

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS December 26, 1975 #141 15c

In This Issue
AIM Leader Convicted . 2
New York Teachers . . . 2
Common People and the
American Revolution . 4
"Against Our Will" . . . 7

ANGOLA:

FBI Provoked Panther Murders

by Kate Stacy

INTERNAL FBI DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY THE SENATE Intelligence Committee last week prove that the secret police agency planned and provoked the murders of Black Panther Party members across the country in 1969.

The documents conclusively show that the FBI embarked on a deliberate campaign to disrupt the militant black organization internally and to discredit it in the eyes of the black community.

In Los Angeles, two Panther leaders were murdered by members of a right wing, black nationalist organization, Ron Karenga's US. After the murders, the FBI tried to provoke gang warfare between these two groups.

A directive from J. Edgar Hoover instructed 13 FBI offices to send phony inflammatory letters to the Panthers every two weeks. These letters threatened violence against Panthers by US members.

In part the directive read, "In order to fully capitalize upon BPP and US differences, as well as to exploit all avenues of creating further dissension in the ranks of the BPP, recipient offices are instructed to submit imaginative hardhitting counterintelligence measures aimed at crippling the BPP."

MORE MURDERS

In the eight months that followed four Panthers were murdered in cold-blood by members of US. There were several other tense confrontations which did not lead to violence.

Only two US members were ever tried for the murders. They were convicted of slaying "Bunchy" Carter and John Huggins. But in 1974 both mysteriously "escaped" from San Quentin prison by simply walking away from the guards during a visiting period.

The FBI's disruption campaign wasn't confined to California.

The Chicago Panthers, led by Fred Hampton (later murdered by police), were then in the process of building an alliance with the Blackstone Rangers, a powerful black street gang. This alliance could have meant tremendous organization and influence of revolutionary politics in Chicago's black community.

So in January, 1969, the FBI composed and sent a letter to the Rangers over the "signature" "A Black Brother you don't know." The letter provocatively warned the

Rangers that the Panthers planned to have their leader, Jeff Fort, killed. The letter urged a "retaliatory action" against the Black Panther Party.

The Chicago FBI recommended the letter be sent on December 16. Washington FBI gave approval on January 2, 1969. This information was released last week by Senator Philip A. Hart of Michigan, at the Senate Intelligence Committee hearings.

OTHER PLOTS

Additional testimony at the hearings revealed other FBI plots. For instance, one plan was to continually "leak" FBI documents to the Panthers that would "finger" a Panther member as an FBI informer.



John Huggins

These revelations destroy completely the already tattered myth of democracy and freedom in this country.

The American government — Democrat or Republican, liberal or right-wing — organizes for the destruction of any group or political ideology that challenges its power and ability to rule over our lives. It will always do this until it is completely dismantled. □

While They Talk Of Peace...

"The issue in Angola is not, never has been and never will be a question of US forces."

President Ford's statement in response to the Senate vote cutting off funds for covert U.S. military aid in Angola, Friday, Dec. 19, 1975.

They Prepare For War

• The carrier Independence, the cruiser Boston and three destroyers have been placed on full alert. They have been given the mission of flying tactical air support strikes over Angola. The Independence, which carries 90 F-4 Phantom jets, has been armed with several tons of napalm, sidewinder missiles and anti-personnel fragmentation bombs.

This information was leaked to the American Committee on Africa (ACOA) by a high official in the Department of Defense and was released by ACOA on the same day that Ford denied any present or future involvement of U.S. forces in Angola.

• U.S. spotter planes are now flying missions over Angola from Zaire. These planes are Forward Air Controllers used for spotting troop movements and other targets.

• United States cargo planes are air-dropping supplies directly to the South African columns operating on the central front.

These planes are flying from the same airfield in Zaire as the two South African fighter bomber wings.

• Numbers of U.S. mercenaries have been allowed to reach Angola and to enter combat. It is reported that some of these mercenaries have come from regular units by volunteering and that they leave behind them letters of resignation from the regular forces in case such letters should be needed. Regular commissioned and non-commissioned officers have been approaching enlisted men to ask whether they might be interested in volunteering. □

Additional Coverage, Page 3

Teachers Protest Pension Giveaway

by David Miller

Attempts by New York State to monkey with its teachers' pension fund and cut state aid to schools are shaking up the teachers' union.

The state legislature has proposed forcing the pension fund to purchase state bonds that no one else will touch. Banks sold their holdings months ago.

The lawmakers are also considering a wage freeze for all state employees. And Governor Carey wants a cut of \$100 million in state aid to local schools. This could mean a loss of up to 10,000 jobs.

The state government thought they could win these measures easily. The teachers' union, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) is headed by the man who sold out New York City teachers in September.

Under Albert Shanker's leadership, New York teachers wound up with layoffs, a wage freeze, and their pension fund invested in city bonds.

But while leaders of the teachers' union are going along with the raid on their pensions, rank and file teachers are resisting.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The state union passed a resolution reversing its opposition to teacher contributions to the pension fund. This is an invitation to the legislature to make teachers contribute to their own pension fund. Shanker has already agreed that city teachers will each pay \$500 a year into theirs.

