

# Bulletin

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

VOLUME TEN NUMBER NINETY THREE 429

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1974

6 C748

TWENTY CENTS

## As unemployment lines grow

# SOCIAL SERVICES FACE THE AXE

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN

While the American economy races towards collapse and mass unemployment, the Ford administration is preparing to make the working class pay for the crisis through savage attacks on basic social services.

This is the meaning of President Ford's recent budget proposals to Congress.

If Ford has his way veteran's education benefits would be slashed by more than half a billion dollars.

Medicare patients would be forced to pay \$465 million in additional medical costs.

Food stamps recipients would pay more for the stamps.

A bill extending eligibility for veterans education to 10 years would be vetoed.

Lump sum payments for social security to those under 65 would be cut \$170 million.

Most vicious of all is that a large portion of these cuts are aimed at the poor and the aged, those most devastated by the inflation and least able to defend themselves.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. These cutbacks are only the beginning of a wholesale onslaught on every piece of social legislation won since the New Deal.

While Treasury Secretary, William Simon declares that the current slump "might be longer than any of the recessions we've experienced since World War II," budget director Roy Ash and Ford are agreed that the decimation of social service spending must be intensified.

The New York Times reported on Friday that the crisis is now hitting every major city in the country. Mayor Beame's plans to lay off public employees, freeze hiring and slash city services are being reproduced in Cleveland, Chicago, Boston, and every city.

This means not only higher sales and property taxes but a snowballing deterioration in every service from sanitation and hospitals to education and recreation.

Every day there is new confirmation that the recession

is deepening. The most recent government statistics reveals the staggering crisis in the economy.

Contracts and orders for new plants and equipment fell in October by more than \$2 billion.

Business inventories are falling as companies seek to sell off goods without reordering.

Unemployment, now at 6 percent, is expected to rise to 8 percent in the first half of next year.

But as the extent of the economic disaster facing the working class was unfolding, Federal Reserve chairman Arthur Burns spelled out plans that would crash whole sections of the economy in the US and abroad.

In the harshest language he has ever used, the Reserve Board chief told the Congressmen that the US faces a "permanent decline of our nation's economic and political power" unless oil prices can be forced down through the introduction of brutal "austerity" measures.

Unless enormous cuts in living standards are imposed Burns declared there was "very little hope for the world we are living in."

Burns is advocating a huge increase in gasoline prices to reduce demand and slash American oil imports by 15 to 20 percent.

Burns openly admitted that his policies would mean less pleasure driving, further declines in auto sales, and new blows to the homebuilding industry. In short Burns is spelling out a program to drive the US economy into a massive depression.

Burns made it clear that the private banks will not grant new loans to countries who are facing massive debts because of oil payments.

He warned that Kissinger's proposal for an international fund of \$25 billion a year to finance these debts could only be a temporary solution and would intensify an inflationary explosion.

The ultimatum of Kissinger and Burns that Europe and Japan make drastic cuts in oil imports if they want this credit is a blueprint for an economic collapse especially in Japan which is totally dependent on imported oil.

The attacks on jobs and the social services here are de-

(Continued On Page 11)



## MINERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST COAL CONTRACT

BY DAVID NORTH  
BECKLEY, W. Va.—  
Despite a massive television and radio campaign, financed by the United Mine Workers International, opposition among rank and file miners to the tentative contract is hardening.

Demonstrations and protest meetings against the settlement have been held in the large coal mining districts of Ohio, West Virginia, and Illinois. Officials from the International sent into the coal fields to sell the settlement were denounced by angry miners in District meetings held throughout the country this past weekend.

Opposition to the contract is centered on the miserable 17 percent wage increase over three years, a totally inadequate cost of living clause, the failure to win the undisputed right to strike and numerous provisions in the contract which strengthen the hand of the coal bosses over the miners.

In Beckley, headquarters of

militant District 29, UMW President Arnold Miller ran into a storm of criticism when he urged delegates to support the contract. Outside the meeting hall, a car caravan assembled by miners opposing ratification and demanding the right to strike, blared their horns and spoke through megaphones to urge a no vote.

When miners attacked Miller for his failure to win any of the gains he had promised during the 1972 campaign against former President Tony Boyle, Miller declared that the union had to act "responsible" or face the risk of government intervention.

### AVOID

Miller made it clear that his main concern was to avoid a confrontation with the labor-hating Ford administration. He revealed his own plans to accept the dictates of the government when he warned miners that they had better ratify the contract before Ford imposed wage controls.

Miller added that rejection of the contract would certainly bring in the government and that miners would wind up with a worse settlement than the one they turned down.

This is the statement of a politically bankrupt trade union bureaucrat. He is stating in advance that the union leadership has no intention of defending the ranks against attacks by the government and employers.

In fact, Miller's main argument in seeking to win approval of the contract is his declaration that he will not lead a strike if the miners continue their walk-out.

Miller left little doubt that he would bow to the hated Taft-Hartley law when he declared that he would do nothing illegal if miners voted to continue the strike.

The turbulent Beckley meeting frequently resulted in bitter exchanges. At one point Miller shouted, "I've taken a lot of abuse, and I put you on notice that I'm not taking any more."

### ABUSE

"We've taken a lot of abuse ourselves," a number of miners shouted back. Miller's inability to give even factual answers to questions about the contract resulted in frequent cat-calls from the assembled miners and delegates.

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Newsman for the state-owned radio and television network in a recent demonstration in Paris.

## Colon Alerts Guards In Puerto Rico Water Strike

The Governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernandez Colon, has mobilized the National Guard against the month-long strike of workers for the Water Resources Department.

Colon threatened to call the Guard in unless alleged acts of "sabotage" stopped and progress was made in the negotiations.

Pedro Grant, leader of the United Labor Movement, immediately retaliated by declaring that any use of troops would mean a general strike on the island.

In the first week of the strike, leaders of the union were jailed when they refused to call it off. Only after the threat of a general strike were they released.

The wage demands of the water workers are twice as much as the budget the government planned to allocate to the Agency. Inflation in Puerto Rico is 23 percent a year.

Union leaders charge that a scare story was being used to arrest the most militant workers and to justify the use of the National Guard.

At the same time, many workers are refusing to pay their bills to the Water Resources Authority, because of the skyrocketing cost. The government wants to increase the price of water by 25 percent.

## French Stalinists Rescue Giscard

BY A REPORTER

The French trade union leaders, both Stalinist and reformist, are desperately trying to rescue the reactionary government of Giscard d'Estaing from the rising tide of strikes and occupations.

After a bitter and determined six-week strike, in which police intervened, postal workers were forced to go back after the delegates of the major unions abandoned their strike.

The delegates' decision to

and three TV stations. Journalists charged the firings were aimed at getting rid of the most militant workers.

Chirac has openly stated that the working class must sacrifice to pay for the economic crisis and that the government's economic policy to halt inflation "is not negotiable."

Chirac referred to the striking postal workers as "a band of destroyers" and "demons" and declared they would have no influence on his conduct of economic affairs.

The TV address by Giscard on November 26 was a feeble attempt to allay fears that the economy is headed for collapse. Giscard's assurances that "we are not in a situation of deep crisis" were ridiculed by the press.

Unemployment is over 600,000, and inflation is rising at an annual rate of 17 percent. The Citroen auto company just announced a new layoff of 2,700 and the giant Rhone-Poulenc firm will close 18 factories, meaning a loss of 20,000 jobs. Strikes have hit the railways, power utilities, mines and print shops.

Yet, despite the government's open declaration of war on the working class, the French Stalinists continue their policy of pleading for negotiations on wages and working conditions. Only hours before Giscard went on TV, they announced that they were prepared to make concessions in the postal strike, "to get out of the situation."

The weakness of the one-day General Strike on November 19, organized around the slogan "We want satisfaction" was entirely due to the refusal of the Stalinists to advance any fighting program against the government.

Another one-day strike is being

called for December 3 but again the Stalinists hope to use it as a safety valve to defuse growing pressure for an indefinite general strike like the one that nearly toppled the government in 1968.

The present strike wave is the beginning of an inevitable showdown between the classes in France. What will be decisive is the building of revolutionary leadership to expose the Stalinists and all the centrist and reformist organizations and to mobilize the working class for power.



Premier Jacques Chirac

## Canadians Cut Oil To US As Trade War Escalates

BY FRANK MARTIN

When Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau comes to Washington on December 4, he will have one issue on his mind—trade war.

According to American trade officials quoted by the *Journal of Commerce*, "Canada now stands out as the chief trouble-spot in US trade relations."

In mid November, President Ford signed a measure limiting the imports of Canadian live cattle and hogs, and dressed beef and pork.

This was in retaliation to an earlier curb imposed by the Canadian government on US exports of cattle and beef which cut US shipments of cattle by \$100 million and veal by \$13 million.

## Lon Nol Wins UN Vote

By a vote of 56 to 54, the United Nations reaffirmed that the Lon Nol dictatorship in Phnom Penh will remain the official representative of Cambodia.

The vote was prompted by a resolution introduced by Yugoslavia, China and Algeria to give the UN seat to the government-in-exile of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Sihanouk's armies control three quarters of the country while Lon Nol's shattered and demoralized troops only control

the capital and a few other cities.

The Soviet Union, continuing its tacit support for the Lon Nol regime, deliberately refrained from campaigning for the resolution. Thus, while the Soviet delegates voted for it, they did not speak in the debate or counter in any way the back stage lobbying of the United States.

Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia voted against Sihanouk while all the other Arab states abstained.

The Canadian move was a sharp blow to American cattlemen. Because the American beef market was glutted, they hoped to sell their excess supply on the Canadian market where prices are almost twice as high. The Canadian government feared this would force prices down.

Bill Jones of the American Livestock Feeders Association said, "Canada has always taken advantage of its little brother relation with the US to close its border to our exports."

Indeed the Canadian cattlemen did argue that the Ford measures were unfair seeing as the Canadian cattle industry was only one-tenth the size of the American industry.

This set the stage for Canada's next move. Within a week, Canada's energy minister announced that it would reduce its daily shipment of oil to the US from 977,743 barrels to 800,000 by January 1. MacDonald added that he hoped to cut oil exports down to 650,000 barrels a day by mid-1975 and phase them out entirely by 1983.

Oil was the one card the Canadian capitalists had left to play. It supplies 25 percent of total US oil imports. In the last year, Canada has been taking advantage of the Arab oil prices to hike their own export price from \$3.37 a barrel to \$11.70.

MacDonald justified the cutback by claiming that Canadian oil stocks are running out.

The Canadian oil industry, mostly owned by the US oil giants, was furious. A spokesman stated, "Mr. MacDonald says the only answer to the

energy dilemma is a viable and healthy industry. But the cut in our market means a reduction in cash flow of \$1.6 million daily by mid-1975. That's money that would normally go into exploration."

As the international trade war heats up, the Canadian capitalists find themselves almost totally dependent on their access to the American market for their profits.

•35 percent of the output of all goods-producing industries is sold to the US.

•25 percent of Canada's total payroll is accounted for by the export trade.

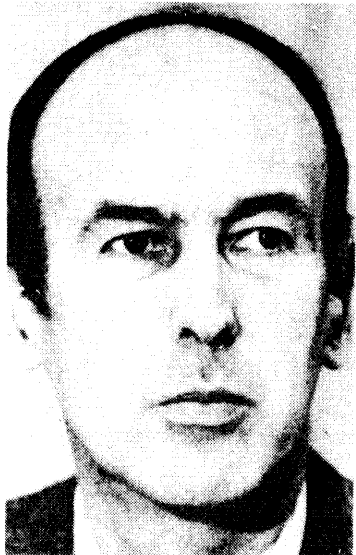
•20 percent of the Gross National Product is exported, and, if services are excluded—this figure goes up to 55 percent, mostly to the US.

The Canadian capitalists have always required free access to the American market while keeping cheaper American goods out of the Canadian market. During the boom this was possible. But now the Americans are demanding that the tables be turned.

Trudeau travelled to Western Europe and Japan recently in an unsuccessful attempt to drum up new business.

The American recession is already beginning to have a direct and severe impact on the Canadian economy.

Trudeau will probably make an attempt to mend fences when he is down here. But reports indicate that he will be given, at best, a few hours to present his case and politely ushered out of the White House.



Giscard d'Estaing

"suspend" the strike without winning a single demand was an abysmal capitulation to the government.

The week before, the Stalinist leaders of the CGT (General Federation of Workers) had begun to apply pressure to get workers back but the militant mail sorters in Paris who sparked the walkout held out.

But the same day that the postal men returned, newsmen for the state-owned radio and TV network occupied the headquarters several hours before a nationwide address by Giscard and locked up director Marceau Long.

Premier Jacques Chirac who has taken an intransigent position towards the workers immediately ordered police to oust them.

The journalists were protesting the planned firing of 500—257 immediately—and the reorganization of the entire network into one radio station

# Israeli Jets Bomb Camps In Lebanon

BY FRANK MARTIN

Israeli jets carried out their first air raid in three weeks by bombing the town of Kafra in southern Lebanon on Saturday.

Israeli gunners shelled the area and exchanged gunfire with Lebanese troops.

Reuters News Agency reports that Israeli troops crossed the border last week and shot five Arabs. Meanwhile, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin has moved to step up raids on Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese towns.

As the Zionist terror campaign is being stepped up, Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has completed his visit to the Soviet Union. Arafat thanked Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev "for taking an interest in the fate of the Palestinians."

At the recent Vladivostok summit, Ford and Brezhnev

decided to "extend the policy of detente to the Middle East." During Arafat's visit, the Stalinists pressured him to make even more concessions to the Zionists by officially recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Meanwhile, the PLO has rounded up 26 Palestinians, members of rival guerrilla organizations, and arrested them following the hijacking of a British jetliner to Tunis.

This action is the direct result of the pressure by the Stalinists and Arab leaders like Sadat of Egypt. In exchange for acting as the policeman of the Arab masses the PLO hopes to get a deal with American imperialism to set up a mini-state on the West Bank.

