

# WORKERS' POWER

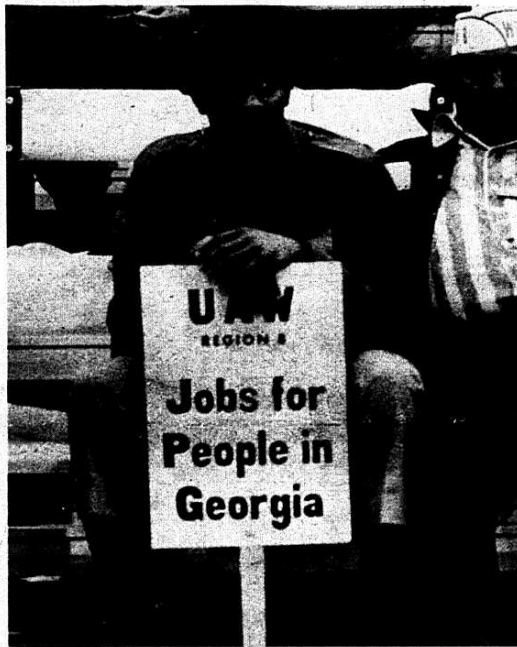
BIWEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS Feb 27—Mar 12, 1975 #115 15c

**In This Issue:**

Gallo Kickoff . . . . . 5  
 David Rice Case . . . . . 5  
 International Womens Day . . . . . 8—9  
 Got The Pill . . . . . 13

# FIGHT THE LAYOFFS!

## CHICAGO TRUCKERS DEMAND ACTION NOW



United Auto Worker member at the February 5th UAW rally in Washington. It was the anger of the auto worker ranks that made the rally a success. It is the new-found militancy of the workers throughout the labor movement that is pushing union leaders into some action, however meek and mild.

## UAW Local 51 Calls For One-Day Strike

"We want a nationwide march on Washington of the UAW and all other unions to deal with the economic crisis if we don't get satisfactory action from Congress. And we want the march to be backed up by a 24-hour national work stoppage."

That's the message the official unemployment committee of United Auto Workers Local 51 has sent to the UAW International Executive Board.

Local 51 represents about 8,000 production workers at Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly and Mound Road Engine plants in Detroit. Half of them are now out of work.

The motion for the march was passed February 21 at a meeting of the union's Community Services Committee. That committee serves as the local's official unemployment committee. An amendment that the march should be backed up

by a 24-hour strike was put forward by a member of the United National Caucus and carried overwhelming ly.

Tremendous pressure has been growing on union officials in recent weeks to take some action to fight the massive auto layoffs. The Local 51 resolution is a result of this pressure.

UAW International President Leonard Woodcock has made several references in recent weeks to the possibility of a march of a quarter million unemployed workers in Washington this spring. The job is now for other local unions and unemployed auto workers to step up the heat on Woodcock.

The members of Local 51 have shown the way. UAW members should make Woodcock deliver on his promise by organizing support for the demonstration and 24-hour work stoppage. If he's serious, he should set the date now. □

CHICAGO—On February 16, 1,300—1,500 angry members of the Chicago Truck Drivers Union (CTDU) turned up at a small select union meeting—most of them uninvited!

Union President Ed Fenner has not called a general membership meeting in over two years. Instead he keeps the local membership divided by calling small meetings, often of no more than 50 members. This meeting had been called for Interstate company employees only.

But anger over unemployment, inflation and worsening job conditions means that a lot more than Interstate employees have something to say to their do-nothing union leadership.

Members of the rank and file group "Concerned Truckers for a Democratic Union" leafletted barns and truck stops publicizing the meeting and calling on all members of CTDU to show up.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

The leaflets demanded the union leadership begin to fight unemployment in the industry. 20% of CTDU members are currently laid off.

They called for the formation of a rank and file unemployed committee, no overtime while any members of the local are laid off, for the re-opening of the union hiring hall (which Fenner had closed over a year ago) and for a shorter work week at no loss in pay.

Several members of the Concerned Truckers were hassled by union Business Agents (BA's) and the Chicago Police when trying to enter the meeting.

Bill Sullivan, a member of the Concerned Truckers, and well-known oppositionist, was pushed around by Business Agents and Fenner's goons—even though Sullivan had been given Fenner's personal OK to attend.

Sullivan was eventually allowed in and Fenner apologized for having him roughed up in front of union members.

Another Concerned Trucker, Robert Grant, was arrested by the Chicago police for defending himself against physical attacks by BA's while trying to enter the meeting.

Inside, Fenner was forced to respond to the leaflet.

To the demand he take a \$75,000 salary cut, Fenner replied that his salary was frozen until 1980 at

\$92,000 plus expenses and fringe benefits.

He said the union will continue to allow 10 hours overtime per week rather than the no overtime demand of the Concerned Truckers.

Fenner rejected the other demands but promised to visit the barns to discuss the problems.

### BOOS, JEERS

His speech was interrupted with boos and jeers. Many members shouted out that Fenner wouldn't find them at the barns because they'd been laid-off for months.

Members from High-Low Grocery and Republic carloaders showed up to demand that Fenner do something for them.

High-Low warehouse work had been given to another company several months ago, putting 100

surrounded him and escorted him safely outside.

Later that night however, Sullivan was jumped in the parking lot behind the Motor World tavern and severely beaten by eight men, among them a CTDU union organizer and two stewards. Sullivan may lose an eye as the result of the beating.

The Concerned Truckers have demanded that the union organizer be fired and elections be held to replace the stewards. They are also calling for all charges to be dropped against Grant, and that Grant be referred for a job in order of his seniority.

Grant was fired after losing an election for union office five months ago and has not worked since.

Hunger will not stop the Concerned Truckers in their fight

## WHAT WE THINK

The economic crisis continues and grows worse. Layoffs are beginning to hit hard in industries other than auto—steel, trucking, even telephone and civil service.

As the crisis grows, so does the apparent confusion of those who rule. But the one thing the entire capitalist class does agree on is—the only way to save their system is to make the working class pay.

How they make us pay—which is the substance of their confusion—is a petty detail.

But that is their solution. We don't have to accept it!

Already working people in different industries are beginning to fight back. In UAW locals resolutions have been passed calling for one day

strikes against the layoffs (page 1) and overtime bans as long as they continue (page 3).

Truckers in Chicago (page 1) and Los Angeles (page 5) are demanding their leadership take action.

Women trade unionists in the Coalition of Labor Union Women have organized a series of demonstrations and rallies on International Women's Day protesting the layoffs and the economic crisis.

Wildcats against the layoffs have occurred in telephone (page 5) and steel (page 16).

In every case the fight back has been launched by rank and file militants. The trade union bureaucracy has done nothing. And they will continue to do nothing unless the ranks force them. □

members out of work. Fenner did nothing.

Republic was bought by another company. 250 Republic workers were laid off. Fenner did nothing.

Members of the CTDU are angry—they came demanding answers. Fenner didn't have any and quickly lost control of the meeting. He then adjourned it.

### ESCORTED

Recognizing that the leadership was out to get Sullivan, 50 truckers

to return the CTDU to the ranks and turn the union into a force capable of fighting the layoffs and the deteriorating working conditions of the (CTDU) members.

Fenner has called another meeting March 2 for another small, select group.

Again the Concerned Truckers are planning to mobilize members from throughout the local.

They are also demanding time to present their ideas on how the CTDU should be fighting the effects of unemployment. □



# AMERICAN DREAM

Gay Semel

Inflation Did Him In

# The Adventures Of Judge Spendthriftski

Judge T. John Lesinski is tired of sacrificing for the State of Michigan.

Lesinski is Chief of the Michigan Court of Appeals, but he plans to "hang up his robe" at the end of the year.

Lesinski's problem is money. He just can't seem to manage on his \$41,961 salary.

Recently, Lesinski was the center of a lot of local talk because he used public funds to buy cars—costing \$5,631 each—for six of his court's

18 judges.

Lesinski claims the local uproar has nothing to do with his planned resignation. He did nothing wrong. After all, as long as he has been a judge he has always been provided with free cars and free gas.

"No," Lesinski says. "it's the bread."

"Like a lot of judges in this country," he adds, "we (Court of Appeals Judges) are not paid for the kind of services we have to give and for the kind of life we have to

lead."

But Lesinski is not too worried about the future. He plans to enter private law practice.

"I've got a tremendous amount of knowledge and energy that's worth a lot on the open market," he says.

And he adds: "I may go out and get myself a Mark IV when I'm practicing law."

We're glad to see that Lesinski's new career will make up for the years of sacrifice he's given and provide him with the bare necessities.

# MEDICAL CARE UNDER CAPITALISM

Jean Gibboney of Grass Valley, California, needs an operation to replace part of her jaw. She and her husband Herbert do not have the money and no prospect of raising it. Herbert is 58 years old.

In desperation Herbert Gibboney took an ad out in the local newspaper offering to sell one of his eyes to pay for the operation.



Indian people waiting for food. Some die quietly, some protest.

# U.S. FOOD-

# Aid That Enslaves

The United States is the most powerful country in the world. Governments abroad rise and fall because of decisions made by the US State Department.

Among the many weapons used to maintain the worldwide domination of the US ruling class is food.

The US government grants surplus food credits to other nations on the basis of their strategic importance to US corporate interests—not on the basis of hunger.

US food loans to Chile were completely cut off under the regime of Salvador Allende. After the CIA engineered his overthrow by a military dictatorship, US food credits were again awarded to Chile. Chile's fascist government has already received \$33.6 million in food credits for this fiscal year. These food credits help keep the fascists in power.

Only three out of 32 of the nations on the UN's most needy list have received food from the US. The following hungry nations are not even being considered in the future: Central African Republic, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Laos, Lesotho, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Cameroon, Tanzania and Yemen.

Jamaica has just been awarded \$1.5 million in food credits. The US is now negotiating the future of American owned bauxite deposits in Jamaica. The food credits are to strengthen the US bargaining

position.

Under the Food for Peace Program, one half billion dollars worth of food went to Indochina. The military dictatorships of Lon Nol and Nguyen Van Thieu bought food with government loans and then resold it on the open market. The money raised was then used to buy military equipment.

Egypt has been placed on the favored list for cheap US food. Sierra Leone has not. Egypt buys cheap rice from the US and then sells it to Sierra Leone at steep commercial rates.

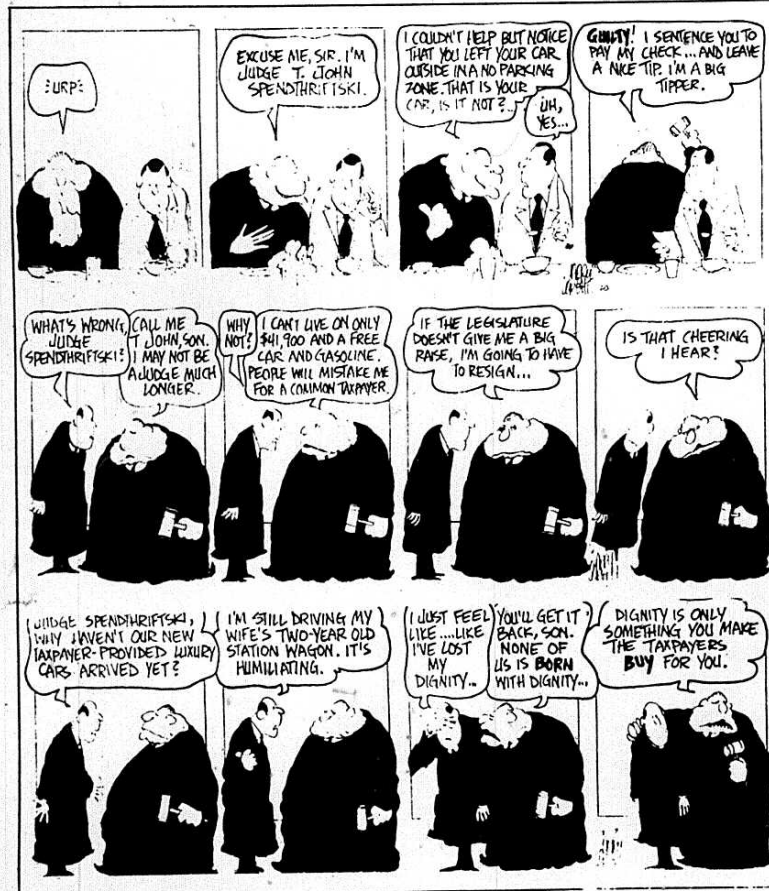
In explanation for US surplus food policy, Denny Ellerman, representative of the National Security Council, stated: "To give food aid to countries just because people are starving is a pretty weak reason."

### Workers' Power 115

© 1976 by the International Socialist Publishing Co. Editor: Gay Semel. Business Manager: David Katz. Circulation Manager: Dottie Grant.

Published bi-weekly except semi-monthly in December and monthly in July and August. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Subscription rates: One-year, \$5; Supporting, \$7.50; Foreign, \$7.50; Introductory, \$1 for five issues. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of Workers' Power, which are expressed in editorials.

Workers' Power is a member of the Underground Press Syndicate (UPS) and is indexed in the Alternative Press Index and microfilmed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-6535.



Judge T. John Spendthriftski is a new character in a comic strip drawn by cartoonist Larry Wright in the Detroit Free Press. He is thought to be modeled on Judge Lesinski.

## AUTO WORKERS SAY:

# 'No More Overtime While Our Members Are Laid Off'

DETROIT—At Michigan's Trenton Engine Plant on January 17 management got a big surprise when they tried to schedule overtime. Workers there answered Chrysler with, "No more overtime while any of our members are laid off."

