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WORKERS' POWER

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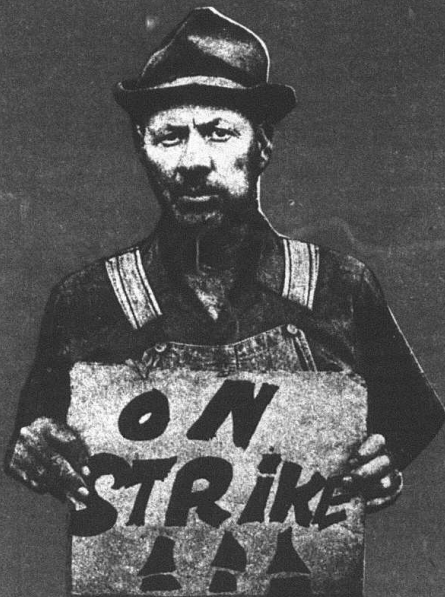
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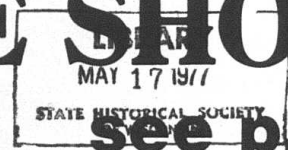
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LOS ANGELES—This week the United Auto Workers will hold their 25th Constitutional Convention. The only important event that will make the daily press will be the election of Doug Fraser as the new President of the UAW.

The press will praise Fraser as a far sighted, decisive, but popular labor leader. The UAW will be called a model of democratic unionism.

But, beneath the surface of these public events a crisis is developing in the auto industry and in the UAW. Management arrogance is breeding anger and frustration. Union inaction is giving birth to new currents of opposition in the UAW.

WORKERS' POWER reports the facts as they are seen from the assembly line, plants, and tool rooms of the auto industry.

Unemployment: This Is Good News?

by Karen Kaye

THE GOVERNMENT was happy to report that unemployment went down to seven percent in April, according to figures released early in May.

Julius Shiskin, head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, exulted over the fact that U.S. industry "created" one million jobs in the last two months.

"Nothing like that has ever happened in any two-month period," he declared.

However, he was honest enough to add that most of that million were those laid off due to the winter's weather, now being called back.

So much for "creating jobs." These figures may make the Bureau of Labor Statistics happy, but the seven percent unemployed are not statistics, they are people with families to support.

CARTER'S PLAN

What is Carter going to do about that? His chief economic adviser, Charles Schultze, says the administration plans to reduce unemployment to 4.3 percent by 1981.

How convenient. That's the year after Carter's term ends.

So we'll have to re-elect him on the basis of more promises to reduce unemployment.

Or if he's defeated in 1980 he'll blame his successor if the jobless rate is still high.

Schultze also says that the way unemployment will go down to 4.3% by 1981 is by expansion in the private sector.

"We're betting very heavily on business investment" for growth to occur, he said.

Encouraging business investment is the core of all Carter's programs.

But Schultze didn't mention that when business invests, they put in automation. So there are less jobs.

And business investment costs billions of dollars. To pay for it, the companies that are investing speed up the employees that they already have.

People do the work of two or three (at the pay of one), while others are out of work. People work overtime while others are out of

work. So how will they reduce unemployment to 4.3%?

Maybe they'll put more people in prison. More people on welfare. Maybe they'll create more slave-wage, dead end job training programs for women and youth.

Programs like these hide unemployment from the statistics.

But they don't hide unemployment from the unemployed.

Welfare Reform Is No Benefit

The welfare and Social Security systems are two recent targets for a change by President Carter's administration.

On welfare, Carter announced that he plans to change the entire system. But not for four years. Is this part of his campaign for 1980?

It was certainly part of his 1976 campaign. But now Carter has decided that "balancing the budget" is more important than improving the welfare system. This

is the classic conservative do-nothing excuse.

Carter promises that under his eventual plan, "every family with children and a (family) member able to work will have access to a job."

In other words, Carter thinks he is going to totally abolish unemployment when his welfare plan goes through. How nice. Wish we could believe that.

But even Carter says his plan is to get unemployment down to 4.3% by 1981. That's 4 million out of work. And unemployment doesn't count the people on welfare.

SOCIAL SECURITY

On Social Security, Carter was a little more specific. He plans to reduce benefits by getting rid of part of the cost-of-living escalator on Social Security benefits.

Benefits would be frozen at 45% of pre-retirement pay. So when inflation hits, too bad.

You'll also be paying higher FICA taxes in order to get less when you retire.

Social Security is what you get after a lifetime of making profits for business. It was begun in the 1930's under massive pressure from the labor movement. Business wanted to continue to simply throw away the workers they had used up.

That attitude continues today. Business interests, in the form of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, oppose sections of Carter's plan that raise employer contributions to Social Security.

Business is also against the part of the plan that would have general taxes support the sagging fund.

INFLUENCE

Business will have a lot of influence in Congress to get the changes they want. If the plan goes through, they will pass their costs on to working people through price increases.

Retirees and welfare recipients don't have this clout. Traditionally, the labor movement has fought for the rights of these unemployed working people.

Yet George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, called Carter's Social Security plan "sound recommendations."

He said that their enactment will let workers "look forward with confidence to a secure retirement."

Despite Carter's talk about making sweeping changes in welfare and Social Security, his plans add up to reshuffling amounts of money that are too small to provide a decent living for recipients.

And business threatens to take away even some of this.



HOW JIMMY CARTER CONTROLS INFLATION Today's Paycheck: Spend More...

by Kim Moody

DESPITE ALL of Jimmy Carter's talk about controlling inflation, prices are rising faster than before.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that the prices of wholesale goods rose 1.1% in April. This was the third month in a row that wholesale prices took a big

jump. If they continue to climb at this rate, they will hit 10% or more for 1977.

Growing wholesale prices mean faster-growing prices for consumer goods—food, fuel, housing, cars.

Consumer prices are already running at a 10% yearly rate. Is Jimmy Carter going to do

something about it? Don't count on it.

Last week, the Carter administration negotiated 6% price increases with a number of steel companies. Republic, U.S. Steel, and Youngstown Sheet & Tube were asking 7-9% increases.

These were the second major

price increases for steel in the last twelve months.

With the 6% Carter gave them, total price increases by these steel companies come to nearly 20% in the last year.

Well, Jimmy has a heart of gold. When it comes to big business he just can't say no.

...And Buy Less!

IF THE GOVERNMENT won't protect your wages, who will? Maybe the union officials who bargain your contracts? Afraid not.

On the average, new contracts negotiated this year are even worse than last year.

The first year increase this year runs 7.6%. Last year it was 8.4%.

COST OF LIVING

Ah, but what about cost of living clauses? They are better than nothing, but they don't do the trick.

The average wage increase for the first three months of 1977, under existing contracts including cost of living, was 1.3%.

It is no wonder, then, that the Labor Department was forced to conclude that after inflation and taxes were figured in, real wages

were down 0.7%.

And things aren't looking up. In April, the Carter Administration also negotiated with the leaders of the United Steel Workers about their wage settlement. The result was a 3% yearly increase for steel workers.

Get it? 6% for the employers, 3% for the workers.

What can you do?

Well, remember that just before the current leaders of the steelworkers union got that puny 3%, the membership of that union came pretty close to throwing the bums out.

Reform candidate Ed Sadowski got 43% of the total vote. He carried a majority of those workers covered by this lousy contract. Anyway, the steelworkers had the right idea.

Wages and Prices Jan.-March			
	0%	5%	10%
CONSUMER PRICES		10% yearly	
WHOLESALE PRICES		10% yearly	
WAGE INCREASES IN NEW CONTRACTS		6.5% yearly	
REAL WAGES, JAN.-MAR.	-0.7%		

Figures: U.S. Dept. of Labor

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Fired UPS Driver: "We All Need To Stand Up To Them."



Penny Madura, member of IBT Local 278

"In my company we don't have a problem with overtime, but it seems women tend to get the shorter delivery routes. They need the money as much as the men.

"It's really pretty obvious if you get active you get singled out. And if you're a woman on top of that then you'd better watch out if you work at UPS. They get most of their support from other women—that's why I'm here."



Jim Davidson, Member of TDU.

"One of our biggest problems, of course, is working against union officials who corrupt the union principle and sell us down the tube. We want to get our union operating for us.

"UPS has been operating since 1906. What happens to the 40-50 year old people who've been paying into their pension fund for years? They use very devious methods to get rid of people they don't want.

"These self-proclaimed deities who come down to this affair to look at us—they want to robotize you, steal your brain and your dissent. They just want you to conform and submit.

"We will not tolerate this. We are human beings, not robots. We must make them live by the contract we negotiated, not the contract they want, which in no way resembles the contract we have signed."



SAN BRUNO, Calif.—Angry Teamsters picketed a United Parcel Service Open House at the San Bruno Hub. Although it was supposed to be open to the public and other UPS employees, some people and employees were excluded.

"We just don't want you in here," was UPS' reason.

Those excluded joined Union WAGE, Teamsters for a Democratic Union, and the Coalition for Workers' Rights in leafletting cars going in and out to tell the visitors what was really happening at UPS.

Inside, supervisors guided visitors through a freshly painted facility and boasted of huge production rates and rapid expansion of the company.

They said nothing of the employees who sweated 9-10 hours a day to give them those production rates. It all came down to public relations for management people and companies interested in mailing through UPS.

LOTS TO SAY

But picketers had lots to say about speed-up, unsafe conditions, forced overtime, discrimination against women and minorities, harassment and anti-union policies.

UPS blatantly discriminates against women.

A few women get hired for the Christmas rush season, only to be discarded a month later. Those women who manage to hold on face harassment, heavier work loads and little support from the union.

Evie Thomas was fired for her hair length one year and two months after being

hired. Men with longer hair weren't asked to get haircuts. Thomas had filed a complaint with the EEOC less than two weeks earlier.

