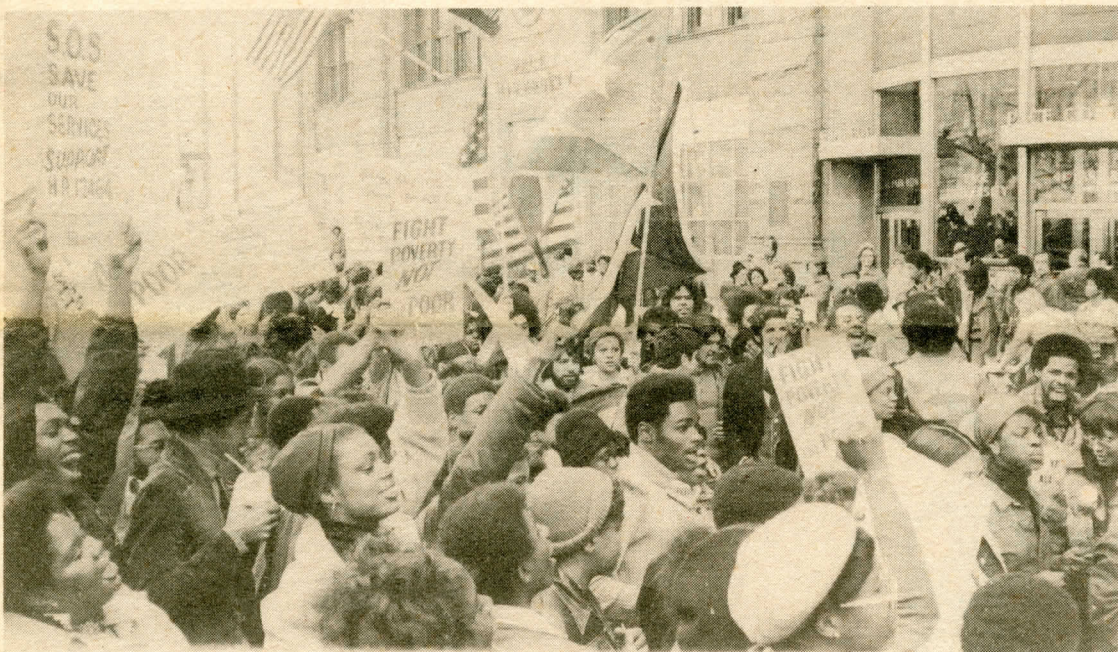


Call A Congress Of Labor

NEW PRICE SURGE SLASHING WAGES



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BY A REPORTER
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More than 15,000 workers have been laid off in the Dayton area recently.

The Woodcock leadership has not only refused to take action in this crisis, but is stepping up its attacks against any section of the membership that refuses to go along with the sellouts.

Last week by a vote of 5 to 2, the International UAW Public Review Board stripped skilled trades workers of their right to veto a contract.

(Continued On Page 12)

BY THE EDITORS

American workers are facing in the immediate period ahead a new stage in the calculated plans of the Nixon government to slash their living standards and impose wage cuts and mass unemployment.

The removing of all controls off prices by the Cost of Living Council is paving the way for the most astronomical surge in food and other commodity prices ever seen in this country.

The government now intends to combine this attack on workers with a policy of accelerating the recession and inducing a massive industrial slump that threatens millions of working people with a future of permanent unemployment.

Nixon, the man behind these actions, stands condemned in the eyes of every worker as a criminal, whose guilt in the Watergate coverup is indisputed fact.

While Nixon launches attacks on the basic rights of workers, he contemptuously defies the Congress and the courts.

The working class must demand a halt to this criminal situation. The threat to the working class posed by the inflation and recession must be answered by the labor movement immediately.

Every trade unionist must demand that a Congress of Labor be convened to take up the task of forcing Nixon out through the independent power of the working class and to form a labor party to throw out the Democrats and Republicans and to carry out socialist policies to defend the working class.

The latest action of Nixon's Cost of Living Council, in officially removing price controls from all food retailers and wholesalers, will mean a massive upsurge in food prices that may approach an annual rate of at least 50 percent.

John Dunlop, the president of the Cost of Living Council has just announced that steel manufacturers will be awarded a "substantial" increase in prices

which will be passed on in every single item made out of steel.

Most steel corporations are projecting a rise of at least 18 percent in prices and one company is seeking an increase of 28 percent.

This follows directly on the heels of the agreement negotiated between United Steel Workers President I.W. Abel and the steel corporations that grants steel workers only a three percent increase each of the next three years and no cost of living protection.

With the annual rate of inflation approaching 15 percent, steel workers and all workers are being told to take a wage cut of at least 10 percent!

This criminal situation is entirely the responsibility of the trade union leadership which has made a secret pledge to Congress that it will voluntarily hold down wages and prevent strikes, while the Nixon government continues to fuel uncontrolled inflation.

In the wings, Nixon will keep some form of controls to use as a club against wage increases where the bureaucracy fails to hold back the rank and file.

The labor bureaucracy is consciously aiding the government in slashing living standards and in shackling the unions to the corporations in order to help the capitalists out of their crisis.

The decision of the Federal Reserve Board to restrict the money supply to the banks has forced all major banks to raise their prime rate, the rate of interest charged on loans to their corporate customers.

The raising of the prime rate to over 10 percent will make it impossible for countless com-

(Continued On Page 12)

Bulletin 10th Anniversary Fund

This week we have received \$3057.42 towards the Tenth Anniversary Bulletin Fund, bringing our grand total to \$21,138.74. This is still too slow as we prepare to meet our two-thirds goal of \$33,000 by May 1.

As thousands of workers now face the attacks of the Nixon administration, the need for a daily paper is critical to give a political lead to the major struggles which lie immediately ahead.

The *Bulletin* is the only paper which exposes the role of the trade union leadership which refuses to mobilize the working class for the construction of a political alternative—a labor party.

There must be an all-out campaign in the next two weeks as we build for the Young Socialists Conference to meet this goal. By next week, a total of \$6000 must be received. We appeal to all our readers to help us in this fight.

Let's go all-out to raise this amount in the coming week—to prepare for the daily *Bulletin* and to build the international movement.

In The Midweek
Edition

• "Revivals and Utopias," Part One of a two-part series by Tim Wohlforth on the emergence of mystical and utopian trends in 19th century America.

Bulletin

NOW
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Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

VOLUME TEN NUMBER THIRTY ONE 367

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1974

FIFTEEN CENTS

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Leading Shop Steward Persecuted

British Unions Under Attack

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
British-Leyland has launched a bitter attack against the unions at its main assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford.

The management has issued a statement withdrawing recognition from Alan Thornett, chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee and deputy convenor (second most powerful position in the union at Leyland) of 6000 Transport and General Workers Union members in the factory.

Thornett is also chairman of a T& GWU local of 7500 auto workers, and a leading member of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

In a letter circulated through the plant, J.R. Symonds, plant director, declared that the company was no longer willing to afford facilities to Thornett to act as a trade union representative and directed him to return to his normal employment as a driver in the transport department.

The attack on Thornett is aimed at the destruction of the powerful shop stewards organization to replace fighting stewards with company puppets who will cooperate with management plans for speedup and unemployment. The company has literally declared that it has the right to decide who will represent workers in a factory.

The victimization of Thornett takes place against the backdrop of the world crisis in auto production which is threatening the British auto industry with devastation.

British Leyland, which employs 100,000 workers, is in deep crisis. Production has been plummeting and its stock values are at an all-time low.

Leyland management has been attempting to rip up existing union contracts and introduce a drive for speedup and the inevitable layoffs that will follow.

The attack on Thornett follows a recent strike at the Cowley plant against speedup in which management warned strikers: "When you report for work, tell your foreman you will give your assignment a fair effort at a line speed of 30 per hour."

"To those who refuse, I must ask the question—Do you wish to remain in our employment? If you won't work, we must assume you wish to leave us and we will respond accordingly."

Opposition

The Cowley plant has been the center of opposition to these attacks throughout the auto industry. Leyland is desperately trying to overcome its crisis through the production of the Marina for export to the US small car market.

The hopelessness of this task is underscored by the fact that it is not only attempting to set up a distributor network here virtually from scratch, but transport to the United States is monopolized by Volkswagen, and Marinas have been piling up in the stockyards with the company unable to ship them out.

The international auto war is thus forcing Leyland to seek to smash up trade unions in its plants and return to conditions of unlimited speedup, slashed

wages, and production with a fraction of the present work force.

Every auto manufacturer is watching the developments at Cowley. Ford, Vauxhall, and Chrysler are all planning the same fight.

The battle at Cowley reflects the breakup of the capitalist boom and the turn to international recession which is devastating the British economy and threatening jobs, wages, and democratic rights.

Precisely as Thornett is victimized, the National Industrial Relations Court, a Tory created body with virtually unlimited powers to fine and police the unions has just launched the most vicious attack on the unions in British labor history.

Sir John Donaldson, Tory president of the NIRC, has threatened to take over the entire assets and funds of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The AUEW is the second largest union in England, organizing workers throughout the key auto and machine production industry.

The AUEW has been fined over \$100,000 for damages in a strike against Con-Mech, an engineering firm. An additional \$500,000 fine is pending in another case.

In essence, the Donaldson decision would place the union in the hands of the Tory court if it refuses to pay the fine by April 29. The AUEW would be occupied by court representatives and deprived of all power to control its money and property.

Day to day functioning, wages of union officials and employees and all union equipment and offices would be under direct control of the Tories. This savage ruling threatens the end of trade unionism in Britain.

Spineless

That a Tory court set up under the Heath government would dare to take such action against the unions is an expression of both the desperation of British capitalism before the economic crisis and the spineless capitulation of the Labor government to Tory policies after only seven weeks in office.

The Labor government is attempting to carry out policies to salvage British capitalism under conditions in which inflation is raging at a 36 percent annual rate in wholesale prices; stocks are collapsing, and the trade deficit is the worst in history, averaging over \$1 billion a month.

Harold Wilson and the Labor Party leadership did absolutely nothing to drive the hated Tories from office. They are in power today entirely because of the strength of the British working class, particularly the miners whose strike action against the government wage freeze forced the Tories to resign.

Yet it is now clear to millions of workers that this solved nothing. From the moment it took power, the Wilson government has continued the Tory attacks.

In the first week of office, the Labor Party budget raised rates on dozens of necessities, hiked taxes, and pushed the economy towards recession, while negotiating international loans and pledging to pay them back by re-



Alan Thornett, whose recognition as chairman of the joint shop stewards' committee at British-Leyland, Cowley, Oxford has been withdrawn by management in an attack aimed at destroying the powerful union organization.

ducing the consumption of the working class.