But a convention of 800 state union delegates to a pension meeting rejected the official union candidate for representative to the teacher pension fund. An independent candidate was elected.

The vote was a conscious "no" to NYSUT's expected surrender on pensions.

The vote came on top of the revelation that millions of dollars in pension money had been secretly returned to the city, leaving the pension fund in serious trouble.

Forty local presidents have signed a public statement critical of union policies.

The statement protested the union's failure to have any policy on job preservation, to effectively support locals on strike, and its failure in political action.

The state leadership rejects tactics like asking other unions to

actively support striking teachers. Yet it was the threat of citywide strikes by all labor which saved teachers in recent strikes in New Haven, Connecticut, and Wilmington, Delaware.

The signed protest was a real first in New York state union

politics. Before, grumbling and dissatisfaction were expressed only privately, off the record, and in unorganized form.

The willingness of 40 locals to go further is a sign of increasing loss of credibility by the state union leaders—and they know it.

TEACHER SPLIT THREATENS

State leaders of NYSUT have decided to disaffiliate from NEA (National Education Association). NYSUT is affiliated with both national teacher unions, the NEA and the AFT-AFL-CIO, due to a merger in New York State in 1973.

NYSUT leaders are afraid that the national NEA is seeking to strengthen its influence within NYSUT. They fear that such an effort could be successful because teachers are getting increasingly fed up with NYSUT's policies. So they decided to split immediately.

They did this despite the fact the split will serve teachers no purpose.

- It will deepen jurisdictional warfare between the AFT and NEA nationally.

- It will bring the national rivalry into every local in the state, and weaken every local's bargaining position.

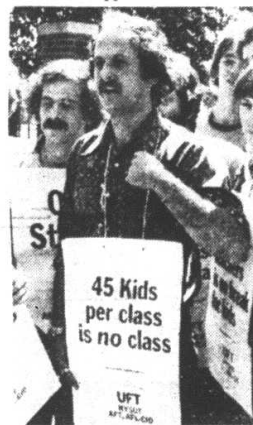
- And it will close the door on any national merger of the two teacher unions. Even cooperation will be difficult, and teachers' unions face escalating attacks nationally.

To assure themselves support, the NYSUT leaders called a meeting of all local presidents in the state. They hoped to get a vote of support. But the local presidents were badly split over the issue.

In the debate, it became apparent that the local leaders were suspicious of the leaders' motives in wanting disaffiliation from NEA, while keeping AFT affiliation. No vote was taken.



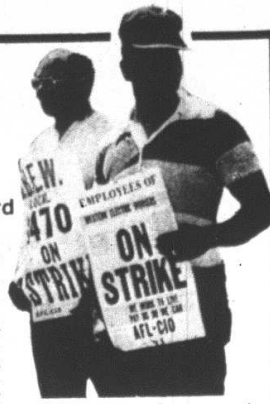
The threat of general strikes saved teacher strikes in Delaware (above) and Connecticut. Yet despite massive layoffs which have pushed up New York class sizes (below), Shanker has not asked other unions for active support.



labor notes

by Jim Woodward

If you're not yet a socialist, this may make you one. Doctors specializing in kidney transplants report a sharp upturn in calls from unemployed workers who need money and want to sell one of their kidneys. The National Kidney Foundation reports it has received 100 such calls recently. Newspaper ads placed by jobless workers offering to sell a kidney have been seen in Pittsburgh and New York.



Or how about this: Two University of Texas researchers have documented that unemployment and other tensions are important elements contributing to child-beating and other child abuse by parents. So the kids start paying for capitalism at an early age.

In the last thirty years, individual taxpayers have shouldered an increasingly heavy share of the federal budget, while corporations have been getting off easy. Since 1944, the percentage of federal income raised by the individual income tax has jumped from 48.5 to 73.9. In 1944, corporate taxes were 33.6% of the total, but now they're only 14.6%.

The 20th anniversary of the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott was Dec. 6-7. That successful 381-day boycott ended segregated seating on the city's buses. Montgomery's bus drivers, who are now virtually all black, celebrated the anniversary with a strike for higher wages.

Thirteen staff members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) have charged they were fired because they voted to form a union. The employees charged NOW with refusing to bargain, discriminating against employees for union activities, and unilaterally closing the Chicago office. NOW claims it closed the Chicago office, where the 13 worked, solely for administrative reasons.

The United National Caucus at UAW Local 212 in Detroit recently printed a statement in its newsletter, supporting busing and protesting the use of union funds to support the racist, anti-busing activities of Louisville Local 861. The statement said, "The labor movement's failure to fight discrimination aggressively and seek unity between black and white workers has been our greatest weakness."

Asbestos dust may be a serious health hazard to office workers as well as to industrial workers, according to the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine's environmental sciences laboratory. A study has found dangerous levels of the cancer-causing substance in office buildings put up between 1958 and 1970. Asbestos is commonly used in construction. Yale University and UCLA have each removed the ceilings in one of their buildings because the amount of asbestos fibers in the air reached levels that can cause cancer.

