

WORKERS' POWER

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NEUTRON BOMB

Pentagon's "clean bomb" - it kills the people, and saves the machines

by Karen Kaye

THE NEUTRON BOMB, the Pentagon's new death ray, is being approved by Congress with the support of President Carter.

This is the atomic bomb that destroys life but leaves buildings practically unharmed.

Military men call the weapon "humanitarian" because it affects a smaller area than conventional H-bombs.

The bomb's supporters also include most of the 15 member nations of NATO, the military alliance of the West.

And many industrial giants stand to make a mint off its production. **Only the rich and powerful could rejoice about this chillingly lethal device.**

Any war that it is used in will be their war, a war of conquest to divide the world's riches among the rich.

And while they begin using the buildings they save after the next war, the families will be mourning the loss of those killed by the "humanitarian bomb."

But it's not only with neutron bombs that the rich kill people for the sake of property. It happens every day, because it's part of the profit system. There are many examples.

ALASKA PIPELINE

The recent explosion on the Alaska pipeline is one. The explosion killed technician Charles O. Lindsey, 39.

Workers at the pumping station state that the explosion was caused by an electrical malfunction that should be investigated before pumping resumes.

But the head of the company that owns the pipeline disagreed.

Edward L. Patterson of Alyeska declared that damage to the pipe itself was slight. Oil would resume flowing by Friday.

He blamed the explosion on "human error." No doubt he's looking for someone to fire as a scapegoat.

It is the greed of the pipeline owners that allowed this to happen. They want to see the oil profits flowing again, even if their haste will claim more lives.

To top it off, oil from the pipeline won't even bring fuel prices down or help the fuel starved northeast. There are not enough refineries on the west coast, the oil's destination.

It will have to travel to the Panama Canal and up the Gulf Coast at great expense. There is no pipeline to get the oil to the north-

east. Only oil companies will benefit.

CARTER CONTRIBUTES

President Carter added his own contribution to this philosophy that human life is unimportant when he explained why he was for denying abortions to welfare women. Many will die when they attempt to perform abortions themselves.

"Well, as you know, there are many things in life that are not fair, that wealthy people can afford and poor people can't," the President said.

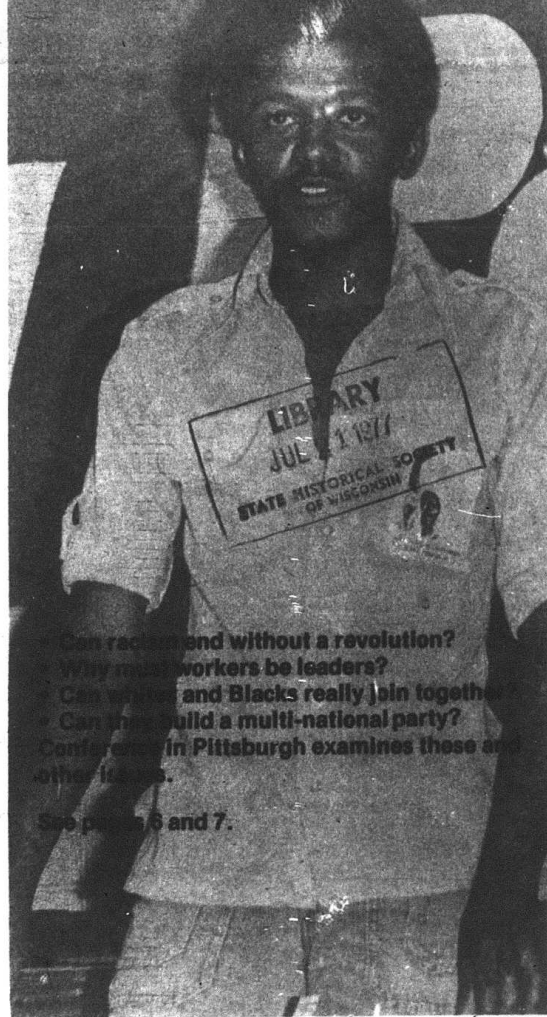
Many things indeed. Most important, being able to stay alive.

How many people have been killed by cops because they were suspected of stealing a bit of property?

How many times have workers died at the plant or mill because the company wouldn't add safety features to the million dollar machinery?

And how much longer will we stand for it, sacrificing our lives to further enrich the wealthy? □

International Socialists Conference On Black Liberation



Can we stand without a revolution?
Why are workers be leaders?
Can whites and Blacks really join together?
Can we build a multi-national party?
Conference in Pittsburgh examines these and other issues.

See pages 6 and 7.

YES, WE CAN, SMASH ANITA AND THE KLAN!

100,000 March In New York For Gay Rights

NEW YORK—"Gay, Straight, Black, White—Same Enemy, Same Fight!" That was one of the chants as a hundred thousand people marched up Fifth Avenue to celebrate Gay Pride Week.

At a giant rally in Central Park, speakers echoed the theme that the fight for gay rights was connected to the other fights in society.

"Anita Bryant made a big mistake. She thought that the closet doors would be wide open and we would scurry back into them. Instead, we took to the streets, thousands strong, and demanded gay rights right now."

"But the fight for our civil rights is the first step. . . It is an important fight, and one we must all engage in, but. . . we have only to look at the condition of Black people in this country to see that once our civil rights are won, our oppression will not have ended."

So spoke Kathy Kozachenko, a member of the International Socialist and of the Committee of Lesbian and Gay Male Socialists.

GAY LIBERATION

"To win our liberation," she continued, "we must win control of the schools that indoctrinate sexism and racism into us. We must win control of the hospitals that give us inadequate health care, and we must win control of the corporations that determine what we must do to earn a living and who profit from our labor."

"This kind of control cannot be achieved through any two-bit reforms under capitalism. We need to create a socialist society in which we collectively and democratically control the society's resources." □

CHANTING AND SINGING, they marched down the streets of New York, in the tens of thousands. In San Francisco over 100,000—perhaps double that number—demonstrated. In Denver and Boston, in Los Angeles and Chicago, Seattle and Kansas City and Portland, they marched for gay pride and civil rights.



San Francisco gays display signs of their enemies: Stalin, Hitler, Bryant, Klan, Amin. Which side are YOU on?

On the 4th of July the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan had his silk sheets ripped off on the steps of the State House in Columbus, Ohio.

Angry demonstrators—Black and white—drove the Klan back into the dark holes where they belong, chanting "Ku Klux Klan, Scum of the Land." They took away the Klan's own clubs and beat them. Throughout the Black community of Columbus there were celebrations.

In the Chicago suburb of Skokie—a predominantly Jewish community—hundreds of people turned out to stop the Nazis who had threatened to march there. Their slogan: "They Shall Not Pass." The Nazis didn't show up.

On the campuses, too, something has been stirring:

- At Berkeley students demonstrated against racism in the University of California.
- At Stanford, campus buildings were occupied to stop the University's involvement with South Africa.
- At Michigan State students took over buildings to protest the University's involvement with the Shah of Iran—whose secret police terrorize and torture thousands.

There was another movement—only much bigger—only a few years ago. It was a movement of students, and a movement for Black Power; for women's liberation, and gay liberation; a movement of Chicanos and Puerto Ricans. That movement found a focus—the fight against the Viet Nam war.

Now it's the government and big business against their own people and their own country.

The rulers of America are in trouble. They want to make the workers of this country pay for their crisis.

Their offensive against the American people takes many forms. They have attacked us in the courts and in the factories. They try to take back the rights that Black people won in the sixties; they try to take back the gains that women made; they mount campaigns to frighten the oppressed.

The gay rights marchers chanted: "Anita and Klan go hand in hand!"—and it's true. The same sort of people bankroll Anita Bryant's "crusade" and pay for the white sheets of the Klan. The same atmosphere that allows the Nazis to even dare to try to march into a Jewish town, allows the Supreme Court to attack the rights of labor.

But we are fighting back—all of us. Not only the giant marches, but the coalminers in the Stearns strike, shooting it out with scabs and cops, night after night.

In the barns and terminals where Teamsters are fighting against corrupt officials and hard-nosed employers.

In the steel mills where workers are organizing against the Union's no-strike deal. And in the auto plants where workers are walking out and shutting down the plants to fight the speed of the work in the summer's heat.

It's all one fight—though not everyone knows it yet. The enemy is big business.

Defend Gay Rights! 200,000 March In Frisco

SAN FRANCISCO—Over 200,000 filled the City Center Park, and thousands more overflowed onto nearby streets. No one could say how many—the reporters didn't have much experience in judging crowds this big.

The march was serious, as gay people and non-gay supporters celebrated Gay Freedom Day. A few days earlier, Bob Hillsborough had been brutally murdered because he was gay—stabbed some 50 times by young punks screaming "faggot."

Marchers wore black armbands and carried signs with pink triangles. That is the symbol that the Nazis had made gay people wear in concentration camps.

It was a chilling reminder that an attack on the civil rights of homosexuals is almost always part of an attack on civil rights in general.

But the mood of this mass outpouring was determination that gays would not allow themselves to be driven back into lives of shame and hiding, not allow the Anita Bryants of the world, the Klan and the Nazis to push back the gains they have made.

Together with other victims of repression, gay people are fighting back. □

Portland Gay Socialists Call For Rights Coalition

PORTLAND—Marching angry and proud, 350 gays protested the attack on gay civil rights from Miami to the Northwest.

They demanded the governor issue an executive order for gay rights. They called on the community to organize for the rights of sexual minorities.

Members of Portland area gay groups spoke at a park rally. A woman from the gay Portland Town Council said greater unity among Oregon gays will probably result in a statewide gay organization soon. She proposed an effort to educate the public about homosexuality.

A speaker from Red Ties, a socialist gay men's group, pointed out that education isn't enough when dealing with rich, white male legislators who represent big business and the wealthy.

As a childcare worker lobbying for more state funds for children, he found the legislators indifferent and insulting towards human rights.

He called for building a coalition with other oppressed groups to secure equal rights for all, and socialism as the only route to liberation. □

Kent State: 7 Years Later—200 Arrested

KENT, Ohio—It took police two hours to remove and arrest demonstrators who had locked their arms and legs together and squatted on the spot called "tent city" or "Blanket Hill" on the Kent State University campus.

Five hundred students demonstrated and 200 were arrested.

The students were protesting the university's plans to build a gym on

the site—the location of the Kent State Massacre. On May 4, 1970, four students were shot dead and several others injured when the Ohio National Guard opened fire on anti-war protesters.

Parents of the murdered and injured students joined the squatters and were arrested. The parents have appealed their legal case against the National Guard.

The students are demanding that the site be preserved, that campus buildings be named for the dead students, and that May 4 be set aside as a memorial to them.