Chrysler had tried to schedule several ten hour days while there were over three thousand workers on indefinite layoff. The second shift was laid off earlier last year. Workers still in the plant joined with those on the street to demand an end to overtime and the recall of the necessary numbers of workers to end all overtime.

At first the leadership of Local 372 was reluctant to act, but the cries were so loud that they were forced. The UAW leadership began to act like a union should and demanded that Chrysler put an end to this nonsense. The militant auto workers got some results. Trenton Engine was forced to cancel all overtime plans and recall some 200 workers.

### WOODHAVEN

Workers at Trenton Engine set an example of what workers who stick together can accomplish. A few days later on January 22 the laid off workers at Ford's Woodhaven Stamping Plant also said no

when management tried to schedule overtime.

The Local leadership claimed they could do nothing. So the laid off workers set up a picket line outside the plant. At first Ford claimed that the overtime was necessary due to emergencies. For a while Ford dragged its feet and even tried to deny that the plant was working any overtime.

Those at Woodhaven kept up the pressure and their demonstration. Finally Ford management gave in and put an end to all overtime.

Three hundred thousand auto workers are now laid off. It has always been cheaper for management to schedule overtime than hire more workers. Then they do not have to pay costly fringe benefits to additional workers.

Because overtime means less employment it has been a tradition among militant unionists to resist overtime in periods of massive unemployment. This tradition is now being reborn!

### CHEVY GEAR & AXLE

Several hundred workers at Hamtramck's Chevy Gear and Axle plant have been forced to work overtime in the past few weeks. These workers and laid off members of the Local banded together to force the Local leadership to take

some action. At the Feb. 16 membership meeting a motion was passed unanimously demanding that General Motors put an end to all overtime while there are any members laid off.

The motion came from the unemployed committee which was initiated by the Justice Committee, a local rank and file caucus. The motion further called on the UAW International to publicly demand that General Motors end all overtime.

In each case workers have learned that action definitely pays off. They have also seen that it was

their actions as rank and file members that forced the union to act to defend their jobs.

### THE UNC

The United National Caucus, which has been in the forefront of the fight to defend UAW members' jobs, has begun to build a campaign against overtime.

The UNC Unemployed Committee has spread word of these and other actions through its newsletter, **HARD TIMES**. Hard Times has set up an overtime watch to keep all UAW members informed

about which plants are working overtime.

In several weeks the Chrysler and GM SUB funds will be broke. Over night hundreds of thousands of workers and their families' incomes will be viciously slashed. And there'll be no jobs unless the UAW fights for them.

All auto workers could, and should, be returned to work, and then receive short work week benefits.

The UAW leadership has shown it can do more than wring its hands—if the ranks are united, and push. □

# CLUW PLANS MARCH 8 ACTIONS

On March 8, International Women's Day, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) chapters in Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Seattle and other cities are planning forums, marches and rallies against the economic crisis and the layoffs.

CLUW's program for fighting the unemployment crisis strikes at the heart of the problem. CLUW demands that the unions fight for a shorter work week at no loss in pay, no overtime as long as anyone is laid off, and an end to speed-up, or any other forms of job harassment.

CLUW calls for Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) for all workers, backed by the assets of the companies for the duration of the layoffs.

Other important demands include: cost of living clauses in all contracts, raising unemployment insurance for the duration of the recession for all categories of workers including first time job seekers, and no wage controls.

The demand for unemployment insurance for first time job seekers is important. Millions of young women and men leaving high

school will not be able to find employment for a number of years.

CLUW also supports legislation for full employment, public works at union wages and working conditions, a roll back in prices and opposition to military spending.

A debate on the question of seniority has been held in many CLUW chapters and the CLUW National Coordinating Committee. Although differences exist on the question of superseniority for women and minorities, all agree that the burden of discrimination falls firmly on the employers.

### STEP FORWARD

These rallies mark a tremendous step forward for CLUW. CLUW was first organized one year ago. Since then, the top women trade union officials, who politically control CLUW, have initiated virtually no activity. They have only lobbied Congress, and CLUW president Olga Madar has visited President Ford.

The campaign to fight the layoffs did not come from Madar and company. It came from the ranks. Militants, who are members of the national program and activities committee and the national minorities committee, wrote up proposals and circulated them to all CLUW NCC members.

At the recent CLUW NCC meeting the bureaucrats responded with the most wishy-washy kind of proposal. They suggested large public hearings with members of Congress and other women's groups (none of whom are doing anything to fight the layoffs) and further lobbying of Congress.

The rank and file militants fought for their program and won. The main thrust of the final resolution called upon CLUW to initiate activity, demonstrations, forums and rallies. These activities are to mobilize working women to build CLUW, fight the layoffs and go back to their unions and demand their unions fight against the economic crisis.

Whether or not CLUW actually mobilizes its membership, and goes into the unions to fight for its program will depend on the ranks.

Olga Madar believes that CLUW can only do what the labor bureaucrats allow. CLUW's program is now far more militant than what union leaders will raise or fight for. This, means Madar and her kind can not be counted on to mobilize CLUW forces around the March 8 demonstrations.

### MOBILIZE

But if CLUW militants are able to carry out the campaign against the layoffs, they will be able to

mobilize both working and laid off women to carry on the fight in CLUW and in their unions.

It was rank and file women in CLUW who were able to speak directly to the needs of masses of women during this economic crisis. It is they who can take credit for putting forward a program of activity central to CLUW's growth.

It is becoming clearer and clearer that it is up to the rank and file of CLUW to build CLUW and to build a campaign against the economic crisis. □

# Women Defend Protective Labor Laws

With the passage of the Equal Rights legislation in Washington state, protective labor standards for women were eliminated. Employers have jumped at the chance to increase their profits by distorting the meaning of equal rights for women.

A committee set up by the State Legislature has the job of deciding what effect the ERA will have on protective legislation. This committee consists of six appointees from the Department of Labor and Industries.

The chairman is a former representative for the Washington Business Alliance. The decisions of the committee become law, and with its' background, it isn't surprising that their proposed changes are aimed at destroying protective legislation.

The committee has attempted in the past year to guarantee that there will be no real regulations on overtime, the eight-hour day, lifting restrictions, breaks, lunch periods and working conditions,

and has argued, when challenged, for the "reasonableness" of employers.

In Seattle, working women and feminists have organized to fight to retain protective legislation for women and to extend the laws to all working people. This group, Women for Working Rights, held a forum on February 8, attended by 60 people, about the attack on protective legislation.

Speakers at the forum included members of the National Lawyers Guild, the Feminist Forum (a Tacoma newspaper), and the Coalition of Labor Union Women, as well as Women for Working Rights.

Women for Working Rights plans activity to call attention to protective legislation on March 8, pointing out that the real meaning of International Women's Day is to celebrate the struggles of women workers in the past and to carry on the struggle for women's liberation today. □

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8

## Demonstrations & Rallies

### March 8

• **CLEVELAND** — "Economic Crisis and Its Effect on Women and Their unions." Rally at ILGWU Hall, 33rd and Euclid. Sponsored by Coalition of Labor Union Women.

• **DETROIT** — "We Want Jobs, Not Welfare." Picket-rally at the welfare office at 641 Temple, 1:00 pm. Sponsored by Coalition of Labor Union Women.

• **LOUISVILLE** — "Mass Demonstration Against Layoffs and Unemployment." Starts at unemployment office (6th and Cedar) at 1:30 pm, march to the Belvedere for rally. Sponsored by Coalition of Labor Union Women.

• **CHICAGO** — "Fight Layoffs and Unemployment." Demonstration at the Federal Building, noon—1 pm. Sponsored by Coalition of Labor Union Women.



• **SEATTLE** — "Fight Layoffs, Extend Protective Legislation." Assemble at Downtown YWCA at 11 am. March begins 11:30. Sponsored by International Women's Day Coalition.

## Tanks and Troops Break Up Riot

# ONE BATTLE IN PERU

More than 100 people were killed and 600 injured when the military dictatorship of General Juan Velasco used tanks and troops to break up riots in Lima, the capital city of Peru.

The rioters seized the occasion of a strike by 10,000 police to demonstrate against the military government and to attack cars, shops and a plush American hotel.

There were right-wingers active in the riots. Many of the demonstrators, however, were students and the poor from Lima's huge slums.

The military junta has tried to build up a left-wing image since it took power in 1968. It has nationalized some American companies such as the International Petroleum Company, as well as

local banks and the entire press.

There is no doubt that the CIA, the Chilean and Bolivian generals, and some local capitalists would like to get rid of Peru's President Velasco.

Yet despite its image and anti-imperialist posture, this government is both pro-capitalist and harshly repressive against Peru's masses.

### FRAUD OF REFORM

The junta has established a "land reform" program which claims to give land to the peasants. But it has reached only 1% of the population and achieved a 3% shift in the distribution of wealth.

At the same time, peasants are strictly blocked from any real

control of the land. The peasant leader Hugo Blanco remains in exile. Peasant organizations are held under strict military control.

At the same time, the junta has carried out repression aimed at smashing any independent action by workers. Its Law of Industrial Communities declares collective bargaining by workers to be "outdated." In other words, unions and the right to strike are to be crushed.

Instead, the government has attempted to set up state-controlled front organizations in opposition to the trade unions. Where workers have resisted, there have been head-on confrontations.

The teachers' union SUTEP, is one of the focal points of resistance. The union's candidates in 1973 won 90% of the votes in elections for posts in the educational system.

The junta's response was to dissolve SUTEP, arrest 300 of its leaders and fire more than 1000 teachers. Solidarity strikes, mass demonstrations and conflicts with the army followed, leading to a declaration of martial law in the southern provinces.

Peru's junta claims to be left-wing because it is fighting US

control of the economy. In fact it is unable to even do this successfully.

### WHO RULES?

In a country like Peru, crushed under the weight of foreign big business, the local capitalists are not strong enough to build up their own base. Faced with foreign competition and rising militancy from a growing working class, they turn to the generals to solve their problems.

Peru's junta is of this type. By nationalizing some companies in an effort to withstand foreign pressure and competition, the generals have done some damage to specific US corporate interests and stepped on the toes of a few local bosses and landlords.

Yet Peru's economy as a whole remains completely dominated by imperialism and underdevelopment. The junta's main blows are directed not against the imperialists, but against the efforts of workers and peasants to increase their miserable living standards.

Unable to deal with poverty and unemployment, the junta is forced to maintain its grip by force and repression. As a result, when the right wing attacks Velasco, it opens the floodgates of mass discontent.



Peru's General Velasco

In the long run, the supposedly left-wing military dictatorship in Peru is laying the basis for a right-wing regime as in Bolivia, using equally brutal methods but friendlier to the CIA and US business.

The only way out of this trap is for the working class of Peru to take the state into its own hands. An economy planned and controlled by the workers is the only force strong enough to snap the chains of imperialism.



Peruvian riot police attend to a demonstrator.

## Yugoslavia

# Tito Cracks Down

In Yugoslavia, the confrontation between the government and eight dissident Marxist philosophy professors has come to a head.

A law was passed in late January allowing the government of President Tito to override the normal university procedures. The aim is to enable Tito to bar the dissidents from teaching.

The battle began in 1972. One of the eight, Professor Svetozar Stojanovic, published an article which labelled Tito's break from Stalin after 1948 a "Stalinist de-stalinization."

In other words, Tito moved to break Stalin's stranglehold over Yugoslavia and its Communist Party. But he did so only in order to

maintain the same system of rule within Yugoslavia itself, only under the firm control of his own bureaucracy instead of Stalin's.

Such criticism is extremely dangerous for the Yugoslav regime, especially when it begins to spread from dissident intellectuals to workers, who have their own deep-seated grievances and demands.

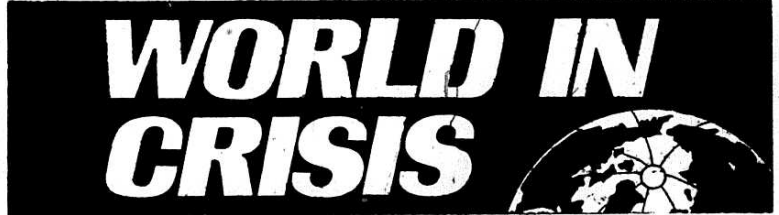
When Tito demanded the eight be fired, their colleagues and students stood up for them. Eight special commissions set up to investigate them cleared them completely. The government allowed them to leave the country in order to get rid of them, but only Stojanovic left. The others re-

mained at their positions.

The issue has heated up further recently because Tito has developed somewhat friendlier relations with Russia. The Russian bureaucracy is insistent that the dissidents who tell the truth about both sides in the Stalin-Tito split, be purged.

When Tito broke with Stalin, he won massive popular support by exposing some of Stalin's brutal crimes against national minorities, workers and intellectuals.

But these methods were never really abandoned inside Yugoslavia, where the dictates of the Communist Party bureaucracy remained supreme. And in the last few years, repression has sharply intensified.



# MASS STRIKES SWEEP NIGERIA

Strike action by Nigerian workers has brought the whole country to a near standstill.

The strikes are against the military government's Udoji Report which gives the well-off up to 50 times as much as lower paid workers. They are also opposing employers who refuse to pay back wages and the imprisonment of unionists.

All railway services throughout the country were stopped. Strikes by oil haulers caused shortages in most parts of the country, and strikes in the power industry led to power blackouts in all states.

A strike which cut off the water supply in the capital city, Lagos, forced the authorities to pay back wages. The workers continued a slowdown, however, demanding the release of a hundred of their brothers who had been seized from picket lines by armed soldiers.

