims, men at the bottom of the heap for whom society cared nothing, to whom it gave the worst of treatment."

Fifty years earlier the Ludlow miners had written, "Let it be understood that the strike is not directed against any specific evil or evils, but against an entire system of

peonage incredible to behold in this century."

Like the miners before them, the Attica prisoners were united objectively in their common oppression, and united subjectively in their determination to end it.

WAR

Differences in race, language, and culture were subordinated in revolt. What to outsiders was conveniently perceived as race war, became to insiders, class war.

Prisons lack the one right available to even the most oppressed workers: the right to withhold labor. Prison labor is useless labor, and prison industry is generally restricted to a small proportion of the inmates. Thus there is no bargaining power inherent in a prisoners' strike.

Usually, prisoners are simply kept locked up in their cells for two or three weeks following a work stoppage. Prison riots end the same way. This leaves prisoners with only one bargaining tool—lives.

Their own lives are as useless as their labor to the ruling class. Every Attica rebel knew this, and so they took hostages whose lives, they hoped, would prove more valuable than their own.

By accounts of survivors, the hostages were treated

well. This is surprising since historically, oppressors rarely fare well in the hands of their captors.

Eugene V. Debs, America's greatest and most humanistic socialist, said to the miners fighting John D. Rockefeller's army, "You should have no more compunction in killing them than if they were so many mad dogs or rattlesnakes . . ."

CARE

An Attica prisoner said of their hostages, "They're sleeping on mattresses, but I ain't sleeping on no mattress. They treat us like animals, (but) we take care of them. The Attica prisoners' treatment of their hostages is a testimony to their solidarity and discipline.

But when the prisoners calculated that the lives of the hostages would prove more valuable than their own, they calculated wrong.

The hostages, who themselves repeated the prisoners' demands for negotiations, weighed too little in the final fixing of the scales between rebellion and repression. In fatal irony, nine of them died at the hands of Nelson Rockefeller's army, because they wore prisoners' clothes.

The Attica rebellion and massacre took place in the most isolated outpost im-

aginable. But its importance is enormous, not only for prisons but for the entire society. American capitalism is in its worst shape in decades.

The first victims of capitalism's impending crisis are always prisoners: their numbers grow as the economic system begins to fail. At the same time, prison conditions grow worse; antagonisms in the outside world are exaggerated and magnified behind prison walls.

Prisons are America's Northern Ireland. They are also a signal to what the nation's future may hold. The specter of civil war is raised, with the first sides already chosen: on the one hand, representatives of the most oppressed people in the American working class; on the other, representatives of the most splendid sections of the American ruling class.

Who will win in the long run depends on *how* the war spreads. The ruling class, today as always, has its Rockefeller armies. It needs little else, but its position is made even more secure so long as the struggle between it and its challengers can be characterized as race war.

The working class, now most of all its prisoner elements, needs its allies, solid, undivided legions of them. □

The new merger bonanza

A new commodity is flooding the market! It is the large corporation.

To compete on the market for this new commodity your banker must be willing to loan you anywhere from \$10 million to \$10 billion.

The bankers for DuPont, Seagram, and Mobil had to come up with multibillion dollar lines of credit so that they could bid on Conoco. For \$7.5 billion DuPont won the prize.

BASIC

Big corporations were created by mergers in the 1890-1920 period. The basic reason for mergers hasn't changed.

Competition is a nuisance for the profit-making corporation. Increased productivity and competition after 1870 drove prices down and reduced the rate of return even for those firms that survived.

For a corporation to enjoy the fruits of increased productivity in the form of an improved rate of return, something must be done to keep competitors from lowering prices.

Thus the financial house of Morgan amalgamated 165 firms into US Steel at the turn of the century. US Steel had 60 per cent of the market.

The differences today are in the form competition takes.

This explains why the dominant form of merger is no longer the horizontal type that brings together firms producing the same thing. DuPont the chemical producer bought out Conoco the oil and coal supplier.

Since oil and coal provide a hydrocarbon base for 70 per cent of DuPont's products, the merger is clearly a vertical one. DuPont does not want to be one of the oil and coal industry's hostages.

BENEFIT

It cannot reap the full benefit of the monopoly position it has in the chemical industry if it is faced with escalating prices for its raw materials. To avoid being in competition with the oil and coal industries for profits, Du Pont has bought into those industries.

There is nothing like a drop in the rate of profit to promote mergers. The depression of 1875-1895 sparked the merger wave of the late '90s. And the significant drop in the rate of profit in 1966 led to a three year boom of mergers.

The recession of 1974 has been followed by the current wave. The scramble for profits by reallocating capital does not necessarily promote growth.

It does not of itself mean more investment, but only more centralization of wealth. Attorney General William French Smith is promoting the "efficiency" of bigness and the Justice Department is considering suspending 1,200 antitrust decisions to help capitalists cope with recession.

Inflation and unemployment are the ways we shall feel the impact of mergers. The capital Du Pont had to borrow pushes up the interest rate on all capital. This gets passed along to us as higher prices for everything.

AMUSE

With capital tied up in these ruling class trade-offs, it is not going into the promised "reindustrialization of America," which is necessary to increase the number of people hired. When capitalists find that making useful things and jobs doesn't pay, they amuse themselves trying to outwit one another. □

by MILTON FISK

Poland: the way forward

Last month the leaders of Poland's independent union, Solidarity, called upon its members to end strikes and to cooperate with the government in working unpaid Saturday shifts. They have thus created grave dangers for Poland's workers.

SHORTAGES

In recent weeks the scale of the economic crisis in the country has become increasingly clear. There are acute shortages of meat, the output of the economy has fallen 15 per cent in a year, plans are afoot to lay off hundreds of thousands of workers, and now the government is asking workers to accept a fourfold increase in the price of bread.

There has again and again been talk of economic reform. But it has gotten nowhere. As one of the more uncompromising of Solidarity's leaders, Jan Rulowski puts it:

"There is no program in Poland for developing the country. No one knows where to start. All the actions undertaken are chaotic and haphazard, impossible to put into effect in the long run. There does not exist a decent conception of what the economy should look like."

In desperation the government is now considering joining the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This could be expected to impose cuts and measures to increase unemployment. The IMF would insist that the Western banks lend no more money to Poland until the workers are forced to accept 'sacrifices'.

WAVE

Solidarity was formed one year ago when a huge wave of strikes greeted the government's first attempt to deal with the economic crisis by imposing such 'sacri-

ANALYSIS BY CHRIS HARMAN

fications'. The workers insisted on wage increases to compensate for price increases and an end to the system of Saturday working, as well as freedom to form their own unions.

But the crisis has now become so serious that every 'reform' workers get threatens to make it more serious. There are only two ways ahead.

On the one hand there can be a revolutionary change. This would involve the workers organized in Solidarity kicking out the present government, the present economic chiefs, the present structures of control in the factories, the present generals.

Then with all the privileges and inequality removed, all the initiative and enthusiasm of the working population could be used to divert resources at present wasted (for instance on arms spending, on the police and on managerial privileges) to safeguard living standards.

DEMORALIZATION

Such is the demoralization in official circles at the moment that there would be minimal physical opposition to such a move from inside Poland—although, of course, the Russians would do their utmost to crush it.

The other alternative is for the existing regime to enforce a much harsher program of 'sacrifice' than it has yet attempted. Everything gained by the workers'



Gdansk shipyard workers

organizations in the last year would have to be destroyed.

One Western estimate is that wages would need to be cut by a quarter and not allowed to rise again for five years. In the factories and mines productivity would have to be forced up regardless of the objections workers would make on grounds of health and safety.

Until one or the other of these alternatives is imposed, the present chaos in the economy can only get worse, the shortages increase, and the lines get longer and people get more and more fed up.

DANGEROUS

This is where last month's decision by Solidarity's leadership is

so dangerous. They have said effect, that they are afraid to put their own solution to the crisis and instead will begin going along with the regime's solution. The result can only be mass and increasing disillusion for those who thought Solidarity leaders offered a different way forward.

They have given a much needed boost to a demoralized disintegrating regime. It will be very welcomed by those who have opposed the existence of Solidarity all along.

In recent weeks there has been increasing militarization of the government, with a growing number of top generals taking over key positions. At the same time the most pro-Russian elements have been building up a nationalist, anti-semitic, Gdansk organization. This seeks to turn the growing bitterness of the people against 'Jewish' elements (even though today there are hardly any Jews left in Poland).

Khomeini regime fights for its life

In Iran Khomeini's regime is fighting for its life—by taking the lives of others. Any semblance of popular support has been dwindling for months now as the regime has proved incapable of organizing anything more than the most savage acts.

Khomeini's plan for the Islamic Republic is now well under way. An important part of it has been the crushing of all opposition—even that of the so-called 'liberal' opposition like ex-president Bani Sadr—now in exile in France.

VICIOUS

Khomeini's key supporters are haunted by the prospect that he might die before this crushing work is completed, and this has added a vicious speed to the whole exercise.

On June 20 there was a huge opposition demonstration. Since then the regime has officially executed hundreds.