Though women are targets for harassment, UPS attacks anyone who stands up against its unfair practices.

A shop steward, Chuck Rickard, was fired for protesting the unfair treatment of another employee. That's what a steward's supposed to do, right?

UPS preferred to view it as "gross insubordination" and grounds for dismissal.

UPS also refuses to hire Teamsters out of the hiring hall, despite the contract requirement.

Instead, UPS recruits new-hires from Chabot College. These students have little union experience. UPS knows they will accept worse conditions than a Teamster would.

Meanwhile Teamsters sit in the hall without a job.

Several times, as speakers spoke out against these problems and the need to fight back, UPS opened up the water sprinklers.

The only effect was to get a security guard and some visitors wet—and use up more precious water in the midst of a serious water shortage. The sprinklers were never on for very long because people threatened to call the water department.

UPS disdain for the community water supply is right in line with how UPS treats its workers—use them up fast before they can retire.

No amount of PR can cover it up. □



Evie Thomas, fired UPS employee.

"It took UPS a whole year and 2 months to get rid of me. I was fired for my hair length, while other men with hair longer than mine were not even asked to get their hair cut.

"I'm not the only woman who has managed to stay at UPS and who has been harassed. They work long hours, doing harder work than the managers give male drivers—because they figure the women are afraid to say no.

"Women in our local have formed a caucus against the harassment, but so far we're still small and UPS still gets away with it. We all need to stand up to them and say 'You're not going to do it anymore!'"



Gail Sullivan, UPS employee, steering committee of TDU.

"I was one of the first women hired at UPS in 1972. I was a real token then, but I'm still around, which sort of surprises UPS.

"At first the union thought I was a joke. It was clear that if I didn't defend myself, no one else would. And people I worked with came around and said, 'Yes, we're with you.'

"As a UPS employee I need to see that enthusiasm and support from other workers in a demonstration like this."

Sadowski Carries Election Appeal To USW Exec. Board

by David Katz

Ed Sadowski is continuing his appeal of the official United Steel Workers election results. But since the February 8 election he's done almost nothing to mobilize any of the union's membership to support it.

That pretty much seals the fate on Sadowski's appeal, which was a long shot anyhow. It also means that the rank and file opposition to the Abel/McBride machine will have a longer way to go when it begins to mobilize nationally for next year's USW convention.

ELECTED

The official report of the USW tellers shows Lloyd McBride elected union president with 328,861 votes to Sadowski's 249,261. That's not quite 57% for McBride, which is somewhat less than the 60% he had been

claiming. Official figures also confirm that Sadowski won a clear majority among workers in basic steel, and carried ten of the union's 25 districts. As expected, the tellers rejected Sadowski's election protests.

His challenge alleged substantial election fraud in Canadian and Southern U.S. districts. It also charged that the union had used its staff as a campaign organization for McBride.

Sadowski has now appealed the tellers' report to the union's International Executive Board, which must make a ruling by June 1. Since the Board is dominated by Abel/McBride backers, it will certainly uphold the tellers.

The next step is to appeal to the U.S. Department of Labor, which is where Sadowski hopes to win. But the Labor Department makes these decisions on a political basis. It is

not about to overturn the USW elections unless it is under pressure to do so.

The Abel/McBride leadership of the USW supported Jimmy Carter for President. Carter owes them a political debt for it, and this is one debt he's not likely to weasel out of. It costs him nothing.

NO PUSH

The only way Sadowski could bring some pressure to bear on the Labor Department is through the membership of the union. But he hasn't really tried.

After the elections, Steelworkers Fight Back, the Sadowski campaign organization, promised that the election was not the end of the road. They said there would be ongoing Fight Back groups in a dozen cities and a regular Fight Back newspaper would be published.

Three months later, virtually the

only action has been what local Fight Back activists have done on their own.

The promised newspaper has not appeared. Rank and file activists in Detroit have gone ahead and sold subscriptions to it, but no one's seen the first issue.

Some Fight Back activity has been continued in cities such as Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Gary, Ind. But it is all locally organized, without much direction, organization or assistance from Chicago.

ONE EXCEPTION

About the only recent exception is a dinner for Sadowski and new District 31 Director Jim Balanoff held a few weeks ago which 500 people attended.

The Fight Back leaders also did help mobilize local presidents to oppose the basic steel contract, but didn't try to involve the member-

ship in protests after it was approved.

The tragedy is not so much that Sadowski will end up losing his appeal to the Labor Department. It would have been hard to win even if he had aggressively mobilized the membership to support it.

The real shame is that the rank and file movement, which gained so much from the Sadowski campaign, is not moving forward as rapidly as it could if the leaders of Steelworkers Fight Back were out there pushing.

They can, and probably will, pull together the old Fight Back network for next year's USW convention.

But that will not have nearly the strength as an ongoing rank and file organization which had been building all along would have. And it will have little impact on the many local and national issues which will come up between now and then. □

FROM WOODCOCK TO NEW NAME, MORE OF

by Mark Levitan, UAW, Local 3

The United Auto Workers (UAW) holds its 25th Constitutional Convention in Los Angeles this week. A look at the recent record of the UAW leadership will tell a lot about what can be expected from this convention.

The last UAW Convention was the Bargaining Convention held a little over a year ago—March 1976.

It ran for three days. Two of them were taken up with a filibuster that would have made a Dixiecrat blush.

The International officers read, word by word, the 69-page Bargaining Resolution which had been passed out to each of the delegates.

The Resolution itself was a

typical piece of UAW literature. In other words, it clearly identified the problems the membership faces. And it had no program of action to solve them.

Al Gardner, of the Local 600 Tool and Die unit, wrote about this in the paper of the Independent Skilled Trades Council. The UAW leaders produced an "omnibus

resolution that covered every demand ever made, but did not point to any economic issue that would lead the way in the upcoming Big Three negotiations," he said.

The problems were easy to identify.

No protection from record levels of inflation and lay-offs. The failure

of the 30-and-out plan, because workers couldn't afford to retire without cost-of-living protection on pensions. The SUB funds going bankrupt at the height of auto layoffs.

Faced with these issues, the Chair simply ruled out of order any attempt to strengthen the Bargaining Resolution. □

International's Batting Average:

Strike One!

IN SPITE of record auto profits and considerable rank and file pressure, particularly from the skilled trades, Leonard Woodcock and the International produced few real gains in 1976.

After a five-week strike at Ford's, a settlement was passed over a skilled trades veto only by changing the usual method of counting the votes. Chrysler and GM settlements followed the Ford pattern.

Here's what the new contracts contained:

- New money—one cent (1c) per hour. (20c minus 9c cost of living for the last three months of the old contract, minus 10c taken from the existing dental plan.)

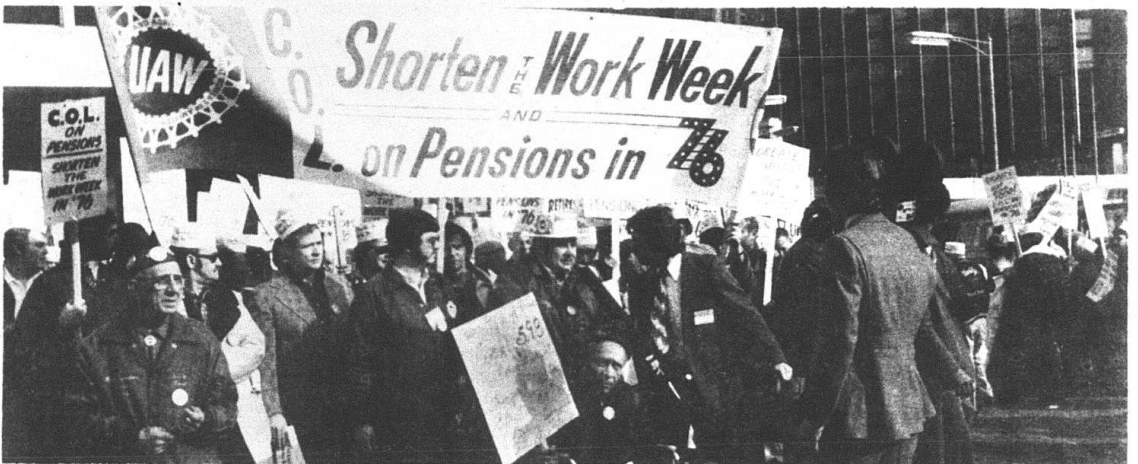
- The long-promised "shorter work time": two and one-third new days off per year. (Twelve days over the three-year contract, minus five for Christmas.)

- Protection for retirees from inflation: nothing. (Woodcock said that cost-of-living on pensions was not bargainable in 1976.)

- Retiree bonus: instead of COLA on pensions, a \$600-or-less one-time bonus, taken out of working members' cost-of-living.

To Ford skilled tradesmen, the new agreement was a slap in the face: an average of 12c/hour new money per year; no protection on subcontracting.

Doug Fraser had promised to make Chrysler repay \$21 million which Fraser said it stole by "raping" the SUB Fund in 1975. He came back with—nothing. □



Strike Two!

THE UAW LEADERSHIP boasts that it opened the door for Carter in the primaries.

They brag that the UAW controlled the vast majority of trade union delegates at the 1976 Democratic Convention.

They are proud that 71% of the Congressional candidates they backed won.

These politicians, they reason, owe them something.

The "something" the UAW leadership wants more than anything else is a national health insurance plan.

A praiseworthy social goal, the national health insurance plan has the additional attraction of taking the pressure off the International in national contract bargaining.

Medical and health plans are the biggest single chunk in the Big Three contracts.

SNAG

The health plan was a major snag in the Ford negotiations last year. Federal funding would reduce the size of the contract package.