The Labor government has left the Tory antiunion laws and courts intact. Construction workers jailed for picketing under Heath are still in jail under Wilson. Labor councillors who refused to carry out Tory rent increases face fines and removal under Wilson. The Concorde supersonic jet project is being phased out under Labor, threatening tens of thousands of jobs.

Green Light

The refusal of the Labor leaders to carry out socialist policies to meet the crisis by abolishing the antiunion laws and nationalizing industry and finance under workers control has given the green light to Tories like Donaldson to proceed with the attacks on the unions.

Behind the scenes, the Tories are well aware that the Labor leaders offer no threat to capitalism. They are maneuvering night and day with the military and the police for the time when they can oust Labor and bring in a police-military dictatorship

against the working class. Just as the Allende government did in Chile, Wilson seeks to hand them the time to prepare.

The Donaldson measures against the AUEW go even further than the Taff Vale judgement of 1901. Under Taff Vale, the unions could be fined for striking, but their facilities were left intact.

Taff Vale began the process which led the labor movement to set up the Labor Party to fight back politically. Yet today, the British working class is immeasurably more powerful than in the days of Taff Vale.

It has just driven the Tories from office entirely with its own strength. Millions have had their eyes opened to the traitors in the Labor Party leadership.

A powerful wage offensive has already begun as workers refuse to sacrifice for the crisis of British capitalism. The way is rapidly being opened for a showdown.

The Workers Revolutionary Party has campaigned continually in this crisis not only to force the Tories out, but to force the Labor Party to call an emergency conference to adopt

socialist policies against the Wilson betrayal.

The WRP has demanded from the beginning action by the Labor Party to repeal all Tory antiunion laws.

Defend

Now the way is clear for a massive general strike to defend the AUEW against the NIRC attack. The WRP is campaigning throughout the labor movement to launch immediate strike action to smash the Tory laws and courts.

The witch-hunt against Alan Thornett is a measure of capitalist desperation against the power of the working class and the growing strength of its revolutionary leadership.

The same desperate measures against the unions are being prepared for the United States. American auto workers are already at the center of these attacks.

Britain poses the urgency here of constructing the revolutionary leadership and taking forward the fight to force Nixon out through the launching of a labor party pledged to socialist policies.

Soviet Stalinists Compare Nixon To Abraham Lincoln

After having remained virtually silent on the Watergate conspiracy for more than one year, the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Soviet Union has now come to Nixon's defense by drawing an obscene historical analogy between the continuing exposure of his crimes by the newspapers and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by a Confederate sympathizer.

The official youth paper of the Kremlin, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, noted on the 109th anniversary of Lincoln's death that the assassination came at a time when he faced domestic criticism similar to that which Richard Nixon now endures.

What We Think

In a veiled reference to articles in the newspapers on Watergate and Nixon's violation of the tax laws, the Kremlin organ declared that "in the arsenal of reaction, the bullet of the hired or fanatical killer is the extreme but not the only means of eliminating political opponents from the scene."

The opponents of Nixon, implied *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, like the assassins of Lincoln who attempted to interfere "with the historical course of the American people."

Dredging up some obscure historical footnote which deals with Lincoln's attempts to improve relations with tsarist Russia before his death, the article concludes: "Again and again reactionaries have repeated their desperate gamble in the belief that, having eliminated a president (by whatever means) whose policy did not suit them, they would be able to turn back the course of history."

In the interests of the policies of "detente"—of collaboration with imperialism in every country in order to preserve the privileges of the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union—the Brezhnev regime wants to keep Nixon in office. It therefore defends him, giving its approval to the Watergate crimes which have been exposed as the preparation for brutal attacks on American workers and the establishment of a dictatorship.

By comparing Nixon's opponents to Lincoln's assassins, the Stalinists deliver a savage insult to the millions of American workers who hate this government and who are moving against it on every issue involving living standards and basic rights. The Kremlin fears the American working class as a revolutionary force disrupting its efforts to wheel and deal with Nixon.

By echoing Nixon's denunciations of the press, the Stalinists lend assistance to his current campaign in the South and rural areas among racists and labor-haters to rally right-wing support against the working class to remain in power.

The comparison of Nixon to Lincoln is absolutely reactionary in both a political and historical sense.

Without in any way idealizing Lincoln, Marxists have always recognized the progressive character of the revolutionary war he waged against the Southern slavocracy. In spite of all his vacillations and attempts to compromise, Lincoln did wage the war until the Confederacy was destroyed. The Civil War created the conditions for the rapid development of American capitalism and the corresponding development of the working class in this country.

The First International under the leadership of Marx and Engels addressed to Lincoln a message of support for the struggle against the Confederate slave state which Lincoln acknowledged.

How is it possible for the Stalinists to compare Lincoln to Richard Nixon—the leader of the most reactionary imperialist power in the world, the man who plotted with the Chilean junta, who ordered the Christmas bombing of Hanoi and Hai-phong—unless they are in solidarity with his attempts to smash the workers movement in every country.

That this is in fact the case is shown most blatantly in the Stalinists' current attempts to work out a settlement in the Middle East with Kissinger which not only maintains the Zionist regime, but leaves it in a position to launch a new war against the Arab masses.

The American Communist Party dares not report the Kremlin article in the pages of the *Daily World*, but its position Nixon is identical to that of Brezhnev.

This is why the CP applauded UAW President Leonard Woodcock when he came out against Nixon's resignation on the grounds that it would make Nixon a "martyr."

The CP seized on this bankrupt excuse for not fighting Nixon because the American Stalinists want Nixon in the White House. In fact, it is the position of the Soviet Stalinists that Nixon is a "martyr" being crucified for the policies of detente.

The CP's demand that Nixon be impeached is a fraud, designed not to force Nixon out, but to keep the working class confined in the straitjacket of the capitalist Democratic Party and their maneuvers in Congress. The CP opposes the development of an independent movement of the working class against Nixon leading to the establishment of a labor party.

The depth of the capitalist crisis drives Stalinism into open battle against the working class. It must be exposed and smashed politically through the construction of the Workers League as part of the international Trotskyist movement.

Nixon To Defy New Subpoena

BY DAVID NORTH

Richard Nixon is again preparing to defy a subpoena of White House tapes and documents that would expose his central role in organizing and then covering up the Watergate conspiracy.

Although Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski has asked the US District Court to subpoena the material, Nixon has already decided that he will screen all material and then decide what tapes and documents may leave his office.

Last summer, the attempt of the first special prosecutor to subpoena documents led the

General Cuts Calley Term

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE

WASHINGTON, DC—The "prison term" of First Lieutenant William Calley, Jr., convicted in the My Lai massacre, has been cut to 10 years.

Calley was originally given a life sentence at hard labor in 1971 for murdering "no less than 22" Vietnamese civilians in 1968. That sentence was cut to 20 years by the commanding general of the Third Army in a review hearing.

The latest reduction by Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway, means that Calley will be eligible for parole after another 6 months.

Calley has never served a day in jail, due to the intervention of Nixon.



Lt. Calley

Callaway justified his decision by saying that "there were mitigating circumstances indicating that Leut. Calley may have sincerely believed that he was acting in accordance with the orders he had received and that he was not aware of his responsibility to refuse an illegal order."

Yet it was precisely because the original military court judged that Calley was responsible for his actions, that he was convicted.

Nixon, in his capacity as commander in chief, will review this final military court decision, and may still exonerate Calley completely.

firing of Archibald Cox and the resignation of Attorney General Elliot Richardson. For one weekend, Nixon defied the entire framework of the Constitution and sought to rule this country independent of any other branch of the government, while dismissing his opponents within the Executive branch.

The fact that Nixon is prepared to go through this process again, in spite of all the revelations of the past eight months, shows that the movements toward dictatorship persist and cannot be stopped by either the courts or congress. This is because Nixon's conspiracies represent the actions of a class which will continue even without Nixon.

Thus, the working class must take action now in its own interests, centering its fight on a campaign to force Nixon out, while at the same time building a labor party pledged to socialist policies as the alternative to this administration and the policies of big business.

In a letter to the White House dated April 11, but released publicly five days later, Jaworski complained that Nixon has continuously refused to cooperate with his informal requests for tapes and documents related to 62 conversations held in the Oval Office of the White House with former aides John Dean, Charles Colson, H.R. Haldeman, and John Ehrlichman.

Nixon has absolutely no intention of complying voluntarily. His arrogance is based not on his

own strength, but rather the conviction that the Democrats in Congress will not force him out of office.

It is only the independent movement of the working class that can force Nixon out. The tremendous hatred of the working class for this government was reflected in the Tuesday special congressional election in Michigan's Eighth District, although its significance was distorted by the support given by the labor bureaucracy to the Democrats.

For the first time in 41 years, the Democratic Party candidate was elected in a solidly Republican area as workers poured out to vote in an election that had been billed as a referendum on Nixon. Last week, Nixon personally campaigned in Saginaw and attacked the labor movement.

The attempt of the labor bureaucracy of both the UAW and AFL-CIO to divert the tremendous hatred of Nixon among workers into the campaigns of the Democratic Party is a betrayal of the movement against this administration.

The alternative to Nixon is not the Democratic Party, which supports his policies of unemployment and inflation and which has no real following among workers in the area.

The movement against Nixon now places the question of the immediate construction of the labor party before the entire trade union movement.

Young Socialists National Conference

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Students Protest Fund Cutoff

BY A REPORTER
WASHINGTON, DC—Over 1000 Federal City College students marched and rallied at the District Building Tuesday to demand restoration of one million dollars cut from the school's budget.

These cuts would mean the termination of the school's summer session, the elimination of the Department of Education, and the termination of full-time faculty and administration positions.

Mayor Washington tried to defend himself, by stating: "I did not impose the cuts." He claimed he had fought the City Council for two weeks to prevent a two million dollar cut in the school's budget.

However, for the past year and one-half, there have been rumors of plans on Mayor Washington's desk for a merger with area federally-funded schools and a proposed cut of Federal City College to a two year college.

URBAN

Federal City College is an urban land-grant college, formed in 1969 as a result of the ghetto rebellion of 1968.

Students at the college see the elimination of departments, programs, and faculty as the beginning of the elimination of the school itself. One student told the Bulletin:

"They've been attacking. They've always attacked this school. They didn't expect that Black people would learn and begin to earn degrees from the school. We fooled them, and now



District Building in Washington, DC where over 1000 college students demonstrated against the \$1 million budget cuts.

they want to get rid of it."

Elimination of the college, with its low tuition and open enrollment, would shut the door to any college education for the working class youth here.

Restoration of the summer session was announced late Thursday evening. The students and faculty, recognizing that no funds had been restored to the school, saw the move to return the summer session as a mere pacifier.

One of the teachers in the English Department informed the Bulletin that over one-half of the faculty has been put on probation for renewal of their contracts, including the Associate Professors.