Most are known to have been members of the People's Mojahedin organization, and from various left wing groups. Others were executed for belonging to the Nahai religious sect, for drug and sexual offences.

In the midst of this carnage and wave upon wave of house searches and street arrests—all carried out by well armed vigilantes—the regime held its mock election of a new president.

Despite the fact that most polling stations were quiet, with only small lines, the government is now claiming that millions of votes were cast.

Report from Shirin Rani in Tehran

Even among those who did vote, fear of not having the right stamp in their identity card was one of the main reasons. The elections indicated that illusions in Khomeini now only persist amongst a small fraction of the population, and the conditions are ripe, even becoming overripe for his overthrow.

Unfortunately the bulk of the anti-regime forces have not been working to mobilize the mass of the population.

Instead they have concentrated their efforts on bombing and assassinations of the leaders of the regime.

No one can doubt that these people deserve to die, but the fact is that even the most successful bomb in history—the one that killed the 100 or so leaders of Khomeini's Islamic Republican Party—left the mass of the population passive in the face of the regime's attacks.

Terrorism brings its brief moments of pleasure, soon to be followed by the fear of reprisals and passivity while one awaits the 'liberators'.

Having gone underground with thousands of their members arrested, and with several hundred killed, the Mojahedin remain the key force confronting the regime.

Along with fugitive ex-president Bani Sadr, they have formed a National Resistance Council—in effect an underground provisional government. In broadcasts from

their recently established radio station they promise that 'the fight to get rid of Mr. Khomeini will soon spread onto the streets.'

From what they say a bloody civil war seems likely at some point.

One criticism from the left of this National Resistance Council is that non-supporters of the Islamic Republic are by definition excluded from it, though some Marxists—notably of the Fedayeen (minority) and Peykar have been co-operating militarily with the Mojahedin.

The role of the Fedayeen has been particularly disgusting. Their majority wing is now solidly pro-Moscow and has effectively become the youth wing of the Tudeh Party—the Iranian Communist Party.

Their members have been working in the schools alongside the regime's 'hezbollahis'—street thugs—informing on other leftists.

Several of those killed by the regime have been executed on information coming from the Fedayeen Majority.

Despite all the killings, the Fedayeen still insist that this is an 'anti-imperialist' regime and ran for elections (although all their candidates were banned by the regime for not being Muslims!) on a joint slate with the Tudeh Party.

Despite the arrests, the campaign of bombings and assassina-

tions goes on. The size of the 'party of order'—those siding with the regime for the sake of 'order', is very small.

As the state apparatus behaves like a terrorist, there is anyway little to choose between the opposition and the regime. Mass support is now going to the Mojahedin, although because they have not considered how to utilize it, this backing remains largely passive.

DECISIVE

In the coming weeks the decisive struggles between the Mojahedin and Khomeini's regime seem destined to take place.

Should that struggle start we will need every support from comrades elsewhere—in the form of demonstrations and meetings, and even now protests against the judicial murders would be a great help and might even save some from the firing squad.

Despite widespread arrests of militants in the factories, worker resistance to the regime remains, although the Islamic workers councils are being dissolved for being pro-worker rather than pro-regime!

Iran's revolution—and the great hopes to which it gave birth—are not yet crushed, although Khomeini and his street gangs are doing their best.

But should the present regime win through, then a military coup or the consolidation of a pro-western religious dictatorship seem the unhappy but inevitable alternatives for the short term. □

CLASSIC

By refusing to act as a focus for all the bitterness that is growing as the food shortages worsen, Solidarity has made it easier for the pro-Russian elements to use that bitterness to their own advantage in a classically fascist manner—blaming the Jews, blaming Solidarity, even blaming individual ministers but letting the system as a whole off the hook.

The best known leader of Solidarity, Lech Walesa, has said that the crisis gives trade unionists a choice but to help strengthen the government so that it can 'solve the nation's problems'. But the government will use every bit of extra strength it gets to put the squeeze on Solidarity and to move back to the system of unbridled power that existed until last year.

That is why the hope in Poland does not live with those like Lech Walesa who the Western prefer to as 'moderates' but with those 'radicals' and 'extremists' in the union who are arguing for continued strikes and protests.

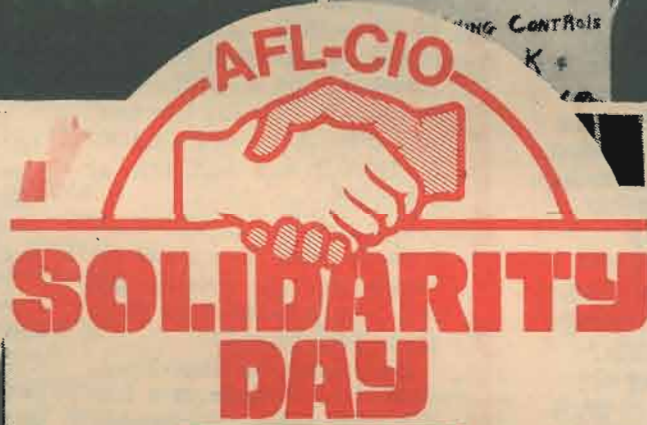
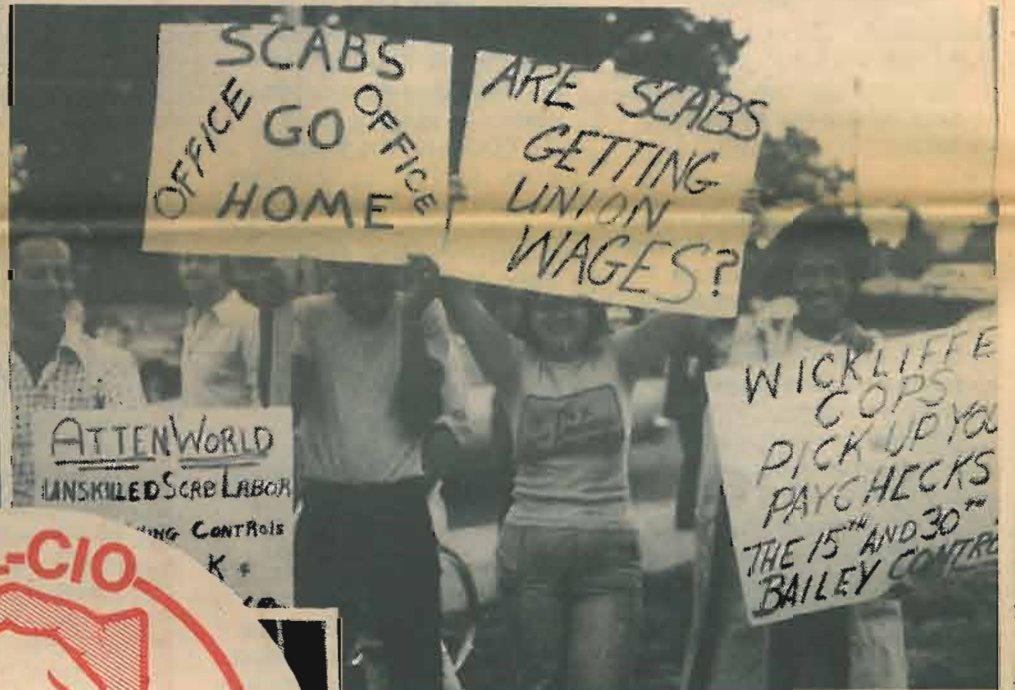
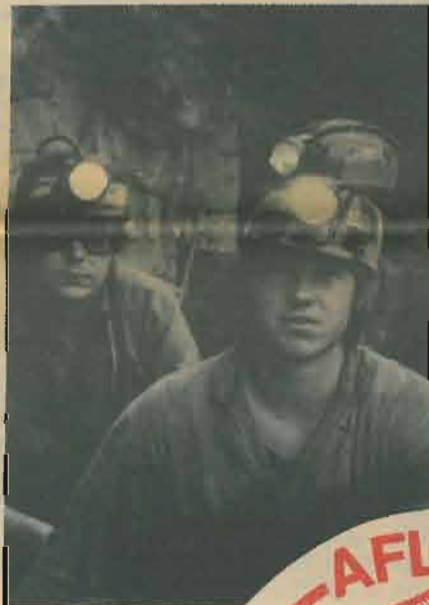
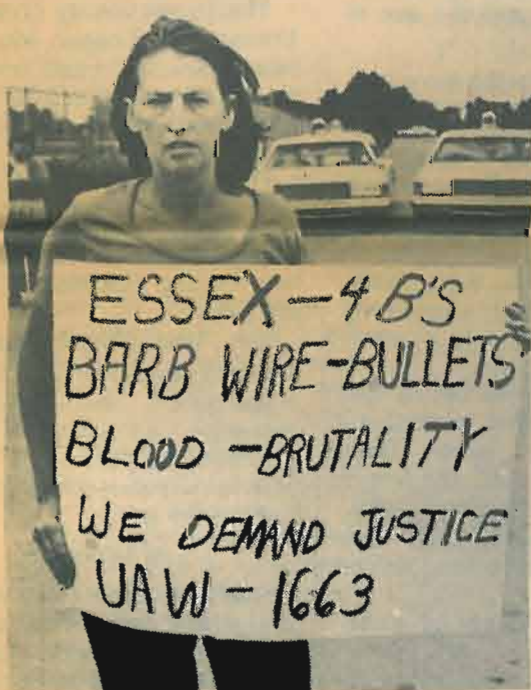
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SEPTEMBER 1981

