

Supreme Court Rules On Bakke

Years Of Progress Wiped Out

by Larry Smith

WEDNESDAY, June 28—The United States Supreme Court has ruled that Alan Bakke must be admitted to the University of California Medical School.

The 5-4 decision ruled that U.C.'s affirmative action program for 16 minority admissions out of 100 medical students is unconstitutional, because whites are excluded from competing for those 16 places.

The legal precedent cited by the Court majority was Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

So, in the name of civil rights, the main tool used to implement the rights that Blacks, other minorities and women won through years of struggle has been stripped away.

As dissenting Justice Thurgood Marshall noted, not even a computer could figure out how many programs, regulations and orders for affirmative action at federal, state and local levels may now be null and void.

In its mass of explanations the Court claimed to uphold affirmative action programs which don't include "quotas"—requirements that a certain minimum number of an oppressed group be admitted or hired. But the reality is that the decision comes out against affirmative action, pure and simple.

Without the clear and simple yardstick of quotas, affirmative action programs have no teeth—no

meaning beyond good intentions. Without quotas, the employer is accountable only to himself.

The hundreds of thousands who organized and marched in the streets against Bakke knew this was the most important case to confront the court since the school desegregation case of 1954. So did the racists and right-wingers of all sorts who financed and promoted Bakke's case.

Using the Civil Rights Act, the outgrowth of the struggle of millions of Black people and others against racism, to perpetuate the racism in this society, is a gross insult. The Justices exist in a 1984 world—where lies become the truth and vice versa.

Bakke is just the thin wedge of a much deeper attack on all levels. In this period Blacks and other minorities are the scapegoats for every problem in this capitalist society, whether it's education, jobs, taxes or crime.

In periods like this the gains we have made are challenged. They can only be protected by the methods we achieved them in the first place.

The Supreme Court is accountable to the bosses of this country—not to the people who fought for and benefit from the gains of the 1950's and '60's. Those gains can only be saved by the mass mobilization of the people whose rights the Supreme Court has taken away. □



By Jim Woodward

Two of the best known rank and file leaders in the Teamsters Union have announced their intention of challenging the incumbents for the union's top offices.

Pete Camarata, a 31-year-old dock worker from Detroit, said at a news conference in Washington June 23 that he will challenge incumbent Frank Fitzsimmons for General President of the Teamsters Union. Camarata's running mate for General Secretary-Treasurer will be Jack Vlahovic, 34, of Vancouver, Canada.

Camarata and Vlahovic were nominated by Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), which expects their campaign to be a big boost to TDU and to the reform movement in the union.

If the current officers serve their full term, the next election will be at the Teamsters convention in 1981. Many union members, however, expect that Fitz will resign before that.

EQUAL SPACE

As part of their campaign, Camarata and Vlahovic will de-

mand equal space in the union's magazine, *International Teamster*, and other publications. Fitzsimmons, who has announced several times he will run for re-election, is featured prominently and frequently in each issue of the magazine.

If, as expected, the union denies this request, Camarata and Vlahovic will file suit in federal court to force equal access to Teamster publications.

In announcing his candidacy, Camarata challenged Fitzsimmons to an open debate, and also to a referendum vote of the membership. "If they have the guts to face

the membership, they will accept this challenge," Vlahovic said.

FREIGHT CONTRACT

Also a factor in this campaign is the expiration next year of the national Master Freight Agreement.

Shortly after Camarata's news conference, Fitzsimmons met the press. In discussing the freight contract, he said: "The way inflation is going now, who knows what percentage will be necessary. We will ask what is necessary."

But the Carter administration is

especially concerned about the Teamster contract. There are a number of investigations of Fitzsimmons and other top union officials now under way, giving the administration plenty of leverage.

Robert Strauss, Carter's top inflation counselor, said recently that he would be willing to give Fitzsimmons "respectability" if it meant holding down the freight contract settlement.

Pete Camarata, Jack Vlahovic, and the TDU will be trying to prevent Fitzsimmons from buying respectability with their wages and working conditions. □

NAZIS OUT!

NEWS BRIEFS

CHICAGO: 3000 Attack Nazi Rally; Nazis Plan July 9 March

CHICAGO—On June 24, some 3000 demonstrators threw eggs, rocks and more than once broke through police lines to attack a Nazi rally in downtown Chicago.

The demonstration successfully limited the Nazis to a ten-minute rally behind a wall of police, during which the Nazis showed themselves to be cowards when under attack.

The massive anti-Nazi demonstration did not have a unified leadership. It was more like a six-ring circus, with several different coalitions of radical and Jewish groups chanting their own slogans and using their own bullhorns. The demonstration also included a handful of Black ministers and some Lithuanian nationalist whites.

The mood was festive—until the Nazis showed up, when matters quickly became serious.

POLICE FORCE

Chicago police and the Federal government brought out massive forces to protect the Nazis. These forces were directed against the anti-Nazi demonstrators, leading people in the crowd to protest against the "fascists in blue."

For months, Chicago newspapers and television have been dominated by the planned Nazi invasion of the heavily Jewish Chicago suburb of Skokie. The Nazis cancelled that demonstration after Skokie ordinances and Chicago Park District regulations, requiring up to \$300,000 insurance for political groups to hold demonstrations, were thrown out in federal court.

Those regulations could easily be applied against anti-Nazi, Black and militant labor demonstrations, and have fortunately been ruled unconstitutional.

As the thousands of anti-Nazi demonstrators in Chicago showed, we have to rely on ourselves to stop the Nazis and the government in the long run will protect them.

The middle class leaders of the Jewish community did not show up. But survivors of the Holocaust, the right-wing Jewish Defense League (JDL), made up of working



These were among the 3000 in Chicago who staged a militant anti-Nazi protest June 24. Nazis are trying to get a foothold in Chicago, as in other cities across the country.



Detroit residents picketed Nazis' second headquarters June 25. At left is part of Nazi office, showing their hate literature.

class Jews with a blind nationalist fanaticism, and a socialist Jewish group called Chutzpah (Nerve) were out in some force.

Chutzpah brought together a Coalition called the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Coalition that included a substitute teachers' group, a radical book store, a small group of Marxist Humanists and the International Socialists.

The Coalition's aims included linking the Nazis' attacks on Jews

to attacks on Blacks, gays and other minorities.

On July 9 the Nazis will be rallying in southwest Chicago's Marquette Park, where in fact they have had numerous undisturbed rallies over the past years—and where attacks on the neighboring Black population have become more frequent as a result. This time, the anti-Nazi demonstrators promised to be there.

K.B.

DETROIT: Police Arrest Anti-Nazi Picketers

DETROIT—200 angry Detroiters told the Nazis they are unwelcome in this city.

This message was delivered loud and clear June 25 at their new location in Brightmoor, a residential area in Northwest Detroit.

The picket line, called by the Labor Community Inter-Faith Council Against the Nazis, included survivors of Nazi concentration camps and members of the Anti-Nazi League, a community group begun by the Red Tide.

The Brightmoor location has been the scene of numerous confrontations between the community, which is outraged over the Nazi presence, and police, who are protecting the Nazis.

ARRESTS

Sunday was no exception. When demonstrators attempted to paint out the Nazi swastikas on the bookstore, police rapidly moved in, arresting two people.

Picketers quickly surrounded the police car, demanding release of the two demonstrators. For 10 minutes, demonstrators chanted, "Let 'em go." The squad car charged ahead without regard to those blocking it.

The action quickly shifted back to the bookstore itself. Picketers used their signs to break out its windows. Police moved in and arrested several more people.

A young Black member of the Red Tide was handcuffed to a fender and beaten with police clubs.

Fifty demonstrators marched to the precinct station, chanting, "Arrest the Nazis, not the people. They were met by three more arrests when several demonstrators tried to learn what happened to those already arrested.

NEW LOCATION AGAIN?

Rumors are that the Nazis are making a third attempt to find a location in the Detroit area.

Organizers of last Sunday's demonstration vow that wherever the Nazis go, they will get the same welcome.

E.E.

THE BIRMINGHAM, Alabama city records contain transcripts of telephone calls made from jail by Martin Luther King, Jr. during the famous Birmingham de-segregation struggle of the early '60's.

King's calls were tapped and transcripts apparently made by police officials.

The material was unearthed by two librarians. The documents also include secret tips from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to local police about planned civil rights demonstrations.

This was at a time, of course, when civil rights marches were attacked with police dogs and water cannon—and the FBI was supposed to be protecting Black people's constitutional rights.

□□□

JOAN LITTLE has been placed in maximum-security isolation in the Raleigh, North Carolina prison.

Little was extradited from New York back to North Carolina, when no court would give her a hearing to show she faces the threat of death from North Carolina prison officials.

Those officials now say she is "administration segregation" in order to protect her.

How concerned they really are is shown by a remark by state prison director Ralph Edwards, who told reporters who asked about Joan Little, "you can't guarantee anybody's safety, in prison or out of prison."

□□□

"SEPARATE and unequal" lives on, not in the Deep South but in New York City.

The federal government has given New York schools permission to continue grouping students "by ability."

This enables school administrators to place all the white students in classes for students with "greater ability," meaning more privileged educational backgrounds.

According to the government and New York Board of Education's logic, this is not racist.

□□□

ONCE upon a time a white Atlanta, Georgia couple, Robert and Pauline Drummond, were the foster parents of Timmy Hill, who had one white and one Black natural parent.

The state of Georgia took him away, claiming the right to prevent the adoption of children of one race by parents of another.

The United States Supreme Court refused to hear the Drummonds' appeal and let the state decision stand up.

This didn't happen last century or 20 years ago. It was June 19, 1978.

be successful businesses but they represent almost nothing in real economic or political power.

Finally, of the top ten Black corporations of the previous year, two were bought out and taken over by white businessmen.

What does this show? After a decade of the promises of Black Capitalism as an avenue for Black economic power, it shows that the real wealth and power in America remain in the hands of a ruling class which is lily-white.

Ruling Class Is Still White

DOES BLACK capitalism mean economic power for Black people?

