



# Workers' Action

5 cents

ISSUE NO. 1

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR A LABOR PARTY

JULY 1968

## 10,000 FRENCH AUTO WORKERS WALK OUT AGAIN TO CONTROL LINE SPEED

After this June's French General Strike was over, 10,000 French auto workers at the Renault Flins plant walked out AGAIN after being back for less than two days. (S.F. Chronicle, 6-68).

The major issue this time was that the employer (the French government) had established a speedup (instead of hiring more men!) to make up for the reduction in hours won during the General Strike. Also, the company refused to renew the workers local contracts.

These men were among the first to walk out and occupy their factories!

The Renault factory is nationalized. Nationalization without WORKERS CONTROL is not a full solution!



FREMONT - (FRANCE)

On the line with French-GM assemblers carrying red flag.

## GM NOT PAYING ITS DUES!

The auto workers at GM France were quoted during the strike as saying "GM is a powerful corporation and is not paying nearly as much as they should."

We see by the papers that Walter Reuther is planning an "informal" joint organizing drive in cooperation with the Teamsters and possibly others. Such an effort will probably be better for the unorganized than no union - but what we really need is an all out fight to improve working conditions for the organized as well as the unorganized! (We need a negotiated line speed now!)

We can expect no real help from the Boss' political friends such as Democratic Party politicians - we need our own political arm.

We can learn much from the French auto workers!

### IN THIS ISSUE -

articles by and about workers in:

Auto  
Warehouse  
Teamsters  
Construction  
Office Workers  
Shipyards  
Seamen  
Social Service  
Carpenters

## WHO WILL BE NEXT?



Today's Action: Black Militants face bayonets. All workers have a stake in the outcome.

## WORKERS IN FRANCE SEIZE FACTORIES

Workers and students in France have re-opened a revolutionary struggle which had disappeared from modern Europe since right after World War II. For almost a month, as many as 10 million French workers carried on a general strike. They completely shut the country down. Right now, the largest part of the strike is over, but many important strikes, especially in the privately-owned auto plants, are still going on. The crisis the strike produced in French politics will remain for some time to come.

The strike destroyed the myth that wage-workers have joined their employers by becoming "middle-class" themselves. Rank and file teachers, radio and TV announcers and technicians - even actors and writers - went on strike along with longshoremen, seamen, auto workers, etc. The workers' red flag of revolution, first raised as a workers' symbol in the great French Revolution of 1789, flew from the tops of occupied plants and factories. The key slogan of the strike was "workers' power."

Before the strike, most of the news we got about France had to do with the latest crimes of DeGaulle, that buffoonish old general who likes to horde U.S. gold. Now all we hear is how happy we should be that DeGaulle is still in power! The generals who rule America, that is, General Motors, General Electric, General Mills, etc., know the danger of "workers' power" in any language!

### "PROSPERITY" FOR WORKERS?

The strike also tore into the lie of "working-class prosperity" - the myth that workers in the advanced Western nations have a big enough slice of the pie to be satisfied with the system. At the French General Motors plant in the Paris suburb of Gennevilliers, a top-scale machine operator makes the equivalent of \$1.28 to \$1.44 an hour for a 45-hour week, while lower, unskilled categories make only about \$100 a month! (See article on French GM elsewhere in this issue) French workers, just like us, are bugged by inflation eating up

their paychecks and worsening conditions on the job.

This tremendous strike - the largest general strike in history - really stood out because it came from the grass roots without organized leadership. All the established leaders of the workers tried to avoid it, and supported it only when they were forced to. Even when they had accepted the inevitable, they tried for a quick "victory" negotiation. But the ranks weren't buying. They were as ready to take over the country as workers can be without the revolutionary political leadership needed for the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## REBEL TEAMOS

Rank and File members of San Francisco Main Drivers Local 385 put out a paper, The Rebel, for about three years, until recently. They may resume publishing - we hope they do!

A couple of months ago a member of #85 was complaining about the local election procedures at the union meeting. He was disgusted! He said, "I'm ashamed to belong to a union that runs an election like the one we just had."