Bank workers throughout the country struck against the continued detention of their union leaders—general secretary Alhaji Animashaun, president Alhaji Ladejo and organizing secretary A.N. Aguna. They were eventually released, and a slowdown has been organized while negotiations go on.

Thirty thousand construction union members have delayed the

completion of many government building projects. Among the other groups of workers involved in disputes are teachers in Ibadan, telephone operators, and postal workers, textile workers, and workers in the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. The offices of 11 private companies in Lagos were closed down.

The strikes continued to spread despite attempts by the government to frighten people back to work. General Gowon warned that his government will "no longer tolerate" the industrial unrest.

Like strikebreakers everywhere, Gowon blamed the struggle on "ill-motivated elements in the country wanting to use the genuine demands of workers to precipitate a crisis or paralyze government activities."

The national chief of police said that he will allow no further violations of the Trades Disputes Decree, which bans strikes.

The magnificent wave of industrial action and solidarity by Nigerian workers has shown the growing power of the African working class—the power which can transform the entire continent.

Martha Osamor

# Workers Against Monolith

by Ian Birchall



The story of the Communist Parties since 1943

Order from: I.S. Book Service, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203

\$4.20 postpaid

## Freedom Or New Trial For David Rice

# EX-PANTHER LEADER WINS COURT APPEAL

In 1970 David Rice was a leader of the Omaha chapter of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, an organizing arm of the Black Panther Party.

When a bomb killed a policeman the Omaha police and prosecutors decided to use the incident to destroy the Panthers in that city.

Rice and another member of the NCCF were arrested and convicted. Their conviction was based on two entirely unrelated facts: the two men were known members of the National Committee to Combat Fascism; and a crime was, in fact, committed.

The Eighth US Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis issued a unanimous and strongly worded decision upholding an earlier district court decision that David

Rice's constitutional rights had been violated and that he should be released from jail or retried.

The Circuit Court ruling stated that the Omaha police had shown a "negligent disregard" for Rice's rights. It also asserted that the commission of a crime is "insufficient... to establish the guilt of the accused."

David Rice has now been in jail for nearly five years on a frame-up that even the court system cannot stomach. The state of Nebraska has the right to appeal this latest decision to the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, David Rice sits in jail. The district judge who originally overturned the conviction refused to grant bail. Thus, Rice will have to initiate another appeal process in order to keep from

spending an entire two years in jail after his conviction has been overturned.

Ed Poindexter is also still in jail. He and Rice were convicted in the same frame-up trial. However, his appeal process is almost a year behind that of Rice—largely because of a period when Poindexter was without legal counsel.

Even with the best possible outcomes of future appeals, David Rice and Ed Poindexter will have spent five to six years in prison for the crime of attempting to fight racism in Omaha. You can help by sending a contribution to: Committee to Free Rice/Poindexter, 2440 Fontenelle Blvd., Omaha, NE 68104.

David Crees



## 200 Rally In Detroit

# Gallo Boycott Grows

DETROIT—Two hundred supporters of the United Farm Workers union picketed the J. Lewis Cooper company February 12.

The picket line was the beginning of a campaign to publicize the union's boycott of Gallo wines. Cooper is the distributor for Gallo in the Detroit area, which is the 5th largest Gallo market in the country.

The UFW recently began a nationwide campaign of emphasizing the Gallo boycott. Boycott offices across the country are organizing picket lines in front of liquor stores that sell Gallo and encouraging store managers to take the scab products off their shelves.

The United Farm Workers began its boycott against Gallo in 1973 after the company refused to renegotiate the union contracts the UFW had held since 1967. The giant wine company instead signed sweetheart

contracts with the Teamsters union, after firing its workers who belonged to the UFW.

UFW picket lines have already had some success in Detroit. Among the stores which were forced to remove Gallo from their shelves was the Party Center on the city's east side.

The Party Center is one of only seven stores within the city on J.L. Cooper's "Premium Store Set #1." Inclusion on this select list means the store sets up displays the way Gallo likes them.

The Gallo boycott covers all wines produced by the company. These include the following labels: Paisano, Boone's Farm, Andre, Ripple, Spanada, Madria Madria, Tyrolia, Wolfe & Son, Red Mountain, Eden Roc, Carlo Rossi, and Thunderbird. In addition, any wine which says "Modesto, California" on the label is Gallo.

# March On Gallo!

SAN FRANCISCO—About a thousand United Farm Worker supporters saw 200 begin a 110 mile march Feb. 22 from here to Modesto, Ca. Two other marches began later in the week from other parts of the state.

These marches, together with busloads of farmworkers and supporters, will converge on the Gallo Wineries on March 1. The family-owned Gallo Corporation, which sells over one-third of US wine, has become the symbol for grower

resistance to the UFW.

Gallo has been claiming that the company recognized the Teamsters union in response to the wishes of the workers, although no vote was ever taken.

So certain is the UFW about Gallo's lies that Cesar Chavez is expected to announce at the Modesto rally that the UFW will abide by a vote of Gallo workers. (Present Gallo workers are replacements for the workers who struck when Gallo signed with the Team-

sters in 1973.) If the UFW loses it will call off the boycott of Gallo.

The San Francisco rally featured several prominent Democrats (as speakers—not marchers) who had nice words to say about the UFW and themselves. Unfortunately, the Democratic legislature and Governor which these liberal Democrats helped to elect, are now figuring out what serious restriction to place on UFW organizing as part of a collective bargaining bill.

# L.A. Truckers Demand 32 For 40!

LOS ANGELES—Local freight drivers here are beginning to fight layoffs. At the February 16th membership meeting of Teamsters Local 208, a motion to fight for a 32 hour work week with no cut in pay passed unanimously.

Layoffs in the area are going back ten and fifteen years in seniority.

The motion also called upon truck drivers to refuse to work overtime. The makers of the motion made it clear that the shorter work week was not just a demand to be fought for in the next contract.

A ban on overtime is possible if there is strong support from the union when the members refuse overtime. The Master Freight Agreement does state the companies can demand two hours overtime from each driver.

However if every driver refused to work more than eight hours and the union fought each written warning, reprimand and suspension, the companies would have to back down on that clause.

As one laid-off driver said, "If the companies can have a change of operation so can we."

It is less expensive for a company to pay eight hours overtime pay than paying the fringe benefit payments for a casual or calling back one of their workers.

Another of the speakers for the motion reminded the members that they all took an oath to "Do no harm, nor through inaction, allow harm to be done to another brother," when they joined the union. It is the responsibility of the working drivers to defend those who are laid off.

A march is being held in Sacramento, the state capital, on March 8 to protest unemployment. It is being organized by the state federation AFL-CIO. Although the Teamsters have not officially endorsed this march, many Teamsters will be attending.

One 208 member stated he wanted to see 5 or 6 buses from the 208 hiring hall (where there are now over 1000 people registered).

All Teamsters concerned with the layoffs should plan on going to Sacramento.

Richard Stockman

# Western Electric Wildcats

SEATTLE—Some 300 production workers at a Western Electric manufacturing plant in Kent, Washington, a suburb of Seattle, walked off the job February 19 in response to a seniority violation.

The Kent workers are worried about layoffs. Two months ago the plant laid off several workers. Recently Western Electric closed a plant permanently in Vancouver, Washington. That shutdown threw 570 workers out on the street.

An archaic seniority system has begun to pit worker against worker. The wildcat broke out when the company transferred in five installers with full seniority, moving ahead of 80 production workers. The Kent workers do not have any

transfer rights.

Three workers walked off their jobs when they learned the new people were getting higher seniority. The company suspended them for three days, causing the rest of the plant to walk out. The company has now suspended the whole plant—a three day lockout.

Local 9195 of the Communication Workers of America did not sanction the strike but has entered into negotiations with the company to resolve the problem. Yet CWA's response to layoffs everywhere has been piecemeal and timid, with no strategy to prevent the layoffs.

Telephone workers will have to force their union to adopt a get tough policy if anything is to be done about layoffs.

## Politics As Religion

The Degeneration of the Fourth Internati.

Essays by Duncan Hallas: **Building the Leadership; Against the Stream, the Origins of the Fourth International Movement; and The Fourth International in Decline, From Trotskyism to Pabloism.**  
Introduction by Calvin Williams.

Sun Distribution International  
14131 Woodward Ave.  
Highland Park, MI 48203

95c, plus 15c postage

# labor notes

by Jim Woodward

John Johns, Vice President of the United Steel Workers, recently defended the steel industry's no-strike Experimental Negotiating Agreement. "While we waived the right to a national strike," he said, "we got certain guarantees—which meant keeping people at work." They must be pretty hollow guarantees to the thousands of steel workers being laid off as the recession begins to hit steel.



Michigan plans to begin using state police to keep things quiet during the long wait for a check in unemployment offices.

The worst elements in society—the employers, the racists, the militarists—always find their way of profiting from a depression and from other people's misery. For the first time since the draft was ended, the Army has been meeting its recruitment quotas.

Australian auto workers have shown they have one effective way to fight layoffs. At General Motors' Adelaide, Australia assembly plant, workers slowed production by more than 25% after GM announced plans to cut 5,000 jobs. A GM spokesman charged sabotage by members of the Vehicle Builders' Union. The layoffs have been suspended for at least 90 days.

CWA members: CWA International president Glen Watts has been given the job of secretary-treasurer of the American Institute for Free Labor Development. The AIFLD is an arm of the AFL-CIO. It channels money from the Central Intelligence Agency to puppet trade unions in other countries. These so-called unions, loyal to US foreign policy, are designed to prevent the development of genuine, independent trade unions.

Dr. Harvey Brenner, a scientist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, has finished a study which shows unemployment is unhealthy. When unemployment rises, he reports, so does the number of heart attacks, murders, suicides, infant mortalities, alcoholism, mental illness and crime. Surprised?

Members of Teamsters Local 249 who work for United Parcel Service in Pittsburgh met Feb. 2 to select a steward. When the only nominee was one of the few women workers, the Business Agent found it necessary to inform those present that if he worked at UPS, he would not want some woman representing him. The BA was able to get a man elected instead, but the sister won 26 votes out of the 76 employees at the meeting.

Another women at UPS-Pittsburgh is fighting the company back pay. The company had refused to put her on the seniority list. She won a grievance on that, but only after 3½ months out of work.

The new Secretary of Labor, John T. Dunlop, is best known for his wage-cutting. He's the former head of the Cost of Living Council, that agency which administered wage-price controls and held wages to 5.5% while prices soared.

We recently reported that several steel companies in the Pittsburgh area were fighting an order to stop dumping cyanide in the Monongahela River. Now to avoid identification they've turned to dumping it in the sewer system. Officials said that practice could endanger maintenance workers and ruin the sewage treatment process. But it probably saves the companies a few pennies.

Rank and file steel workers are angry over a recent dues increase. In several different parts of the country, resolutions are being circulated calling for a special USWA convention to roll back the increase. One resolution also demands the reduction of officers' salaries. But getting a special convention is an almost impossible task. 25% of all locals in the union—which means well over 1000—must pass the resolution to get the special convention called.

The Supplemental Unemployment Benefits fund for non-union white collar Chrysler workers has already dried up, leaving 5,400 workers without SUB benefits. The SUB fund for Chrysler's unionized work force is expected to last only another month.

Detroit high school students have sponsored an essay contest on "What is a Scab?" It's the project of the Cass Technical High School Committee to Support the Crestwood Teachers Strike. During the Crestwood strike, which ended last month, the board of education hired 190 scabs to replace striking teachers.

Jersey Bell Telephone recently won a \$19 million "emergency" rate increase "in order to avoid layoffs." Then they laid off 335 plant workers and an unknown number of operators.

That's just one of the many reports in "Long Distance," a national newsletter published by United Action. UA is a rank and file opposition group of telephone workers in New York City. To get a copy of "Long Distance," write to: United Action, P.O. Box 283, Old Chelsea Station, New York, New York 10011.

Nineteen thousand members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) are striking McDonnell-Douglas aircraft plants in St. Louis and Los Angeles. The major issue is wages. IAM members at the Los Angeles plant are angry that members of the United Auto Workers at the same plant are crossing their picket lines. This disgusting activity is being directed by the UAW leadership from its headquarters in, uh, er... Solidarity House.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to Labor Editor, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-3137.

## Contains No-Layoff Provision

# Longshore Contract Early

SAN FRANCISCO—A new contract covering 12,000 west coast longshoremen was finalized here February 10, almost five full months before the present one expires. Ratification by the membership of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union is still required.

The most significant feature of the new contract is a no-layoffs provision.

As of March 1, the pact would guarantee all full union members (the "A-men") a wage of \$234 a week. The guarantee would rise to \$250 in 1976 and \$270 in 1977. Those guarantees are based on 36 hours of work a week.

Second-class union members (or "B-men") are guaranteed a minimum of 18 hours pay a week. Thus, the new contract continues the same division within the union between A and B workers.

Tony Trejo, a B-man for 5½ years, said there should be "more work for everybody, and make the B-men into A-men so that we'd all be working together."

While the ban on layoffs is important, the new contract leaves unchanged the basic problem for workers in the industry.

Starting with the Modernization and Mechanization Agreement of 1961, the pattern in longshore, as in many other industries, has been for the union to trade off working conditions won in the days when the ILWU was a fighting union. Thus, union president Harry Bridges has allowed the employers to introduce smaller gang sizes, containerization, mechanized cargo loading, and the introduction of steadymen instead of dispatching all workers in rotation out of the

hiring hall.