Although the court ordered the site cleared, the university was also barred from beginning construction for ten days.

The students have vowed to return to the Hill and continue their campaign of passive resistance if the University attempts to begin construction. □

Nazis No-Go In Skokie

CHICAGO—"They Shall Not Pass!" was the slogan as three different anti-Nazi demonstrations took place the Fourth of July.

The demonstrations were held in response to plans of Nazi leader Frank Collin to lead a march of 100 Nazis through Skokie, a Chicago suburb. Skokie is heavily Jewish.

The Nazis backed down at the last minute. They postponed their march until they receive court permission.

Sixty people, including members of the International Socialists and the Red Tide, demonstrated against the Nazis at the Skokie town hall. Police prevented the demonstrators from carrying signs or banners.

Nazi headquarters in Chicago was picketed by the Run the Nazis Out Coalition. Around 30 uniformed Nazis with swastika armbands—safely protected from the

demonstrators by the Chicago police—chanted "six million more," a reference to Hitler's mass murder of European Jews.

The third demonstration, at the Mayer Kaplan Community Center in Skokie, had over 500 participants, mostly from the Jewish community. Although the Nazis weren't there, the demonstrators were prepared for them: police confiscated 50 nightsticks, clubs, baseball bats and lead pipes. □

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How Workers Are Fighting For Safety At Pepsi

by Lynn Bacon

PITTSBURGH — Workers at Pepsi-Cola here call their plant the "Butcher Shop." At any given time, 10% of the workforce is off injured. Days lost due to injury average 16 per person per year!

When the contract expired this May, steward and safety committeeman Danny Kablack drew up a proposal for a safety clause that is now part of the contract.

Workers' Power interviewed Danny Kablack to find out how Pepsi workers won safety standards. Kablack is a member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) steering committee.

Workers' Power: Why does Pepsi have such a high accident rate?

Kablack: It's cheaper to have accidents than to prevent them.

The cost of eliminating hazards, and rolling back seven years of speedup is greater than the hospital bills and the compensation and all the other accident expenses.

From their point of view, cost-effectiveness demands less safety, because it would mean slowing down the work. That's what they don't want to do.

Workers' Power: Pepsi, like more and more companies, has a lot of overtime. Does this affect the accident rate?

Kablack: Hell, yes.

Look, overtime is productivity. It's a cheaper way of getting more production. They hire less people, which means less benefits, pensions, etc. They run two shifts instead of three, and force people to work 10 hours.

ZOMBIES

But the squeeze on overtime comes when people on 10 and 12 hour shifts are zombies by Thursday. And by Friday, they can't function safely.

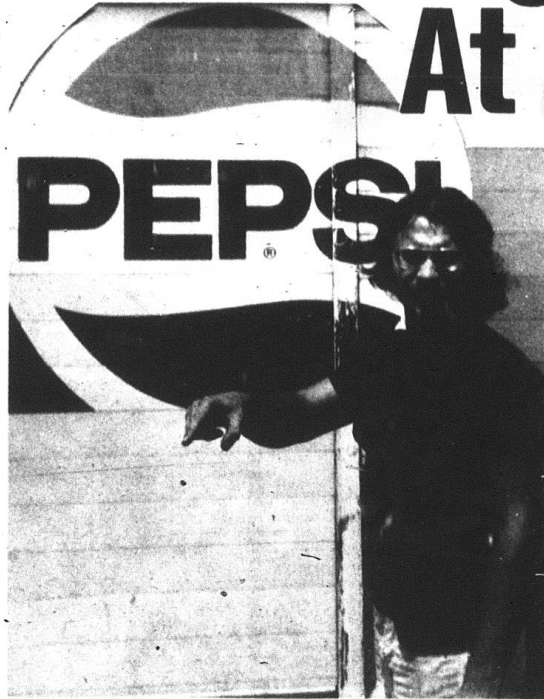
They drop stuff, run into people with forklifts, get cut by glass in the cases that they're too tired to see. Coordination deteriorates when you've been getting four hours sleep a night.

Workers' Power: Nationally, there are 10,000 people injured each day and 50 of them die. What about Pepsi's reaction to their high injury rate?

Kablack: They don't care if you've got 30 stitches in your arm or two cracked vertebrae.

To them, getting hurt at work is a cross between a mortal sin and sabotage. If you're skilled and they need you, it's like you damaged their machinery. And if you're unskilled, you're robbing the company. And if you aren't in the union yet, you're really screwed.

I've seen a new guy fall ten feet



Danny Kablack, Pepsi Safety Committeeman

off a truck and land on his back. After about six weeks he came back.

They worked him two days so it wouldn't look like they were out to

get him and then dumped him. That's how they treat people, like broken machinery.

Workers' Power: What are the difficulties in making people

conscious of safety?

Kablack: Since the contract fight, the consciousness is growing, even snowballing.

MACHO TRIPS

One big thing that held it back was macho trips that a lot of guys were into. They play on male egos to "be tough" and work while hurt, but in the end you pay for it.

You can't play games with a bad back, or coal dust, or asbestos, or welding fumes in your lungs, because eventually, you end up like a disabled vet from a lost war.

Workers' Power: Why do we see this kind of attack by industry on its employees?

Kablack: The wealth we produce should be used, in part, to protect us from the gears and chains of the workplace, but it is not! The greedy fuckers who own it all are taking every cent they can.

And they're not going to give it up and spend it protecting us.

We're going to have to come and take it!

Workers' Power: Is this company worse than others?

Kablack: I know a lot of guys in the steel industry. I know half a dozen who work in foundries and there isn't one that's got a full set of fingers.

LOST-TIME

And in the mills it's real hypocrisy because they say they got these safety statistics about no "lost time accidents," but they send guys to work with broken legs, let them sit in the office and get paid, rather than get comp. Then the plant manager doesn't get a bad accident rating for lost-time.

We got the same company doctor as U.S. Steel's Wheel and Axle plant. I've seen a guy with 20 stitches in his hand and pus seeping out. They lanced it and sent him back to work so he wouldn't mess up their lost-time statistics.

Working people are cannon fodder in wars. In peacetime, they're just lubricant for industry, something to make the machines run faster. And throw away when it's of no use anymore.

If people could only see the effects on their bodies over 15 or 20 years, they'd be aware.

MUSCLE

Workers' Power: What can working people do to get safe working conditions?

Kablack: We fought in our contract this spring, ignoring fringes to get a strong safety clause. The clause we won established a safety committee with some muscle, gave red tag rights to every employee, established that no one had to work in unsafe or hazardous conditions.

Already the warehouse crew has refused to load and unload certain products, and the company conceded and made changes.

The important thing is unity. When one person claims it's unsafe, it isn't nearly as effective as an entire crew refusing to work under hazardous conditions.

Unity carries over into other union activities and teaches us the reality of our own power.

Miners Battle Medi-cuts

SOME 15,000 COAL MINERS didn't return from their two-week vacation July 11. They were still out on strike, protesting cuts in health care imposed by the trustees of the UMW Health and Retirement Funds.

The crisis began shortly before the miners' annual two-week vacation period, when the trustees announced that the 821,000 people covered by the Funds would have to start paying a large part of their own medical bills as of July 1.

Within days, there were scat-

tered reports of retired miners, disabled by black lung, discontinuing their treatment because they could no longer afford it. "We have some widows who barely get \$200 a month. Where are they going to get \$250 to get into the hospital?" asked Jack Perry, president of United Mine Workers District 17.

The Funds trustees claimed they had to cut health care benefits because the large number of wildcat strikes meant the operators had been paying less into the Funds. Payments are determined

by hours worked and coal tonnage mined. But miners pointed out that the 1974 retirement fund had plenty of income that could be diverted to pay for health care.

To divert this income would not have cost the coal operators a penny. Yet they refused to do it. In Perry's words, "as disciplinary action against the membership because of work stoppages."

As word of the health care cuts spread, some 35,000 miners walked out on strike the week before the miners' vacation began. In the first

days after the vacation, it was not clear whether that strike momentum would be regained.

VIOLENCE THREATENED

Union officials were active on two fronts. On one hand, they were trying to stop the wildcats. A meeting of 80 local presidents in Madison, W. Va. July 11 threatened violence against pickets. "If there's pickets there, beat their ass and go to work," said one official.

They directed much of their attention at the Miners Right to Strike Committee. That group had held several rallies over the weekend which voted to continue the strike.

At the same time the union was trying to end the wildcats, UMW President Arnold Miller declared the problem "national in character." "I am therefore reopening collective bargaining under the 1974 Agreement," he announced.

Officials of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association agreed to meet with the union on Monday, July 18 to discuss the matter. After that meeting it should be clear whether the operators intend to back down.

If not, the wildcats may escalate. Or Arnold Miller could call an official nationwide strike. This is a serious possibility because Miller is in a precarious political position.

Many miners think he hid news of the health care cuts until after he was re-elected UMW president June 14. "If there was a rerun, [Miller] would never win," says Homer Grounds, president of Local 6243.

Because of election challenges filed by Lee Roy Patterson and supported by Harry Patrick, the two defeated presidential candidates, there very well may be a rerun. Which means Miller may feel the need to get militant.

David Katz

Mine Shootout At Stearns, Ky.

"IT LOOKS LIKE A Vietnam battlefield," says McCreary County, Kentucky sheriff Joe Perry. "It's a miracle that no one has been killed."

Perry was talking about the strike at the Stearns Mining Co.'s Justus Mine in southeastern Kentucky. Both the strikers' picket shack and company buildings are



Looking down the barrel of a shotgun is not an unusual experience for the Stearns strikers.

riddled with bullet holes. Gunfire is heard nearly every night.

The Stearns miners have been on strike for a year now. It was in April 1976, just after two explosions killed 26 mine workers at the nearby Scotia Mining Co., that the Stearns employees voted to join the United Mine Workers union.

Both companies—Scotia Mining and Stearns Mining—are owned by the Blue Diamond Coal Company. On July 17, the 160 Stearns miners walked out on strike. The major issue is not union recognition or wages. It's safety. The miners want their own safety committee with the power to shut down the mine when there are unsafe conditions.

The strikers think the safety committee is worth fighting for. And judging from the company's record, they're right.

There are 26 dead at Scotia to show how right they are. And at Stearns, miners tell how methane gas detectors, which are supposed to shut off heavy mining equipment in the presence of the explosive gas, are sometimes disconnected to allow the machinery to keep operating.

The Stearns miners have had to

defend themselves from the shotgun blasts of company security guards. They've also had to deal with the forces of law and order.

ARRESTS

On June 20, union organizer Lee Potter was arrested for allegedly shooting a security guard even though he was in another county when the man was wounded. Potter was charged with intent to kill, kidnapping, and assault.