The next day the union picards sent him a withdrawal card. He cannot drive out of the local at present. He went to pay his dues with witnesses, but the officials wouldn't accept his dues.

A protest is being considered by the Western Conference of Teamsters.

by a Leather Apron

### BROTHERS AND SISTERS!

We want to encourage rank-and-file movements for better unions. We have definite ideas on what generally needs to be done. (See our program - pg. 2). We aren't trying to dictate to anyone how to conduct their struggle. You know your scene and you have to live with the result. We do want to make it easier to exchange news about our struggles. Some of us can come up with ideas that others can use!

Editorial Board

## The Panthers Are Only the First!



HUEY NEWTON

## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHERS

We have all heard about the Black Panthers, or read about them in the newspapers, but how many of us really know what they are all about and what they stand for?

The newspapers tell us the "Panthers are a gang of thieves and cop-killers who are out to create violence and murder white people." NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!

Huey Newton and Bobby Seale organized the Panthers for the purpose of stopping and controlling violence - not creating it. Sure, their aim was to POLICE the COPS, but COPS ARE THE CHIEF SOURCE OF VIOLENCE IN THE BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS! THE PANTHERS BEGIN

The Panthers began by patrolling the cops and watching for any breach of legality or improper behavior. They angered the cops considerably, since they are accustomed to freely playing the role of judge, jury and executioner

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## COLGATE SIT-DOWN BRINGS RESULTS

Recently there was a spontaneous sit-down strike in the warehouse department of the Berkeley-Colgate plant (Local 6 - ILWU - Oakland.)

Management sent a worker to the office for "discipline" for allegedly writing "F---" on a pallet. ALL his fellow-workers in the department (including the old timers) stopped work and sat down, without hesitating. The brother was released!

Now management is photographing all pictures and cuss words on walls, in toilets, etc., throughout the plant - to build a case against the men in the department.

It also accuses the sit-downers of punching holes in cartons of liquid detergent. But anyone in the factory could be doing this!

Anyhow - solidarity paid off again!  
- Our House Correspondent

# WHO WE ARE...

We are an independent group of working people and rank-and-file trade union members.

We formed the Committee for a Labor Party, and publish Workers Action, to help in the fight for better unions — militant and democratic unions — and for independent working class political action. Why do we do this?

Over the last few years there have been some new developments in American trade unions. Until the recent period, most of us trade union members have been swallowing much of the officials' guff about modern times and the complicated details about running unions (with time schedules, wage schedules, automation provisions, pension plans, welfare plans, etc.). The union bureaucrats tell us that many "experts," such as lawyers, accountants, public relations men, etc., are necessary to run the union. Also, the "old experienced" officers must stay on now that they understand the operations.

We and our brothers and sisters, however, are beginning to notice, in greater and greater numbers, that these officials are not making any real advances. Union contracts and work agreements barely keep us even with the times. In many cases, gains which were made have been lost. More and more jobs have been eliminated. Layoffs increase and continue. The buying power of the dollars earned — with long hours of overtime and moonlighting jobs — has gone down. At the same time, union officials, especially national officers, live luxuriously and feel secure in their position, while they backslap with phony politicians and hob-nob with big businessmen — our bosses! All this comes with the excuse that it is for the cause of the members.

We never really believed these stories, but so many of us are new to unions, we didn't understand how to fight for what is ours — many of us still don't. Some of the old-timers have become tired, scared or just forgot the lessons they learned when the unions were organized. We believe it is absolutely necessary for the rank-and-filers to maintain control in their unions, and to make all their own decisions. No "expert" can do this better than those who are stuck with the results!

Yet this is not just a union fight, it is also a political fight. In the last few years, the workers' standard of living has either remained the same or dropped slightly. This is due to the increasingly difficult economic position of American capitalism. To maintain their position and profits, the capitalist employers are forced to attack the standard of living and trade union organizations of the working class.