When someone is laid off, most people worry about what will happen to the person without a job. Some people, however, are concerned about the guy who has to hand out the pink slip. Industry Week, "the magazine for managers," recently ran an article on this subject. It was full of stories about the emotional guilt and anguish managers felt when they had to lay off workers. One psychologist reported: "I saw one manager in Ohio who suffered a nervous breakdown when he was forced to lay off a large section of his group. The unfairness and lack of justice got to him."

But Richard McLaughlin, a Chrysler Corp. vice president, had a ready response: "If a man cannot handle letting people go, he probably shouldn't be a manager." To avoid stress, the Federal-Mogul Corp. suggests these rationalizations to its managers: "You have an obligation to the rest of the people in your department," "You have done the most you could financially for the individual," and even "You did the man a good turn!"

One psychologist, however, believes the more stress a manager faces, the better. "Why should workers be the only ones stressed during a layoff?" asks Dr. Richard Grayson. "I've seen them shoot themselves. Why shouldn't a personnel manager be stressed? I think he deserves it."

Black residents in the Georgetown section of Harlan, Kentucky are fighting to save their homes. The people are mostly retired miners and their wives. They are fighting the city's plan to condemn their houses and "re-develop" the area. The plan would most benefit Ernest Smith, a white city councilman who owns seven of the 13 acres of dilapidated housing in Georgetown.

Tests run on foremen, supervisors, and union stewards by management consultant John Patton showed the following results: "Union stewards scored higher in judgement, in practical knowledge, and in mental ability than did the foremen and supervisors."

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone: 313-869-5965.

Means Gets 2-10; Says Conviction "Purely Political"

Russell Means, leader of the American Indian Movement, was found guilty of riot on Monday, December 15.

The conviction stemmed from a 1974 clash with police at the Minnehaha, S.D., County Courthouse. Means and other Native Americans were defending themselves from an attack by a riot squad.

Means was convicted by a circuit judge. He had waived a jury trial, because the jury was all white.

Means maintains that the conviction was purely political, and that the judge "didn't have the guts to consider the truth."

The judge's reasoning was that self defense is no defense, and that defending oneself from a riot squad constitutes riot.

Means said, "I guess every redneck in the state will have a merry Christmas now. The judge has presented me to them as a Christmas present."

Means faces a 2-10 year jail sentence.



Russell Means

Message To Our Readers

The next issue of Workers' Power will appear January 9, a week later than usual, due to the holidays.

Workers' Power extends holiday greetings to our readers and their families.

May working class victories in the new year bring the world closer to international socialism!

Workers' Power 141

Copyright © 1975 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Gay Senel. Production Manager: Kay Stacy. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty. Published weekly, except the first week in July and the last week in December. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies or change of address to Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward

Avenue, 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 Alternate Press Service and is indexed in the Alternative Press Index and microfirmed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.

VICTORY TO THE MPLA!

Angolan Struggle Threatens US, South Africa

IS What We Think

Angola is suddenly front page news. The world watches as the depth and duplicity of American involvement is revealed. What is the U.S. doing in Angola and why?

Part of U.S. involvement is economic. Angola is rich in oil—now owned and operated by the U.S.-based Gulf Oil Co. Angola has other minerals and developing industry tied to multinational corporations.

But the struggle of the Angolan people for self determination threatens a great deal more than mines and oil wells.

American imperialism needs to control the world. But the grip of the U.S. ruling class is slipping. The revolution now going on in Portugal is the first step in breaking the chains of capitalism in Europe. Angola can be the first step in Africa.

The MPLA (Popular Movement) led an armed struggle against Portuguese domination for 14 years.

On November 11, 1975, under the impact of its own revolution, Portugal finally withdrew. On the same day, the Popular Movement, with massive support from the people, set up a new government in Luanda, Angola's capital. This new government was immediately challenged by UNITA (National Union) and FNLA (National Front).

AGENTS

UNITA and FNLA also claim to be fighting for the independence of Angola. The truth is that both are agents of imperialism.

Throughout the long years of armed struggle with Portugal—both UNITA and the FNLA fought only sporadically. When they did—they each spent more time fighting the MPLA than the Portuguese. They relied for support on either white, racist South Africa or the black African client states of the CIA.

It is the opposition of UNITA and the FNLA to the MPLA that is causing the current fighting. Their fight only continues because of the presence of mercenaries, South African troops and massive U.S. aid. And it's this imperialist support that is making Angola look more and more like Vietnam.

Nevertheless, victory for the MPLA looks close at hand.

END IMPERIALISM

The Popular Movement does not aim to bring socialism to Angola. But it does demand real independence and that will mean the end of imperialism.

Part of the strength of the MPLA rests on the active support of a radicalized working class. The organization and struggles of the Angolan working class will not end with independence. In fact, the class struggle will grow and spread. The defeat of imperialism is bound to heighten the fight against Angola's homegrown bosses.