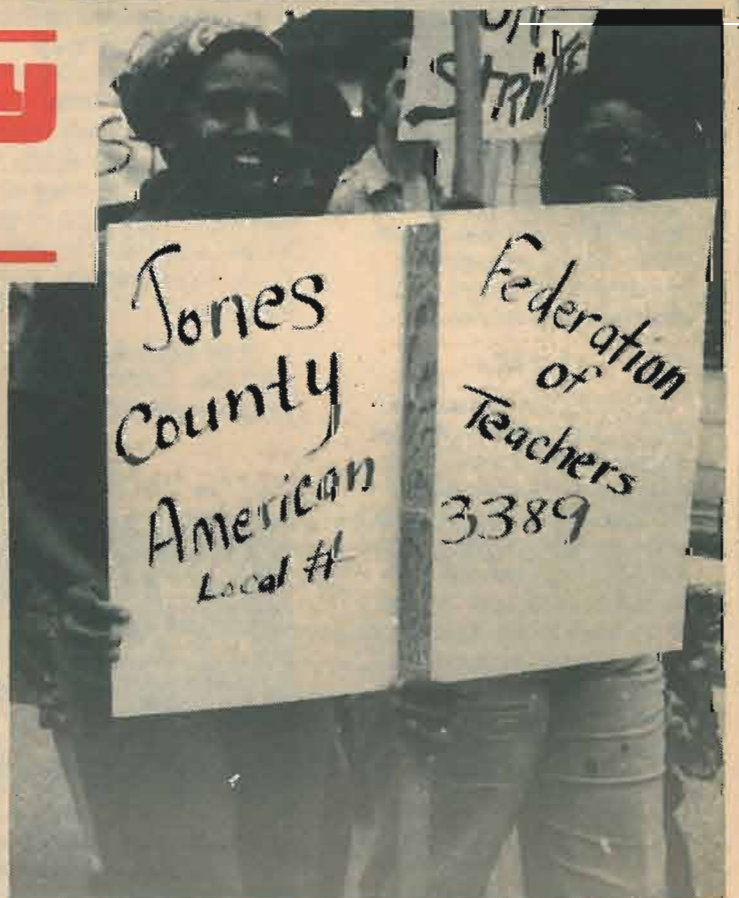
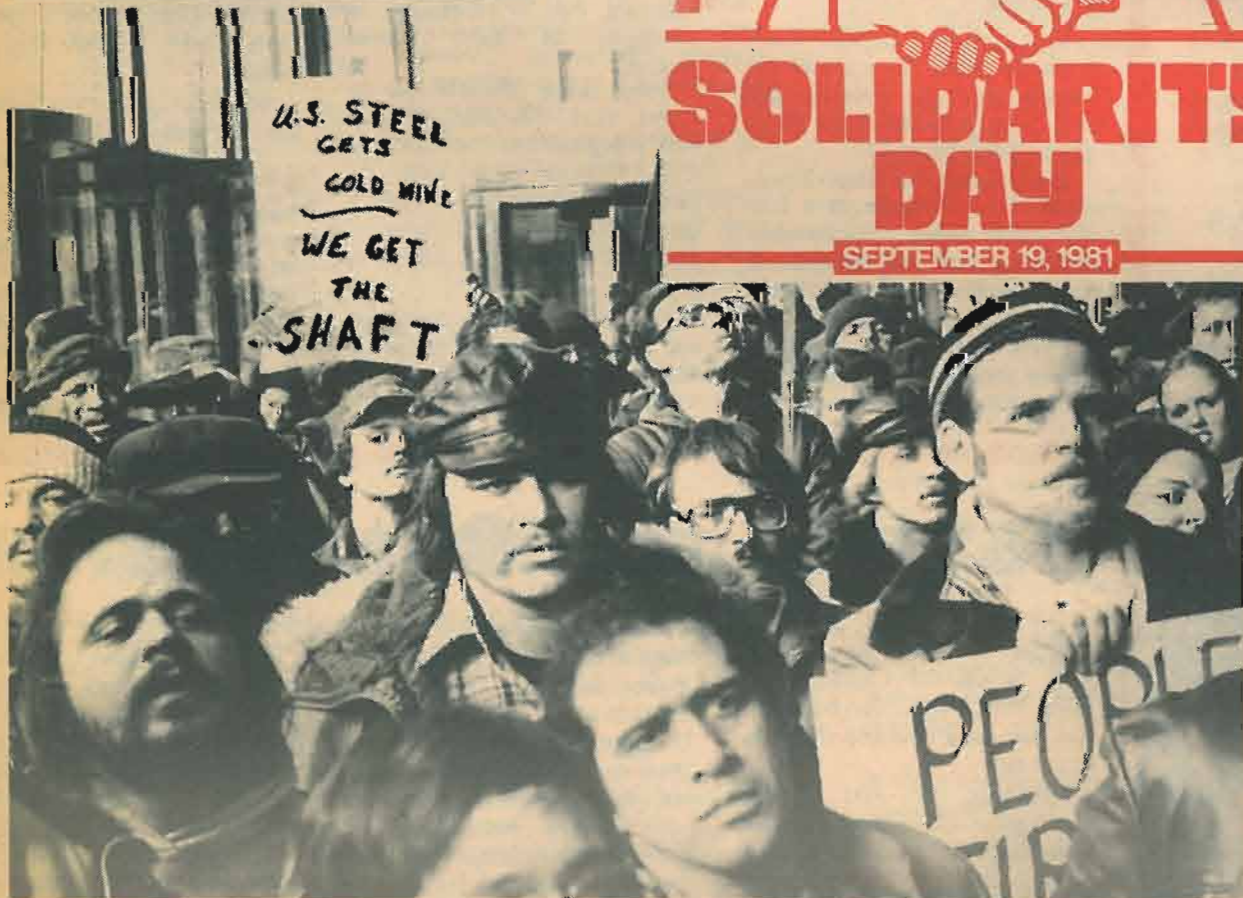


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WE HAVE THE POWER



SEPTEMBER 19, 1981



TO STOP REAGAN

Solidarity begins with the PATCO strike

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

Solidarity Day must be the day when American workers begin to take back what is being stolen from them by the employers and by the Reagan administration.

But this cannot be done without—first and foremost—a commitment to support the 12,000 PATCO strikers. And this cannot be done without a commitment to action. It's that simple.

If Reagan can beat PATCO, if he can fire 12,000 workers and destroy their union, then Solidarity Day will be nothing but a joke.

MEANING

In fact, some people are already laughing. The New York Times says the air traffic controllers strike is already over—"Lost". The British businessmen's magazine, the Economist, wrote in August, "American unions don't know the meaning of the word solidarity."

The truth, of course, is that PATCO is doomed, if we leave the fate of the air traffic controllers in the hands of the AFL-CIO leaders—the Kirkland's, the Wurf's, the Winpisinger's.

They are now watching PATCO die, embarrassed a bit, but determined to see that there is no action in support of the strike. Yet action could win this strike in a minute. No airline can fly without mechanics, flight attendants, teamsters, cleaners and maintenance workers.

LESSON

Some labor leaders are saying that we should not support PATCO because they supported Ronald Reagan in the presidential elections. Hopefully PATCO has learned its lesson. But what has this got to do with labor solidarity?

The Teamsters supported Reagan. Does this mean cross Teamster picket lines? John L. Lewis was a republican when he ordered some of the biggest miners' strikes in history.

More to the point—the Republicans are only slightly worse than the Democrats. Jimmy Carter's policies led to millions unemployed. He began the cuts in social services. His administration drew up the plan to smash PATCO. And the usual Taft-Hartley in an

attempt to break the miners' strike in 1978.

We shouldn't support Democrats or Republicans. And we shouldn't think that the point of a march on Washington, D.C. is to get the Democrats going again. Both parties support big business in this country.

We can support PATCO, but only if rank and file workers, the millions of ordinary people who make up the unions in this country start to take things in our own hands. We have to demand that our unions come out in support of PATCO—on the picket lines. And if they won't we have to do it ourselves.

That's how Solidarity got going in Poland. It had nothing to do with the pious words of well-paid labor bureaucrats. In Poland there has been Solidarity in action—there have been literally thousands of strikes, including general strikes against government policies.

ACTION

And that's also how the labor movement got going in the thirties, when American workers took action.

They used their only power—their ability to withdraw their labor, their numbers and their courage.

It can be done again. American labor does not have to be the joke of Wall Street and Washington, D.C. It can become a giant again.

It all depends on the rank and file. And the fight begins with PATCO! □

THE WAY THE CIO WAS WON

In February, 1932, 100 leaders of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) led by President William Green, marched one mile from the AFL headquarters to the White House and asked Herbert Hoover to spend money on relief.

They got nothing.

