

AGG... IN SECTION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STA...
ISON... 3370

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS AUGUST 22, 1977 #219 25c

IN THIS ISSUE	
TDU Leader Wins	... 3
Panama Canal	... 4
South Bronx	... 5
Sacco & Vanzetti	... 10
Cops Evict Aged	... 11

LIBRARY
AUG 22, 1977
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN

FREEDOM!
That's what
we're about.

International Socialists
Worker's Conference
August 1977

SEE PAGES 6-7

Bosses Run Wild, Labor Fumbles

by Kim Moody

The employers have the offensive. And they are kicking labor right down the field. Take a look at the score for 1976.

Corporate profits for 1976 were up 30% above 1975. Their total—\$149 billion.

The average pay for the top executives of the nation's 100 largest corporations jumped 20%. In salaries and bonuses, the top three officers of these companies averaged \$437,000, \$321,000, and \$260,000 respectively.

Down at the other end of the field, the workers didn't do so well. The average weekly earnings of workers in private industry rose by a little more than 7%—to \$176 a week. But after an end run by inflation and tax deductions, that melted to a 1.3% increase—to \$91.79.

The workers tried to improve the score by winning increases in new contracts. But they didn't gain much. The settlement for 1976 produced only a 6.6% annual gain in wages and benefits for the life of the contract.

This was down from an 8.1% increase in 1975 contracts. This, of course, means that the scores for the 1977 and '78 games won't be much better and may be worse.

PRODUCTIVITY PLAY

The winning play, however, was productivity. American workers produced 6.5% more per hour in 1976 than in 1975.

That increase is almost three times the post-WWII average.

In some industries, where the employers have been playing an unusually tough game, the results were even greater. In auto, productivity jumped 9.2%. In steel 7.3%. In telephone 10.5%

And they got all this extra work with nothing more than a good old fashioned squeeze play. No new machines, no new technology—just speed-up, harassment, and the old squeeze.

Yes, it was all this extra work by labor that handed those big profits and salaries to the bosses.

And the worst thing about it was, the game was fixed. You could see it right out in the open. Labor's backfield just handed the ball to management every time.

This year's game looks worse. The average gain in wages and benefits for contracts signed in the

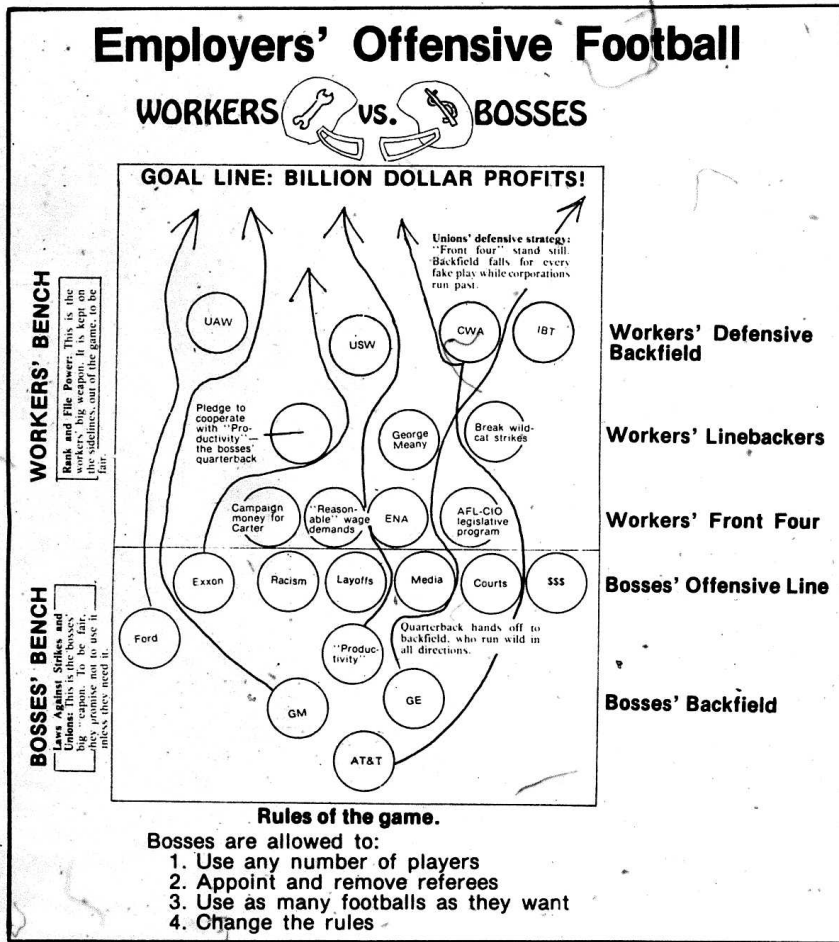
first six months of 1977 was 5.8%. With inflation running 6%, it looks like the game is already lost.

To make matters worse, a lot of talent is still sitting on the bench. Nearly six and a half million workers have had to watch from the side-lines, as unemployment stayed

around 7%.

Well, it's hard to remember when Labor's coach ever came up with a winning play, or their quarterback ever got in front of the line.

In our opinion, it's time Labor got a whole new backfield. □



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARDS

Hottest Player of the Year: John J. Riccardo, chairman of Chrysler. The temperatures in his plants reached 130° this summer. Total salary plus bonus: \$691,733.

Deep Freeze Award: Clifton C. Garvin, chairman of Exxon. With the rest of the fuel giants, he contrived an oil and natural gas shortage last winter to create a "proper climate" for raising prices. Total salary plus bonus: \$810,883.

Dirtiest Players Award: Henry Ford II and Thomas A. Murphy, chairmen of Ford and General Motors. They announced that there would be no 1978 model production unless Congress rushed through the Dirty Air Bill postponing emissions standards. Their salaries plus bonus: \$970,000 and \$950,000 respectively.

Underpaid Superstar Award: John deButts, chairman of AT&T, who has to survive on a salary-plus-bonus of \$483,813. This is a shockingly low figure for a corporation whose profits were first to crack the billion-dollar barrier in one quarter! Workers' Power has not been able to confirm the rumor that Mr. deButts will play out his option and become a free agent next season.

Best Sucker Play Award: Edgar B. Speer, chairman of U.S. Steel. He told the United Steel Workers they would have to give up their right to strike until 1983, or they might all lose their jobs. It worked. (That is, it got the union leaders to sign the no-strike deal. Not that it's saved any jobs.) Salary plus bonus: \$425,000.



Why Dayton Homes Burned — Don't Blame the Firemen!

FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS, the fire fighters of Dayton, Ohio became National Public Enemy #1 in newspapers throughout the country.

It is a marvellous example of how the independent, free press in America covers public workers' struggles.

One major wire service story, for example, began: "At least 11 families lost their homes or apartments Tuesday to fires while striking Dayton fire fighters watched from their picket lines."

This is what they call objective, accurate reporting. What a lie.

A really accurate report would have begun: "At least 11 families lost their homes or apartments while the Mayor and City Council refused to negotiate with fire fighters who are asking for higher pay and a 48-hour work week."

Or, this would be even better: "Dayton fire-fighters continued Tuesday to save the lives of people threatened by fires, even though they are receiving no pay and are not covered by contract protection while doing so."

You will not find a single capitalist newspaper which reports a city workers' strike this way.

Instead, editors and publishers across the country print editorials and cartoons depicting the fire fighters as callous beer-bellied featherbedders, or thugs, or even arsonists.

Every one of these scribblers make more—a lot more—than the \$12,043 which was starting pay for Dayton firemen.