MOVE

"They saw this as a real move toward closing up Federal City

as we know it, and possibly merging with DC Teacher's College and Washington Technical Institute, the only two other publically financed schools in DC."

PROPOSED

When the Young Socialists proposed at the rally that the march be turned toward the AFL-CIO building to demand

that labor take up a fight against all educational cutbacks and to call for strike action of the faculty and students demanding an end to the attacks on Federal City, the leaders of the student government launched a full-scale attack on the YS.

The political bankruptcy of the leaders was exposed in their refusal to attack the Nixon

administration, instead trying to pressure the Congress to restore the funds in collaboration with Mayor Washington.

LABOR PARTY

Only through the construction of a labor party pledged to socialist policies can the right to free education for all be defended.

Union Rejects Press Offer

BY HAL STANTON
PITTSBURGH—Contract talks between Teamsters Local 211 and the Pittsburgh Press have been recessed indefinitely, following the un-

ion's rejection of the Press's latest offer.

The Pittsburgh Press, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, has provoked the strike in order to launch an all-out attack on the jobs and conditions of its 1700 workers. The typographers, pressmen, and other crafts, who had also been working without a contract, have been locked out and have received no strike benefits since their unions have not made the strike official.

The main issue in the strike is automation. The Press has committed itself to full-scale modernization, which will replace its relief press operation with a computerized offset shop which will eliminate hundreds of jobs.

The Press has prepared for this assault on jobs by first modernizing its loading and delivery

operations, which has brought it into conflict with Local 211.

Following the signing of the recently-expired contract three years ago, the Press purchased huge tractor trailer rigs to replace smaller trucks which were used to bring in rolls of newsprint and other supplies.

Scripps-Howard, which is publishing a weekly scab edition from out of state is using the courts in its assault on the Teamsters. The Press filed a suit with the National Labor Relations Board, to prevent Local 211 from picketing a construction project at its press plant.

The NLRB has in turn asked the Federal District Court for an injunction banning the pickets. The Press has also filed a \$2000-a-day damage suit against the union in the Federal courts.

NY Times Trains Scabs To Bust Printers Union

BY MITCH PATTERSON
NEW YORK, NY—Negotiations between Typographical Union No. 6 and The New York Times broke down again on April 15 when union president Bertram Powers discovered that the Times was training a whole crew of scabs and strikebreakers to be used in the event of a printers strike.

"We said that was unfair and suggested that they refrain from this training. But they refused," stated Powers.

A printer at the Times told the Bulletin that training sessions for the potential strikebreakers were being held on the eleventh floor of the Times building. He added that he believed that on the same floor, in a sealed off section, all the automated equipment that the publishers were preparing to implement were being stored.

Automation has been the key question in the contract talks that has held up a settlement for over a year. What is at stake is the very existence of No. 6 and its parent the International Typographical Union.

Publishers throughout the country are waiting to see if The

New York Times can bust the union and implement automation in preparation for similar attacks on every newspaper local.

Cathode ray tubes, laser beams, and computers are standing by to take the printers' jobs and throw the workers on to the unemployment lines.

INJUNCTION

Following a meeting of the union during work hours last week, Powers received an injunction prohibiting any job actions. Until Local 6 receives sanction from the International for a strike, they are bound by the old contract which prohibits such action. Powers will go to court for the second time on Thursday.

"We're at a standstill," stated another printer. "Eighteen months of talking and here we are, right where we started from. We all voted for a strike and we still want to strike, but we don't know if the ITU has given the go-ahead yet.

"The threat of losing our jobs is at the heart of this whole thing. I have been in this union since 1950. If they bring in the new equipment, where do you think I can find a job?"

"Commercial shops all over the city are closing down, not hiring. And if we went along with the Times' contract, I might be sweeping floors in a few months.

"People are very disgusted here and getting impatient. We are just waiting for the word."

Also central to the contract is the fight for higher wages. At a time when all price restrictions have been taken off the newspapers by the Nixon government, the Times' offer is 5.5 percent.

Boston Tenants Fight De-Control

BY KATHY BROWN
BOSTON, Mass.—State House hearings have begun on legislation to extend the Rent Control Law beyond April 1975.

More than one thousand tenants jammed the hearings, some of them breaking through police lines to testify.

These laws have allowed communities to implement rent controls since 1970. Tenants want the law's extension guaranteed.

The hearings come as the Real Estate interests have launched a vicious attack on workers' rights to housing at a decent rate.

A spokesman for the Massachusetts Rental Housing Association contended: "Rent control has discouraged private investment for construction, and made it almost impossible for owners to maintain present housing stock.

"Landlords are caught in a squeeze between controlled rents and uncontrolled housing costs.

"Many well-intentioned

owners of these buildings were forced to the wall by rent control."

FORTUNES

To the contrary, landlords have made fortunes with speculation in virtually every working class area in the city.

In the Fenway area, eviction notices have been served to whole blocks of tenants, particularly senior citizens. After minor renovations, landlords plan on jacking up rents \$60 a month and more.

FRAUD

The fraud of this renovation process was revealed by one Fenway area woman, who testified that her one-room apartment had been renovated last year and rent was now \$215.

"\$215 would be ok if we had all those advantages. But with no lock on the back door, no top on the toilet tank, no glass in the kitchen window, no intercom system, no new refrigerator and stove as promised, we definitely know we've made a mistake. We're getting ripped off."

Renovations in Boston's South

End, a largely Spanish-speaking area, are aimed at bringing in middle class and student elements at phenomenal rates.

The new University of Massachusetts campus is being constructed alongside Columbia Point, Boston's worst housing project. Plans are being made by the state to buy up this low-cost housing for dormitories.

Carl Ackerman, of the Summerville Tenants Union, told the hearing that housing is "the greatest game outside of Los Vegas. You have something, you sell something, and you still have something—how about that?"

The state politicians support the powerful real estate interests. All contend that if landlords can prove that their renovations bring the buildings up to code, they can serve eviction notices and increase rents.

The fact is, these landed interests are driven by the crisis today to wild speculation, and workers' families are faced with deteriorated housing, impossible rent, and eviction notices.

BY MELODY FARROW

"It's terrible. It's one of the most vicious things I've ever seen or ever had happen to me. Sixty days ago, she was a lovely child. Now there's a picture of her in a bank with a gun in her hand."

These were the words of Randolph Hearst after learning that his daughter Patricia was involved in the bank robbery on the West Coast, allegedly carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Hearst, the press, and the FBI have consciously tried to obscure the real meaning of Patricia's decision to join the SLA.

First, it was claimed that her announcement that she would "stay and fight" with the SLA was fraudulent and that she might actually be dead. Next, when she appeared in the bank, the even more absurd theory was advanced that she was there under force.

The question they are all desperately seeking to avoid is why a girl like Patricia Hearst, a member of one of the wealthiest families in the United States, decides to take up arms against the capitalist system.

TENSION

This action reveals the tension and conflict rapidly developing between the classes in America and the violent way in which this conflict will explode.

The emergence of a terrorist group comes out of the very contradictions of capitalism and above all, the way these contradictions are expressed in the United States. The US, because it is the most powerful and dominating capitalist country, is also at the center of the crisis of capitalism internationally.

Precisely because American capitalism built up its vast wealth through an artificial boom, the breakup of this prosperity and expansion today takes place in the most violent and sudden way.

The American working class did not win its basic rights, its unions, and decent wages through a gradual peaceful process. Everything workers have today was only won after bloody struggles between workers and the corporations which were often fought out like civil wars.

This violence and tension have always been close to the surface of political life in this country. It is here that political assassinations, of Martin Luther King, of the Kennedys, have been commonplace.

No president in the recent period has ever served his full term. After Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson was forced out by his own party and now Nixon is barely able to remain in office.

The US government pardons a man like Lieutenant Calley, who murdered 500 Vietnamese villagers, while savagely attacking workers who strike for higher wages. It is this government that carries out the most brutal imperialist wars of oppression against the peoples of Asia and Latin America.

In no other country is the contradiction between the veneer of "democracy" and "equality" and the wealth and power of the giant corporations so sharp as it is in America.

Hearst himself built his publishing empire in the ruthless traditions of all the major corporations. He has been a firm right-wing supporter of Nixon



Patricia Hearst

terrorism and the SLA

and of imperialist intervention in Southeast Asia. He has conducted a long struggle to destroy the union rights of those working for his newspapers.

His Los Angeles newspaper, the Herald Examiner, after a bitter struggle, succeeded in busting the union and running a scab shop.

Patricia Hearst stated that her father's attitude toward her own fate revealed his attitude and that of all the capitalists towards the working people, and this played a major role in her decision to stay with the SLA.

First, Hearst refused to touch his huge fortune to pay for any part of the brief food giveaway program. The few million that was allocated was not the full amount requested by the SLA and came from special trust

funds. Thus, he never spent a penny in the effort to free his daughter.

Second, even while his daughter was still a prisoner, he rejected the SLA's demands to expand the program stating, "It is out of my hands," and even while a nationwide manhunt is being launched for Patricia, is vacationing in Mexico with his wife.

Patricia's involvement in the robbery has only served to expose the hypocrisy of the government and FBI officials who insisted they were only concerned with saving her.

From the beginning of the kidnapping, the government's aim was to exploit the event to create a scare campaign about some "international terrorist conspiracy," and to use this to conduct a witch-hunt against

almost every left-wing movement on the West Coast.

Now that she has joined the SLA, government and FBI officials are screaming that she and the SLA must be destroyed. The California Attorney General has urged that police be given a "free hand" to go in and gun her down, while San Francisco Mayor Alioto has publicly declared: "The SLA must be wiped out."

There can be no question of the courage and dedication of the SLA members who are willing to risk their lives to fight capitalism. They must be unconditionally defended against the plans of the government to massacre them.

But for all their heroism, their actions, such as the food program designed to "help" the working class, can have no effect on the capitalists and will not change the conditions facing the masses of workers.

The terrorism of the SLA is the response of a section of youth from the middle class to the crisis, and the injustice and oppression they see around them. The SLA leadership is apparently dominated by former activists in the radical and protest movements around the University of California in Berkeley and other universities who come out of upper middle class backgrounds. Two of the women police are seeking in relation to the bank robbery were active in the Gay Liberation movement.

PROTEST

The politics of liberalism and radical protest based on pressuring the government for reforms have simply been transferred to the SLA in another form. While they use arms, the SLA views its actions as still another way to force the government to make concessions.

Their actions are isolated and distant from the problems and struggles of the working class. They see workers as passive, unable to fight for themselves, rather than the actual force which can overthrow capitalism.

Because the SLA does not fight to move masses of people into struggle, but see themselves as a substitute for this, the police can more easily try and isolate them and set them up for murder.

At the same time, the FBI and police use the terrorism as an excuse to move more rapidly ahead with plans already in preparation for more repression against left-wing groups and against workers and youth. It is being used to intensify police and FBI occupation of the communities to harass and spy on youth and to strengthen absolute police powers.