While the US uses Arafat to head off the development of a revolutionary movement among the Arab people, Kissinger's strategy is to divide the Arab leaders and buy them off.

In full collaboration with the Stalinists, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat is eager for a separate deal with Israel over the Sinai peninsula, occupied by Israeli troops. Sadat is pressing for the resumption of the Geneva talks where the Palestine question would be pushed aside.

According to one Egyptian official, "As far as we are concerned the rush for Geneva is on. We are trying to expedite it. We need it to give new momentum to the search for a negotiated settlement."

But the reopening of the Geneva talks is a complete myth. In the past the Geneva talks have served only the interests of imperialism and Zionism and have laid the basis for the outbreak of new wars.

In any case, the Zionists, with the full backing of Kissinger, refuse to let go of the oil fields on the Sinai coast, south of Suez.

It was the Geneva talks that led to the introduction of United Nations troops in the Middle East. The preparations to remove these troops from the Golan Heights area sparked the recent military buildup in the Middle East.

## Fire 28,000 Cut Services Says Goldin

BY A REPORTER

NEW YORK, NY—City Controller Harrison J. Goldin has stated that Mayor Beame has underestimated the city's budget deficit by about \$250 million.

Goldin's report said that "wholesale personnel layoffs and widespread disruption of public services" would be required to meet the deficit. One proposal he offered was the elimination of 10,000 teachers, 10,000 police officers, 3500 sanitation men and 4500 firemen.

Beame has predicted that the city's \$11.1 billion budget means a deficit of \$430 million for the year. The deficit, however, rose from under \$200 million to \$330 million between August and October alone.

Beame has already imposed a freeze on capital spending and hiring, a virtual ban on overtime and the firing of 1510 city workers.

Goldin estimates that the city will fall \$56.6 million short in funds collected from sales tax and \$76 million short in funds from stock transfer taxes.

Goldin also predicts that welfare and Medicaid payments from the city will run higher than the projected budget allocations by more than twice what Beame predicted.

The true situation is far more serious than either Beame or Goldin will admit. The deficits are figures on the basis of current rates of unemployment, inflation, and business decline. In every one of these areas, government officials have already predicted even worse figures over the winter. By the end of the fiscal year in June, 1975, the city deficit may equal the original budget figure of \$11.1 billion!



Unemployed lining up for benefits in Detroit.

# Layoffs In Auto Now Total 230,000

BY A REPORTER

The auto manufacturers have announced a new wave of layoffs involving 62,000 workers.

General Motors will lay off 30,000 in a two-week shutdown this month while Ford plans to dismiss 32,000 at eleven assembly plants.

This brings the total amount of auto workers either unemployed or scheduled for layoff to 230,000 out of a workforce of 750,000.

Unemployment in Detroit is now 9 percent and climbing. Only the Supplementary Unemployment Benefit plan under which many laid off workers receive 95 percent of their salaries has enabled the industry to temporarily avert an explosion.

But SUB was conceived in order to handle problems of moderate unemployment, not to deal with a full scale slump. General Motors SUB fund is now down to little more than \$100 million and there are no provisions for continued payments when the money runs out.

Industry leaders are under no illusions that the situation will turn around.

Retail car sales for the first two thirds of November are 35 percent lower than a year ago. Inventories of unsold vehicles

now total 1.8 million cars, a supply sufficient for more than 80 days.

The industry continues to revise its production schedules downward as the bad news pours in.

Fourth quarter production is now planned to be 18 percent below the original plans made in September.

Chrysler has now closed five of its six assembly plants leaving 60,000 workers unemployed until January at the earliest. 30 percent of its white collar staff is scheduled for the axe as well.

American motors has laid off 8000 workers from its Kenosha, Wisconsin plant.

Henry Ford recently described the industry as in a depression and facing worse to come. The gloomy Mr. Ford even predicted that interest rates might come down to as low as 6 percent with the nation and all of western civilization locked in a depression.

Ford clearly sees the writing on the wall. He predicted "rock throwing and window breaking and hell-raising everywhere by hungry and disillusioned people."

Richard C. Gerstenberg, outgoing chairman of GM, while maintaining a public posture of optimism reveals that the company is making long-term plans "to take a look at everything we're spending money on:

capital, tools, day to day cost of running the business."

The United Auto Workers leadership has not lifted a finger to fight back. This leadership is staggering along totally oblivious to the catastrophe facing the union. Woodcock's policy, if it can be called a policy, amounts to calling for lowering pollution standards and appeals to buy cars.

750,000 auto workers cannot afford to postpone a fight while hundreds of thousands more are thrown onto the streets.

A campaign must be taken up in every factory to force Woodcock to call an immediate UAW conference with rank and file representation from the entire industry.

This conference must lay out plans to defend the jobs of auto workers by preparing occupations of plants threatened with shutdown.

The UAW must use its enormous power to mobilize a massive political struggle through fighting in the labor movement to call a congress of labor and launch an independent labor party.

A labor party can fight the danger of unemployment with a policy of nationalization of auto and all major industries under workers control, through the establishment of a workers government.

## The Coverup Completed: Nixon Too 'Sick' To Talk

BY A REPORTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A panel of court-appointed doctors have set the stage for a final cover-up of Watergate by supporting claims that former President Nixon is too ill to testify in court.

Drs. Charles A. Hufnagel, Richard S. Ross and John A. Spittell Jr. have reported that Nixon could not give a deposition from home before Jan. 6 and could not travel for a courtroom appearance before Feb. 16.

Judge John J. Sirica, who hand-picked the three doctors, could now move to dismiss charges against John D. Ehrlichman or even against all five defendants. Ehrlichman has claimed that Nixon's testimony is vital to his defense.

The trial, on charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice, is now in its ninth week.

Nixon's closest associates, including Ehrlichman, H.R. Haldeman and John Mitchell each claim that Nixon plotted with the others behind his back.

The trial concerns the illegal break-in itself, the hush money payments to the Watergate burglars, plans to outsmart the grand jury and congressional investigations and attempts to halt the FBI probe into the break-in.

If Sirica rules that Ehrlichman's trial must proceed to its finish even without Nixon's testimony, the trial results are likely to be thrown out by an appeals court.

The doctors, working under terms dictated by Nixon's lawyers and agreed to by Judge Sirica, told him that they would not report on the tests they conducted to reach their conclusion or on Nixon's exact medical condition.

"If required by the court," the

statement reads, "the panel can submit the medical reasons and data upon which it based its report. This would involve specific information regarding his condition, which we have been instructed is confidential."

Sirica is now taking advantage of the tradition of confidentiality between patient and doctor to avoid endangering the elaborate coverup worked out first by Nixon and then by Ford. Ford's pardon was aimed at keeping Nixon from revealing any more information in courtroom testimony.

Lawrence K. Altman, a medical correspondent for the New York Times, raised serious objections to the covering up of medical data in the new report.

"Many people, doctors included, have expressed amazement at how the health of a man could deteriorate so rapidly...Dr. Hufnagel has declined

to answer the basic question of how the panel went about its business.

"... Judge Sirica has said that he wanted to go after the truth in the Watergate case and that he would rely on expert opinions. But if there is no record of how the three medical experts went about their job, how can the public evaluate their conclusions?"

During the nine weeks of testimony, hours of taped conversations have established beyond any doubt that Nixon directed the coverup from the start. Every section of the ruling class is now implicated in his criminal activities.

Sirica, Ford and the others have acted not only to protect Nixon, but expressly to prevent any new information from reaching the American working class.



# BUDGET CUTS & THE FIREMEN: TENANTS LEFT TO DIE



Firemen to be hit by the cutbacks. Left: men from 19-1 Company, and right: men from 19-2 Company.

**BY CYNTHIA BLAKE  
NEW YORK, NY—**  
The disbanding of eight fire companies by December 14 in the first phase of Mayor Beame's budget clashes threatens the lives of firemen and thousands of working class tenants.

The cuts will eliminate three full fire houses, truck companies in three stations and the engine companies in two other stations. The areas most affected are the South Bronx, East Harlem, Fort Greene, and East New York, where fire hazards are the greatest.

There will also be extensive cuts in "auxiliary services," such as field communications, oxygen-tank supply teams, and two fireboats. The 1-man "safety battalion" that inspects equipment for the whole department will also be disbanded.



Louise Maddalena

Firemen from the 19-2 Company in Spanish Harlem spoke to Bulletin reporters and denounced the city's attempt to minimize the impact of the cutbacks.

"They made the most visible cuts, in the worst fire areas. It was a political decision. When he goes to Albany for money, Beame will point to us to show he's cut spending."

The firemen explained that the cuts were made to appear as if back-up apparatus was being removed from stations. In fact, the cutbacks will be crippling to firefighting, especially to the rescue operations of these units.

An engine company, about 30 men, takes responsibility for the actual firefighting. They rely on a truck company, another 30 men, to place the ladders, search the buildings and carry out rescue work.

It is these truck companies that are being removed from stations like 19-2. A firefighter who will be moved from the area said that engines will go out alone when an alarm sounds, and will have to call in a truck from a nearby station if it is needed.

"Response time will be much longer, and it's response time that kills people. You can live just four minutes without oxygen.

"The men who are left here will be crushed with work. Each company made about 4000 runs last year. They're going to go out on jobs tired. They are going to get hurt. People are going to die."

The unit's captain called the

cutback a "crime" against the neighborhood. East Harlem is crowded with projects and tenements which are not fireproof. The extra units are often needed just to wet down adjoining buildings to prevent the fires from spreading.

One of his men added, "Put in your story that this is a double crime, because this area is already one of high density and they have just begun to move people into the new buildings. There will be thousands more people counting on us within the next few months."

Their anger is shared by the residents on the block, who began a petition campaign although many of them said they think Beame will ignore them.

Miss Louise Maddalena owns a small store across from the fire house. She has lived on the block since 1905, and told Bulletin reporters, "It is a terrible thing this man is doing to the people here. Just in the last week there were two fires at 211. Twice in one week the same people could have been killed if the firehouse wasn't there.

"Six months ago, they took the hook and ladder truck out, now they are taking another truck. They are taking everything away from the poor people today."

Her sister said "What is this Beame, going crazy or something? He said he was going to fix up the city, and now he's trying to burn the people out.

"If he has to balance the budget so bad, why doesn't he cut his salary? Or go to the rich

people—they could use a little cutting back. We just can't let that little pipsqueak get away with this."

Carmela Reginio, a young worker on the block, circulated the petition demanding that the fire companies be left on the block. She said "A lot of people are opposed to this. Elderly people and kids are the ones who



Helen Maddalena

are going to suffer more. They can't help themselves in case of fire.

"I don't know if it will do any good, but something has to be done."

Leaders of the Uniformed Firefighters Association are under probation for leading a five-hour walkout last fall, and will face jail sentences if the firefighters strike. At the same time, the press has renewed the completely cynical charge that the firefighters have no concern for the residents in their neighborhoods or they wouldn't have walked off the job.

"I think everyone knows now who cares and who doesn't care about fire protection," one

fireman said. He pointed out that the only cutback in the police department is a freeze on hiring and training.

"We are just like the military in this department, we can't do anything but obey orders. The budgets and everything, that is up to the political people.

"If we can get enough support from the communities, maybe we can fight it. They are playing with life; you can't put a dollar value on life.

"Talking with you is one way we're fighting back, as far as I'm concerned," another firefighter told reporters. "We don't know, and you'll never know who might get victimized for speaking out this way.

"But the workers themselves, the unions have to fight these cutbacks. They need the support of all the people."

The devastating cutback in fire protection is just one part of Beame's austerity budget. Millions more in funds will be cut. The defense of services vital to the working class, and the defense of the jobs and working conditions of the city workers requires an immediate end to all collaboration with Beame and preparation in each city local for strike action.

The unions representing city workers must demand from the Central Labor Council a pledge of general strike action if the cuts are implemented as scheduled, and a fight for a congress of labor to construct a labor party pledged to socialist policies in defense of the basic rights of the working class.

## SSEU-371 Leaders Pass The Buck To Gotbaum

The tabling of the motion, introduced by representatives of SSEU-371 at the November 26 District Council 37 Delegates Assembly places the initiative to fight the layoffs of city workers in the hands of Victor Gotbaum.

The motion would have bound the District Council to call an emergency meeting to consider DC 37-wide strike action in the event of the layoff of 1,510 city workers.

Gotbaum instigated the tabling of the motion on the grounds that it was premature and promised Council delegates that he would fight the layoffs. But Gotbaum has done nothing to mobilize the Council's 120,000 members to stop the cuts which are now imminent.

The responsibility for allowing Gotbaum to get off the hook lies squarely with the Knight leadership of SSEU-371.

While the Knight leadership's motion was correct so far as it went, it ruled out any independent fight among the rank and file of DC 37 or among the local leaders to override Gotbaum's opposition. It was

clearly proposed as a way of defeating the policy fought for by the Committee for New Leadership at the November 25 SSEU meeting.

This motion called for strike action by SSEU-371 if any of the 165 members in the Correction Aid Title lost their jobs. The motion linked this with a fight for a congress of labor and a labor party to fight unemployment and inflation.

Knight supporters got an immediate vote to table this motion by 30 to 20 with many abstentions.

Until a policy of DC 37 strike action is adopted, failure to fight for strike action by SSEU would be an abandonment of those workers immediately threatened with layoff.

In the debate neither the Communist Party-backed caucus called the "Committee For a Solid Contract" nor supporters of the "Progressive Labor Welfare Section" posed any alternative to Knight.

The Committee For a Solid Contract issued a leaflet at the meeting that listed a series of reformist demands such as the examination of the City's books

by an "independent consumer advocate like Ralph Nader," the closing of tax free bond loopholes, etc. While raising the call for a general strike against layoffs, this group plays directly into Knight's hands by refusing to call for SSEU strike action.

### from the committee for new leadership

Likewise the supporters of the Progressive Labor Welfare section, while raising the demand for SSEU strike action against layoffs, made no effort to push for such a policy when the issue came up on the agenda.

In fact, at the end of the meeting a PL supporter called upon Knight to arrange a speaking tour of the locations for a Correction Aide spokesman who had put forward the Knight leadership's policy on the layoffs at the meeting.