And they don't risk their lives and families' security every day they go to work, either.

The national outcry against the Dayton firemen has a purpose. It is intended to focus the anger of other working people over rising taxes,

declining services and insecurity—and direct it against the wrong enemy, other workers.

We have a different answer. We say the people who were burnt out during the firemen's strike should sue the Dayton city government for gross neglect in refusing to bargain with the firemen, because it thought it could force the firemen to work without a contract forever.

And we say, put the power of the whole labor movement squarely behind firemen and other service workers so they can get the decent pay and conditions they deserve. □

Workers' Power 219

Copyright © 1977 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Kim Moody. Production Editor: Karen Kaye. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty.

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

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

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

"GUILTY OF SYMPATHY WITH STRIKERS"

- But Teamster ranks' pressure blocks expulsion of TDU leader

DETROIT—The expulsion of Pete Camarata, a national spokesman of Teamsters for a Democratic Union, from Teamster Local 299 has been stopped.

Camarata, a dock worker at Earl C. Smith and a 299 Steward, was expelled from the union on March 25, 1977, for allegedly encouraging and participating in a wildcat strike of car haulers in August of 1976.

A fellow steward, George Logie, charged him in December of last year, four months after the alleged offense.

An appeal trial before the Michigan Teamster Joint Council 43 reversed the expulsion.

The victory was the result of rank and file pressure. A series of demonstrations was held by Teamsters from many locals in Detroit and other cities.

An educational campaign to defend Camarata was conducted in

the local by leaflets and the Rank and File Speaks newspaper of Detroit Metro TDU.

INNOCENT BUT GUILTY?

In its decision, the Joint Council retrial found Camarata innocent of all the specific charges—but guilty of "showing sympathy" with the striking car haulers, and thereby guilty of encouraging their wildcat.

The retrial however decided that "showing sympathy" was "an instance of poor judgment more than a deliberate attempt to interfere."

Therefore the retrial reprimanded Camarata rather than expelling him.

Camarata was also "directed to stay away from all picket lines resulting from unauthorized work stoppages by Local 299 members in the future."

In the Teamsters union—sympathy is a crime.

Teamster officials themselves were careful not to show sympathy during the wildcat.

The retrial decision noted that during the strike Business Agents Wilson Holsinger and Tom Deady and others "ordered that the work stoppage cease immediately."

It noted that strikers were threatened with having the local thrown in trusteeship.

TDU SYMPATHIZES

Over 50 car haulers were fired in that wildcat and the leaders have been blacklisted; many are still unemployed.

The union still has not lifted a finger to help them, still shows no criminal sympathy. Which is why TDU—which is not afraid to sin in sympathy—is growing and spread-

ing. When he was initially tried before the 299 Executive Board, Camarata had argued that the attempt to expel him was politically motivated, to disqualify him from holding union office. The union rejected this.

Camarata and his attorney, Ann Curry Thompson, subsequently won a restraining order to keep the 299 Executive Board from expelling him.

When the retrial was set up before the Joint Council Executive Board, Camarata argued that the trial board was prejudiced because active TDU chapters were challenging the Joint Council officers in their home locals.

This too was rejected by the Teamsters officers.

The trial of Camarata was a kangaroo affair from beginning to end. Camarata's appeal that he be

tried before fellow working members was considered unthinkable by the big shots of 299 or the J.C.

They would have crucified Camarata if they could have. Only the rank and file stopped it. □

Mike Kelly

Trenton Engine Wildcat Ends

TRENTON, Mich.—Workers at Chrysler's Trenton Engine plant returned to work Monday, August 15 after a week-long wildcat strike.

They had been demanding the return of six workers, including stewards, who were fired for allegedly instigating heat walkouts last month.

But when they returned to work the stewards were still fired, and more disciplines and firings were threatened.

A meeting held Friday, August 12 at the Local 372 union hall voted 50-50 on whether to go back to work. At that point the strike fizzled out.

The day before, the local's elected officials were called to the UAW International's Solidarity House.

Intense pressure was put on them to end the strike by any means—or else.

During the strike local officials wavered on what to do. Some argued the International Union's line—"get them back in there, you bastards"—enthusiastically.

Others told the workers, "It is my contractual and constitutional duty to tell you that this strike is unauthorized. I also have personal feelings which you know about."

The local president, Robert Smith, flew to Boston for a meeting of UAW officials, in the middle of the strike!

21 WALKOUTS

Twenty-one Chrysler plants have experienced unauthorized walkouts this summer, either over the intolerable heat in the plants or because of firings.

Over 50 workers have been fired and over 50 more received penalties of five to 20 days. There have been 5,437 foreman's write-ups issued.

What is the UAW International's response? Chrysler Department head Marc Stepp said, "It's time we took a stand." Against the heat and against management's victimization policy?

"We have to stop these outside agitators," Stepp said. "If the locals can't answer their leaflets the international will."

His assistant, Art Hughes, added, "We have to meet them at the gates." □

BOSTON BLACKS SET BACK CARSON BEACH RACISTS



With police tank floating nearby, white youths taunt Black bathers.

by Kate Stacy

"They say this is the land of the free and the home of the brave. But we haven't seen it that way. It sure doesn't seem to us like that's the way it is."

But Bette Washington is fighting to make it that way. Washington is 38, unemployed, and raising ten children in her Columbia Point housing project apartment in Boston.

Every day Washington takes her kids and, with about fifty other Black Columbia Point residents, walks down to Carson Beach.

The day before they first made the five minute walk to Carson Beach a six-year-old Black girl had been struck by a car at the project.

She was playing in the spray of a fire hydrant during the 100° heat.

That was the final straw for the women and scores of other Black residents. Now they have begun to

fight.

Growing racism and violence by whites against school integration drove Blacks off the beach in the summer of 1975. Now they go back to that beach—every day.

HERE TO STAY

It is a sign that the Boston Black community is getting fed up with intimidation by race mobs.

Once on the beach and settled on the sand, they are surrounded by Boston police.

Quickly the helmeted police are ringed with about a hundred taunting whites—mostly young residents of nearby South Boston.

Three hundred cops are assigned to protect the bathers every day. So far, over sixty have been arrested as the crowds of racists have grown to as many as a thousand.

Because of the daily treks organized by the Columbia Point women

—Dorothy Haskins, Charlotte Williams, and Bette Washington—Black residents have reclaimed at least a section of their neighborhood beach.

"We weren't trying to be heroes," Haskins says. "We wanted to use the beach instead of looking at it out the window."

"I've been at Columbia Point for seven years and my daughter used to go to Carson Beach without any trouble at all—right in this same area that we're going to now," says Williams.

And they are determined not to be driven away again. "We will be here as long as the sun is shining. This may last until the winter."

WORTH FIGHTING

The Carson Beach confrontation, more than any of the other racial battles in Boston, has isolated South Boston's most vocal racist

defenders down to the very few.

For the first time even some of the white residents are beginning to oppose the racists' insistence that Blacks must stay in the Black areas.

Some whites, who contend that their children have a right to attend their neighborhood school, feel uncomfortable that Black children do not have a right to swim at their neighborhood beach.

That's not enough. The goal of racial peace won't be in sight until the right of Blacks to busing, integrated schools, beaches and other facilities is secure.

The Blacks will have to continue to fight until many more cracks appear in South Boston's wall of resistance. But they see the goal is worth fighting for.

"We don't want to be separated," says Dorothy Haskins. "We're not talking about Black on one side and white on the other." □

THE BIG DITCH

Cuts a country in two

American negotiators agreed last week to give back the Panama Canal—sort of.