BOTTOM

In 1932 the labor movement was at rock bottom. 17,920,000 were unemployed. 1,500,000 people were homeless, wandering the roads of America. From March 1930, to March 1931, 2,937,925 workers in manufacturing industries suffered wage cuts of 9.4%.

The AFL did nothing.

John L. Lewis of the United Mineworkers toured the coalfields putting down strikes and demanding that miners accept wage cuts. UMW membership fell drastically from 400,000 in 1920, to 60,000 in 1930.

AFL membership was declining at a rate of 7,000 a week in 1931. In 1920 the membership of the AFL was 4,029,000. In 1933 it was half this at 2,127,000.

This month AFL-CIO leaders have called for a march on Washington to protest the anti-labor policies of the Reagan administration.

And, today the labor movement is once again at a low ebb with union membership declining and unemployment rising. Strikes are few, bitterly fought, and seldom won.

UAW president Douglas Fraser recently said that there is one-sided class war against

BARBARA WINSLOW ON THE

labor, and nothing could make this clearer than the PATCO strike, where the government is out to crush 12,000 workers and destroy their union.

Thus far the AFL-CIO has done nothing—except make speeches about the glory days of the thirties and the rise of the CIO.

OFFENSIVE

What happened in the thirties? How did workers get back on the offensive and change the course of American history? They did it by striking. It was that simple.

In the 1930s there were thousands of strikes involving millions of ordinary women and men.

Working people defied the law. They ignored injunctions and fought the police. They used the boycott, the mass picket, the sympathy strike. They even fought their own union officials when necessary.

The labor movement of the thirties was built with solidarity—not in speeches by union officials, but in solidarity, in struggle, in mass direct action.

Some labor officials like to claim that Franklin Roosevelt's legislation created the CIO. Others give John L. Lewis all the credit. In reality the birth of the CIO came as a result of three great strikes in 1934.

The first bloody battle broke out at an auto parts plant in Toledo, Ohio.

There, on February 23,

1934, Federal Local went out on strike, and then went out against employers hired scab looked as if the strike was doomed, until a large number of unemployed started the picket line.

The Lucas County Unemployed League affiliated with a small union organization called American Workers Party by A.J. Muste.

The unemployed picketers were so successful in blocking the plant gates that the employers got arrested for limiting picketing at a gate.

The Unemployed League was determined to "show no injunction," and to picket. As picketers were arrested in defiance of law, more picketers came to the front of the gates.

MILITIA

The number of other workers grew so large, that four militia companies were used in Ohio before the time, were called plants.

Machine guns were on the roofs of the plants.

The threat of a strike supported by unions forced the employers to recognize the union and wage increases. The union attempted once more to win by refusing to rehire all the former workers.

The union threatened

Reagan and Coolidge: Two Men Who Say There's No Right to Strike

Ronald Reagan likes to compare himself to another U.S. president—Calvin Coolidge. The comparison between the two men and the times is quite apt.

Coolidge was one of the most inept presidents, a man who worked less than four hours a day.

When Will Rogers once asked him how he kept fit in a job that had broken the health of Woodrow Wilson, Coolidge replied, "by avoiding the big problems."

Coolidge, like Reagan, came to national prominence

as a strike breaker—in Coolidge's case, the 1919 Boston Police strike. "There is no right to strike against the public safety, any time . . ." and then called out the state militia. In the aftermath of the great strike wave of 1919, government officials and businessmen met to launch an offensive against the labor movement. It was called "The American Plan," an open-shop drive. This attack coincided with a drop in industrial production. Between 1919 and 1921 the number of wage earners in manufacturing

dropped 24%.

At the same time employers responded in a number of ways. First, they wanted, as they are doing today, wage cuts. Second, the number of unions remained with bitterly fought strikes, most lost. The attack was the hardest on the seamen, packers, railroad workers, and building tradesmen.

The government responded with new laws and attacks on the workers won by workers in strikes during the period up to the World War. The Co-

TWO MEN WHO SAY THERE'S NO RIGHT TO STRIKE



A CIO picket line in Cleveland in the thirties

OF THE CIO

direct action, and immediately all strikers were rehired. As a result of the Toledo victory, the path was opened for the eventual conquest of General Motors and the organization of the auto workers.

WARFARE

Meanwhile in Minneapolis a conflict developed which showed the intense class warfare that was to develop in labor battles across the country.

Minneapolis was an open-shop town, run by the Citizens Alliance.

Early in 1934, Teamsters organized in the coal yards won a successful strike and organized Local 574. The leaders of Local 574 were Trotskyists, members of the Communist League of America.

When the truckowners refused to sign an agreement with the union, a decision was made to strike on May 12.

Not a truck moved in Minneapolis. The key tactic in this strike, one which became the standard technique of the CIO, was the cruising picket line or flying squadron.

The strike was illegal. Bill Brown, the president of Local 574, had written to the president of the IBT, Dan Tobin, for approval. "Two days later," Brown remembered, "after the strike was over, he wrote back that we couldn't strike. By that time we'd won and had signed a contract with increased pay."

There was passionate support among the Minneapolis workers. Hundreds of non-teamsters showed up at the strike office saying: "use us, this is our strike."

The conflict deepened as the Citizens League armed and prepared to keep the open-shop. There were a series of bloody battles which led to a brief settlement.

The second strike involved even greater support from the working class and small farmers. Again, the police and vigilantes attempted to attack picketing. But protest and solidarity from labor was too strong.

The state authorities were forced to release jailed strike leaders, suppress the Citizens Alliance—finally the employers capitulated.

VICTORY

It was another victory for the growing struggle for unionization.

The third great conflict took place in San Francisco, where over 10,000 longshoremen went out on an unauthorized strike.

Immediately ILA (International Longshoremen's Association) president Joseph Ryan flew out to California to stop the strike.

But at a mass meeting he was booed and voted down.

As in Toledo and Minneapolis, the police used tear gas and bullets to break up the picketing at the waterfront. Two men were killed and 109 others wounded.

Again, as in Toledo and Minneapolis, police atrocities

did not crush the strike.

Instead San Francisco labor responded with a general strike. Some 130,000 workers went out.

Sympathy for the strike spread northward to Portland and Seattle.

In spite of organized vigilante violence encouraged by police and informers the strike finally ended with a partial victory to the longshoremen.

The most important result was that the workers returned united and won the demand for a hiring hall. Of equal importance the success of the strike opened the way for the establishment of unionization of West Coast industrial labor.

In 1934, 700,000 workers went on strike.

The handwriting was on the wall of American industry.

The American working class was seething, demanding to be organized.

Minneapolis, Toledo and San Francisco showed millions of other workers how they could win—by mass militancy and direct action—not by relying on the courts or federal labor boards, but through the strength of the labor movement, the unemployed, by refusing to obey anti-labor laws.

FOUNDATION

These struggles were the foundation for the battles that were to build the CIO—which by 1938 had a membership of 4,000,000. □

How I became a socialist

The immediate effect of the depression on workers was the loss of their livelihood. Combined with this was the anxiety about the future for workers and their families. As the depression continued workers became bored and frustrated with idleness. Often these brought on conflicts in the home—divorce, child abuse, alcoholism and illness, both physical and mental.



John Anderson is the former president of UAW Local 15, Detroit, Michigan

The unemployed worker becomes alienated. They can't identify themselves with any institution or group in society. They lose their skill. They retrogress physically and mentally. These problems, combined with a poor diet, do permanent damage to those suffering the effects of the depression.

In many respects my experience was typical of millions of Americans.

In 1931 when I graduated from college, I was 25 years of age. I wanted to get married. Being unemployed caused me to postpone this for eight years. Millions of young people had to postpone marriages and starting of families beyond their prime years. It was like losing the best years of their lives.

What the nation lost in production and the retrogression of the workers instead of developing skills, is incalculable. A worker, who between the ages of 18 and 30, in the prime of life, who had long periods of unemployment will never fully

recover their loss. This loss spread over a lifetime is a tragedy for the individual and for the nation.

As a socialist, I am convinced it was the profit system that brought on the depression. Workers produced more than they could buy for consumption. The build-up of consumer goods caused prices to fall. When this threatened their profits the employers closed their factories.

It is futile to blame certain individuals for the state of the economy. We must place the blame where it belongs—on capitalism, on the profit system. We must replace it with an economy producing for use—not profit. That system is socialism.

PURPOSE

The depression of the 1930's had a profound effect on my life. From an individual whose purpose in life was to acquire wealth and with it pleasure and comfort, I became a class conscious worker concerned with society as a whole. My mind was freed from religion. I learned the evils of racism, sexism, chauvinism and other forms of bigotry.

I became an opponent to America's imperialist wars. In spite of the suffering I endured I regard myself as a beneficiary of the depression. I believe humanity has a future in a socialist transformation of society.

(From pamphlet below)

A personal history by a rank and file worker

THE DEPRESSION OF THE THIRTIES



BY JOHN ANDERSON

Available from Hera Press, PO Box 18037, Cleveland, 44118. 50¢.

Good comparison

minimum wage laws, worker's compensation, child labor laws, protective legislation for women and other social welfare, unconstitutional.