In April, 27 strike supporters were indicted by a grand jury and face up to 80 years each in prison. Clearly the miners are risking a lot in their struggle to win a safety committee. Maybe sometimes they wonder if it's worth it.

And sometimes they must be sure it is. Like on July 8 when hundreds of miners from Kentucky and surrounding states attended a rally to support the Stearns strikers. They all paused for a moment of silence to honor the memory of four miners whose bodies had been pulled from a Virginia mine at 2:00 that morning... victims of a methane gas explosion.

Jim Woodward

BIG GAINS FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Can U.S., Britain Stop Zimbabwe Liberation?

by Dan Posen

THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION war is closer to victory than ever before.

• Last month Black freedom fighters blew up the railroad line to the city of Bulawayo, about 100 miles from the Rhodesian capital. This was their first such attack in that part of the country.

• A radio report from neighboring Tanzania said that in eastern Zimbabwe virtually the whole area was now under the liberation fighters' control. Some white settlers reported that 100 percent of their farm workers have joined ZIPA (Zimbabwe People's Army).

• A report from Mozambique radio said that there are extensive liberated areas where white settlers have abandoned their land. ZIPA has ordered the local masses to take over and farm their lands.

The report quoted informed sources from Salisbury, the Rhodesian capital, that these liberated areas extend from the Mount Darwin-Snamva-Mtoko area, down along the belt around the Umtali-Odzi-Birchenough Bridge area in the east.

• Eight hundred people per week are crossing the border from Rhodesia into Botswana, most of them in order to join the struggle against the white regime.

The refugee camps in Botswana are liable to be attacked by Rhodesian Army raiders at any time. In Mozambique, Rhodesian raids and bombs have killed 1000 civilians in the past 17 months, according to the Mozambique government.

ROBBED

This is only a small sample of the full-scale war that is raging in Zimbabwe today. But the coming military victory for the Black freedom fighters may be robbed at the negotiating table.

The governments of the United States and Britain have reached what they call an "advanced stage" in negotiations with the white racist government of Rhodesia.

The negotiations are supposed to lead to a so-called Black majority government.

But these talks in Salisbury have nothing to do with the fight the six million Black people of Zimbabwe

are making against the 270,000 white settlers who rule them.

The British and American governments are not trying to make the six million Black people of Zimbabwe the rulers of their own country. Instead, they set up phony "talks" to prevent the Black majority from winning real power.

Tens of thousands of Zimbabweans have been organized into a liberation army by the Patriotic Front. The British-American plan is a scheme to force them to give up their arms and stop fighting!

Under the plan, the white government of Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith would resign and be replaced by a British-appointed administrator.

Then British and American representatives—not the people of Zimbabwe—would write a Constitution to make the rules for political change.

GUARANTEES

Supposedly, this Constitution will lead to free elections and a peaceful changeover to a Black government. In fact, however, it will be written to guarantee the so-called "economic stability" of the country.

This means that the white settlers will receive guarantees that they can keep their property, their land and their ability to brutally exploit Black workers and peasants.

This means that the Black majority will be allowed to elect a government of Black puppets—but the white settlers will keep control of the wealth they have robbed from the people for over 80 years!

The election itself, under the British-American plan, would be a joke. The villages and countryside of Zimbabwe would still be occupied by Rhodesian police.

Anyone campaigning for candidates not approved by the white settlers or their British and American protectors would be shot.

There will not be any democracy in Zimbabwe until the Black majority wins its armed struggle for freedom.

The British and American governments are rushing desperately to push their phony peace plan through and cheat the freedom fighters of their victory. But the time for them to do it is rapidly running out.



Britain: Solidarity Stops Scab Shop

It's not often that a local strike makes international news.

Grunwicks, a film processing shop in North London, England, employs 500 low-paid, non-union, mostly Asian workers. A year-long strike there has become a battle ground between British big business and the whole British union movement.

Last August, Grunwicks workers organized a union. Ninety were fired, and the strike began. Grunwicks management has gotten massive support from the union-busting "National Association For Freedom," a group of businessmen who are the British equivalent of the John Birch Society.

Every day, for months, hundreds of strike supporters have been at the gates at 7 am to try to keep busloads of scabs out.

But the stakes in this battle are so high that hundreds are not enough. They have been beaten, kicked and arrested by police who clear a way for the scabs. Only a mass movement of thousands of workers on the picket line can make sure the strike is won.

This week, over ten thousand strike supporters from unions all over London marched, joined the

pickets and fought police to keep the plant shut. Dozens were hospitalized with cracked ribs and other injuries. But this mass action has turned the battle in the strikers' favor.

American workers can learn a lot from the Grunwicks strike. British workers have refused to allow one small, low-paid, relatively powerless group of workers to be isolated and beaten into submission.

Most important, postal workers in the district of the Grunwicks plant have refused to handle Grunwicks mail. The post office suspended the workers without pay, but rank and file sentiment is so strong that the postal workers' union is making up most of their lost wages.

Of course, refusing to handle mail is illegal in Britain, just as it would be in America—but the government cannot jail the whole union!

Meanwhile, here in America, the AFL-CIO depends on Jimmy Carter to sponsor laws which are supposed to make it a little easier to organize unions.

The truth is that American unions could win hundreds of strikes and organizing drives which are now being lost all over this country, if they used a small fraction of the solidarity the British Grunwicks strikers have gotten.

Mideast Terrorist Leader To Lunch With Carter

Next week, Jimmy Carter will meet with one of the greatest terrorists in the modern history of the Middle East.

His guest will be a man who planned and organized the massacre of a peaceful village, where 250 civilians were killed and dumped into wells.

He is a man who claims he has a "historic right" to seize over 50,000 square miles of land, land which today is part of the territory of five separate countries.

This man is not in prison, or a home for the criminally insane. As a matter of fact, he is the Prime Minister of the State of Israel.

His name is Menahem Begin.

Mr. Begin was elected Israeli Prime Minister in last month's election. He is coming to Washington to tell his American allies he will never allow a Palestinian Arab homeland on Israeli-occupied territory.

And he will demand—and receive—assurances of more American arms to keep him in power.

MASSACRE

Twenty-nine years ago, at the beginning of the 1948 Middle East war, the peaceful Arab village of Deir Yassin was massacred by a right-wing Zionist army called the

Irgun. The Irgun's leader was Menahem Begin.

Menahem Begin also believes that, according to the Bible, the historic Land of Israel stretches "from the river of Egypt (the Nile) unto the great river Euphrates."

If you don't believe this, Mr. Begin says you can read up on it right in the book of Genesis 15:18.

In modern terms, this means Israel's "historic right," according to Begin, doesn't just include the West Bank, Sinai and Gaza territories which Israel occupied in 1967. It includes all this, and more—including parts of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq! Not that Mr. Begin actually

thinks he can expand the borders of Israel to cover all that territory. Nobody is that crazy.

It does mean, however, that Begin plans to push ahead with settlements throughout the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights.

Begin's message to the Palestinians in occupied territories is that they should get used to the idea of living under a permanent Israeli military police state.

Even before the 1973 war one of Begin's top advisors, Shmuel Katz, wrote that the West Bank Arab must "begin to grasp that (his) improvement and...indeed his welfare, have in fact become a

function of the Zionist state."

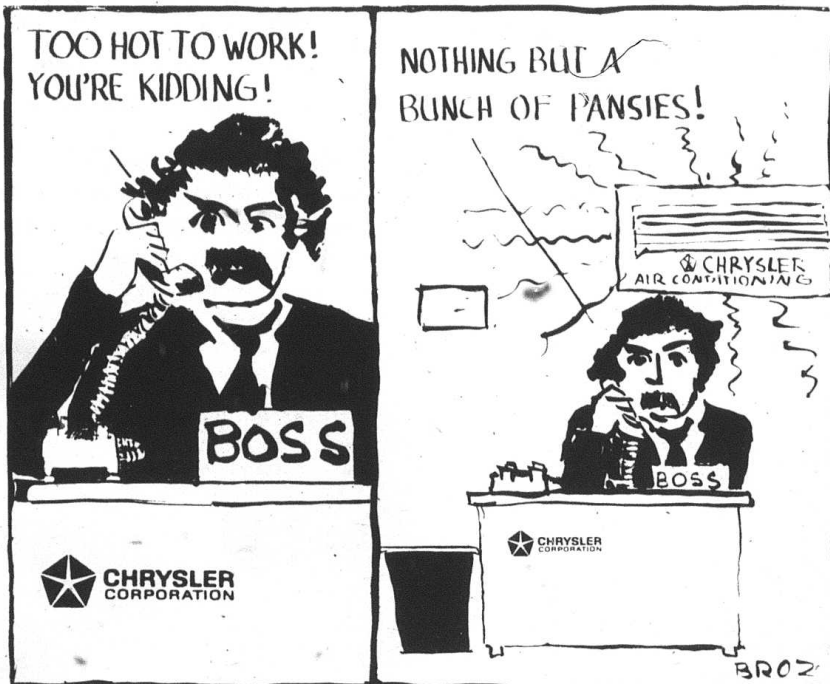
What does this add up to? Very simply, it means that Israeli government policy is totally opposed to political rights and a homeland for Palestinian Arabs.

It means, in other words, that the government of Israel is completely opposed to any possible solution that would allow Arab and Jewish peoples to live together in peace in the Middle East.

It means that, despite the Carter Administration's lip service to a Palestinian homeland, a new Middle East war is becoming more and more certain.

Dan Posen

CHRYSLER WORKERS BEAT THE HEAT



by Enid Eckstein
UAW Local 51

DETROIT—At Lynch Road Assembly, hundreds of workers shut the plant down for three consecutive days last week. We were joined by thousands of other Chrysler workers across the city who left the plants when it simply became too hot to work.

Temperatures outside climbed to 100° while the mercury inside the plants hit over 130°. All of Chrysler's Detroit plants date back to the 1920's. Ventilation is nonexistent. Fans are scarce.

But with sales at an all time high, the corporations are attempting to make their schedules no matter what.

The annual production squeeze has just begun as the Big Three phase out their 1977 models and begin '78 production. Many plants, including Lynch Road, are running six days, with two nine-hour shifts. There was no let-up in production schedules last week despite the temperature.

In most plants union officials hid from their members for fear of taking a position on the heat.

HEAT STROKE

Working under these conditions can be deadly. On Thursday, July 7, Grant Schneider complained of not feeling well during his regular eight-hour shift at the Ford Foundry. Temperatures in the foundry averaged 130°.

Shortly after his shift was done, Schneider collapsed, and was pronounced dead of heat stroke. He was 21 years old.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Chrysler's Jefferson Assembly, Dodge Main, Windsor and Lynch Road plants were shut down by the

first major heat walkouts since 1973.