The top 10 Black-owned or controlled business enterprises in the United States had a combined total of \$312,500,000 in 1977.

Let's suppose those top ten were combined into one giant capitalist corporation. How big would it be?

Fact: All put together, it would not quite be large enough to make Fortune Magazine's list of the top 500 U.S. corporations.

In 1976, when sales figures were

lower than 1977, the bottom corporation on the Fortune 500 list, Foxboro, had over \$327,000,000 in sales.

One of the top ten Black-owned companies, Wallace and Wallace Chemical and Oil Corporation, is a fuel oil importer and distributor. According to 1976 sales figures it is one three thousandth — that's 1/3000—the size of Exxon.

If you put not the top ten, but the top 100, Black corporations all together, the combined total would

rate number 264 on the Top 500 list.

NO POWER

Another fact: of the top ten Black corporations, two are auto dealerships, one is a liquor wholesaler, one is a cosmetics manufacturer, one is a Bronx supermarket chain, one is an export company called Afro International, and the largest is Motown Industries.

These kinds of corporations may

Steelworkers Will Fight For Right To Ratify

On June 16 and 17 District 31 of the United Steel Workers of America, located in Chicago/Gary—the largest and politically most significant district in the union—held a two-day conference to adopt resolutions for the upcoming International Convention in September.

The District 31 Conference showed that the membership is prepared for and serious about the long, uphill battle to rebuild the strength of their union. Over 700 delegates endorsed expanding the rights of minorities and progressive social issues, as well as general democratic reforms in their union—most important among them, the right to vote on their own contracts.

by Candy Martin

HOURS AFTER delegates overwhelmingly passed several resolutions calling for a change in the USW Constitution: so that no agreement may take effect without membership approval, local union presidents held a press conference to announce a drive they will lead to win that change at the next Convention.

A long list of local presidents—primarily from District 31, but also from Baltimore, Detroit, Minnesota, Youngstown—have already endorsed the drive. Together they represent about 100,000 of the union's 325,000 basic steelworkers. Currently, basic steel agreements—covering about one third of the union's membership—are ratified at the Basic Steel Conference by 600 local union presidents.

"The presidents gathered here," said Local 1010 (Inland Steel) President Bill Andrews in an opening statement, "have all signed a statement saying we would welcome and support transferring the right to ratify the basic steel contract from local union presidents to the rank and file steelworkers covered by it."

Joe Samargia, Local 1938 President, explained, "This move is not only in District 31; I am representing District 33, which includes the iron ore miners in Michigan, Minnesota, Wyoming, South Dakota. From the indications I have, all iron ore local presidents will sign this petition."

All proponents argue that the question is not just democracy, but winning better contracts. Company bargainers are forced to make greater concessions in the face of a membership of tens of thousands, rather than a mere handful of negotiators.

Though the USW International officers have taken no definite position publicly, indications are they will oppose membership ratification. But local presidents emphasized that they intend to keep this a non-partisan issue, involving the broadest possible support.

ORGANIZING

Efforts by rank and file members of Local 1010 have already begun to prepare for a district-wide and national organizing effort. Mike Mezo, coordinator of a committee that has been set up for this purpose, told Workers' Power that

the committee will be sending a letter to every local steel union in the country asking for right to ratify resolutions to be sent to the Convention. They also plan to send people to travel to other districts.

"Either at the Convention or prior to it there will be some kind of meeting of elected delegates, not only from District 31, but throughout the country, where we can plan our strategy."

The Conference took a progressive stand on every other major issue confronting the union. For more union democracy. Retain the membership referendum of international officers. Against racial

discrimination. Against the no-strike clause. Against company protectionist propaganda (despite a tirade against imports given by International Vice-President Leon Lynch that U.S. Steel's Edgar Speer would have been proud of).

Delegates went on record for expanding strike benefits and equalizing dues of smaller, non-basic locals. For local women's committees and an international women's bureau. For more jobs through a shorter work week.

The single exception to these progressive positions was the defeat of a resolution to eliminate the "undemocratic and illegal anti-communist clause in our International Constitution." Many delegates admitted they had erred by neglecting to organize for floor discussion and passage.

The Conference delegates understood the importance of broader political issues to the union movement and went on record on a range of controversies: support for the ERA, condemnation of the Nazis, against the Bakke decision and for affirmative action, removal of union funds from banks doing business with South Africa, opposition to the construction of the hazardous and costly Baffly nuclear power plant a few miles from the Bethlehem works.

WOMEN

There were two questions which generated the most important and most heated debate. One was the question of whether forming women's committees to address the special discrimination which women face would divide men from their union sisters.

But one delegate after another, both men and women, rose to explain that the union is already divided—because of gross company discrimination, occasional union neglect, and second-class status for women.

The purpose of the committees, they said, was to bring women into their locals, and enable them to work more effectively within the union together with the men. After agitated debate, the resolution passed overwhelmingly.

Also overwhelming was the vote to condemn the International Union's dictatorial and unprecedented action against Local 6787 (Bethlehem's Burns Harbor works). There, the International recently assigned a "monitor" to the local without explanation or constitutional basis—something never before done in the history of the union.

One speaker after another angrily denounced the action which one delegate characterized as "a naked grab for political power." (Local 6787, in International disfavor, has been the recent scene of slow-downs protesting intolerable speed-up.)

Local 1010 Vice-President "Cowboy" Mezo railed: "We can't allow this sort of thing to start, 'cause once it starts it's never going to stop. You're going to have Big Brother looking over your shoulder..." and suggested that District 31 install a monitor of their own in Lloyd McBride's office. □

'The Most Basic Right A Union Person Can Have'



A few of the local presidents at press conference to launch right to ratify drive. (left to right) Stanley "Mack," L.U. 5200; Bob Bambic, L.U. 2; Joe Samargia, L.U. 1938; Paul Kaczocha, L.U. 6787; Bill Andrews, L.U. 1010; Floyd Watson, L.U. 1066.

Bill Andrews
President, Local 1010



"We local presidents are only part of the union. The union is made up of every member. Major decisions such as voting on a contract or electing the International President and Executive Board should rest in their hands.

There are a few problems with the present method. Democracy is based on the principle of one person, one vote. Yet when I vote for my membership I have one vote for over 18,000 steelworkers. A local with a hundred members carries as much voting power as my one vote.

Some people might say rank and file ratification is too costly or takes too long. Yet we are just about the only major union in this country that does not allow the membership to make that decision.

The power rightfully belongs to the working members of our union.

"It's the most basic right of a union person—to be able to vote on what the hell he gets in his contract. If he doesn't have that he doesn't have true union democracy.

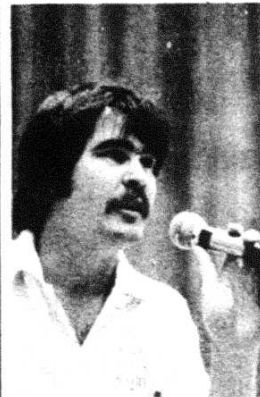
The iron range was complete evidence of how a strike can continue, and that picket line was strong, it was as strong on the 138th day as it was on the first day. One of the major reasons was that the membership decided what the issues should be, the membership decided if they should go on strike, and the membership decided when to go back to work.

If you give the membership that right, then you have a union, and when there is a strike, you don't have fears of a picket line caving in or a strike being defeated because the membership is going to be there.



Joe Samargia
President, Local 1938

Mike Mezo
Grievanceman, Local 1010
Organizing national effort



"It's just a basic question of whether or not the worker has the right to agree to the terms of his employment. The contract governs his life, his working hours, his wages, his whole life—and we feel that person should at least have a say over those conditions.

This is probably the most important issue to the locals who don't ratify their contracts. Also, it's an issue that can appeal to the locals who now ratify their contracts. Many of their contracts are geared to basic steel contracts, they have a lot of me-too agreements. So it's in their interest to strengthen our bargaining position.

You look at what happened in the miners strike, what the leadership was willing to accept very early in the negotiations and what the membership finally won. You really don't need to argue any more.

California unionists will fight South Africa racism, meeting decides; boycott urged

by Anne Larson

SAN FRANCISCO—Trade unionists from across California gathered here June 10 for the Trade Union Conference on Southern Africa.

Conference participants declared their strenuous opposition to apartheid, and vowed to organize in the labor movement for an economic boycott of the South African regime.

The conference was attended by 132 delegates from 64 unions including the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), UAW, Teamsters, AFSCME, United Electrical Workers, American Federation of Teachers and International Association of Machinists.

Seventy observers representing 16 community organizations also attended.

The gathering was initiated by the Southern Africa Liberation Support Committee of the ILWU in San Francisco, a rank and file group that has organized in the local for over two years. Many locals also participated in planning for the conference.

PROGRAM

The conference adopted a militant program of action which committed the participants to organize for:

- A boycott of all goods going to and from white minority regimes in southern Africa.
 - A boycott of the Krugerrand, the South African gold coin which is sold to investors in this country.
 - Material aid to liberation movements such as the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe.
 - Joint actions with students and community groups in conjunction with United Nations Year Against Apartheid.
- Conference participants also heard from John Gaetsewe of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), which is outlawed by the South African government.

Gaetsewe spoke of the support of the Black workers in South Africa for "divestment"—which means U.S. corporations leaving South Africa.

Quoting Nobel Peace Prize winner Albert Luthuli, he said, "The economic boycott of South Africa will entail undoubted hardships for Africans. We do not doubt that. But if it is a method of shortening the day of bloodshed, the suffering for us is a price we are willing to pay."

DIFFICULTIES

Some delegates expressed disapproval of the way the conference was run. No alternative motions were entertained from the delegates. And no workshops were scheduled to discuss ways in which the resolutions could be implemented.

One rank and file longshoreman rose to say he supported the resolutions, but they would be difficult to put into practice.

When the longshoremen refuse to load cargo bound for South Africa, they can lose the minimum weekly pay guaranteed under their contract.

He suggested that the ILWU work for a contract provision to protect workers who refuse to load or unload South African cargo.