Too bad for everyone. There will be no national health insurance plan under the Carter Administration. Jimmy has decided to balance the budget and otherwise imitate Gerald Ford instead.

Petitions and well-mannered trips to Washington will not be enough to turn the Administration away from its more powerful masters—the bankers and industrialists now setting Carter's economic policy.

As for the other legislature and political goals, such as full employment, we have already seen that Carter has no intention of spending the kind of money on the kind of programs that could do that job.

When it comes to auto workers' jobs, Carter has planted his foot firmly in the UAW leadership's face. It took a while, but finally even Woodcock was forced to oppose the "Gas Guzzler" tax and rebate plan. Woodcock knows that the auto companies will use "downsizing" as an excuse to lay off thousands.

But nonetheless the UAW leadership continues to sing Carter's praises loud and clear. □

[Top] Workers demonstrated for their demands, but the International turned a deaf ear. [Below] Jimmy Carter disguised as a friend of labor.



Strike Three!

MANAGEMENT HARRASSMENT and speed-up are nothing new in the auto industry. But most people would agree that things have gotten worse in recent years.

Foreign competition, the added costs of emissions controls, and a couple of very bad years have made the Big Three more aggressive in many places.

The truth is, the International leadership has never done much about these problems, or the problems local leaders face in fighting management—when and if they try.

But in the last year, matters have gotten even worse. In a growing number of situations, the International has allowed local officials and members to be fired for resisting management.

At the Chrysler Electrical plant in Indianapolis, 22 officials of Local

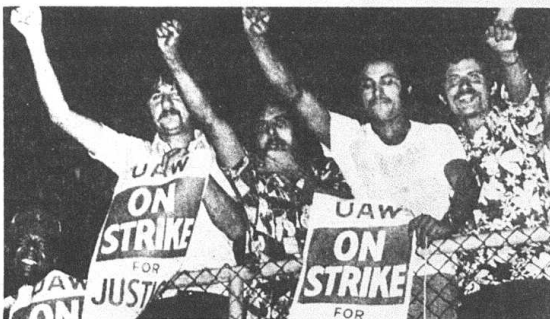
1226 were fired when they supported a walkout.

The walkout began because a foreman attacked a steward. All but one of the officials got rehired. But only by refusing to let the International participate in bargaining.

In Detroit, a walkout at Fisher Body's Fleetwood plant in defense of the Shop Chairman and Local President resulted in the firing of 10 members. The International dropped the grievances of the fired workers.

A leaflet put out this week by the United National Caucus sums up the situation:

"There are more and more cases where the International Union will not defend elected Local Union officials. The companies see this as a weakness, as a sign to go on the offensive." □



1976 Ford strike begins.

FRASER: THE SAME

25th UAW Convention: Everything's Out Of Order

AT THE LOS ANGELES Convention this week, nearly three thousand delegates will have the opportunity to make changes in the structure, goals, and leadership of the union.

But it is almost certain that only one change will be made. Doug Fraser will replace Leonard Woodcock as President. And that is no change.

Virtually none of the hundreds of motions submitted by local unions will ever reach the floor.

The few that do will not come up until the end—when most of the delegates, encouraged by the leadership, will be on their way home via Las Vegas.

No contract issues will be discussed, because the International Executive Board has ruled them out of order until the 1979 Bargaining Convention.

REAFFILIATION

The important and controversial question of re-affiliation with the AFL-CIO will also be out of order.

The International Executive Board is split on this question and is unable to properly organize the Administration machine.

And as everyone knows, the Administration doesn't like the membership to get its nose into something that is not already decided.

The election of Doug Fraser, of course, is not in question. He will win and that's all there is to that.

Be assured also, that Fraser will not differ from Woodcock, or Reuther before him, on any significant policy matter.

As one UAW insider told Business Week magazine, "The only real difference between Woodcock and Fraser is style."

More likely than not there will be no changes and few surprises at this convention. UAW conventions are always a model of stage management.

DISSATISFACTION

Nevertheless, the dissatisfaction of the rank and file with rotten contracts, betrayal in the face of management aggression, and the declining power of the union will find its reflection among many

delegates. Unable to speak or vote on most crucial issues, members have focussed dissatisfaction around the issue of referendum vote—the right of the members to vote directly for top union officers.

For some delegates, the right to vote on top officers means the opportunity to get a new leadership in the future. For many more, it may just be a way of pressuring the Fraser Administration with the threat of a general election next time.

In either case, the message is clear—something has got to change.

The word is that Fraser himself wants the referendum vote issue to come to the floor. He wants it defeated by a well-managed hand vote in the final hours of the convention.

If, by some chance, this question is put to a roll call vote, it might just pass.

It appears that a majority of delegates are pledged, by previous votes in their locals, to vote for the referendum vote.

But, since it takes about 800 delegates to get a roll call, it is unlikely this could be organized at such a late date.

The referendum vote, however, will continue to be a focus for opposition forces in the months and years following the convention.

The most important outcome of this convention is likely to be an expanding network of oppositionists around the country.

With Doug Fraser at the wheel, conditions in the industry will continue to decline and rank and file anger to grow.

Management will continue to take a hard line in bargaining and in the plants. Clinging to the same old no-win policies, the union will be further weakened.

As much of the top leadership retires in the next few years, the old Administration machine will lose its stability.

The need for new leadership in the UAW has been there for some time. In the next few years, the opportunity for it will be there as well. □

By-law Reforms Get 56% In Local 299 Vote

by Dan La Botz

DETROIT—Rank and filers have made a strong showing in their fight to democratize Teamster Local 299.

In votes on proposed by-laws which call for the election of Business Agents and Stewards, the rank and file got 55.5% of the vote so far after two weeks of craft meetings. A ½ majority is necessary, however.

The amendments were proposed by Teamsters for a Democratic Union and supported by another rank and file group, the Concerned Members.

The amendments pose a threat to the patronage machine of the Local. TDU has seen the by-laws campaign as part of a movement building toward over-turning the incumbent administration in the November elections.

RED-BAITING

The embattled 299 officers continued to respond to the rank and file movement in the Local with red-baiting the opposition.

At the meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Otto Wendel said that he resented TDU member Pete Camarata's bringing socialist poli-

BY-LAWS VOTES SO FAR (Unofficial Figures)			
		For	Against
May 2	Car haulers	275	203
May 4	J.L. Hudson (Dept. Store) and the Armored Car Drivers	4	39
May 5	Consolidated Pkg. Time Container	7	8
May 11	Rau Cartage	277	222
May 12	City Cartage	26	1
	Leaseaway day shift		
TOTALS SO FAR		589	473
		(55.5%)	(44.5%)

tics into the union. Several rank and filers jumped to Camarata's defense.

Eddie "Maz" Mazaluskus of TDU and Gene Fleszar of the Concerned Members both defended Pete's rights to his ideas. They expressed support for the by-laws campaign.

Wendel then changed his tune and said that he felt any politics, Democrat, Republican or Socialist were inappropriate in the union.

"That might be ok when you're talking about running a government," he said, "but a union has to be run like a business."

It has been the claim of the TDU and the Concerned Members that 299 has been run very much like a

business. And that the officers and the BA's are the ones who are making the profit!

Jimmy Hoffa Jr. gave the same speech he's been giving now for the last several weeks.

He said the by-laws were written by his Dad, Jimmy Hoffa, and that they've worked well enough so far.

He also said that if the BA's were elected they wouldn't work together. They'd all pull in different directions.

ON THE SPOT

Local President Robert Lins put Business Agent Pete Karagosian on the spot, asking him to speak about the by-laws.

Karagosian avoided committing himself. He said the men should "vote their conscience."

By-laws votes in the various craft divisions of the Local will continue until May 25. The next important vote will be steelhaulers. A TDU victory among steelhaulers will require support of the Michigan Owner Operators and Drivers (MOOD).

Some TDU activists are naturally disappointed not to have won the necessary ½ majority in these key car haulers and cartage meetings.

But the fact that they won better than half the votes means that the rank and file of 299 is in a good position to clean up the Local in the November elections. □



Teamsters gather at Local 299 hall for by-laws vote.

Women Win Sex Discrimination Suit

DETROIT—Four women workers from Automatic Retailers of America (ARA) won a suit filed six years ago in Federal District Court. They had charged their union, Local 1064 of the Retail and Wholesale Department Store Union—AFL-CIO with sex discrimination and non-representation.

ARA employees service food vending machines at plants and offices throughout the country.

The women worked at the Great Lakes Steel Division of ARA. The job classifications were: repairman, serviceman, truck driver, and

attendant. All the women were classified as attendants which paid the lowest rate.

TRIED TO BID

When they tried to bid on other classifications, they were told you had to be "trained by the company" to qualify.

The one woman chosen for such training, Minnie Farmer, was disqualified on the 29th day of her 30-day training period. The reason given was that she "couldn't move the machines." Neither she nor any of the men had ever been asked

to do so.

The women settled out of court with ARA. But in the recent trial they charged that the union had refused to arbitrate many of their grievances, and had acted along with the company to continue the policy of sex discrimination.

OWN RECORDS

The women plaintiffs produced evidence from their own carefully kept records to dispute the union's witnesses.

For instance the midnight steward testified that he had tried "his best" to help the women process their grievances. But one of the women, June Chambers, produced his grievance book. All the copies, including those supposed to be sent to the company and union business agent, were still intact!

Although the women had not been allowed to file a class action suit, the results of this trial reach much further than the four plaintiffs. One of the plaintiffs has died, two are permanently disabled from injuries suffered on their jobs, and one is still working.

The company and union undoubtedly fear that workers in other units of Local 1064 will have accounts of their own to settle with the union. □

Ford's Spain Plant Struck

Over 8000 auto workers in Valencia, Spain struck when Ford Motor tried to force them to build more Fiestas than their agreement called for. Ford retaliated on May 9 with an indefinite lockout.