This must be a warning of how far advanced are the government's plans for dictatorship and their preparations for civil war to force the working class to pay for the capitalist crisis.

The apparatus of police and military repression being built up will be used against the working class and the trade unions as they move into struggle.

The character of the SLA makes it vulnerable to infiltration by police agents who act to encourage even more violent acts to help the government in deepening these plans.

In Ireland, agents of the British government penetrated the terrorist Irish Republican Army (IRA) and themselves plotted and carried out murders and bombings which were used to outlaw the IRA and bring more troops into North Ireland to use against both the Catholic and Protestant workers.

At the same time, the IRA's

shooting of individual British soldiers did nothing to remove the British army.

It cannot be ruled out that police agents are at work within the Symbionese Liberation Army and are seeking to link all leftist movements with a "terrorist conspiracy" and thus pave the way for busting them up and jailing their members.

The methods of the SLA are a dead end. It represents an expression within the middle class of the powerful struggles that are on the verge of exploding in America and foreshadows the movement of masses of workers and youth against capitalism.

THREAT

The attack on democratic rights and the threat of dictatorship in this period flow out of the desperate and insoluble crisis of capitalism as the capitalist class seek to preserve their profits with any means possible.

The violence and terror of the capitalists and the government can only be met by building a revolutionary party that mobilizes the working class against the government and in every struggle over jobs, wages, and basic rights, prepares workers for taking power.

It is extremely dangerous in this period to create any illusions that there is a peaceful, reformist way to stop these attacks or that Nixon can be forced to respect democratic rights.

This is the role played by the revisionist Socialist Workers Party. This organization has been the target of a systematic campaign of spying, surveillance, harassment, and even bombings by the FBI and police provocateurs. In response to this, the SWP has set up a "Political Rights Defense Fund" and has filed a "legal suit" against Nixon for this harassment and his Watergate "crimes."

The SWP is incapable of exposing the source of this repression, reducing it to mere "illegal" acts and corruption, and builds up the illusion that the courts and the very legal machinery controlled by the capitalists can be used to fight the government.

The legal suit has been turned into an opportunist vehicle for uniting with Democratic politicians on the common basis of eliminating the class issues raised by Watergate and turning the fight against Nixon into liberal, moral outrage.

WITCH-HUNT

Even when the Nixon government replies to the SWP suit by launching a new witch-hunt against the SWP in the form of a barrage of questions which are aimed at labelling the SWP terrorist, violent, etc., the SWP refuses to expose this witch-hunt, but instead reacts defensively and seeks to prove that it is moderate and not revolutionary.

It is not enough to repeat in an orthodox way the Marxist position on terrorism. As we have stated, terrorist groups will inevitably arise in the US out of the deepening crisis.

The question to understand is how to build a movement that will be able to mobilize the tremendous power of the American working class and of the youth and turn this strength politically against the capitalist system, for its overthrow and the establishment of a workers government.

The Workers League and Young Socialists have taken up the task of constructing a mass revolutionary party rooted in the working class to carry out this fight. This is the only alternative.

BY MELODY FARROW

The attempt of the Socialist Workers Party to answer our two part series in the *Bulletin*, "Watergate and Revisionism," represents a new turn in the degeneration of the SWP.

Allen Meyers' frenzied and hysterical attacks in the March 25 issue of *Intercontinental Press* on our article, are modelled directly on the methods of the Spartacist League.

His reply reveals to what extent the SWP has turned its back on principled politics and must resort to absurd slanders and distortions to avoid any serious discussion of the issues involved.

The Spartacist League is the sharpest expression of the sickness and degeneration of the entire American radical movement. Since breaking all ties to the International Committee of the Fourth International, they have launched increasingly rabid attacks on the Workers League, deliberately lying about our positions to promote their factional aims.

What now unites the Spartacist League with the SWP is a desperate attempt to maintain the radical movement as a middle class propaganda circle. The SWP, like Spartacist, find themselves more and more in collision with and hostile to the movement of the working class.

For a period, despite the reunification of the SWP with the Pabloite Unified Secretariat in 1964, the SWP was constantly forced to confront and explain the contradiction between its past history as a Trotskyist movement and its present opportunist practice.

Now the SWP is rapidly shedding any connections to this past and does not even care if its policies are in any way coherent. This is why Allen Myers lashes out in every direction at our article, without ever coming to grips with the issues raised.

The contempt and ridicule with which the SWP treats serious political questions and the radical clique way in which they view events is evident from the very first sentence of Myers' article when he states that the Watergate scandal gives revolutionaries "an unusual opportunity to demonstrate their capacity to analyze a major political event and to advance a correct course of action in relation to it."

Myers' method throughout this article is to accuse the Workers League of being reformists and opportunists, and to attribute to us the very policies which the SWP holds.

This is not surprising. These are the traditional slander techniques employed by Joseph Hansen, the editor of *Intercontinental Press* which he used to defend every rightward turn of the SWP in the reunification and since.

Thus the hysterical and deliberate lies in Myers' articles are consciously used to obscure their own opportunist turn towards pressuring the liberal Democrats.

The issue raised in our article was that Watergate was not merely a scandal involving corruption and "dirty tricks," but exposed a fundamental change in the methods of rule of the capitalist class.

The desperation of Nixon to win the 1972 elections, the apparatus set up to subvert it, and Nixon's defiance of the courts and Congress were moves aimed at strengthening absolute presidential powers, under conditions of a deepening economic crisis.

This expressed the growing tendencies within the ruling class to prepare for dictatorship in order to carry out sharp attacks on the working class.

It is not that this dictatorship has been established. It is precisely the determination of workers to defend their rights and to resist these attacks that forces the Nixon government to use state repression to carry them out.

Myers cannot see this, so he laughs at the warning we make that Watergate reveals the threat to the basic democratic rights of the working class.

The SWP sees Watergate as a confirmation of a long and gradual process inherent in capitalism of restricting democratic rights, without, however, any danger ever existing of their elimination.

Myers attempts to conclude that because we warn of a move toward dictatorship, we must automatically be calling on the liberals and the courts to fight Nixon.

The Workers League is the only organization to take up a principled campaign within the working class communities and unions demanding that the labor movement force Nixon out and build a labor party as the alternative.

We have consistently stated in the *Bulletin* that the working class must use its own

strength and organize independently to force Nixon and the Democrats out.

Why then does Myers slander our position? We can only assume that Myers thinks that if a threat of dictatorship **did** exist, the only answer would be to rush into an alliance with the liberals.

This is the policy of the SWP now. In their "suit" against Nixon for spying operations against the SWP, in their election campaigns, they have lined up with liberal Democrats, speaking on the same platform and seeking out their support.

This complacent method of refusing to recognize changes in the economic crisis and the political methods of capitalism, as they develop, will force the SWP, once these changes break sharply to the surface, into an even sharper turn towards liquidation of the revolutionary party and opportunism.

The Split In The Ruling Class

Myers devotes several pages to attacking the simple assertion that a split has emerged in the course of the Watergate events within the ruling class.

This split is not, as Myers seeks to present our position, a clear cut, fully developed permanent split, nor is the section of capitalists who would like to dump Nixon a monolithic section. But there are divisions which cannot be denied which reflect the concern of the ruling class on how to deal with the economic and political crisis.

The section of capitalists traditionally closest to Nixon are those who based their huge fortunes, in the postwar period, on inflationary policies and the expansion of paper credit, not any real production of goods.

The older and more established section of capitalists began to pull back from Nixon's deliberate policy of allowing inflation to soar because the inflation and depreciation of the dollar was eroding the value of their enormous wealth.

This is the significance behind the publication by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, both representing powerful financial interests, of the Watergate investigations, and of *Times'* call for Nixon to resign.

This split was not just rigidly fixed on economic lines. The political crisis created by the Watergate revelations and the tremendous collapse of Nixon's support among all sections of the population has deepened the unease and divisions within the capitalist class.

What concerned sections of the ruling class was Nixon's authority to impose new attacks on wages and jobs which were necessitated by the economic crisis.

If no divisions exist, how does Meyers explain the recent statement of right-wing Senator James Buckley who urged Nixon to resign so that a "strong" government could replace him.

Nelson Rockefeller, the most powerful representative of the established financial and industrial interests is also for Nixon's resignation, although he has not said so publicly.

This division occurs at the same time as a debate is going on within the government on whether to allow the inflation to rise unchecked or to restrict credit and investment, letting whole industries collapse and throwing millions out of work.

But even these capitalists who want to get Nixon out move with great hesitation because they fear that his resignation would expose the weakness of the government, would open up a period of tremendous instability in which the working class could assert its power and construct its own party.

This is fundamental. It is the strength of the working class that has produced these splits. To assume from this that the Workers League has illusions in the "good capitalists" as Myers charges, is a pathetic slander to cover their own inability to understand this development.

The SWP disregards these developments even at their beginning stages because, above all, they ridicule the statement that there is any movement of the working class and therefore cannot imagine what the capitalists have to worry about.

Myers' theoretical justification of his position only exposes the crude empiricism which dominates the politics of the SWP. Denouncing us for not producing "concrete" evidence, Myers writes:

"The Healyite profoundly idealist method is evident in Farrow's argument that Myers and Evans, if they only ac-

cepted the Healyite view of economics, would then 'see' a split in the ruling class that is otherwise invisible.

"There is no appeal to evidence, to material facts, to justify their view of a fundamental split in the US ruling class, but simply the assertion that Healyite economic theory proves its existence regardless of reality."

Empiricism is a philosophy which denies that any scientific theory of knowledge exists and bases its "truth" on empirical, immediately available "facts" as they occur at any particular moment. Myers' use of the completely un-Marxist word "evidence" is not accidental.

For Myers, facts are separate entities in themselves which have no relation to anything else. These "facts" are then studied in isolation as so many pieces of evidence.

With this method, the SWP can only describe events after they happen with no way of connecting them to an overall understanding of the changes taking place within the capitalist system and among workers thinking.

Lenin, in his *Philosophical Notebooks*, spoke not of "evidence" but of appearance and essence and their relationship. He quoted Hegel on the following:

"The Appearing and the Essential World are each the independent whole of existence. One was to have been only reflected Existence, and the other only immediate Existence; but each continues itself in the other, and consequently in itself is the identity of these two moments..."

Lenin stressed that the Truth is concrete, by which he meant that the objective laws of development of capitalism and of classes must be grasped within each appearance or moment, in its contradiction. Each moment contains thus both the past and the present.

It is not a question of "appealing to evidence," but of understanding what each moment reveals about the future in order to construct the revolutionary party and prepare the working class for the battles it faces.

Thus we said that the critical 48 hours when Nixon fired special prosecutor Archibald Cox and ruled with absolute powers represented a **break**, if only for a moment, with the past.