Unfortunately, only persons officially delegated by their local unions were granted voting and speaking rights at the conference. Many interested rank and file

unionists, whose local union leaderships were unsympathetic to the conference, were thereby discouraged from attending.

Some rank and file activists were forced to sit in the observers' section because they did not have

official sanction of their locals.

IMPORTANT STEP

Most delegates felt, however, that the conference was an important step forward towards com-

mitting the labor movement to supporting an economic boycott of the racist regime in South Africa.

A continuations committee was established, to begin implementation of the resolutions and to encourage similar conferences

elsewhere.

Persons wishing more information can write: Continuations Committee of the Trade Union Conference on Southern Africa, c/o ILWU Local 6, 255 9th St., San Francisco, CA 94103. □

U.S. PRESS LIES ON MASSACRES

by DAN POSEN

TWELVE INNOCENT PEOPLE were raped, clubbed and hacked to death last weekend in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)—all for the sake of a newspaper headline.

The twelve, all white, were British missionaries and members of their families at Elim Pentecostal Mission, near the Mozambique border.

The western press, as always, printed the Rhodesian government's story. Sunday's page one headline stories read that the missionaries were killed by guerrilla "terrorists" from ZANU.

One day later, ZANU leader Robert Mugabe announced these are witnesses to prove that the massacre was not committed by freedom fighters, but by the Rhodesian government's troops.

Mugabe's statement was reported as the fine print at the end of follow-up stories... after, of course, the world had been told that Black terrorists had committed another atrocity against white civilians.

RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT LIES

By now, every newspaper in the world should know that the Rhodesian government's accounts of these massacres are lies.

Wide sections of the Zimbabwean countryside are being terrorized by Rhodesian government Black mercenary troops, called the Selous Scouts, who dress up as guerillas and carry out murderous raids on Black villages.

The existence of these Scouts and their activities have been documented by British journalists and film crews.

The slaughter of seven Catholic missionaries last year was also reported as a "ZANU atrocity." But the surviving missionaries made clear they knew the murders were committed by government troops in disguise.

The circumstances of the latest missionary massacre are almost identical. Most important of all is the fact that those killed, in both



Missionaries in Rhodesia, slaughtered by disguised government troops—so the world press can print screaming headlines about "terrorists."

cases, were not white Rhodesians, but foreigners.

This time the victims were British. Last year's victims were from several other European countries.

The white regime's strategy is obvious. It would be too politically explosive inside Rhodesia if Rhodesian Black troops were exposed killing white Rhodesians.

But to catch the attention of the foreign press, they massacre white European missionaries as well as hundreds of Black villagers.

This means that the American and European press share the responsibility for these hideous murders. One truthful banner headline in the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune and the Detroit Free Press: "Rhodesian Troops, Disguised as Guerillas, Massacre Missionaries," would end the atrocities once and for all.

Zimbabwe: raise funds to aid fighters, refugees

A MASS CAMPAIGN to raise funds for urgently needed medical supplies for the African refugees and freedom fighters of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is currently under way in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Zimbabwe Medical Drive was initiated by the Bay Area representatives of the Zimbabwe

African National Union (ZANU).

The Drive has two parts—the Zimbabwe Medical Drive Coalition, composed of community and political organizations, and the Black Community Task Force formed by Black activists with a long history of African solidarity work.

Together the two groups are committed to raising \$50,000 worth of medicines and supplies.

DISEASES

According to ZANU, there are two million Zimbabweans (over one-fourth of the whole population) living in areas liberated by the war.

There are also over 100,000 Zimbabwean refugees in neighboring countries, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana. Refugee camps in Mozambique have been bombed and massacred by the white Rhodesian regime's army.

Prosper Takawira, a representative of ZANU who is leading the drive, points out:

"The widespread dietary, communicable and parasitic diseases which are the major cause of death, are the direct result of the oppres-

sive colonial conditions under which Africans live in Zimbabwe: inadequate diet, lack of sanitation, exclusion from fertile land (which is reserved for the white minority), absence of trained medical personnel.

"Nearly one-third of all African children in Zimbabwe die in infancy."

More than 1400 people have been killed by Rhodesia's 150 raids against refugee camps alone.

THE PEOPLE'S SIDE

The United States government is heavily involved in this war—on the side of the racists. "Two billion dollars in U.S. investments and three billion in bank loans enable South Africa to supply Rhodesian white leader Ian Smith generously with planes, ammunition and tanks—all made under contract from Western firms in violation of UN sanctions."

The Zimbabwe Medical Drive is an opportunity for the American people to throw their weight against the racist government, and for the people of Zimbabwe. □



Build the Zimbabwe Medical Drive

A war of national liberation is raging in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). The Patriotic Front, which leads the struggle, is responsible for the health care of the liberation fighters, the refugees in Mozambique and other countries, and the people in the liberated areas of Zimbabwe. We are a coalition of Bay Area progressive groups and individuals who have committed ourselves to raising \$50,000 to buy medical supplies for the Zimbabwean people. You can help by sending your tax deductible donations to the Third World Fund/Zimbabwe Medical Fund, P.O. Box 14362, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to the Zimbabwe Medical Drive of \$_____

I want to join the work of the Medical Drive

Put me on your mailing list

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Workers' Power

Copyright © 1978 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Marilyn Danton. Production Editor: David Katz. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty.

Subscriptions: \$10 for one year; \$5 for six months. Introductory rate: \$1 for eight issues. Institutional: \$15. Foreign surface: \$15. Foreign airmail: \$20 for six months.

Published weekly, except the first two weeks in July and the last two weeks in December. Second class postage paid at Detroit, Michigan. Send notice of undelivered copies to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

Workers' Power is a member of the Alternate Press Service. It is indexed in the Alternative Press Index and microfilmed by University Microfilms. International Standard Serials Number (ISSN): 0019-0535.

Printed in a 100% union shop.

Carter playing politics with postal negotiations

by Paul Broz

Battle lines are being drawn between 570,000 rank and file postal workers and the U.S. Postal Service, as national postal contracts involving four unions near expiration July 20.

The Carter Administration has chosen to make the contract negotiations a political football in hopes of scoring a badly-needed political victory.

Carter's "inflation-fighter," Robert Strauss, recently urged Postal Service bargainers to be "as tough as they can" with union negotiators. He calls the prospect of a good settlement for postal workers "an outrage."

Union wage proposals are very modest, \$1100 the first year, and \$865 the second, to be paid to all employees. For an average worker this amounts to about 7% the first year and 5.5% the second. Cost-of-living would be added to this.

Privately, Carter administration people have said that they are willing to accept an 8% increase. This is more than union leaders are asking.

Carter stands to come out smelling like a rose. The more noise he makes about fighting inflation, the bigger victory he will seem to have won—and the more pressure there will be on other unions to settle for less when major contracts expire next year.

All the politicking about wages has shifted attention from what many rank and file workers consider the major issues.

A rank and file group which is organizing for a good contract, the Postal Contract Coalition (PCC), said in a recent press release:

"Most of the publicity surrounding the postal labor negotiations have focussed on President Carter's efforts to force postal unions to hold down wage demands through jaw-boning and the threat of using federal troops in case of a strike.

"But the major issue for postal workers is not pay. While obtaining an adequate cost-of-living formula is an important goal, most of us feel more strongly about job security, working hours and working conditions."

PREPARE FOR ACTION

The PCC presented petitions to American Postal Worker Union (APWU) negotiators in Washington D.C. the weekend of June 24-25.

The petitions, with 3000 signatures from 125 locals in 25 states, pledge signers to vote "no" on any inadequate contract, and call on union leaders to prepare for a nationwide "job action" to support contract demands.

According to sources within the unions, the only "job action" being considered by union leadership is a national strike, to be taken only if the Postal Service insists on eliminating a "no-layoff" clause or on reducing cost-of-living allowances.

Little is being done on the local level to prepare members for a strike. However, the APWU has set up a preparedness committee which is creating a fund out of which to pay legal expenses of

union officials who would face injunctions during a strike.

The government has prepared strike contingency plans.

The Postal Service has drafted a 48-page "Contingency Planning—Work Stoppages," calling for federal troops to move mail during a strike. The Defense Department has also developed secret plans, code-named "Operation Graphic Hand."

Although, at this point, a strike

does not seem likely, there are a few hot issues among the rank and file which could touch things off.

At the big city bulk mail centers and among letter carriers, mandatory overtime is a major complaint. Carriers would also like to see contract language setting route lengths, which would protect them against arbitrary increases in the work loads.

If the Postal Service presses for elimination of the no-layoff clause,

that would also be likely to precipitate a strike.

Postal workers have scheduled a demonstration at Postal Service headquarters in Washington D.C. for July 12, if there is no agreement by July 1.

The protest, called by Northeast Region APWU presidents, may also move to the White House, depending on Carter's role in the negotiations.

There is talk among some local union officials and activists of holding similar demonstrations in other cities across the country.

The recent miners' strike was an inspiration to many workers and an embarrassment to Carter and his friends in big business.

Carter's goal in the postal negotiations is to undo the effects of the miners' strike, and push American workers back in line.



Steelhaulers threaten flu-win concessions from company and union

DETROIT—Steel haulers here thought they were finally getting what they wanted when top Teamster officials agreed a year ago to give them their own local. Previously, they were members of Local 299. But the change did not give the steel haulers more control over union affairs, as they expected.

When Local 124 was chartered, the International union installed Ralph Proctor as trustee. No elections were held, and until June 10, there had never been a general membership meeting.

At the same time, negotiations were proceeding at a snail's pace on a local rider to the national Master Freight Agreement covering steel haulers. The rider would have eliminated inequities in pay rates for hauling loads from different locations or for different companies. Many Local 124 members, most of whom are owner-operators, were angry that

Trustee Proctor was dragging his feet in getting the companies to sign the rider.

Rank and file leaders called several meetings and a picket line to put the heat on the union. "Can we trust our trustee?" read one sign carried June 14 in front of the local hall. Drivers also warned that severe epidemic of "low steel rate flu" was on the way.