If the members run their own unions and decide to make a hard stand for needed demands with militant strikes, government officials, who are the paid agents and friends of big business employers, will pass a new law or hand down injunctions to stop strikes. This happened to railroad workers, New York sanitation workers, teachers, seamen, transit

workers and many others in recent months.

In the present Democratic Congress, there is increasing talk of new and harsh anti-strike and anti-union laws. The government, whether Democratic or Republican, always acts in the interests of the capitalists and their profits against the interests of labor.

Workers must build a political party of their own — a labor party that will be controlled by them and which will represent their interests. This need will become more and more apparent in the years ahead, as attacks on our standard of living and unions increase. We want to be ready when the opportunity to form a workers' party presents itself. We also want to convince those of you, our readers and fellow workers, who may not see this need now, by going through the experience of the struggles ahead with you.

## WORKERS ACTION

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EDITORIAL:

## RANK-AND-FILERS AND THE COURTS

Union militants who try to improve things for themselves and their fellow workers usually find themselves fighting not only the employers, but also the piecards. These union bureaucrats, who act and think more like businessmen than union organizers, have soft jobs and big salaries and don't want anybody rocking the boat.

In many fights, rank-and-filers may be tempted to turn to the courts, to hire a lawyer and start a legal battle with their union officials over such issues as unfair election procedures, unfair expulsions, and so forth.

This is nearly always a mistake; the laws and courts of this land are set up to serve the business community and protect the interests of employers. Union militants in a fight should not turn to the enemy for help, but should instead look to their own fellow workers, within their own union and in other unions.

Every time a union man takes his union to court he helps to legitimize all kinds of anti-labor laws and government interference into union affairs; he gives the phony labor leaders a chance to pose as the defenders of the union against the government attacks; and finally, he helps to preserve the myth that the government is somehow neutral in a fight between working men and the bosses.

This is never the case. Governments, courts, cops and politicians are all servants of the system and agents of the capitalist employers. Everything they do is intended to preserve, promote and expand that system, most often at the expense of the working man.

The answer lies in building a solid rank-and-file caucus in every union to work for a program that promotes the interests of the membership; and eventually to build a political party to fight for a program that promotes the interests of all working people.

We know many brothers and sisters will disagree with this position. We invite your comments and criticism.