It approved and enlarged the use of the injunction to break strikes, the open shop, yellow dog contract, and other vicious anti-labor practices.

The leaders of the AFL responded to the savage attacks with nothing. They did little to organize a fight back, allowing a number of crucial strikes, like the one in Gastonia, North Carolina, to be smashed.

The defeat of the textile workers in Gastonia set back labor organizing for forty years!

RESPONSE

Reagan says he admires the president who said, "The business of America is business."

However, he shouldn't stop reading history at the time Coolidge stepped down in 1928. Coolidge's economic policies led to the catastrophic depression of 1929, and also to the rising of the American working class in the CIO. □

The Socialist Alternative

- There is an alternative to the barbarism of war, unemployment, racism, oppression.
- Socialism—real socialism—is the alternative, and we must begin today to build for it. Socialism means freedom—self-reliance, organization and uncompromising solidarity. Solidarity with all who are oppressed, and all who fight oppression.

- Socialism means workers' control—control of society by the majority, the people who produce everything of value, the people without whom society would not survive. It means a better life for the majority in a society based on human needs not on profit margins.

- Today there are no socialist countries—no nations to inspire our vision of the future society. Russia, China and the countries of Eastern Europe are not socialist countries, but state capitalist.

- The ISO stands for workers' control, revolution—not reform, a workers' democratic government, solidarity with the oppressed, unions controlled by the rank and file, internationalism and a revolutionary party.

- Join us. Help us today to build for the future.

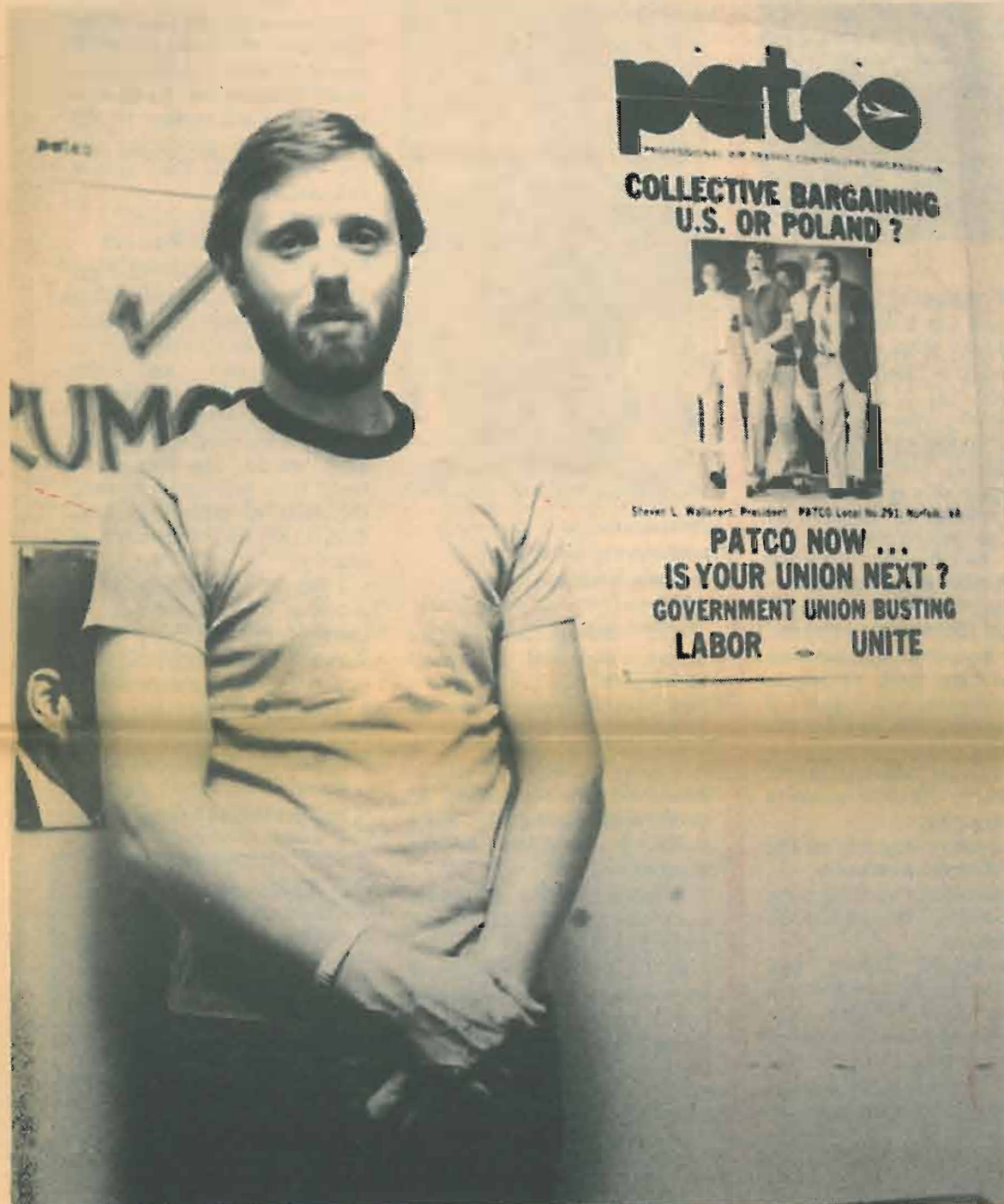
Help us build it



Socialist Worker

STRIKER CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY

"Why I will never cross a picket line"



Bill Robertson, Boston PATCO Local 215

BIG RALLY IN BOSTON

On Sunday, August 23, more than 1,000 trade unionists rallied here in support of PATCO—a show of solidarity that was loud and enthusiastic. There were speakers and representatives of some twenty unions, ranging from teachers to postal workers.

"There is no question about it," said Carol Doherty, president of the Massachusetts Education Association, "Reagan's action against PATCO is the opening wedge against every public and private employee organization in this country."

Calling on organized labor to "marshall its forces against the Reagan administration," Wally Torantino of the American Postal Workers union,

said labor should be prepared to take its fight "back to the streets."

Mike Ferman, PATCO eastern regional vice president, speaking for the strikers, said: "To hell with the laws against air traffic controllers striking."

"If there's an unjust law, if there's a fascist law, we're right to break it. We're right to fight it."

by BILL BROWN

INTERVIEW BY KEVIN MURPHY AND PETER LOWBER

Bill Robertson, a Boston PATCO member, chairman of of Local 215's safety committee, talked to *Socialist Worker* about the importance of the rally and the strike:

"We've gotten a second wind, and we're starting to get more aggressive."

CASE

"It's clear to everyone that this is a case of union busting. There's no doubt about what they're doing."

"They've busted us, they took our money, they decertified us, they've arranged with the government not to give us FHA mortgage extensions."

"We can't get food stamps, we can't get unemployment compensation."

"I believe that they've promised the airlines favorable legislation in the future if they go along with these tactics."

The strikers, says Robertson, need support.

"We don't get anything. We have a \$3½ million fund, but those funds have been frozen by the courts. This money was going to be used as a legal defense fund. We have three members facing felony charges here alone."

"Most of us are living on savings. But we are getting some support."

The Communications Workers of America gave us \$1 million. One of the garment workers union has 147,000 members and they had pledged a dollar per member. A lot of locals are sending in checks."

Robertson also says the strike has made the air traffic controllers thing again about the meaning of solidarity.

"We're going to down to the Labor Day rally in New York City. They're estimating 100,000 people will be there, and PATCO will be marching in front."

PICKET

"I didn't really understand what labor solidarity was about until this happened. I never really before considered whether or not to cross a picket line—but I know now I will never cross a picket line again."

Contributions and messages of support can be sent to: PATCO, Logan International Airport, Box 147, East Boston, MA 02128. □

Socialist Worker

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CAMPUS NEWS

"This case is important. If we win, we broaden the legal protection that women have against sexual harassment."

Kristan Bagley, a plaintiff in the case, is referring to the suit of eight women students and former employees at the health education center at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

The women came together in July, 1979, to submit complaints alleging sexual harassment by the Center's director James Hoopes. These complaints detailed examples of verbal and physical abuses and harassment in the name of "training".

After filing the complaint they found themselves unpaid, locked out of their offices, and their immediate supervisor, Janice Irvine, fired.

When they complained to chancellor Corrigan, he promised an investigation. Irvine was to be rehired, but the investigation never occurred, and Irvine, rehired for a brief period, was fired again.

DYNAMICS

The women didn't want to discredit the Health and Sex Education Center. As Janet Dynarski told *Socialist Worker*, "Way back before we wrote the complaints, we were afraid that certain people, they didn't have the name Moral Majority then, would pick up on this and say 'look at what sex education leads to.'"

"We felt the opposite. If there was more understanding of sex and sexism, we could fight the dynamics that lead to harassment."

The suit may take up to five years to be heard. Since President Reagan has threatened to drop all federal sexual harassment cases, this five year wait may be too long.

A support coalition has been formed and a recent fundraiser brought in \$290. However, the words of plaintiff Dynarski, "We've got to raise \$20,000 in the next two years—just to get to court."