It expressed the incompatibility of the old bourgeois democratic forms of rule in the new situation of economic crisis. In this sense, it exposed, if only for a brief period, the future of capitalism.

Myers dismisses this assessment simply on the basis that the confrontation lasted only 48 hours and therefore had no significance.

The SWP sees changes occurring only in a very gradual way so they are unable to prepare the working class for the moves of the government against its living standards and rights. Myers admits this when he writes:

"The disagreement is not over whether Nixon poses a threat to democratic rights, but whether this threat is qualitatively different from that inherent in any US bourgeois government."

In other words, Myers is saying that there have been no qualitative changes in American capitalism in its entire history.

Capitalist Crisis

In the most cynical passage of the entire article, Myers shows the contempt of his organization for any serious attempt to explain the nature of the capitalist crisis:

"The Healyite contribution to Marxist economic theory is to declare that all the long-term trends of capitalism have, at all times and all places, already worked themselves out to completion..."

"...The Healyite press in both Britain and the United States have been trumpeting the existence of this same crisis for a decade ... if words mean anything, the 'new stage' of the crisis must have been with us continuously since March 1968."

Nowhere in his article does Myers attempt to make any independent assessment of the crisis.

The SWP bases itself on the revisionist theories of Ernest Mandel who declared that the entire postwar period was one of neo-capitalism, of a renewed stability in which the contradictions of capitalism had ceased to exist.

Myers sees all changes in capitalism occurring in a gradual quantitative way, over a long period of time. They see the "crisis" as only a general crisis which has existed since the beginning of capitalism.

We declared that a new stage had been

Water



reached in the economic crisis in the 1967-1968 period on the basis of the concrete developments which took place.

The decision of the British government to devalue the pound was a blow not only to British capitalism, but to American capitalism. The vast injections of American capital and international loans failed to save the pound which was constantly being undermined by Britain's worsening balance of trade.

The devaluation in 1967 was decisive because it exposed the basic weakness of American capitalism and the dollar. It was the beginning of the breakup of the postwar boom and the ability of the capitalists to avoid a major crisis by inflating the dollar.

The crisis broke out again in March 1968 with a tremendous run on gold and a further erosion of the strength of the dollar. This frantic buying of gold reflected the lack of confidence in the dollar and other currencies as inflation continued to rise.

On the basis of these developments, the International Committee warned that sharp class struggles would take place throughout Europe as the capitalists attempted to push the burden of the crisis increasingly onto the backs of the working class.

The devaluation of the franc which led to a sharp increase in prices was an important factor in the eruption of the French General Strike in May 1968.

We saw these developments not as fixed stages in which all contradictions had "worked themselves out to completion," but as a warning that internationally, each capitalist would have to turn against its own working class and would be forced to institute trade and currency wars against each other to resolve the crisis.

The most decisive turning point was in August 1971 when Nixon took the gold backing away from the dollar. This marked the end of the entire postwar Bretton Woods agreement in which the vast pool of paper dollars and credit abroad could be exchanged for a fixed amount of gold.

This pool of paper money will expand well beyond the limits of the dollar.

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A Reply To The Slanders Of The SWP

Watergate & Revisionism



This decision suddenly turned the huge pool of dollars and credit into worthless paper. The entire basis of the postwar expansion of capitalism was destroyed, as well as any confidence in the American dollar.

We said in 1971 that these measures would lead to uncontrolled inflation, trade war and would lead to a breakdown in basic production.

Today, the crisis has reached a new stage, where basic production is breaking down, under the impact of inflation. Entire industries have either slashed production or are refusing to expand it.

The refusal of oil companies, as well as other corporations involved in basic production of raw materials, to make long-term investments in new production, the growing recession and mass layoffs in auto and other industries, the shortages in basic commodities, can all be traced back to the 1971 measures.

We made this assessment at all points in order to prepare the working class for a different stage of struggle in which the most basic demands for higher wages, and decent conditions would immediately pose a political struggle against the government.

On the basis of this international perspective, we have fought continuously to construct the revolutionary party and fight for the political independence of the working class against all the revisionists and the Stalinists who maintain that some reforms and concessions can still be won by the working class.

The only reference Myers makes to the crisis exposes the revisionists' faith in the strength of capitalism. Attacking our statement that capitalism is now plunging into recession, Myers points to the "29 percent in US corporate profits" as the essential "fact" that proves us wrong.

The crisis in capitalism is not measured simply by how much profit is made. These profits and the rate of growth announced by the corporations and the government are based primarily on inflation, not a growth in production and real wealth. Under the impact of the sharpening struggle for

markets, the rate of profit is actually declining.

This is precisely how so-called empirical "facts," which are taken out of context without a Marxist understanding of how the crisis is developing, lead to the most infantile and complacent conclusions, which even bourgeois economists have rejected.

In our recent document, *Perspectives for the American Revolution*, we state that we have now entered a period of revolutionary struggle internationally. In every country, the powerful struggles of the working class in defense of its rights is intensifying the capitalist crisis. In every country, especially in Europe, the capitalists are rapidly preparing for civil war and for dictatorship.

The recent struggles in Britain only show us the future for America. This is why the Workers Revolutionary Party in Britain and our movement here have fought to expand our press and prepare for a daily as the key weapon with which a mass revolutionary party must be built.

Myers accuses us of "adaptation to liberalism and reformism" to obscure the issue we raised in our article that the SWP openly seeks out the support of Democrats for their campaigns, such as their "suit" against Nixon, and openly works in the unions with the labor bureaucracy, such as in the recent carpenters strike and the Sears strike on the West Coast.

The frenzy of Myers' article expresses the frenzy of the middle class radical movement, which having based all its prior work on impressions and propaganda, is thrown into crisis by the sharpening class struggle.

The refusal of the SWP to confront the theoretical issues raised in the 1953 split of SWP leader James Cannon with Pablo and revisionism, and their attempts to bury these issues since 1963, have placed the SWP in a minority within its international movement, dominated by forces openly hostile to Trotskyism and the working class.

At the heart of the dispute between the Workers League and the SWP over Watergate is the revisionists' denial of the need to

construct a revolutionary party.

The revisionists of the SWP, approaching all developments with an empirical, impressionist method, see no economic crisis in capitalism and do not see that in the present period, this crisis is rapidly coming to a head.

The entire period of the boom since World War Two, when the capitalists artificially expanded their economies through inflation and credit, is over and recession is deepening in every country.

On the basis of assessing this crisis and its impact on the working class, we warned that the events surrounding Watergate exposed the sharp turn of sections of the capitalists to dictatorial forms of rule and an attack on basic democratic rights as they prepare to push the burden of this crisis on the working class.

The Party & The Fight For Power

This means the opening up of revolutionary struggles in the major capitalist countries in which a revolutionary party, based on the principles of Lenin and Trotsky, must be prepared in advance to unite and lead workers in a struggle for power and for a workers government. Because the SWP denies the crisis and the revolutionary period we are now in, they deny that there is movement of the working class. This is why they liquidate in theory as well as practice, the revolutionary party.

It is the SWP which turns more and more towards pressure on the liberal Democrats (as at the recent Black Political Convention in Little Rock) and which works with trade union bureaucrats rather than fighting for an independent policy in the unions.

The SWP lashes out in fear and hostility at the Workers League because of the uncompromising struggle we are waging to build a party. This is the meaning of the

attack on the March 15 Young Socialists marches in the April 8 issue of *Intercontinental Press*.

Claiming that we have now flipped to the "ultra-left" side, the SWP writes: "It appears that the Healyites grew impatient at the congressional delay in dumping Nixon and therefore decided to do the job themselves. They duly announced a march on Washington, Chicago, and San Francisco to 'Force Nixon Out.'

"The Healyites made no bones about the fact that their demonstrations were designed to carry out for the working class the tasks that the *Bulletin* had assigned it, but that the class had been unforgivably slow to accomplish..."

Behind the SWP's deliberate slander that we thought one march alone would force Nixon out, is their clear opposition to revolutionary leadership and to the independence of the revolutionary party from all centrists and petty bourgeois radicals and liberals.

We stated on this march that we would not wait for the George Meanys and labor bureaucrats to fight for us, but that we were marching to build the revolutionary movement in the working class that would lead a fight for the labor party and through this struggle would prepare masses of workers for a struggle for socialism.

This is why we place the expansion of the *Bulletin* at the center of all our activities. The sneering attacks of the SWP on the way we fight for our press is a cover for their fear of the strength of the *Bulletin*.

Beginning with nine people and a bi-monthly mimeographed paper in 1964, we have built a twice-weekly paper with a circulation and subscription rate that far outstrips per issue the SWP's weekly paper, the *Militant*.

This strength flows from our struggle for Trotskyist principles in the ten years since we were expelled from the SWP and our fight to build a paper that was not just a propaganda organ, but leads workers in the struggles they face today. These are the real issues in the struggle against the revisionists.



Starvation And Death

A debate is now taking place in the United Nations which is exposing the crisis that is ravaging the underdeveloped countries under the impact of the breakup of the world capitalist monetary system.

The General Assembly has been meeting for the last week and a half to study the "problems of raw materials and development."

The forum has been used by an array of foreign ministers and dignitaries for hollow speeches and empty pledges of solidarity. But what is being exposed more and more clearly is that the monetary breakup which is shattering the economies of the advanced industrial nations already means starvation, death by disease, and total economic anarchy for millions of workers and peasants in the underdeveloped countries.

The massive revolutionary upsurge sweeping through Ethiopia, bringing millions into struggle against imperialism and its feudal defenders, is only the beginning of the explosion that must now develop throughout the underdeveloped world.

The crisis of capitalism expressed in the collapse of the dollar and all paper money with the resulting uncontrollable inflation and trade war brings all this to a head.

The figures speak for themselves. Even during the period of the so-called capitalist boom, conditions in the colonial countries were deteriorating.

In the last 10 years alone, foreign debts owed to the imperialist countries have quadrupled to a present \$80 billion. Many of the poorest countries are unable to pay even the present debt through exports, let alone borrow new funds for development.

This rising debt has been accompanied by a falling share of world trade by the undeveloped nations from 21.3 percent in 1960 to 17.6 percent in 1970.

Life expectancy in the industrial countries is nearly double that of the nonindustrialized. In the last 20 years, 100 million illiterates have been added to the populations of the poorest countries.

Today, out of a world population of 2.6 billion, 800 million are estimated to be illiterate, 1 billion suffer from malnutrition, and approximately 900 million have a daily income of less than 30 cents.

Country after country has risen in the Assembly to point out that the costs of finished goods often represent a 1000 percent markup over the prices they receive for raw materials.

Oil prices have quadrupled; the price of wheat has gone from \$80 a ton to \$250 in the last 18 months; fertilizer has soared by 300 percent.