At Lynch Road our walkouts were the first successful ones since the 1960s, causing the loss of three full shifts of production.

For days rumors persisted that Lynch Road management, sitting in their air-conditioned offices, would fire the leaders.

But LRA workers knew they had the upper hand at this time of year, since Chrysler is thousands of units behind schedule.

Local UAW officials made it clear to management that if disciplinary action was taken against anyone, they would lose more production.

The feeling in the plant was clear. An injury to one is an injury to all, was what everyone was saying. Management backed down.

SHORT CHECKS

But you can't walk out every day that it's hot. Walking out means a short pay check and eventually it hurts. It's now up to the UAW to negotiate to cool the plants down.

At Lynch Road members of the United Coalition, a militant caucus in the local, are pushing the union to take decisive action. The Coalition is demanding that Chrysler, which manufactures air conditioning units, air-condition the plant.

As short term measures to deal with abnormal heat, we are demanding more relief time; a slower line speed, since work standards are negotiated for "normal conditions"; more fans and ventilating equipment; and showers and ice machines.

We also want the International Union to grant emergency strike authorization over health and safety conditions.

UAW tells Big 3 to down-size profits — who's kidding who?

by Jenny Singer

UNITED AUTO WORKERS President Doug Fraser criticized the American auto industry this week for not building attractive small cars. He is afraid of foreign small car competition taking away American auto workers' jobs.

Foreign car sales are up more than 50% from last year. But small cars are less profitable than big ones.

Fraser suggested that American auto makers accept lower profit margins in order to compete with German and Japanese manufacturers, for the sake of auto workers and fuel economy.

Fraser knows that a plea to the auto industry to reduce its profit margins voluntarily will fall on deaf ears.

But he would like to convince auto workers that the blame for job loss goes to foreign competition, not the UAW's own policies.

Rest Up for Speed-up

Chrysler Corp. announced that employees at its Belvidere, Illinois plant near Chicago will get a four-month layoff for model change this year.

The plant is switching from production of the full-size Gran Fury, Royal Monaco and Newport to the small Horizon and Omni.

The 4400 workers at Belvidere had better use the four-month rest. When work resumes, line speed will go up from 45 to 60 per hour. That's an increase of 33 1/3%—with the same number of workers.

Auto workers look out! If your union doesn't fight, "down-sizing" may mean 33% more work for you too.

FRINGES FOR SPEED-UP

For the last 30 years, the UAW's policy has been to take new fringe benefits—such as the new legal aid plan for Chrysler workers—in exchange for letting the companies get away with their best profit-making move of all—speed-up.

Fraser is trying to spruce up the UAW's tarnished image. He wants to be known as the progressive labor leader, in the image of Walter Reuther.

But when it makes a difference, the UAW leadership does everything in its power to protect profits. In just the last few months, the UAW has:

• Written and lobbied hard for a

law to save the auto makers from higher clean air standards; and

• Given American Motors a contract extension which cheated AMC workers out of their cost-of-living for six months, and denied them even the tiny raise Big Three workers got in the 1976 contract.

Good luck, Doug. It will take more than a few polite suggestions to the auto companies to get the UAW back on the right track. □

by Rita Drapkin, Union Rep., Teamster Local 249

PITTSBURGH—The Southern Africa Liberation Committee sponsored a clothing and shoe collection at a United Parcel hub here. Organized by a few co-workers and me, the response was real good and we managed to partially fill a van.

The shoes and clothing will go to freedom fighters in Southern Africa to aid them in their battle against white minority rule. Many workers—Black and white—gave donations, although one worker tried to convince another not to give us anything, saying "There are poor kids right here in Pittsburgh who could use that clothing."

\$25,000 FOR YOUR JOB

DETROIT—Twenty-five grand and a new job—that was the price General Motors was willing to pay to keep Ken Ryan out of their Diesel Allison plant.

Ryan was a zone committeeman (member of the bargaining committee) when he was fired in August 1976 for allegedly hitting a foreman.

Re-instating him was one of the demands in a 20-day strike over the local contract. The membership of United Auto Workers Local 163, knowing of GM's offer to Ryan,

voted to accept the settlement.

Many believe that the union didn't want Ryan back, and "sold" him to General Motors.

Despite the money he will receive—far more than his back pay would have been—and the job in another GM plant, Ryan was ready to keep fighting for his old job.

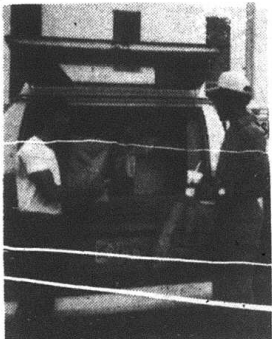
"I wasn't fired because of what happened August 23," he said. "I was fired because I fought for the people for nine and a half years." □

Africa Solidarity At UPS

That is true, of course, but one of the people helping with the collection pointed out that the clothes were needed to help win a fight against racist rule, in a country where there is no Good Will, Salvation Army, etc.

Many part-timers suggested that we have another collection at the end of July. Then, most of our shift will be indefinitely laid off because our work is being transferred to another facility.

We decided to do that. Work clothes that people are now wearing can go to aid the freedom fighters. Ironically, the shafting of Pittsburgh UPS workers can result in benefits for Blacks in Southern Africa. □



Collecting clothes at UPS.

International Socialists: Black Lib

There Be Fre Without Soc

SEVENTY PEOPLE—most of them Black—came together to talk about liberation, freedom from racism and exploitation, and how to win that goal. This was the Working Conference on Black Liberation, organized by the International Socialists. It was held in Pittsburgh June 25-26.

SOME PEOPLE WERE veterans with years of political experience. Some were brand new to the movement. But everyone had something to say, a reason for being there, experience to contribute.

THERE WERE women and men; young and old; working people, unemployed people, students.

And everyone was impressed with the seriousness of the task before them—liberation and revolution, and the movement that must be built to win them.

ONE SPEAKER laid it out: "This country is the headquarters of capitalism—a racist system that directly affects three billion people.

"It can be wounded in South Africa. But it can only be put out of its misery in the streets and factories of Pittsburgh, Detroit, Los Angeles and other places where working people live." That is what this conference was all about.

BLACK WOMEN FIGHT A TRIPLE BURDEN

"Throughout the conference we've been talking about different aspects of oppression. Ninety percent of the Black women in this room can name three ways they are oppressed. I can.

"I'm a woman, I'm a Black, I'm a worker. And that's a pretty heavy burden."

That was how Bobbi, IS member from Chicago and UAW member, led off the discussion of Women, Racism and Socialism.

"It doesn't take long in community to see that Black women are on the bottom rung of the capitalists' ladder," she said. "But

despite this burden Black women have been in the forefront of the Black Liberation movement.

Now, during the Black movement there was also a women's movement. But not many Black women participated in it.

Black women knew that we were oppressed, we didn't need a white middle class movement to come and tell us that.

Sexism was a real problem for us. But most of us consciously decided that we'd fight the Black struggle first—and that meant supporting our Black brothers as the leaders of the movement. We lost out. And so did the movement.

It was terribly frustrating to watch some brother trying to do something, something that really needed to be done. And you knew that you were more capable, but you weren't qualified just because you're a woman.

This was one of the biggest defeats and divisions of the Black movement—and it'll never happen again.

You can't put sexism on the shelf one day and say you're going to fight it another. You can't get Black liberation that way.

"I remember that even all the women who usually went around advocating civil rights for everybody didn't seem to think that women should have equal rights too.

We thought that women's liberation was something that white women did. Lots of things that the movement fought for weren't central to Black women's

survival—like liberated relationships with men.

Black women had to be more interested in jobs and putting food on the table for their kids.



Retha

"When I was younger I began to get down on Black males because they did so much deserting of Black women. But I had to check myself out. Life is not

too cool for them either.

But what we do need is good childcare. So we can work—and not at starvation wages. And decent housing—not these projects.

Abortion is another issue that is important. If Medicaid doesn't pay, this will be a serious blow to women's liberation.

Now it is quite evident that Black women can't achieve these things especially with capitalism. I think that socialism is very necessary for our liberation.



Celeste



"A weapon has to be created to dismantle capitalism." Butterfly, Detroit

"The fires are so bad that before the firemen get there some fire escapes are melted. Some of these buildings people live in. Fortunately, in some we don't."

Big Ed, New York City



How Americans Build Support For Freedom Fighters

"The economy of South Africa and the economy of the United States is the same—it's capitalism, a world-wide system.

"It is on its last leg, one foot in the grave. But it refuses to die. We have to organize to finish this monster off quickly.

"We can do it through our

community, social groups, churches, the guy next door."

Southern Africa Liberation Committee member

Fighting American involvement in southern Africa, fighting for freedom here and in Africa; that is what the Southern Africa Libera-

tion Committees are all about.

The conference was a good opportunity for SALC members from different cities to exchange experiences and evaluate their work.

Committees build support in their city for the national liberation movements in southern Africa by educating people about the events and developments there and by involving many new people in direct assistance.

Collecting shoes and clothing to aid the freedom fighters in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and boycotting places which sell South Africa's gold coin, the Krugerrand, are two of the main committee activities.

Picketing stores that sell South African and Namibian fish, and showing films about Black African lives under the minority white regimes are major community education efforts.

But it is still a struggle to build the Committees into stable, solid groups. Rudy, from the South Bronx in New York City, told the conference how their very successful Committee had tried to deal with this problem.

"Our most exciting success was collecting shoes in the housing projects. We collected over 2500 pounds of clothes."

These needed supplies will be shipped to the Zimbabwe African National Union troops fighting against the Rhodesian Army.

Rudy went on, "We followed this up with a thank you note. And through contact, we were able to set up people interested in reading Workers' Power each week."

Workers' Power reports on the events and trends in the battle for national liberation in southern Africa. It is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists.

"Out of the projects we established four or five people who are interested in getting active in our organization," Rudy said. "We followed this up with a picnic a couple of Sundays ago.

"Next we are going to get a storefront for the Committee. This will give us a base, a home where we can educate the people and we can keep fighting."

MORE IN COMMON

The Committees agree that the

movement against US imperialism in southern Africa has to be built in the American working class.

American workers have more in common with their African working brothers and sisters than with American business and government.

In Detroit the Committee has strongly emphasized this work. Larry spoke of it to the conference.

"In Detroit they pay auto workers around \$6.00 an hour. In South Africa they only pay eighty-five cents!

"Tremendous profit is made off the blood, sweat and tears of our African brothers and sisters.

"Building solidarity in the auto plants for South Africa is just at the beginning stages. But we want to be able to pass motions in local unions and collect money for support to the Black unions in South Africa."

Everyone was urged to get even more active, not only in the committees, but to help build a movement for our complete liberation.