This has led to a sharp decline in the work force. With the new contract, the employers will be free to continue their policy of mechanization and reduction of the work

force through attrition.

The ILWU gave up its demand for cost-of-living protection in the new contract. Bridges said the union abandoned this issue because it is "impossible" to stay ahead of inflation.



Containerized cargo being loaded in Oakland

# Mine Boss Runs Scab Union

When the United Mine Workers union won a year-long strike at the Brookside Mine in Kentucky last year, defeat was shared by the Eastover Mining Company and the Southern Labor Union (SLU).

The Southern Labor Union, everyone knew, was a company union that had been set up in 1959, expressly for the purpose of keeping the UMW out. SLU officials had been caught trying to bribe several striking Brookside

miners to lead a return to work. Now it's been revealed that the boss of the SLU is also boss of his own coal mines. Ted Q. Wilson, the SLU's general counsel, has been a coal operator since 1970.

From 1970 to 1972, according to the UMW, Wilson operated the Isham Coal Co. in McCreary County, Kentucky. During that time, the 25 miners at Isham were represented by the Southern Labor Union. The company was repeated-

ly charged with violations of federal mine safety laws, and still owes the government hundreds of dollars in unpaid fines.

Wilson also controls the Wilson Farms Coal Co., a strip mining outfit that is under the jurisdiction of the SLU.

For his services, Ted Q. Wilson receives about \$25,000 a year in fees from the SLU and another \$10,000 from the SLU's pension and welfare funds.

# Pittsburgh Teachers Fight Dues Increase

PITTSBURGH—Nearly a thousand members of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (AFT Local 400 jammed a downtown Hilton conference room here in a marathon four hour battle over a proposed dues increase.

After a bitter debate, filled with shouting and personal insult, Local President Al Fondy's proposal for a \$30 per year increase—(\$10 to cover increases in state and national per caps, and a \$20 increase in local dues)—was overwhelmingly defeated.

Fondy argued the dues increase on the grounds that the union needed additional funds to cover anticipated expenses growing out of the upcoming contract negotiation period which begins in March. The present three year contract expires in November. "We have a strike coming this year as sure as we're sitting here," Fondy said, "and we need money to have a strong union."

Fondy will face pressure at the bargaining table not only from a School Board which already is pleading for fiscal austerity, but also from a rank and file which has

become increasingly dissatisfied with the provisions of the present contract. PFT members' wages rose 4% in 1973-74. During that two year period inflation rose 22%.

The additional fact that negotiations will be conducted in the midst of an economic depression means that the young union faces the toughest contract fight in its six year history.

## REFORM CAUCUS

Opposition to the dues increase was led by the PFT Members' Reform Caucus. It moved to freeze local dues and to approve only the \$10 per cap increase. The caucus emphasized that no local dues increases should be considered without first seeing what the next contract would bring back.

A compromise motion was finally passed to increase dues by \$20 per year, \$10 to cover per caps and \$10 for local dues.

The show of rank and file willingness to oppose incumbent union leadership was encouraging. But at the same time it was apparent that the Reform Caucus'

role in that opposition kept the ranks from an even stronger showing.

Certainly no one relished to possibility of a dues increase. But neither did anyone want to jeopardize the bargaining position of the union by sending its representatives in against the Board of Education with inadequate financial backing.

The Reform Caucus' flat rejection of any local increase left many with no alternative but to vote for the compromise increase. Many felt that to vote with the Reform Caucus would be, in effect, to weaken the union.

A more acceptable strategy would have been to work for a temporary contract/strike fund assessment. A special commission, elected by the membership, could have been established to oversee the expenditure of these emergency funds. A permanent dues increase would have thus been avoided, while at the same time the union would be assured of adequate funding as it enters negotiations.

# UnSafe At Harvester

MELROSE PARK, ILL.—Workers in Department 53 of the International Harvester plant here won a quick victory February 11 when management tried to fire a steward. But the company is trying to discipline 33 workers who defended the steward.

The dispute arose because of an unsafe press in the medium tractor assembly line. Because of a poor design, the press was shooting metal parts at workers in the area. The operator had been injured twice, including being hit with a metal piece in the face.

Steward Michael Goldfield got the company safety director to agree the operation was unsafe. But this decision was later reversed and when Goldfield protested, he was fired.

The next morning, Goldfield quickly got his job back after Dept. 53 workers punched in but refused to work. The company gave Gold-

field full pay, but announced they were docking the workers 1/4 hour.

Many of the workers decided that if the company was going to dock their pay, IH should be docked some tractors, and went home. The company is attempting to suspend those workers.

Workers' Voice, a rank and file group in the plant, called for workers all over the plant to support Dept. 53. Workers' Voice demanded that IH remove all discipline from Dept. 53 workers, and that stewards in the plant have the right to shut down unsafe operations.

International Harvester recently issued buttons to the workers which read "Us." The buttons are an attempt to promote identification with International Harvester products. Many workers are now wearing these buttons upside down as a protest against the UnSafe conditions in the plant. □



Which Side Are You On?

by Kim Moody

(First in a Series)

## Courts: Whose Friend?

When I.W. Abel imposed the no-strike Experimental Negotiation Agreement on half a million steel workers, several rank and file organizations tried to get it overturned by a law suit. When more than 400 women were laid off at the General Motors Fremont plant, they tried to save their jobs by going to court. When the Miners for Democracy felt they couldn't get a fair election in the miners union they went to court.

Again and again rank and file workers have attempted to get some measure of justice from the companies or even their union by going to court.

In most cases, the courts simply rule in favor of the company or the union bureaucracy. In other cases, decisions and appeals drag on for years. By the time a decision is reached the movement that went to court has disappeared and it hardly matters who wins. In only a few cases is going to court likely to bring results for the workers.

Because of its ineffectiveness and for other reasons that will be discussed later in this series, going to court is just bad tactics for the rank and file of labor. To understand the reason for this, however, it's necessary to understand the nature of the courts themselves.

### EQUAL JUSTICE

Most Americans believe the courts and the government generally to be institutions to which any citizen can appeal for justice. As they say, "We are all equal before the law."

In court the businessman and the common laborer are judged by the same standards. More generally the government is thought to be responsible to the people. In American judicial jargon, the government is said to derive its sovereignty, that is, its authority to rule, from "the whole people."

Of course, most Americans are not fools. And, particularly since Watergate, most of us realize that businessmen have considerable more "influence" than workers. Furthermore, it is hard not to notice that businessmen and other big shots generally serve short sentences for serious crimes—if they serve at all—while poor people, blacks and others with less "influence" serve years for petty offenses.

The most common explanation for that is that the rich are able to buy off the judges, politicians, and government bureaucrats. And so they are. But there is more to it than that.

The government and the courts are not socially neutral institutions.

### THE BOSS IS BOSS

We live in a capitalist society. As every worker knows from experience, there is no equality between the worker and the bosses at work. Nor is there any such equality in the economy as a whole.

At work the boss is boss. In the economy, the bosses—together, as a social class—own and control the whole show.

The government exists to maintain social order so that the system, the capitalist system, may function smoothly. This means that above everything else, the government exists to back up the authority of the bosses.

Governments, ancient and modern, arise because of class struggle. Under capitalism it is the struggle between the working class and the employing (capitalist) class over the division of the wealth that gives rise to the modern state.

The state includes not only judges and politicians, but cops and soldiers as well. In fact, it is the cops and soldiers that give the judges and politicians their authority. Without cops and soldiers, how could the bosses enforce their Taft-Hartley injunctions, picketing restrictions, anti-strike laws, and the like?

As workers fight for higher wages, farmers for freedom from endless debts, and poor people for food or jobs, the economic rulers—the businessmen, bankers, and manufacturers—look to the

state or the creation of a state for protection. And they have always found it.

As Fredrich Engels put it ninety years ago, the state is "the state of the most powerful, economically dominant class, which by virtue of thereof becomes also the dominant class politically, and thus acquires new means of holding down and exploiting the oppressed class..."

### THE CONSTITUTION

Engels was writing about any society in which there are distinct social classes. But a look at the history of the United States will show how right Engels was.

The first few years after the American Revolution saw chaos and social turmoil. There were rebellions by farmers who found themselves deeply in debt to bankers. There was an armed uprising against taxation. Various states almost went to war against each other over tariffs and trade.

The existing government, organized under the loose Articles of Confederation, had little authority and little military power to back it up.

The demand for a more powerful, better organized, and more clearly defined government arose. This "movement" produced the Constitution of the United States in 1789.

The American historian, Charles Beard, summed up the meaning of the Constitution in his famous study, "An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States."

"The movement for the Constitution of the United States was originated and carried through principally by four groups of personality interests which had been adversely affected under the Articles of Confederation: money, public securities, manufacturers, and trade and shipping..."

"The members of the Philadelphia Convention which drafted the Constitution were, with few exceptions, immediately, directly and personally interested in, and derived economic advantage from, the establishment of the new system."

"The constitution was essentially an economic document based upon the concept that the fundamental private rights of property are anterior to [that is, come before—KM] government and morally beyond the reach of popular majorities."

Beard was no Marxist, but he was no fool either. By studying the social and economic facts behind the Constitution, he found that the American government, like all others, was indeed "the state of the most powerful, economically dominant class..."

### THE COURTS

The courts, established under that Constitution, were simply an arm of the government. In the early years of the United States, the role of the courts was clearly defined. Under Supreme Court Chief Justice Marshall, who took that office in 1801, the power of the federal government as the protector of private wealth was further established.

Robert McCloskey, a liberal political scientist at Harvard, describes the Supreme Court under Marshall as interpreting the Constitution "so as to provide maximum protection to property rights..."

In short, the early American government and courts were created and fostered to protect and encourage the growth of capitalism. Today's government exists to protect the same system, to protect the property rights of the capitalist class. To protect them from who? To protect them from the working class!

That is the set-up and that is why it is bad tactics for the ranks of labor to seek justice in the courts. The courts are there to protect business, not to administer justice to workers. □

[The next column in this series will discuss how pressure from the working class affects the government and the courts.]



DETROIT  
AUTO  
UPRISING  
1973

Jack  
Weinberg

This pamphlet analyzes the strikes and sitdowns that hit Detroit Chrysler plants in 1973. A NETWORK publication. 50c

Order from: Jack Weinberg  
16020 Second, Highland Park, Michigan 48203

## Ann Arbor Teachers Strike; Win Labor, CLUW Support

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—Despite sub-freezing temperatures and chilling winds, high-spirited picketers surround classroom buildings, loading docks and other strategic points throughout the University of Michigan campus.

The Graduate Employees Organization (GEO), a labor union representing 2200 teaching, research and staff assistants, walked off the job on February 11th after seven months of fruitless bargaining with the University administration.

Unresolved issues include wage increase and tuition reduction, agency shop, limitations on class size, job security and demands for quality education.

With the threat of a walk-out, union members won non-discrim-

ination and affirmative action clauses, including recognition of the employment rights of gays.

Bulk deliveries are being turned away, as Teamsters honor GEO picket lines. UAW clerical workers at the University of Michigan have offered GEO office space and legal support.

The Wisconsin Teaching Assistant's Association (AFT Local 3220), the first graduate employees' union to win a labor contract, sent a message of solidarity and two supporters to help out with the strike. Others endorsing the struggle include Detroit community groups, 23 black student organizations, and the Washtenaw Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. □

Christina Cadbury



BOYCOTT  
GALLO WINES!



# Women and Revolution

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

They marched, 15,000 strong—demanding an end to sweatshop conditions and the right to organize into unions.

They were young, mostly under 21, foreign born—many spoke no English, and militant. Many were revolutionary socialists.

And they were women.

On March 8, 1908 in New York, 15,000 women garment workers proved that women too were part of the struggle and could be organized.

The conditions of their lives were unending misery.

They worked 10—12 hours a day in tiny, dirty unventilated factories. Doors and windows were locked from the outside. There were no toilets or rest breaks. Talking could mean instant firing.

The pay was so low that after 10 hours many took work home. Some went blind by the age of 25—sewing tiny beads onto the finery of the very rich.

But they knew hope as well as drudgery—they understood that together they could fight back.

When the Socialist Party called a demonstration against the rotten conditions in the sweatshops, they responded. They demanded equal pay for equal work, childcare for working mothers, and the right to vote.

The militancy of these young women was so inspiring that the Socialist Party proclaimed March 8 Working Women's Day. Two years later, Clara Zetkin, revolutionary and leader of the German working women's movement, called upon the socialist movement to make March 8 International Women's Day.

Zetkin argued that March 8 should be celebrated as a working class holiday equal to that of May Day, but this one holiday, International Working Women's Day, would pay tribute to the heroic struggles of working women.

The socialist movement believed that the working class struggle could not be won without the active involvement of working women. Therefore, International Women's Day also aimed at making working women more conscious of themselves as fighters for women's liberation and a workers' revolution.

The first organized demonstrations took place in March 1911, in France, Germany and Austria. They were more successful than had been expected.

In Austria, for example, over 30,000 women showed up at the rallies, and according to Alexandra Kollontai, another leading revolutionary, in her pamphlet on International Women's Day, "Men stayed at home with the children for a change, and their wives, the captive wives, went to a meeting."

After 1911, International Women's Day was celebrated in the United States and in Europe.

Many of the demands the women garment workers struggled for have yet to be won. And a growing movement of working women is beginning to take up the fight again.

To celebrate International Women's Day and the renewed struggle for women's liberation, Celia Emerson discusses the struggles of Russian women on March 8, 1917. A march of Russian women began the Russian revolution. □

It was the celebration of International Women's Day in Russia that sparked off the first workers' revolution, which opened the promise of women's liberation.