On the Catchpol victimization, the Knight leadership

launched its most vicious attack to date against Catchpol and all those delegates that have demanded that she be defended against victimization. Knight and his supporters charged that Catchpol was not the subject of a political victimization and therefore had no right to demand more than a routine defense. Catchpol and Progressive Labor were attacked for articles critical of the Knight leadership that appeared in PL's newspaper Challenge.

Bill Holey made a demagogic appeal to the Correction Aides, claiming that if Catchpol was put on union staff, this would be discrimination against the majority.

When the PL-sponsored motion calling for union defense of Catchpol's appeal and for a strike referendum on this issue came to the floor it was defeated by over 50 to 24. Knight ignored a motion for a roll call vote.

Layoffs of SSEU-371 Correction Aides slated for December 1 have been temporarily postponed. But any complacency on this matter will spell disaster not only for these

workers but for the entire city labor movement.

The SSEU Committee for New Leadership is now fighting for the emergency reconvening of the SSEU Delegate Assembly and for the convening of an SSEU general membership meeting where it will fight for the following program:

1. For SSEU-371 strike action in the event of any SSEU-371 layoffs.
2. For the organization of an all-out lobbying campaign by SSEU-371 directed to the membership and local leaders of other DC 37 locals to force action on a DC 37-wide strike.
3. For the demand for municipal wide strike action to be taken to the Central Labor Council.
4. For placing Judy Catchpol on SSEU -371 staff during her appeal and for breaking off all negotiations with the City on reorganization until she is reinstated.
5. For launching a campaign by the SSEU on the demand for the convening of a congress of labor and the launching of a labor party committed to socialist policies.





The 1934 Minneapolis Teamster strike.

ABC News Closeup: Hoffa. Produced and directed by Stephen Fleischman. Saturday, November 30. Narrated by Jim Kincaid.

James Hoffa is launching a struggle to win back his position as president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters after nearly two decades of victimization by the government.

"I see the big fight coming" he says at the beginning of this ABC special.

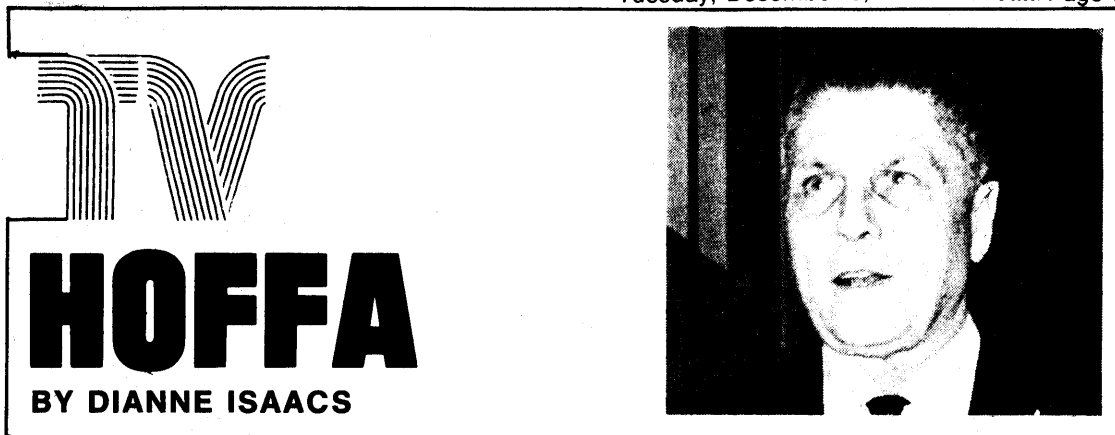
Hoffa, who was president of the two million strong IBT from 1957 to 1971, began union organizing when he was 18. Today because of the collusion of the government and the present IBT President, Frank Fitzsimmons, he is barred from union activity until March 6, 1980.

Hoffa's evolution and the con-

scious plan of the government to put him behind bars, both excellently portrayed in the ABC documentary, reveal the tremendous task the American working class faces: to develop a revolutionary leadership to oust the corrupt Fitzsimmons bureaucracy and to build a labor party to defend the unions from government intervention.

Jimmy Hoffa fought to organize the Teamsters in Michigan alongside of Trotskyists Farrell Dobbs, Carl Skoglund, and the Dunne brothers, who built Minneapolis Local 574 against violent strike-breaking tactics, anti-communism, and government intervention.

Hoffa says, "In 1934, they had nothing to lose except the fact they may lose their life, and that wasn't worth much at that time because they couldn't do much with their life. And when you listen to a man like Vince Dunne



or Ray Dunne talk or Farrell Dobbs talk...

"Farrell kept preaching the fact that nobody could, in the future, nobody would be able to win in their own town or their own state, but had to have expanded coverage for the entire transportation, warehousing, and food industry."

**TOBIN**

This battle to organize workers nationwide had to be conducted against IBT President Tobin, particularly as the US began gearing up for war in 1941.

But when Tobin ordered Hoffa to get rid of the Trotskyist leadership in Minneapolis, Hoffa obliged, after at first refusing. "Since the old man made a personal request," Hoffa had to go in and "whip them."

As Kincaid accurately pointed out, when Hoffa turned on Dobbs and the Minneapolis leadership, he started out on a road which led him to become one of the most corrupt union leaders in history.

As Farrell Dobbs, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, states in this program, Hoffa had the help of the FBI, the Department of Justice, President Roosevelt, the police, the mayor, and the governor in ousting the Trotskyists.

But what is clear is that it was not Hoffa's corruption that worried the government investigators but the tremendous power of the Teamsters union. In 1957, the government set up the McClellan Committee of the US Senate whose purpose was to cripple the union by a long and vicious "Get Hoffa" campaign. Hoffa called the Watergate conspiracy "tame" in comparison to the witch-hunt of the McClellan Committee.

The chief counsel of this subcommittee was Robert Kennedy. An attorney in the "Get Hoffa Squad," James Neal, stated that "Robert Kennedy was convinced that Hoffa was a dangerous man."

Hoffa claims that he was under constant surveillance by the FBI from 1955 to 1965.

The government tried time and time again to bust Hoffa, using wiretaps at Teamster offices and informers.

In 1963, Hoffa was brought to trial in Nashville, Tennessee, for allegedly accepting illegal payments from employers. This ended in a hung jury, 7 to 5 for acquittal.

Enraged by this defeat, the government got a new trial on a charge of jury tampering and Hoffa was convicted and sentenced to eight years in jail in 1964. On top of this, he was convicted of swindling money from the pension fund and was given an additional five years.

**BUGGING**

Hoffa charged the prosecution with interfering with the right to have his own lawyer, harassment of witnesses and bugging of the defendant's room. There were so many irregularities in the jury tampering trial that Chief Justice Earl Warren called it an "affront" to justice.

The plot to keep Hoffa out of the Teamsters union continued into 1971 under Nixon's Watergate crew, Charles Colson in particular, who masterminded a scheme to commute Hoffa's sentence without revealing to Hoffa until after he signed his parole papers that he would be barred from union activity until 1980. It is Frank Fitzsimmons who has used Colson's law firm.

William Carlos Moore, head of the Teamsters political activities, signed a statement that he overheard a telephone

call in which Fitzsimmons suggested to Colson the language to use in the commutation statement.

But one thing conspicuously missing from the documentary with its many interviews and film footage is the rank and file of the Teamsters union, leaving the viewer to conclude that perhaps the only solution to corruption in the unions is the courts, if only they will act less prejudiced.

But the courts, which will not touch Richard Nixon, are preparing more suits against the Teamsters. A Chicago federal grand jury is investigating dubious loans from the \$1 billion Teamster pension and welfare fund.

It is essential that every Teamster and trade unionist defend Hoffa's right to return to union activities. However, Hoffa, with his methods of wheeling and dealing with the employers, cannot defend the living standards of Teamsters in the present period of sharp economic crisis.

Today every struggle for wages and decent conditions is met with the repression of the state. Every right won by Teamsters in the bitter struggles of the past can only be defended through a political struggle to remove the Ford government and fight for a workers government. The methods of negotiation and compromise cannot defeat the attempts of the employers and the government to destroy the independence of the unions and the right to collective bargaining.

Hoffa, who renounced socialism over 30 years ago, rejects this perspective.

This holds doubly true for Frank Fitzsimmons. In their review of the documentary, *The Militant*, newspaper of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party, claims that rank and file militancy alone will be enough to force out Fitzsimmons and stop the government's attacks on the union. They approvingly quote Farrell Dobbs's statement on the show that:

"One of the outstanding things is not only the courage but the resourcefulness that a body of workers show when they're in a mood to fight and they have leaders that are willing to lead them into a fight."

But this is a very dangerous illusion. Building a leadership that can fight for the needs of the rank and file against both the government and its ally Fitzsimmons requires the construction of the revolutionary party in the IBT. This is a fight the SWP has long since abandoned.

# Davis Lets Hospital Slash Pay Of Kingsbrook Painters

Three painters at Kingsbrook Medical Center in New York City have been completely abandoned by their union, District 1199, in their struggle against demotion to porters with a corresponding pay cut.

As one of the three men told the *Bulletin*, "What if this happens to other workers. If they did it to us, why can't they do it to other people?"

The demotion of Teddy Hayes, Warren Smith and Eugene Allerhand, all men with families, took place in the midst of a cost cutting drive by the hospitals early this year.

In March, the hospital administration called a meeting of the District 1199 delegates at Kingsbrook and announced that due to a severe financial crisis, there would be an iron clad job freeze, no overtime, and workers would be floated from one department to another when needed. The hospital even "suggested" that workers give up one 15 minute break and split their vacations to save the hospital money.

On March 4, Hayes, Smith and Allerhand, the painters with the least seniority, were demoted to the Housekeeping Department. Three months later, their pay was slashed from \$177 a week to \$151 a week.

One week before, at a meeting attended by the director of the Engineering Department, Personnel Director Bernard Orenstein, and Assistant Director Michael Seidman, the three painters were told that the hospital couldn't pay its bills and had planned to lay them off. However, they were informed that as a big favor, the administration

would offer them positions in Housekeeping.

"We were told that the demotion would probably be for only three months, or maybe six, and that when painting supplies could be purchased, we would get back our original jobs.

"We never told them we accepted, but they took it for granted because we didn't have anywhere else to turn to."

When they went to see union organizer Jim Glenn at the personnel office they found him deep in conversation with Orenstein. Following this meeting Glenn informed the men they would have to accept the demotion but pledged their pay would not be cut.

"As June 4 came up (the day the pay cut was to be implemented), we got more and more worried and we went to the union headquarters to demand action. Vice President Ramon Malave told us the hospital had a right to cut our pay."

After this their wages were cut to Housekeeping scale and in addition the men found out that they had also lost their seniority. Since they were new in Housekeeping, their vacation requests were denied.

"Furthermore, Mr. Seidman told us that our vacation pay would be at the Housekeeping rate, even though we accumulated the vacation pay as painters. We were also shown a letter from the union agreeing to the whole arrangement."

The three began a fruitless round of visits to the District 1199 headquarters, fighting to ask union officials to defend them. On every trip they got the same runaround. Finally they got to see 1199 President Leon Davis.

"He told us he didn't know anything about it and we should give him a week to check it out and he would get back to us.

"A day later, Malave called us

up screaming and demanding to know why we saw Davis when Davis knew all about it. He reaffirmed that the cut was legal and there was nothing we could do about it.

"Davis never got in touch with us. We gave up and signed up at the hiring hall."

Many delegates at Kingsbrook were prepared to fight the demotion but they were repeatedly discouraged by 1199 organizers.

In September, Eugene was forced to quit because he was unable to stand working the night shift.

Teddy said, "It's a very degrading feeling. You pay a union to support you and you have no one to really fight for you when you need them.

"We have gotten to the point where we have no one to turn to. Everyone quit. Everyone said it's legal.

"I can't understand why nobody else helped us to fight it," Warren said.

The recently announced city budget cuts and the statements of many city and voluntary hospitals that they will eliminate vital services unless they receive emergency funds is a warning that many other hospital workers face the same attacks as the Kingsbrook painters.

While Davis has publicly stated he will fight any layoffs, the case of these three men shows the opposite.

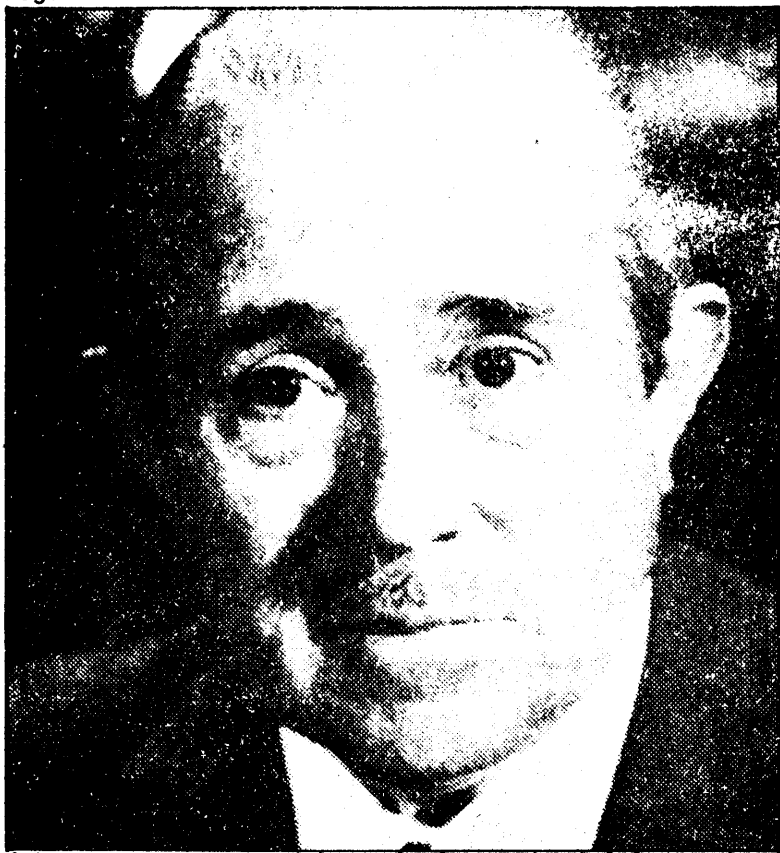
Davis and the entire 1199 leadership clearly accept the right of hospitals to balance their budgets at the expense of the jobs of hospital workers.