# ...AND WHAT WE STAND FOR

- 1. END RACISM IN THE UNIONS:** Racism in the labor movement condemns millions of black, Mexican-American and other minority-group workers to a lower, specially oppressed status. It is the greatest blight on the labor movement today. It divides workers and supports false feelings of racial superiority, and identity with the bosses, in the minds of white workers. Whites can only maintain their privileged position over Blacks and other minorities at the expense of lowering the wages and conditions of all. Blacks, other minorities and white militants must band together in the struggle against racism.
- 2. ORGANIZE THE SOUTH AND ALL THE UNORGANIZED:** The union movement in the South is weak and getting weaker. This condition makes for low wages and run-away shops, and helps deteriorate wages and conditions in the North. Racism and the conservatism of the present union leaders are responsible for this.
- 3. END UNEMPLOYMENT — 30 HOURS WORK FOR 40 HOURS PAY!** While many workers are forced to work overtime and even hold down two jobs at once in order to make it, others, especially victims of racial discrimination, suffer drastic unemployment and underemployment. Job training is important but not enough. The real way to make more jobs available is to have everyone work less time (with restrictions on overtime) for no loss in pay.
- 4. HUMANIZE WORKING CONDITIONS.** We support all attempts to end the constantly deteriorating conditions of work, such as uncontrolled speed-ups, industrial hazards and accidents. Our contracts provide a few more cents an hour, but then the bosses automate, raise prices and speed-up the line! Contracts must guarantee — and officials must enforce — decent, working conditions with adequate safety provisions and rest breaks. We must control the machines, not be slaves to them!
- 5. FOR A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING FOR ALL:** Somehow, the Federal minimum wage always seems to be about 10 years behind the times, and even now a fight is needed to extend its coverage to all workers. The minimum wage should be at least \$3.00 an hour now, and it, as well as all wage agreements, must be kept in line with the cost of living. The Guaranteed Annual Income idea should be replaced by assuring everyone a job, so that no one has to be dependent on welfare.
- 6. IMMEDIATE and UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM VIETNAM.** The Vietnam War is a brutal intervention in Vietnamese affairs to protect the imperialist interests of big American corporations and to terrorize the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Saigon government is a group of generals, opportunists, landlords and strike-breakers who preserve democracy only for themselves. American workers have no interest in this war! Yet it is they, and their sons and brothers, who are sent to do the fighting and dying, who must pay the taxes, and who are told to keep down
- wage demands in the "national interest" (that is, capitalists' interests). For an end to support of this and all imperialist wars by the labor movement!
- 7. END ATTACKS ON LABOR AND REPEAL ALL ANTI-LABOR LAWS:** Government investigation of labor unions, injunctions against picketing and striking, and laws such as Taft-Hartly and Landrum-Griffin serve only the interests of the capitalist employers. They cripple organizing drives (such as the Delano Farm Workers), take union control away from the members, and force workers to accept settlements on the boss' terms.
- 8. FOR THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AND STRIKE BY ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES:** More and more teachers, nurses, sanitation workers, welfare workers, and other city, state and federal employees are finding that they need to organize and strike to protect their interests. They are finding that the government is not neutral, but consistently seeks to smash organizing attempts and punish employees for striking.
- 9. FOR RANK-AND-FILE CONTROL OF THE UNIONS!** Democratic, militant unions can only be ensured by membership participation and control. All of these demands depend on our struggle to control our unions and fight for our interests. Attend your union meetings, form a caucus to fight for these demands, and support WORKERS ACTION.
- 10. FOR A FREEDOM-LABOR PARTY** to fight on all levels for all these demands. The Democrats and Republicans are parties of the bosses — We need a party of our own!

## Letters to the Editor.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that we welcome **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** from rank and file union members. Our space is limited; please be brief!

### 'ONLY A TACTIC'

To the Editor:

Many brothers and sisters will disagree with your article which states that workers should never under any circumstances initiate legal action against their unions. (See pg. 2)

Although the general principle is correct, there are certain special conditions and circumstances where a suit should be understood as a carefully considered TACTIC. (For example: Where men are expelled as political victims and have no recourse in the Union, and where the Union will not be destroyed by a court complaint.)

We would like to submit an explanation of a current case in a Bay Area Craft Union in the next issue.

Two Concerned Workers

### PIECARDS — THINK ABOUT IT!

To the Editorial Board:

Just recently an employee relations director asserted that Union Democracy is going to be a very expensive item in future collective bargaining negotiation sessions. Also, that a part of the blame is to be laid to union officers, who, for political reasons, fail to push hard for lower settlements. He thinks that their doing so would result in some way a loss of political prestige, or be regarded by the rank and file as weak and ineffective.

This writer feels very strongly that the cure for the ills of democracy are, as a great statesman asserted some years ago, "more democracy." Also, looking at the present trend in which we are involved, protest movements challenge almost everything in our political and social order that we have been led to believe and accept by the establishment. This is certain to produce a better and more equitable system than this country has known in its past.

Personally speaking, until the basic rights of the least of us are secured and assured, those who sit in the seat of the mighty must of a necessity be threatened and placed in jeopardy.

Think about it!

A Shipyard Boilermaker

### True Stories:

(ONLY THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT)

from Bay Area Carpenters News

### THIS STEWARD DEEPLY DISTURBS US

Once Captain Carpenter was steward for Pacific Coast, builders of the church. One day, a Foreman's-Close-Buddy was hired. He was very popular.

## CAPITALIST REPORTING

On May 13, nearly one million French workers marched through Paris in striking protest, but the Government TV was ORDERED to report only 171,000.

— S.F. Chronicle, June 24

### Telling It Like It Is: "BART-TIME STORY" HOW IT REALLY GOES DOWN

BART is "straight" — so they say. BART "doesn't discriminate."