Stewards shut down the assembly lines half an hour early May 3 to prevent the company from producing more cars than the agreement allowed. The company suspended the stewards, and the workers walked out in support of their officers.

Even before unions were recently made legal, Spanish workers have organized powerful union and other shop-floor organizations. □

The Fiesta plant opened last fall. It's a key plant for Ford's profitable foreign operations. The Fiesta accounts for a big share of the increase in Ford's overseas sales. Likewise it is important to the Spanish government's plans to get the economy on its feet. It is the largest single foreign investment in Spain.

The Fiesta work force is one of the most militant in Spain. The workers there presented King Juan Carlos and Henry Ford II with a letter when they toured the plant in October. They demanded full political freedom and the legalization of all political parties and labor organizations. □

AFTER THE FLOODS...

by Jim Woodward

ON HUNDREDS OF BUILDINGS in Williamson, West Virginia, you can see a big blue X. That X spells disaster. It means the building is condemned, a result of the floods which raced through Williamson and other West Virginia and Kentucky communities April 3-4.

It hasn't been easy for the people of these towns in the last month. Many of them lost their homes and everything else. Federal disaster assistance has been slow in coming. One report said that of the 1300 people who had applied for emergency housing, only 50 or 60 had been placed in temporary housing after a couple weeks.

Events move very quickly in a situation like this. You can learn things about people and social relations in a few weeks that it might take years to see in normal times.

People have a chance to show themselves to be courageous and unselfish or greedy, arrogant and dishonest.

Here are two stories of what happened in the aftermath of the floods. It's no accident, we think, that those who control the great concentrations of wealth and power—all the way from the coal fields to the White House—don't exactly come out smelling like roses.



AN ANGRY RESIDENT of the southern West Virginia flood area makes his point clear to Governor Jay Rockefeller [right]. Rockefeller is holding petitions carrying 7000 names demanding a halt to strip mining. More than 20,000 acres of land have been stripped in Mingo and McDowell Counties in the last ten years, and many residents feel this made the floods worse. Rockefeller said he would not support a ban on strip mining. Instead he said he would push a \$14.5 million flood relief bill in a special session of the state legislature. But by the time the legislature took a recess May 7, it had not acted on flood relief. It had, however, raised salaries 34% for top state officials.

CORBIN, KY.

COAL OPERATORS HOLD A HAMMER OVER THE CITY

"THE COAL OPERATORS have a great deal of money, and since they have a great deal of money, they can use it in various ways," says James Lee Crawford

"For example, all the banks in the county wrote letters denouncing what I'd said in the editorial; they published ads denouncing me personally and denouncing what I'd said."

That may sound like a radical statement, but James Lee Crawford is no radical. He's the editor of the Times-Tribune, a small daily newspaper in Corbin, Kentucky. For 14 years, he's served as a member of the Corbin City Recreation Commission.

What distinguishes Crawford is that he believes in printing what he sees, and he's got the guts to do it. What he saw last month was flooding made much worse by extensive strip mining.

RECLAIM LAND

In a telephone interview with Workers' Power, Crawford explained that the coal operators were not properly reclaiming the land.

"If they reclaim properly they'll put the rock and shale and ultimately the topsoil back. Then it's revegetated.

"If this is done properly, it may not be real beautiful, but it will be fairly sound environmentally, so that it will not pollute your streams."

Without this, he added, mud and silt get into the streams so they're not as deep as they were.

And without trees and vegetation on the hillsides, there is a tremendously rapid runoff of water. That's what makes the flooding worse.

Crawford wrote an editorial in his newspaper saying just that.

That upset the coal operators, and, as Crawford says, "They had somewhat of a hammer over the city."

The coal operators had been doing some grading work free of charge on a city park, and immediately said they were stopping this work until Crawford resigned from the City Recreation Commission.

The City Council voted 4-1 to ask for his resignation, and on May 2, Crawford resigned.

RESPONSE

There were also some businessmen who stopped advertising in the Times-Tribune, and some threats on the phone, though Crawford says, "I can't really say they were serious threats.

WILLIAMSON, W. VA.

MINERS STOP WORK TO DEMAND GOVERNMENT AID

THERE ARE MORE COAL miners than anything else in Mingo County, West Virginia. As miners they've got two things going for them.

One is a well-developed sense of solidarity. The other, because of the importance of coal these days, is some power.

Since the flood, the miners and other residents of this area have been in a running battle with the federal government, up to and including the White House.

The problem has been lack of action from Washington.

Weeks after the flood waters had come and gone, people in some communities were still sleeping in tents or in their cars.

Little aid had come, and the only federal reconstruction loans available were at an exorbitant 6 5/8%.

So the people in and around Williamson, West Virginia did what they could. Through the newly-formed Tug Valley Recovery Group, they organized a work stoppage of the entire community.

Rod McCoy, a coal miner who helped organize the April 25 action, told Workers' Power what they did.

"Miners couldn't picket the mines directly because of the contract," he said. "But a miner will never cross a picket line."

"So we had people from a retired folks home, some doctors and lawyers, and also some nuns do the picketing."

All the other businesses in the area were shut down too.

McCoy said they just wanted the government to pay attention, and "we knew cutting off the coal was the best way."

He said they expected the work stoppage to be confined to the local area, but that it spread to five counties in West Virginia and two counties in Kentucky.

Although some 30,000 miners were out, McCoy said he'd never seen a coal strike get off the ground so fast.

Some 6600 miners were directly affected by the flood.

Most of the rest were joining in not because they stood to gain anything directly for themselves, but because they knew it would help someone else.

That's an inspiring display of solidarity. The White House responded with a bit of two-faced deception and arrogance.

WASHINGTON CALLS

On the first afternoon of the strike, Dr. Joyce Starr called from the White House telling the strikers to send representatives to Washington for a meeting. Claiming victory, the work stoppage was called off.

Later in the day, another call came from the White House. This time it was from Midge Costanza, one of Jimmy Carter's "inner circle" of advisers.

Costanza is the most liberal of the seven top officials in the White House. Her job this time was to be Carter's hatchetlady.

Costanza told the people in Williamson, sorry, but Dr. Starr's call was a mistake. She didn't have the authority to say what she said. Don't bother coming to Washington.

Dr. Starr, when contacted later by the Mountain Eagle, a Kentucky newspaper, said that further protests and wildcats would be "irresponsible" and "blackmail."

In spite of this cold shoulder

from the White House, McCoy said he thinks the protest was successful.

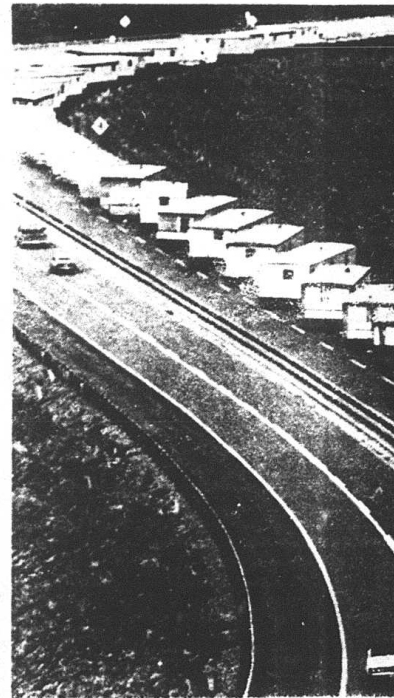
Despite the formal rejection, he said, they have in fact been getting more action from Washington officials since the work stoppage.

And "Carter's boy," Chip, was down for a sightseeing tour May 3.

It's not easy fighting a government that's turned its back on a tragedy, but the people of Williamson, West Virginia, are showing that it can be done. □



Floods badly damaged 3-4. Here, the disaster zone



THIS HAPPY TRIO is inspecting flood damage in Mingo County, West Virginia. Left to right, Patricia Harris, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Sharon Rockefeller, wife of West Virginia Governor Jay Rockefeller, and Chip Carter, the President's son. Harris and Carter said they were impressed with the speed of clean-up efforts. Harris mentioned the freshly-polished floor tiles of a flood-damaged bank as one example.

Meanwhile, of 2000 families made homeless in Mingo County, only an estimated 200 have been placed in new housing. Some residents continue to live in tents while hundreds of empty HUD-owned mobile homes line the highways, victims of HUD's red tape. The government refuses to move the trailers into the old neighborhoods, insisting on developing new sites, which could take months. To get government assistance, some elderly residents have had to move into isolated trailer camps miles from their old communities. With no transportation and no stores within walking distance, they have had difficulty getting out to buy groceries or other necessities.

Miners Strike, Protest Absenteeism Policy

by David Katz

Massive wildcat strikes flared up last week in the coal fields of Ohio and West Virginia. For a while the situation threatened to escalate into a major nationwide confrontation between the coal operators and the United Mine Workers union.

The incident illustrates how volatile the union has become as it approaches the June 14 elections for its international officers. On that day, miners will choose between incumbent president Arnold Miller, and challengers Harry Patrick and LeRoy Patterson.

The wildcat began in late April at a Peabody Coal Co. mine in southeastern Ohio. Members of Local 1323 were protesting a new absenteeism policy the company is trying to introduce.

Absenteeism has been a source of conflict for some time. Many companies have adopted absentee policies which go beyond the provisions of the national contract.

ROVING PICKETS

Before long, roving pickets were successful in closing down all the mines in the area. Later, miners in Kanawha, Boone, and Raleigh counties in West Virginia struck in sympathy. At its peak, about 23,000 miners were out.