But before the flu got too serious, Proctor cleaned up his act and got all but one or two holdout companies to sign the rider.

Steelhaulers consider this a big victory. Their efforts not only got the rider signed, but also brought the rank and file closer together. That could make a big difference when elections are finally held for Local 124 officers. The International union might find that it has an independent-minded group of steel haulers in Detroit.

Washington, D.C.: March For Women

I THINK the Equal Rights Amendment is very important, especially for minority women. The ERA will help us to make some gains to equality.

Women need to be able to go out and get the type of job that we want. We should not have to settle for the traditional jobs that women have held all along in our society. Especially in the case where many Black women are supporting their families, we have to be able to get good paying jobs. The job that we usually can get can't support a family.

Sure, I'm going to Washington, and I'm taking my little boy along. I want the ERA for him as much as for me.

Celeste Taylor



Celeste Taylor

LAWYERS LIKE THE Equal Rights Amendment will help us in our struggle to end discrimination in the steel mills. We know we're not fully protected by the law at this point. We want to see the ERA become part of the Constitution, and that's why our district is sending a bus to Washington.

Women in steel feel a great deal of solidarity with each other. We understand that when people who have a problem get together, we can begin to solve some of the problems. People start to take notice of you because you have the strength of your organization.

It's real important that we have a big show of strength in Washington. Every woman who believes in equal rights should be there.

Dorreen Labby, USW Local 1014



Dorreen Labby

I LIVE ALONE; I support myself. You just gotta have equal rights in the market place if you're going to make it.

I think the Equal Rights Amendment is very important—or I wouldn't spend 22 hours on a bus to go to Washington.

We are absolutely in a majority now, women who support themselves. If you're going to support yourself, you have got to have the same rights as a man supporting himself. A right to go out and buy a home, a right to credit, and all the other rights that go along with it. Equal pay.

I'm in the UAW Region 1 Women's Council. Equal rights is important to working women, and we're going to be there!

Pam Lysinger, UAW Local 203

I FEEL the Equal Rights Amendment would be an advance in the fight to secure my rights as a lesbian and as a mother. All my life, I have felt some form of oppression. I feel that as a woman, I have not had the same opportunities I would have had if I had been born a male.

The same sexual oppression that is felt towards women, gays feel. As I've gotten older, my oppression because I am gay has gotten even more evident. Because I have a different sexual attitude, I'm forced to lead a separate life.

Any advance we make towards equality is part of the fight to secure my rights as a lesbian and as a woman.

Aprile Collier, Coordinator Pitts. Ctte. for Human Rights

ALL OUT JULY 9!

by Elissa Clarke

I CAN REMEMBER an ad in the New York Times which read: "Daddy, where were you during the war in Vietnam?" The ad urged people to demonstrate in Washington against the war.

Now, in my mind, I hear my young daughter asking: "Mommy, where were you when the ERA was defeated?"

I have made an effort to raise a liberated daughter. When we see a woman driving a bus, I say, "Look at that. Women can do anything."

But I know it's not a sure thing. I know sexual discrimination is part of the fabric of our society. I want the world for my daughter; that's why I will be in Washington.

TENS OF THOUSANDS

Equal rights for women. That is the idea that will draw tens of thousands of women to Washington on July 9 to what will be the largest feminist demonstration in history.

Many will ride all night on buses just to be there. They will march, and get in the buses and

ride all night again.

One steelworker from USW District 31 (Gary, Indiana) told Workers' Power: "It's a marathon trip, but it's worth it. Women steelworkers understand discrimination because we face it on our job every day. The ERA will help us in our struggle to end discrimination in the mills. That's why we're going."

District 31 is sending a bus to Washington, as are other union locals, women's groups, gay rights and community groups.

In Detroit, the UAW Region 1 Women's Council has a waiting list for its bus.

From Pittsburgh, USW District 15 is sending a bus, as are the Electrical Workers, SEIU, and others. The Pittsburgh Council on Human Rights, a gay rights organization, is also co-sponsoring a bus.

From New York, the Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) is organizing a bus.

URGENCY

For many years, the issue of the Equal Rights Amendment did not excite many women. Today, there is a sense of urgency.

Not only is the deadline fast approaching, but women understand that the right-wing has taken the offensive. The right is organizing against abortion rights, against the ERA, against gay rights, against affirmative action.

We can either sit back and watch the right-wing score points—or we can organize, fight back, and halt the attacks and defeats.

The issue is equal rights for women. Are you for, or against? If you're for women's equality, join us in Washington, July 9.

WHY IS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT IN TROUBLE?

Jimmy the Greek isn't giving odds on whether the Equal Rights Amendment will pass, but the money is against it.

The Equal Rights Amendment states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Why can't such a simple statement of equality become part of the United States Constitution? Are Americans really opposed to women's equality?

No. In fact, the polls show that if the ERA were put to a vote by the people, it would pass by a 51-34% margin.

Nevertheless, the ERA is in serious trouble. Unless Congress extends the deadline, the ERA may die on March 22, 1979.

How can such a thing happen? Only ten years ago women were winning. Abortion, sexism, affirmative action, day care, health care. These were the issues of the day. Many gains were made.

In 1972, at the height of the women's movement, the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced into Congress. It passed almost unanimously. States quickly lined up to ratify it. Within three years, 33 states had ratified.

But since that time, only two more have. The amendment has suffered innumerable, repeated defeats in state legislatures. Nebraska, Tennessee, and Idaho have voted to rescind it, an action that has no legal status. In Kentucky, a vote to rescind was vetoed by Lieutenant Governor Thelma Stovall.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

With only 260 days left until March 22, women must take a hard look at the status of the ERA. What can we do to win?

To answer that question, first we have to analyze what went wrong. The press would have you believe that the blame lies at the feet of one woman: Phyllis Schlafly, the head of a movement called Stop ERA.

Actually, the answer is far more complicated. While it is true that the right-wing has organized an effective movement against equal rights, that is only half the answer.

The rest of the answer lies in the failures of the women's movement and the crisis in the economy. When the ERA was introduced, the women's movement was active, exciting, aggressive, growing. But later that movement subsid-

ed, particularly the more radical section of it, because the leadership of the women's movement failed to address issues that would appeal to broad sections of working class women. When the economy took a sharp turn downwards, it became even more difficult for women to continue to move forward.

Instead of making progress, women suffered defeats. In 1975, the Supreme Court ruled that companies do not have to include maternity benefits in their insurance coverage. Last year, Congress cut off federal funding for abortions. The Supreme Court has jeopardized all affirmative action programs with its pro-Bakke ruling. And this year the right-wing has a new sport: torching and fire-bombing abortion clinics.

If the Equal Rights Amendment is added to this list of defeats, the right-wing will become more confident and more aggressive. Certainly, the ERA will not be the last item on this list.

NO CRUMBS

What is making these attacks against women possible? In 1972, no one foresaw that the

prosperous periods of the 50's and 60's would not continue into the 70's. The politicians did not object to the ERA; the system could afford it.

But today, the system cannot afford it. There are no crumbs for women, for Blacks, for gays. Working people have to fight hard on every contract battle just to defend what they have already won.

Yes, there is a right-wing women's movement that is opposed to the ERA, but they are joined not just by other reactionaries, but by the politicians and the businessmen who cannot afford to see women continue to move forward.

The fact that there is a women's movement opposed to the ERA gives these politicians a legitimacy they would not otherwise have. They can pose, not as men attacking women's rights, but rather as men who support some women over other women.

The real reason that the Equal Rights Amendment is in trouble today is that the society cannot afford equality for women.

HOW TO WIN

Is it hopeless? Should women resign themselves to the fact that

the ERA is a lost cause?

No, far from it. But women have to prove to the politicians and the corporations of this country that it is more costly for them not to grant women's equality.

The women's movement has failed to prove this. The strategy adopted by the middle class movement, represented by groups like the National Organization for Women, ERAmerica, and the Women's Political Caucus, has concentrated on lobbying efforts and working for the election of politicians who promised to vote for the ERA.

This strategy has failed miserably. A look at the record of one politician, Jimmy Carter, will illustrate this.

On the campaign trail, Carter promised "to see that the [Equal Rights] Amendment becomes law." Because of that promise, a lot of women abandoned the work they were doing, and became campaign workers for Carter.

Since his election, Carter has barely lifted a finger for the ERA. He couldn't even "see to it" that the ERA was passed in his home state, Georgia, where his cousin Hugh voted against it—and Hugh's on the White House payroll! Far from "seeing to it" that the

ERA is passed, Carter may well be in office when the ERA goes down.

Last year, the National Organization for Women announced a shift in strategy and began a boycott of conventions in unratified states. While NOW has reported that the 15 unratified states have lost \$250 million in convention and travel business, not a single additional state has ratified since the boycott began.

JULY 9

It's not election campaigns, lobbying, or boycotts that will win the Equal Rights Amendment.

It is the women's movement itself that can win. We need a large, visible, active movement to prove where women stand in this country.

Women have to push harder to win today, but it can be done.

The march in Washington July 9, called by NOW, is an encouraging step in the fight to win equal rights. Workers' Power urges all of our readers to join the march.

Let's be out there in the tens of thousands. Women demand equal rights. We're not going to settle for less.

Elissa Clarke



Women's Equality

I FEEL the Equal Rights Amendment would be an advance in the fight to secure my rights as a lesbian and as a mother.

All my life, I have felt some form of oppression. I feel that as a woman, I have not had the same opportunities I would have had if I had been born a male.

The same sexual oppression that is felt towards women, gays feel. As I've gotten older, my oppression because I am gay has gotten even more evident. Because I have a different sexual attitude, I'm forced to lead a separate life.

Any advance we make towards equality is part of the fight to secure my rights as a lesbian and as a woman.

Aprile Collier, Coordinator Pitts. Ctte. for Human Rights



Aprile Collier

WE HAD a women's meeting at our local today, and ten women signed up for the bus to go to Washington.