BART says that it doesn't let its contractors discriminate in hiring. BART is hiring a handful (ten) of teenagers this summer to work in the offices at "trainee" wages to show how straight it is. BART and the Laborers Union have a deal for bringing a few unemployed into the work force.

BUT let me tell you how the shit really goes down!

BART admits that over 1/3 of its contractors' workers are minority. MOST OF THESE are laborers (humping in the muck), and cement masons, with a few piledrivers and carpenters! When it comes to miners (laborers) jobs which pay more, black guys generally get aced out in hiring by white guys from "Lost Gap Junction" back East or down South! Some black guys are labor or cement foremen, but MANY blacks are jumped over and young punk white guys with no experience are brought in to "tell" experienced black workers how to do jobs they are expert at!

As for "up-grading" and on the job training — DIG THIS:

When BART contractor Trans-Bay Constructors (Peter Kiewit, etc.) started to sink the train tubes in the Bay a year ago, the jurisdiction on the skilled work of metal fitting and welding was awarded first to the Boilermakers (with lots of crackerjack black welders out of work from the \$3.70 per hour shipyards) and a \$6 per hour field-construction scale.

AFL-CIO Jurisdictional Arbitrator in Washington D.C. (who is a mill-right (carpenter) took it away and gave it to the Piledrivers (carpenters) at \$5.83 because it is a "bridge." (Cut and cover tunnel). The Ironworkers, who have been keeping blacks out, also lost out.

Now keep on digging, brothers: The Piledrivers Union doesn't discriminate, but it doesn't have the welders or fitters to fill all these specialty jobs.

So — first TBC can't get anyone to qualify with the special equipment being used (MIG); and the manufactur-

"This is a swell outfit," he cried, "why do you good fellows not work more rapidly for my buddy?" The next day a good fellow with a Funny Way about him was fired. Capt. Carpenter, the steward, was sorely grieved. "This is too much!! I will summon Business-Agent-Man to right these wrongs." While the men tolled in the distance, B-A-M parleyed with the Boss: "I remember the time they fired a steward, and, poor fellow, we could not help him," B-A-M said. Capt. Carpenter got the message. "Whose side are you on?" he asked, but B-A-M was gone. And often since, the Boss has said "This steward deeply disturbs Us. He is a shit-disturber."

## WORKERS IN FRANCE (cont.)

job. But the nub of the problem in France like everywhere else is the creation of this "ready" leadership.

The established leaders, especially in the Communist-led General Confederation of Labor (CGT) say they

er's special man from the East couldn't pass either and got on the plane and flew back all pissed off.

So then TBC trains guys on the job for weeks and weeks at full scale and guess what color they are? And then they hire more welders — both white-off of Boilermaker jobs, get them membership in the Pilebucks (special deal — pay initiation in installments) AFTER they take the tests on their OWN TIME.



Meanwhile, black Boilermaker welders sit at the Pilebuck hall waiting to be dispatched as "C" men — since they don't have \$216 to pay for initiation (which must be paid before dispatch as an "A" man). "C" men go out when no member is available.

There was one Mexican welder out of the Boilermakers, but they wouldn't let him do production (only tacking) even though he had a stack of certifications. There were two black Pilebucks on the job — foreman ran one off and one quit when he couldn't pass the test the first time.

### NO TIME FOR "NIGGERS"

The Chief Welding Inspector for BART is a red-necked cracker who says he "has no time for (what he calls) 'niggers'." He is a 20-year Bechtel man. He "never heard of" the Mexican welder—who quit in disgust. The foreman is George's tight buddy. He is also a slave driver and a high-balling safety hazard. The Asst. Supt. is the Inspector's country neighbor.

That was a year ago — after "agreements" and pre-job planning. BART is now "planning" how not to discriminate against black drivers when trains replace buses in 2 years. Will drivers suffer like this too — from BART's "planning"?

That's the way the shit went down. That's the way it's going down. It's time for a change! PAST TIME!