In Russia, the working women's movement organized in the late 1890s as thousands of peasant women went from the country to work in large textile and other factories.

These women gave the impetus to the building of a working women's liberation movement. They were part of the strike waves of 1896, and were forced to fight their exploitation as workers, as well as their special oppression as women.

At the same time, the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP) began to develop programs and policies that would involve women in the fight for women's liberation as well as socialist revolution.

At the second Party Congress in 1903, the RSDLP called for equal political rights for women; for pre-natal and post natal pregnancy leaves; the banning of women from industrial work injurious to their health; allowing nursing mothers time off from work to feed their children; and female factory inspectors in industries with a large female labor force.

#### WOMEN WORKERS ORGANIZE

The 1905 revolution witnessed the first public activity by working



First all-Russian Congress of Working Women and Peasant Women, 1918. International Women's Day sparked the revolution in Russia.

women in Russia. In May, Matryona Sarmentova led a strike of 30,000 textile workers. This was the first time in modern Russian history that a woman addressed a mass demonstration.

In 1905, Kollontai organized the first working women's organization in Russia. These clubs later became the backbone of the revolutionary working women's organization, the Xhenodetl.

The first International Women's Day was celebrated in Russia in 1913. The major revolutionary newspaper, the paper of the Bolsheviks, *Pravda*, publicized International Women's Day with a special supplement, and carried a number of articles on the importance of working women in the fight for socialism.

The soviet, or workers council, that was elected, included 23 women among its 151 delegates. The women involved in this strike and in the soviet understood that they were the equals of the men they worked with. The men, in turn, treated them with equality and respect.



Black women were the backbone of the civil rights movement.

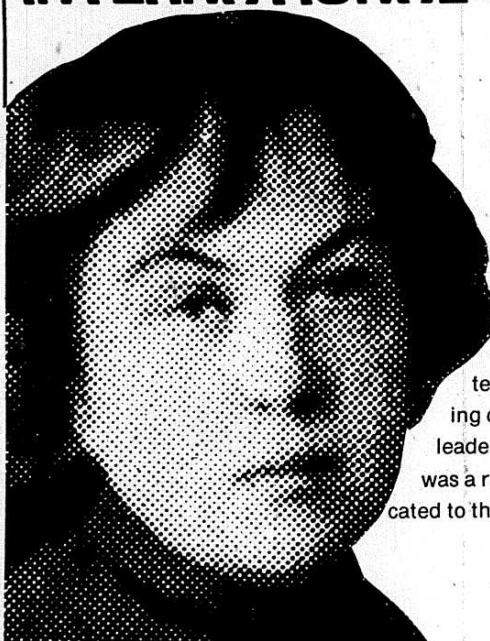
## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

# Alexandra Kollontai

Introduction  
by Celia Emerson

This pamphlet was written in 1920 for Russian working class women. The author, a leader of the Russian revolution, was a revolutionary socialist dedicated to the liberation of women. The translation is by Alix Holt.

35c postpaid. Order from:  
Sun Distribution International  
14131 Woodward Avenue  
Highland Park, Michigan 48203





# WOMEN'S DAY

Clara Zetkin and others sent greetings to the Russian workers, and massive, yet illegal meetings and rallies were held.

The next year, and to the astonishment of everyone, the Tsar allowed International Women's Day to be publically and legally celebrated. The Bolsheviks who at that time published a women's newspaper called *Rabotnitsa* (The Working Woman) had a circulation of 12,000 for this celebration.

The first World War interrupted the celebration of International Women's Day. But on March 8, 1917 [February 23 by the old calendar], working women, weary of three years of war and its accompanying horrors, took to the streets.

"The 23 of February was International Women's Day," wrote Trotsky in his *History of the Russian Revolution*. "The social-democratic circles had intended to mark this day in a general manner: by meetings, speeches, leaflets. It had not occurred to anyone that it might be the first day of the revolution."

Textile workers, and housewives, waiting in long lines for bread, began rioting. The women celebrating International Women's Day demanded an end to the war, lower bread prices, and greater pensions for the wives of soldiers and sailors. Soon there was widespread rioting, looting and fighting in the streets.

According to Kollontai, these women played a central role in the revolution. "They go up to the cordons more boldly than the men, take hold of rifles, beseech, almost command: Put down your bayonets

—join us!"

For Trotsky, like Kollontai and other revolutionaries, it was not surprising that the revolution would begin by the mass activity of working women. "Thus," continued Trotsky, "the fact is that the February revolution was begun from below, overcoming the resistance of its own revolutionary organizations, the initiative being taken of their own accord by the women textile workers, among them, no doubt, many soldiers' wives...."

The Russian revolution brought about dramatic changes in a country where family and social laws had kept women in complete subjection. Women won complete political equality. Divorces were made easier, and less expensive. Abortions were made free and legal. Vicious legislation that had made homosexuality a crime were nullified.

As more women went to work in the factories they were given equal opportunities and equal pay. Child care centers were set up nearby the



Conditions forced working women to organize early. The Women's Trade Union League was one of the most successful in organizing in the early 20th century.

factories, and nursing mothers were given the necessary time off. Maternity benefits were granted, and pregnant women were assured that they would not work in places that would injure the mother or child.

Not only were laws changed, but institutions were set up that would also guarantee women full social, economic and political freedom. Communal restaurants which freed women from the kitchen were set up.

Communal housing with hot and cold water, heat and light were built. Central laundries and cleaners were established alongside

nurseries. "For the working woman, the communal house is the greatest blessing and salvation," exclaimed Kollontai.

The entrance of women to public life proceeded at an explosive rate. The first women's assembly took place in November 1918. 300 delegates were expected and over 1000 showed up.

Vast numbers of women took part in public affairs. In 1926 over 620,000 women were soviet officials; by 1927 the number rose to 747,000.

In these ways, and many others, the Russian working class began to process of freeing women from economic exploitation and alienation of work and home. For the first time in human history, a workers' state was laying the material basis for women's emancipation.

## COUNTER-REVOLUTION

The Russian Revolution was destroyed before the liberation of women was achieved. This was because the failure of the revolutions in Europe left the Russian workers' state isolated. That isolation, combined with the destruction of Russian industry and the physical decimation of the most advanced sections of the Russian working class, led to the emergence of a new and despotic ruling

class. The emergence of this new ruling class, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin meant the destruction of the workers state as well as all the gains made by women.

In 1926 the working women's organization, the Khenodet, was dissolved. By 1935, and in spite of popular support, abortions were made illegal. Homosexuality was again made a crime.

Wage differentials between men and women were increased and working women were robbed of all previous protective legislation.

Most important, in order to shore up this new class society, the Stalinist ruling class had to institute a patriarchal family structure, which in effect kept women subordinate in the family, at work, and in society.

Today Russian women, like women everywhere, must begin again to organize and fight for both women's liberation and socialist revolution.

With the re-emergence of a working women's movement internationally, International Women's Day is being celebrated as it was in the past: it is a holiday to commemorate the struggles of working women, and to rededicate ourselves to the fight for women's liberation and socialist revolution. □



Native American women have been in the forefront of the Indian struggle for liberation.



Little Steel, organizing the CIO: when male workers were barred from picketing, women took over the lines.

WHAT

# The AFL-CIO & Oil

At its annual winter meeting in sunny Florida, the top leadership of the American labor movement unveiled a hard-hitting action program of tough measures aimed at crippling the power of the giant oil monopolies. At least, that's what you might have thought from seeing last Monday's newspapers, blaring forth headlines like "AFL-CIO: Split Oil Giants."

Of course, it's a positive sign that the outrage among workers over the oil companies' blatant ripoffs has reached such a level that even these encrusted bureaucrats feel they have to respond. And with one of their statements at least no one can disagree: the so-called oil shortage of last winter "pales into insignificance compared to what looms ahead unless immediate and drastic action is taken."

The only question, really, is exactly what the "immediate and drastic action" should be—and just who's going to do it.

Part of the executive council's program may appear to be a step forward. They call the energy crisis "a result of policy decisions made by the multi-national oil companies to squeeze the workers, force them to pay higher prices and fatten the profits of the oil companies."

In response the council proposes that individual companies be barred from owning competing energy sources and that oil companies be

prohibited from marketing, themselves, oil they produce and refine.

Unfortunately, these demands can't be taken seriously. Few of them are new—and none would be effective.

The real heart of the power of the gigantic oil trusts is neither their diversification nor their marketing operations—though these are important—but their control of refining. The handful of private interests who control the refining process will always enjoy a stranglehold over the supply and price of oil. Through this, their indirect control of other energy sources can be guaranteed.

Most of the rest of the AFL-CIO's program calls for banning oil imports and freezing all assets held in this country by nations which embargo oil shipments to the United States. This policy will certainly mean a brutal trade and economic war, and possibly military conflict. And all this is only to defend the same US oil monopolies that are ripping off workers in this country! And the goal of the AFL-CIO's program was supposed to be lessening the oil giants' power, and helping working people.

The energy crisis cannot be solved by so-called "regulation" of the monopolies, or by trying to "break them up" through cutting off one tentacle of a gigantic octopus. Nor will it be solved by raising gasoline prices—either by Gerald Ford's

\$3.00 tariff or by the Democrats' massive gas tax increase.

To break the power of the oil monopolies, they must be nationalized without compensation, plain and simple. They should be taken over by the government, and run under the control of the workers. The monopolies can't be "broken up," but the economic and political power of the capitalists who own them can and must be destroyed.

The idea of nationalizing these private monopolies is not new. It has been raised and publicly discussed since the energy crisis was announced in 1973 by profit-hungry oil companies.

Why do the labor officials, who supposedly represent the interests of American workers, refuse to even mention this simple, logical and effective solution of nationalization? The reason, in a nutshell, is that the nationalization of a giant and hugely profitable industry in this country would strike a serious blow at the sanctity of capitalist private profit.

And the AFL-CIO leaders are bound to that system. But working people have no interest in sacrificing to return profits to the oil monopolies. Taking the oil industry out of private hands—nationalizing it under workers' control—is the answer that workers must fight for. □

## Dear Workers Power, I was r

### Lousy Social Services

I was recently fired from my job as a "crisis intervention—telephone counselor." The organization's motto is "Helping you build a life you can live with."

When people began getting laid off around here, they would call our "crisis center" for information and help, needing money for rent, food, medical bills and other stuff.

It got pretty embarrassing to be telling people to go to the unemployment, welfare, and food stamp offices for help when we knew they'd have to stand in line for hours, often to be told they weren't eligible because they made too much money the previous month—or the thousand-and-one other loopholes which deny people assistance when it's needed most!

I and others on the staff complained bitterly—not only a-

bout the lousy social services available, but about our own low pay and increased work load with no extra staffing.

Unfortunately, we have no union yet. Consequently I was set up as an example of what will happen to other employees who speak up too much: dismissed without any protection to regain my job.

I hope other so-called "professional" workers will take note. We need union protection—especially in times like these.

These institutions—as those hospital articles you had pointed out—operate strictly along business methods; real human needs are only squeezed in as is necessary to meet the budget and make a good public image!

J.E.  
Louisville, Ky.

### Power To The People

All power to the people and Revolutionary Greetings to all Third World people and their fighting liberation forces! We, the brothers in the People's struggle against imperialism once again express our solidarity with all oppressed people of this planet earth in armed struggle against the forces of oppression.

Comrades, I have read some few publications, but I cannot find any that have made the gesture toward people's revolution as your publication has. It is to this, your Workers' Power, that I now address myself.

I would be ever so grateful to be in receipt of a subscription from your fund, as I am a POW locked in the Box of Solitary Confinement, and who is without the necessary funds to pay for a subscription.

Please be informed that me and my fellow Comrades are presently locked in the Box of Solitary Confinement by the enemy of the people who is trying to suppress our views and opinions about the struggle.

So until we hear from you. All Power to the People.

A Prisoner  
Graterford, Pa.

### Nursing Home Murderers— "Pay Them A Visit"

In regard to your article on killing off the aged in nursing homes—this should come as no surprise.

As long as you are young enough to work, there is a chance you can get non-fatal medical care. After all, it is usually cheaper to repair a worker than to raise a new one.

But once you are past the age where the owners are willing to hire you anymore, into a Bergman nursing home to be done away with. And if they can get some of the workers' social security tax money to pay for their killing you, so much the better for them.

Next time you hear of a relative of one of your co-workers being murdered in one of these homes, why don't you and some of your friends from work (say around 500) go pay them a visit.

S.F.  
New Jersey



Bergman ...



...and one of his victims.

### Birchall Review

Kevin Bradley's review of *Workers Against the Monolith* by Ian Birchall contains the statement, "The secret of the Communist parties is that they are anti-capitalist and feed off the anti-capitalist aspirations of workers and peas-

ants, yet they are also anti-working class and anti-socialist. They wish to replace capitalism with a bureaucratic collectivist society like that of Russia."

Ian Birchall's book presents no such viewpoint. In fact, Birchall presents a great deal of evidence that the Communist parties are in reality not anti-capitalist at all, but have accommodated themselves to the capitalist order.

### Correction

The review of "Workers' Against the Monolith," by Ian Birchall, that appeared in *Workers' Power* #114 may have indicated to our readers that Ian Birchall considers the Communist Parties in western Europe today to represent potential Stalinist ruling classes.

This is not the case. Birchall's book argues that the Communist Parties today are essentially no longer Stalinist, but have become transformed into reformist social-democratic parties.