The United States will retain control over the Canal Zone until the year 2000. It may keep its 14 military bases there. And after that, the U.S. will still have the right to intervene militarily to protect the canal's "neutrality."

The Panama Canal was the Alaska pipeline of its day. The U.S. interest in Panama began back in 1902.

To gain control of the Canal territory, the United States actually created a new country—Panama, which was originally a province of Colombia.

Colombia wouldn't give the U.S. total control of a six-mile canal zone. So the U.S. sponsored a "rebel" breakaway movement and helped it with U.S. troops.

They immediately recognized the new nation and got a treaty which gave them control of a ten-mile wide strip of territory slicing through the middle of Panama—the Canal Zone.

As Senator S.I. Hayakawa of California said recently, "We stole it fair and square."

Or, as Attorney General Knox put it back in 1903 when President Teddy Roosevelt asked him to defend the treaty: "Oh, Mr. President—don't let such a great achievement suffer from any taint of legality."

MALARIA

Over 20,000 workers, mostly Black West Indians, died of malaria during the first effort to build the Canal in the 1880's. Its designer, Ferdinand De Lesseps, earned the name "The Great Undertaker."

On the second and successful attempt, the toll was lighter—only 5,000.

Now, over 70 years later, the Carter Administration still will not give up American control, even though only 7% of U.S. overseas trade uses the canal.

Because ships are so much larger today, the useful life of the Canal is expected to be only until—you guessed it—the year 2000.

The only real sticking point in the negotiations was how much money the U.S. would pay its friendly local dictator, Omar Torrijos, to accept the new arrangement. They finally settled on about \$20 million a year.

Some politicians, particularly Ronald Reagan, are calling the proposed treaty a give-away. It is, it is another give-away by the Panamanian rulers to their paymasters in Washington.

The only people who rightfully own the Panama Canal are the people of Panama.

They have paid for it a hundred times—in having their country split in two by the U.S. military, and in the poverty caused by the foreign banks who control the economy.

The Panama Canal is rightfully theirs—locks, stocks and liquid assets. When they succeed in getting rid of the likes of President Torrijos, they'll be able to take it. □



'It reminded me of South Africa'

Workers' Power spoke with Sandy, a member of the Cleveland branch of the International Socialists. Her mother's family is Panamanian and she has seen what life in Panama and in the Canal Zone is really like.

They walk in, or they take these special buses—which whites don't use.

It reminded me of the descrip-

tions of Johannesburg and Soweto in South Africa.

When the military dictatorship came into power years ago, many of the rich whites were afraid they would be forced to leave. Now the Spanish ruling class families and the military get along fine.

They get their money from connections with the multinational corporations and banks. Because of the Canal, practically every bank in the world is there.

It's a center of the export-import business around the world. I saw banks from Switzerland, Hong Kong, Britain, just everywhere. And of course all the American ones.

The Canal actually makes Panama their colony.

RADAR AND RACISM

The Canal itself is built on this string of large lakes. When you go into the Canal Zone you cross this bridge.

To get to the Canal Zone you have to go through the ghetto of Panama City. Then you get to the sparkling clean base where Americans live. They have different bases for the Army and Navy.

It's like a protected little haven for the Americans, like Florida.

When I went into the Canal Zone with a Panamanian friend one time, we went to this beach which is the most beautiful and cleanest beach in Panama.

A soldier stopped us and threatened to throw us in jail because I didn't have a passport. But it never would have happened if my friend was white.

We were only stopped because he was a Panamanian with dark skin. I never had any harassment when I was with anyone else.

Most Panamanians don't even want to go into the Canal Zone. All the radar and military presence is like an eyecore on the countryside. I was depressed just being there.

If you lived in Panama you probably wouldn't even go see the Canal itself. Unless you knew someone who could get you into American stores to go shopping.

SCHOOLS

The Canal Zone schools are incredible, with drills and learning how to march when you're six years old.

The racism is almost impossible to describe. For example, my niece and nephew went to the Canal Zone school, because they didn't speak Spanish, but they lived outside the Zone in Panama City.

At the school they were teased and put down by the teachers and students because they lived in a Panamanian neighborhood, with people living downstairs from them who had darker skin!

The school teaches American kids that Panamanians are dumb, and can't run anything themselves. Panamanians are the servants who come clean up the house.

Many of them don't even want Black Panamanian servants. Instead they hire Cuna Indians, who live on the San Blas Islands off the east coast. They don't have any other way to make a living except raising coconuts.

You see these Indian women in beautiful traditional costumes, coming in to clean up the Americans' houses.

OPEN RACISM

Open racism is as much accepted in Panama itself as it is in the Canal Zone.

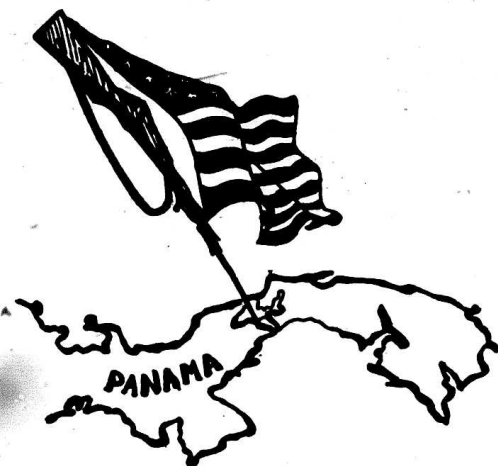
The whites have words for the Black people—like "nigger," only much worse. I won't even say it, it makes me so sick. They call people these names right to their face.

It's set up by the whites, to make the mestizos think the Blacks are the worst.

With all this, General Torrijos is pretty smart in maneuvering to keep the support of the white families and the masses at the same time.

Remember, Torrijos' army is on the United States payroll. His soldiers are trained by the U.S. military in Florida and Georgia, or other southern states.

But to the Panamanian working class people, who don't want to be American puppets and want the Americans out, he says: "Look, we have something to be proud of. We're going to take over the Canal—in the year 2000!" □



HIGH RISES, SHANTY TOWNS

The main city, Panama City, is very modern, like a small American city. It has condominiums and high rises where a lot of the white ruling class lives.

Surrounding Panama City, and also in one major ghetto area inside the city, it looks like it's been bombed out. People are living in old decrepit buildings from the 1500's.

Most of the ruling class are whites, people who are considered to have all or mostly unmixed Spanish blood. Many have come from other countries such as Cuba or Colombia.

In the hills surrounding Panama City there are Blacks, and a larger area of mestizos (mixed-race people) who come into the city to work as domestics.

Elizabeth, Queen of Death

WHEN THE QUEEN of Great Britain and Northern Ireland visited Northern Ireland recently she was greeted by protest demonstrations, rioting and bombings.

Thousands marched carrying signs reading "E. R. [Elizabeth Regina] Queen of Death."

The Queen had to be airlifted by helicopter from a British warship to an enclave where she received dignitaries. She spoke of "reconciliation" and "understanding."

For the half million Catholics in Northern Ireland, the Queen's visit

was a deadly insult. It was meant to remind them that they are still ruled by British imperialism whether they like it or not.

Just to rub it in, the visit was scheduled for the sixth anniversary of the date when thousands of Catholics were thrown into concentration camps with no legal charges against them and no chance of a trial.

DIVIDE AND RULE

British big business created Northern Ireland 55 years ago

when the rest of Ireland became independent. British firms wanted to protect their investments in the North.