Crackerjack

### PHONE CALL FROM FREMONT AUTO WORKERS LOCAL 1364

"The past 4 or 5 work stoppages were conducted without formal leadership.

"The men circulated and discussed what was necessary and then we went out and did it! Our 'Committeemen' — department union representatives are prevented by the UAW-GM agreement, Paragraph 117, from leading or encouraging any such walk-outs.

Things are quiet 'caucus-wise' right now — the local elections are over and no one is running ..... more later."

Fraternally,  
A. N. Autoworker

are revolutionary, but they are not. They cannot even achieve the normal, everyday demands of the workers, because they are too busy preserving capitalism and their own comfortable position within it. After decades of so-called "communist" labor leadership, a four week general strike by the rank-and-file was required just to win the 8-hour day and get something more than poverty level wages!

### PHONY DEAL

Like the bureaucrats here in America, the French leaders consistently supported demands which the workers' struggle had gone ahead of. After a short period of striking, the workers knew they had the power to dump the DeGaulle government, at the very least. Yet the leaders met with the government and on May 27th came up with a deal, which they publicized as a great "victory." This deal was actually an attempt to buy off the workers with promises and keep them from exercising their great power to bring down the government, and maybe even — heaven forbid! — the capitalist system itself! The May 28 N. Y. Times reported that "Georges Seguy, secretary-general of the Communist-led General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and Benoit Frachon, one of the leading members of the Communist Party Politbureau, were booed and whistled at by 12,000 blue-shirted strikers cramped between pieces of equipment at the Renault plant in suburban Boulogne-Billancourt," when they presented their "victory" to the men.

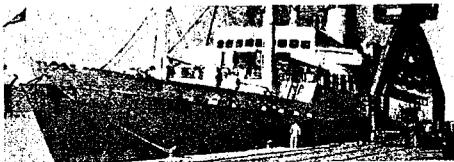
The French workers knew that a simple economic settlement, no matter how far-reaching, would not protect them from new inflation and government repression after they went back to work. Instead they wanted power — power to control the future conditions of their lives and work.

In order to achieve this, the workers would have had to seize the power for themselves, because the bosses will never surrender it on their own. This demands a well-organized plan and a political party with the confidence of the workers to lead the revolution. Because such a party of revolutionary leadership was missing, the C.P., GCT, and other false leaders were able to maintain their position.

What program would such a revolutionary party need? This is important, because the program of a party expresses the interests of the class in society that it represents. The party would have to deal with too many problems to go into in this issue. But at the very least, it should have called for the formation of strike committees, and for the workers themselves to coordinate the strike nationwide. This would have made it harder for the government to re-take some plants with police, as they did toward the end of the strike. These committees, furthermore, could have served as the beginning of a permanent alternative form of power — workers power. Permanent, democratic committees, or workers councils, such as those as appeared in Russia in the 1905 and 1917 revolutions and in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, have been the traditional form of workers power. Workers in this country will one day face a situation like that of their brothers in France. U.S. workers will need a party of their own then. Let us begin by building such a party now!

## RANK-AND-FILE SEAMENS' REVOLT SPREADS

A rank-and-file revolt in the National Maritime Union has spread throughout the entire membership. The rebelling seamen are fighting union officials' dictatorial rule and the 'soft contract which has been forced down the members' throats. The conditions and wages of NMU seamen are among the worst of organized labor: Most of the NMU contract employees earn less than \$100 per week base pay; many (those in the steward's and engine departments especially) must work a seven-day week; many jobs require work spread over a 12 (twelve) hour period, with compensation for only 8 hours; special emergency work is not collectible; the overtime rate is usually less than time and one-half, and for key-ratings (skilled jobs) is often less than base pay; clothes are washed aboard most vessels in old-fashioned wringer washers and most readily dried above the sooty engine room and boilers, or on hand-rails in passageways. In addition to losing jobs on automated ships, many old positions, which were considered secure, have been whittled away. Furthermore, there have been no preparations to protect the loss of jobs through automation (i.e., a four-watch system and thirty-hour week).