As one participant said, "Black people in this country have become very cynical about politics. But the

Operation And Workers' Revolution

We Won't Freedom cialism

"The Black Community. In the South Bronx it looks like World War II movies—Dresden, Hamburg. It wasn't airplanes that caused all that destruction. It was a conscious decision by the people who run this country.

"In Boston, Black children can't go to certain schools. In Chicago, Black people are denied freedom of movement. The Supreme Court has decided the Nazis can march through a Jewish community in their uniforms.

"Times are getting bad, comrades and brothers—and sisters. "But they weren't always that way. In the 60's there was a movement of Blacks—militant, sometimes revolutionary—challenging the government, and its racism."

One theme of the conference was bringing together the struggle against racism and the fight for a socialist society.

The Black movement was once powerful and strong with millions of committed participants.

I.S. members believe that it was crippled because it didn't fully understand the nature of the beast it was fighting.

As Larry put it, "The movement just didn't have the politics to deal with the system."

That system was able to make enough changes to convince the millions of people who had built the Black movement that it could—and would—stop racism. But Larry pointed out, the system can't really do that.

"Racism exists at bottom because somebody makes a buck off it. The ruling class benefits. They get money from controlling the country, the jobs, the schools, the police departments. Somebody makes a buck off of us.

"Capitalism can't reform racism away. We won't ever just become 12% of the unemployed and 12% of the ruling class.

"Now how does the movement deal with this?"

WORKERS ORGANIZE

"In the 60's and early 70's the Black liberation struggle began to take on a working class character. Until then it had been led by the middle class, the professionals, the doctors, lawyers, preachers.



John



Larry

"Then Black workers began to organize in auto, telephone, steel. These militant workers were faced with a racist union, a racist company.

"In the 70's the Black struggle began to die because workers did not have a strategy for involving white workers too.

"Here you are; a minority, you have a strategy for uniting yourself—but not for actually winning anything!

"But the Black liberation struggle does have to be led by the working class. The foundation for our liberation lies on the grave of capitalism.

"Today Black people are heavy in the industry that makes the system tick.

"Ninety-five percent of Black people are working class. Our allies are white workers because we do have so much in common.

"The white worker beside us on an assembly line or a foundry has more in common with us than a member of the Black middle class does."

That is because all middle-class people—those doctors, lawyers, businessmen—they all benefit from capitalism, from the comfort of their class position. That's true even if the Blacks are also hurt by racist attitudes and restrictions.

But white workers don't benefit

from capitalism any more than Black workers do. We are members of the same class.

THE SAME THING

To explain the kind of freedom socialists are interested in Larry said, "When we use liberation and socialism they're the same term. Liberation used to mean equality, but all whites are not equal to each other. Some are much more powerful. Many are much more oppressed.

"We're for real equality—not equality to get messed over."

Another speaker, John, an autoworker from Detroit, agreed that the Black movement had to work out a strategy toward white working people.

"Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement was an example of a working class fight against racism. It formed at a majority Black auto plant to fight company and union racism. It was successful in organizing young Black workers.

"DRUM demanded Black representation in the union and upgrading of Blacks to foreman from the company.

"But they ignored white workers right down to not asking them to honor DRUM picket lines when striking."

DRUM was successful in forcing the companies to promote Blacks to foreman and in Blacks becoming union officers. But because the capitalist system has not changed, auto workers, particularly Blacks, remain among the more oppressed and exploited working people.

As Larry pointed out, "There have been plenty of issues in these past years to begin building our movement. Marxists know that the future only holds socialism or barbarism.

"And for Black people we know that barbarism means genocide. So it is in our interests to begin taking those issues to build that movement now."

Articles by
Kate Stacy
Photos by
George Alikar



Sharon

"Poor women are forced to have children. Then the government don't put any money into welfare. Then they say you're cheating welfare—there's no way you can cheat welfare! If the system didn't make it so hard for people to get money—especially the young ones—there wouldn't be so many problems."

Dee, Cleveland



Dee

"In this laundry factory I worked in in New City we were trying to organize a union. The women would be working at a real fast pace and the foreman would come along and smack them on the ass. We weren't organized to handle him.

He called this older Black woman a bitch and told her to work harder. So all the women turned off the machines and started yelling at him."

Sharon, Chicago

"It's important that we realize the long path of struggle, that we need to win small victories, and that we can't get discouraged—because the revolution is going to come."
Anthony, Los Angeles

system is on its last leg and fighting not to go down.

"We will not be successful if we do not get involved in this struggle. Black people have to take the lead to make sure that our struggle is represented."



Rudy

Join With Us Today!

The weekend had been an exciting and productive experience for everyone. Now the challenge before the conference participants was putting into practice the ideas, experiences, and plans that had been developed.

Larry Smith, I.S. National Black Organizer, explained the best way to wage the struggle for liberation.

"Black people will move towards socialism and revolution first because we're attacked first. We don't say—wait for the white working class to get itself together. We say, go ahead, let's build this struggle now.

"But in order to win socialism we will have to build a multi-national revolutionary party. We need a place to build our unity in action. Blacks will be a greater proportion of membership because of our greater oppression.

"The working class and oppressed national minorities need that revolutionary party to develop the war plans, to lead and coordinate

the battles that we wage against the ruling class, against capitalism.

"We need a revolutionary party to assure victory. The International Socialists and the Red Tide are the core of that party—but we need to grow."

Twelve people responded to his appeal by putting their names forward for membership in the IS.



RATES UP, SERVICE DOWN - WORKERS GET THE SHAFT

Service is slow and getting slower. Letters disappear. Packages arrive mangled. But at least there's something good to say about the U.S. Postal Service: it provides hundreds of thousands of people with decent jobs—or does it?

Unfortunately not. Postal workers face a boss just as ruthless as any in private industry.

In this four-part series, Workers' Power will examine the postal service. How does it operate? Why does it have problems? How does it treat its workers? Who controls it? How to fight back?

Let's start at the beginning.

The post office began having serious problems as the prosperity of the 50's and 60's came to an end. The profits of the big corporations were threatened, so government eased up tax pressure on business by cutting spending on social services.

A few items, like the defense budget, have remained enormous. Others, like the Great Society poverty programs, were wiped out.

The postal service was caught in a bind. It could not be wiped out, because, for big business in particular, it is an essential service. But business dictated that costs had to be cut.

The re-organization of the Post Office into the U.S. Postal Service in 1971 was designed for this purpose. Reducing costs translated into fewer services, poorer service, and "getting more work out of fewer people."

In 1975 the problems were aggravated when, during a nationwide recession, mail volume actually dropped for the first time in recent history. Business "laid off" mailings the same way they laid off workers.

BAILAR'S PLAN

A former American Can Co. executive, Benjamin Franklin Bailar assumed control of the postal service in 1972. He has attempted to cut costs without offending business interests.

The way things are now, business gets some big breaks. Large volume mailers pay 12c for a first class letter. We pay 13c. Second, Third and Fourth class rates, those most commonly used by business, are artificially low; they don't "pay their own way."

New service cuts have been proposed which will hurt us, not big business. Among them are ending Saturday deliveries and eliminating rural post offices.

SPEEDUP

But the heart of the cost cutting measures is a productivity drive: "getting more work out of fewer people."

The first phase of this offensive was the construction of a National Bulk Mailing System. The billion-dollar parcel sorting system is supposed to save the postal service \$500 million a year by 1980. It is

designed to attract business away from United Parcel Service and reduce the workforce by the construction of 21 new mechanized facilities.

Another phase of the productivity drive has been computer designed carrier routes made famous by the "Kokomo Plan." Carriers are given increased work loads and told to cut across lawns to make up time.

People who work inside have been hit with speedup plans like the Productivity Improvement Program. Similar to other speedup schemes, this one stresses speed at the expense of reliability.

JOBS

The key to cutting costs is to reduce the number of workers. Despite a no-layoff clause, the postal service is reducing its workforce by 2,000 a month.

This is done through attrition (not filling positions when people retire), by forcing people to resign through harassment, and by ordering transfers to installations 100 miles away or more.

In 1975, Harrisburg, Pa. mail-handlers were given notice that they were to transfer to the new bulk mailing center in Philadelphia, 115 miles away. Many, today, not wishing to uproot their families, live in Philadelphia during the week and commute home on weekends. Some are 15 and 20 year career postal workers.

Automation has also reduced the workforce. Letter Sorting Machines replace hand sorting and reduce the people who work on them to little more than machines.

A typical day in the life of a machine operator: "Arrive for work at 4 PM, 8:15 PM, 1 AM or worse. Shifts are arbitrary and mostly at night."

"Punch in on time; six minutes late and you lose an hour's pay."

"Sit down at your console and punch three keys per second for 30 minutes, straining to read scrawled addresses and jumbled zip codes. Don't miss a letter because the foreman may be electronically monitoring your machine."

"After 30 minutes, amid clanging machines and warning buzzers, stand up and check mail for 15 minutes, then sit down and start again. Eight to 12 hours a day. Two short breaks and an unpaid lunch."

Despite the productivity drive,

By PAUL ROOSE
Ex-Postal worker, and
Former Editor, "Rank & File
Postal Worker"

mail service has gotten slower. It's no wonder. Since 1975 the workforce has been cut by 8%, from 690,000 to 635,000. Mail volume has risen in the same period.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

For the future the choice is clear. Either decent jobs and service can be provided all of us, or the postal service can cater to big business. On the altar of "productivity,"

the postal bureaucracy seems ready to sacrifice thousands of jobs and the traditional goal of speedy delivery.

But there is a better alternative: more jobs; lower postage rates for the average user; and the use of machines only to make the work less tedious and mindless.

Only postal workers themselves have the power to solve the crisis of the postal service. Average mail users have no power: business accounts for 80% of the mail, so a boycott would be useless.

Postal workers won a big pay increase in 1970 by shutting down the mails. Today, they can do the

same thing to defend jobs, working conditions, and the quality of the postal service.

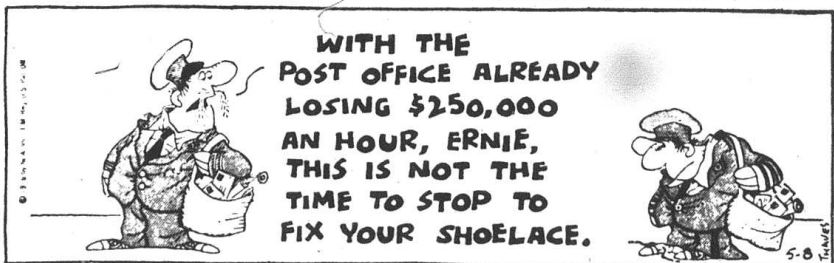
The only obstacle in their way is lack of organization. Workers are divided into five unions, and the union bureaucracies co-operate with management in the productivity drive by keeping their members in line.