They maintained British domination by successfully dividing the Protestants and Catholics.

Bigoted Protestant politicians were put in charge who created a "Protestant state for a Protestant people." And Northern Ireland is still very much a "Protestant state" today.

If you are Catholic it is almost impossible to get a decent job. The

shipyards, Northern Ireland's biggest industry, employ almost exclusively Protestants.

In many Catholic areas of Belfast and Derry one third to one half the men are permanently unemployed. Catholics also get the worst housing. If they try to move out of the Catholic ghettos they are burned out or even shot.

Northern Ireland's whole system of bigotry and poverty is maintained by British troops and British money. There will be no "reconciliation" and no "understanding" until Britain gets out. □

Looters for Jobs



DaNully.

WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT out a few weeks ago in New York, a lot of people went out and grabbed themselves a bigger portion of the pie for one day.

After it was all over, some South Bronx residents decided to carry the struggle further. They organized themselves into the "Looters for Jobs Coalition."

Despite police intimidation they held a march and rally August 10. Two hundred people showed up, most from the community. "Looters for Jobs" is getting off the ground in a big way.

Workers' Power talked to one of the participants, DaNully, who is a long time activist in the Black community and a member of Ujamas Aetu (our family).

Why do you think that the looting happened now?

Well there's 85% unemployment among Black youth today. The people are politically helpless, economically ignored and culturally ostracized.

But the people here could really identify with this demonstration we just had. Most people are on Social Security income or welfare or some other kind of fixed income.

There is a relationship between the looting that went on and the society. I think too that this

demonstration helped to illuminate to people around here that relationship.

How do the people in the South Bronx react to the system which created this?

This is a system for the rich, not the poor. The poor produce for the rich.

But look, in Bushwick, after the looting all the people in there, small business and church people as well, said the blame is on the Administration.

The Administration has the



South Bronx residents demonstrate for jobs at New York Unemployment Center.

power to produce jobs for these communities. But they rebuild Yankee Stadium and they're talking about building this new convention center.

What we need are not these two-bit jobs, but jobs in line with the technological society that this is.

But it's not profitable for them to do this. It's not just here, poor people across the country see this.

And you can stress this in the paper, it's not just poor Black or Puerto Rican people, but whites and Mexican and Indian, working people all over see this.

If there's another blackout this summer or winter how will the people respond?

The same, but I hope it will be more organized, what will be taken will be utilized and distributed. If it happens again it will be utilization of property, not destruction of property.

The government has set up a special task force to come up with some plans to deal with mass looting. One of their ideas is to use Yankee Stadium as a mass detention center.

Now what will happen if the

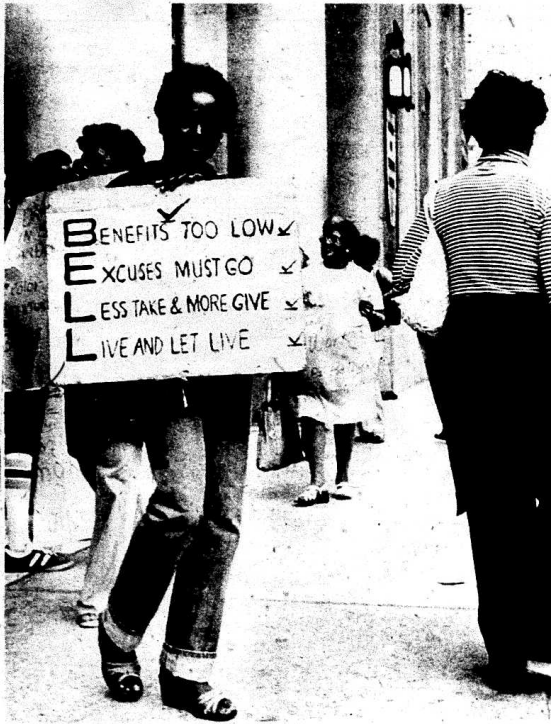
police start mass sweeps of the street?

It will force people to deal concretely with their oppression. You know as the struggles in Africa and other places go on and U.S. capitalism loses its tentacles abroad it will tighten them here.

People won't have any illusions any more about this system.

We've got to organize and initiate the resistance that's needed to protect ourselves.

Part of that is getting control of our communities. You can call it revolution if you want.



Bell Workers Mad As Hell

There were scattered wildcat strikes of phone workers across the country this week, mainly by operators. They were dissatisfied with the tentative contract their union negotiated with the Bell system.

The Detroit operator pictured here picketing Michigan Bell headquarters is getting the short end of the stick.

In the words of one picketer, "Everybody got a good wage increase, except for operators. We get paid a lot less, and we feel we should be upgraded to what craftsmen make for the type of work they do."

Inland Steel Contract Ratified

INDIANA HARBOR, Indiana—Members of United Steel Workers (USW) Local 1010 at Inland Steel here ratified their local contract last week by a margin of 8390 to 2048.

Local 1010 is the home local of Jim Balanoff, now director of USW District 31. Balanoff is a leader of Steelworkers Fight Back, the group that unsuccessfully ran Ed Sadlowski for union president in February.

Balanoff played the major role on the union side in Inland's local contract fight. Consequently the situation was watched closely, both by Local 1010 members and beyond the local.

The results, while much better than past Inland contracts and better than most other local steel contracts this year, were still disappointing. Gains were made affecting coke oven workers, low paying incentive jobs, and seniority practices. But the contract fell far short of what the local was fighting for.

The overwhelming vote to accept was not because the contract was so good, nor was it a "vote of confidence in the negotiating committee" as Balanoff stated. The main reason for the yes vote was the low level of activism and confidence among the membership.

LACK OF CONFIDENCE

It was based on this lack of confidence that the negotiating commit-

tee decided not to strike, and settled for much less than they wanted. They ended up urging the membership to accept the settlement. But in the first few days after it was reached, they stated that the contract was much worse than they had hoped for.

The negotiating committee's main problem was the disappointing results of the June 22 strike authorization vote. Many activists had expected it to be as much as 3-1 in favor, but instead a slim 53% voted for strike authorization.

Because of the disastrous 1959 strike, the lack of any tradition of local strikes in the steel industry, and the national no-strike agreement, most workers—even many of those who voted yes—were unprepared for a strike and afraid of one.

Many did not realize that by voting against strike authorization, they were not just expressing an individual preference. They were tipping their hand to the company—and giving away their aces as well.

"AN ADVANCE"

Many Local 1010 members were disappointed that the major gains they expected were not won. Nevertheless, as one union member told Workers' Power, "the contract experience was an advance for the workers at Inland."

Dennis Shattuck, a member of

the Local 1010 Rank and File Club, explained: "The fear of striking, while it still exists, was greatly weakened. The contract did win some important gains. And Balanoff and the negotiating committee did provide much good leadership and deserve credit for opening up the debate around the union that has made the rank and file stronger. In three years it may be possible to win the major gains expected this time.

But the negotiating committee made a number of mistakes," Shattuck continued. "They didn't let people know the demands early and organize around them. That was a source of confusion and weakness throughout.

"The continued weakness of shop-floor organization meant that it was difficult to organize for a strike. The negotiating committee contented itself to mostly just leafletting as a way of getting the membership support, instead of forcing grievors to call departmental meetings to discuss the negotiations—though some individual grievors did this.

"Inland Steel proved in these talks that they were impressed only with power, as was to be expected," Shattuck said. "Our ability to deal with this company rests on our success in organizing ourselves more powerfully to deal with the challenge in the next three years."