But more than that. The whole of Southern Africa is on a tightrope. In apartheid South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, the black working class is growing stronger. Victory in Angola will force this movement



The Angolan people celebrate their independence from Portugal.

forward and herald the beginning of the end for capitalism.

That is why the U.S. and South Africa conspire to defeat the MPLA.

MILLIONS

To this end, the U.S. government has already spent \$27 million, this year. Ford has earmarked another \$28 million.

But \$55 million is only the beginning of the story. U.S. plans for physical intervention are also well advanced.

The Soviet Union, too, has been deeply involved in this bloody conflict. For years it has supplied arms to the MPLA. It has no wish to see a truly independent Angola. The USSR is in a drive to extend its influence in Africa.

NO PUPPET

The chances of success for the USSR are small. The MPLA is no puppet. It represents a vast popular movement which will resist all attempts at foreign domination to the end.

Angola is not isolated and alone. It is no easy target for Soviet imperialism, but stands at the head of a revolutionary wave that can engulf Southern Africa.

The Soviet Union, like the U.S., is worried by the revolutionary consequences of an MPLA victory. It only supports the Popular Movement because it has no choice. A victory for the FNLA or UNITA would be a victory for the west.

The International Socialists support the MPLA because it is the only chance for an Angola free of imperialist domination for the first time in four hundred years.

We support the MPLA for the same reason the Soviet Union fears the MPLA. Their victory will mark the beginning of the socialist revolution in Southern Africa. □

MPLA GAINS DESPITE INVASION

by Dan Posen

The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) is beginning to win back some of the territory occupied by right-wing invasion forces.

After initial retreats in the face of massive South African equipment and firepower, MPLA has established a stable defense line at the Queve River.

There, the column of South Africans leading soldiers from FNLA and UNITA has been halted. FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) and UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) are part of an effort by the United States, South Africa and

other western capitalist powers to destroy MPLA or carve up Angola.

VICTORY

MPLA forces won a victory at the town of Ebo, in which they captured eight tanks and killed over 80 soldiers. The tanks, and many of the dead soldiers, were South African.

South Africa is rapidly turning Angola into its own Vietnam war. For the first time, South Africa's white racist rulers have to report back home they are suffering casualties in the fighting. If they keep escalating their war against MPLA, they will pay a heavy

political price for it.

FNLA and UNITA claim that they, not MPLA, represent the people of Angola. But in the towns they have captured—Mocamedes, Benguela, Lobito and Novo Redondo—the people who live there are fleeing to MPLA-held territory. Some peasants have come all the way from southernmost Angola, the border with Namibia, to reach MPLA zones.

LOOTING

Whole towns have emptied into the bush to escape looting FNLA troops. Many people slip back behind FNLA lines to cultivate their fields during the day and return to safe MPLA territory at night. MPLA is also helping peasants organize village co-ops.

The former Portuguese employers and landlords all supported FNLA and UNITA. As one reporter wrote from Angola: "Anyone traveling in this rich farmland, and seeing the conditions under which the white settlers employed farm labor, will understand why the people do not want them back."

That pretty much sums up what this war is about—and why an MPLA victory is crucial for the future lives of the seven million people of Angola. □

SUPPORT ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE
Demonstrate February 4

February 4 is the fifteenth anniversary of the MPLA's armed struggle to free Angola. On that day demonstrations will be held in New York and other cities to mark the occasion. Watch Workers' Power for details.

Workers' Revolution In Africa!

ON PEOPLE AMERICAN UTION

L. Jackson

Revolution, A picture in which there are no social classes, no bosses and workers, no masters and slaves, no Indians, and not too many women (besides Betsy Ross). Only heroes. All this nonsense is not only silly, but dangerous. The standard history of the American Revolution talks about the rich instead of the common people and colonial workers. Why?

PEOPLE'S HISTORY

A people's history is a powerful and explosive thing, and we pay dearly for the lies we're taught. Remember how for years every school child was taught lies about slavery. They said that black slaves were ignorant savages who were happy with their lot, never rebelled, and spent most of their time eating watermelon, singing and dancing.

Only in recent years has this set of lies been destroyed, but while it lasted, it was a powerful force for racism in this country. The way we see our past in some ways determines how we see ourselves today and how we act.

What is the truth about the American revolution?

Laborers and sailors averaged a wage of 15-20 pounds sterling a year, barely enough if they stayed single and healthy. To support a family in the city required at least 60 pounds a year.

Thirty pounds was needed for food, ten minimum rent, twelve for clothes (if homemade), five for schools, not to mention firewood, taxes, medical care and other expenses.

ORGANIZED

Although they lacked real trade unions, city workers were organized.

In Boston under the leadership of skilled workers, so called "mobs" selectively terrorized England's tax-collectors.

They destroyed homes of officials who wronged them and enforced discipline on any merchants who continued to ship goods to England.

In other cities, mechanics' organizations led by skilled workers and small businessmen (the famous "sons of liberty") provided the energy and muscle of the revolutionary movement.

The American Revolution was not a working class revolution. It was not run or led by workers and workers' organizations. When it came to major decisions, the working class tended to accept the leadership of their "betters" without much question.