At one point, rumors spread that two union officials had been jailed for contempt of court when miners refused to follow a back-to-work court order. The real story turned out to be slightly different. Two Ohio miners were held in jail briefly after they forced a truck driver to dump his 20-ton load of coal onto the highway.

One union official speculated that the companies were concerned with more than absenteeism.

Frank Clements, an Alabama member of the union's International Executive Board, was sent to investigate the strikes. He thought Peabody was trying to create a coal shortage to pressure Ohio into lowering its standards on the use of high sulphur coal.

On May 9, a delegation of miners went to the UMW International Executive Board meeting in Morgantown, W.VA. They asked the Board to declare the absentee question a national question, subject to collective bargaining.

IMMEDIATE STRIKE?

Some union sources said a provision in the national contract would allow an immediate nationwide strike if no agreement with the operators was reached.

Normally, the Executive Board would have turned the proposal down flat. The IEB's policy on wildcat strikes has always been to end them rather than to win them.

But with the election coming up, the attitudes of some of the union officials changed quickly. Over Miller's objections, the Board voted 12-8 to make the dispute "national in character." Candidates Patrick and Patterson voted with the majority.

The Board instructed Miller to send a telegram to the employers' Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) stating that the new absentee policies are "without contractual authority."

The Board told Miller to demand an immediate meeting with the operators to resolve the question. That set the stage for a possible national strike.

Miller, however, refused to follow the Board's instructions. He sent the BCOA a vaguely-worded telegram, but it did not demand a meeting to negotiate the absenteeism dispute.

"It may be I'll ignore the board as I have sometimes done in the past," Miller said.

Miller's defiance of the Execu-

tive Board has quieted the situation for the moment. It is not known how the Board majority will deal with the situation.

Most of the strikers have gone back to work—at least for now. But the absenteeism question is definitely not settled. It is sure to pop up again soon, either in Ohio or somewhere else. □

Rigged Elections Spur Pakistani General Strike

TYRANTS BEWARE! When the Pakistani prime minister tried to steal an election recently, the nation's working people responded with massive strikes.

The strikes may very well bring down the government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Bhutto, a semi-dictator, recently called an election. As expected, he won. Also as expected, it was obvious he rigged the election.

Only he made one mistake. He rigged it a little too obviously—and a little too well. In fact, he rigged it so well that his supporters won over 150 out of 200 seats in Parliament, which everyone knew was outrageous.

CALL DEMONSTRATIONS

So the opposition parties refused to accept the results and called for mass demonstrations to force Bhutto to resign.

Pakistani workers in several cities responded massively. At least 26 unions called a general strike.

In Karachi they shut down every factory, the docks and all shops. The train station was closed. Airport workers joined in.

When the opposition called for an all-out nationwide general strike, it was so obvious it would succeed that Bhutto ordered a 24-hour curfew and said troops would shoot anyone in the streets on sight.

Unfortunately, the opposition parties aren't much different from Bhutto. Some of them are worse.

The opposition leaders began negotiating with Bhutto. They became afraid they couldn't control the mass popular upheaval any longer.

Pakistani workers have shown their power to shake the system. □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

American Airlines flight attendants have followed the lead of their co-workers at TWA, and dumped the Transport Workers Union (TWU) as their bargaining agent. They have selected instead the independent Association of Professional Flight Attendants. An official of the new union said the change was made because the TWU had "given too much leeway to American."

In Massachusetts, Governor

Dukakis has come up with a new way of not dealing with unemployment in his state—a job lottery. Last week Dukakis invited reporters to watch as he drew 5000 names out of a drum. The 5000 lucky winners will get state-funded jobs this summer. Maybe Dukakis thinks he'll get some good press coverage out of a stunt like this. To us it's disgusting that people who want to work have to hold their breath and hope that some clown pulls their name out of a barrel.

People living near large coke oven facilities apparently run a much greater risk of developing cancer. A recent study shows nearly 100 times the concentration of benzo (a) pyrene (BAP) in the air of Clairton, Pennsylvania than in other cities without coke ovens. United States Steel operates a major coke plant in Clairton.

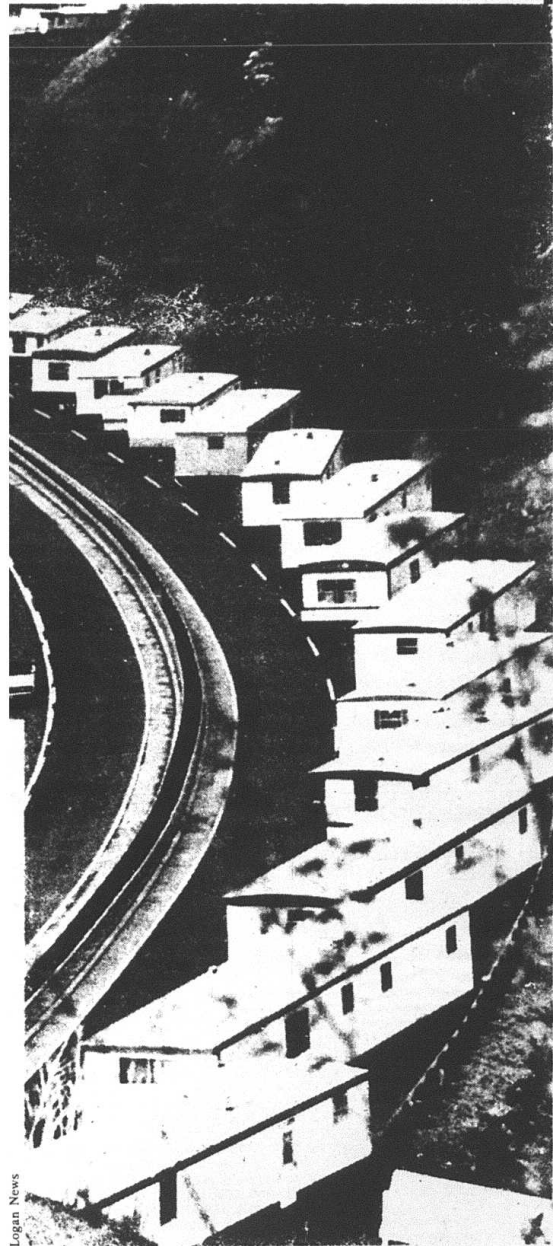
More promises, promises! Leaders of teachers unions report Jimmy Carter has promised he'll sign legislation giving public employees collective bargaining rights if Congress passes it.

A grand jury in McCreary County, Kentucky has indicated 31 persons, including 27 striking miners on charges of wounding two security guards at the Stearns Mining Co.'s Justus Mine. The miners recently voted in the United Mine Workers and are on strike seeking a contract. It was not immediately clear how the grand jury thought two guards could be shot by 31 persons and still live to tell about it.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, Labor Notes, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.



Damaged many small Kentucky and West Virginia communities April 1977. Cumberland River races through Pineville, Ky. Reactions to this id from the heroic to the disgraceful.



Logan News

SEVEN WORRIED MEN ON A CLOUDY SUMMIT

by Dan Posen and Kim Moody

The political leaders of the major industrial nations of North America and western Europe met in London last week.

Their summit conference was supposed to make key decisions about the economic future of the western world.

By anyone's account, it wasn't exactly a major success.

Participating in the conference were the governments of the United States, West Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

It's fairly easy to describe the major problems they discussed. Solving them is something else again.

Some of these problems, like the flow of western money to oil-producing states, are relatively new.

Others, such as the dangers of trade wars between competing capitalist nations, existed before—during the devastating world depressions of the 1930's.

Summit conferences of government leaders didn't succeed in solving these problems then—and it's very doubtful they can do any better today.

WEAK RECOVERY

It's not that the capitalist world is in a '30's-type crash today.

In fact, it's the opposite—the capitalist world economies are in a recovery, and have been for nearly two years.

The problems start with the fact that this recovery is still weak and slow.

Business economists are worried because capitalists in most countries haven't made enough major new investments.

Even in the United States, by far the strongest of the capitalist powers, the problem is a real one.

U.S. unemployment (officially) has declined to a low figure of "only" seven per cent.

But this is the highest rate of unemployment that has ever existed in this country during a similar phase of business recovery!

The slow pace of recovery is really the beginning of a whole chain of problems.

For one thing, the recovery itself is very uneven from one country to the next. For example, in Japan production isn't growing yet at all, but rather is still slowing down.

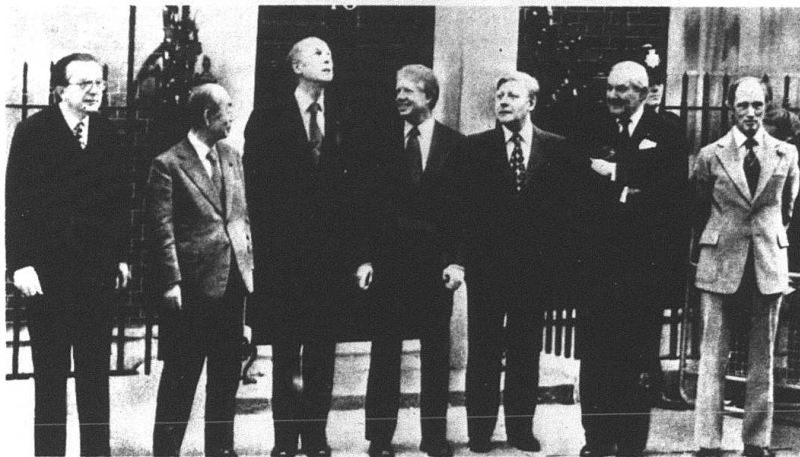
And the weaker economies, which right now are Italy, Britain, France, and Canada, need help. These countries want either international bank loans or the stronger countries to import more of their goods.

For instance, Jimmy Carter's proposed \$50 income tax rebate would have stimulated U.S. consumer spending and created a bigger market for Japanese goods.