You should

I.S. Holds Workers' Co

Workers' Power held a conference last weekend—a workers conference.

We wanted to bring together working class people from around the country. We wanted to show what our organization—the International Socialists—is all about.

Our members came, and people we work with came. People who have been fighting the speed-up in the auto plants, who are organizing support for the Freedom Fighters of southern Africa. People who have built the Teamsters for a

Democratic Union, and who have seen the system rape the South Bronx.

They all came because they were sick and tired of the way things are going in America. They came because they were looking for answers: for an explanation of what was going on, and what could be done about it.

They came to hear about socialism, about workers' power. They came with open minds, ready to listen, ready to agree.

Why Be A Socialist: The Case We Made

There was swimming, volleyball, and drinking. There was dancing and talk and partying.

But the conference was a good time for another reason. People learned things they wanted to know, things they felt they needed to know.

Members of the IS—leaders with years in the revolutionary movement, and newer members who are bringing their own experience to the organization—led workshops, presented skits and plays, showed movies and slide shows, discussed, argued, explained.

Here are some of the things people did at the conference.

- They learned about the politics of Malcolm X; how he was ahead of his time, the way he developed, what it means to Black people today.
- They watched a slide show about the Russian Revolution—when the working class took over a country.
- They heard workers from different industries discuss the rank and file movement: how it takes completely different forms because of different histories and traditions, and how people have to take the movement that exists, and move it forward.
- They learned about the International Socialists—our history, what we believe in, how we operate.
- They discussed fascism: how it was a movement to smash workers organizations, using racism as its cutting edge.
- They saw some very funny skits on the problems of women at work—and how to deal with them.
- They discussed the rise of the CIO in the '30's, the greatest mass movement of the American working class so far.
- They talked about the problems of raising children in capitalist society.
- They saw a play about the frame-up of Gary Tyler.

The workers' movement has a past, a tradition. It has to learn from that past and from other countries. It has immediate problems to face and to overcome—problems of building the rank and file movement, problems of fighting racism and discrimination against women.

But the workers' movement in this country needs something more: a strategy for the American Revolution—a revolution still difficult to see, but more than just a daydream—a revolution we have to build.

A leader of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union talked about the strategy:

We need to build a party, the exact opposite of the Democrats and Republicans. They say you should be passive, we are for activity, for movement, for the working class freeing itself.

They say democracy is marking a ballot every two years and then shutting up—a total of five minutes of democracy in a lifetime. We say democracy is controlling your life on the job, in the neighborhoods.

They stand for profits, our party will be for human needs.

Their parties stand for a system that pollutes our air, fouls our water, sends us to fight their filthy wars.

They stand for speed-up, unemployment, inflation. They destroy our cities and send our children to schools where they can't learn. They breed poverty and hopelessness and crime.

They try to take away our dignity. But we are fighting back, in a thousand places, in a thousand ways. Our class, the working class, needs a party that can unify and organize all these battles. We need to join together all the most aware, most militant from the Black community, from the rank and file movement in the unions, from everywhere that working people are fighting back.

A strategy for the American Revolution: not an easy road, or a short one, but the only way to get there.

To reclaim our lives, our country, our world.



have been there!

Conference

They came to see if joining the International Socialists was the best way to get things done, to change the world. We presented our case.

And we convinced a lot of people to join us. Now—together—we want to convince you about socialism, about the I.S.

Everyone who came to the workers conference gave a lot of serious thought to joining. We think that if you had been there, you would have too.



"I'm Joining To Move Things Forward"

"We've presented our case to you," said Gay Semel, the national secretary of the International Socialists, when it was almost over.

"That's what this weekend has been all about. We've gone through what's wrong and we've given you a way to fight it and a way out. We've presented who we are, we've gone through our stories. Now it's up to you."

These are some of the people who joined the IS at the end of the conference, this is what they said:

"Buddy": I've been in the Teamsters for eighteen years. I was satisfied with making good money. But it was a struggle, I had to work two jobs to get a house, I said, why do I have to slave to get a house to live in?

I met a friend and he got me into the TDC. I listened to him, he talked to me every day. Then I felt kind of bad. He joined the socialists. I was disappointed, to be honest, because I didn't understand what socialists were about. I was just beginning to get into it. And I was mad. I said, "We'll never make a move, there's a lot of people falling back."

But now I realize, the sooner everybody realizes they're getting fucked, the faster we will progress.

When they said, join the IS, it was fear. My friend says, "Buddy, what are you fearing, you're doing the same thing the IS is doing."

So coming here, I seen the movies, I seen how people were thrown off their houses, kids taken away, thrown in jail.

That's what they did to me when I was a kid. The same fucking thing and it's not changing. It's not moving forward. So I'm joining the IS to move things forward."

Pam from Cleveland: I didn't know a lot of what was going on around me before. I worked in a bank and handled a lot of other people's money, and none of it was mine. I worked under a lot of oppressive management. And I never really wondered why.

Doug, an auto worker in Detroit: I just cannot see the Black community, or any community, existing like this. The children just running loose, running wild. There's no education, there's nothing for them to look forward to, except to get the things they need the hard way—to steal, to take them.

This is a shame. This is wrong. By joining the IS, I think I can help change this and the whole system.

Lou, a welfare mother from Pittsburgh: I didn't know what the word oppression was. I was miserable and unhappy, and so were my children. But I was raised that that was the way you were supposed to live. My children was the one's started opening up my eyes to what was going on around me.

As you all know, in Pennsylvania this budget strike is going on. In the neighborhood I live in, they're just dying. They need somebody to go in there.

The word socialism scares them, I believe. They don't understand what it means. So I'm going back there and try again to get them to understand.

Feedback

Dear Fellow Workers,

Your Workers' Conference was very educational and enjoyable. Learning can be fun. I wish it could have been longer as I had a hard time selecting workshops. I'd like to have gone to them all.

The film on Portugal and the workshop on the History of the IS were my particular high spots.

The running commentary and question and answer portion of the Portugal film were splendid.

I have seldom, if ever met a more pleasant group of dedicated people in one bunch.

I hope I'm invited to the next get together, even if I didn't join.

Fraternally,
Jim Woods
Int'l Woodworkers
Alpena, Mi



don't let right wing defeat the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

by Sue Davis and Elissa Clarke

"EQUALITY OF RIGHTS under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

That is what the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states. Adding this to the Constitution of the United States sounds so reasonable, so democratic, so right! Who could object?

But the ERA is a storm of controversy that has pitted the right wing against the women's liberation movement. And there is a grave danger that the conservatives will win, and the ERA will be defeated.

The ERA was passed in Congress in 1972, almost unanimously. Within three years, 33 states had ratified it. Since then, only two more states have ratified.

If three more states do not ratify the ERA before March 1979, it will be defeated. The odds are about even.

Why?

A right wing women's movement has mobilized to defeat the ERA. They are opposed to the ERA because they are opposed to women's rights.

These women visit their state legislators in long, formal gowns, bearing gifts of pink carnations and homemade bread.

"From the breadmakers to the breadwinners," they say.

It seems absurd that these women could get any hearing at all. But they have, and they are gaining momentum.

THE RIGHT

The spokesperson for the anti-ERA forces is Phyllis Schlafly, a

right-wing Republican. Schlafly thinks women should stay at home. ("Women find their greatest fulfillment at home with the family.")

But she does not stay at home! Schlafly has written nine books, is about to get a degree in law, and has run for Congress twice (and lost). She has six children, a maid, and a secretary.

She commands an army of volunteers. "I've been training these women for five years. When I tell them something's so, they see that it is so."