At the same time, the Washingtons, Jeffersons, and Hancocks were aware that without the masses of people behind them, they were nowhere. In order to win popular approval of their Constitution, they were forced to tack on the Bill of Rights.

When they wrote in the Constitution "all men are created equal" and wrote about freedom of speech, press, and others, it was because the "small people" of the day would have it no other way.

The mobs of people represented real popular grievances. The British officials and their American supporters (Tories) through wars, mismanagement and greediness made themselves easy targets and symbols for the hatred they received.

DESPERATE

When the Port of Boston was closed down, it made Boston, always a violent town, a desperate one. Necessities became expensive. The British and their supporters, especially the rich ones, were popularly blamed.

The Tories vs. the Americans meant for many rich vs. poor. For some it meant aristocracy vs. democracy for others tyranny vs. freedom and for American merchants (Hancock, Washington, etc.) it meant not having to share the loot with British merchants anymore.

The American Revolution did not free the slaves, give the vote to all the poor or the women, did not redistribute the national wealth. It didn't lead to a land reform policy in the South (except in a few cases where rich Tory's lands were taken and subdivided).

Soon a policy of genocide began against the Indian population that far surpassed anything the British ever did.

But the American Revolution did set something in motion, and later helped to inspire much more radical revolutions, such as the French. The ideal that "the people" have a right to overthrow a government that has become oppressive was a new and startling notion in the 1770's.



Early American steel workers casting ingots. Working peoples' demands forced the rich leaders of the revolution to add the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution.



Slaves harvesting rice. During the American revolution radicals wanted to abolish slavery. But despite many words about "freedom" in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, slavery was part of the new society for another century.



Buying a wife in colonial Massachusetts. Women were often kidnapped and brought to America and sold to men who wanted wives.

Letters

to

Workers' Power

THE FULL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Dear Friends,

Christmas Greeting

The National Prisoners' Association sends Christmas greetings to our members, as well as to all workers of the world.

Appreciate The Truth

Dear Workers' Power,

Thank you very much for having, so generously, donated the free subscription for those of us behind bars, all this time. The praise and thanks are beyond words and therefore should only emphasize my appreciation.

"The Truth" you all so gallantly and consistently bring to us, works as a transfusion of life and hope. Also the selfless and endless patience you exercise to point out the perils, the hypocrites and the methods of suppression and exploitation executed, ever so subtle, by the status quo.

As I will be leaving here shortly on parole, I want you to feel free to cancel the subscription. I intend to contact you and/or the local branch in my area, with the hopes that now the tables will turn for me and the opportunity will present itself for me to contribute.

Mathys T. Coetier
San Luis Obispo, CA

The International Socialists maintains a special fund to provide free subscriptions of Workers' Power for prisoners. Prisoners who wish to subscribe to Workers' Power should write to: I.S. Prisoners' Fund, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

"THANKS FOR THE BREAK"

Dear Workers' Power,

I have been searching for a job for four months. I had a job but I was fired after one month. Before that I looked for a job for three months.

In those seven months I've been humiliated and discouraged in every way possible and I've learned a lot.

I've learned that being made to wait one or two hours at the unemployment office or for an interview is a privilege because I may get a job. I've learned to laugh at sexist insults because it shows how well I can get along with men.

I've learned that women, when applying for traditionally male jobs, get treated with respect in the office and never called later. I've learned to tell everything about my life down to the last detail and then get rejected with no explanation or reason.

I've learned to listen quietly, like a child, to lectures on the costs to the company of being late, absent, or quitting, while I wondered where my rent money was coming from.

We realize that we will never have the full meaning of Christmas until the workers of the world seize control of our society.

We urge all the people to remember the prison creed of Eugene V. Debs.

"While there is a lower class I am in it;

"While there is a criminal element I am of it;"

"While there is a soul in prison I am not free."

Revolutionary love,
George E. Blue, President, National Prisoner's Association
John T. Fackelman, Vice President
Dr. James Grant, Vice President
Larry A. Myers, Chief of Staff
Federal Prison, Atlanta

Great Book

Dear Workers' Power,

I am a subscriber and a radical socialist elementary teacher. I have been fighting the system for years.

I am writing to tell you about a book I have read. **The Night Is Dark and I Am Far From Home**, by Jonathan Kozol.

It is a great book. It describes accurately and powerfully the purpose of public education. Required reading for the theoretical background of the real purpose of "education."

I hope you do more on Portugal. I'd like information in the paper about Western Europe. Your newspaper is great—keep it up.

Howard Waldrop
Westland, MI

Close Southie To Stop ROAR

Dear Workers' Power,

In your November 28 article on racism in the Boston schools you stated that "closing Southie would not solve the problem."

As a teacher at Charlestown High, I believe that closing South Boston and Charlestown Highs and moving them to a neutral site is an essential first step to integration of the Boston schools.

The hysterical, racist atmosphere incited by ROAR in both Charlestown and South Boston make it impossible to carry on the education of whites and blacks in these areas.