As in the mines, factories, and fields, the fight for justice in the Post office is up to the rank and file. Only rank and filers can force their unions to fight for the needs of people, instead of for big business.

Next: Racism in the Post Office.



Two views of speedup. The cartoon would be funny if it wasn't based on reality. At right, a Norwood, Mass. letter carrier is trailed by a route examiner, pencil and clipboard in hand. Photo by Carl Stewart, from the Rank & File Postal Worker.



WITH THE POST OFFICE ALREADY LOSING \$250,000 AN HOUR, ERNIE, THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO STOP TO FIX YOUR SHOELACE.

Split Heads At Split Rail

by Paul Merton

AUSTIN, TEXAS—Bobby Nelson and Margin Wiginton are two Austin Lawyers who created a group of workers out of their co-operatively run honkytonk, the Split Rail.

Nelson-Wiginton's past credentials as radicals have not prevented them from acting in the worst traditions of small business owners. Their past record only makes their present sell-out more shameful.

They acquired "their" business by deceiving a workers' cooperative and using the police to arrest and evict the workers.

Suffering from three weeks of effective picketing, Nelson and Wiginton assaulted several of the pickets on Wednesday, July 6, shoving, punching, and spitting at them. The attack was strongly repudied.

As the pickets were taking up their positions the following night, they were viciously attacked by a group of club-wielding goons.

One picketer, Jim Blanford, was clubbed to the ground and kicked repeatedly in the face, causing serious injuries.

The Split Rail workers organized a well prepared picket with over 80

supporters for the next night. They filed assault charges against Nelson, Wiginton and bartender David Apke, and called a press conference on the steps of the police station.

While the petty capitalists who run Austin's honkytonks and bars regularly screw their workers with low pay and rotten conditions, Nelson and Wiginton are particularly vicious members of that class.

Regardless of whether or not the Rail workers want back what is left of their honkytonk, Nelson and Wiginton cannot be allowed to stay in business.

NO MORE MURDERS!

Courts, Congress Lead Poor Women To Back-Alley Abortions

by Elissa Clarke

BEFORE 1973, an abortion meant a nightmare.

If you had money, you could always buy a safe abortion. Even a legal one, if you had \$800 to fly to London, Tokyo, or Mexico.

If you had no money, it was another story. "Back-alley" abortions were performed in motels rooms or dirty apartments, rented for the day. On a kitchen table, or a coffee table, with newspapers spread about.

Most likely, the person performing the abortion was not a doctor. Perhaps it was a nurse, or a doctor who had had his license revoked. Or maybe just someone out to make a buck.

Sometimes it went all right. But if there were complications, you were left to die.

Many women tried to abort themselves. They would force coat-hangers or knitting needles into the uterus. Or they would douche with noxious chemicals—castor oil, quinine, lye, Drano.

If you didn't die from a perforated uterus, you would probably die from poisoning.

NIGHTMARE OVER?

The 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion meant that the nightmare of back-alley abortions was a thing of the past.

But recent decisions by the Supreme Court and the Congress ending the use of Medicaid funds for abortion will force poor women to use back-alley abortions—or have children that they cannot afford, or cannot care for.

In the past month:

- The House of Representatives passed an amendment that would deny the use of Medicaid funds for abortions, even when the mother's life was in danger. The amendment passed on June 17.

- On June 20, the Supreme Court ruled that states are not required to use Medicaid funds for abortion.

- On June 29, the Senate passed an amendment that would deny the use of Medicaid funds for abortion, except when "medically necessary."

- On June 29, the Supreme Court struck down an injunction against a similar amendment passed by Congress in 1976.

So the road is cleared. The right-to-lifers, the anti-abortionists, the right-wing movement will

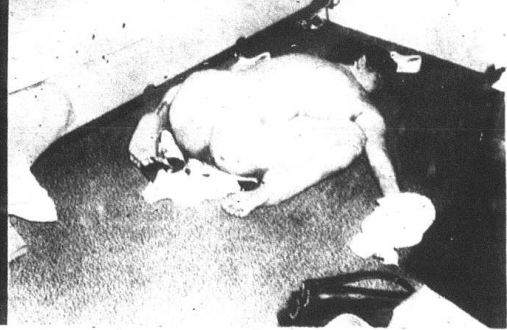
lead poor women to back-alley abortionists. And they will leave them there to die.

LIBERALS

But the right-wingers were joined in this vote by the country's most illustrious liberals. Frank Church (D-Idaho), crusader against the CIA, voted for it. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn), friend of labor. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), the great liberal. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine). Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont). Among others.

These so-called liberals of the Democratic Party were willing to pose as friends of the women's movement when it suited them. But they are just as happy to ally with the right wing. They have no principles. It's all a question of deals and trade-offs.

This woman was the victim of a back-alley abortion. This is the way she was found by police. She was left to die by her abortionist when 'something went wrong.'



But some women will pay dearly for these high-level maneuvers.

Edward Brooke (R-Mass), the only Black in the Senate, came off as the hero of the day by proposing that the amendment allow federally funded abortions when "medically necessary."

It is time for women to ask why. Why is there an attack on abortion? What can we do to turn it around?

It is clear that the question here is not money. It's not hard to figure out that a Medicaid abortion costs the government less than carrying a baby to term and delivering—not to mention the cost of raising that baby on welfare funds.

When the Supreme Court ruled on state funds for abortion, they said that the state has "a valid and important interest in encouraging childbirth." What is that interest?

A woman's right to abortion puts us in control of our bodies. It frees us to make other choices about our lives.

No woman wants to have an abortion. But there does not exist a form of contraception that is 100% sure, 100% available, or 100% safe.

A woman might choose to have an abortion so she could get a job and get off welfare. Another baby might be the difference between being able to pay the bills and going under. Or because having a child would force her to be dependent on a man, when she might want to break free.

A woman who chooses not to have children—or to put off the time when she will have children—threatens the traditional role for women—mother and domestic servant. This is a choice that a woman should be free to make.

OPPRESSION

The attack on the right to abortion is only one of the conditions that makes women's lives oppressive in this society. Women are not considered to have the same right to work as men. Women suffer a higher unemployment rate than men. Women get less pay than men, regardless of race. There are inadequate child care facilities for mothers who want to work.

All of these conditions are designed to keep women in the home, having babies, and taking care of the male workforce. Through the family, society has to pay very little to maintain its non-working members.

The attack on the right to abortion is of serious concern to all women. Poor women were first. But the attack will not end there. The issue here is abortion, and a woman's right to control her life.

The women's movement of the '60's raised the issue of abortion. That movement is dead. The right wing has the offensive. It is up to us to turn it around. Black and white working women have to join together to build a movement that can defend the right to abortion—and move on to achieve equality for women.

Fighting for Justice

LETTERS

Dear Workers' Power,

Here is a little history of my case: The first Sunday of this month they served us some eggs for breakfast that you could play handball with. So I took the eggs up to the kitchen guard and stated my case. As usual he ignored me. I sat back down.

Now they have in the paper that I left the dining area, changed into a sweat suit, approached the guard, punched him one time and he died from a punch to the temple.

They have made it clear that I'm a "real karate expert." My hands are not registered anywhere and none of them is qualified to say I'm a "real karate

expert," dig what I'm saying.

I'm being railroaded to the max. If I was to get a fair trial I couldn't get any more than manslaughter.

In the case before this I should have never made it to trial. At the time I didn't have any money and the Public Defender I had was dragging his feet. Now I find out he didn't appeal all of my cases.

Some dudes do their time by fucking with the law hoping to find some loopholes in their case. But before they get any kind of play it's five, ten or twenty years later.

Here is a dude doing five to ten, he fights his case and then he finally gets a win in five years.

As for myself, I don't have time to play their games knowing I won't get any favorable results.

My people will and are doing all they can but they can only do so much. My attorney is asking for \$10,000! He needs half now to get started.

For what he tells me that has to be done, it could possibly cost that much. Tell me, where am I or my people going to get ten grand?

This is the first attorney that I have any faith in what he can say he can do.

He wants another autopsy done on the guard by another doctor (one he paid for), he wants to get a change of venue. That will cost some money and plus my life is involved.

I have several life sentences already and I can get the death penalty under that new shitty law, anyone who kills a guard or policeman, etc. can be sentenced to death if the jury sees fit.

Also, assault by a lifer is almost a guarantee that I'll get the chair.

I can't give you much rap on socialism, but I can't tell you much on how to be a doctor—but when I'm sick I know a doctor can help me. Dig what I'm saying?

For a better world,
James Taylor
Graterford, Pa.

[Send contributions to: Celeste Taylor, 191 Burrows St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.]

"We were meant to be free"

Dear Workers' Power

To begin my liberation, I must first know myself, know that I am Black, a woman, and person. My body and mind are in chains that cannot be seen, but I do feel them. These chains hold a woman to fit man's purposes.

So we must now go on to our Black brothers, our men; we have to make them see that we are to come together as one. We were meant to be free too, not to be behind closed doors having babies year after year.

Everytime that it is made known to me that a woman on welfare has three or four children and giving half of it to her man, he goes and buys a nickle bag of weed and gives the rest to some other woman who he has just screwed to get rid of his guilt. I'm not saying that all Black men are this way, but they know who they

are. To men, men who use and abuse their women are by no means strong. These are men who cannot make it in this white man's world so they pimp and make promises of a change to their women.

These women are a part of me too, so they must also be liberated.

The two hundred years of slavery that our bothers and sisters went through cannot be in vain. They were chained by mind and body to work for the white man, as it is today, but then they had a lot of spirit and believed strongly in being free. Man and woman did stay together as one. Men should never forget the Black woman's part in that time. They were a part of liberation too. I ask the Black brothers, give respect and trust to your Black sisters. Glorify those 200 years—

be as one.

Glorify means to shed radiance, splendor, praise, honor or distinction given to a person or persons. After this is done then we can be

known as persons and equal.

Then on to our white brothers and sisters.

Lydia
Pittsburgh, PA

ANITA BRYANT: SHUT UP!

Dear Staff,

Don't you wish that Anita Bryant's brain were as large as her mouth?

So she doesn't believe in brotherly love or the Sermon on the Mount. Well, she doesn't have to broadcast her fascist-atheist views to decent folks.

I'm an old woman who has never been assaulted by gay people. All the thousands of murders I've read about where

Where We Stand

WE OPPOSE

- *CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION**
 We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.
- *CAPITALIST CONTROL**
 Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions, and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.
- *OPPRESSION**
 Capitalism needs inequality. Because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the home when they are not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.
- *CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT**
 The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying and wars.
- *BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM**
 Russia, China and other countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working class of those countries.