Schlafly's efforts are supported by the racist Mormon Church, the anti-union, right-wing John Birch Society, and the Catholic Church.

But while the far right is doing the footwork for ERA defeat, there

are larger interests that share their goal.

Full equality for women would cost money. Big corporations and insurance companies are working hard to defeat the ERA.

When the ERA went to Congress in 1972, the women's liberation movement was at its peak. More important to businessmen and lawmakers, the economy was still expected to keep expanding, as it had done through the 50's and 60's.

But by now, it is clear that the economic system is in crisis. Employers don't plan to reduce unemployment very much. To the capitalist class, equal rights for women is a luxury that the economy cannot afford.

The cost of equality would come out of their profits.

Cutbacks on women's status have already begun, spearheaded by the same right wing that opposes the ERA.

In the past year, Medicaid funds for abortion were cut off, the Supreme Court decided that employers don't have to provide maternity benefits, and court decisions have attacked affirmative action programs.

If the right wing wins on the ERA, we can expect to see this trend escalate.

ERA A WEAPON

While a victory for ERA will not give women immediate and total equality, it will provide a strong tool for fighting discrimination.

Laws exist that ban discrimination against women, but they have not achieved all they could have. There is a backlog of over 200,000 cases at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Much of the impact of the ERA will be determined by court interpretation. As part of the Constitution, the highest law of the land, it will strengthen the existing laws.

But if the right wing defeats the ERA, the movement to take rights away from women will snowball. Gains won in the past could be wiped out.

Today, no woman can afford to depend on the good will or luck of a man for her economic security. Women need equal rights. □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The folks with money to burn are being ripped off by crooks selling interests in coal mining operations. The operations are never started or don't pay off as promised. "All the thieves are jumping in on this," a government official was quoted in the Wall Street Journal. Apparently the thought of cashing in on the coal operators' super-profits has made a lot of would-be speculators gassy marks. What a shame....

Meanwhile, the folks who mine the coal have another occupational hazard to contend with. As if rock falls, methane explosions, and Black Lung weren't enough, a new study at the University of Pittsburgh shows that miners suffer from an unusually high incidence of stomach cancer.

In North Carolina, the state with the lowest industrial wages in the country, a Congressional committee recently held a hearing on labor law reform. Much of it dealt with the J.P. Stevens Company, which is fighting a union organizing drive. Stevens trotted out Leonard Wilson, president of the Stevens "employees educational committee." Wilson informed the committee, "It is against God's will for the unions to preach more and more money when Timothy 1:6-10 tells us that money is the root of all evil." Wilson went on, "I do believe it is time to put God back in everything we do and honor the counsel of Jesus Christ when he said we can serve but one master. Each individual should have the right to accept or reject a labor union." One Congressman commented, "I wonder whether God meant that that master had to be J.P. Stevens."

The Chamber of Commerce in Person County, North Carolina is worried that the Brockway Glass Co. is considering building a bottle-making plant there. The businessmen are insisting that Brockway not move in unless they reduce the wages they planned to pay, and operate on a non-union basis. Right now, there are only 12 unionized workers in the whole county. But 500 Person County residents have signed a petition asking Brockway not to listen to the Chamber of Commerce.

New regulations from the Department of Labor say that employees must now be paid for any time they spend with health and safety officials on job safety inspections.

The next time your foreman says nothing can be done about dripping oil, leaky ceilings, peeling paint, and generally ugly and filthy factory conditions, tell him to visit the Philip Morris manufacturing plant in Richmond, Virginia. Here's one description of the place: "Floor-to-ceiling windows offer every production worker a view of the exotic garden outside; maple parquet floors provide a standing surface easy on the eye and the foot; and comfortable lounges suspended above the work floor beckon employees at break time. One fourth of the total plant construction costs reportedly went toward amenities such as carpeting and art work."

Here's the answer to last week's Labor Notes Quiz. The question was, "What union represents the majority of American industrial divers working in U.S. waters and abroad?" Answer: the Carpenters.

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

sex with animals?

The anti-ERA movement organizes by spreading lies and deception. They take the 24 words in the Equal Rights Amendment, and conjure up the devil.

One woman told of her encounter with the anti-ERA movement: "We were told in our church that ERA would mean the end of marriage. We were told that schoolbooks would show pictures of people having sex with animals."

False issues cloud the debate on the ERA. One feminist said: "We've found ourselves arguing about women being drafted and losing custody of their children, instead of discussing discrimination in housing, insurance and credit."

Schlafly and the anti-ERA forces appeal to emotional issues—and when they don't exist, they create them.

They say:

- The ERA will destroy child support.
- But child support will be determined based on income, not sex. It will be shared between parents according to ability.

- Women will be drafted, and put into military combat.

- If there was a draft, the ERA could extend it to women. It's

unlikely that women would be put into combat. Physical ability would still be considered. But the ERA would equalize opportunities for women who are in the military today.

- There will only be unisex bathrooms.

Ridiculous. The ERA only applies to discrimination "under law." Privacy would be maintained. Even in the legal area, sex classifications based on physical or functional differences will continue.

But on the other hand, the ERA is not a cure-all. It can be used as a way to fight against sex discrimination. But the ERA will not end women's oppression.

The ERA cannot give women workers equal pay, or provide jobs for all. It will not provide child care for working parents; it will not end forced sterilizations, or win free abortions. The ERA cannot end unemployment for women. The system cannot afford it.

That is why we must build a working women's movement if the ERA is to mean anything. A working women's movement, fighting in the unions, among the unorganized, and in the streets. That is the road to equality for women. □



Do you believe in equal rights for women? Do you want to see the ERA ratified?

Then come out on August 27 and demonstrate for equal rights for women.

DEMONSTRATE for ERA

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is holding demonstrations and walk-a-thons in hundreds of cities across the country on Saturday, August 27 for the ERA. August 27 is a historic day for women. On that day in 1920, women won the right to vote.

Thousands and thousands of women have marched to make the ERA the law of the land. This is the way forward! You are the one who can get the ERA passed! Sisters and brothers, join together and make our voices heard. All out August 27.

August 27

Call the National Organization for Women in your city to find out the time and place of the demonstration in your city.

IT'S OUR MONEY - AND WE WANT IT!

The Pennsylvania State Legislature has had eight weeks to come up with a budget for the state. They have been unsuccessful, though.

They have been bickering and acting like a bunch of fools, with no one agreeing on anything.

Funds for welfare recipients ran out August 5. That means hundreds of thousands of people who depend on welfare for mere survival will not get any money until the budget is passed.

The high class officials in Harrisburg could care less about the people it is affecting. They haven't gone without getting paid for one minute.

Quite conveniently, all the Senators' paychecks were drawn on a special account which amounted to \$72,000 for just one week.

A lot of State workers have been laid off and many more will be laid off as the situation grows worse. Some State workers are working without pay.

Some relief has been made though. If any State worker has an account at a bank they are able to borrow up to the amount of their check at 1/2% interest.

It still presents a problem when they finally do go back to work, for they will owe all the money back and still have to live off the paychecks.

BORROW FOOD STAMPS

A few days after the welfare recipients went without getting their checks, a proposal was made to let them borrow the food stamps they normally get and pay the money for them later.