We apologize for this possible confusion, which is our fault and not that of Kevin Bradley who wrote the review.

In Birchall's own words, "In perspective, activity, and support, the CPs are becoming increasingly social democratic parties in the classic sense."

"Although in many cases the CPs retain a commitment to revolutionary perspectives on the level of rhetoric (itself a feature in common with the pre-1914 social democratic parties) some spokesmen have explicitly spelled out the reformist perspective."

"In his Testament (Italian CP leader) Togliatti wrote: 'The question arises of the possibility of the working class capturing the positions of power within a state that has not changed its bourgeois nature, and thereby of the possibility of fighting for its progressive transformation from inside.'"

"By the mid-fifties, all the CPs in industrialized countries were firmly convinced that there was a parliamentary road to socialism that necessitated years and years of coalition governments with any bourgeois party that would consent to sit in a government with them."

Finally, it should be noted that Ian Birchall considers that even those regimes like Russia and China which Kevin Bradley calls "bureaucratic collectivist" to be a form of state capitalism.

Emmet Casey  
San Francisco, Ca.

### Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

What you like about the paper - and what you don't. What you think of the political ideas we present, and your comments on problems facing working people.

But please be brief.

# Abortion Rights Under Attack

by Ellisa Clarke

Anti-abortion forces have won another victory. Dr. Kenneth Edelin was found guilty on February 15 of manslaughter. He was charged with the death of a male fetus in a legal abortion he performed at the Boston City Hospital.

Edelin is a black man. He was chief resident of obstetrics and



Dr. Kenneth Edelin with one of his supporters.

gynecology at Boston City Hospital which is located in the black community of Roxbury.

His case was tried in Boston, a city torn by racist hysteria over busing. His jury was all white, and ten were Roman Catholics. The Catholic Church considers abortion a sin.

Edelin's lawyer, William Ho-mans, said, "This is a racist town

right now. I'd almost rather be in the South trying this case."

## PROSECUTION

The lawyer for the prosecution was Thayer Fremont-Smith. Fremont-Smith is involved with the anti-abortion group called Massachusetts Right-to-Life. He is also defending the Boston Home and School Association in its attempt to block desegregation in Boston schools.

The case centered around whether the 24 week old fetus was "viable," that is, whether or not it could survive outside of the mother's womb.

Medical opinion is divided on whether a fetus is viable at 24 or 28 weeks.

In instructing the jury, Judge James McGuire said that Dr. Edelin could be found guilty only if the jurors considered the fetus a person.

The defense maintained that Dr. Edelin could not have committed manslaughter because the fetus was not a person, and therefore no person ever existed.

Dr. Edelin said, "I just hope that this decision today will not throw us back to where [women] will have to continue to put their lives and their

health on the line."

"During illegal abortions, not only did the fetuses die, but many women died. And many women suffered... And the problem is, the women who died were poor women and mainly black women.

"You cannot legislate abortion out of the picture. They tried that for years. If it's going to exist, they at least ought to make it safe..."

## WOMEN TO SUFFER

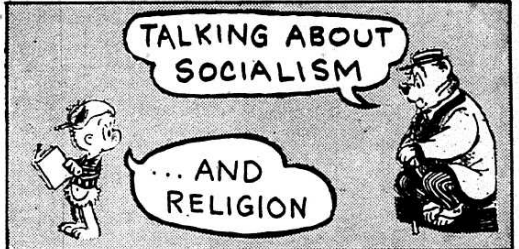
The verdict in Boston will make second trimester abortions difficult to get, despite the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. This will affect mostly poor women.

black women, mothers of large families, and above all very young women.

It is these women who are often forced, by money and by circumstances, to delay abortions to the second trimester.

Edelin's sentence is a defeat for all women. It is the first setback since the right to abortion was won in 1973. It was won only after women all over the country mobilized to demand that right.

Dr. Edelin will appeal his case, and hopefully the conviction will be overturned. But women must organize to protect their rights, for otherwise, as this case shows, they will be taken away.



## BERNARD O'HIGGINS

The system is in crisis. Unemployment is rushing toward 10%. People are beginning to ask themselves how we got into this mess and how we are going to get out of it. Most working people still haven't gotten much of an answer to that question.

But types like the Reverend Soon Myung Moon—a South Korean evangelist with CIA connections—are popping up every day claiming to have an answer, as all good saviors do.

They say that there's a spiritual crisis. Human values are crumbling, atheism is spreading, human society is out of order. Their solution to the crisis is a spiritual rebirth.

And, in fact, the ordinary, organized churches report that more people are attending their services as the economic crisis deepens.

## NO POWER

"Religion is the opiate of the people" is one of the most well-known things Karl Marx ever said. It's also one of the truest. People don't take opiates—morphine, heroin, whatever—to have fun. They don't take them to have a good time. They take them because they are in pain and they need to escape that pain.

Our working lives are controlled by capitalists and their flunkies—we have no power over how we spend the better part of our waking hours. We're constantly threatened with unemployment, and many of us are regularly thrown out of work.

Prices keep rising faster than our wages do. Millions of us get dragged off to fight and die in our bosses' wars. We don't get much of a chance to develop ourselves as individuals.

When we get home from work we're usually too drained and too frustrated to do much more than drink beer and watch TV.

Religion provides answers for people who are troubled by a seemingly irrational world. It teaches that it is honorable to be poor or disadvantaged because you'll be rewarded in a future life. It teaches obedience to authority, and that people are incapable

of solving their own problems. The experience of powerlessness teaches people to accept the doctrine of powerlessness.

## SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK

But capitalism isn't breaking down because people don't go to church as much as they used to. It isn't breaking down because teenagers take drugs and don't respect their parents any more. It isn't breaking down because people look at girlie magazines and go to massage parlors.

Capitalism is in crisis because the system is becoming economically unworkable. Only war and the threat of war have kept capitalism going for the last thirty years.

## LOVING JESUS

We've all met lost souls who wander around their factory or warehouse advising militants that there's no point hassling with the company—only chanting "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo" or loving Jesus will make us happy.

In a strike situation no one would think much of a worker who told everyone else that "the Lord will provide" when the real problem is how to hurt the company the hardest and fastest in order to win the strike. In the same way, we have to come up with real ways to halt unemployment and to stop the bosses from cutting our throats in this crisis.

The only way of looking at things that will do us any good is what Marx called "materialism"—trying to understand how society fits together, where your class stands in relation to the system, and what you can do about it.

Religion is superstition. In all its forms it is a philosophy for people who don't see a social way out of their social problems. Marx's materialism on the other hand, is the method of thought for a working class that's tired of being a victim of the corporations, that's sick of unemployment and insecurity. It's the method of thought for workers who are ready to fight back.

# Teamster Bigwigs Exposed As Petty Crooks

CLEVELAND—Two Ohio Teamster honchos are under fire from the Labor Department for their past criminal activity. The Department wants William Presser to resign his post as trustee of the Central, Southeast, and Southwest States Pension Fund. In February, 1971

he pleaded guilty to eight misdemeanor counts of shaking down employers to advertise in a Teamster magazine.

Presser has held the post since 1957. He is also a vice-president of the International and President of the Ohio Joint Council 41. From his

various Teamster jobs, he makes a salary in six figures.

Andrew Suckart was recently appointed to the new post of Ohio organizer for Joint Council 41. He is being challenged because of a June, 1971 guilty plea to possession of 98 bars of nickel. The nickel was stolen en route from Huntingdon, W. Va. to Harshaw Chemical Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

Both Presser and Suckart claim that their crimes are exempt from the provisions of the Pension Reform Act and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. The laws prevent persons convicted of certain crimes from holding union office.

Both men have filed suit to keep their posts, and their cases will be heard by Federal Judge William K. Thomas.

It seems that these two men got a bit confused. It has long been a Teamster officials' tradition to steal from the members. But stealing from the owners, that's a different story. You might just get the government upset about that.

What's likely to result is some sort of deal to allow these characters to continue in office. There will be no justice in the union until the Teamster membership enforces it themselves.

# Jersey Workers Chase Governor

TRENTON, N.J.—It took only 42 seconds to chase the governor off the platform. That's what happened when New Jersey Governor Byrne tried to address a crowd of two thousand angry public employees here February 13.

Byrne is a liberal Democrat and the darling of many of the union bureaucrats who called the rally at the state capitol. But state workers were angry enough about layoffs and a wage freeze to boo the Governor off the stage.

Some of the liberal politicians and union bureaucrats who spoke had a plan to restore the jobs: a state income tax. But a large number of workers weren't buying

it. "Tax the corporations," they shouted whenever the income tax proposal was mentioned.

The idea of the union leaders who called the rally was to lobby with the politicians. That's why they planned it for noon on a workday, when most workers around the state have to be at work.

Better than this—and something which would have carried real weight—would be a real mobilization of 50,000 public employees, backed up by a one-day strike.

But the leaders of our unions are not fighters. So it's the job of rank and filers to put enough heat on them to get them out of their seats.

# SAN FRANCISCO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FIGHT CUTBACKS

SAN FRANCISCO—Several hundred demonstrators challenged San Francisco school board Thursday night, Feb. 20. Chanting "Stop the cutbacks," and Board says cutback—we say fight back" the demonstrators were protesting the unprecedented cutbacks in all extracurricular programs in the San Francisco public schools.

With their large numbers and their high spirits, they forced the board, to adjourn its meeting in a cramped auditorium and move to more spacious quarters in Galileo High School. Visibly shaken, board

President Lucille Abrahamson pleaded with "responsible" community leaders to get the students out of the auditorium.

What frightened Mrs. Abrahamson was the sight of students on the move. The demonstration, which brought together large numbers of teenagers, parents, and students, was organized by Students United Against the Cutbacks (SUAC), which includes members of the Red Tide, youth group of the IS.

One member of the Red Tide told the board that the cutbacks showed they were not interested in educa-

tion. "How the hell can this country be run by uneducated people, or that a privilege reserved for the sons and daughters of big business capitalists who can afford to send their children to private schools?" she shouted.

Teacher layoffs are still to come as the board attempts to shove the results of capitalism's economic crisis onto the backs of school workers and students. As the board continues to attack us, the fight back will continue.

Emmet Casey



# THE C.I.A.

# BY AN INSIDE MAN LOOKING OUT

[Inside the Company, CIA Diary, by Phillip Agee. Penguin Books, 640 pp. 1974.]

by Rodney Larson

In the last few years, there have been an increasing number of volumes published that deal with the intelligence community. These have ranged from the sensational to the sublime. Some of them were, without doubt, written with the cooperation of the subjects. Now, one has come out that may surpass them all in terms of pure usefulness. Phillip B.F. Agee's *Inside the Company, CIA Diary*, which has recently been released by Penguin Books in London. It is packed with names, dates, places, lists of agency cover operations and firms that add another dimension to the CIA's technology of subversion.

The book lacks a proper index. The contents are arranged in a semi sort of chronological order that makes it difficult to read. There are frequent infusions of unnecessary details of the personal and personality problems of the subjects.

## INSIDE GLIMPSE

Nevertheless, Agee has succeeded in giving an inside glimpse of the life of a covert action operator over the years that will delight the mischievous and horrify the professionals. The 640 page volume ends with a 26 page index that will prove source material for enterprising researchers for years to come.

An example will illustrate the point. Agee states on page 300 that he "arranged for Jack Otero, the Assistant Inter-American Representative of the International Transport Workers Federation, and one of our contract labor agents, to come to Quito from Rio de Janeiro to help defend the CEOSL railway union.

What he means by that one sentence is that a covert operative, working under cover in the international trade union movement, was being moved in to assist an agency-controlled union in its efforts to combat competition from more leftist unions.

Otero, the agent in question, had a long history in the field of international labor affairs. At the time Agee knew him he was working for the International Transport Workers Federation. The IFT is a world-wide association of unions with members in the field of transportation

with millions of members. The offices are in London and there are a dozen or more affiliates in the US.

This may seem a little obscure to the general reader but a little research will show that Otero is still active.

## LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT

At the present time he is an International Vice-President of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks and Freight Handlers of America. His duties still include international affairs and he is a frequent contributor to union publications. He has worked in Asia and Europe in addition to Latin America.

Otero is also the first Vice-President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, an ethnic labor committee inside the AFL-CIO that is pledged to work for the betterment of Americans of Latin descent. The LCLAA was founded with George Meany's blessing, at a time when many rank-and-file ethnic committees were springing up in unions throughout the US. It has active standing committees on political action, fund raising, community liaison work and civil service.

Otero's role, as Agee describes him, as a "contract labor agent" may raise some eyebrows in his union and it may also cause some questions by other union people affiliated with the LACAA. Is this an example of the cold war coming home? Is the LACAA to be used as one of the domestic cover operations of the CIA? A listing of disclosures of this sort could go on for pages. The details of CIA electronic surveillance, burglaries, bribery of journalists, politicians, labor officials and others is sufficient to cause the reader to wonder if there is any policy in Latin America, or elsewhere, that is not clouded by this atmosphere.

Agee's book is full of hundreds of bits and pieces of information that can be developed with research. There are so many examples of valuable detail that the book is difficult to read.

The chief value of the volume is to offer a glimpse of a secret world that is just beginning to reach the consciousness of the average American. The book will certainly do nothing to restore credibility in the leadership of the nation over the last few years. □



# Now I've Got The Pill...

"The Pill" is a new release by Loretta Lynn on MCA Records. It is a song which reveals a person casting off old illusions, mainly those of her husband.

Many radio stations have taken it into their conservative heads to ban this hit. For those who haven't heard it the song is the anthem of a woman who's had a baby every year since marriage. But now she's got the pill.