However, this rebate was vetoed by American big business, who said it was inflationary.

If the American economy grows fast enough to help out the weaker European economies, the resulting inflation will put American capitalists at a disadvantage in exporting their own goods!

This is the same conflict that leads to protectionism, trade barriers, and trade wars.



The President of France is hoping an economic miracle will fall from the sky.

During the 1930's world trade actually collapsed, as each capitalist nation tried to ruin its neighbor by keeping foreign products from competing with domestic goods.

The leaders at the London summit issued several statements to re-assure each other they won't let it happen again.

But pressures for protectionism are great.

Earlier this year, U.S. clothing manufacturers tried to get the Carter Administration to slap barriers on textile imports. Carter

refused because his economic advisers told him that other countries could retaliate against U.S. goods.

Protectionism takes other forms. For example, the U.S. is putting major pressure on Japan to "voluntarily" limit its export of appliances.

NO COMMITMENT

At the summit, Carter was not willing to commit the U.S. to an inflationary policy that would help

the weaker nations like Britain and Italy.

At best, the conference probably succeeded in heading off any immediate threat of a trade war.

Even that very general promise was made in the context of economic recovery. That is, under the best conditions.

What will happen when the current recovery runs out of steam and the next recession begins?

The leaders of the most powerful industrial nations preferred to avoid unpleasant topics like that. □

Depends On Your Point Of View...

From the capitalists' point of view, the problem is that there aren't high enough profit margins to be made from new investments.

From a worker's viewpoint, the problem is a different one. The past three years of recession, followed by a slow upturn, have meant a terrible waste of goods, services, and wealth that might have been produced for human need.

These goods weren't produced because the capitalists couldn't make enough profit from them.

BUILT IN

About 12% more wealth could have been produced last year, if unemployed workers had been allowed to operate the shut-down factories throughout the western world. And 1975 was worse—18% more could have been produced.

That kind of hidden waste is built in to the boom-and-bust structure of capitalism itself, whether it's in one nation or world-wide.

This is the system the bosses tell us is the most productive, efficient, and well-run system that could ever be devised. □

Britain: Racists Gain As Labor Party Flops

LAST WEEK'S municipal elections in Britain were a big shock for the Labor Party.

The results showed a major shift toward the Conservative Party. The Conservatives (or "Tories") won firm control of the London city government.

But that is only part of the story. An extreme right-wing party, the National Front, got a whopping ten per cent of the vote in London, and six per cent nationally.

Labor Party leaders, who are usually described as moderate socialists, came into power three years ago. They promised measures to reduce unemployment and benefit workers, retirees, and the poor.

Instead they have been the managers for Britain's slum-ridden capitalist system. Labor in office has been three years of shrinking social services, rising layoffs, and wage controls.

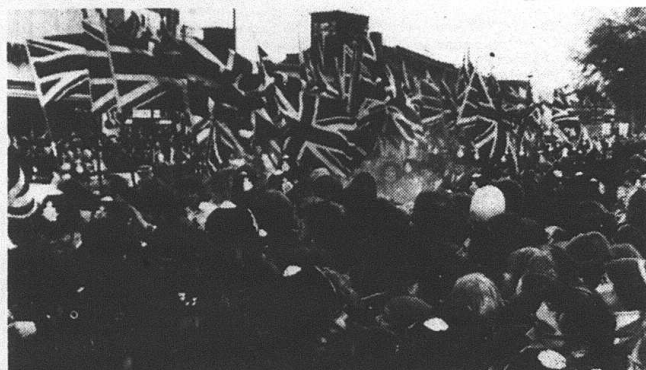
The Labor Party has succeeded in bringing inflation down, from 25% to 13 or 14%.

But it also succeeded in pushing unemployment toward 1.5 million. This has destroyed its support both among workers and the middle class.

BOSSES' CANDIDATES

The failure of the Labor Party to run the bosses' system paved the way for the victory of the Conservatives—who are the bosses' own candidates.

A big part of the Conservatives'



The British Nazis are having their problems. Black and Asian young workers, members of the Socialist Workers Party, and other revolutionaries are determined to drive the fascists off the streets. They have pelted their marches with smoke bombs, rotten fruit, and eggs.

This scene took place a few weeks ago in North London. Anti-fascists broke into the body of the fascist National Front march. A special police contingent was mobilized to protect the fascists.

appeal is similar to that of Ronald Reagan or Richard Nixon—a call for cracking down on so-called chiselers and welfare bums. These terms are used to refer to Black workers and their families.

The same appeal was made by the National Front. Only the National Front used outright white-power, kick-out-the-Blacks rhetoric.

The Front is led by conscious fascists, many of whom were followers of Adolph Hitler during the 1930's. Its program calls for deporting all Black and Asian workers living in Britain.

The National Front leads gang-

style attacks on young Black and Asian people, and organizes marches through racially mixed neighborhoods to show power in the streets.

The Front, like its sister organizations the Klu Klux Klan and American Nazi Party, has attracted an assortment of thugs and scum.

But now it has also shown it can pull votes from some sections of white workers as well.

WHO'S TO BLAME?

Every vote they win is someone trying to shift the blame for

unemployment, declining living standards and the system's crisis onto Black workers.

British revolutionaries are joining with Black and Asian workers to confront the fascists and drive them off the streets.

However, as a leader of the British Socialist Workers' Party explained recently, that is only half the battle.

"We must take the campaign against the National Front and their ideas into the community, into the schools, into the housing estates and into the workplace. Every racist idea must be challenged and argued against." □



Andrew Young, U.S. United Nations Ambassador



Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, Leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front



CAN U.S. PULL STRINGS TO STOP AFRICAN FREEDOM?

Andrew Young's trip to Africa has already drawn headlines—even before his plane took off.

For a while the South African government threatened to refuse to allow him into the country.

White South African officials were disturbed that Young did not request official permission for his planned one-day stop there. They are even more upset that Young

has publically called their government "illegitimate."

South African Foreign Minister R. F. Botha puffed himself up to pronounce that "we are a proud nation. We are not going to be dictated to by anyone, not even the United States, and least of all Mr. Andrew Young."

In fact the South African regime

has nothing to do with the real South African nation. The real nation is the 80% Black majority, presently deprived of all economic, human, political and trade union rights.

MEEKLY

However, Botha's small diplomatic outburst was solved by

Young's superiors at the State Department. They meekly submitted an official request to the regime to approve Young's trip.

The incident re-inforced Andrew Young's image as a Black leader who stands up against the racist minority rulers of southern Africa. But there's a catch to it.

Young is not the American representative who is going to

bargain with high South African officials.

That job, the job of making the deals between the US government and South Africa's white regime, is assigned to Vice-President Mondale.

Mondale will be meeting in Vienna with South African Prime Minister J. B. Vorster on May 18. You can be sure there won't be any diplomatic flaps or militant statements from Mondale.

ETHIOPIA: Russian Arms Against The Revolution

by Dan Posen

Until last week, the military government of Ethiopia was getting a steady supply of planes, tanks, ammunition, military advice and communications aid from the United States government.

Now the Ethiopian military junta (Dergue) has changed its source of arms and its international alignment, from Washington to Moscow. But the politics are exactly the same.

The Ethiopian government was using its U.S.-supplied weapons against a popular war for national liberation in the province of Eritrea, and to crush a revolutionary movement of left-wing workers and students in the capital city, Addis Ababa.

Now, however, the Ethiopian government has proclaimed itself

to be a revolutionary anti-imperialist movement.

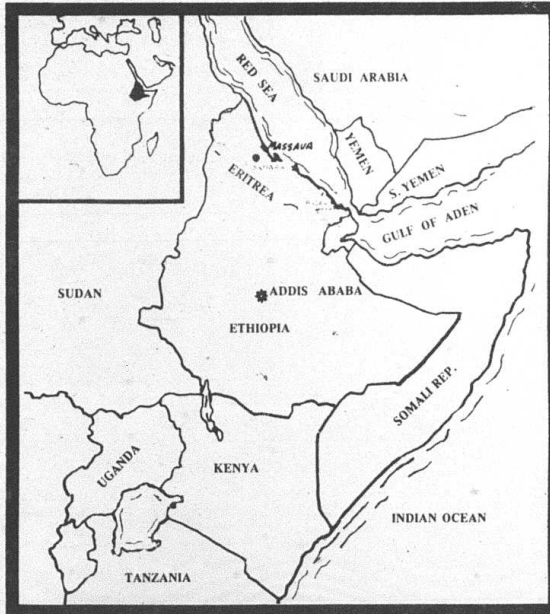
American officers from the Military Assistance Advisory Group, other U.S. staff members and officials have been expelled.

A U.S. Naval medical research center, the U.S. radio communications center in Eritrea and other U.S. offices are being shut down under the new policy.

• Over \$100 million in planned U.S. arms sales to Ethiopia have been cancelled.

Instead, Ethiopia will receive a reported \$200 million in military equipment from the Soviet Union. There are about 200 Cuban military and political advisors already working for the Ethiopian government.

Several dozen Russian T-34



tanks, plus artillery, armored personnel carriers and light arms have already arrived.

The weapons supplied by Russia are to be used for the exact same purposes as the American weapons they will replace.

The military regime is launching a new blitz war against the independence movement in Eritrea. This movement actually controls the entire province outside the main Eritrean city, Asmara.

The regime is also stepping up its roundups, mass arrests and executions of the left-wing opposition in Ethiopia.

The left-wing worker and student movement is led by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP).

The EPRP is one of the few revolutionary left groups in Africa with a real working class base.

But now Cuban advisers, who claim to represent the interests of

socialism, are assisting the military rulers of Ethiopia in their efforts to exterminate the EPRP.