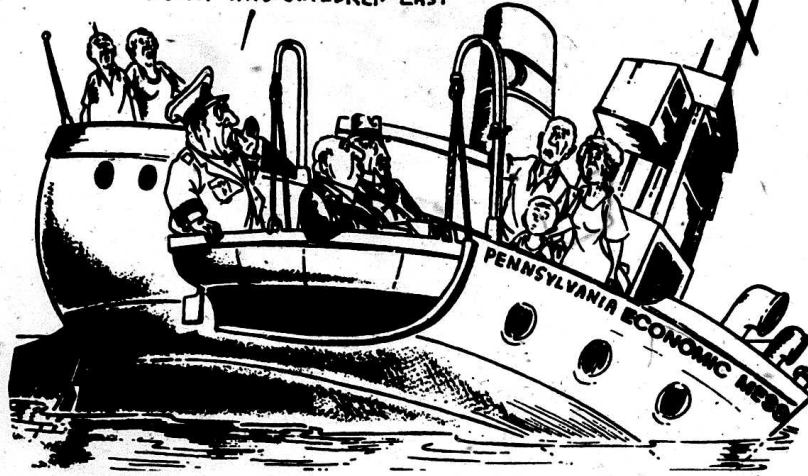
This was a big relief, since a lot of people would have had to go hungry until the knuckleheads in Harrisburg could agree on something other than to adjourn for the day.

Although getting the food stamps was of great help, there are a lot of things you cannot pay for with food stamps.

You can't pay for your rent, pay a baby sitter, buy things such as Pampers or things for your hygiene, or take a bus.

The cutting off of the baby sitting money has inconvenienced a lot of mothers who are going to school, in training programs, or those who are able to have part-time jobs.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST



The attitudes of the people are worsening, as each day goes by without a budget and no money in your pocket. There was a protest march in Harrisburg [the state capital] last week concerning the delay of the budget.

Some people are talking about organizing a way to send people to live in the Senators' houses.

Some people I know are stealing the things they can't buy, and I suspect more will join if the situation grows worse.

DISGUSTED

The more I think about the whole thing the more goddamn disgusted I get. So I will end with this thought:

In a society in which the people were allowed to control their own lives, a society where the ordinary working people could work without killing themselves, a society where people could enjoy democracy and not hypocrisy, do you think a situation like this would ever be allowed to exist?

Hell No! That is why I am a Socialist and will be one until shit like this will not be let to happen.

Celeste Taylor
Pittsburgh I.S.

Workers Find Cure for Schlumpf

When two textile plants in Mulhouse, France went bankrupt, 1500 workers had a better idea than being thrown out on the street.

They seized the factories to try to save their jobs. But that's not all. Along with the factories, the workers took over a fabulous collection of 500 rare antique cars belonging to the factory owners.

It seems that the factory owners, Fritz and Hans Schlumpf, were really into old automobiles. They built up a collection of Rolls-Royces, Bugattis, Austins, Bentleys and Morgans worth at least \$10 million.

A typical Schlumpf antique auto cost \$20,000, about what one of their workers made in five years.

It seems that the Schlumpf brothers diverted factory funds into building their personal auto collection. They did this without notifying the workers, or for that matter the tax collectors.

When the bankruptcy was announced, enraged workers surrounded the brothers' home and held them hostage. Unfortunately,

even though there was a warrant for their arrest, a local police official helped them escape to Switzerland.

MUSEUM

The Schlumpfs are unavailable for comment. However, the workers have found an excellent use for the antique cars they left behind.

They have turned the collection into a magnificent Workers' Museum. The public is invited to see the rare vehicles. The price of admission is a voluntary donation, which goes to supplement the workers' unemployment funds.

The workers put up an inscription in the museum which reads:

"We the workers dedicate this museum to all those men and women who by their sweat and blood have created the enormous wealth that the brothers Schlumpf have stolen from them during 30 years of exploitation."

The Workers' Museum has so far attracted over 200,000 visitors. □

Dear Workers' Power,
In towns like Dawson, they may range in age from 17 to 21. They may be black and poor. They never have been in trouble with the law before, but the State of Georgia may want them to die in the electric chair for a crime they did not commit. Their trial has been scheduled and all the Dawson Five defendants are to be tried separately.

Question: If Roosevelt Watson committed the crime, why did it take the store owner five days to identify him?

Can there be justice in a county where three black churches were burned to the ground in the year of 1962 during the voter registration movement? Where houses were bombed? Where voter registration workers were threatened, beaten, arrested and shot? Where black teachers once collectively lost their jobs after they dared register to vote? Can there be justice found for the Dawson Five?

I lived in South Georgia for 13 years and travelled in almost every county in the southern region of Georgia. I found that in Terrell County most black people lived under a very depressed state of fear and many of them seemed to have been robbed economically, socially, politically, racially and religiously.

And they seemed to have been caught in degradation. And many of their young black men were caught in prison by biased minded jurymen and officers of the law. They seemed to have been for a prey and there seemed as though there was no one to deliver or relieve them from their imprisonment. Many of these young men seemed to have been left forgotten.

In towns like Dawson many of our educators, bankers, clergymen, presidents, vice-presidents and leaders of the people have committed crimes against defenseless black people.

LETTERS

Yes, in towns like Dawson crimes are yet fostered and declared by the learned men of that town. Yes, many of them whom the majority are college products commit crimes in wholesale proportions, and the innocent black has his rights infringed upon by the execution of the educated man's evil desires, and many of the educated persons' finger tips are yet dripping with the blood of the innocent, and their mansions have been erected on the sweat and blood of those whom they have slain without giving the innocent a chance for their lives.

Many of these educators hide

behind the church and use it as a cloak for their evil practices. But the cover is steadily being removed and these educators and so-called exactors cannot hide themselves any longer.

These so-called exactors and educators, clergymen, bankers, mayors, doctors and lawyers present themselves to the town as being basically a genuine humanitarian individual who underneath it all is not free of race hatred, discrimination, segregation and prejudice. And that's the name of that tune.

Stanley Racks
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union #225
Atlanta, Georgia

Cleveland March To Ban The Rand

CLEVELAND—"BAN, BAN the Krugerrand, gold from the racist land" echoed through the arcade.

Forty-five members of the Southern Africa Liberation Committee (SALC) picketed the Federal Coin Exchange on Thursday, August 11 to protest the sale of South Africa's gold coin—the Krugerrand.

SALC members passed out leaflets explaining how Krugerrand sales help prop up the brutally racist South African government. Picket signs demanded that U.S. corporations stop exploiting Black South African labor and supporting apartheid.

A number of people on the street joined the picket and promised to get involved in the SALC. TV stations and the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper covered the event.

A week earlier, the SALC had picketed another store, the Colonial Coin and Stamp Company. Alan Cohen, the owner, took Krugerrand ads out of his window and stopped selling the coin. "We just didn't need the hassle," he told reporters.

But Federal Coin Exchange owners Theodore Martowitz and Thomas Squires weren't so smart. They said, "It's not illegal to sell the coin. We've sold it for three years, and we haven't had any trouble until today. We're just businessmen."

Soon the chant, "We'll be back" boomed through the arcade. The Committee intends to picket, leaflet and agitate until the Krugerrand is banned from all stores in the city.

Plans are now being formed to get the Krugerrand out of one of Cleveland's big department store chains.

"What do we want? The Krugerrand out! When do we want it? Now! How we gonna get it? Fight! How we gonna fight? Unite!" □

Caroline Greene

"Safe" Nuclear Power—Two Months A Year

PORTLAND, Oregon—After a 38 hour vigil, 82 occupiers of Portland General Electric's Trojan nuclear power plant were arrested August 8.

The plant is so unsafe that it operated only two months in all of 1976. One leak occurred at the last demonstration at the plant May 1. The occupation began August 6 with rallies of over 500 in downtown Portland and at the plant site 50 miles away.