The fight to defend the painters must now go forward as part of a struggle to demand that Davis prepare a citywide hospital strike against any layoffs and to build a new leadership in District 1199 to mobilize the membership against the attacks of the government

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE FIGHT FOR A LABOR PARTY**

TUALP MEETING  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 7:30 p.m.  
1455 Sheridan Avenue, No. 3H  
Bronx





Prime Minister Carlos Arias.



General Franco with Princess Sophia; behind: Prince Juan Carlos and Señora Franco.

# Revolutionary Tide Undermines Franco

by Royston Bull  
from Workers Press

The economic crisis and the revolutionary tide it has set in motion around the world are rapidly undermining the 35-year-old fascist regime of General Franco in Spain.

The Spanish working class has been showing its strength in some powerful demonstrations, strikes and occupations carried out despite the savage reprisals of the fascist police.

Students and professional workers have also taken independent political action to air their grievances and press for reforms.

Sections of the Spanish ruling class and elements in the military are desperately searching for ways to bring to an end the authoritarian rule of the Falange to forestall a socialist revolution.

Even before the April 25 revolution in Portugal, big changes were under way in Spain. The fall of Caetano's fascist regime, and the profound deepening of the revolutionary movement in Portugal since then, climaxing in the prevention of a counterrevolution on September 28 by workers taking to the barricades, has hastened the process.

As everywhere under capitalism, the problems of inflation and recession are forcing employers and workers into all-out conflict over attempts to make workers pay for the crisis with falling living standards and mass unemployment.

Big struggles involving strikes and lock-outs have taken place in Bilbao in the north-west among shipyard workers and others, and in Barcelona in the east where car manufacturers SEAT, the country's biggest employer, has been forced to cut production for the first time despite competitive export prices due to very low wages paid.

In Barcelona last week, the company first asked for government permission to lay off 10,000 workers for two weeks, but then suddenly locked out 19,000 on the pretext of a disciplinary dispute.

About 60 shop stewards of the officially-

approved corporatist union resigned when the authorities would not allow them to call a mass rally of all 26,000 SEAT workers in the area.

The police broke up a demonstration of about 8,000 workers which tried to converge on the center of Barcelona.

## CLAMP-DOWN

The confrontation at SEAT could build up to a new peak next month when current wage agreements expire and new terms have to be negotiated.

Protests among professional sections are becoming equally outspoken. Students had to be evicted from the Madrid Autonomous University science faculty last week after a strike against examination bureaucracy. They shouted "More professors, less police" as they were removed.

Despite the new orders from Franco for a clamp-down on all expression of dissident opinion, 70 journalists in Madrid protested openly in a published letter against the "act of censorship" when permission was withdrawn for a visiting Portuguese social democrat to give a lecture in Madrid.

The Spanish government was until recently supposed to be on a course of "liberalization" instituted under new premier Carlos Arias following the assassination of the previous prime minister, Admiral Carrero Blanco, ten months ago.

Arias declared he was moving towards allowing freedom of "political association" by 1975, the first time that any organization other than the Nationalist Movement of the Falange fascists would have been permitted to operate since Franco won power in 1939.

This "relaxation" looked even more assured in the summer of this year when Franco nearly died during a serious illness and his chosen heir, Prince Juan Carlos, temporarily took over as head of state.

But Franco recovered, and ultra-right forces very close to him like the Caudillo's wife, Donna Carmen, who is described as

"icy"; his son-in-law, the Marquis of Villaverde, who has been called "an energetic if haphazard aristocrat" who married Franco's only daughter; Etrera Molina, secretary-general of the Movimiento; Francisco Labadie, a Falange leader; former Labour minister Jose Antonio Giron; Navy minister Admiral Pita de Viega; former Navy minister Admiral Nieto Anutne; and retired officers like Lt-Gen. Carlos Iniesta and Lt-Gen. Tomas Garcia Rebull called a halt.

Reportedly after being shown newspaper speculations about the prospects for greater "freedom" after Franco's death, the 82-year-old Caudillo agreed to dismiss "liberal-minded" Information Minister Pio Cabanillas.

This dismissal four weeks ago led to a wave of resignations—the first ever under Franco—as a silent protest against what was seen as an end to the moves towards liberalization.

## REFORM

Finance Minister and deputy premier Barrera de Irimo went first. Francisco Ordonez, president of the nationalized industries institute, followed. Then came deputy Information Minister Marcelino Oreja a week later; Juan José Roson, head of Spanish radio and television; Manuel Cantarero del Castillo, a Falange youth movement leader; Rafael Perez Escobar, head of the Tarragona National Petroleum Enterprise; and others.

Premier Arias was said to be on the point of resigning himself and several other members of the cabinet with him. Arias had as recently as September 12 in an allegedly independent political move, declared himself still firmly committed to "liberalization" and "political association" reform by the New Year.

The resignations were prevented by Prince Juan Carlos in a reported independent political intervention for his own ends.

It is said that he urged the "moderates" to hang on to office and not be driven out by the "ultras" so as to continue the fight for "liberalization."

This desire to prevent an all-out confrontation between a hard-line Franco government and a resurgent Spanish working class is now uppermost in the minds of the wilier reactionary elements in Spain like Juan Carlos and the Catholic Church. They fear revolution.

And these forces, taking a leaf out of the book of the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal which is propped up by the Popular Front coalition Provisional Government in which Communist Party and Socialist Party members hold ministerial positions, are making similar energetic preparations to assume power and defeat the working class.

One group setting the pace is headed by Joaquin Garrigues Walker, a prominent member of the Madrid financial world and well-connected. He is busy recruiting an embryo "democratic" political party to be ready to reach a compromise agreement with reformist working class leaders when Franco and the Falange finally have to go.

"We winners of the civil war must concede something if we want democracy in Spain," he said in a recent interview.

"We must reach agreement with the 'other side' over sharing the national cake," he added. Then he got to his real concern.

"But they must not now expect to take all the cake. That would be a dictatorship by the working class.

"Spain's leading economic interests will have to concede democratic trade unions, high wages and shorter factory hours, and profit margins more like those elsewhere in western Europe," he went on.

The Catholic Church is also trying belatedly to dissociate itself from the fascists after having complacently tolerated the police state for 35 years.

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Demonstrators fleeing from police in Pamplona.

ket' of voters also explains why former Christian Democrat forces are now wondering if they should re-open political shop.

"The Spanish Roman Catholic hierarchy, after putting some distance between itself and the Franco regime, is not keen to see the Italian Christian Democrat experience repeated 25 years later in Spain (meaning the current political stalemate with the Communist Party in Italy), but the label does mean something especially to a new electorate."

The Christian Democrat section of the Spanish ruling class around Franco, of which resigned deputy Information Minister Marcelino Oreja was a member, has taken the most outspoken line through its daily newspaper Ya.

With its fear of the Spanish working class showing clearly in every line, the newspaper declared recently, despite the new Press clampdown, that political associations must be legalized quickly "before it is too late."

An editorial declared that if political groups continued to be fettered, they would one day burst out violently.

"If the floodgates are not opened quickly to let this reality develop and function within the system, clandestinity will swell its current and one day it will try to burst the dykes," it wrote.

Mixed in with these developments is a flood of genuine petty-bourgeois revolt against the decrepit degenerating Franco regime, which increasingly is failing to solve any problems for the middle class.

The Basque Nationalist Party is reviving in the north west. In the east, the Catalan Social Democrat Party recently held its inaugural meeting in secret near Barcelona. The chief speaker Amadeo Cuito said: "The present regime is trying to liberalize Spain, but it is very difficult to make progress while we have a dictator as head of state. It will not be possible to democratize Spain while Franco is alive."

The big hope for those sections of the bourgeoisie now trying to restore capital-

ist democracy to Spain lies in the Spanish Communist Party. And Santiago Carrillo, the general secretary, is ready and willing to oblige them.

In a recent comment, which found its path all the way to London to be repeated in an editorial in the *Financial Times*, Carrillo said the Spanish Stalinists were willing to work with all forces including the right, the monarchists, and the army to form a Provisional Government and restore "democracy."

#### SURVIVAL

The "FT" said such an offer would be attractive to some sections of Spanish capitalism. But the ruling class in Spain is also hedging its bets. The "Guardian" reported that the authorities were also going easy on the clandestine Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) in order to build it up as a counter-weight to the CP.

But to make doubly sure of the survival of capitalism, and to provide the only real insurance they can find, the Spanish ruling class is also bringing the military forces into the act, as an advanced form of the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement which is now the only major bulwark against workers power in Portugal.

Just over a fortnight ago, when Arias was reported to be wavering in the face of the campaign by the "ultras" and on the point of resigning, the prime minister and his deputy Garcia Hernandez were invited to a shooting party weekend being given by a banker on an estate near Leon in the north-west.

Present were General Vega Rodriguez, head of the 60,000-strong paramilitary Guardia Civil; General Campano, boss of Spain's first military region; General Merry Gordon, head of the Valladolid military division; and several other important military officers.

They told Arias not to bow to the "ultras" who are seeking to restore the harshest fascist discipline on the Spanish working class. These reactionary military leaders

are not in favor of democracy themselves. They are merely worried that the wrong methods will be used to keep the working class at bay and that the quarry may turn nasty and uncontrollable.

Similar fears concern the American ruling class. It is no accident that US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, head of the governing council of 40 which directs the counterrevolutionary operations of the American CIA, has visited Spain no less than five times in the last few months.

Extensive discussions are now going on in Spain headed by US roving ambassador Robert McCloskey who is negotiating an extensive new "security" treaty with the Franco regime.

#### MILITARY BASES

Formally, this centers on the continued maintenance of four big US military bases in Spain. But in the secret negotiations, the essential question is preparing an effective counterrevolutionary "capability" in Spain.

Similar extensive negotiations have been conducted by McCloskey next door in Portugal with the continuation of the US base in the Azores as the formal reason for the talks.

These most reactionary capitalist interests may eventually seek to hide behind a "progressive" armed forces front in Spain as they are now doing in Portugal.

The same petty-bourgeois reformist illusions which prop up the AFM in Portugal will be at work in Spain. The Catalan Social Democrat Amadeo Cuito said at the meeting near Barcelona; "When Franco goes, power will fall into the laps of the army and the army has the grave historical responsibility to hand back the sovereignty of the nation to the Spanish people."

Stalinist leader Carrillo has said in advance he welcomes the involvement of the military.

But it was the reactionary Spanish military officer caste which provided General

Franco with his power base for the establishment of fascism in the first place in the Spanish Civil War.

As if to mock the degeneracy of the Spanish Communist Party leaders in welcoming a new generation of military leaders to take over power in Spain, the Falange leader Francisco Labadie at the 41st anniversary rally which signalled the start of the fight-back by the old guard three weeks ago, recalled the class savagery of that military caste.

"There are certain truths which we are not disposed to submit to any debate or to the consideration of any electorate.

"We won a war in order to construct a new state. We will defend the legitimacy of that victory with our teeth and our nails.

"Certain pressure groups which cultivate subversion and ideological terrorism, which represent nothing but make themselves heard, believed that the illness of the head of state would permit them to take over the centers of decision of the state.

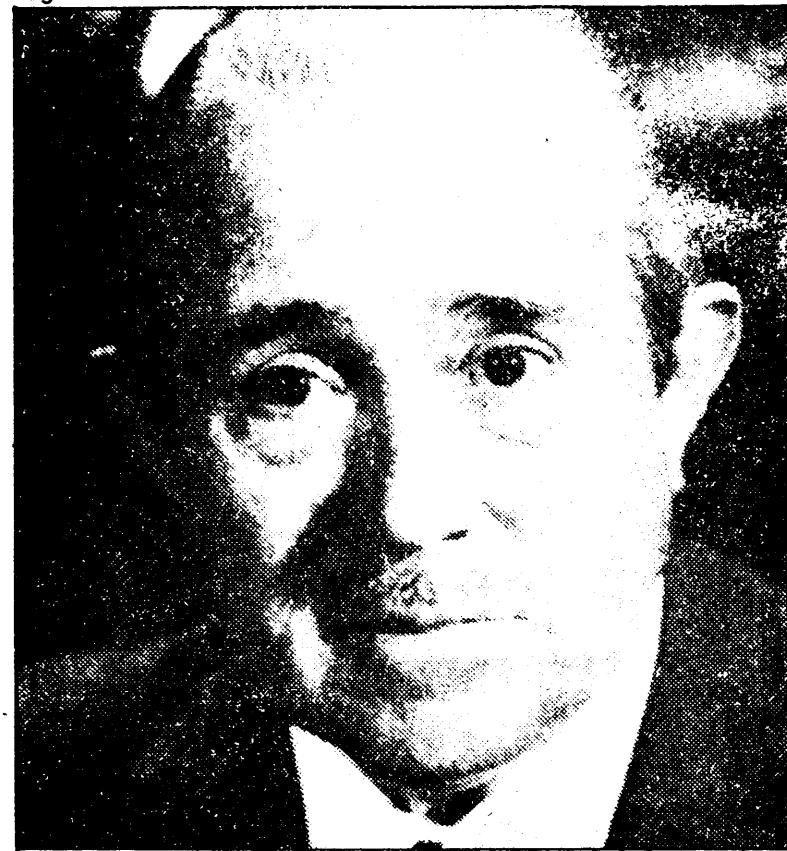
"They are badly mistaken. The lesson of a neighboring country is there (meaning Portugal): we will not allow ourselves to be misled about the consequences of political irresponsibility and drawing room experiments."