India typifies the crisis faced in all these countries. Almost half of her foreign exchange earnings must now go for oil. Huge shortages have developed in fertilizers, threatening a massive famine. Food stocks are virtually nonexistent and the price of imported wheat makes it impossible to obtain.

Factories are operating at a tiny fraction of their capacity because of shortages. Thus many steel mills are running at 40 percent, while steel is imported. Food prices are up 50 percent under conditions in which millions of families use 70 percent of their income just to eat.

Imperialism can do nothing to arrest these developments. With inflation out of control and balance of payments deficits mounting, it can only seek to intensify the plunder of the underdeveloped countries.

Imperialism can only answer this crisis, as in the Middle East, with preparations for new wars of plunder and military support for the extermination of the surplus workers and peasants it can no longer feed.

The weak and desperate ruling classes of the underdeveloped countries have come to the UN to beg the imperialists for assistance in holding back revolution.

These rulers are tied to the huge capitalist corporations for their own existence and are incapable of breaking their countries out of the world inflationary crisis.

Only the working class with the support of the peasantry can answer this crisis by nationalizing industry and the land and beginning the fight for a planned socialist development.

This struggle now takes place as the workers in the advanced countries are forced into a massive confrontation with their own ruling classes in defense of their wages, jobs, and democratic rights.

It is in this way that the inflationary crisis is uniting the workers of the entire world into a revolutionary struggle against capitalism.

Detroit Beer Men Vote To Stay Out

BY PETE KELLY
DETROIT—Teamster Local 181 and Local 1038 voted Saturday to continue their strike against Stroh's Brewery, the third largest in the country.

The proposed contract was turned down by a large margin: 327 to 130, after the union representatives had approved the contract by a vote of 5 to 2. The basic disagreement centers around the question of wages.

The contract covers three years, calling for 61 cents the first year, 17 cents the second year, and 18 cents the third.

This is the second contract offer from Stroh's; the first one offered only 40 cents for the first

year.

Most workers feel that the second year's increase must be higher due to the rate of inflation.

Local 181 and 1038 are the first groups to seek cost of living escalators within the contract. No other brewery workers have a cost of living escalator.

Because of the economic squeeze, Stroh's has sought by any means necessary to lower the cost of production. To avoid transportation costs, Stroh's has located the malt and can factories within 200 feet of the brewery itself.

CANNED

According to striking pickets outside the plant, Stroh's, along with other breweries in Michigan, is seeking to force bar owners to buy canned beer "by law" because labor costs in the

production of bottled beer is twice as great as that of canned beer.

Stroh's also has plans to increase the number of unemployed with the introduction of new machinery, which will mean that three workers will be laid off for every machine installed.

INSTALLED

One machine has already been installed and plans for four more have been made.

Electricians, who are installing the machines, honored the strike by refusing to cross the picket line, only to be ordered back by a court injunction. The canning machines are being installed now in preparation for layoffs when the workers do return. These layoffs will be accompanied by tremendous speedup.

Up to now, the union employees have no sick pay, no dental plan, and no pension plan.

As one worker put it: "Stroh's is very efficient; they even make money off garbage, through recycling." Stroh's was recently awarded a City of Detroit Conservation award.

Even against these odds, the strike remains solid with 50 pickets at the gate. Within this strike, many workers know that the political fight against Nixon must be taken up. They also see the tremendous contradiction of Teamster Leader Fitzsimmons supporting Nixon.

Steve P., one young worker, stated: "It's pretty bad when our own leader supports Nixon. That's a real blow against our struggle."

Teamsters Strike For Wage Hikes

BY A BULLETIN REPORTING TEAM
CLEVELAND, Ohio—Over 800 Cleveland City truck drivers, members of Teamsters Local 244, stopped all garbage collections Monday and seriously curtailed operations in the utilities, streets, cemeteries, recreation, and parks divisions of the city.

The local voted unanimously to strike for a 15 percent or 60 cent an hour pay raise, \$2 a day for gasoline money, and a reduced work week.

REFUSED

According to strike leader James Trusso, the city: "refused to budge from the offer of a 20 cent wage raise."

Cleveland's Mayor Perk immediately called upon the courts to invoke the Ferguson Act and issue an injunction to end the strike.

Billy Goods, striking member of Local 244, reported to the Bulletin: "You can't even eat today. This 5.5 percent is garbage. The rich man gets all he wants."

"They shouldn't use this Ferguson Act. It is telling a man he has to go back to work whether he wants to or not."

SLAVERY

"It's slavery. I definitely think we should get all city workers together and smash it."

"Nixon has slipped by too long and nothing happens to him. The Democrats won't get him out because they are in the money just like Nixon."

"This gasoline thing—I have never seen anything like it before. The price went from 30 cents to 60 cents. The 20 cents raise the city is offering us doesn't even pay for the gas."

"I agree with you on expanding this strike. Local 1099

votes on April 18 and Local 110 is also involved. Even 15 percent is not enough. All city workers should strike together. If all locals go out, they will get the job done fast."

Another worker on the picket line stated: "It is getting to the point where this thing isn't going to be settled peacefully."

"We can't go on strike; we can't eat or pay our bills. There is going to be war."

Elderly Speak On Pension Cuts

BY L. DANIELS
ST. LOUIS—The wild inflation in the St. Louis area spells disaster for the thousands of older workers now dependent on pensions and social security.

The Bulletin interviewed two elderly women.

"They'd be happy to give us old folks a shot in the arm and put us away," says Mrs. Netty V. Meeks, a recent subscriber to the Bulletin.

"I worked like a dog all my life, as a butcher during the war, at Aeronautical Chart, at three hospitals in the city."

"Four years ago I became too disabled to work, and I have letters from three doctors to prove it. I applied to the Social Security office for supplementary federal income, but they sent me a letter telling me that I don't qualify."

"I went down to the Twelfth Street office, but they didn't give me any reasons. And now I can't get back the three letters that the doctors wrote."

"Now my doctor can't give me the medication I need because it's not on my medicare card, so he gives me a substitute—but it's not the right medication."

"And I also need to keep a special protein diet, but with only \$42 in food stamps, it's impossible."

"My only income is \$70 a month, and my rent is \$60, so I just have to go around in rags."

"If it weren't for the help I get from friends, I'd be out on the street downtown with all the winos. I keep on asking the Social Security office for aid, but they never answer me—not with a letter or anything."

Two doors down from Mrs. Meeks, a similar story is told by Mrs. Josephine Bell, also a Bulletin subscriber. "In December, I was getting \$85 in old age pension and \$79 in Social Security. Now I get \$4 less."

"Last January, they made a mistake and sent me \$90 for old age pension, so in February, they didn't send me any state check because they gave me \$5 too much the month before."

"What makes it so bad is that when you get food stamps, they sell them to you—I pay \$14 for \$42 worth of stamps. Then after you buy the food you have to turn around and pay taxes on it."

"I need a special protein diet of lamb, veal and chicken. But I just eat chicken when I find a good buy, or get a couple of soup bones. I also need milk, but that's going up."

"When they give you a \$4 raise in Social Security, they cut \$4 from your supplemental check. One thing about it, with all my bills, I have nothing left from one month to the next. I try to put a little in the church when I can."

Dayton Newspaper Attacks Bulletin

BY DAVID NORTH
The vicious red-baiting attack on the *Bulletin* and the Workers League which appeared in the April 13 issue of the *Dayton Daily News* under the by-line of Wes Hills exposes the tremendous fear of the government

and big business of the building of a socialist leadership, as millions of workers and youth fight to defend their jobs, living standards, and basic rights under conditions of the worsening economic crisis.

In Dayton, there are 15,000 unemployed, including hun-

dreds of auto workers at the GM Delco Moraine plant and electrical workers at the GM Frigidaire plant.

Strong support has come for our campaign to fight the layoffs and soaring prices by demanding that the labor movement throw Nixon out and construct a labor party based on socialist policies as the alternative to this hated government.

This is why the *Dayton Daily News* seeks to launch a witch-

hunt against supporters of the Workers League and the *Bulletin*. The reporter chosen for the job, Wes Hills, begins his article by writing:

"High unemployment levels in the Dayton area are bringing out radical organizations ready to capitalize on the frustrations and anger of jobless workers.

"These organizations have turned the lobby of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services office, 222 Salem Ave. into a newsstand for their literature to greet a portion of Dayton area's more than 15,000 unemployed workers."

DETERMINATION

The large sales of the *Bulletin* at the unemployment office shows the determination of Dayton workers to fight back.

The reporter absurdly claimed that the unemployed workers showed no interest in the *Bulletin*, but if that were the case why did the *Dayton Daily News* decide to run a Page One article attacking the Workers League along with a picture of a *Bulletin* salesman? Why is the local press and radio now demanding that *Bulletin* sales at the center be outlawed?

It is not only the sale of the *Bulletin* at the unemployment office which motivated this witch-hunt.

The reporter also notes the recent trailblazing drive in Dayton in which more than 1100 new subscriptions to the *Bulletin* were sold. The *News* further comments on the widespread sales of the *Young Socialist* newspaper, the *YS Draft Program*, and the popular *YS* activities and social functions among Dayton youth.

The *News* also attacks the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party, but does not mention the recent conference of auto workers which it sponsored, attended by many workers from almost every major factory in the Dayton area: Delco-Moraine, Frigidaire, Delco Products, Dayton Tire and Rubber, Inland and the GH&R foundry.

The blatant purpose of this witchhunt is to intimidate workers from reading the *Bulletin*, while at the same time encouraging right-wing elements to physically attack its supporters.

AUTHORIZATION

There can be no other explanation for the *News*' decision to publish without any authorization the name, address, and photo of a Workers League supporter.

Collaborating with the professional witch-hunters of the capitalist press is the president of IUE Local 775 at Chrysler Air Temp, Wesley Wells.

He has done nothing to defend the living standards of the ranks, and is notorious in the Dayton labor movement for his use of goon squads to intimidate local militants. Wells has on several occasions threatened to use these goons against *Bulletin* salesmen.

The *News* quotes an "anonymous" labor leader as admitting that he "keeps the FBI informed of the activities of local radical labor groups."

We note that Wells is the only "labor leader" quoted by name in the *News* article. He regularly resorts to the most crude forms of anticommunism within the local to oppose any fight among

the membership against the contract he signed and the layoffs they now face.

Wells told the *News*, referring to the Workers League: "They're a very minority group. It's a hell of a time for people to capitalize on unemployment."

VOLUNTEER

"If they were really interested in this community, they would be out there assisting labor unions collecting money and doing volunteer work for Xenia tornado victims."

What hypocrisy! Wells and the *Dayton Daily News* know full well that neither they, the state government, nor Nixon could care less about the victims of the Xenia tornado. Instead of offering direct financial grants to reconstruct damaged and destroyed homes, Nixon offers interest-bearing loans. Contract sharks, insurance "adjustors," and assorted fast-talkers are swarming into the city to fleece the desperate and dislocated workers of Xenia.