If the white students in these areas were forced to go to school in "neutral," more integrated areas of the city there is reason to believe that the education of both white and black could take place.

As an example, I taught last year in a school where South Boston students were bused to such a neutral area—the South End.

Although there were some problems, the situation was controllable because ROAR does not have a base in the South End. Therefore, I think the NAACP is right in their suit to close South Boston High.

In Struggle,
Teacher, Charlestown High



The black community must organize against the racists.

I JOINED

Dear Workers' Power,

I became aware of the IS this year. At this point in my life I realized that things were going on around me, but like millions of my fellow workers, I figured, what could I do about it?

What could I do about the job I had been pushed out of after seven years? What could I do about the persecution I faced on the job, and what could I do about others like me? Sold out by their unions, ignored, lied to and cheated by this government.

Now, I know what to do, because I have joined the IS. I know I have the confidence to say "never again" to the oppression of myself or to my sisters and brothers.

I know that my comrades in the IS have come together out of a common need and that together we will fight for our goal—a better life.

We know who to fight and how to fight and we know we will win because we must win.

Lea
St. Louis

Democrat Or Republican- There's No Difference

Dear Workers' Power,

I'm a member of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. The union wage for waitresses in Seattle is \$2.25 an hour before taxes.

I just read the yearly financial report from our International union and thought Workers' Power might be interested in knowing what we waitresses are

paying our dues for.

One interesting part of the report is the "Contributions" section.

Of \$400,000 in "contributions" our "leaders" made exactly two donations to workers—\$6,000 for the Sloane strikers and \$500 to the United Farmworkers.

The rest went to a variety of testimonial dinners, church schools, "memorial" funds, and political campaigns.

In fact, they gave Mayor Richard Daley \$25,000 to help keep himself on the backs of the people of Chicago. The largest single item was the election campaigns of various Democratic Party politicians — almost \$200,000.

Another item: for the entire year, the union made a total "Gifts to Families of Deceased Members" of \$438! This is for the entire country.

By the way, in Seattle, striking waitresses get not one cent in strike benefits, even if we hold out for a year.

I've worked for all kinds of bosses, including staunch Democrats. When it comes to screwing their employees, there's not a dime's worth of difference between a Democrat and a Republican.

I'm pissed as hell to see what these parasites do with the money I sweat for. I can't wait to run these people out for good.

D.M.
Seattle



Name withheld
St. Louis

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.

Write to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

Rape: "The Ugliest Crime"

Against Our Will

Rape is one of the ugliest crimes. It is a violent and brutal invasion of a person. And it is a crime most often committed against women.

Rape exists in all class societies where men dominate women politically, economically, and socially. But our present capitalist system especially encourages rape.

We live in a society where a small number of men control the lives of millions of men and women. Women's role in their society is to please men and to have and care for their children.

Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape; Susan Brownmiller; New York; Simon and Schuster.

Every capitalist institution—the church, schools, government, business, the army—projects women as a sex object.

Women's sexuality is used to sell cars, heavy machinery, soap, toothpaste, dog food, and every possible commodity.

Despite all the publicity capitalism gives to sex, this society constantly frustrates people's desire for satisfying personal and sexual relations. Hostile relationships, especially with the hostility directed against women, are promoted as desirable.

"I WAS..."

Popular love magazines do this, for example. Recent titles include, "I Was the Victim of a Sex Gang," in True Life Confessions; "Sex Creeps Always Pick On Girls Like Me," in Modern Love; "I Thought Nobody Had Rape Dreams Like Mine," in Real Confessions; and "I Made Him Do It... To Me," in True Confessions.

A magazine called True Life had one of the most political titles: "Gang Raped By 7 Boys Because I Led Their Girls Into A Women's Lib Club."

About ten million people read these magazines. It's a billion dollar business.

The recent rise of popular pornographic magazine adds to the ideology of women and now men, as merely sexual commodities. Playboy, Penthouse, Hustler, and Foxy Lady are a few of these.

The movie industry promotes rape as something all women wish to experience. During most movie rape scenes an orchestra plays loud, romantic music, and the woman is really loving it.

Or if it is a movie like *Straw Dogs*, in which the woman was gang raped from behind, she really

deserved it for she was such a bitch anyway.

One of the few movies that portrayed rape realistically was *Deliverance*. There the scene is terrifying, and the rapists were horrible people.

There is no glorious music—no sense that the rape victim secretly loved it. But then, that was a man raping another man.

Rape is more than an individual crime. It is also a political act, and is used to control people. During the Vietnam war, American soldiers were encouraged to rape Vietnamese women.

Joe Galbally, who served in Vietnam, stated, "These people are aware of what American soldiers do to them, so naturally they try to hide the young girls."

"We found one hiding... She was taken out, raped by six or seven people in front of her family."

"This wasn't just one incident; this was the first I can remember. I know of 10 or 15 such incidents."

At My Lai, the women were raped before they were murdered.

Roy Wood, a correspondent, recalled one incident. The second platoon captured a Vietnamese nurse. "The whole second platoon caught her ass. They all raped her. Tore her ass."