#### ARROGANCE

Labadie's reactionary class arrogance is the essence of the bourgeoisie everywhere. Fascism, and the capitalist system which spawns it, cannot be conquered by the peaceful road of popular front coalition with the "forces of democracy," as the Stalinists pretend. Such a road only leads to the certain return of fascist dictatorship at a later stage.

The way forward in Spain, as everywhere else, can only now be provided by the revolutionary preparation of the taking of power by the working class. This means only one thing: building the revolutionary party as a section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.





Prime Minister Carlos Arias.



General Franco with Princess Sophia; behind: Prince Juan Carlos and Señora Franco.

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by Royston Bull  
from Workers Press

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Students and professional workers have also taken independent political action to air their grievances and press for reforms. Sections of the Spanish ruling class and elements in the military are desperately searching for ways to bring to an end the authoritarian rule of the Falange to forestall a socialist revolution.

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Big struggles involving strikes and lock-outs have taken place in Bilbao in the north-west among shipyard workers and others, and in Barcelona in the east where car manufacturers SEAT, the country's biggest employer, has been forced to cut production for the first time despite competitive export prices due to very low wages paid.

In Barcelona last week, the company first asked for government permission to lay off 10,000 workers for two weeks, but then suddenly locked out 19,000 on the pretext of a disciplinary dispute.

About 60 shop stewards of the officially-

approved corporatist union resigned when the authorities would not allow them to call a mass rally of all 26,000 SEAT workers in the area.

The police broke up a demonstration of about 8,000 workers which tried to converge on the center of Barcelona.

## CLAMP-DOWN

The confrontation at SEAT could build up to a new peak next month when current wage agreements expire and new terms have to be negotiated.

Protests among professional sections are becoming equally outspoken. Students had to be evicted from the Madrid Autonomous University science faculty last week after a strike against examination bureaucracy. They shouted "More professors, less police" as they were removed.

Despite the new orders from Franco for a clamp-down on all expression of dissident opinion, 70 journalists in Madrid protested openly in a published letter against the "act of censorship" when permission was withdrawn for a visiting Portuguese social democrat to give a lecture in Madrid.

The Spanish government was until recently supposed to be on a course of "liberalization" instituted under new premier Carlos Arias following the assassination of the previous prime minister, Admiral Carrero Blanco, ten months ago.

Arias declared he was moving towards allowing freedom of "political association" by 1975, the first time that any organization other than the Nationalist Movement of the Falange fascists would have been permitted to operate since Franco won power in 1939.

This "relaxation" looked even more assured in the summer of this year when Franco nearly died during a serious illness and his chosen heir, Prince Juan Carlos, temporarily took over as head of state.

But Franco recovered, and ultra-right forces very close to him like the Caudillo's wife, Donna Carmen, who is described as

"icy"; his son-in-law, the Marquis of Villaverde, who has been called "an energetic if haphazard aristocrat" who married Franco's only daughter; Etrera Molina, secretary-general of the Movimiento; Francisco Labadie, a Falange leader; former Labour minister Jose Antonio Giron; Navy minister Admiral Pita de Viegas; former Navy minister Admiral Nieto Anutne; and retired officers like Lt-Gen. Carlos Iniesta and Lt-Gen. Tomas Garcia Rebull called a halt.

Reportedly after being shown newspaper speculations about the prospects for greater "freedom" after Franco's death, the 82-year-old Caudillo agreed to dismiss "liberal-minded" Information Minister Pio Cabanillas.

This dismissal four weeks ago led to a wave of resignations—the first ever under Franco—as a silent protest against what was seen as an end to the moves towards liberalization.

## REFORM

Finance Minister and deputy premier Barrera de Irimo went first. Francisco Ordonez, president of the nationalized industries institute, followed. Then came deputy Information Minister Marcelino Oreja a week later; Juan José Roson, head of Spanish radio and television; Manuel Cantarero del Castillo, a Falange youth movement leader; Rafael Perez Escobar, head of the Tarragona National Petroleum Enterprise; and others.

Premier Arias was said to be on the point of resigning himself and several other members of the cabinet with him. Arias had as recently as September 12 in an allegedly independent political move, declared himself still firmly committed to "liberalization" and "political association" reform by the New Year.

The resignations were prevented by Prince Juan Carlos in a reported independent political intervention for his own ends.

It is said that he urged the "moderates" to hang on to office and not be driven out by the "ultras" so as to continue the fight for "liberalization."

This desire to prevent an all-out confrontation between a hard-line Franco government and a resurgent Spanish working class is now uppermost in the minds of the wilier reactionary elements in Spain like Juan Carlos and the Catholic Church. They fear revolution.

And these forces, taking a leaf out of the book of the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal which is propped up by the Popular Front coalition Provisional Government in which Communist Party and Socialist Party members hold ministerial positions, are making similar energetic preparations to assume power and defeat the working class.

One group setting the pace is headed by Joaquin Garrigues Walker, a prominent member of the Madrid financial world and well-connected. He is busy recruiting an embryo "democratic" political party to be ready to reach a compromise agreement with reformist working class leaders when Franco and the Falange finally have to go.

"We winners of the civil war must concede something if we want democracy in Spain," he said in a recent interview. "We must reach agreement with the 'other side' over sharing the national cake," he added. Then he got to his real concern.

"But they must not now expect to take all the cake. That would be a dictatorship by the working class.

"Spain's leading economic interests will have to concede democratic trade unions, high wages and shorter factory hours, and profit margins more like those elsewhere in western Europe," he went on.

The Catholic Church is also trying belatedly to dissociate itself from the fascists after having complacently tolerated the police state for 35 years.

The Times wrote: "The potential 'mar-



Demonstrators fleeing from police in Pamplona.

ket' of voters also explains why former Christian Democrat forces are now wondering if they should re-open political shop.

"The Spanish Roman Catholic hierarchy, after putting some distance between itself and the Franco regime, is not keen to see the Italian Christian Democrat experience repeated 25 years later in Spain (meaning the current political stalemate with the Communist Party in Italy), but the label does mean something especially to a new electorate."

The Christian Democrat section of the Spanish ruling class around Franco, of which resigned deputy Information Minister Marcelino Oreja was a member, has taken the most outspoken line through its daily newspaper Ya.

With its fear of the Spanish working class showing clearly in every line, the newspaper declared recently, despite the new Press clampdown, that political associations must be legalized quickly "before it is too late."

An editorial declared that if political groups continued to be fettered, they would one day burst out violently.

"If the floodgates are not opened quickly to let this reality develop and function within the system, clandestinity will swell its current and one day it will try to burst the dykes," it wrote.

Mixed in with these developments is a flood of genuine petty-bourgeois revolt against the decrepit degenerating Franco regime, which increasingly is failing to solve any problems for the middle class.

The Basque Nationalist Party is reviving in the north west. In the east, the Catalan Social Democrat Party recently held its inaugural meeting in secret near Barcelona. The chief speaker Amadeo Cuito said: "The present regime is trying to liberalize Spain, but it is very difficult to make progress while we have a dictator as head of state. It will not be possible to democratize Spain while Franco is alive."

The big hope for those sections of the bourgeoisie now trying to restore capital-

ist democracy to Spain lies in the Spanish Communist Party. And Santiago Carrillo, the general secretary, is ready and willing to oblige them.

In a recent comment, which found its path all the way to London to be repeated in an editorial in the Financial Times, Carrillo said the Spanish Stalinists were willing to work with all forces including the right, the monarchists, and the army to form a Provisional Government and restore "democracy."

## SURVIVAL

The "FT" said such an offer would be attractive to some sections of Spanish capitalism. But the ruling class in Spain is also hedging its bets. The "Guardian" reported that the authorities were also going easy on the clandestine Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) in order to build it up as a counter-weight to the CP.

But to make doubly sure of the survival of capitalism, and to provide the only real insurance they can find, the Spanish ruling class is also bringing the military forces into the act, as an advanced form of the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement which is now the only major bulwark against workers power in Portugal.

Just over a fortnight ago, when Arias was reported to be wavering in the face of the campaign by the "ultras" and on the point of resigning, the prime minister and his deputy Garcia Hernandez were invited to a shooting party weekend being given by a banker on an estate near Leon in the north-west.

Present were General Vega Rodriguez, head of the 60,000-strong paramilitary Guardia Civil; General Campano, boss of Spain's first military region; General Merry Gordon, head of the Valladolid military division; and several other important military officers.

They told Arias not to bow to the "ultras" who are seeking to restore the harshest fascist discipline on the Spanish working class. These reactionary military leaders

are not in favor of democracy themselves. They are merely worried that the wrong methods will be used to keep the working class at bay and that the quarry may turn nasty and uncontrollable.

Similar fears concern the American ruling class. It is no accident that US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, head of the governing council of 40 which directs the counterrevolutionary operations of the American CIA, has visited Spain no less than five times in the last few months.

Extensive discussions are now going on in Spain headed by US roving ambassador Robert McCloskey who is negotiating an extensive new "security" treaty with the Franco regime.

## MILITARY BASES

Formally, this centers on the continued maintenance of four big US military bases in Spain. But in the secret negotiations, the essential question is preparing an effective counterrevolutionary "capability" in Spain.

Similar extensive negotiations have been conducted by McCloskey next door in Portugal with the continuation of the US base in the Azores as the formal reason for the talks.

These most reactionary capitalist interests may eventually seek to hide behind a "progressive" armed forces front in Spain as they are now doing in Portugal.

The same petty-bourgeois reformist illusions which prop up the AFM in Portugal will be at work in Spain. The Catalan Social Democrat Amadeo Cuito said at the meeting near Barcelona: "When Franco goes, power will fall into the laps of the army and the army has the grave historical responsibility to hand back the sovereignty of the nation to the Spanish people."

Stalinist leader Carrillo has said in advance he welcomes the involvement of the military.

But it was the reactionary Spanish military officer caste which provided General

Franco with his power base for the establishment of fascism in the first place in the Spanish Civil War.

As if to mock the degeneracy of the Spanish Communist Party leaders in welcoming a new generation of military leaders to take over power in Spain, the Falange leader Francisco Labadie at the 41st anniversary rally which signalled the start of the fight-back by the old guard three weeks ago, recalled the class savagery of that military caste.

"There are certain truths which we are not disposed to submit to any debate or to the consideration of any electorate.

"We won a war in order to construct a new state. We will defend the legitimacy of that victory with our teeth and our nails.

"Certain pressure groups which cultivate subversion and ideological terrorism, which represent nothing but make themselves heard, believed that the illness of the head of state would permit them to take over the centers of decision of the state.

"They are badly mistaken. The lesson of a neighboring country is there (meaning Portugal): we will not allow ourselves to be misled about the consequences of political irresponsibility and drawing room experiments."

## ARROGANCE

Labadie's reactionary class arrogance is the essence of the bourgeoisie everywhere. Fascism, and the capitalist system which spawns it, cannot be conquered by the peaceful road of popular front coalition with the "forces of democracy," as the Stalinists pretend. Such a road only leads to the certain return of fascist dictatorship at a later stage.

The way forward in Spain, as everywhere else, can only now be provided by the revolutionary preparation of the taking of power by the working class. This means only one thing: building the revolutionary party as a section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.



## No Settlement In Baltimore Hospital Pacts

BY LARRY SYMONS  
BALTIMORE, Dec. 2—Hospital workers are scheduled to walk out today at three major hospitals in Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, Maryland General Hospital, and the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, unless a new contract agreement is reached.

District 1199E, the hospital workers union, has followed a policy of settling each contract separately. Three hospitals, Sinai, Lutheran and Provident, have already settled.

These agreements provide for a completely inadequate wage increase of \$18 (about 12 percent) the first year, and \$10 the second year. A cost of living adjustment of \$9 will be added the second year.

One of the major demands of the workers is union control over the pension fund. As it stands now Johns Hopkins is using the \$1 million pension fund for investments.

Fred Punch, 1199E President, has set a strike deadline of December 6 at Sinai Hospital unless the dispute over the "most favored nation clause" in the new contract is settled.

This clause allows Sinai to reduce agreed upon pension, health and welfare benefits if they are not matched by the contracts at the other hospitals. Sinai claims this provision also applies to wages which Punch has denied.

But Punch's bargaining policy is designed to aid the employers by dividing the strength of hospital workers in separate contracts.

Hospital workers must demand that the 1199E leaders return to the original demands of a 20 percent wage increase and allow no concessions on a 100 percent cost of living clause.

Union control over the pension fund and an employer funded training program are essential rights that have been won by the union in New York and must be extended to Baltimore.

The rank and file must insist on a unified contract for all hospital workers and a united strike policy.



New York City fire dispatchers demand pay parity with firemen.

## Dispatchers Threaten Action For Pay Parity

BY CYNTHIA BLAKE  
NEW YORK, NY—City fire dispatchers have threatened to begin a job action if the city does not guarantee them pay parity with uniformed firemen and additional manpower.

The 180 dispatchers, who belong to a division of Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, handle over 350,000 fire alarms a year. They are demanding at least 70 additional workers be hired for the borough offices.

These workers are responsible for answering all fire calls from alarm boxes and telephones, allocating the manpower and equipment necessary and communications. In addition, they relay all fire hazard complaints and repair their own extensive network of electronic equipment.

The dispatchers, like airline dispatchers, are under intense pressure. "Everything rests on our shoulders," one man told reporters. "We have all the deci-

sion making to do. If we make the wrong assignment and leave an area uncovered, we could have a tragedy."

The dispatchers' jobs will be made immeasurably more difficult by the city plans to eliminate eight fire companies. Richard J. Vizzini, President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, has said that the city's 10,000 firemen will honor picket lines set up by the dispatchers if they do strike.

This is sure to lead to a confrontation. The state's Taylor Law forbids strikes by public workers.

The Taylor Law's provisions were cited by dispatchers' union President Richard L. Hanrahan in opposing the decision to take "direct action" to force settlement of the contract dispute. Hanrahan resigned his post when he was voted down by the rank and file.

The local's new president, Newton Tanner, also opposes taking action and said he would try to prevent any wildcat action.

## Frigidaire Fires 800 In Dayton

BY  
DOROTHY WRIGHT  
DAYTON, Ohio—800 workers were laid off at General Motors's Frigidaire plant here on November 28.