And, she informs her husband, there's going to be some changes made, and how! All these years she felt like a hen being set to brood while he went out and had a good time. But no more.

The rhythm and words of the song are full of the ecstasy and confidence of one who's discovered a sure route to a freedom she always thought impossible.

"The maternity dress is going in the garbage." Who could have imagined it there—instead of in the closet, ready for its annual trip over her head and round her growing figure. And yet, what would have seemed ridiculous yesterday, is actually happening today.

But while she's throwing out the dress, she's not throwing out her husband—she's simply standing up to him. With all the songs on the country stations about wives who have affairs, it's disturbing to find they think this more of a threat.

She says at the end, that though she's tired of his fooling around while she's been home with their babies, she's "...ready to make a deal/you can't afford to turn it down/cause now I've got the pill."

Then she sings of how "the feeling good comes easy now"; she's looking forward to tonight; and he shouldn't worry none, cause mama's got the pill.

Clearly the deal is that not only will she forgive him, she is eager to have a good time with him, better than ever before, because she'll be free of worry about pregnancy. All he has to do is accept her decision to have no more babies.

If he objects...well, she still has the pill, and for once, the upper hand. □

Karen Kaye

# Assassination CIA Style

A couple of years ago Jack Anderson ran a column about repeated attempts to kill Fidel Castro that were organized and directed by the CIA with the use of exiled anti-Castro Cubans. Robert Maheu of the Hughes empire was said to be involved, along with former CIA director John McCone.

At that time, the stories were so incredible and with so many implications that they were generally disbelieved. McCone vigorously denied any charges and scoffed at Anderson's allegations that the Dominican dictator Trujillo may also have fallen victim to a CIA murder team.

Now Agee informs us that his station chief, Ned F. Nolman, who later served in Guatemala City, informed him that the 1965 Dominican invasion "all goes back to the Agency's assassination of Trujillo. He was chief of the Caribbean branch in headquarters at the time and was



deeply involved in planning the assassination, which was done by Cuban exiles from Miami using weapons we sent through the diplomatic pouch. The weapons were passed on to the assassins through a US citizen who was an agent of the Santo Domingo station and owner of a supermarket." Apparently the murder squads described by Anderson did exist.

Agee has additional information about the large influx of agents sent into the Dominican Republic following the overthrow of Bosch in 1965—most likely to garner information about the allegations of Communists in government made by Lyndon Johnson. Few people were able to understand the "evidence" put forth by Johnson at the time and Agee was also confused.

Looking at things from his own position in the CIA he concludes that "they just don't want Bosch back in and the 'they' is probably US sugar interests." □

## REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM

by Celia Emerson

The history of the struggle for women's liberation from a revolutionary socialist viewpoint.

65c postpaid from:

Sun Distribution International  
14131 Woodward Avenue  
Highland Park, MI 48203

# IS Committee Meets

The National Committee of the International Socialists met in Detroit the weekend of February 15-17. The theme running through the meeting was that we must respond to a rapidly developing economic depression and political crisis. We must intensify our efforts to organize and lead groups of workers in struggle and to build a revolutionary workers' party.

IS National Secretary Marilyn Danton, reporting for the Executive Committee, began the discussion by urging that revolutionary socialists today must turn to agitational work inside the working class. Within the unions and the rank and file movement, we must provide leadership for immediate demands and struggles of workers.

Among our immediate plans will be organizing demonstrations for total overtime bans while there are layoffs. We will continue to build union unemployed committees to assist and organize unemployed workers. We will fight against the union leaders' program of defending corporate profits and giving away rights won by workers.

The NC adopted the report, which stressed that the IS will be built rapidly by providing leadership to working class militants and winning them to our politics.

The same basic idea lay behind the other decisions that were

made. In a discussion led by Editor Gay Semel it was proposed and approved that our newspaper Workers' Power begin preparing to go to weekly publication. This change will be carried out within the next year.

## WEEKLY PAPER

A weekly newspaper will be a much more powerful tool for bringing revolutionary politics and perspectives into the factories, the unions and rank and file organizations, and the struggles of women workers, blacks and oppressed minorities.

IS National Chairman Joel Geier introduced a discussion on the political effects of the economic crisis in the U.S. Very sharp political changes may occur within the next few years for two important reasons. The ruling class has no unified program to solve a crisis of combined rampant inflation and mass unemployment. And there is no streamlined and disciplined capitalist party to provide political direction.

An important section of the Democratic Party is attempting to break up the old coalition of Dixiecrats and northern city machines. Their aim is to create a national liberal party with a program to update the system and

hold down working peoples' demands.

## WORKING CLASS PARTY

As the Democratic Party begins to change, the possibility of an independent working class political party will become far greater than at present.

The most important effect of this crisis, however, is that many workers are beginning to see that there is no secure future for them within this system. As workers begin to see socialist revolution as the only answer to the problems facing them and their families, a strong revolutionary party can be built.

The NC also reviewed and discussed the work of the organization among unemployed workers, especially around heavy layoffs in industry. No mass movement of the unemployed can be built by magic formulas or simple appeals from the outside.

However, groups of militants are beginning to organize for unemployed committees which can fight overtime during layoffs, organize on behalf of workers victimized by unemployment and welfare bureaucracies, and begin spearheading a fight to solve the crisis by demanding jobs and full pay for all.

## IS BRANCH FORMS IN PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH—A new IS branch has been formed in the steel city. The main activity of the new branch will be around heavy industry.

The Pittsburgh area is one of the most important centers of industry and the working class movement in the country. It has a rich and old history, from the Homestead strike of 1892, the organizing of the United Steel Workers in the 1930s to the Dues Protest Movement of the early 60s.

Today, a rank and file movement is being built in steel to fight the companies, and to oppose the class traitors of the Abel bureaucracy.

Members of the branch have been active in the Pittsburgh chapter of CLUW and are fighting for a program of action to build CLUW. This involves strike support and a fight against the layoffs.

The branch was formed out of a study group and has quickly moved to active collective work. It is expected that the branch will grow quickly over the next year and become an important force in the city.

## WHAT'S ON

**Detroit, Thursday, March 6—** Women and the Workers' Movement. Film "The Inheritance," speakers and refreshment. Trinity Methodist Church, 13100 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI. 7:30 pm. Childcare; call 869-3137.

David McNally

# Canadians Set Up Independent Socialists

A new revolutionary socialist group has been formed in Canada. At a meeting held in Toronto over the weekend of February 8-9 the Independent Socialists (Ontario), a fraternal organization of the International Socialists of the United States and Great Britain, was founded.

The Independent Socialists developed as a revolutionary response to the breakdown of "left nationalist" politics in Canada.

The 1960s witnessed the rise of nationalist politics among students and intellectuals in Canada. The domination of Canada, both politically and economically, by the United States led many hundreds and thousands of Canadians to rally around the cause of Canadian independence.

But the politics of left nationalism could offer no real solution to the problem of American domination.

Only a political strategy based on working class revolution and international socialism could hope to challenge American imperialism at its roots.

Left nationalism grew up with the beginnings of capitalist crisis in Canada. With the deepening of the crisis in the 1970s, nationalist politics proved unable to meet the needs of workers responding to attacks on their living standards.

This led to the disintegration of left nationalist organizations.

The Independent Socialists represent a revolutionary Marxist alternative to left nationalism in Canada. As the Canadian economy breeds rising inflation, layoffs and unemployment, Canadian workers are fighting back with a militancy unseen in thirty years.

At the same time, the trade union bureaucracy and its political arm, the New Democratic Party, are no longer able to meet the demands of workers and dampen the class struggle simultaneously.

This situation offers the Independent Socialists the possibility to participate in building a rank and file opposition movement in the trade unions. Already this work is underway in several unions with IS members involved in the publication of rank and file newsletters.

This participation in the building of a rank and file movement will lay the basis for the construction of a revolutionary workers' party in Canada.

The Independent Socialists are preparing for the publication of newspaper, Workers' Action, in the near future. Workers' Action will encourage the formation of a national IS organization in Canada.

The monthly newspaper of the Revolutionary Youth Organization, Youth Section of the IS.

P.O. Box 64402  
L.A. California 90064

1 year—\$2.00     Sustainer—\$5.00

Name .....

Address .....

.....Zip

School/Workplace .....

International Socialists  
14131 Woodward Ave.  
Highland Park, MI 48203

I would like more information about International Socialists.

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

Occupation .....

## What We Stand For

The International Socialists is a revolutionary socialist organization. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and work as a member of our organization to achieve them. These principles are:

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Socialism must be achieved by the independent action of the working class. The liberation of the working class can be won only by the struggles of workers themselves.

### SOCIALISM FROM BELOW

Both capitalism and bureaucratic collectivism (the system of dictatorship in Russia, China, and the other so-called "Communist" societies) must be replaced through working class revolution. This will create a socialist society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people. The wealth produced by labor will be controlled collectively by workers and used to produce a decent life and freedom for all.

### DESTROY THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state is a weapon of capitalist class rule. Its institutions like the legislature, army, police and courts cannot simply be taken over by the working class and used to build socialism. The working revolution must destroy the old state and create one of an entirely different kind. It will establish direct rule by the masses of people based on workers councils elected at the workplace.

### MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

The trade unions are today the only mass organizations of the working class. To make the unions fighting instruments of workers against the employers, we work to build their struggles, and fight for rank and file control.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The socialist revolution must be international. We fight for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose all racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples in this country and worldwide. We call for international solidarity and cooperation among unions in different countries. We oppose all immigration controls, protectionism, and strike-breaking by workers in one country or one union against those in another.

### AGAINST BUREAUCRATIC COLLECTIVISM

The first successful socialist revolution was made by the Russian working class in 1917. But the revolution was isolated, and destroyed by a counterrevolution led by Stalin. Today Russia, China, and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but bureaucratic dictatorships. We support workers' struggle in these countries for democracy and freedom and call for revolution against the bureaucratic ruling class.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To create socialism, the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The party does not represent an elite to rule over the workers "in their interests." It is a political force helping to organize workers and leading them to take state power and control society as a class. The activity of the I.S. is directed toward building such a party. Building a rank and file movement based on the principles described here strengthens the consciousness, self-confidence and organization of the working class, and is the road by which a revolutionary party will be built.

### WHERE WE STAND

- \*For rank and file control of the unions. No secret negotiations. All contracts to be won by mass membership meetings. For rank and file committees to lead the struggle when union officials refuse to fight, and national and file opposition caucuses in the international unions.
- \*For class struggle unionism. Abolish all anti-labor legislation. No restriction on the right to strike, picket or boycott.
- \*Defend working conditions. No control on wages. Against unemployment, layoffs, and speed-up. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. We demand the right to a job at union wages for everyone. Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.
- \*Equality for all oppressed peoples. Full support to their liberation struggles. For the right of the black community and other oppressed peoples to defend themselves. Against all forms of racism, police harassment and discrimination. For independent organization by black and other specially oppressed workers to fight
- for their own demands. Independence for Puerto Rico.
- \*Abolish all forms of sexual oppression. For equal pay for equal economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion. For a working class women's liberation movement. End discrimination against gay people.
- \*Against imperialism, East and West. Against all nuclear weapons and imperialist alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. For unconditional support to all national liberation movements, against both US and Russian imperialism. We support the military victory of the National Liberation Front over US imperialism in Vietnam, but we give no political support to the anti-working class dictatorship the NLF represents.
- \*No support to Republican, Democratic and Wallaceite parties and candidates. For an independent political party of the working class, based on the unions and controlled by the rank and file, to struggle against the capitalist parties.

### I.S. BRANCHES

National Office: 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203

Bay Area: P.O. Box 910, Berkeley, CA 94701

Bloomington: 4237 Penn Ct., Bloomington, IN 47401

Boston: P.O. Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114

Chicago: P.O. Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Station, Chicago, IL 60611

Cleveland: E.O. Box 02239, Cleveland, OH 44102

Detroit: 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. 869-3137.

Los Angeles: Box 110, 306 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Louisville: P.O. Box 14455, Louisville, KY 40214

Madison: 914 Jennifer, Madison, WI 53703

New York: 17 E. 17 St., New York, NY 10003

Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 9024, Bloomfield Sta., Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Portland: P.O. Box 06274, Portland, OR 97206

San Francisco: P.O. Box 1045, San Francisco, CA 94101

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

St. Louis: P.O. Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130



**Last April and May, celebrations of job and solidarity with the army officers in Portugal who had overthrown the old dictatorship were common. Tanks were surrounded by cheering crowds and covered with carnations. After a year of growing class struggle, Portugal's revolutionary crisis is deeper than ever.**

by Dan Posen

Portugal's ten months since April, 1974 have been a period of one political crisis after another. They have also been a time of excitement, activity, and intense struggle among Portuguese workers.

What has occurred in Portugal is almost a whole year of pre-revolutionary crisis. This crisis is far from over, but it is now coming to a head.

Possibly in a few months, certainly within the next year, the political future of Portugal for the next number of years will be settled. It may still be resolved for a time by a compromise among some of the conflicting forces. But as the struggle grows sharper, it looks more and more likely that the future of Portugal will be decided by a coup, a civil war—or a workers' revolution.

The outcome will be decisive not only for Portugal itself. It will have an enormous impact on events in Spain, where the authority of the Franco dictatorship is crumbling away week by week.

What does the Portuguese working class need in order to win? What are the forces that are lined up against it? What are the most critical questions that have been raised as these ten months have unfolded?