Buttons ("Stamp out Sexual Harassment-End Sexual Harassment at U. Mass.") are available for \$1 post paid.

Order buttons and send messages of support to 75 Bailey Street, Dorchester, Mass. 02124. □

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: IT'S POSSIBLE!

Dear Socialist Worker,

I am enclosing a message to PATCO from my branch of the SWP(GB).

As I do not know where to send it, I would be pleased if you could pass it on!

Also, if you wish, I would be obliged if you could include it as a letter to *Socialist Worker*

(of which I am a regular reader) to demonstrate the international solidarity of the International Socialist Tendency.

Yours fraternally,
Tim Nicholls SWP(GB)
Society of Civil &
Public Servants

Victory to PATCO!

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with our U.S. brothers and sisters in PATCO during their current strike against the reactionary, anti-strike policies of Cowboy Reagan.

Naturally, we will do all we can to obtain solidarity action in the air controllers union here, but, after a recently defeated strike, they are reticent. Your outstanding example can change all this, and prove that an all-out strike is the only way to win.

Many of you in PATCO are not socialists because, while believing in rank and file strike action, plus democracy in the union, you believe that socialism equals Russia.

This is not so! In the International Socialist Tendency we analyze Russia as just another capitalist country, controlled by the state: it is certainly not socialist! We hope for strikes there too!

Anyway, all of us in the SWP (GB) are rooting for you: a victory for you is a victory for us all!

Don't let the bastards get you down! Fight for the full claim—no sell outs! Picket out the scabs!
Best of Luck from us all!

Fraternally,
Tim Nicholls, Secretary
Central London Civil Service SWP
c/o 3 Glenely Road, Brixton,
London, SW 2, England

Letters

Write to Letters, *Socialist Worker*
P.O. Box 18037 Cleveland OH 44118

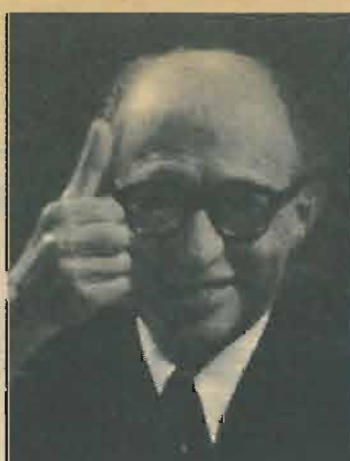
"THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE WORLD": NO CONTEST!

Dear Socialist Worker,

Newsweek magazine, in its July 20 issue, called Muammar Kaddafi "The Most Dangerous Man in the World."

How convenient. They ran this special just at the time when the Reagan government admits it is trying to overthrow the Libyan dictator. When it admits it is training anti-Kaddafi terrorists. And just weeks before the U.S. Sixth Fleet sailed into the Sidra Gulf, waters claimed by Libya, for "maneuvers." Two Libyan jets were shot in the process.

Just how does one qualify as the "most dangerous?" Kaddafi is no saint, but really, can he compare with Menachem Begin—a terrorist since the forties, when he led the massacre at Deir Yassin. Begin, the man who ordered the attack on the Iraqi nuke, and the



Begin



Reagan



Kaddafi

bombing of Palestinian neighborhoods in Beirut.

And what about Ronald Reagan, the president now spending \$1.5 trillion on "defense"—including the MX

and cruise missiles, the neutron bomb, and who knows what other inventions.

Reagan, the president who sleeps through his subordinates military adventures, and

is reckoned to work at most two or three hours a day.

Surely Kaddafi is not in the same league as these killers.

Sharon Benson,
Newark, N.J.

Iranian students appeal for help

Dear Socialist Worker,

Khomeini's bloodthirsty regime is on the verge of total collapse.

In that regard, and for holding the masses back, it is arresting and executing people and is achieving a total repression just to lengthen its shameful and unjust rule for a few more months.

More than 700 members and supporters of revolutionary organizations have been executed up till now.

The revolution in Iran has entered a new stage of struggle in which the revolutionary organizations either should confront the regime openly for mobilizing the masses, or be isolated.

At the same time, the movement of progressive Iranian students has also entered a new stage of struggle worldwide.

Now is the time for the people

of the world to know that the days of the rule of this despotic regime are over, and it should be overthrown.

The goal of the worldwide exposure of the Khomeini regime has been achieved by demonstrations, hunger strikes and the seizure of Iranian reactionary embassies in European countries and the U.S.

The Moslem Students Society, U.S.A., supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, staged a hunger strike from July 28 to August 4 in front of the United Nations Plaza in New York City to expose the brutal crimes of the anti-popular regime in Iran, and particularly to expose the execution of the martyred Mojahed Saadati, member of the Mojahedin, and other political prisoners.

The hunger strikes were ended

when Mojahed Rajavi, member of the leadership cadre of the Mojahedin, sent a message to the hunger strikers in which he asked them to terminate their hunger strike, unlimited in Europe and 6 days in the United States.

In other actions and activities in defense of the Iranian revolution, Iranian students, supporters of the Mojahedin, have taken over Iranian reactionary embassies in countries like Britain, France, Norway, West Germany, Canada and most recently the Iranian interests section in Washington, D.C.

In a statement, the students who took over the Iranian interests section in D.C., stated that the motive behind this action was to expose the crimes of Khomeini's regime. It is to show that this regime has no rights for its existence.

Iranian students on the whole, the movement of Iranian people, and the Iranian revolution, need the help and solidarity of every individual and revolutionary organizations all over the world.

The crimes of this despotic regime, the support of the imperialist countries towards it, and its ties to the imperialist countries must be exposed everywhere. □

An Iranian student,
Detroit, MI

Dear Socialist Worker,
From reading your August *Socialist Worker* the needs and struggle of the working people comes through clearly. I like it.

A reader,
Cleveland, OH

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 fight for women's liberation, supporting equal pay for all women. 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. 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.

• Black Liberation

Our support for the struggle against racism is unconditional, and we oppose any attempt to subordinate this fight. We fight racism in all its forms, from institutionalized "legal" racism to the activities of groups such as the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

We fight segregation in the schools and in housing, we support affirmative action, and we oppose racist firings and harassment. We support armed self-defense in the face of racist attacks. We support independent self-organization and the right of self-determination of the black community. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

• 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 Poland to Puerto Rico, from Palestine to El Salvador. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in South Africa and Namibia. 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.

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

Cal Winslow on **The Importance of Solidarity Day.** September 3, 7:30 p.m. Call 235-4620 for details.

BLOOMINGTON

Forum on **Reproductive Rights.** September, 24, 7:30 p.m. Call 334 3321 for details.

CLEVELAND

Film: **Attica.** September 12, 7:30 p.m. Call 371-7648 or 321-6143 for details.

CINCINNATI

Reform or Revolution series: **The working class.** September 12, 8:00 p.m. 134 Kinsey.

Reform or Revolution series: **The Women's Movement.** September 26, 8:00 p.m. 134 Kinsey.

Glenn Perusek on **The Black Panthers.** September 28, 8:00 p.m. Call 871-1371 for details.

KENT

Film: **Attica.** September 9, 12:00 p.m. KSU Student Center. Call 678-0633 for details.



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

— Karl Marx

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"All of my life, I've done exactly what I've wanted to do. Just when I wanted, no more, perhaps sometimes less, but never any more. Which explains why I had to be jailed. Man was born free, but everywhere is in chains. I never adjusted, I haven't adjusted yet, with half my life already spent in prison."

—George Jackson,
Soledad Brother

George Jackson: the Soledad Brother

August 21, 1981, marked the tenth anniversary of the assassination of George Jackson.

TEACHER

George Jackson was a teacher to men and women—in the prisons, and through his books *Soledad Brother*, and *Blood In My Eye*. He told people on the outside what men and women in prison are subjected to.

George resisted the prison's attempt to rob him of his humanity. This act of demanding respect and treatment as a human, not an animal, became in itself a political and revolutionary act.

It was this simple act, although not an easy one, that started George Jackson on the road to becoming a revolutionary socialist, a prison organizer, and a leader of the Black Panther Party.

By taking this stand, George found himself in direct, immediate and intense conflict with the higher guards and officials.

George's actions were a source of strength to other prisoners. He taught himself how to read and write, then he taught others. He encouraged people to discuss the situation that they found themselves in and to learn why things happen.

He insisted it was no accident that Black, brown and poor white people filled the prisons.

PROMISE

George Jackson was first arrested in 1960 for stealing \$70.00 from a gas station.

On the advice of a public defendant, provided free by the system to preserve the illusion of justice for the Black and poor, he accepted a deal and pleaded guilty.

He had been promised a short county jail term—instead he was given sentence of 1 year to life, depending upon his progress towards rehabilitation.

He could have been released at any time from one year to when he rotted in his cell in 1971.

George came to understand that even the nightmare of lifelong parole would be denied him. Parole is considered a privilege for the obedient, not for unrepentant people like George.

America can afford to lose \$70.00. Stealing in a system

BY ANITA DOBBINS AND
LARRY BRADSHAW

that demands that the poor accept what they are given is normally punishable by three or four years locked in a cage.