We support the Equal Rights Amendment because the things in the ERA affect a lot of things that we're fighting for and things that we believe in. Equal rights, fair pay, discrimination, and especially fair treatment on the job.

One thing that's a sore point with me: even though we're women employees in the mill, we'll have trouble getting our hospital bills paid, and the wives of the men who work there, nine times out of ten, they don't have that much trouble. We're fighting to end things like that.

Gloria Kelly, USW Local 6787



Time Limit for Equality?

"No time limit on equality" read a picket sign at a recent rally for the Equal Rights Amendment.

The sign referred to a proposal now working its way through the House, that the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment be extended by another seven years.

The current deadline is March 22, 1979.

On June 5, the House subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights approved a resolution to extend the deadline by a 4-3 vote. The measure will go to the full House Judiciary Committee, where approval is expected.

CONTROVERSY

The New York Times, which claims to support the ERA, ran an editorial opposing the extension. "What would the ERA supporters think of such a procedure if, for more than six years, they had successfully resisted an amendment, say, to outlaw abortion?" the Times asked.

But legal opinion is that Congress has the right to extend the deadline. Whether or not the deadline is extended for the ERA, Congress would have that authority in the future.

Congress has the authority to set any time limit it wants for ratification. It set no time limit for the first 17 amendments, nor for the 19th. The seven year deadline has been a "tradition" for the past 50 years. But is tradition a weighty enough argument to prevent constitutional equality for women?

In an advertisement in the New York Times, thousands of people published a signed statement urging Congress to extend the deadline. They pointed out that: "It took from 1848 to 1920 to win for women the Constitutional right to vote—a total of 72 years. Three other amendments—the 13th (abolition of slavery), the 14th (due process) and the 15th (the vote for Black men)—were achieved only by civil war..."

"Extension of the deadline for ratification of the ERA will permit continuing debate on one of the most profound human rights issues of this century."

Workers' Power supports the extension of the deadline because victory in the fight for women's equality is the issue here, not seven years, fourteen years, tradition, or anything else.

It is empty rhetoric to support the ERA and oppose the extension. A look at reality shows that you have to support both.

Murder conviction Battered Wife Abused By The Courts

by G. Brady

Cathy Thomas was a battered wife.

Cathy Thomas dared to defend herself.

Cathy Thomas was sentenced to 15 years to life for murder.

Cathy is a young, Black Cleveland woman who killed Rubin Daniels, her common-law husband, in self-defense after years of brutal beatings, pistol whippings, and threats on her life.

Daniels was a pimp, a drug dealer. He was under indictment for aggravated robbery and murder. While released on bond, Daniels began pressuring Cathy to pawn some of her belongings to get him money. When she refused, he dragged her into the garage, and viciously beat her.

Four days later, on January 12, Rubin Daniels, high on morphine and valium, started an argument with Cathy.

"He had me by my collar and he slapped me with his open hand on my face. He pushed me onto the couch. He said he didn't know if he should beat me to death or just blow my face off."

Cathy picked up Daniel's gun, which he had left on the couch. "I was planning to bluff my way out of the house because I knew he was getting ready to beat me or kill me."

"I copped the gun," Ms. Thomas said tearfully. "He made a move towards me. I shot him. He fell back into the chair. I shot again. I started screaming."

PEERS?

On June 20, Cathy was found guilty of murder.

In a city that is 45% Black, Cathy's jury was 11 whites and one Black, hardly a jury of her peers. Cathy was living the nightmare

of countless battered women in this country who are trapped into taking abuse from their men.

Our society expects women to be dependent. A woman is supposed to "stand by her man"—even if he is like Rubin Daniels.

There is little chance to escape. No decent jobs, inadequate childcare, too few shelters for battered women.

If these options had been available, Cathy might never have been on trial.

Most of these battered wives suffer in silence. When they do defend themselves, the courts punish them for it. The courts pressure women to plead insanity or manslaughter. By accepting these charges, they are, in effect, pleading guilty.

DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Because she was supported by a women's defense group, the Goldflower Defense Committee, Cathy decided to fight for her innocence, for the right to defend herself.

Daria Hlebak, a member of the Goldflower Defense Committee and also a staff member of Women Together, a shelter for battered women, told Workers' Power that defense attorneys Christopher Stanley and Christopher Conybeare are filing a motion of appeal and also filing a motion for Cathy to be released on bond. Cathy is presently jailed in the Justice Center, but will be transferred to Marysville.

The Goldflower Defense Committee urges people to write letters to the editors of the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cleveland Press protesting Cathy's convictions. Contributions to the defense fund will be appreciated. Send contributions to: Rape Crisis Center, Attention Jean Van Atta, 3201 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

WORKERS' POWER

Subscribe to Workers' Power. \$10 per year. Six months: \$5. Introductory sub: \$1 for 8 issues.

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

Name

Address

Trade Union

14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203

SUBSCRIBERS: If you're moving, notify Workers' Power of your new address four weeks in advance. The Post Office will not forward weekly publications to your new address. Undelivered copies are returned to Workers' Power and cost us money.

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER!
Six Months — Only \$3

I'd like to take advantage of this offer. Enclosed is \$3.

ERA is passed, Carter may well be in office when the ERA goes down.

Last year, the National Organization for Women announced a shift in strategy and began a boycott of conventions in unratified states.

While NOW has reported that the 15 unratified states have lost \$250 million in convention and travel business, not a single additional state has ratified since the boycott began.

JULY 9

It's not election campaigns, lobbying, or boycotts that will win the Equal Rights Amendment.

It is the women's movement itself that can win. We need a large, visible, active movement to prove where women stand in this country.

Women have to push harder to win today, but it can be done.

The march in Washington July 9, called by NOW, is an encouraging step in the fight to win equal rights. Workers' Power urges all of our readers to join the march.

Let's be out there in the tens of thousands. Women demand equal rights. We're not going to settle for less.

Elissa Clarke

Speaking Out

What We Think

Jimmy Carter, Frank Snepp And The Next Vietnam War

For most people, the war in Vietnam ended early in 1975. But as far as the United States government is concerned, the war isn't over yet. In the courts, in the media and the publishing industry, the government is still fighting the war which it lost in Vietnam.

That's what the trial of Frank Snepp, the former CIA agent who wrote a book about the last days of the war, is all about.

The Justice Department and the CIA took Snepp to court because he published his book "Decent Interval" without submitting it for CIA approval. Had he done so, of course, the book would have been slashed to ribbons by agency censors—not to protect classified information, since Snepp didn't reveal any, but to save CIA officers from embarrassment for their cowardice and corruption.

Snepp was summarily denied the right to a jury trial by the judge in the case. This judge, Oren Lewis, has tried the case himself, preventing Snepp's lawyers from presenting any case and sustaining government lawyers' "objections" even before they were made!

The verdict in the case is a foregone conclusion, since the judge announced before the case began how he would rule. Snepp will be found guilty, forbidden to write anything about the CIA without permission, probably ordered to turn over all royalties from book sales to the CIA, and possibly subjected to heavy fines to ruin him financially.

Among other things, Frank Snepp's First Amendment rights, the publishing industry's freedom from censorship, and the public's right to know about CIA abuses are all

being trampled on here. But the most important part of this case is not the Constitutional procedures, but the politics.

What Frank Snepp revealed about Vietnam was no secret to the Vietnamese. It was only kept secret from the American people.

Snepp exposed the fact that hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese civilians had been recruited as the eyes and ears for the CIA in Vietnam. These people, many of whom were ordinary Vietnamese citizens, were left behind—along with written records of their activities—when the CIA's American personnel fled in panic.

In some cases Vietnamese employees of U.S. government agencies were deliberately misdirected and left stranded as helicopters took off without them. Snepp, who was personally repelled by these incidents, went public when he realized the CIA was engaging in an internal cover-up to protect its officers' careers.

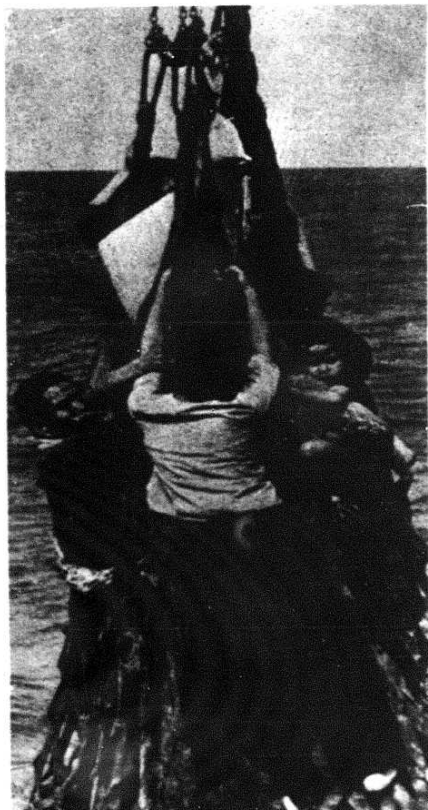
DANGEROUS BUSINESS

The lesson of "Decent Interval" was too explosive for the American government to handle: it's dangerous for foreign citizens to go on the CIA payroll in their country. When the imperialists lose their use for you, they will leave you behind like the cannon fodder you are. What could this mean for the CIA's hirelings in countries like Argentina, Brazil, Thailand or the Philippines?

And what does it mean for the American people, who are once again being assured that the CIA is a "legitimate means to help defend democracy and prevent subversion" throughout the world?

The next Vietnam war could be Zaire. It could be Angola. Or the oil fields of the Arabian Gulf, or Panama, or Nicaragua or anywhere else the people try to liberate their country from imperialism. Former CIA agents like Philip Agee, John Stockwell and Frank Snepp—men who, whether they are political radicals or not, reveal what they have seen about the workings of the CIA—are making the next Vietnam war harder for the American government to prepare.