NMU members know that they now have no control over union affairs and the negotiations of the contract they must work under. Until recent months, the members were demoralized and confused as to how to fight for the things they want and need. Older members felt they might jeopardize the pension their long years at sea earned them. Newer members, especially the young brothers, have been given the impression by the union officials, that the union is little more than a combined employment agency and welfare office. As the rank-and-file revolt grows and spreads, the importance and necessity of membership control becomes clearer. The spirit of militant unionism has been re-kindled in the minds of the "old timers," and they are teaching this to the newer members while telling of their experiences and having discussions.

### NEW ELECTION MUST BE HELD

That the NMU members know of the officials dictatorship and their sell-out contract was not enough to begin a movement within the union. For this, organization and leadership were necessary. The first leaders emerged in the 1966 union elections. James Morrissey, running for National Secretary-Treasurer, and Joseph Padilla, a candidate for New York Port Agent, both made a strong stand in direct opposition to the Curran regime. (Joe Curran, now in his 13th term, is the first and only president, since the Union was formed in 1937). Morrissey and Padilla became well acquainted during the election campaign periods and decided to contest the election together. Their objections to fraudulent election procedures and illegal regulations led to a Federal Department of Labor suit

### SUPPORT!

**Blacks Strike for Social Justice!**  
Boycott in Oakland -

### DON'T BUY AT:

Housewives, Rhodes, Milens  
Smiths, Fosters

against the union officials. The Labor Department won the case causing the 1966 elections to be thrown out and providing for new elections to be held within six months.

While the Labor Department prosecuted its case, Morrissey and Padilla gathered support for their fight within the union. Serious and dedicated seamen in ports all over the United States, on the West Coast, in the Gulf, and the Lakes, down the rivers, and on ships all over the world, began to respond to the Call for NMU Democracy, a rank-and-file leaflet-newspaper put out by Morrissey and his supporters. Members in the out ports began to participate actively by making collections, to meet the costs of printing and mailing, by passing resolutions in union meetings supporting the opposition, by distributing the Call, and by building solid groups of supporters. By coordinating these efforts a solid rank-and-file organization is now developing.

### COMMITTEE FOR NMU DEMOCRACY

The rank-and-file organization is called the "Committee for NMU Democracy." The Committee's program includes demands for putting the membership in control of union affairs and thereby insuring that the working seamen who ship out will make the contract they must live with.

The NMU was once a model union with a constitution that insured rank-and-file control; it was a progressive union which secured many gains for seamen and advanced the cause of American workers in general. The Communist Party, many of whose members helped build the NMU, began to use the union for its own ulterior motives. In 1949, Curran organized a block of members to break the Communist Party's stranglehold. After he succeeded in doing this, he attacked and eliminated every shred of opposition to him. Since then, using every means to threaten, confuse, and intimidate the members, Curran amended and re-amended the Constitution until finally, after the 1963 Convention, the membership had virtually no effective controls in union affairs and the officials were secure and rich (they all have limousines, expense accounts, etc); the president is the highest paid union official in the world - with a membership of only fifty-thousand, his total pay is over 85,000 per year.

Whether or not the members regain control of the NMU depends on much more than the new election and

## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHERS (cont.)

in the black community. If the Panthers had simply wanted to kill cops, there were plenty of opportunities for them to do this. They didn't have to wait for the cops to stop one of them on a "traffic violation," as happened on the night Huey Newton was involved in an incident in which a cop was killed.

Not a single witness has been produced who saw Newton shoot the policeman or even holding a gun that evening. In fact, the cops were out to get Newton, and have since waged planned campaigns to crush the Panthers and break their organization.

When a cop is killed, a fall guy is needed. If Huey Newton did kill the cop, he did so in self-defense, and he was right! For once a black man survived a cop attack. He is guilty of surviving and of believing in the liberation of his people. HE COMMITTED NO CRIME - HE SHOULD BE SET FREE!