These workers had just been called back or were newly hired only six weeks ago along with a massive publicity campaign about expansion plans that brought thousands of applicants to Frigidaire's employment office.

At that time the Public Relations Department of Frigidaire told the Bulletin that there was an "increased demand in sales of food freezers" because of the high price of food. They also claimed that demand would be high for the auto air conditioner compressors they make for the 1975 models.

Only two weeks ago, Thomas Murphy, the new chairman of GM, said in Dayton that these plants would not be affected by GM's production cutbacks. This was at a time when layoffs were already beginning at Inland-GM and Delco Moraine.

### DOWNTURN

With the announcement of the 800 layoffs, a Frigidaire spokesman said there was "a sudden downturn in the sale of major home appliances throughout the country."

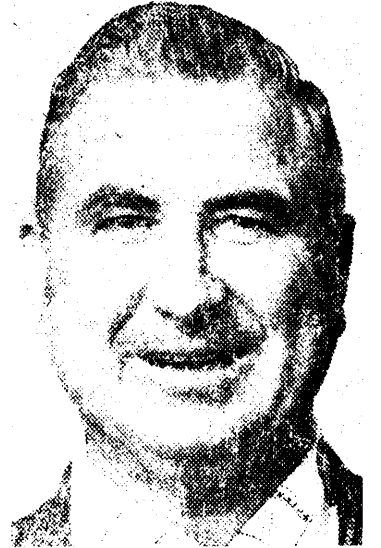
The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers reported that home appliance shipments were off 17 percent nationally for October and down 7 percent for the year.

Frigidaire has been using the unemployment to carry out massive attacks on working conditions. At the same time that new workers have no union protection, the grievance procedure has broken down for all workers.

Speedup and harassment have reached a new high with a record 2,200 grievances being filed in October. In Plants 2 and Plant 1

Sputh, a backlog of several thousand grievances are stalled at one of the four levels and nothing is being settled at the upper level. Over 25 discharge grievances from Plant 2 are still stalled at the appeal stage.

Union representation has further deteriorated because no elections are being held to fill



Hubert Sexton

committeeman vacancies. The contract calls for one committeeman for every 250 workers but the company has been delaying filling the positions by disputes over restricting. In many departments, there is only one committeeman for over 500 workers.

Outgoing IUE Local 801 President Arnold Thompson cancelled the regular union meeting to prevent a discussion on the layoffs. At the same time, Hubert Sexton, incoming president, has not proposed any policy to fight the layoffs or defend the workers from the speedup.

The Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party of Local 801 is demanding an emergency union meeting to fight for a policy of strike action by the IUE, together with the United Auto Workers against the massive attack on jobs. The trade unions must call an emergency congress of labor to mobilize the entire working class to defeat the Ford government and replace it with a labor party.

## MARXISM OR RANK-AND-FILE-ISM?



An Analysis of the Tactics & Strategy of the International Socialism Group. 25¢

Published by the British Workers Revolutionary Party.

Available from Labor Publications, 135 W. 14 St., NY, NY 10011

## TV Layoffs Hit Japan And US Workers

BY A REPORTER  
Quasar Electronics Corporation has announced layoffs of up to four weeks affecting 1,560 workers in three plants. The company says that declining television sales have forced the measures.

Quasar was previously the television operation of Motorola Inc. which was acquired by the giant Japanese Matsushita Electrical Industrial Co.

Matsushita produces Panasonic and National brand TVs, radios, phonos and other appliances with annual sales close to \$5 billion a year.

The company which became one of Japan's largest post-war production complexes has been hit by the world recession and the staggering inflationary increases in energy, raw materials, and capital goods.

Matsushita's appliance sales have declined 25 percent. Millions of dollars worth of ap-

pliances are stashed in warehouses costing the company huge losses in carrying charges.

Last spring Matsushita was forced to grant its employees a 34 percent wage increase to meet the inflation. It claims that similar demands put forward by its workers for 1975 will destroy its international competitiveness.

20 percent of its sales come from exports. The company is preparing a savage attack on its employees who have traditionally enjoyed a virtual guarantee of job safety. Reorganized production methods and massive investment abroad will mean the closure of assembly plants and major layoffs.

Matsushita along with other Japanese manufacturers has been scouring the globe to set up production in countries with lower wage rates such as South Korea, Spain and Iran.

The worldwide trade war has caused many European

countries to slap quotas on Japanese goods.

Matsushita attempted to circumvent this by buying directly into production in these countries. For example it has set up a plant in Wales to be able to sell directly on the British television market.

### OPPOSED

The Motorola venture which was bitterly opposed by RCA and Zenith represented a similar attempt. The slump in the US threatens them with big losses on this \$80 million investment. The fight for the American television market must now become ferocious with Zenith and RCA going all out to destroy their smaller competitors.

Industry sources claim it would take \$150 million to make Quasar competitive in this market. With Matsushita's new financial crisis this could very well mean that Quasar will go to the wall.



# "I WILL VOTE THIS PACT DOWN"

**BY A BULLETIN REPORTING TEAM WHEELING, W. Va.—**Hundreds of miners streamed into the University of Wheeling from all across District 6 to denounce and demonstrate against Miller's mine contract Saturday.

Many were turned away and could not get into the deliberately small room rented for the meeting. The meeting was called to explain Miller's contract and was picketed by angry miners with signs reading, "You've got the apple, we've got the core; if you want the coal, give us some more."

Several hundred miners from Bellaire had just concluded a march on Friday from Nelson's Field in Bellaire to the District office and back in a continuous protest against the contract.

Meanwhile, District leaders closed the local office and refused to meet with strikers.

Stunned by Miller's refusal to bargain for more than a pitiful 17 percent in wages and benefits, miners here are implacably opposed to the contract and now to Miller as well.

What has emerged from this weekend's protest is a movement by a section of miners demanding an immediate union convention to recall Miller and elect a new president.

One of the leaders demanding Miller's ouster told the Bulletin: "If this contract is put through, I

predict that deaths in the mines will double. Now the state and federal men will have their last say so on safety, not the union safety committee.

"I was supposed to be a delegate to the Pittsburgh conference. Miller has broken the constitution to put this contract through.

"If we were in one group, the contract would never have gone back to the ranks. This is like dictatorship.

"It takes only five districts to demand a union convention. We need this now. We refuse to submit to Miller's methods of negotiation. They are giving us one day to discuss the contract.

"I'm in the largest local, with over 700 active miners, and we're not even going to do it. We're going to take two weeks to discuss it at least.

"I figure, for one day, you might as well hand the people the old contract and say that was it."

Faced with the tremendous opposition to the settlement, union officials refused to answer anybody's questions directly at the meeting, but just read out the provisions of the contract.

A miner from Bellaire said, "Officials were just about as 'company' as you can get without being on the payroll. They kept passing the buck.

"I know I will vote this contract down. Miller probably said to the smaller UMWA districts at the convention, 'If you don't like this, we'll take your voting rights away.' This will sure put the pressure on them.

"I don't understand why the government doesn't stay out of it. The government is provoking violence. Now they are opening

scab mines near East Liverpool. This is going to cause violence.

"Sixty-five dollars three years from now is nothing. Sixty-five dollars now would be rosy, but nothing to write home about.

"There's nothing really new in this contract. The government is actually trying to break the union."

## COMPANY

One of the main attacks on union rights in the contract is replacing the safety committee's jurisdiction by government decision. This means the basic decisions will be directly

Over 300 copies of the Bulletin were sold Saturday to miners and their families in West Virginia and Ohio. Nearly 100 of these were sold at the meeting called at the University of Wheeling to explain the contract to District 6 miners.

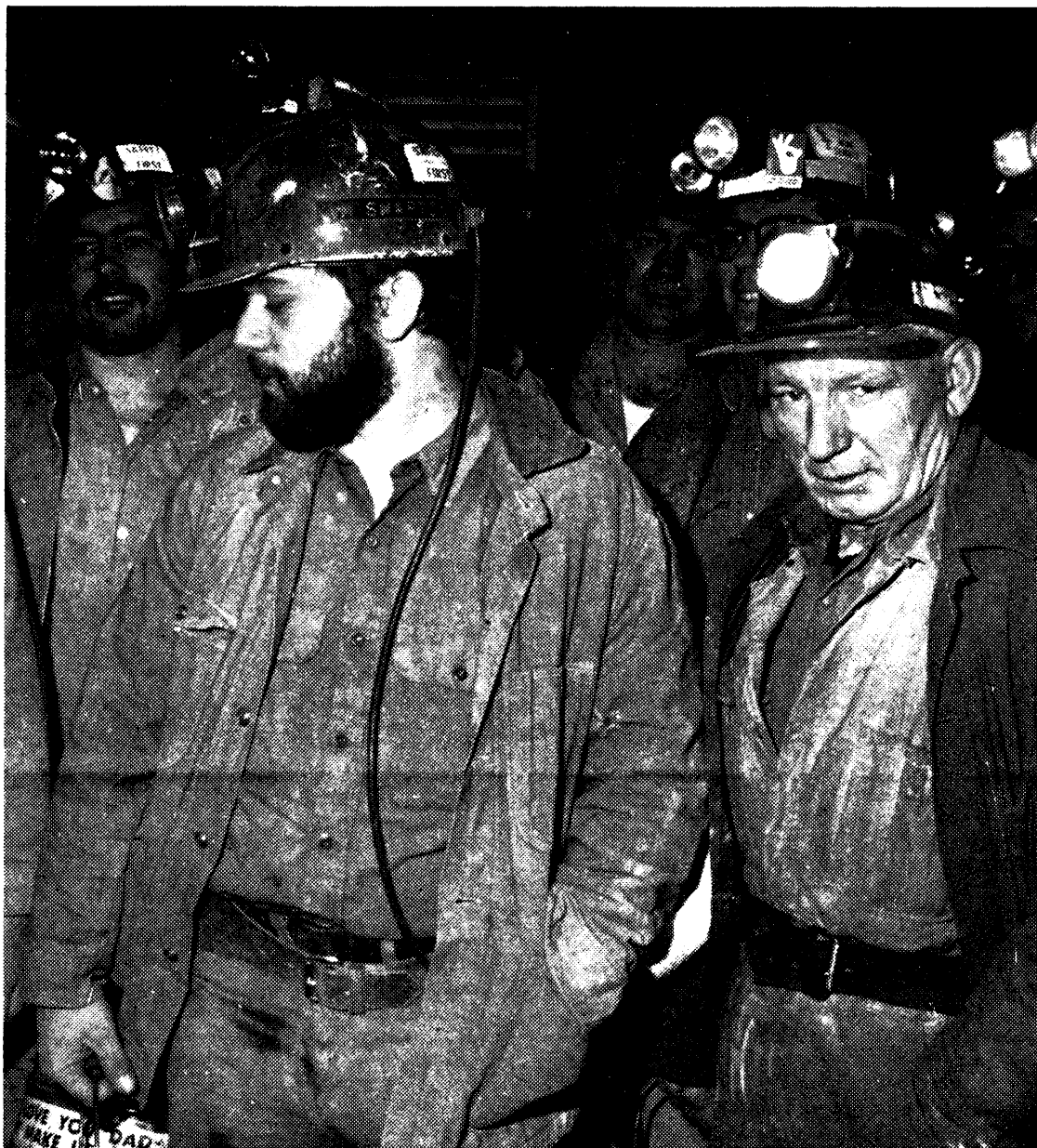
Panicked by the tremendous support for the Bulletin and its principled opposition to the Miller contract, Miller's local goons attacked and beat one salesman.

The local police unsuccessfully tried to set Workers League

supporters up for further attack by encouraging them to sell nearer to the meeting.

Later that evening, union goons tried to block the Workers League car as it traveled back to Ohio along a two-lane highway. They shouted insults as they cut off the car, setting it up for rear-end collisions with other cars on the road.

We demand that the Miller leadership repudiate this attack and oust those in the UMW who are responsible.



## Glass Workers Support Miners

The following is a statement of support to the coal miners strike by Douglas Strong, president of the American Flint Glass Workers Union, Local 507, in Moundsville, West Virginia.

"The young people in this country will not buckle under. We have needed a working class party for a long time, to fight not for the profits of the companies but for the working type of people.

"All of labor should be behind the miners now. In fact, I think within 5 years all of the unions in the country will be out on strike together.

"I have to express my objection to Miller's saying that that was a good contract. How could he say this would pass the bargaining committee? That contract surprised the miners because there was nothing in it that they expected.

"The cost of living has got to be essential. The corporations can raise their prices at any time, they don't live on a contract. The economy doesn't live by a contract.

"I feel particularly that the Taft-Hartley Law must be ripped up, burned up and thrown away. It's completely against the working people.

"Our eight-week long strike was done in by the International leadership here, so I really have something to say about the role of the Internationals. I've worked at Fosteria Glass for 5 years and recently they have begun really speeding up production, laying off, and getting one person to do the work of two. Foremen in various departments have also been trying to take over production jobs.

"In the course of our strike, the ranks were solid and we had the company where we wanted them. An Avon order for glass was coming in and if the strike was to continue, Fosteria would lose the order. Avon is one of the largest accounts.

"Then the International came down, and scared the workers and convinced some that they better go back to work. I feel if we would have met with the bargaining committee four more hours or stayed out a week or two more, we would have had everything we needed. As it was we did not even get the cost of living.

"We will not let the companies bring scab coal in here. A year ago, the Upper Ohio United Labor Committee shut down the valley to defend striking utility workers and we held a huge rally at the football stadium. The miners were with us on this, they were all involved. The courts and companies tried all kinds of injunctions and got the NLRB involved, but were unsuccessful in stopping us. Now if necessary we'll do the same thing to defend the miners and we'll add a day to it each time we have to shut the valley down."

controlled by the company.

"The state and federal officials have to be on the take. The companies owe billions in fines which are never paid. The Chief Judge in District 6 to which safety cases are appealed used to be on the law staff of Consolidated Coal. You never win a grievance from the government.