When Jimmy Carter took office he talked a lot about "healing the wounds of the Vietnam war" What he meant was, let's forget the Vietnam war ever happened. The attempt to destroy Frank Snepp has clearly been made at the top levels of the Carter Administration. It is an effort to legitimize one discredited war, to pave the way for the next one. □



Refugees cling to cargo ship in 1975. The U.S. left behind tens of thousands of its Vietnamese agents and employees. Frank Snepp revealed a dangerous "secret"—how and why this happened, and the corruption and cowardice of CIA officials.

Fighting Words

"The white man makes all the laws, he drags us before his courts, he accuses us, and he sits in judgement over us."

—H. Rap Brown, 1967

As I See It

Styroburgers

by Dan Posen

Ask yourself this question: what is the most outrageous energy-wasting item in the entire massive fast-food industry in energy-starved America?

Answer: it's that styrofoam box you get your McDonald's quarter-pounder in.

As we all know, that box keeps the hamburger well-insulated and warm, tender, juicy...well anyway, warm. It also seems that producing that box, like other plastics and synthetic materials, uses oil. A lot of oil.

You might have guessed as much from the fact that Mobil Corporation spent years trying to convince McDonald's to change from wrapping its burgers in ordinary paper to the synthetic plastic box.

Finally, McDonald's agreed to the change. Then came the shocker.

In order to meet McDonald's demand, Mobil would have had to build a brand new \$100 million plant—just to produce insulated styrofoam boxes for quarter-pounders!

In this era of advanced capitalist crisis, that new capital investment was too much even for a multinational oil giant. So Mobil formed a consortium with three other companies.

All four of them, put together, are able to keep up with McDonald's ever-expanding demand.

So with energy prices de-controlled, and the companies screaming for more money to do research to find new oil fields to save America from bankruptcy and oil embargoes and so forth—well, at least you know what happens to the oil when they find it.

They use it to produce a box which contains a hamburger—and which they don't even reuse, but throw away after being used one.

What "energy crisis"?? □

Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

Behind the Headlines

How Business Fought - And Labor Didn't

by Kim Moody

BUSINESS WEEK called it "political hardball." AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Lane Kirkland called it "class warfare."

Both were right in their characterization of big business' fight to stop the passage of the Labor Law Reform Act of 1978.

The proposed Act itself was a moderate enough piece of legislation. It would have streamlined procedures under which workers vote on whether or not to have a union.

It would have given union organizers "equal" access to workers on the job. It would have upped the fines and penalties on employers who break the law.

In short, it would have made company efforts to prevent union organization a little bit harder.

The labor leadership was so anxious to keep its campaign for the bill respectable and mild, that it made no protest over the inclusion in the bill of an anti-labor clause, Section 13, against wildcat strikes.

THE CLASS LINE

AFL-CIO President George Meany thought it quite moderate. In early 1977, he went out to line up liberal businessmen to support the act.

Meany apparently thought that some of the big companies that have been under union contract for forty years would go along with labor on this one.

Meany was wrong. Not a single businessman could be found to speak out for labor law reform.

Instead big business united, as never before, to mount the most intense lobbying and pressure campaign in decades. Business lobbyists and corporate executives swarmed the halls of Congress.

When Senators began to complain that only big business seemed to be involved, big business went out and flew in scores of small businessmen—in jets belonging to big business, of course.

Millions of dollars on lobbying costs and propaganda were spent. Conservative Senators were lined up to filibuster the Act to death.

Should that fail, some 500 to 1000 amendments were to tie up the Senate, until even the staunchest supporter of the Act would cry "uncle."

CO-OPERATION?

Heads of big industrial corporations that have been organized for decades opposed this bill as vehemently as the truest open shop sons of Dixie.

U.S. Steel, for example, sent out a letter to its management personnel, asking them to write their Senators opposing the bill.

U.S. Steel said the bill would "make it easier for unions to organize." This would seem a strange thing for a company that is almost entirely unionized to be concerned with.

Like U.S. Steel, the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, 100% unionized, is hot against labor law reform.

What made even the unionized corporations fight this bill down the line? What ever happened to those

WASHINGTON REPORT
Labor Relations Economic Security Health Welfare Equal Employment Occupational Health

Double-barreled salvo launched on labor bill
Poll, economic survey bolster Chamber stand

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
We in the business community...
TO All Michigan State...
FROM James Burnett

SPECIAL ALERT
UNION GRAB FOR SMALL BUSINESS

SPECIAL ALERT
FRASER GETS WISE

enlightened businessmen who give speeches about labor-management cooperation, the mutual interests of labor and capital?

Some industries, of course, get parts or supplies from plants run with cheap non-union labor.

FRASER GETS WISE

But a bigger part of the answer lies in what UAW President Doug Fraser finally figured out after thirty years as a labor leader.

Fraser said, in a speech to the recent International Metal Workers Federation conference in Detroit, "We are learning that General Motors has never really accepted the UAW and that, if we didn't have strength as a union, GM would move quickly to destroy us."

The same can be said of the coal operators, who recently were beaten back by the coal miners; of the big and not so big steel companies; and indeed, of all employers.

For a number of years now, the employers, individually or industry by industry, have been fighting to limit, push back, or even destroy the power of unionism.

This push against unionism has become a fight of employers working together to limit the power of unionism altogether.

DECLINING UNIONISM

A letter from Texaco Vice President Kerry King to Texaco franchise dealers, warned that the labor law reform bill would "strengthen labor's power."

The employers have come to understand, if they didn't already know, that the more workers who are unionized, the stronger is the entire labor movement, the greater labor's ability to force wages and benefits up everywhere, the fiercer is labor's political clout.

The American labor movement

has been declining. It has seen its proportion of the work force decline.

Recently, it has declined even in absolute terms. Big business likes things this way and hopes to continue this trend.

To do this, business has been fighting the spread of unionism with an intensity not seen in years.

The number of petitions for union representation rises every year. The number of elections actually held as risen from 7,857 in 1968 to 9,510 in 1977.

More attempts to unionize, more elections, but also more lost elections.

In the last 1960's the unions won about 57% of all representation elections. In the last 1970's, they win less than half.

The unions, for the most part, conduct their organizing drives in the same way they have for years. They obey the law, avoid violence (at least when they can control the workers), and give basically narrow arguments for unionism.

The employers, however, do not play by the rules. They use loopholes in the law, break the law, and generally try to drag things out to discourage the workers.

Aside from drawn-out legal action, the unions do little to counter this obstruction.

LESSONS

The union leaders saw the labor law reform bill as a way to prevent

some of these delaying tactics. The employers saw it the same way and were dead set against it.

The employers' fight against labor law reform is "class warfare." Big businesses are not just responding to their own corporate interests, but to the overall needs of their class.

In an era of economic crisis and uncertainty, they have concluded they can no longer afford the kinds of gains that unions have won in the past.

Ultimately, they understand, this means they can no longer afford unionism, let alone expanding unionism.

The defeat of the labor law reform bill will be an encouragement to the capitalist class to intensify its offensive against labor.

It will also be a blow to the morale of those workers, particularly in the South, who are trying to organize: textile workers at J.P. Stevens, drivers and dock workers at Overnite Express, and tens of thousands of others.

Perhaps it will also wake up some of the labor officials, the Doug Frasers and Lloyd McBrides who put harmony clauses and no-strike agreements in their contracts in the name of co-operating with the employers.

That, however, is probably too much to hope for.

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, send this form to: INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

Name

Address

..... Zip

Union

I.S. BRANCHES

- National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Atlanta: P.O. Box 11016, Atlanta, GA 30310
- Austin: P.O. Box 8492, Austin, TX 78712
- Bay Area: P.O. Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604
- Boston: P.O. Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
- Chicago: P.O. Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611
- Cleveland: P.O. Box 03336, Station B, Cleveland, OH 44103
- Detroit: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Gary: P.O. Box 426, Gary, IN 46402
- Los Angeles: P.O. Box 1545, Lynwood, CA 90262
- New Jersey: P.O. Box 897, Chestnut Station, Union, NJ 07083
- New York: 30 E. 20th St., Room 207, New York, NY 10003
- Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120
- Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

COTTON DUST RULES:

'A BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT'

by Sandy Boyer

AFTER WEEKS of delays and behind-the-scenes maneuvering, the Carter Administration finally announced regulations to control the cotton dust that gives textile

workers the disabling and finally fatal Brown Lung disease.

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers union and the disabled textile workers of the Carolina Brown Lung Association, who have been fighting for cotton

dust controls for years, were bitterly disappointed by the final regulations.

WATERED DOWN

The textile companies will have four years to get the cotton dust down to what the government says is an acceptable level. Woody Clark, the President of the Bi-State Council of the Brown Lung Association, commented:

"We feel that four years is too long to drag this thing out. We feel many lives would be saved if they put it into effect immediately."

The regulations have been so watered down that even four years from now, when the cotton dust is supposed to be down to an acceptable level, many textile workers will still get Brown Lung.

Originally the Labor Department recommended to Carter a standard of two hundred micrograms of dust per square meter of air. The Brown

Lung Association and the union insisted this was too high. Medical studies have shown that with this dust level 10-15% of the workers will get Brown Lung.

Carter took the Labor Department recommendations and made them worse. The final regulations will allow seven hundred and fifty micrograms of dust per square meter in some areas of the mills—a 375% increase over the Labor Department recommendation.

DIRTY BARGAINING

Linnie Mae Bass, a Brown Lung Association leader who was in Washington when the regulations were announced, summed up her feelings about what happened.

"I still think that somebody bargained under the table somewhere."

"When we were in Washington testifying [on the regulations] we

testified that they clean up now. Because they've been given enough time.

"When it came out I see they've got four more years. So I figured somebody bargained somewhere and got somebody to change their mind."

"I'm wondering if they're going to make them clean up. I'll believe it when I see it."

"I think they're going to have to come out with stronger regulations than what they have now."

"If you've got the money you've got nothing to worry about. If you don't then you've got problems."

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the AFL-CIO are challenging the new regulations in court.