Wells proposes phony charity to Xenia, while he refuses to fight the layoffs at Chrysler Air Temps and the skyrocketing inflation that is ripping into the paychecks of those who still work.

DISGUST

Workers at Delco Moraine have already voiced their disgust at the vicious red-baiting of the *Bulletin* that has been picked up by the radio and television.

Far from being intimidated, workers have told candidates running on the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party program for the position of delegates to the upcoming UAW National Convention that the red-baiting has convinced them to cast their votes for TUALP.

The Workers League will not be intimidated or diverted by the witch-hunters of the big business press and their assistants in the labor bureaucracy. We will continue to expand the circulation of the *Bulletin* as we construct the socialist leadership among Dayton workers.



The National Auto Conference held in Dayton attended by workers from almost every factory in Dayton.

Pickets Still Up In Midland Steel Strike

MIDLAND, Mich.—After four weeks, the strike at the Dow Chemical Plant here continues despite efforts by the company to use the courts, state and local police, and public opinion to defeat Steel Workers Local 12075.

Violence erupted on April 1 when police arrested 40 pickets. Union President Bill Wittbrodt explained that the mass picketing was a response to the previous Friday's events when Governor Milliken ordered the state police to the plant.

"We were very unhappy with the actions of Governor Milliken and 'his' police," Wittbrodt told the *Bulletin*. "We were not very happy with the actions of the local police either," he stated.

Since then, the governor has sent in three of his personal representatives to referee the ne-

gotiations which were voluntary until an impasse was reached last week. Court-ordered negotiations have also broken down.

A company executive has accused the strikers of shooting at his home in Midland. No charges have been brought as yet.

Teachers Face Jail In Missouri Strike

BY HOWARD WEST
KANSAS CITY, Mo.—American Federation of Teachers Local 691

President Norman Hudson was sentenced to a 10 day jail term for contempt of court and the union was fined thousands of dollars.

The contempt citations came after the 3000 members refused to obey a court order to return to work.

The teachers have been on strike for over a month in support of demands for a 10 percent wage hike, smaller class sizes, and improved grievance procedures. The school board has determinedly maintained its only offer of a 5.5 percent wage hike.

COURTS

All schools in Kansas City have been closed for three weeks. The courts immediately intervened in the dispute to end the strike and get the teachers back to work on the school board's terms. The jail sentence has been postponed for one week to allow the union president to get the teachers to end their strike. If this is the outcome, the jail sentence will be lifted.

It is now almost a week since this court action and there has been no sign of the teachers returning to work.

Flintkote Shutdown Enters Third Month

BY LOUIS MILLER
CHILlicothe, Ohio—Local 666, United Rubber Workers, remain on strike against the local Flintkote flooring plant here, after walking out two days before the contract ended, February 19.

The company, after its initial "take it or leave it" offer, has done nothing in negotiations but attempt to bog down wage talks. The offer, rejected by the membership, took away the cost of living and incentive plan wage escalators, amounting to a pay cut of from 80 cents to \$1.10 per hour.

The walkout was prompted by the company's removal of machinery from the Chillicothe Plant. Union Engineers for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad refused to man locomotives for the removal; C. and O. super-

visory personnel pulled the engines across picket lines for loading.

Three weeks ago, the company removed additional machinery for the manufacture of peel-and-stick and multicolor flooring. Members of Local 666 were unable to prevent the removal because of a court order banning picketing on C. and O. property.

Workers have reported the machinery is in operation at the Flintkote plant in Los Angeles, California. The Los Angeles plant is under a different union from the URW.

Los Angeles Flintkote workers, members of the Teamsters, Operating Engineers, and Machinists, must stop the operation of machinery removed from Chillicothe, which is being used by the company to rob workers of their livelihood and to crush the determined fight of Local 666 for a decent living wage.

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FILM by Cynthia Blake

Sugarland Express



Goldie Hawn

Sugarland Express, a Paramount release, produced by Zanuck-Brown, directed by Steve Spielberg.

Clovis Poplin walked off a Texas work farm in 1969, and he and his wife Lou Jean high-jacked a highway patrol car. They held the state police of Texas at bay for three days while they drove to Sugarland.

They wanted to take back their baby, Langston, who was being kept by foster parents and was about to be put up for adoption because of the couple's prison record.

Reaching their destination, Clovis was murdered by Ranger sharpshooters. Lou Jean served another prison term and then won custody of the child.

This movie is about the true story of youth who fought against all the power of the law and the police to defend their rights.

Comedy

The film crew turned the Poplin's story into a comedy and were afraid to show the small-town poor white background of the two characters.

Steve Spielberg used his first full length feature direction staging Texas Rangers to look like Keystone Cops in cars.

The problem is that the content of the story isn't funny. So when the drama breaks through the comedy veneer, the bits of background and action based on the actual event hit like ice water.

All the slapstick shots cannot wipe out the eventual murder of Clovis. All the smiling townspeople greeting the couple as folk heroes as their wild ride streaks through Texas cannot wipe out the two vigilantes attempting to gun them down to "help the cops, like good citizens."

Goldie Hawn shows her tremendous comedy talent and

there are brief moments when she's tender and angry and frightened. These offer minute glimpses into the character of Lou Jean, but Spielberg refuses to develop any serious characterizations.

The only personal background allowed Lou Jean is that she tells everyone she's an unemployed hairdresser, but she's never had a job in her life.

When her father speaks to her over the radio, telling her he'd shoot her himself if he could, and he's thankful to know that God will punish her, this is again but a hint of why she fought so desperately for Clovis to get Langston back right away, before "those Methodists take him out of the state."

We get a glimpse of why she won't give up, when she tells Clovis about how she ran from office to office, filling out forms, only to have everyone tell her that "they didn't know what I was talking about."

People's actions and their personalities are shaped in their struggle to survive in a particular society at a given period in time. Spielberg is incapable of allowing Lou Jean's personality to develop, or any of the others' to even begin to emerge, because he refused to deal with the situation that actually caused the flight across Texas.

Not Funny

Goldie Hawn, who could have handled the real Lou Jean and done a good job of it, has said that Sugarland is a comedy that turns out not to be funny, but sad.

The events portrayed in Sugarland Express had no business being a comedy in the first place. Spielberg could not deal with the breakdown of capitalism, creating unemployment which turns people to petty crime, locks them up, and then wrenches their children from them.



Pickets at West Adams Community Hospital where workers have been picketing since July in efforts to have a union. Members of the Service and Hospital Employees Union No. 399 want better working conditions and higher pay. Hospital administrators refuse to sign a contract, although most of the hospital workers want a union.

Raid Panthers In Oakland

BY TED BAKER
OAKLAND—At 4 am Tuesday morning, April 16, 50 armed police broke into an Oakland precinct headquarters of the Black Panther Party and arrested at least 15 Panther members.

The raid, reminiscent of the Gestapo-type raids conducted across the country against the Panthers several years ago, was carried out by the Oakland police department, the Berkeley police de-

partment, and unidentified plainclothes officers.

Neighbors of the house on 29 Avenue near E. 14 Street told the Bulletin that the FBI had been watching the house for more than a year. In a press conference this afternoon, Panther Chairman, Bobby Seale, denounced the arrests and charges as "absurd."

The fifteen were charged with possession of illegal weapons, including sawed-off shotguns and hand grenades, possession of stolen property, possession of dangerous drugs, and conspiracy. Seale denounced the arrests as "the same old police

provocateur setup."

One neighbor said: "The police were walking around with their shotguns and pistols all morning. They took everyone and everything from the house."

"They had at least seven patrol cars, a paddy wagon, and some plainclothes cars too."

Not a single neighbor had any knowledge of any guns in the house or of any being taken out.

ELECTION

At his press conference, Seale said the police had taken all Panther precinct lists and voter registration records, vital to Panther election campaigns. Over \$300,000 bail is being demanded for the prisoners.

The arrests came on the day following statements by government officials including San Francisco Mayor Alioto, State Attorney General Evelle Younger, and Governor Reagan launching a vicious witch-hunt against the SLA and calling for a police crackdown. Alioto compared the SLA to the Panthers under the leadership of Eldridge Cleaver.

Seale called the arrests an "ill-disguised attempt by the power structure out to discredit the Black Panther Party because we have been quietly organizing 3000 precinct workers to run five candidates for City Council... We feel this is the greatest threat to their system."

Seale also said he thought the federal authorities were involved. Over 100 people were arrested during the last election campaign when Bobby Seale ran for Mayor of Oakland.

These arrests go far beyond just an attempt to disrupt the Panther's city election campaign. They are made simultaneously with preparations by the Nixon government for police rule and just one day after the anti-SLA witch-hunt was escalated by nearly every major California politician.

Schlage Workers In Third Week Of Strike

BY BARRY GREY
SAN FRANCISCO—The strike by 150 members of Metal Polishers Local 128 against Schlage Lock Company has entered its third week with no settlement in sight. All negotiations have been broken off.

The strike has shut down the plant, which employs 1200 workers. Schlage Lock is the largest industrial plant in San Francisco.

The main issues in the strike are layoffs due to automation and pensions. A picket said: "The number of workers has been declining, declining, declining because of new machinery they've brought in."

Machinists, Tool and Die Workers, Culinary Workers, Electricians, and Teamsters are all respecting the picket lines. Most of the workers at Schlage are members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which ratified a contract for 25 percent in wages over three years just before the Metal Polishers went out.

Local 128 has agreed to the same wage package, but is demanding new contract language to give protection against new machinery and a big increase in pensions, which are way below the Machinists.

TERMINATION

The union leadership is not demanding a guarantee of no layoffs, but simply termination pay for those displaced by machines. A compromise was reached last week between the union and the California Metal Trades Association (CMTA),

which represents Schlage.

Schlage vetoed the compromise and fired the CMTA negotiator. The refusal of the company to budge on the issue of layoffs means it is preparing for a massive increase in layoffs and speedup.

Stanley Jensen, head of the Machinists Lodge 68, has openly sided with the company. Jensen threatened the Local 128 Business Representative and denounced the Metal Polishers chief negotiator for holding up a settlement.

Jensen wants a quick end to the strike in order to send his men back to work. The IAM ranks have refused to follow Jensen and are solidly supporting the strikers.

The Metal Polishers leadership is looking to arrange a compromise that will settle nothing. The center of this fight is the defense of jobs, wage classifications, and working conditions. The ranks must demand the leadership fight for a policy of no layoffs and no downgrading.

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Southgate GM Closed Until August

BY DENNIS BREHM
LOS ANGELES—The General Motors Assembly Plant in Southgate closed its doors on April 11 and will not reopen until the middle of August.

body shop alone.