"When you have a complaint on safety, they call in the state and federal men, who say 'There's no imminent danger.' Now with this 'no right to strike' clause, men will be fired right and left."

A man from Harlan County even came up to this meeting. He was very concerned about safety. In Harlan County, the inspectors have actually let the motormen run one car without brakes. The men had to do it or be fired.

"This contract will be like being in prison every day. We're not going to be able to say when the conditions are unsafe."

A miner from the Valley Camp Mine said, "Nine dollars over three years is not living up to his word. Miller is just like the rest of them, just getting what he can to look good.

"Money-wise, we're getting screwed. Tuesday morning, we're supposed to meet and go over a document of over a hun-

dred pages to vote? That's not enough time.

"Last time, coal miners said, 'next time.' Now it's here and the leaders are saying 'next time.' Well, it's here, and we know what we need."

Another miner from Moundsville, West Virginia, who worked in the mines 22 years, said, "Two years ago, a coal car ran over me. Someone had just been killed in the same mine a week earlier.

## SLICED

"The car cut me and sliced me and broke my back. When you get hurt, they act like they don't know you. I never got a cent from the union, and my state compensation runs out soon.

"I also have black lung, but I can't receive any benefits because I already get state disability. We thought that Miller was going to fight for us, but when I sent him the forms to receive the benefits, I never heard from them. I called the District 6 office, and no one knows anything about it, or won't say if they do.

"If we let the company get ahead this time, then we have lost forever."

Miners are extremely skeptical that Miller will count the votes accurately. His compliance with the government's

attempt to strong-arm the union into a sellout contract is deeply resented by the men.

A miner from Glencoe, Ohio, said, "I really had my hopes up on this contract, I even put off getting new glasses so I could get them with our new benefits. Now, who knows?"

"With all I've heard and seen of Miller, I'm not satisfied. Now they're trying to settle the strike quick. They'll announce ratification, but it may be a couple of months before we know if it really passed, and what's in it. I think Miller is playing ball for someone, somebody made that contract up. I think maybe President Ford. I know I'm not satisfied with it."

## FORD

Another miner said, "The right to strike isn't for President Miller or President Ford to decide. We're going to turn this local out if they push this thing through.

"My brother-in-law works in Pittsburgh Steel. What they should do is come out with us. But they've got them confused. We've got to get some leaders in there who would take them out with us.

"This is what your miner in Wheeling, West Virginia, needs. That's what your auto worker in Detroit needs."





Soldiers in the Armed Forces Movement arresting a member of the fascist secret police force after the April 25 coup. Today, soldiers and sailors must arrest their own officers who conspire with the fascists against the working class.

# Portugal Army Plans Repression

On the Spot Report  
from Roger Smith  
in Lisbon

**LISBON, Nov. 20—**  
Amidst rumors of another counter-coup from the right, Portugal's third Provisional Government is facing a political crisis.

So great are the economic problems, so bankrupt the capitalist economy, that the bourgeoisie can temporize no longer.

The government of General Costa Gomez—the third since the fall of the fascist dictatorship on April 25—has proved itself incapable of driving back the demands of the working class for jobs, wages, housing and better conditions.

The capitalist class must call a halt to compromise and face the working class head on.

The question is, will the present Provisional Government do the job now, or will a coup be necessary?

All week there has been feverish activity in the Presidential Palace, prompted by an open attack by the paper of the Armed Forces Movement on the Ministry of the Economy for vacillation.

And in the last two days rumors have been rife of preparations for a coup.

I have received information that forces of the PIDE, the

hated fascist secret police force, have been gathering at the frontiers and in Campo Maior, Herdade de Castro, Citio dos Ilhas in Alentejo.

The entry of arms into the country is known by COPCON and the civil governor of Evora dismisses this as unimportant.

The Stalinist weekly paper Avante issued a statement calling for calm and vigilance, to trust the Armed Forces Movement, and not to take to the barricades.

On Saturday, the Provisional Government, announced its solution to the economic crisis.

It is a declaration of emergency powers that can be implemented in the event of a paralysis or breakdown in the economy, partially or totally.

They are sweeping, on a war-footing and make the corporate state a liberal's dream.

In a state of emergency, that is whenever it decides, the government has powers to requisition goods, services and supplies.

These include water, transport, electricity, mines, postal services, telecommunications, rail, road transport, air transport, production and distribution of food, essential industry, hospitals, drugs, ship building and funerals.

Either the armed forces, or the appropriate ministries, sanctioned by the military, can demand such requisition and their authority will be total.

Any worker over 18 years will be pressganged into service. Anyone who refuses is classed as

a deserter and tried accordingly. It is absolute military rule through all sections of the economy.

These are the measures for a state of civil war on the working class.

The Stalinists tied hand and foot to the Armed Forces Movement, must have endorsed this.

Stalinist leader Alvaro Cunhal is minister in the Provisional Government and no dissenting voice has been heard. They will go all the way to defend the rule of capital over the working class.

The question for the ruling class is whether the Stalinists earn their keep or not. Will they be able to act as successful policemen of workers or has their role been outlived?

This government has already shown its teeth, broken strikes and evicted occupations with its special COPCON force.

Arrests and oppression of left-wing groups is already underway.

Eleven members of the Maoist MRPP movement are at this moment jailed, their houses broken into and searched.

Since the MRPP's counter-demonstration against an extreme-right youth meeting on November 4, which COPCON and police broke up with tear gas, baton charges and live ammunition, Maoist militants have been arrested.

One student who was shot in the stomach on that demonstration (which has never been ad-

mitted by the government or newspapers) and is still in hospital critically ill, has been constantly harassed by COPCON who check every day whether he is fit enough to be taken to jail.

All those who were injured had their homes broken into and those they could find arrested—the hospitals supplying their names and addresses.

One soldier is in Santarem jail. He is not allowed visits by parents or friends.

On November 6 COPCON broke into the home of José Luis Sandanha Sanches, the editor of Luta Popular, the banned Maoist weekly.

Unable to find him, they arrested his girl friend, Maria José Morgado.

She was taken to Tires jail where she was forced to share a cell with the very PIDE women who had tortured her under Caetano.

One of these fascists is reported to have said: "Things can't be as bad as I thought now that they are arresting communists."

Rather than denounce and mobilize against this blatant suppression of working class rights, the Stalinists lead the witch-hunt.

This is the hour of gravest danger for the working class, who must prepare to fight the counter-revolution.

This government and its agents, the Stalinists and social democrats, are unmasked as the real face of capital in crisis,

which promises total oppression and complete military dictatorship.

All talk of a "defense of democracy" is the glove to hide the mailed fist that must strike.

Workers and peasants must form immediately their own militia to defend themselves and their rights and defeat the counter-revolution.

The Junta and its Provisional Government must be forced out of office by an indefinite General Strike.

The Stalinists and Socialists must break from the government, the military and bourgeoisie and take the power.

Soldiers and sailors must arrest officers who collaborate with fascists and the repressions against the working class. They must join with workers' militias to defeat the forces of repression.

This economic crisis can only be solved for the working class and farmers by the nationalization of the land estates, banks and major industries without compensation and under the control of workers, peasants and agricultural workers.

Nothing can be solved for workers in industry or land, no right guaranteed, no job secure without the struggle for power through the building of the Revolutionary Party.

This must be a fight to bring an end to capital and all the vicious oppression, pauperization, brutalization it has meted out to the workers and peasants of Portugal.



**DATELINE LISBON**

**SUCH  
OCCUPATIONS  
ARE  
ILLEGAL**

Number one Rua Lacerda de Almeida is not particularly prepossessing. It's a gray, peeling, dingy apartment block in the suburbs of Lisbon. The windows are dirty and there are no curtains at them.

It has stood empty for a number of years. It's not the sort of building you'd notice particularly.

Except that outside on Wednesday, November 13 stood four armed soldiers in battle dress with walkie-talkies.

They were young conscripts, lounging, talking casually to each other. In the doorway stood their rifles. They were guarding the house and it was clear no one was to go in, especially the working families who had occupied the building the day before, demanding the right to live there.

The families had held out for 11 hours before the squad arrived and evicted them.

The troops were from COPCON, the elite military corps created especially by the government and used to break strikes. They had arrived that morning with orders to clear everybody out. There was not a lot of resistance, shouting from the women mainly, and the old ones came quietly. Apparently in some of the other houses the occupiers had refused to leave. It made the job more difficult.

The soldiers were smoking now. The street was quiet. No, they didn't mind talking to me. They looked one from another, silently elected a spokesman, and he stepped forward, leaned against a parked car, swinging the walkie-talkie between his legs. I suppose he was about 20, dark, lively eyes, very articulate, a professional football player in civilian life.

From the outset it was obvious his sympathies lay with the families he had just evicted. He thought the housing conditions were appalling. Families live in wooden shanty towns, with no light, sanitation, water.

"There's empty houses and flats all over Lisbon and people living in hovels. A lot of these places were built for the fascists. They were the only ones who got decent houses. People feel strongly about it. I don't blame them."

Our interview began to attract some attention from passers-by. The other soldiers who stood by listened very intently. He smiled occasionally. A car pulled up and a man got out, leaving his wife in the front seat. He was shifty, ingratiating, nervous. He was the landlord, wore a black tie and a faded tweed coat. His teeth were big.

"Oh," he protested looking

nervously at me. "My house is not suitable for people to live in. It's been empty you see. No, not that long. Two years that's all. I have plans for it. To decorate, make it fit for people to live in."

"And then you'll put up the rent," says the soldier. "You will."

The landlord hovers, makes a quick uncertain tour of the pavement then gets back into the car. "Thank you," he says to the soldier then drives off.

**EVICTED**

"I think we should get rid of all landlords and nationalize the land. What do you think?"

The soldier smiles: "I don't like landlords."

Two women were standing close by, with arms folded. One was dark, stocky, placid looking, about 35. I tell her I'm from a newspaper and could I talk to her.

It was one of those rare transformations, that rarely reveal the revolutionary content of Portugal. She's been standing there, thoughtful, feeling defeated, because she was one of the women who had been evicted that morning. Suddenly she became alive, angry, passionate, articulate.

She poured out her contempt for landlords, her hatred at the lousy shanty she lives in with her husband and children and yet another family. Two cramped rooms banged together out of tin and scrap wood, waterless, no lavatory, no electricity. For seven years she lived there. And she saw for those same seven years houses and flats that were empty. She had to live like that and they were empty. And she couldn't live there because a landlord owned it and said she couldn't. And she wanted a decent place for her kids. And houses were empty. So a group of them decided to take them over. Because they had a right to. Because they needed somewhere decent to live.

And the crowd begins to gather, by some bush telegraph. All the women who had occupied that morning, all talking and shouting at once.

—I have the right to live in a house.

—I could eat them. All of them.

—I know houses that have been empty for 18 years.

—It's like that all over Lisbon.

—They say this house isn't fit to live in. I tell you it's a lot better than what we've got now.

—The landlord's a fascist.

—How can you live all in one room. Washing's impossible. Sex is impossible.

—People who have money only want to eat more.

Suddenly it is an animated, passionate and angry group. The soldiers begin to get restless, uncertain what they've got on their hands. Apologetic, too.

—I'm going to arrange houses for all the people.



—We'll occupy it again.

I drove about a quarter of a mile away, off the main road and down a rutted track. It was like a derelict allotment with row upon row which at first sight looked like boxes, or the kind of camp we used to make as kids on bomb sites. Out of scrap, bits of wood, box tops, tiles, sheet tin. Washing lines everywhere. No drains. But tiny gardens with the odd chicken, a cote of pigeons in one. Lean dogs. Families lived

here. Workers. And their parents. And their dark-eyed kids played on the road. This was where the women who had occupied lived.

**SHANTY**

Thirty thousand families in Lisbon live in these shanty towns.

About half an hour later I passed by No. 1 Rua Lacerda de Almeida. The crowd was still there. This time police were

reinforcing the army. "It's just routine" said the soldier.

And in the evening the government, consisting of the military, the social democrats, and the Stalinists, issued the following statement: "Today, forces of COPCON evicted families who had occupied a number of houses, which were not in a safe condition for living. Troops intervened in defense of the rights of the owners. Such occupations are illegal."

**MINERS . . .**

(Continued From Page 1)

Gary Goode, of Local 5997 in neighboring Welch, told the Bulletin, "Somebody has put an awful lot of pressure on Miller to ram through this contract. Miller seems almost to welcome intervention by the government. He is trying to scare us with the government, when miners have a better chance than ever to win what they want."

"We can't accept this contract because it actually sends us backwards. For example, there is a sentence in the vacation section which abolishes 'past practice and custom.' That means they will be staggering everyone's vacation."

"There are a lot of hidden paragraphs in this contract, which were written by the coal operators."

"I backed Miller in 1972. He seemed like the only answer we had. Now he's completely changed his attitude in the last 80 days. It's almost as if he were a different person. It may come to the point where he'll be removed by the miners."

Despite a snowstorm, miners came to a meeting in the small hamlet of Wyco to discuss the contract. They were unanimously opposed to it.

Clifton Grapham, a member of Local 6110 with 35 years in the mines, stated, "I just feel that the older men are not getting what they ought to and that's why I'll vote this down."

Grin Whitt, a member of the same local and a miner for 24 years, declared, "Miller will have to do better if they want any coal mined again in this country."

"Miller thinks coal miners aren't going to hold out, but they will."

An extremely close vote is forecast. The rejection of this contract by the UMW ranks will signify an important victory for the entire working class. It will be a powerful blow against the collaboration of the trade union bureaucracy with the plans of the government to impose the full weight of the economic crisis on the backs of workers through wage cutting, layoffs and speedup.

But the threat of government intervention requires that miners have a policy to defeat the government. The continuation of the strike must be linked to a political mobilization of the miners and all workers against the government through the construction of a labor party.

The immediate task before such a labor party would be the right to defend decent living standards and jobs through the nationalization of the mines and all basic industry under the control of the working class.

The fight for these policies requires the building of a Marxist leadership inside the UMW.

Miners must now fight for the support of the trade union movement to continue the strike to win:

- An across the board 25 percent wage increase and a 100 percent escalator clause.