It is true that a number of genuine African liberation movements, like the MPLA in Angola and the Zimbabwe freedom fighters, have gotten Russian and Cuban aid in their struggle against colonialism.

However, Russia and its allies will give as much aid—in fact, more—to a gang of cutthroats like the Ethiopian military junta, as they will to an oppressed African people fighting for freedom.

In either case, they are aiming to expand their own political base and military influence in Africa or elsewhere.

It is really no different from the American government rushing support to Mobutu in Zaire, or allowing the American oil company Mobil to supply oil to the white minority in Rhodesia.

ANOTHER JOB

Meanwhile Andrew Young is doing a job too—a different job.

Young's most important assignment in Africa is to attend a United Nations' conference on southern Africa, held in Mozambique. Leaders of Black African states and representatives of the Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) Black liberation movements will attend.

Young's recent conflicts with the white-minority regimes will give him a good image as he goes to meet African leaders.

But Andrew Young's mission in Mozambique is to pressure the African governments and liberation movements to accept a deal. The same deal Mondale is working out with South Africa!

DETAILS

This week the governments of the US and Britain announced the details of their plans for ending the Zimbabwe liberation war.

They want the freedom fighters to lay down their weapons and let the US and Britain write a new Constitution determining how a Black government would be created.

If the Zimbabwean guerrillas in the Patriotic Front refuse to accept this, American power may be used to keep the white regime in control of the country.

The main purpose of this plan is to protect white Rhodesian property and guarantee the stability of capitalism for South Africa.

Behind closed doors, away from the spotlight Andrew Young will be trying to force that proposal down the throats of the people of Zimbabwe.

That is Andrew Young's real job in Africa. It is a job that his militant image was created to allow him to do.

Jimmy Carter, the little ole frill-cutter, has spent \$25,000 for a "symbolic open door" at the Justice Department. The door was sealed during anti-war demonstrations in 1970.

However, you still can't get in that way. Two security guards are stationed at the door. If you don't have a special ID card, you have to go down the street to the other open door. This one isn't symbolic.

May Day: 500 Murdered

The Ethiopian military government celebrated May Day with another massacre of revolutionary workers and students.

The weekly AFRICA NEWS reported that as many as 500 were killed. "Some were apprehended and shot in detention; others were shot as they demonstrated in the streets of the capital, Addis Ababa."

"The sources say that many of the victims were students and other supporters of the Ethio-

opian People's Revolutionary Party... The May Day incident is the bloodiest reported to date."

The Ethiopian government calls itself revolutionary. It has organized a political front called the "All-Ethiopia Socialist Movement."

Its leaders, according to the British magazine, The Economist, come "mostly from the former ruling class"—which means from the landlords and businessmen who got rich under the former Emperor, Haile Selassie.

The Wages of Sin... or the Price of Capitalism?



Talking About Socialism

by Dan La Botz

Roberta Ellarae Lynn was nearly killed when her double trailers jackknifed and her rig rolled over on Highway 17 outside of Santa Cruz, California.

Why did it happen? Who's responsible? What is to be done about it?

Different people look at problems like this in different ways.

The "Highway Evangelist: Voice of the Christian Trucker" is a newspaper published by the Truckers for Christ. Here's what they had to say about Roberta's accident.

"Just as the driver looked away from the road for just a moment, sin can also blind a person to unexpected fishhook-turn dangers that lie ahead in the road map of life. That's the awfulness of it.

"Sin numbs the sensitivities of both non-believers and believers alike. And when that happens any person will surely suffer the consequences."

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

The article implies that Roberta was responsible for the accident because she looked away for a moment. And it implies that we are all responsible for our problems because we are sinners.

According to Christian doctrine, not much can be done about an accident like this. They're bound to happen.

Why? Because Christianity says that all people are sinners.

It says that human nature is weak or corrupt ever since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Christianity says you must expect to suffer in this life. You look for your reward in the next.

So when there are problems at work or in the community, the Christian religions tend to encourage people to accept them.

SOCIALIST VIEW

Now let's look at Roberta Ellarae Lynn's accident from a socialist point of view.

Roberta was driving double trailers. Why? Not because she was basically sinful or because life is a vale of tears. Because doubles carry more freight and make more profit for the truck owners.

Was she driving too fast? If so, it wasn't because she's a daughter of Eve, but because her dispatcher gave her a run that you can't make if you go the legal limit.

Was she tired? If she was it wasn't because of her corrupt nature and human frailty. Most road drivers get tired because their employers force them to work 70, 80 or even 90 hours a week.

What's behind the difference in these two views of the accident?

In another article in the same issue of "Highway Evangelist" a



Roberta Ellarae Lynn pulled from the wreck of her tractor after double trailers jack-knifed in Santa Cruz. Is she a daughter of Eve or a victim of capitalism?

wife writes about her husband's job. "...the job hasn't always been the easiest and very trying at times, but with the love of God he carries on."

The implication is that you "carry on" in a situation that you can't do anything to change. But socialists believe that human beings, working together, can change our whole world. We don't have to wait quietly for our reward from Jesus Christ.

In fact, we socialists don't believe that there is any such thing as human nature. We believe that people make their own nature.

People are the way that they are because of the kind of world they grow up in and live in. What seems to be human nature today is really the result of the big business system of our country.

THE DOLLAR

It is a system where the almighty dollar rules supreme. The profit system. A system that makes most of us wage slaves.

The big businessmen of this country will make a buck even if they have to drive workers like

ruining the run so she could make a few points with the boss.

The Christian view says that's because she's a born sinner. We say it's because capitalism made her that way.

WHY GREEDY?

After all, our system tends to make people greedy and competitive, aggressive and belligerent.

The system tells us that if you want to survive, you better get out there and fight to make a living. Because that's what it's all about.

You've got to fight your fellow workers to get a better load or a better run or a better piece of equipment—or just to get a job.

But the "in-human nature" that this society causes isn't natural. It's made by people, and we can change it.

For example, double trailers can be banned. Statistics show that they cause many more accidents than single trailers.

Drivers' runs can be made shorter so that they can be finished doing the legal limit.

Drivers' work weeks can be shortened so that they can get enough sleep and spend some time with their families.

But not only can conditions be changed—we can change our own "human nature" too.

In the struggle to make the world better, we do change. Not because of God's love or the spirit of Jesus Christ, but because of the power of human beings to remake the world as we see fit.

We begin to create a nature based, not on competition, but on cooperation and solidarity of all people who are exploited and oppressed.

It will be a nature where the needs and desires and feelings of people come before profits.

As more people become involved in the struggle to change the world and to improve it and ourselves, then Christianity will change too.

It will be recognized as a dangerous myth. A myth that encourages people to accept the rotten system around them and the inadequacies of their own personality.

It will disappear as people begin fighting to change the world and themselves.

JOIN US!

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.**

Name

Address

Union

Where We Stand

WE OPPOSE

***CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION**
We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.

***CAPITALIST CONTROL**
Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions, and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.

***OPPRESSION**
Capitalism needs inequality. Because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the work force when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.

***CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT**
The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying and wars.

***BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM**
Russia, China and other countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working class of those countries.

WE SUPPORT

***THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**
The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.

***LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION**
Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We see for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom. Support from the entire working class movement will make the struggles of both—the oppressed and the working class movement—stronger.

***SOCIALISM**
Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.

***WORKERS' REVOLUTION**
But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.

***INTERNATIONALISM**
The struggle for socialism is world-wide. We support every fight of the working class against exploitation, and every struggle by nations fighting for independence from foreign rulers. We support every struggle for freedom—from the people of southern Africa against racism and western colonialism, to the struggle against bureaucratic rule and Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe. We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.

***REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**
The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.

***INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**
The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

Workers' Power
313-869-5964

DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER, What About Our Human Rights?

Jimmy Carter is morally outraged over human rights violations—in other countries. In particular he attacks mistreatment of political prisoners—men and women who are punished for speaking out against the tyranny and injustice practiced by their nation's government.

Here Workers' Power reprints a letter to Carter by George Blue. Blue is the chairman of the National Prisoners Association. The NPA has long fought for human rights for the inmates of America's prison system.

As a result, Blue has been harassed, beaten and tortured—all in the effort to shut him up. He is not alone. Here he calls attention to a particular prison unit where dozens of inmates are shut up—all in an effort to shut them up.

Blue wants to know—What is Carter going to do about these home-grown human rights violations?

Mr. James Carter, President
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Mr. President.

Due to your recent stand on human rights, I want to call your attention to the wholesale violation of human rights here at the United States Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois.

There is a prison within a prison here, called the long-term control unit. Prisoners are sent here from all across the United States to undergo behavioral modification treatment.

Any prisoners who speak out through the courts or the news media are likely candidates for the long-term control unit.

At present time there are 47 prisoners confined here. The place is divided into two units.

One unit houses 11 Whites, 3 Blacks and 1 Chicano. This is called the working section. Here the men are allowed out of their cages for four hours to work and four hours for television and other benefits.

Section two houses 24 Blacks, 3 Chicanos, and 5 Whites. They remain in their cages for 23½ hours daily.

The treatment program consists of physical beatings with baseball bats, forced druggings, mental torture, restrictive diet. Prisoners are used as guinea pigs for untested control methods and mind-depressing drugs. There have been numerous suicides. Prisoners complain of food being

placed with foreign matter, from ground glass to human feces and urine.

In a recent news report the US Bureau of Prisons admitted that prisoners were on a restrictive diet, had been drugged, beaten, and that guards kept a container of urine which they used to douse prisoners with. They maintain that this place is necessary.

The Bureau of Prisons and Warden James Riggsby contend that the unit is used to house the "most dangerous men in America."

Listed below is a profile of some of them:

- Ismail Muslim Ali (LaBeet) has been in the control unit for 13 months. Reason? "Out of place." He was in an unassigned area, talking to some of his friends. He is a Muslim.