### SHOULD BLACKS DIE QUIETLY?

Whenever the cops gun down a black man, such as in the Bobby Hutton murder on the night of April 6th, the police immediately proclaim it "justifiable homicide carried out by an officer in the line of duty." This "duty," they say, is to "keep the peace," but the real nature of their "duty" in the ghetto is to enforce the rule of oppression over Black people. The "peace" the cops keep is the "peace" of the Bank of America and General Motors. Black people don't want to fight, but when they are forced into a corner, like anyone else, they

will fight back against their oppressors.

Police violence, murder or brutality have been responsible for almost every so-called "riot," from the 1964 Harlem "riots" to the present. Cops have been killing Black people to save a few T.V. sets, appliances and plate glass windows for venal, grasping ghetto merchants. The cops behave like an occupation army ruling over a conquered people. This is because the police, and the government which gives them their orders, are chiefly concerned with protecting PROPERTY - not PEOPLE.

This rule applies to the interests of ALL working people, not just Blacks and other minorities. The Federal Immigration Service is cooperating with California growers to provide SCAB LABOR from Mexico to break the farm workers strike. In the strike by ILWU Local #30 against U.S. Borax Co., cops are escorting railroad cars filled with scabs. Police have also used the chemical spray MACE against pickets from Machinists Lodge #63 in Portland, Ore.

The oppressors of Black people are the same "enlightened" employers who rob and exploit all working people, white and black. Black people are specially oppressed and doubly exploited, but white workers are also being robbed and exploited every day by the same bosses, realtors and finance companies. WHITE AND BLACK WORKERS HAVE THE SAME ENEMY!

## ILWU OFFICE WORKER BEEF

Some of you may have noticed by the papers that the ILWU Local 10 - S.F. administration was picketed lately by all the Bay Area office employees of ILWU (more than 100 women in Local #29 - Office and Technical - Oakland).

This was in response to an action by the office-managing Secty.-Treas. - the firing of the shop steward of the office workers at North Point, which all the office force thought was unfair.

The whole affair looks like bad publicity for Local 10, so the ranks of that local called for a rank & file investigating committee, which they got. When the committee reports, more will be known about this beef.

### GREETINGS!

to Workers Action  
from

THE MIGRANT THEATER

## FROM THE PAPER JUNGLE: NOTES ON WHITE COLLAR WORKERS

by A. Scribbler

During the week of May 28 to June 1, the National Association of Social Workers had a national conference in San Francisco. For the first time in 95 years, various resolutions were brought up and passed by the conference. These resolutions opposed the war in Vietnam, supported the 'Poor People's March on Washington,' and were for a 'Guaranteed annual income.' Local 1635 of the City and County Service Employees Union even supported a resolution in support of the French Workers' general strike.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)

### Come to the FREE HUEY NEWTON Rally!

Huey Newton goes on trial for his life Monday, July 15, 10 a.m., at the Alameda County Court House, 12th & Fallon Sts., Oakland. There will be a mass rally at the court house on the morning of the trial to demand that Huey be set free. Support the rally! Call in sick if you have to, but be there to defend the rights of all working people against the brutal, racist police.

There will also be rallies in various cities on Saturday, July 13 and a rally in one of the Parks near the Court House and a march on the Court House on Sunday, July 14. For information on the demonstrations, contact the Black Panther Party at 654-2003.

## ADVANCE INFO

In the next issue we will run an especially comprehensive article on Social Workers!

Also, articles on: shipyard machinists, agricultural laborers, garment workers, construction laborers, painters, and more on auto and warehouse!

the success of Morrissey, Padilla, or any other individual. If the seamen in the NMU want a decent contract and real control, all members must be ready to participate and take an active part. It now looks as though this is a beginning which has been made in the NMU.

**WORKERS ACTION**  
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**WE NEED** - Articles, stories, research, clippings, cartoons, sketches - even stories over the phone - about YOUR job. We also need money to print the paper. We also need criticisms you may have. (You can write or phone in!) Remember - this is a rank and file effort! **THIS IS YOUR PAPER!**