The Brown Lung Association is considering either joining this suit, or starting another of their own raising a number of issues including Carter's political tampering with the regulations. □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

In the name of fighting inflation, President Carter has vetoed legislation to cut the work week for firefighters at federal installations from 72 to 56 hours. The President objected that the law would have cut working hours without cutting the firefighters' pay. "I don't believe it is justified," he said, "particularly in light of the 5.5% pay cap I have recommended for federal employees as part of my efforts to hold down inflation."

Vernon Massey, a member of the United Mine Workers international executive board, says he fears there will be wildcat strikes in the coalfields unless problems with health insurance plans are straightened out. Under the new contract, each coal company selects a private health plan. Many doctors are refusing to deal with the immense amount of paperwork involved, and are insisting that miners pay the bills out of their own pockets and then go to the insurance companies for reimbursement. John Kelley, president of Pennsylvania's District 4, says he also thinks miners might strike if the coal companies do not resolve the problems.

United Mine Workers officials are continuing to slowly distribute the more than \$4 million in relief funds donated by several major unions during last winter's coal strike. UMW officials say that after August 1, they will pay medical bills incurred by miners during the strike from these funds. Although the money was given to help win the strike, many miners feel their union leadership purposely withheld the money, hoping financial problems would encourage ratification of the contract. Contributions sent by local unions and rank and file groups directly to UMW districts and locals during the strike were put to use immediately.

Two women steelworkers walked out of an apprentice training class at U.S. Steel's South Works in Chicago when a slide show presented by a tool company included photos of naked women. Initially, the company threatened to discipline the women for walking out of the class, but dropped this idea when the union objected. The tool company also agreed to take the photos out of their slide presentation.

Tony Provenzano, a former vice president and still powerful official of the Teamsters Union, was sentenced to life in prison June 21. He had been convicted the previous week of ordering the 1961 murder of Anthony Castellito, a union rival. Provenzano is also suspected in the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa, and government investigators hope Provenzano's conviction could lead to a break in the Hoffa case.

United Auto Workers officials in the union's Flint, Michigan regional offices are not entirely happy with the film "With Babies and Banners." The new film is the very inspirational story of the Women's Emergency Brigade which helped win the 1937 Flint sit-down strike against General Motors. Several UAW officials have been heard to say that while parts of the film are good, it gives too much credit to the women involved.

Quote of the Week: "Union recognition cards are vile and they're dangerous... Don't share your pie with the union... The name of the game is to prevent the [re]election and chill the union off." —Alfred DeMaria, a professional union-buster, quoted in The Dispatcher, paper of the west coast longshoremen's union.

Workers at Volkswagen's new assembly plant in Pennsylvania have decided to join the United Auto Workers. The UAW won a representation election at the plant, getting all but 20 of the 885 votes cast.

Said Like a True Boss Department: Because of last winter's heavy snows and severe weather, many deer in Michigan died of starvation. Workers at GM's Kalamazoo, Mich. plant asked the company to help feed the deer on the company's property so they would make it through the winter. No, said GM, we don't want to feed them "for fear of making the deer dependent on free handouts."



Guild Convention Backs Oakland Press Strike

by Jim Woodward

PONTIAC, Mich.—"Every goddamn newspaper in the country is following the same script, it seems," said Ralph Kingzette, standing in a storefront strike headquarters across from the Oakland Press building here.

Kingzette is a member of Local 22 of the Newspaper Guild, which, with the Pressmen, was in its 180th day on strike against the newspaper.

The "script" is a management offensive on issues such as work schedules, seniority rights, wages, grievance procedures, and in some cases the very existence of the union itself.

These things were on the minds of about 100 Guild members as they walked the Oakland Press picket line June 26. They were taking a few hours off from the Guild's week-long convention in Detroit. Earlier in the day, convention delegates had contributed over \$1,300 to the Oakland Press strike fund.

The noisy picket line must certainly have livened up the convention. Virtually the entire Pontiac police force was on hand to escort scabs by the pickets. Nevertheless, many scabs had a very hard time getting out of the parking lot. One union representative, James Orcutt, was arrested for allegedly banging on a car.

MANAGEMENT SERIOUS

But the very length of the Oakland Press strike—and the fact that the paper continues to publish with non-union labor—is an indication of how serious management's offensive against the newspaper unions is.

"It all started with the Washington Post strike," Kingzette said. By the end of that strike, as many as two-thirds of the Newspaper Guild's members crossed picket lines set up by striking Pressmen.

The Post eventually broke the Pressmen's union and severely weakened its other unions. As for



Members of the Newspaper Guild interrupted their 1978 convention to picket the Oakland Press.

the Guild members who crossed the picket lines, "the Post rewarded them by letting them go two years without a contract," Kingzette noted.

There are some indications the Post may sign a contract with the Guild soon, but at the cost of several long-standing conditions, including the union shop.

And that's a common pattern. "It was a rare fiscal '78 settlement that contained no weakenings from the prior contract," says an officers' report to the Newspaper Guild convention.

At the New York Daily News, for example, a four-day strike ended with the union agreeing to several "take-away" demands in the areas of sick leave, seniority, and work schedules.

MERGER?

The weakening of the Guild has prompted a proposal for merger with the International Typographical Union. The ITU and other newspaper craft unions have been hard



hit by automation, and their bargaining position seriously weakened as well.

The merger proposal will be discussed during this year's Guild convention, though no decision is expected at this time.

For the immediate future, Newspaper Guild members are faced either with tough strikes, like that at the Oakland Press, or concessions to management—and in some places they may get both. □



PLAY SPEAKS TO WOMEN

by RETHA HILL

SEVEN WOMEN, BLACK WOMEN. The Woman in Red, Yellow, Pink, Purple, Green, Blue, Orange. They act out their incredible pain, and finally their incredible strength. In a beautiful performance, seven Black women, using only the distinguishing color of their garments as props, act out the growing up process of women.

"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf" is a play by Ntozake Shange that portrays what it is like for a woman, especially a Black woman, to grow up in capitalist America.

The audience doesn't just watch this play, you experience the women's pain, and their struggle to find joy in life. The play ends in a devastating tragedy for the Woman in Red. But through her pain, all the women—and the audience too—find inner reserves of strength and peace.

The play opens with the women portraying themselves as little girls. They play together, they laugh together, and enjoy each other. Then they grow up, and the pattern of competition and rivalry sets in as the Woman in Yellow (Jonette O'Kelley) recounts how she lost her virginity in the back seat of a Buick on graduation night.

As her friends sit around her, she vividly recalls the night: how she was the only virgin and the fastest, hottest, and high steppiest dancer. She gleefully recounts how jealous the others got when she left with the finest man at her party.

GHETTO LIFE

The play moves on, and the women grow older. In one scene, a woman mourns the oppression of ghetto life. "I used to live in the world. And then I moved to Harlem." She lives in a radius of six blocks, too frightened to ride the subway into the rest of the world.

In the scenes, the "latent rapists" and "abortion cycle #1", the women speak of their sexual oppression. Of their rapists, they say, "We can even have them over for dinner and get it in our own house by invitation."

The play also shows how women are supposed to accept the lame excuses and sorrows when men mess them over, or else become nagging little bitches that are always riding their man's back.

Their bitterness and anger towards men vibrates through the theater. But it is a web from which they cannot extract themselves. Instead, their anger at men is directed towards each other.

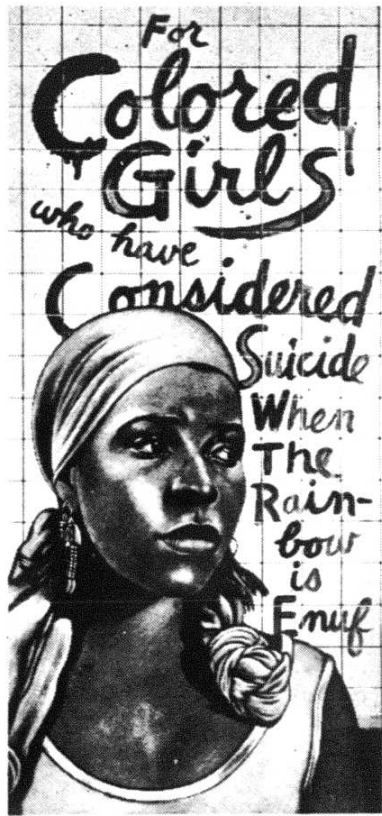
One scene shows four friends, all seeing the same man. They are angry at the man, but they hurt each other.

BITTERNESS BECOMES DIRECT

As the women grow, they allow their bitterness at men to become more and more direct. One of the women recalls how she kept watering a plant for her lover. Finally she can tolerate the miserable relationship no longer. She leaves the plant on his doorstep with a note: "You can water it your own damn self!"

In the scene "somebody almost run off wit all my stuff," the Woman in Yellow talks about how women lose much of their identity when they enter into relationships with men. She feels ripped off by her relationship. "It's my stuff. You can't have it," she wails. In time she realizes that her identity is more important to her than the relationship, she breaks it off before she loses all her stuff.

"a nite with beau willie brown" is the horrifying



climax of the play. In a performance that brought tears to the eyes of the audience, the Woman in Red (Layanya Richardson) dramatically showed how women are emotionally and physically hurt by men—but they cannot end the relationship.

As the man who has loved her and beaten her begs for her devotion again, the Woman in Red accurately detailed the gamut of emotions her character was feeling until almost every woman in the theater could feel herself on that stage and had become the Woman in Red.

The destructive relationship finally ends when Willie drops her infant son out the window.

Through this horrifying tragedy, the seven women resolve their anger and begin to move in another direction. A direction of finding love and strength in themselves and each other.

They had made a silent commitment to each other and a verbal commitment to themselves that they weren't going to accept any more "sorry's", and that they weren't going to be cut off from the world no more. And they weren't going to be looking for happiness in a fantasy, but were going to find it in themselves and begin to move to the ends of their own rainbows. □

Ntozake Shange's play "For Colored Girls" has caused controversy among those who see it. Is it written just for Black people, or does it apply to whites too? Does it condemn the Black man? Does it condemn all men? Why do so many women see themselves in this play?