- Andrew D. Kelly has been in the control unit on indefinite status—5 months so far. Reason? "Insolence to a white guard."

- Randolph B. Peoples has been in the control unit since October, 1976. Reason? "Refusing to obey an order."

- George Blue, chairman of the National Prisoners Association, has been in the control unit since May, 1976. Reason? "Unauthorized use of mail." He put a letter to the warden in the wrong mailbox.

- No Whites were charged with "insolence," putting letters in the wrong mailbox, being out of place, or refusing to obey an order.

There is strong implication of political, religious and racist



motives by the Warden and Bureau of Prisons. The Bureau of Prisons, in a very racist statement, claimed that Blacks were more violence-prone than Whites.

Yet there is documented proof that a large number of Whites were tried for murder and assault; none however were placed in the control unit. Instead they were transferred

to other prisons.

In closing, I wish to say that I hope you will show the same concern for our rights as you did for Vladimir Bukovsky and Andrei Sakharov. Thank you.

George Blue #27559-138
PO Box 1000
US Concentration Camp
Marion, Illinois 62959



Eddison Zvobgo

We Say No! To South Africa

PITTSBURGH — The Southern Africa Liberation Committee (SALC) held a meeting in the Manchester and Homewood communities here. The meeting showed our concern and solidarity with the courageous fighting people of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

A speaker from the Southern Africa Liberation Committee brought out the necessity for the people of America to aid the freedom fighters of Zimbabwe.

Eddison Zvobgo, a representative from the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), did a fine job in explaining the U.S. government's strategy in South Africa.

The U.S. uses Andrew Young, a Black man, as their front man. Young, an ex-fighter for civil rights, made the statement that Black troops should be used for peace keeping in Rhodesia.

However everyone knows this is part of the Carter Administration's tactic to protect its billions of investments in South Africa.

CRIME

Andrew Young has committed the ultimate crime. Having fought for human rights and self-determination himself, he should know better.

He would like Blacks in this country to accept racism at its highest stage: apartheid in South Africa.

This strategy should be rejected by the Blacks in this country, who have been fighting against racism for generations. We say no to little boy Floyd and his bosses!

But whites must also reject U.S. support of apartheid. It was not long ago when this country was active in another unjust war, Vietnam. Thousands of young people lost their lives or were maimed—for what?

Don't let South Africa be the next Vietnam.

Yes, Africa is many miles away. We can't see the atrocities nor can we hear the cries of an oppressed people, but they are appealing to the American people for help.

Let's not let them down.

HELP

The 30 people at the forum loved Ed Addison. They were very eager to do what they could to help. The SALC collects supplies to send to the freedom fighters of Zimbabwe. We have a campaign going on right here in Pittsburgh to collect used shoes and clothing.

Join your local SALC and show your solidarity with the people of Rhodesia.

To contact the SALC write to 149 Ford, Highland Park, MI. 48203.

Long live the fight of revolutionary freedom!

Tyrone Byrdsong
SALC

The Best Justice They Could Buy



Patty and parents.

PATTY HEARST, convicted of armed robbery, was sentenced to five years probation by a judge who said it was the hardest decision of his career.

"I have been a criminal judge for nearly seven years," said Judge E. Talbot Callister.

"During that time, I don't remember how many people I have sentenced, but it must be several thousand.

"None of these decisions has been more difficult than the one that faces me today."

If he's like most judges, he has mainly sentenced several thousand Black and poor people to many years in prison for minor thefts and robberies. Apparently he didn't find that difficult.

INFLUENCED

He said his decision on Hearst was influenced by the fact that "the defendant was kidnapped and subjected to 57 days of horrible torture."

It was so horrible that she joined her captors as a member of their

group, the Symbionese Liberation Army and apparently became the devoted lover of one.

And of course the judge never thinks about what "horrible experiences" the people he sends to the joint might have gone through that made them end up caught in a crime.

Like being poor or unemployed, facing racism all their lives. Never having a chance to make it from the day they were born.

Or did he consider the fact that racism and poverty and crime exist only because people like the Hearst family, that owns several multi-million dollar businesses, hog all the wealth of this country to themselves.

Putting Patty in prison wouldn't help any of this, of course.

But the Hearst family will get its due when working people take over the wealth that's created by workers and stolen by the bosses.

Then we will have true justice, when society is run by working people, and not by a few rich families. □

Workers' Power

CHICAGO

UAW Members Rally To Stop Racist Nightmare

by Harry Putnam,
Shop Steward, UAW Local 6

CHICAGO — When Bennie Lenard left the parking lot of the Harvester tractor plant in Melrose Park January 31, he was involved in a minor traffic accident with a white woman. He had no idea he was about to enter the nightmare world of police brutality.

Rather than conducting a routine traffic accident report, the Melrose Park police handcuffed Lenard. They beat him senseless at least twice.

To all appearances they actually tried to kill him. Bennie ended up with fractured cheek bones and irreparable damage to his vision.

Three months later, Bennie still has severe attacks and requires constant medication.

HE GETS CHARGED

To cover up this outrageous display of racially motivated piggery, the Melrose Park police charged Bennie with a string of nine misdemeanors. They range from minor traffic violations to assault.

Bennie's co-workers at UAW Local 6 responded by organizing the Bennie Lenard Defense Committee. The Committee's job is to raise money and mobilize support for Bennie's defense.

This Committee with the help of the Local 6 leadership has been successful in building both broad support and good publicity in Region 4 of the UAW (Chicago area)—and in the community surrounding the Harvester plant.

Here are the major activities:

Early February—The Local 6 Fair Employment Practices Committee, through contacts in Region 4, set up a meeting with the Local 6 FEPC chairman, the Local President, and State's Attorney Bernard Carey.

A grand jury investigation of the police treatment of Bennie was set in motion.

April 11—The Defense Committee held a press conference. It coincided with the filing of a multi-million dollar civil rights suit.

FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS

The suit charges the Melrose Park police, the city and the hospital involved with flagrant violations of Bennie's civil rights. And it charges they conspired together to carry those violations out.

This case is now in the most

Defend Bennie Lenard!



Two Harvester workers, among the several dozen who rallied in support of UAW Brother Bennie Lenard.

preliminary stages. It's likely to drag out 5-6 years before Bennie can hope to get any justice.

Ten to twelve Local 6 members attended the press conference. Already it was becoming clear that Bennie was not on his own.

The evening television news ran a good ten minutes of favorable coverage. The big Chicago dailies ran favorable articles.

April 15—The Bennie Lenard Defense Committee has spent time organizing and leafletting in the plant to bring people out to the first hearing on the charges against Bennie.

There, Bennie's lawyers presented 22 discovery motions. They were trying to find out the state's case against Bennie.

But all but five or six of the motions were denied. The state would not allow the defense to have a good look at the "case" they claim to have against Bennie.

That day 25-30 Harvester workers arrived at the courthouse along with another 50 people from other interested groups. The court officials freaked out.

Only 12-15 people were allowed in the court, and only after being thoroughly searched. Squad cars scurried around for blocks in all directions.

Police with cameras and guns were stationed on rooftops the whole time that the peaceful demonstration was conducted.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

April 30—A subcommittee of the Bennie Lenard Defense Committee organized a rally to build support for Bennie. It was held in an integrated western suburb of Chicago, adjacent to Melrose Park.

One hundred fifty people attended. Grass roots support from the community was evident. Support grows.

May—There is enough publicity around the case that the defense attempt to disqualify the judge is finally successful. The defense charged prejudice.

The main motion now to be heard, in late May, calls for an end to the state intimidation surrounding this case. The massive police presence at hearings, the insulting searches all must go.

One important point emerges. At every step the Defense Committee has actively mobilized the broadest possible grass roots support.

And this is the only strategy that can actually win, because the court system has a lot at stake in this case. Their interest is in covering



Mrs. Lenard confers with UAW Local President Ed Graham at courthouse demonstration.

up what the Melrose Park police did.

Bennie's case is too clear an example of the purpose of the police and courts. They protect this unjust system and the rich who profit by it.

WORK TOGETHER

People will see that the police and courts work together to keep them down—sometimes brutally. Those same courts, the government and the rich who own them will be in for some rough sledding.

Renault Robinson is the head of the Chicago Afro-American League. He is an honest, hard-working reformer who has spent much of his life trying to clean up the Chicago Police Department. Robinson spoke at the community rally on April 30.

He began by talking about a little town where all the police work for free and are the local townfolk. There is no police brutality.

This has been Robinson's work—to create more community influence over the police.

Yet at the end of his speech, he had to say that after 13 years trying to reform the police department, he's getting tired. He is no longer sure just how it could be done.

It can be done, but reform won't do it. It will take a revolution.

That means building a massive and well-organized movement of

working people, powerful enough to sweep aside the courts, their police and their rich bosses.

And there is no time like the present to get started. It will be a long hard pull to get there.

RIGHT NOW

Steps can be taken right now to help spread the word about this case. We can build an even broader base of support for Bennie Lenard's defense.

You can ask your union leaders to make a local contribution, or you can bring it up in a union meeting.

"Solidarity," the national UAW magazine, promised a big spread on this case. So far it has not appeared.

You can help pressure for this information. All UAW members should know about Bennie's need for support. All should know about the Defense Committee and its important work.

Many local unions have already contributed money: UAW Locals 6, 1307, 1011, 551, and 719; USW Local 65; IBEW Local 1031; and Local 144 of the International Federation of Labor—Professional Engineers.

Contributions should be made out to (check or money order): Bennie Lenard Defense Fund. They can be sent to UAW Local 6/Ed Graham President, 3520 North Ave., Stone Park, IL 60165.

WORKERS' POWER

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