**NATIONAL LIBERATION**

Before last April, Portugal was ruled for 50 years by a fascist government. All political life, all attempts to organize workers, had to go underground. Opponents of the regime were seized, tortured by political police, and often never seen again.

It was not only the machinery of terror that kept this government in power, however. Political stability in Portugal was financed and guaranteed by control of colonies in Africa, in particular Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (now called Guinea-Bissau).

These colonies provided avenues for white settlers to escape from the poverty of Portugal, to become privileged rulers and employers of black Africans.

Most important, exploiting the colonies (especially mineral-rich Angola) returned fantastic profits to the huge monopolies that ruled Portugal, even while the country itself remained among the poorest in Europe.

There were brief periods when the monopolies attempted to use some of these profits to create some limited economic development in Portugal. But these efforts generally failed—and hundreds of thousands of Portuguese workers were forced out of the country to find work in Common Market countries.

Yet so long as the fabulous flow of profits continued, Portugal's capitalists were more than happy to support the fascist regime which kept the colonies—and Portuguese

workers suffered the consequences.

It was the colonial wars of the last 15 years that cracked the regime apart. One after the other, the colonial masses of Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique launched wars of liberation.

Portugal managed to hang on through terror and genocide. But after over a decade it became clear that the wars could not be won—and instead of profits rolling in, Portugal was staggering toward collapse as all its resources were poured into maintaining its armies.

that national unity meant different things to different classes of people in society.

For the capitalists and senior army officers who originally backed Spínola, national unity meant order and social peace.

It meant that independence would be promised to the colonies for some time in the future, but meanwhile the Portuguese occupation would continue until they could reach favorable terms with moderate forces in the liberation struggles.

It meant that workers would gratefully accept the overthrow of fascism, and in return their state-controlled unions would cooperate peacefully with the employers without raising unreasonable wage demands.

**MEANING OF DEMOCRACY**

But by the time the first Prime Minister Palma Carlos resigned, denouncing "anarchy and indiscipline," it was clear that the idea of national unity between opposing

class, both national unity and democracy meant something different. They believed it meant that the destruction of fascism would be carried out to the finish, and that they could fight for everything that had been denied them for decades.

As a result, Portuguese workers, who believed that their own interests were really those of "national unity," began streaming into unions and waging militant strikes. They threw the old pro-fascist managers out of the plants, and began seizing and trying to lynch their old torturers, the secret police, on the streets.

The massive surge of Portuguese workers to the left blocked Spínola's plans for a neo-colonial settlement in Africa, greatly strengthening the liberation struggles. Meanwhile, the Mozambique liberation army FRELIMO launched a new offensive to make sure it would not be cheated of its victory.

When the Democratic Center conference in the city of Oporto was broken up by left-wing demonstrations, the capitalists screamed that

**PORTUGAL: Which Way To Socialism?**

Quietly backed by some of the biggest monopolists who saw their whole system in danger, Antonio de Spínola, the man responsible for the murder of Amílcar Cabral and one of the most vicious pro-fascist generals in Portugal's army in Guinea, went into opposition. He said the war could never be won and that Portugal must negotiate with the liberation forces.

**"NATIONAL UNITY"**

The political revolution of April got rid of an old regime, but it only opened up the fight over who would rule in its place.

The first response to the coup was an overwhelming public outburst of joy and celebration. The army officers and Spínola appeared to have united everyone around the aims of anti-fascist freedom and national unity.

In fact the idea of "national unity" became the rallying cry for all political forces who wanted everyone to hail Antonio de Spínola as the savior and the next great political leader of Portugal.

It soon became clear, however,

classes was a fraud.

The other great slogan pushed to the fore in Portugal was the cry of "democracy." Every political party, from the right-wing Democratic Center to the Communist Party, claims to be the champion of democratic elections, democratic rights and freedom.

Of course, democratic rights are critically important—there can be no socialism without them. But "democracy," like "national unity," means very different things to different classes.

For the capitalists, the very essence of "democracy" is their ability to exploit and rule over workers in peace, through a parliament elected by general vote but controlled firmly by big money.

When Portugal's capitalists speak of democracy, they mean laws to rigidly control strikes. They mean allowing right-wing parties to organize, outlawing left-wing demonstrations against NATO bases, and keeping stores of arms to give to fascist groups if they decided a more right-wing government should be installed.

But for the Portuguese working

the threat of violent disruption was a brutal threat to democracy. Most workers, however, know very well that the Democratic Center itself is the rallying point for fascism and counter-revolution, the forces which would destroy all the gains of the battle for democracy.

**THE COMMUNIST PARTY**

The Portuguese Communist Party, which was active in the anti-fascist illegal movement for 50 years [its newspaper was published underground without interruption since 1923], has become an increasingly critical force in Portugal in the last few months.

The CP is a party with tremendous influence in the working class. Many workers see it as the party which represents their political interests, even though they dislike its conservative and bureaucratic approach to the economic struggle.

The CP, on paper, appears to stand for everything at once. It puts itself forward as the party of working class interests. Yet at the same time, it also claims to be the true champion of "national unity

among patriotic classes," of classless "democracy," of peace and social order.

The Communist Party claims to stand for socialism, and is aligned with bureaucratic states like Russia which claim to be socialist. Yet it also states that it is friendly to the capitalists, that it welcomes foreign investment and is not opposed to NATO, and that capitalists will be paid back whenever the government nationalizes sections of industry.

The CP is the leading force in the unions, and through its influence in the government has helped establish a law creating a single trade union federation which the CP will be able to dominate.

Many workers probably supported this law, because of the increased power that workers have in a united union. Yet at the same time the CP has been the most vicious strike-breaker in Portugal whenever workers demand wage increases which the bosses claim they can't afford.

The Communist Party is not a simple reformist party, which wants to save capitalism by restructuring it. But neither is it a party which will mobilize the working class for socialism—because socialism is not its aim.

The CP aims, through the April elections or other means, to become securely implanted in the capitalist government. In time, its leaders hope to become the dominant political force, to take over and transform the state to a bureaucratic system as in Russia.

The CP will eventually be for massive nationalizations of industry—but without any hint of workers' control of this process. The CP will ally with the state apparatus to make sure working class activity is rigidly controlled.

But this means that when the crunch comes, the working class will be without leadership. It will be a spectator in the battle over which ruling class will control it.

**REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

Socialist revolution is possible in Portugal today. The crisis is sharpening, inflation is raging, and Portuguese workers have shown tremendous militancy—in strikes and on the barricades against right-wing threats.

Only one essential ingredient is missing. There is, as yet, no revolutionary workers' party to organize and lead the struggle for revolution.

It is extremely difficult to organize a revolutionary party from scratch, in the very midst of the explosion and the struggle for power. In Russia in 1917, the one example of where there was a revolutionary Bolshevik party to lead the workers to power, it was built not in a few months but in the course of a 20-year struggle.

In Portugal today, the time is getting desperately short—but it is not too late.

Revolutionaries must be prepared to take the lead of militant strikes when the CP and its government allies try to crush them. They have to demand and agitate that workers must be armed now to deal with the next right-wing plot.

They can begin arguing now that workers must organize their own independent action committees in the factories and the neighborhoods, even when the government and the union bureaucrats denounce them. In this way, revolutionaries can become the leaders of workers' struggles and organize a revolutionary party.

Such a party can be prepared to turn the struggle against a new right-wing coup into a battle for socialism, for real workers' democracy.

Workers' democracy will mean workers taking control of production, forming workers' councils and fighting for their own power. Today's struggles are part of the process leading toward this battle for workers' power.

But if this crucial task is not accomplished, the results will be bloody—and the struggle not only in Portugal but Spain as well may be set back for years.

# Black Woman Kills Rapist, Faces Death

# Workers' Power

by Kay Stacy

Last August Joanne Little defended herself against a rapist. The man was her jailer, and she killed him with his own weapon—an ice pick.

Today Little is kept in solitary confinement under \$100,000 bail. She is charged with first degree murder, and the state is asking the death penalty.

Little is a black woman, her attacker is a white man—and that is the simple issue at hand.

In August Joanne Little was the only woman being held in the Beaufort, North Carolina county jail.

Her lawyer says the jail has "no facilities for women, no matrons, no degree of privacy, and all the jailers are male." He added that the jail has a reputation for sexual assaults by guards on women prisoners.

## RAPE

Little's attacker was Clarence Allgood, who approached her cell that morning with his ice pick in hand. He took off his shoes and pants in the corridor. When he entered the cell he wore only a shirt, undershirt and socks.

Little states he brandished the ice pick and demanded she submit to rape: "I've been nice, now it's time you came across."

They struggled. Little snatched the ice pick and stabbed Allgood until he fell away from her. She then fled.

## TRYING TO GET A FAIR TRIAL

A week later she surrendered to Raleigh authorities. Efforts were already underway to have her declared an outlaw. (North Carolina is the only state which still has the barbaric statute. It would allow any person to kill her on sight.)

Little's lawyers have been battling authorities since they took on her case.

For three weeks they were unable to find Allgood's trousers, an important piece of evidence. No one knew where they were. Little's personal belongings were taken from the county jail and spread around to different parts of the state.

Immediately after the medical

examiner finished with Allgood's body the cell was cleaned, destroying valuable evidence.

The lawyers were finally forced to ask the judge to order all the evidence to be sent to one location. The judge denied the motion.

When the medical examiner's report noted Allgood's body was found without pants on the judge struck the doctor's name from the list of grand jury witnesses.

The lawyers have argued that it is impossible for Little to get a fair trial in Beaufort or surrounding counties. As one example they cite the presence of an Allgood relative on the grand jury that indicted her.

They point out enormous statistical evidence to prove bias in jury selection:

Fifty-four percent of the county is female, only two percent of jury panels are women.

The county is 50-55% black; juries are 98% white.

All of the defense motions were denied.

## INEZ GARCIA

Little's case has been compared to the Inez Garcia case in California. Garcia was recently convicted of second degree for murdering her rapists within an hour of the attack.

Like Garcia, Joanne Little has received wide public support and publicity from radical women and feminist groups. Perhaps even more important, there have been several marches in her defense by young black people in the Beaufort County area.

Her lawyers are quite frank about the struggle ahead: If Clarence Allgood had killed Joanne Little there'd have been a quick investigation and no charges would have been brought. But Little killed Allgood, and faces the death penalty as a result.

They believe her chances of a conviction are high: racism and sexism combined are a difficult obstacle for a young, poor black woman. "They think it's all right for the boys to have a little fun—in their minds, she should have submitted," one lawyer remarked.

Contributions are desperately needed and should be sent to Joanne Little Defense Fund, Inc., PO Box 1003, Durham, North Carolina 27702. □



Joanne Little passes the time in solitary confinement working crossword puzzles and writing poetry to develop herself.

"I used to read a lot of poetry," she says, "but I couldn't understand it. So I started to write my own."

One is called "I Am Somebody!!" and part of it reads: "I killed a white in 'self-defense' / But the jury doesn't care / And when he came for me to prepare trial / He said she deserves the chair."

Little says, "If.. when.. I get out of all this, I'm going to shut myself up in a room somewhere and put up a sign that says, 'Please, don't interrupt'."

## YOUNGSTOWN AREA

# Steelworkers Strike For Jobs

by Steve Carter

YOUNGSTOWN, O.—For six days from February 15-21, 5800 workers at Youngstown Sheet and Tube in Campbell, Ohio (United Steelworkers Local 2163) struck and stayed solid against a management move to eliminate 18 jobs.

Even though the remaining workers in the blooming mill section of the plant stood to gain a small increase in incentive payments, they joined the initial walkout.

A local court was opened specially on Sunday, February 16 to hear a company plea for an injunction. The restraining order that was issued called for union-management meetings as well as a return to work.

The Local interpreted the restraining order to require a meeting before a return to work. Management balked—and by Wednesday all 5800 workers were out.

Shoulder-to-shoulder picket lines of hundreds ensured that the strike stayed solid.

As the strike grew, Ed Mann, president of the Campbell Works' sister local, #1462 in Youngstown, expressed his full support of the strikers' demands and contacted YS&T's Indiana Harbor workers to prepare defense against any reprisals or dismissals.

Ed Mann is also a member of Rank and File Team (RAFT), a group of steelworker militants active in opposing the sellout policies of USW President I.W. Abel.

By Friday the company had backed off—for the moment. The jobs were back on schedule and the strike was over.

However, the issue will now go to arbitration, and Campbell workers may again need to act to save their jobs. Under the cover of recession and layoffs, Sheet and

Tube and other companies are pushing relentless, productivity-speedup campaigns. Abel's no-strike deal has given them the green light.

To save their jobs, steelworkers will have to fight for each job on the shop floor, and for the right to strike at the local and national level between and during the contract. This fight requires a rank and file movement—in the shops and locals and in the steelworkers' union as a whole.

In the Campbell strike, the support and contact from RAFT showed some of the immediate benefits of rank and file organization. Through an organization like RAFT a challenge to the international's policies can be mounted.

Any steelworkers seriously interested in the future of their jobs should begin organizing now. RAFT can be contacted at: RAFT, PO Box 2221, Youngstown, Ohio 44504. □

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

## Workers' Power

A revolutionary socialist biweekly, published by the International Socialists.

Subscriptions: \$5 per year. Supporting: \$7.50. Institutional: \$7.50. Foreign \$7.50. Domestic first class (sealed): \$10. Foreign first class: \$12.50. Foreign airmail (unsealed): \$17.50. Introductory subscriptions: \$1 for five issues.

I enclose..... Please send me a..... subscription to Workers' Power.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

14131 Woodward Ave.  
Highland Park, MI 48203