But the crime of understanding what the system is all about and then actually fighting and organizing against it is an even bigger crime.

Prison guards and officials have been known to spread rumors among the Black, white and Chicano inmates that the members of the other ethnic groups are out to get you.

"The rumors result in fighting between men or groups of men who have no reason to fight each other."

PRETEXT

This is what happened on January 13, 1970.

After months of segregation and race-baiting from the guards, Black and white prisoners at Soledad were let out in the prison yard together. The result was almost inevitable. A fight broke out. Guards used it as a pretext to start shooting.

W.L. Nollan, a politically active prisoner, and two other Black prisoners were shot dead from the guard tower.

Three days later, in retaliation, a prison guard is killed at Soledad. Fleeta Drumgo, John Clutchette, and George Jackson are indicted for murder. They become known as the Soledad Brothers.

Two years later, Fleeta Drumgo would be acquitted—and George would be dead.

For years George had been telling people that the officials of the system would kill him.

He wasn't afraid of their threats, but he didn't take them lightly and was always on guard.

On August 21, 1971, despite all his precautions and even though his writings had caused people in the world over to focus on San Quentin and the American prison system, the guards carried out their threats and killed George Jackson. Prison officials say it was justifiable homicide—that he was shot in the act of trying to escape. Other prisoners say it was murder.

According to the assistant warden, George Jackson got a nine millimeter gun from his attorney Stephen Bingham,



George Jackson in chains

who went to visit George that day.

The officials claimed the gun was brought in a tape recorder. They usually search tape recorders, but claimed they only looked at the batteries of Bingham's.

People pointed out that when inmates leave the visiting room, they are given a skin search afterwards. George received it, no gun was found.

Later the guard claimed he noticed something that looked like a pencil sticking out of George's hair. When he asked what it was, George, he said, pulled out the gun and two clips out of his hair and started shooting.

People couldn't believe that anyone's hair, even a long afro could support the weight of a 9 inch gun. So the guard said that George was wearing a hat. People still didn't believe it.

Then they claimed to have found an afro wig. It just doesn't add up.

A newspaper reporter hired a Black model to try out the gun and wig theory, but the gun wouldn't fit under the wig. When they finally got it under there, he couldn't take two steps without the wig falling off and the gun falling out.

And George had to walk fifty yards, with a guard, back to his cell. We are supposed to believe that George Jackson, the most hated prisoner in the California prison system, who's visits were personally supervised by a guard, would devise a plan where he expects to have a gun, a wig and ammunition clips under his hat, and adjust the wig without being noticed.

SUPREME

One writer summed up the killing this way:

"It is very clear that George Jackson was set up to be murdered because his political offenses against the state were supreme. These are some of the reasons the state wanted him dead: to attack the Black Panther movement, to attack the growing prison liberation movement outside of the walls, to destroy George as an important link between the prison and the Black Panther Party, to remove an important catalyst for brown, Black and white prisoner unity, and to prevent George from coming to public trial." □



on the picket line

Pittsfield nurses on strike: "We're here to stay"

PITTSFIELD, MA—The strike by registered nurses at Berkshire Medical Center has entered its second month. And the nurses are more determined than ever to hold out for the decent contract they deserve.

"We're here to stay!" said Patricia Ryan, Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA) representative. All the nurses on the picket line have the same spirit and enthusiasm.

"FINAL"

The strike began at 7:00 a.m. on July 25th, after the nurses had overwhelmingly rejected the hospital's "final offer" and had given the required 10-day strike notice.

Since then the 420 striking nurses have been picketing the hospital in shifts around the clock. Their demands include a 16% wage increase per year phased in two steps, improved pension benefits for retirees due in 1983 to be retroactive to those retiring in 1981, a union security clause with agency fee provision, five weeks vacation after 20 years of service and no shift rotation after 15 years, and dental insurance.

The hospital administrators

refuse to even come close to meeting these basic demands. They blame the strike on the increasing divorce rate and that they haven't shown the nurses enough "love"!

And in trying to turn the community against the nurses they are laying the blame on them for any increased medical costs. At the same time the hospital is wasting hundreds of dollars a day in paying Skoler & Abbott, a law firm specializing in union-busting, to try to break the strike.

Neither the nurses nor other area workers are buying these phony arguments.

"I've been a nurse for over 40 years," one striker told me, "and nurses are finally refusing to take this guilt trip."

Licensed Practical Nurses at BMC, represented by SEIU, set up an informational picket line in support for the R.N.s protesting over-work, being told to do work they are not trained for, and poor quality of care because of the hospital's refusal to settle.

UNIONS

Members from almost all other union locals in the area are regularly donating money and food, and helping walk the picket lines.

BY WAYNE STANDLEY



Despite ads in the local papers for scab nurses, none have shown up.

The nurses deserve your support. All donations and letters of

support can be sent to: MNA Strike Headquarters, c/o 117 Seymour Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. □

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

The cost of the crisis in Detroit

There were 495,000 unemployed in Michigan in June. 91,000 of them were in Detroit. 47,000 of them in Detroit had exhausted their TRA. 327,000 have exhausted their extended unemployment benefits. 180,000 will be declared ineligible for the \$135.00 per-week benefits.

"The community mental health centers are overloaded. At a time when resources are reduced we are seeing an extremely heavy demand. 1.2 million of Michigan's population are on some form of welfare." (Detroit Free Press 8/22/81)

"Emergency phone calls shoot up. Some talk of suicide. They have problems getting rent paid, food, or are in a jam with the law."

VIOLENCE

There are more homicides, and domestic violence, while domestic violence centers are being closed. There is less money from charities. Staff is being cut. Reagan's budget calls for a 23 per cent cut in federal aid.

More than 20,000 Detroit city workers were forced to accept a two year wage freeze to avoid indefinite layoffs.

There are 160,000 workers on indefi-

nite lay off by the Big Three and American Motors; 40,000 in supplier plants; 25,000 in the farm implement industry. Most UAW local unions like Local 15 ignore the problems of the long term unemployed. There is no officer or committee assigned to deal with their problems. The International's magazine, *Solidarity*, tries to divert the attention of UAW members to the space shuttle and President Reagan's attack on Social Security. They tell the unemployed, "write your congressman."

The Fleetwood Organizer, the local paper, deals at length with the problems of those on temporary lay off for a model changeover, how they should apply for their benefits. It says not a word about how the permanently unemployed should deal with their problems. These unemployed workers have \$5.00 deducted from their sub checks each month. This will be raised to \$10.00 next year.

TROUBLE

Despite the unemployment among UAW members many of those employed have been working ten hours a day six days a week. Local union



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

meetings are cancelled during July and August. I hear a growing criticism of unions among the unemployed. Unless the labor movement takes up the problems of the unemployed these people will become alienated from the unions. That could spell trouble during strikes and during contract negotiations.

RESPONSE

The enthusiastic response of the ranks to the march on Washington may force the bureaucracy into some kind of action. There is no doubt the bureaucrats will try to throttle the ranks at this demonstration. It is the duty of the left-wing press to expose the bankruptcy of labor's policy in supporting the Democratic or Republican party. They are both the enemies of labor. Labor must unite with the poor and all the minorities who have been misled into supporting either the Democratic or the Republican parties. They must start the organizing of a workers' party now.

IN BRIEF

WESTFIELD, MA—Seventy-nine people, including United Auto Worker (U.A.W.) members from around New England, were arrested here on August 27, trying to stop scabs from entering the struck Sterling Radiator Company.

Two to three hundred people were involved in the picket line battle with police. They were supporting seventy strikers who have been off the job since March 4, 1981.

Support for the strike has been growing in recent weeks, organized by the Western Massachusetts Labor-Community Support Network.

Supporters from the Radical Student Union at U-Mass, Amherst, plus teachers, community activists and other rank and file workers, have joined U.A.W. members on the picket lines.

by BOB MASCHI

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore health care workers employed in both private and public sectors have been fighting recently for wage increases and better working conditions.

On August 10, 30 employees at the East Baltimore Medical Center went out on strike after negotiations broke off between their union, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees 1199-E, and the Center.

The Center offered a 10¢ an hour raise in "return" for an open shop, no seniority provisions and reductions in vacation and sick days. Workers rejected these union busting proposals and were fired.

Similarly when nurses at the Baltimore City Hospital asked for a \$1 an hour raise the mayor himself refused the request. He told the hospital it had to collect its unpaid bills before he would consider wage increases.

by KATHY OGREN

CAPE COD, MA—The seventeen-day strike of 330 nurses at Cape Cod Hospital has ended in a small victory over the administration.

The strike began August 8 when nurses voted overwhelmingly to strike, virtually shutting down the hospital.

A settlement was finally negotiated on August 26 and accepted almost unanimously by the membership. Although they didn't win all of their demands, the nurses came out with a contract better than the first one they turned down, gaining a ten percent wage increase the first year and the right to bargain over the next year's increase.

INCREASE

They had originally asked for a 28% increase over two years.

Among other things the nurses won the right to not be on call on their days off.