These latest layoffs come after more than 250,000 auto workers have been thrown out of work nationally. Already, 50 million dollars has been drained out of the Supplementary Unemployment Benefit Fund.

REDUCED

As of the end of March, \$202.9 million is in the fund. As more money is used up, the benefits paid to each worker will be reduced.

Those workers called back in August will face the most ruthless speedup and automated machinery. Most of those recalled will be the older workers who will have to compete with the production standards at the Lordstown Vega plant.

Neither Woodcock or the local officials of Local 216 has lifted a finger against the massive layoffs.

The TUALP calls on every Southgate worker to join, in order to conduct an offensive against GM through a nationwide auto strike and the building of a labor party to replace the Nixon government which is behind GM's attacks against thousands of auto workers.

During the closure, the plant will be retooled to produce the Chevy Vega. Up until the shutdown this week, the regular-sized Chevys, Pontiacs, and Buicks were assembled at the Southgate plant.

Over 2000 workers were laid off in January when the second shift was eliminated. An additional 1800 workers have now been added to the unemployment roll.

When production resumes at the plant for the 1975 Vega, it will be on a two shift basis. Steve Harris, spokesman for GM, told the Bulletin: "There will be two shifts, but it definitely takes less men to assemble the Vega. We don't know now exactly how many men will be called back."

The use of Univac welders will replace dozens of workers in the



Pickets continue as strike against Owen-Illinois enters its third week.

Tracy Strikers Assaulted

BY ANN LORE
OAKLAND — The strike of nine West Coast Owens-Illinois plants continues in its third week, with no negotiations taking place.

Local 141, Glass Bottle Blowers Association and Local 142, maintenance workers, have shut down all the plants and all other unions are honoring the picket lines.

Late last week, the company tried to move against the strike in Tracy, California. Ray, a striker at the Tracy plant, told the Bulletin: "We had three or four pickets on Wednesday. They said four truckloads were coming in Thursday."

"Everybody knew they were coming in. We had over 100 men there, but the police let the trucks in. That's when everything busted loose."

"The company got an injunction against us. There was no violence up to this time. We heard about the injunction Friday and they asked us to leave so everybody was out by 3 when they started serving injunctions."

"Saturday, at 7 am, six trucks came out with one patrol car

heading the caravan. Officers were on each side of the truck with helmets and billy clubs and they hospitalized three picketers."

INCIDENT

"A union representative from Local 141 said about the incident: "You know how cops are. There were only three pickets there, 150 feet apart. One guy was just walking around with a picket sign and the cops got on him."

"A couple guys were following the trucks out and they got on them for that. The three men were badly hurt, but they got patched up and put back on the picket line."

A woman picketing in front of the Oakland plant of Owens-Illinois said: "The company was well-prepared, but it seems like our local wasn't."

"Three years ago when the contract was up, the union signed a contract in the middle of March and our old one wasn't up until the end of March. We didn't know what we got until it was signed. And this time, we don't really know what's going on, except we have no contract."

A wife of a machinist who's honoring the picket line said: "Owens is close to bankruptcy

out here anyway. If the company's running in the red, they're in no hurry to get us back."

The company's offer is a three year contract for 30 cents, 23 cents, 23 cents, with improvements not to take effect until the second year of the contract. The union is demanding a \$1 per hour increase over a base pay of \$3.93 per hour, a one year contract and a 100 percent cost of living. A federal conciliator has called a meeting on April 25 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ray said: "I give the people until May 1, if they don't settle by then, everything is going to break loose."

"The company is offering us nothing. They are even trying to do away with 13 of our proposals that have been there for years. It's just no good."

Seatrain Closes Lines

BY MARTY MORAN
OAKLAND—Seatrain Lines, one of the world's largest containerized shippers, announced last week that it was abandoning its West Coast to Hawaii and West Coast to Guam service, due to "continued losses aggravated by rising costs and uncertainties of the energy crisis."

Seatrain president Howard Pack said that Hawaii-based Matson Navigation had agreed to take over Seatrain's service for \$14.5 million. Matson will acquire three container ships, 3400 27-foot containers, and 1500 27-foot chassis for moving the containers on land.

CONTAINER

Seatrain only began Hawaii container service in October 1969, and Guam, in 1970. Every shipper and every port has plunged into containerization, banking on a continued boom in world trade.

Matson will have to integrate three losing ships into its already existing fleet of ten container ships and two-roll-on roll-off ships. At the same time, the Port of San Francisco has just announced that it is stepping up work for the new American President Lines container Pier 94.

The skyrocketing rise in fuel prices, together with shortages

is a further disaster for shipping. Only a few weeks ago, another container giant, SeaLand, announced that all its ships were reducing speed from 30 knots to 24 knots to conserve fuel.

The Seatrain decision is a sharp warning to maritime

workers of the complete collapse threatening the industry which will destroy thousands of jobs.

The only solution is the building of a labor party pledged to nationalize the docks and shipping under workers' control.

UAW Resumes Negotiations With Kaiser Aerospace

BY TED BAKER
SAN LEANDRO—Negotiations resumed Tuesday between UAW Local 76 and Kaiser Aerospace as workers entered their sixth week of the strike.

One picket told the Bulletin: "It's wide open, nobody knows what will happen in the negotiations. They may come out tonight with an agreement and they might break off again for another two weeks."

Two hundred and fifty men in Local 76 are demanding raises of 10 percent the first year, then 8 percent and 8 percent, plus improved fringe benefits, and the right to strike over safety grievances.

CRIPPLED

The strike has crippled production at the plant, despite scabbing by supervisors and other white collar workers.

According to one picket: "Only one thing has happened, a scab crew came up from Los An-

geles to remove some machines, but we wouldn't let them take them out. They were in that morning and they decided to split that afternoon."

MACHINES

Later in the week, however, union officials allowed some machines to be moved out of the plant. Local 76 Recording Secretary, Bob Clark told the Bulletin: "We have removed picket signs from the back gate in order to let outside contractors in to remove machinery that belongs to the government that we don't use anymore."

For the first five weeks of the strike, members of the Millwrights union had refused to cross Local 76 picket lines to remove the machines.

Describing the state of the strike to the Bulletin, one picket said: "It's a hell of a situation when you have to go out and fight for a few pennies. The company is making money every day we're out here."

"They worked ahead. They worked a couple of the departments overtime before the strike and stocked up."

Barker Fires Drivers To Break Teamsters

BY SHEILA BREHM
LOS ANGELES—"If this succeeds, there won't be one unionized furniture driver in LA in two years."

These were the words of John Cording, a member of Teamster Local 196, who is one of the 26 drivers that were terminated when Barker Bros., a large furniture and appliance chain refused to sign another contract with the Signal Trucking Service.

The average seniority of the 26 workers is 17 years. John Read who has been a driver for Barker Bros. for 42 years told the Bulletin: "What can you think when they throw you out? I never thought it would happen."

Read, 63, like most of the other drivers is too old to be hired for another job and too young to collect Social Security and retirement benefits.

The company has signed a 30 day contract with independent owner-operators in place of union drivers.

"They're getting an unfair deal too. They only get 3.5 percent on the load they deliver,

plus they have to pay their helpers, their own gas, insurance, social security, and on top of that, they have to pay for any merchandise they damage."

"When that's all through, they are lucky if they take home \$150 for a 60 hour week, and the helpers get about that too. That's under minimum wage."

By breaking their contract with the union, the company is reaping enormous profits. The Teamster drivers, who were earning \$6.60 an hour, were receiving about \$300 a week, including overtime pay.

John Cording said he is disatisfied with how the fight to get their jobs back is being conducted by the union. "I don't think we're getting representation from our union."

"The union is afraid to act in an aggressive manner. The union lawyers keep telling the union officials that we are powerless, that we have to be polite."

"In fact, the union even sent Barker Bros. a letter apologizing for our 'informational picket line', saying that it's not really against them, but against the Signal Trucking Co."

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lucha obrera

— lucía rivera —

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Este partido tiene que tener un programa de demandas socialistas que provea todas las necesidades de la clase obrera. Todas las tropas militares y la intervención capitalista tiene que terminar de inmediato, esto es usado para explotar las masas trabajadoras y campesinas en Latinoamérica.

El derecho de todo trabajador de vivir y trabajar donde le plazca tiene que ser defendido ahora a través de la movilización de la clase obrera en contra de las medidas de este gobierno.

4000 Protest Cuts In Poverty Programs

NEW YORK, NY— The largest demonstration ever against New York Mayor Beame's administration was held on April 15, in front of City Hall.

Over 4000 people representing every community in the city gathered to protest the total phasing out and cutting back of funds for anti-poverty programs.

The demonstration was organized by the Community Action Program, a conglomerate of 26 agencies throughout the state, that has provided jobs and services for virtually tens of thousands of workers and youth since the mid-1960s.

For the past several years, these programs have been funded by both the city and the federal government, each giving \$20 million. Nixon has vowed to stop the federal government's share, which had come through the Office of Economic Opportunity, on June 30.

"Who runs who?" asked Betty Pratte. Betty comes from the Fort Greene Community Corporation. "I thought that the government was supposed to

serve the people, not the people supposed to serve the government.

"The government is just a minority of people and the majority are in or being served by the programs that they are taking away.

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"Why should there be such poverty when they are making so much money off of the high price of everything we have to buy? It is not just the Community Action Programs that they are taking away, like they try to tell us.

"Model Cities is going for sure. Even aides that work with our children in the schools will be thrown out of their jobs. After-school programs have already been closed down.

"You see all these people? They will not let them close our programs down. It will get down to a revolution if they do.

"In the next couple of years, the people will have to make up their minds between capitalism or socialism."

Thelma Smith from the East Harlem Community Corporation declared: "Maybe Nixon will pay his taxes with the money he is taking away from these programs. He knows that he is throwing thousands of us

back onto welfare.

"I know that there will be at least 10,000 from my area that won't have jobs anymore.

"We are going to demonstrate and demonstrate and demonstrate until they allow us to hold our jobs and our communities together."

Throughout the demonstration the protesters shouted "Money, money, money, money-for our programs" and "fight poverty, not the poor."

Many youth who came great distances to attend the demonstration told the Bulletin that they were going to remain in front of City Hall in a "sit-in" for at least 24 hours.

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These programs were reforms won by the tremendous struggle of workers and youth during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the ghetto rebellions 1965 to 1967.

The elimination of all poverty programs is part of the offensive launched by Nixon and the capitalist class against the basic rights of the working class. This can be answered only by the full mobilization of the working class in a political struggle to force Nixon out.

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The economists' claim that unemployment will help curb inflation is a lie. Inflation, rooted in Nixon's decision to sever the dollar from its gold backing and in the whole decay of world capitalist production will continue, while unemployment will be used to weaken and divide the powerful labor movement.

TUALP. . .

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