The conquering armies attacked with rape as well as napalm and defoliants.

RACISM AND RAPE

In this country, rape has been used against black people. In the South in particular, it was used to preserve white supremacy.

Black women have always had to be at the mercy of the white rapist. Resistance often meant death, for the woman, or her husband, father, brother, or son.

For black men, rape was the code word for lynchings. The racist myth that black men were always out raping white women was just a pretext for organizing lynch mobs to terrorize the black population into submission.

Until recently, very little has been written to attack the racist and sexist myths on rape. The Inez Garcia and Joan Little cases brought national attention to the issues of rape, racism, women's right to self defense as well as the general causes of rape.

Both the women's movement and the black movement took up these cases and began to discuss rape as both a social and political assault.

FIRST MAJOR BOOK

Susan Brownmiller has written one of the first major books about rape. Some of the information such



If I escaped, would he vent his rage on the little girl I was taking care of?

I saw the headlights of Mr. Merchant's car swing into the driveway. I slipped into my coat and picked up a heavy stack of books. Through the window, I could see Mr. Merchant coming on the walk.

I turned to my mother. "If Larry calls, be sure to tell him where I am," I said in an off-hand manner, as if it were of no great importance—just an afterthought.

"Okay, Cathy." There was a trace of a know-

Popular love magazines try to make rape seem exciting. This picture is from a story called "Trapped With A Rapist! A Baby-sitter's Night Of Terror", in True Romance magazine. Hardly a true romance.

as the history of rape, statistics of rape, rape in wartime, as well as the treatment of rape victims is interesting. But *Against Our Will* is a racist and reactionary book.

Brownmiller is a separatist feminist. She believes that women's oppression is separate from class society.

And she never places rape in the context of capitalist society. She therefore blames all men, rich and poor, equally for this crime.

This leads her to outrageous racist conclusions. For example, in 1955, in Money, Mississippi, a 14 year old black youth was dared to ask a white woman out for a date.

The young man, Emmet Till, accepted the dare, and even wolfwhistled at the woman. Till was immediately mutilated and murdered by two white men, J.W. Millam and Roy Bryant. Millam and Bryant, who admitted murdering Till, were acquitted by an all white jury.

Here's how Brownmiller views this.

"We are rightly aghast that a whistle could be cause for murder but we must accept that Emmet Till and J.W. Millam shared something in common." And the common assumption to Brownmiller was the idea that men have the right to dominate women.

In Brownmiller's view, Till and

his racist murderers are one and the same.

EASY OUT

This is an easy out for Brownmiller, who really doesn't want to challenge capitalism. Her solution to rape is to blame working class men in particular for rape. In return, she offers us reforms such as more policewomen, rape clinics and self defense classes to deal with the problem.

The book is really useless, and in places, dangerous in its conclusions.

More was done to change people's attitudes about women

and rape through the Joan Little case than this reactionary book could ever do.

Little's case put the blame for rape on the racism and sexism of this society, and challenged it.

As working class people continue to challenge this system, the brutalities it allows and uses will be challenged again and again and defeated.

But finally, only in a society where men and women are economic, social and political equals—where people are not forced to lead unhappy and frustrating lives—can rape be ended forever.

Barbara Winslow

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Telephone Workers' Fight Racism

Workers' Power

HOW TO DEAL WITH RACISM is one of the most critical problems facing working people today. The experience of a rank and file group in Louisville during that city's busing crisis illustrates the importance of taking a firm position against racism.

United Action (UA) is a group in the Communications Workers of America (CWA). It was out of the widespread dissatisfaction with the 1974 telephone contract that the UA group in Louisville was started.

The events leading up to that contract and the eventual last minute sellout made it clear to large numbers of people that the International and Local leadership had little intention of fighting the company. United Action was started to try and change that situation.

From the beginning it was UA that led those who wanted a strong fighting union. The UA stewards were the most active and organized in the local. UA helped defeat a proposed dues increase on three occasions by leafletting and getting people to union meetings.

In March of '74 United Action began pushing for an overtime ban to fight layoffs—something that became official local policy in November. UA pointed out the threat to jobs which the charge for directory assistance represented and forced the local to endorse a demonstration against it.

Workers' Power recently interviewed Harold Kincaid, a leader of UA, about how his group dealt with the problem of racism.

In August of this year UA began a campaign for local elections. We entered the campaign with a reputation as fighters and with widespread support. But UA miscalculated on one thing: busing and the racism it generated.

UA had always been against racism and for fair treatment for blacks. That was only a small part of our program. Then in September busing started and we were caught by surprise. It wasn't long before busing, not fighting the company, became the issue in the union.

Busing is a community issue—but it carries over onto the job. Racist remarks and actions, which were seldom heard before, became widespread. In a number of Louisville plants fights between black and white workers are common.

Local after local in the city came out against busing and joined Klan-led demonstrations. The anti-busing movement had a newspaper and saw a communist conspiracy behind everything. It intimidates and harasses everyone who does not go along with it.

The officers of our local are liberal. But that didn't matter much when the crunch came. After UA did well in the initial election, they too jumped on the anti-busing bandwagon.