WE SUPPORT

- *THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**
 The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.
- *LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION**
 Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We are for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom. Support from the entire working class movement will make the struggles of both—the oppressed and the working class movement—stronger.
- *SOCIALISM**
 Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.
- *WORKERS' REVOLUTION**
 But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.
- *INTERNATIONALISM**
 The struggle for socialism is world-wide. We support every fight of the working class against exploitation, and every struggle by nations fighting for independence from foreign rulers. We support every struggle for freedom—from the people of southern Africa against racism and western colonialism, to the struggle against bureaucratic rule and Russian imperialism in Eastern Europe. We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule.
- *REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**
 The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.
- *INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS**
 The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

FREEDOM!

"Freedom" is one of the most used and abused words there is. We live in the "free world"—or do we? We hear about "free enterprise," "freedom of speech," and even "buy one—get one free!" Take this word and use it in a sentence with the word "socialism," and if there's anyone else around you will have started a lively conversation.

That's exactly what Ken Morgan does in the new pamphlet from Sun Press, "Freedom! Questions and Answers About Socialism." "We think socialism is the only way people can be free," states the introduction.

This bold statement reflects the view of socialists that "freedom" is not just an idea for philosophers to ponder over endlessly. To socialists, freedom can be defined, fought for, and achieved.

NOT A LECTURE

The pamphlet is published by the International Socialists, the organization that publishes Workers' Power. And the pamphlet's introduction states: "We're trying to

convince you to join us."

But don't expect a lecture from this booklet. It's written like a conversation—between someone who believes that "socialism is the only way people can be free" and someone with a lot of penetrating questions about that.

For instance, there's a question, "You said that socialism was democratic. But in a socialist system, people would be able to vote to take away my private property. That may be democracy according to you, but I worked hard to afford a house, and my car, and I

don't believe anyone has the right to take them away."

Morgan answers, "Socialism would abolish the private ownership of social property, not of individual possessions.

"Textile mills and garment factories would be owned by society—that's not the same as taking the shirt off your back."

ANSWERS

There's more to that answer, and many more issues that are debated in the booklet's 32 pages. What

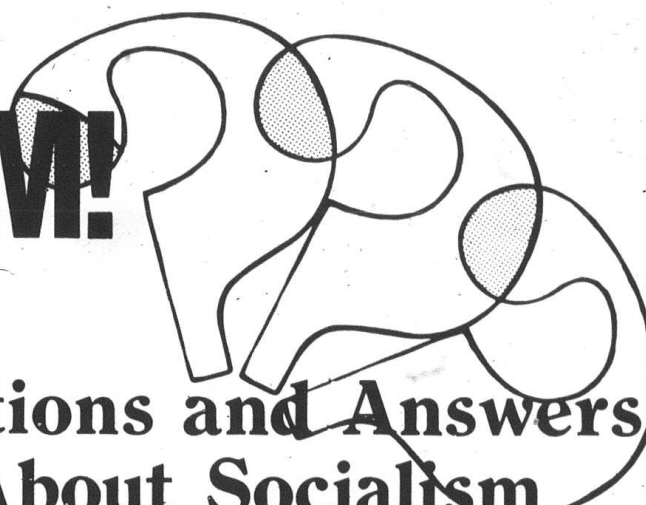
about Russia? Aren't people basically selfish?

What about racism? Can't we reform this system? Do socialists have ulterior motives?

Whether you're just becoming interested in socialism, or you're an IS member with friends who you want to convince about our organization, this pamphlet is for you.

It costs 50¢ postpaid, 30¢ each for orders of 10 or more. Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

Karen Kaye



Questions and Answers About Socialism

Red Tide Summer School — "The Solution Is Revolution"



Billy, Red Tide member.

The Red Tide Summer School was a big success according to everyone who attended. About 30 Red Tide members and friends from Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit attended the five-day school at a camp outside Detroit.

Chewy joined the Red Tide last year and went to the Winter Wonderland school. He compared the summer school to his earlier experience. "I thought it was better than the other time I went. "I learned a lot, and everything we did seemed pretty together.

"The classes were easier to understand than at Winter Wonderland cause I had just joined. I liked the South Africa class that Tywana gave."

Another Red Tide member, Billy, told what he thought of the school: "The classes were related to different topics. One was on the imperialist state. Another on the Russian

Revolution. The Black power movement. A whole lot of topics.

"I think this one was better than the one last year. Like we had more participation from Red Tiders who were giving classes. People who didn't give classes last year gave some this year.

"I thought the class Tony gave on the Black movement was a help, it really brought out how Blacks got messed over in the 60's.

"People carried the classes. They never missed them or nothing like that."

Larry, a member of the South-west Side Detroit branch and of the national Red Tide executive committee, explained the reason for the school.

"We tried to take a central theme that we could hit on all day long and give people some in-depth information and understanding about that particular topic.

"One of the topics was Stalinism, explaining to people the nature of the government in Russia and China.

"Another topic we had was Black liberation. And we educated our members on the lessons of the civil rights movement, what we learned about the Democratic Party, what we learned about the government, so we don't always have to repeat past mistakes.

"What we learned from the Black liberation struggles we can apply to our fight for Gary Tyler.

SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

"Another topic we had was on the world economic and political crisis going on. We talked about why capitalism's always prone to having depressions, recession, inflation and stuff, and the political crisis that that's creating.

"The Red Tide is one of the few organizations where young Blacks, whites and Chicanos can sit down together and discuss the problems facing us and common solutions to them.

"And the solution is socialist revolution."

Atlanta: Where Did The "Leaders" Go?

by Jack Bloom

ATLANTA—When a group of Black businessmen recently lost ownership of the Atlanta International Hotel here, Black government and community leaders were quick to rally to their defense.

Yet many of these same leaders were nowhere to be found when Black Mayor Maynard Jackson was crushing a strike of mostly Black city workers here four months ago.

In the two years that Blacks controlled the hotel, they had developed a clientele that was over half Black. AFSCME, the city workers' union, had held several functions there.

State Senator Leroy Johnson and his supporters have condemned the hotel's foreclosure as racist.

"This is a good hotel in a good location, and they just don't want any Black people to own it," charged Reverend Joseph Boone.

He was joined in his charge by Black State Representatives Billy McKinney and Douglas Dean.

All of them joined a demonstration urging Blacks not to use the hotel. Many drove away when they saw the demonstration. Black taxi drivers refused to cross the line.

Both Johnson and Boone had supported a 1970 AFSCME city strike, leading demonstrations and singing civil rights songs.

Yet neither of them, nor any of the others, would support the AFSCME workers in their bitter strike against Atlanta's white power structure this year.

The Black middle class leaders who benefitted from the mass movement of the 60's have now turned their backs on the masses. They have their own concerns.

What remains is for the Black masses to turn their backs on the middle class "leaders" and develop their own leadership.

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D.C. Teamster Victory

"UNION DEMOCRACY and representation for the members." Those are the goals of the "Teamwork" reform slate elected to office in Teamster Local 639 in Washington, D.C. according to the

new President, Daniel George. The 13-member reformer slate was elected to office last month, June 25. All 13 were working Teamsters. Almost 40% of the local's 6000 members voted. The

"Teamwork" groups got almost 2/3 of the votes cast, winning 1400 to 869.

But they were able to take over the local only after a Federal Judge ordered the losers to turn over the offices and the books on June 28. "We got together a slate of stand-up men from each craft," said George.

Local 639 is a general local with members from freight, United Parcel Service, construction and other Teamster crafts.

George, who was active in that fight, was fired from his job as a driver in 1971. He later proved that he had been fired as a result of collusion between his employer, DeBrouse, and the local union.

Immediately before the election, "Teamwork" had challenged an attempt of the past president to usurp power in the union. He was changing the by-laws to allow him to set his own salary, appoint the Business Agents and otherwise arrogate powers from the membership. "But we backed him down on that," said George.

represent the members, and an unwillingness on the part of the past leadership to organize the non-union employers. But race was also an issue. The previous administration had said that Blacks were unqualified to run the union. Blacks were prominent in the Teamwork slate.

CHALLENGE

Other reform slates in the Teamsters union have almost immediately run into trouble. The joint council kills their grievances, their jurisdictions are carved up into little pieces, and their locals are thrown into trusteeship.

But according to George, "We have received nothing but cooperation from the Eastern Conference and the International."

The victory of the Teamwork slate is a sign of the times. The Teamsters union is being challenged by reformers and radicals in locals across the country.

A PROD-backed slate nearly took over the Memphis local a couple of years ago. Teamsters for a Democratic Union has a strong base of support in Detroit and Flint. Independent groups are organizing in other cities.

The victory of the reformers throughout the Teamsters union depends on a national rank and file movement, which can prevent the isolation and the defeat of local victories. Each local victory is also a step in that direction. □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

Steel companies, electric utilities, and other major coal users have been trying to stockpile in anticipation of a lengthy strike when the **United Mine Workers** contract expires December 6. But they've not been too successful. As of March 31, the U.S. Bureau of Mines reports an average 76-day coal supply. That contrasts to a 79-day supply a year earlier, when there was no stockpiling in progress.

Almost two years after **Jimmy Hoffa's** disappearance, federal officials admit their investigation is at a dead end. The FBI spent \$1 million looking for Hoffa, only a fraction of the \$9 million they spent tracking down **Patty Hearst**.

The **United Farm Workers** union has signed new contracts with several California grape growers, including the large **Freedman ranch**. The contracts include the first paid vacations for California farm workers, improvements in health care, and a 39.2% wage increase over three years. That percentage increase is considerably more than strong, powerful unions such as the **Auto Workers**, **Teamsters**, and **Steel Workers** were able to come up with in their last contracts.

Twenty-one million workers, or one out of every four, are exposed on a daily basis to dangerous chemicals, gases, and other substances regulated by the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**. Yet most of these workers are never told of the danger involved in their jobs.

We're glad to see that officials of **Actors' Equity** have written to one of that union's members, **Anita Bryant**, protesting her campaign against gay rights.

The railroads are at it again. From 1959-1972 they fought to cut train crew sizes from five to four. Ultimately they were successful. Now they want to cut it down to three, eliminating the rear brakeman. Contracts expire January 1, and the crew size issue has already heated up negotiations after only one session, with the **United Transportation Union** asking Congress to nationalize the private railroads.

Ed Sadlowski's lawyer, **Joseph Rauh**, has issued a strong protest about the nature of the government's investigation of the **United Steel Workers** election. **Sadlowski** filed charges concerning the February 8 election with the Department of Labor after he was declared the loser. **Rauh** says the union is coaching its officials before they are questioned by the investigators, and that the Labor Department is using some of the investigators to look into **Sadlowski's** campaign financing.