- The full right to strike over all issues.

- Rejection of all productivity deals and a \$500 a month pension after 20 years for all miners.

**SERVICES . . .**

(Continued From Page 1)

signed to push all the costs of this crisis onto the American working class. Demands in Congress from both the Democratic and Republican parties are for a new wage freeze to straitjacket the powerful American labor movement.

The trade union movement must act. Every gain won since the struggles of the 1930s is now threatened with destruction. The labor bureaucracy through its refusal to mobilize the strength of the unions against the government is handing Ford precious time to proceed with his plans for mass unemployment.

The trade unions must take the lead in defending the social services. It is only the power of the labor movement that can defend the poor and the aged against these attacks.

Labor must fight for a vast expansion of social services with billions for welfare, medical care, education and social security.

This can only be carried out in the struggle to defend jobs, wages, and the rights of the unions in a political fight against the Ford government.

Workers must campaign in every trade union local to demand an emergency congress of labor to mobilize the working class for a political fight for power by building an independent labor party to throw out the Democrats and Republicans.

Only a workers government based on socialist policies of nationalization of all industries under workers control can defend jobs for all, the expansion of services, and a decent standard of living.





# lucha obrera DEFENDAMOS OBREROS EN HUELGA

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nal si los sabotajes continuaban y si las negociaciones con el fin de terminar la huelga de la AAA fracasaban.

Durante la primera semana de la huelga, líderes de la Unión Independentista Auténtica (UIA) que rehusaron suspender la huelga fueron encarcelados. Fue debido a la movilización de la clase obrera puertorriqueña demandando una huelga general, que liberaron a los líderes sindicales.

## PUERTO RICO: MOVILIZAN GUARDIA NACIONAL



Obreros de la AAA llevan un mes en huelga para defender sus derechos.

te años han luchado por ganar el reconocimiento y derechos sindicales. Esta es la sección de la

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Pedro Grant, coordinador del Movimiento Obrero Unido (MOU), federación sindical que abarca 42 uniones, ha amenazado con una huelga general si la Guardia Nacional es usada para romper la huelga de la AAA.

Representantes de las uniones han declarado que sus miembros no están envueltos en sabotajes. Estos son los pretextos que usa el gobierno para arrestar militantes obreros, fomentar la histeria y movilizar la represión armada contra los trabajadores.

Un gran porcentaje de la población está boicoteando el pago a la Autoridad de Acueductos ya que los recibos son extraordinariamente altos. El gobierno planea elevar el precio del agua un 25 por ciento más que el actual.

El triunfo de la Huelga de la AAA señalaría una victoria en la lucha de los trabajadores gubernamentales por organizarse. De allí la necesidad del gobierno de tratar de derrotar esta huelga utilizando abiertamente los medios represivos del estado, la policía, las cortes y ahora, la Guardia Nacional.

Esta amenaza del gobierno debe de ser contestada con una huelga general, con el rompimiento de la clase obrera con los partidos políticos burgueses y la construcción de un partido obrero independiente que luche con demandas socialistas.

- Defendamos el derecho de todo trabajador gubernamental de tener su unión.
- Por una huelga general en defensa de la huelga de la AAA.
- Por la nacionalización de las industrias bajo control obrero.
- Por un Partido Obrero basado en todos los sectores obreros con un programa socialista.

## ECONOMIA PARTE 2

¿POR QUE EL ORO JUGO UN PAPEL CENTRAL EN ESTOS DESARROLLOS?

El oro es la forma de dinero aceptada universalmente. Es lo que Marx llama la "mercancía dinero"—es decir, la mercancía contra la cual se mide el valor de todas las otras mercancías.

El oro llega a esta posición históricamente en el desarrollo de la sociedad de clases. El oro fue escogido como el patrón de la medida del valor debido a sus propiedades de durabilidad, apariencia atractiva y que concentra grandes cantidades de trabajo en un espacio pequeño.

Los acuerdos de Bretton Woods en 1944 fueron un intento de romper con el dominio del oro en la economía capitalista: imprimiendo papel moneda los capitalistas creían poder evitar la bancarrota de su propio sistema.

Esta inflación podía ser controlada hasta cierto punto siempre y cuando el dólar permaneciese fijo con respecto al oro a través de la garantía del Tesoro de los Estados Unidos de vender oro a \$35 la onza.

Cuando esta relación se rompió, el papel moneda en circulación se devaluó frente al oro mientras que el precio en el mercado libre subió. Con la inflación aumentando todo el tiempo, el valor de todos los ahorros en papel moneda, etc., está devaluándose constantemente.

La incapacidad del capitalismo para abolir el uso del oro como moneda no es más que una expresión de las contradicciones básicas del capitalismo que puede resolverse solo a través de su destrucción revolucionaria.

¿CUAL FUE LA RAZON DE LA CAIDA DEL GOBIERNO ITALIANO Y POR QUE ITALIA ESTA "AL BORDE DE LA QUIEBRA"?

La caída del gobierno italiano se produjo por una división en la coalición gobernante. El Partido Socialista, que gobernaba con los Demócrata Cristianos y los Demócratas Sociales con el apoyo de los Liberales, rehusó aceptar un conjunto de cortes económicos.

Estos cortes estaban dirigidos a destruir el nivel de vida de la clase obrera, aumentando el precio de la gasolina a \$2.50 el galón, y aumentando el impuesto a los televisores y otras mercancías. Estas medidas fueron demandadas por los banqueros e industriales como un mínimo absoluto.

En los últimos dos años, desde que la Lira (moneda italiana) se puso a flotar en 1972, el gobierno italiano ha pedido prestado más de \$10,000 millones. El dinero se ha usado para cubrir el creciente déficit de su balanza de pagos.

Esta ha crecido enormemente a partir de la guerra de octubre en el Medio Oriente, cuando el precio del petróleo se cuadruplicó. El déficit actual es mayor a \$1250 millones mensuales. ¡Italia está en la bancarrota!

El país puede mantenerse solo por algunos meses más, gracias a la decisión de Washington de permitir que el gobierno italiano pida prestado usando como garantía sus reservas de oro. Lo más que se puede hacer es proveer un respiro para la preparación de guerra civil entre las clases.

Enfrentándose a la fortaleza de la clase obrera, que se mueve rápidamente hacia la izquierda, los capitalistas italianos recorren cada día más a los servicios de grupos fascistas y bandas terroristas, que tienen vínculos con algunas secciones de la maquinaria estatal.

Los eventos italianos muestran el futuro de los trabajadores en toda Europa. El capitalismo británico se encuentra en una crisis aún mayor y la amenaza de la bancarrota estatal también está en la agenda británica.

Esta decisión fue basada en un período de 5 días que el gobierno dio de plazo para llegar a un acuerdo que finalizara la huelga.

La UIA pide el doble del presupuesto que el gobierno ha dispuesto para la agencia.

El verdadero propósito de la Guardia Nacional, es romper la huelga y obligar a los obreros a aceptar el contrato que no ofrece ninguna protección, ni de sus empleos ni de su nivel de vida. La inflación en la isla es del 23 por ciento anual.

Esta es la segunda vez que el gobernador llama a la Guardia Nacional contra huelgas de obreros estatales. La primera vez fue contra la huelga de los electricistas.

Los obreros estatales constituyen cerca de un tercio de la fuerza laboral en la isla y duran-

## Beame Amenaza Vida De Bomberos y Trabajadores

POR CYNTHIA BLAKE  
New York, NY—La eliminación de ocho compañías de bomberos para el 14 de diciembre, como la primera fase de cortes presupuestales del alcalde Beame, amenaza la vida de los bomberos y de miles de trabajadores.

Los cortes eliminarán tres compañías de rescate (camión con escalera) en tres estaciones y la compañía de bomba en otras dos estaciones. También habrá cortes de los servicios auxiliares como comunicaciones y tanques de oxígeno.

Las áreas más afectadas son el Sur de Bronx, el Barrio, Fort Green y East New York, donde los incendios son más frecuentes.

Los bomberos de la compañía 19-2 en el Barrio, explicaron al Bulletin que los cortes se habían hecho tratando de aparentar que incluye solo equipo antiguo, cuando en realidad va a afectar directamente la lucha contra el fuego y especialmente las operaciones de rescate.

La compañía de bomba, de 30 hombres más o menos, está encargada de combatir el fuego. Ellos necesitan de la compañía de rescate para usar las escaleras.

Un bombero que va a ser trasladado fuera del Barrio dijo que las bombas saldrán solas cuando haya un incendio y tendrán que llamar a una compañía de rescate de otra estación. Dijo que:

"El servicio será más lento y son esos minutos los que matan a la gente. Solo se pueden vivir cuatro minutos sin oxígeno."



Bomberos pertenecientes al 19-1 y al 19-2 quienes serán afectados por los cortes del presupuesto.

El capitán de la compañía llamó a los cortes "un crimen" contra la comunidad.

Y otro hombre añadió: "Ponga en su reporte que este es un doble crimen porque estas áreas son las más densas y recién han empezado a ocuparse los nuevos edificios. Dentro de poco, habrán miles más que contarán con nosotros."

Los residentes de la vecindad no esconden su enojo.

La Sra Bartoli, dueña de una pequeña tienda, que vive en esa calle desde 1905 dijo:

"Es algo terrible lo que este hombre (Beame) nos está haciendo. En la última semana hubo dos incendios en el 211. Dos veces en una semana la misma gente pudo morir si no hubiese estado la compañía aquí."

Carmela Regino, una trabajadora joven de la comunidad, circuló una petición demandando que la compañía 19-2 permanezca en la calle 111.

Dijo que "no sé si tendrá algún resultado, pero algo se tiene que hacer."

Los líderes de la Asociación de Bomberos Uniformados están bajo custodia por dirigir un paro de cinco horas el otoño pasado y

serán encarcelados si los bomberos se declaran en Huelga.

A la vez, la prensa ha renovado sus cínicos ataques culpando a los bomberos de no tener ninguna consideración por la comunidad.

Los bomberos nos dijeron: "Somos como una organización militar en este departamento. Solo podemos obedecer órdenes. Los presupuestos y el resto está en manos de los políticos."

"Hablar con Uds. es una manera de luchar. No sabemos si seremos "victimizadas" por hacerlo, pero los trabajadores y las uniones tienen que luchar estos cortes presupuestales."

La defensa de los servicios vitales de la clase obrera y la defensa del empleo y condiciones de trabajo requiere de un fin inmediato de la colaboración con Beame y tomar medidas en cada local para irse a la huelga.

Las uniones representando a los trabajadores de la ciudad deben demandar del Consejo Central de los Trabajadores la huelga general si los cortes son implementados y luchar por un congreso de los trabajadores para construir un partido obrero con un programa socialista.





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**POR CYNTHIA BLAKE**

New York, NY—La eliminación de ocho compañías de bomberos para el 14 de diciembre, como la primera fase de cortes presupuestales del alcalde Beame, amenaza la vida de los bomberos y de miles de trabajadores.

Los cortes eliminarán tres compañías de rescate (camión con escalera) en tres estaciones y la compañía de bomba en otras dos estaciones. También habrá cortes de los servicios auxiliares como comunicaciones y tanques de oxígeno.

Las áreas más afectadas son el Sur de Bronx, el Barrio, Fort Green y East New York, donde los incendios son más frecuentes.

Los bomberos de la compañía 19-2 en el Barrio, explicaron al Bulletin que los cortes se habían hecho tratando de aparentar que incluye solo equipo antiguo, cuando en realidad va a afectar directamente la lucha contra el fuego y especialmente las operaciones de rescate.

La compañía de bomba, de 30 hombres más o menos, está encargada de combatir el fuego. Ellos necesitan de la compañía de rescate para usar las escaleras.

Un bombero que va a ser trasladado fuera del Barrio dijo que las bombas saldrán solas cuando haya un incendio y tendrán que llamar a una compañía de rescate de otra estación. Dijo que:

"El servicio será más lento y son esos minutos los que matan a la gente. Solo se pueden vivir cuatro minutos sin oxígeno."



Bomberos pertenecientes al 19-1 y al 19-2 quienes serán afectados por los cortes del presupuesto.

El capitán de la compañía llamó a los cortes "un crimen" contra la comunidad.

Y otro hombre añadió: "Ponga en su reporte que este es un doble crimen porque estas áreas son las más densas y recién han empezado a ocuparse los nuevos edificios. Dentro de poco, habrán miles más que contarán con nosotros."

Los residentes de la vecindad no esconden su enojo.

La Sra Bartoli, dueña de una pequeña tienda, que vive en esa calle desde 1905 dijo:

"Es algo terrible lo que este hombre (Beame) nos está haciendo. En la última semana hubo dos incendios en el 211. Dos veces en una semana la misma gente pudo morir si no hubiese estado la compañía aquí."

Carmela Regino, una trabajadora joven de la comunidad, circuló una petición demandando que la compañía 19-2 permanezca en la calle 111.

Dijo que "no sé si tendrá algún resultado, pero algo se tiene que hacer."

Los líderes de la Asociación de Bomberos Uniformados están bajo custodia por dirigir un paro de cinco horas el otoño pasado y

serán encarcelados si los bomberos se declaran en Huelga.

A la vez, la prensa ha renovado sus cínicos ataques culpando a los bomberos de no tener ninguna consideración por la comunidad.

Los bomberos nos dijeron: "Somos como una organización militar en este departamento. Solo podemos obedecer órdenes. Los presupuestos y el resto está en manos de los políticos."

"Hablar con Uds. es una manera de luchar. No sabemos si seremos "victimizadas" por hacerlo, pero los trabajadores y las uniones tienen que luchar estos cortes presupuestales."

La defensa de los servicios vitales de la clase obrera y la defensa del empleo y condiciones de trabajo requiere de un fin inmediato de la colaboración con Beame y tomar medidas en cada local para irse a la huelga.

Las uniones representando a los trabajadores de la ciudad deben demandar del Consejo Central de los Trabajadores la huelga general si los cortes son implementados y luchar por un congreso de los trabajadores para construir un partido obrero con un programa socialista.