ATTACKED

They openly attacked UA as pro-busing and communist. They viciously played off of the growing racism in the local. The anti-busing movement provided them with an organized machine that they never could have organized themselves.

Through the anti-busing network they had people in every work center ready to organize against UA. And they were able to sway even some of the best militants.

Faced with this situation UA had two choices: ignore busing and hope it would go away, or take it on. (It is tempting to ignore the whole situation—after all, fighting the company is the main issue.)

In reality there's no straddling the fence. Sentiment goes the direction of the strongest. Without an anti-racist pole, the Klan and the racists can easily become the dominant force in the union. Gone unopposed, such a movement can drive a rank and file group out of

the union. Standing up to racism becomes a life and death matter.

UA did a number of things to oppose the rising racist tide. We made motions for our local to endorse several anti-Klan rallies, one of which passed. United Action circulated petitions. Several UA people spoke at pro-busing rallies and refused to back down to the flack that resulted.

Because UA refused to back down, the anti-busing movement and the local officers were unable to drive us out of the local. Attempts to decertify Joe Pardiou and myself as UA stewards failed. Although UA eventually lost the election, it remains a strong group with an active following.

The experience of UA points out that the fight against racism has to be top priority for any rank and file group. Racism is just under the surface in this society. In any situation where people feel they have no control over their lives—like in busing or layoffs—it can become a vicious force. The best defense is building an opposition group and a union membership that stands for equality.



These rank and file telephone workers took part in an anti-Klan demonstration near Louisville, where the Klan is strong.

TDC Resolutions 'Out Of Order'

DETROIT—Two local presidents in the Teamsters Union refused to allow votes at local membership meetings December 21 on motions endorsing the petition campaign of Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). The resolutions were presented by members of TDC in Local 299 (Detroit) and Local 249 (Pittsburgh).

TDC's petition campaign aims to mobilize support behind a strong set of contract demands to counter an expected sell-out by Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons. The national Master Freight Agreement, which expires April 1, covers 435,000 Teamsters in the trucking industry.

If this weekend's meetings are any indication, the TDC campaign will be opposed by the Hoffa forces in the union, as well as by Fitzsimmons.

In Detroit, the Local 299 president is Dave Johnson, a strong Hoffa backer. When TDC members proposed the motion to support their petition campaign, Johnson said he "can't accept the motion" and called for adjournment. With the support of only 10-15 of the more than 200 in attendance, he declared the meeting adjourned. Had a vote on the TDC motion been allowed, it would have passed overwhelmingly.

An endorsement of TDC in Local 299 would be of extraordinary significance, because it is the home local of both Fitzsimmons and Hoffa, and one of the most important in the entire union.

[Earlier in the meeting, another TDC motion had passed unanimously. That motion demanded a separate vote on all local supplements to the national Master Freight Agreement.]

In Pittsburgh, Local 249 President Tom Fagan ruled that a motion to endorse the TDC petition

campaign was out of order. Fagan claimed that the resolution had to go to the by-laws committee and the executive board first, although that has not been the procedure in the past. Fagan, although not a Hoffa supporter, has a reputation of being anti-Fitzsimmons.

TDC members in Pittsburgh also estimate they would have won the vote if it had been allowed.

NATIONAL DRIVE

TDC members in both Pittsburgh and Detroit plan to continue their efforts to win local union endorsement. During January, TDC will be making a national drive for local union endorsements.

On January 10, TDC will send representatives from all over the country to Teamster headquarters in Washington to deliver its first batch of signed petitions. The group has sent a letter to Fitzsimmons asking for a meeting on that date to discuss their demands.

Defend Fired UPS Workers

Twenty-five United Parcel Service workers from New York and New Jersey met Saturday, Dec. 20 to defend the five New York UPS drivers fired two weeks ago. The meeting was called by UPSurge, the national UPS workers' paper.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that the real reason for the firings is UPSurge. Joe Nabach, one of the fired drivers, is a national sponsor of UPSurge. The five were fired the day before the Northeast Regional UPSurge meeting on a phony charge of drinking a beer with lunch.

Their case goes to arbitration Monday. A New York driver said, "The only way these jobs are going to be saved is by rank and file pressure."

The meeting decided that one way to apply pressure is to set up defense funds to pay workers unjustly suspended. UPS loves to intimidate people by handing out suspensions for petty violations of

their rules. These funds will let the company know that workers are ready to fight and can't be intimidated.

In Local 804 (New York), some shop stewards have already started funds at their centers. Soon there will be a petition to the local executive board demanding that they set up a fund for all workers at New York UPS.

People at the meeting felt that the most important way to defend the fired drivers is to build UPSurge into a strong organization. An inside worker from New Jersey suggested starting a local UPSurge newsletter for New York and New Jersey. Plans were also made to get UPSurge into centers that haven't seen it yet.

Joe Nabach closed the meeting by saying, "I have no intention of losing this job. But even if I do that won't stop UPSurge. UPSurge isn't my thing, it's your thing. It's to protect your job."

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