The **Teachers Association** in **Montebello, California** sold out its members in recent contract negotiations with the Board of Education. In return for the Board's agreement to an "agency shop"—which requires non-members to pay fees to the union—the teachers' medical deductible went from \$50 to \$100 yearly. The teachers also got stuck with a three-year contract instead of the previous yearly contracts.

Unemployment may be a much more common experience than you imagine. Throughout 1976, 20.4 million workers were unemployed at one time or another. Almost three million of them were out of work for the whole year. Racism makes these statistics even worse. While 92% of all white men had jobs during all or part of the year, only 72% of all Black men did.

One jobless worker in **Denmark** had his own answer to unemployment. When threatened with having his unemployment compensation cut off, he attacked **Arne Jensen**, the top official in the unemployment office, and bit off his ear. **Jensen** later found his ear wrapped in paper along with a note saying, "This is your ear."

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



NEWSLETTER

"We started putting out a publication, a newsletter," **George** told **Workers' Power**. The slate took its name from the newsletter—"Teamwork."

"The men got to see it as their publication, their Bible almost," said **George**. "We took up their problems. We got the members to turn out for local meetings."

Philip Feester, another member of the "Teamwork" slate, and a business agent for the local now, said, "We wanted to show that something could be done if people would get out and vote."

Asked what the job of the slate is now, **George** said it was to "represent the men and deal with scab companies."

The "Teamwork" slate was the final result of a six-year battle in the local, between reformers who became **Teamwork**, and the old union leadership.

DENIES TIES

It has been claimed that the opposition was a **PROD** supported slate. **PROD** is a national rank and file group of Teamsters associated with **Ralph Nader**, which is attempting to reform the **IBT**, primarily through the courts and legislation.

But **George** denied any association with **PROD**. "I'm unaware of any connection," he said.

"I'm not a member of **PROD** and I don't like the way **PROD** operates, going outside of the union. We're a group in the union. I don't believe in going to outsiders."

George also denied any association with **Teamsters** for a **Democratic Union**, another national rank and file organization.

The main issues in the campaign were union democracy, failure to

Phone Contract Deadline Draws Near

by Paul Broz

"The **Communications Workers of America**," says Vice President **Walter Mondale**, "is the best union in America."

Depends on your point of view. The average phone worker might not agree with him.

Mondale was speaking at the **CWA** convention in **Kansas City** last month. National contracts covering 700,000 **Bell** system workers expire **August 6**.

At the convention the Executive Board announced that a strike vote would be taken, with results to be reported **July 22**.

Right before bargaining, **CWA** officials, like most union officials, talk tough. In between contracts they practice "responsible" unionism.

This means that they refrain from using the union's power on behalf of the membership.

JOB LOSS

According to union figures, there are **95,299** fewer phone workers now than there were at the time of the last contract three years ago.

The company has reduced the workforce through automation, by replacing installers with "phone supermarkets," by instituting charges for directory assistance calls, and through speedup and forced overtime.

Through all this, the union has



use of union muscle to save jobs, but instead they called for bringing workers in other industries besides telephone into the **CWA** to counter "a projected drop in membership."

They are not concerned with saving members' jobs so much as saving their own dues base.

Bell is taking a hard line in negotiations. They are arguing for adjusting clerical workers' wages downwards to match low rates elsewhere.

Bell researchers claim that phone worker wages, benefits, and working conditions are equal to or better than those in both "the public and private sphere."

CWA researchers claim the opposite. They have compiled reams of data to "prove" to the company that a larger slice of the pie is justified. The company turns a deaf ear.

The only "proof" **Ma Bell** will listen to is the sound of workers' feet hitting the bricks **August 7**.

Strike sentiment is running high. Many locals have rented strike headquarters and started printing picket signs.

As one **Detroit** placard puts it: "We're mad as hell, and we're not going to take it any more." □

(See story on **Detroit** wildcat strike, page 12.)

Workers' Power

STEELWORKERS FACE TEST Inland, Bethlehem contracts

A REBEL LEADERSHIP and worsening working conditions: that's the explosive combination in the steel mills of the Chicago-Gary area, the heart of the American steel industry.

There is a militant new tone in negotiations in two locals of the United Steelworkers of America (USW). And two other locals have already won big gains in their local contracts.

The change is due to last February's union elections.

The Steelworkers Fight Back, a union reform slate, gave steelworkers a chance to say "no" to the way the union has been run.

In the Chicago-Gary area, Fight Back elected Jim Balanoff as Director of District 31—the largest

and most important in the union. And Ed Sadlowski, the Fight Back candidate for union president, won a majority of the vote in the basic steel industry—losing the election among other members of the union (with the possible help of some funny vote-counting).

OPPOSED E.N.A.

Fight Back received strong support from workers in basic steel because it was identified with ending the Experimental Negotiating Agreement—the ENA or no-strike agreement.

Since 1973, ENA has barred any national strike in basic steel, and prevents membership ratification of the national contract. The ENA

itself was never put to a vote.

The Fight Back majority among those covered by the ENA and the whole Fight Back campaign seemed to crack open the old machine's hold on the union.

Local presidents—usually a collection of yes-men—actually voted to reject the national contract before the Administration was able to whip them into line.

And now, for the first time in almost 20 years, there is a militant campaign to make local bargaining effective.

Workers at the Burns Harbor (Ind.) Works of Bethlehem Steel, near Gary, recently voted on a local contract for the first time in 12 years.

Accepted almost unanimously,

the contract completely overhauled the plant code of conduct. This will mean fewer discharges and more relief time for coke oven workers—one of the most unhealthy jobs in the world.

At Midwest Steel, the company held a picnic just before the strike authorization vote. All the picnickers sported "Vote Yes" buttons—"yes" to a strike. The company got the message: a new local agreement was signed the next week.

Among other gains, employees with over two years can now choose to be laid off and collect Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (which are quite high) rather than be transferred into a lower paying job.

And in the iron mining country of

Minnesota, 21 out of 23 locals have requested strike authorization. The miners, covered by the basic steel contract and the ENA, are angry over the lack of incentive pay.

And workers at Republic Steel and Inland Steel voted to authorize strikes at their mills if there is no contract by August 1.

Of all the local fights, the one at Inland is the most important. All of the company's steel-making facilities are at one plant—in East Chicago, Indiana. There is only one local, Local 1010, the largest in the union with 18,000 members, and the home local of District Director Jim Balanoff.

Inland is also the most profitable of the major steel companies (compared to its sales), has the lowest labor costs, and the second-lowest incentive (bonus) rates.

Most important, the Local 1010 leaders have been leading the fight to dump the ENA. If a strike—or the threat of a strike—wins big gains at Inland, it will be a powerful example to the whole union.

It will help show the membership that they have to rely on their own power, not the company's good will.

The major demands still on the table include incentive rates (which can be a big chunk of a steelworker's actual pay) and improvements in working conditions for coke oven workers. Restrictions on overtime and better food service are among the others.

There are 300 unresolved issues—and the company claims that 200 of them aren't local issues at all and have already been settled by the national contract.

COMPANY PRESSURE

In the weeks leading to the strike authorization vote, the company used all its resources to get a big "No" vote. Headlines in the weekly company paper screamed: "Strike Vote—Little to Gain, Much to Lose."

There was an editorial by the plant manager, claiming the company had already agreed to so much, and that workers were risking a lot by striking.

All probationary employees (new-hires) were told they would be laid off. Letters from their superintendents told each worker that foreign imports would capture Inland's customers if there was a strike.

The company gave people time off to vote, and even provided buses to take them to the polls! The strike vote won, by 800 votes.

It has been 18 years since the last major steel strike, and many steelworkers have never been on strike. Others remember the defeat of the last strike. Strikes, militancy, fighting back—that tradition has never died, but it has been asleep.

There are many skills to be relearned, the skills to make the union strong. A big victory at Inland could rip the ENA wide open.

Detroit Phone Workers Are "Mad As Hell"

by Paul Broz

DETROIT—It was raining cats and dogs. T-shirted picketers, cold and drenched, marched in front of Michigan Bell's west side Kenwood garage.

One of their number, installer Bob Brelin, had been suspended the day before, June 28, for refusing to work overtime.

"Monday morning when I came to work, I told the supervisor I was going home after eight hours," Brelin told Workers' Power. "I told him that my girlfriend and I had to meet with our minister about getting married."

The phone company has routinely been sending people out with 10-14 hours worth of work. Some strain to complete it in eight hours.

Brelin continued: "He said: I would have to work. I told him I wouldn't."

The next day Brelin was suspended for "refusing a direct order." He filed a grievance.

PICKET LINES

Communications Workers of America Local 4001 Secretary-Treasurer Don Hicks was one of those handling the grievance. He told Workers' Power, "The company had agreed on Tuesday afternoon to bring Brelin back off suspension and pay him for that afternoon."

According to Hicks, everything would have worked out all right except for the intervention of a second level supervisor named Finlayson.

"He's got these guys to a point to where I don't care what he does or says, all he's got to do is show up and they'll walk out."

Sensing that something was up, the company took the passes and garage keys of 30 workers at Brelin's garage, even though,



The week after a Detroit wildcat, phone workers hold informational picket in front of Bell headquarters.

officially, they had not been suspended.

The next day, Wednesday, there were picket lines out at several phone locations. The company began moving supervisors from other buildings into Kenwood to scab. During the day the strike grew from 180 to about 300 people.

Thursday night there was a union meeting. The hall was packed with strikers.

Sentiment was running high for spreading the strike, but it was agreed to go back to work Friday, to meet requirements for collecting holiday pay for the Fourth of July.

According to one worker: "We decided that there would be no mandatory overtime until after the

new contract, August 6. If anyone got hassled we would walk out.

"If the company tried to bring foremen in from other garages, those garages would walk out."

They also voted to put up an informational picket for three days the next week in front of Bell headquarters downtown.

On July 6, the company finally agreed to pay Brelin for the period of his suspension. They also transferred (and promoted!) Finlayson.

"THINGS HAD BEEN BUILDING"

The real issue was not just the suspension of Bob Brelin. One worker said, "Things have been building up around here for about a year—the hassle is getting worse.

Bob getting suspended just set it off."

The Bell system lays some people off and forces others to do their work on overtime. That's the nature of the capitalist system: it's cheaper to work someone overtime than to hire people off the street.

"We're trying to make all overtime voluntary," says Don Hicks, "but we've never been able to get them bent that way."

Sweet talk won't bend the phone company. It never has.

Rank and file action—the Kenwood wildcat—won a victory for Bob Brelin. Rank and file action August 6 can bring an end to mandatory overtime.

When workers stand up and say, "Enough!" they can achieve almost anything.