Barbara Low, chairperson of the Massachusetts Nurses' Association bargaining team, said: "the nurses now have an agreement with the hospital that we can be proud of... the contract is quite acceptable."

by PAUL D'AMATO

There are 36,000 homeless people in New York City, according to a Community Service Society study.



STOP THE STATION!

SEATTLE, WA—Plans to build a new police station in the heart of the Black community here have been dealt a blow by the occupation of the city-owned fourplex now on the site of the proposed police station.

CRUCIAL

This occupation comes at a crucial time. Seattle is in a housing crisis. Recently 3,000 people lined up at 5:00 am in the rain to apply for low income housing from the Seattle Housing Authority. Almost all were turned away.

The city government says it has no money for housing, but it can of course build a new police station—only ten minutes away from the main downtown station.

The reason is simple: Seattle's Black community is prime real estate. Since the sixties, urban renewal has torn down hundreds of units in the area. High priced condominiums take their place. □

by STEVE LEIGH & SHEILA MARTINEZ

CINCINNATI "RIGHT-TO-LIFERS" STOPPED BY ANGRY WOMEN

In August, anti-abortion groups try to break into abortion clinics—to disrupt procedures and harass and intimidate patients.

This year at the Margaret Sanger clinic in Cincinnati, 65 members and supporters of the Alliance for Reproductive Rights held a counter-demonstration to defend the clinic and escort patients past the so-called pro-lifers. The abortion rights supporters surrounded the handful of anti-women demonstrators and kept them away from the clinic and patients.

"The large turnout of pro-choice supporters and the intense anger of the women involved prove that we will no longer tolerate attempts by men to control our bodies," says Leslie Clayton, a member of the Cincinnati abortion rights group. "We demand the freedom to choose a safe, legal abortion, an end to sterilization abuse, and the right to choose our sexual partner."

The anti-abortion demonstrators appeared appalled and sometimes frightened by the circle of angry women. □

by CELIA PETTY



Boston teachers face layoffs, threats of firing

BOSTON, MA—With the resumption of classes just days away, the Boston School Committee voted on August 18 to lay off some 960 teachers—710 of them tenured—in a move to keep spending within limits set by Mayor White.

REAGAN

Now school superintendent Robert Spillam, playing Ronald Reagan, says any striking teacher will be fired, and replaced with a laid off teacher.

Amidst rumors of further layoffs, almost 100 teachers were then hired back later partly as a move to avoid a strike and partly in recognition of the fact that the school system will be in chaos without the laid off teachers—who comprise almost 20% of the teachers' force in Boston public schools.

Complicating the layoffs is a recent court decision that for every Black teacher laid off, four must be white.

Judge Garrity, who made the ruling, was appointed to oversee the system ever since the busing crisis of 1974. He argued that since minority teachers have only been hired in the last few years, strict seniority would destroy any gains for Black and minority teachers and therefore for integrated education.

A membership meeting of the teachers union has been scheduled for September 7, and it is almost certain that a strike vote will be on the agenda. Schools open on September 9.

Garrity's decision has produced a faction within the union pushing for a strike to demand strict seniority—a

strike which would divide the union. The implicit position of the teachers is that some layoffs are justified.

Any layoffs at all violate the contract signed last year. Here then is a strikeable issue—no layoffs—an issue which could unite the entire union.

In addition to fighting for a demand of no layoffs, progressives in the union need to

argue that the union build militant public support for public education.

CHANCES

The lack of any such public support inevitably hurts the chances of any strike to keep the teachers jobs and hurts the chances of decent public education being maintained and improved in Boston. □

Hotel strike: "we're strong union people"

by CINDY SENEFELD

CINCINNATI, OH—The national focus on the air traffic controllers strike has drawn attention to a smaller but important strike at the Greater Cincinnati Airport.

One year ago, on August 22, 38 workers at the Tick Airport Hotel went out on strike for union recognition.

In the spring of 1980, the hotel changed hands from American Airlines to Tick. The 38 workers were members of the Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union of the AFL-CIO Local 12.

UNION

They had been represented by this union for 12 years. When Tick took over ownership and management they would not recognize the union. So the 38 maids, waitresses, laundry and maintenance workers, and bartenders took a strike vote—which passed 100%.

Their demands are for the same contract they had before, with the same seniority, benefits, pension, and a raise they were supposed to have gotten last January. In a nutshell, they want everything back they had before.

Although the strike is small and has lasted so long, only 6 of the

original strikers have gone back to work in the hotel.

The rest of the workers are from temporary employment agencies who are working for minimum wage. The strikers have been picketing every day for a year.

As Bobbie Van Winckle, one of the striking maids on the picket line told *Socialist Worker*: "We're strong union people, we're not going to give up."

Rumor has it that hotel management is ready to settle and the workers expect to win back what they have struggled long and hard to win. □

PRO-UNION PILOT SUSPENDED

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Brian Power-Walters, a senior airline captain with US Air, was suspended here when he told passengers that unqualified people substituting for striking air traffic controllers were to blame for delays. □



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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

Illinois miners fight union busting

GALATIA, IL—Angry miners—2,000 strong—stormed the site of a coal mine under construction here on August 18.

They tore down several hundred yards of heavy metal fence, battled police, burned two construction vehicles, and damaged several others.

They were protesting the use of non-union labor in the construction of the mine.

STRIKE

In support of the protesters, 14,500 UMW miners staged a statewide wildcat strike—no union coal was produced in the entire state on August 18.

The miners, marched from Galatia to the mine site east of town. Shortly after they reached the mine, two helicopters landed inside the fence, unloading a dozen club-wielding Illinois state troopers in full riot gear.

A portion of the crowd attacked the fence where the troopers were protecting one group of construction vehicles. Simultaneously another group of miners attacked another area—setting fires and throwing rocks and timber.

When reinforcements arrived, the police were able to move miners off the site—but only by firing tear gas at them from the helicopters. It was later learned that these helicopters were supplied by the Illinois National Guard.

Some 400 protesters remained for several hours blocking traffic to and from the site on Illinois route 34.

“We won’t have a scab coal mine in the heart of the organized coal mines of Illinois.”



Southern Illinois coal miners surround non-union construction equipment

Even though they were decked out in riot gear, some 20 to 30 police officers were injured, two seriously. They were injured by “debris thrown at them,” according to Lieutenant Larry Garbo of the Illinois state police. No miners were reported injured.

Meanwhile back in Galatia, the small white-frame construction office headquarters for the mine project burnt to

the ground. It was a total loss.

About three o’clock the next morning an explosion rocked the C.L. Maddox company building in Harrisburg, Illinois. The fire that followed completely destroyed the building.

Maddox is a non-union subcontractor for Kerr McGee, the company constructing the mine.

Jim Maddox, part owner of

C.L. Maddox, had been seen driving a crane at the mine site, when the protesters arrived the day before. The crane was so badly damaged that it could not be moved.

Special agent Elder of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said a “high order explosive” destroyed the Maddox building.

PROTEST

There were other protests against the non-union mine. On Monday, August 24, 100 miners harangued people applying for jobs at the non-union site. Several were persuaded to leave.

Kerr McGee is a notorious company. In a public statement, the United Mine Workers (UMW) attacked their record and called on the company to employ union construction workers, insisting that the mine, once opened, would be organized.

Tony Kugawa, a member of the UMW’s executive board from Illinois, said in a statement: “I shame the operators of the Kerr McGee corporation for their open intimidation and harassment toward organized labor by threatening construction and operation of a scab coal mine in the heart of the organized coal fields of Illinois.”

The statewide shut-down of union coal on August 18 was no small deed. UMW District

12 (Illinois) president, John Banovic, would say only that he had “no idea” how the strike in support of the Galatia protest was organized. But it was solidarity in practice!

Miners said they heard about the wildcat by word of mouth, not through any formal process. In any case, the response was total.

Kerr McGee has now moved into action against the miners who damaged their property. An injunction issued in the Saline County Court against the UMW on behalf of Kerr McGee “outlawing further picketing and violence” and prohibiting “congregations or loitering” within a thousand feet of the mine construction site.

ARRESTS

Police took photographs while the miners were destroying machinery, and now they plan to make arrests in “batches.”

They have already arrested several coal miners—they refuse to say how many.

The charges are criminal misconduct, disorderly conduct, and rioting.

Still the statewide shut-down makes one thing clear: It will take more than arrests to stop the miners’ fight against Kerr McGee. Victory to the miners!

By GLENN PERUSEK

THREE MILE ISLAND BACK ON LINE

HARRISBURG, PA—Metropolitan Edison is putting its Three Mile Island nuke back on the line.

Unit One, which is exactly the same as Unit Two, where the disaster occurred in August, 1978, could be in operation in two months time, according to Cathy McCaughin, a Harrisburg anti-nuclear activist.

The Nuclear Regulatory Agency agreed to

this, despite promises to Harrisburg residents that they would be allowed to go through all the appeals before a decision was made. “They changed the rules on us,” says McCaughin.

Meanwhile, Unit One remains a deadly danger, threatening the river, Chesapeake Bay, and all the people who come near it, particularly the workers who will have to attempt to clean it up. □

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