A group of Detroit women, the author of the review on this page among them, recently went to see the play, and discussed it at a backyard dinner afterwards. What follows here is fragments of their conversation.

The theater party was organized by the I.S. Women's Caucus. The discussion included both Black and white women.

"It seems like to me, that I think that people are right, the emphasis [in the play] is on, you know, men are fucked."

Laughter, "yeah."
"But that probably makes sense, because, you know, that's the one thing you need reinforced in your head, right? Like everything else in the world is organized to tell you that men are terrific, men are wonderful, you should be attached to them, right, everything else in your life pushes you that way..."

"The same lines that they read, I could've read them the same thing. Yeah, I've seen it, I've done it, I've said the same thing."

"But wait a second." "Back up. What did she say?"

"I don't feel sorry for them, but I'm just saying..."

"She said it was against them. The men."

"You don't think that, 'oh, poor white people, having to deal with their racism,' you don't feel sorry for white people having to deal with that?"

"Nope."

"Not one damn bit. You shouldn't. So why should you feel sorry for men having to deal with..."

"All Black men aren't like that, but they just in general putting down all Black men."

"Hold it, hold it, back up. How old are you? Wait a minute. I'm telling you they all fall in the same bracket no matter who they are or where they came from."

"All the white men I know do, I'm sorry."

"You know what? Maybe they haven't all done it, but it's in the back of their mind if they could do it, they do it. I'm telling you. I've been out with preachers' sons, and ministers and everybody else and they all think the same damn thing. Screw and let's go."

"I hear you, I hear you."
A sigh.

"I don't know, I think there also were some things about it where they showed why men are the way they are in terms of the pressures they have on them from the street too you know. Just the whole competition out there... it affects them too."

"Yeah, it affects them because they've made so many mistakes they think they can master anything, and they're the masters of all things."

"The thing that seemed the most amazing to me about it was how much it was all the same. How much Black women felt the same way I felt and that Black men run the same games. I mean, the style's a little different, the language is a little different, but it's the same old bullshit!"

"You see, that's what I didn't know, the difference."

"I know, me too. I thought..."

"Cause we've been always told that the white man, he does his white women so good and he does

everything for them, and they don't have to do this and he gets maids for them and they have all these luxuries and everything, and here, shit, we working our fingers to the damn bone and they go out and have a party and we gotta pay the bills."

"Yeah, but they got white women fooled too."

"It's gotta happen. Heck, we're doing everything that they do, and more. Even at work... they don't help you, unless they might get

some tonight or whatever. Then they might help you."

"Don't you wish like you could really hand out a book of everything you know to younger women. But everybody has to learn these things for themselves."

"It's harder than that, because even though—I know these things, but I still fuck up a lot."

"That's what you said about Crystal [in the play]—you knew she was gonna give in, you knew."

"We were on the outside, saying

'don't,' but we would have done it, we would have done the same thing."

"We try to believe the best about them. These people mess you over, but you still want to believe that they're good."

"My sister, she was 17 years older than I am, so her husband used to bring her to my mother and put her on the doorstep, you know with the kids, and I say to myself, I wouldn't do that, how can she? I mean she'd go back to him, right,

and they kept on back and forth, and you say, I'll never do that, never, ever."

"I went back three times, I got beat up three separate times, and I went back three times. That last time I said, 'this girl gonna kill him.'"

"It's like getting in debt. Once you get in debt, you just keep getting more in debt. You make a compromise on this thing or that thing that's really important to you, and then the next compromise is easier to make, not harder. Cause you've already started doing it. You have something to lose, you have something at stake. This other compromise, you've got to save this relationship."

"So you just keep making compromises!" (Pandemonium breaks out.) "Bankrupt!"

"And that's when it's all over, crash, and you've got no place to go but up."

"But we can have confidence, I think that every generation is getting a little wiser. By the time your children and my children grow up..."

"Well, my daughter isn't gonna take no shit."

"As long as women have to depend on men for their security and the society provides you with no security, you're in a real trap and that's why we have to remain in the struggle that we're in. Things may be changing for you, but lots of women are in relationships like that that they cannot get out of because they have children, they have no way of supporting themselves, they feel trapped, they can't get out."

"I got out. Oh yeah."

"You got out because you had a certain amount of economic independence, by having a job."

"I didn't have my job when I got out. I got out and walked to the ADC office."

"Some people do it, sure."

"His girlfriend would make him mad and he'd come take it out on me. I'd be sleeping. Get pulled out of bed by the feet, get beat up, for what? What did I do? Is it a fire or what?"

"I said, well, hell no. That's the last beating. I walked to the ADC office. And I didn't want to be on ADC. But that was my only way out, I didn't have nowhere else to go."

"Isn't there anybody who has a different experience? I can't believe this."

"Yeah, I know some men who are very nice."

"Yeah, I got some at work."

"They tend never to be the ones you're in relationships with though. People are also very different in relationships than they are with other people. Relationships put tremendous pressures on people. A lot of bitterness and hurt and stuff like that."

"A lot of hurt."
"Um hm."

Silence.

"It really showed how bitter women are, and how bitter they are about the fucked-up relationships. But there was a more important message, which is that women have to come to finding the place in themselves where they no longer give themselves away. Where they say, this is me, and I can be in a relationship with you but you're not gonna take me away, I'm not giving up my personality. I'm in a relationship and if it works, it works; if it doesn't work, it doesn't work—I don't die inside, right. I live, I go on and I have my own life."

"Well that's what was really optimistic about it."

Portugal: Revolutionary Socialists Arrested

FIFTEEN LEADERS of the Portuguese Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP) were arrested last week in a national right wing campaign in Portugal.

Among those arrested were Isobel do Carmo and Carlos Antunes, the two major spokespersons for the PRP. The fifteen are charged with bombings, bank robberies and the murder of a policeman.

These charges against the PRP leadership, mean that the government will attempt to make the PRP as a political party responsible for criminal acts.

The true purpose of the government's charges against these outstanding socialist fighters is clearly political. Its aim is to step up the campaign of repression in Portugal against the revolutionary left, to weaken it in preparation for further savage cutbacks in the living standards of workers.

UNSTABLE

The current right wing Portuguese government is an unsteady coalition of social democrats and right-wing industrialists.

The leader of the big business party, Freitas do Amaral, a loyal follower of Portugal's last fascist dictator Caetano, is a cabinet minister.

In the last two years the right wing has been able to cut workers' real wages by one-third, yet this has not been enough to solve the deep capitalist economic crisis or destroy the militant workers' commissions and trade unions.

Now, with further cuts demanded by an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to gain loans from the United States and Germany, new attacks on workers require further repression

of the workers' political organizations.

Some observers have speculated that the attempt to make the PRP leadership responsible for criminal attacks is to try to crush that party, in preparation for a right-wing coup.

RESISTING FASCISM

The PRP and its leading members in particular, have a long and outstanding record of struggle against fascism. As an underground armed party, the PRP's support to liberation movements in Portuguese African colonies helped them win their liberation.

During the past four years of the Portuguese revolutionary process, the PRP has been in the forefront of building a workers' movement for socialist revolution and against the threat of fascist coups.

The reason for now charging this party with "criminal attacks" is clear.

The PRP is noted for its strong support not only among workers but also in the armed forces. It is believed to be able to offer effective resistance if the right attempts a coup to restore a fascist dictatorship, to turn Portugal into another Chile.

Watch Workers' Power for further details.

WORKERS' POWER



—J.G. Isobel do Carmo, arrested Portuguese revolutionary leader.

REFORM BILL DEFEAT: LESSONS FOR LABOR

by Jim Woodard

THE DEFEAT of the labor law reform bill by the Senate last week shows that it's time for the labor movement to start playing hardball.

The bill was defeated by a minority of Senators. They did not hesitate to use every trick and tactic at their disposal. They were prepared to bring the Senate to a halt by extending their filibuster until the majority gave in.

And the Senate did give in, sending the bill back to the Human Resources Committee. There it will either die or be so watered down as to be nearly useless. Employers will be able to continue many unfair, anti-labor practices, legally. This should be a clear indication

that the unions' traditional legislative tactics are not working. Something new is needed before the employers send us back to the days before unions.

What was good for the employers should also be good for the labor movement: using its power in a concentrated effort.

RIGHT IDEA

Joseph Odorcich, a prominent labor leader, suggested the right thing June 16 at a convention of United Steelworkers District 31.

Odorcich suggested a one-day national strike in support of the labor law reform legislation.

To be sure, Odorcich is not serious about it. As vice president

of the Steelworkers Union he could easily have taken his proposal to the union's executive board or to the AFL-CIO.

Nonetheless, his idea is the kind of thing that could turn around labor's losing streak in Washington.

After all, if the employers and their Senate allies can use the power of their gilt-edged tongues to get what they want, should not the labor movement use its economic muscle to get what American working people need?

• • •

Why big business regarded labor law reform as a "must-win" issue. . . PAGE 9.

Gay Freedom Day Is Biggest Yet

According to the police, a quarter million people marched in San Francisco for Gay Freedom Day Saturday.

Local estimates put the figure at closer to a half a million. It was the gay liberation movement's biggest answer yet to the Briggs law, proposed by a state legislator, calling for the firing of all gay teachers in California.

The measure is to be voted on in the November election. Thousands more rallied for gay rights in New York City and Houston, Texas.

The right-wing movement in America, spearheaded by Anita Bryant's bigotry crusade, picks on those targets it considers weakest—poor women who need abortions, people on welfare, and gays.

To their surprise, they have found that gay people—those who were probably expected to be the softest target—are the most ready to fight back, politically, morally, and physically.

While the right-wing thinks human rights can be outlawed at the ballot box, the gay movement and its allies intend to win human rights not just in the polling booths, but in the streets.

• • •

What man and woman have done the most damage in the world? High school students condemned Adolph Hitler and anti-gay crusader Anita Bryant in a recent Ladies Home Journal survey of 800 students.

Anita Bryant was also selected as the woman who makes the students "angriest," in this case sharing the honors with Richard Nixon.