The rallies commemorated the 32nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and demanded permanent shutdown of the Trojan plant.

One speaker pointed out that atomic energy cannot be separated from atomic weaponry—take South Africa's "peaceful" atomic research for instance.

Since energy costs have risen in the summer drought, Portland General Electric is asking for a 9% rate increase, on top of many others recently.

The Trojan Decommissioning Alliance, which organized the rallies and the sit-in, is demanding public takeover of PGE. Instead of atomic energy, it demands solar energy projects, which would provide many more jobs.

The Decommissioning Alliance promises to continue sit-ins and organizing until this Trojan horse is stopped in its tracks. □

SACCO &



Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were murdered by the state of Massachusetts 50 years ago this past July. Their crime? They were Italian immigrants, foreigners.

WE STILL REMEMBER

Today it is racism, the pitting of white workers against Black, which the employers use to divide and rule the working class.

The foreigners were the niggers of yesterday. It was they who were scapegoated with the problems of society, just as Black workers are today.

Their crime? They were workers, they were poor. Sacco was a shoemaker, Vanzetti a fish peddler. The good shoemaker and the poor fish peddler.

Their crime? They were socialists, anarchists. As Vanzetti called himself and Sacco, they were "rebels and lovers."

They loved people too much not to be rebels against a system that was inhuman.

They were arrested in a frame-up in 1920, charged with a hold up and murder. They were innocent. Hundreds of workers testified on their behalf.

But workers, Italian workers, were as useless in their defense before a jury as a Black witness would be today before a white jury trying a Black man.

fifty years ago there was a huge working class movement in this country.

Foreign-born workers were at the forefront of it, just as today Black workers are often leading the movement against injustice, oppression, and exploitation.

Sacco and Vanzetti were part of that movement. Vanzetti led a strike of shoe workers.

Sacco and his wife gave plays in Italian working class areas to raise money for strike relief.

Both men helped the strikers in the Lawrence textile strike.

Thousands upon thousands of workers in this country and around the world organized to defend them. They published literature explaining the trial.

They organized demonstrations. They even struck to defend them.

The movement went on around the world from New York, to London, to Paris, to Warsaw, to cities in China.

Huge demonstrations marched behind the banner, "Free Sacco and Vanzetti."



Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco after three years in prison.

world, they were found guilty, and executed.

Sacco and Vanzetti died for one reason... as Vanzetti wrote: "The servants of Capital are always remunerated by the Bosses for a crucifixion of some rebel or lover."

Sacco and Vanzetti, our brothers, were martyred to big business. They are our martyrs of the workers' movement.

To the list of working class martyrs other names have been added, recently the names of

George Jackson and Fred Hampton.

There is one proper way to honor them all.

Continue their fight. The fight against a divided working class whether by nationality or race or sex.

The fight to free today's victims of racism and frame-ups, from Gary Tyler to the Dawson Five.

The fight against the employers for a decent life for working people. Continue the fight for socialism. □

FIGHTING INJUSTICE

Why were they framed? Because

KEEP ON FIGHTING

In 1927, despite the tremendous support from workers around the



August 9, 1927, Ashland Auditorium, Chicago. 5000 supporters protest Sacco and Vanzetti's scheduled execution.

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 work force when it is 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 struggle 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.

JOIN US!

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

Name

Address

Union

Workers' Power
313-869-5964

"Where Are You Going To Live When You Get Old?"

by Paul Broz

"When we were younger, all our lives we helped make things to benefit people. We were the ones who made the beautiful things. Now they put us in the street."

Felix Ayson is 79 years old and totally deaf. Until Thursday, August 4, he lived alone in a San Francisco hotel room just large enough to hold an iron bedstand, a chest of drawers and a washstand.

Early in the morning 300 police in full riot gear battled their way through several thousand demonstrators and removed Felix Ayson, and 45 other elderly Filipino and Chinese residents from their rooms at the International Hotel.

The evictions were the culmination of years of struggle.

The hotel was purchased in 1973 by the Hong Kong-based Four Seas Investment Corporation.

The new owners finally got an eviction order from a Superior Court Judge in May 1976.

The morning of the eviction 2-3000 of the residents' supporters gathered in front of the International Hotel.

They braced themselves for battle, standing with locked arms, 12 deep.

Residents had been prepared for the assault the previous night. They were instructed: "Lock your doors, close your windows, and put a wet towel in front of any drafts [to guard against tear gas]."

That night Joe Bungayan, 51, had made himself one final meal in the communal kitchen across from his room, a thick chicken and vegetable soup.

Felix Ayson put his kitten in a wire traveling case. Down the hall,

Nita Rader packed her clothes into a plastic garbage sack.

The horse patrol charged first, slashing and jabbing with their nightsticks, but were unable to break through.

Three waves of riot police followed. Each was repulsed.

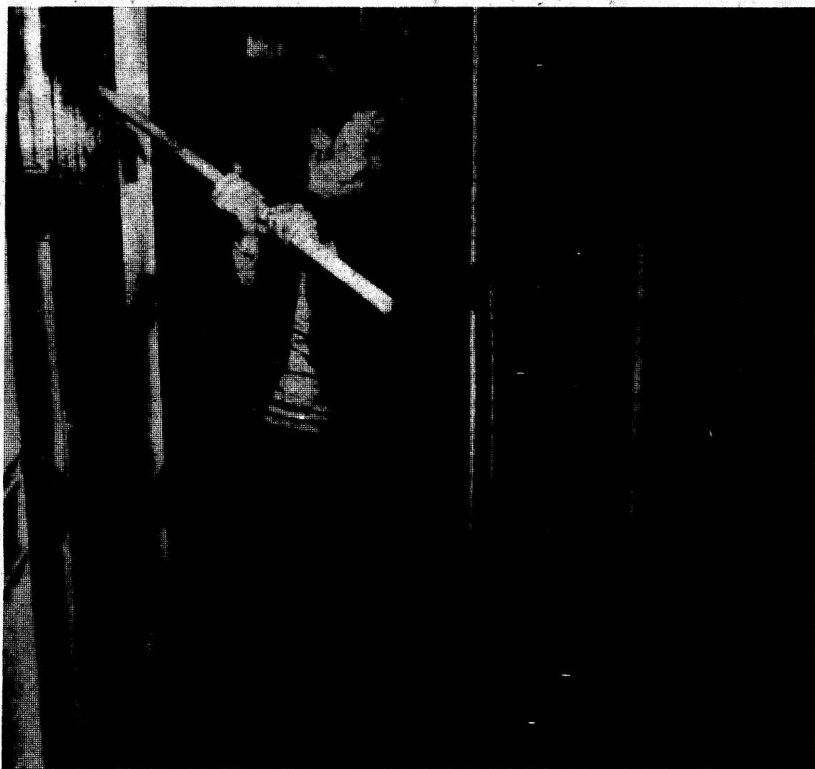
Next, the cops placed ladders against the building and began breaking in through windows.

Joe Bungayan was awakened by flying glass. Five sheriff's deputies in riot helmets had climbed the fire escape, broken his window, and smashed through a plywood barricade.

Deputies dragged away 60 supporters as they chanted, "Where are you going to live when you get old."

The police destroyed plumbing, scattered personal belongings, and bashed holes in the walls in order to make the hotel unlivable.

Four Seas Investment Corporation, the police, and the state won the battle that morning: Forty-five old people were thrown out into the streets to fend for themselves.



Well-known "liberal" San Francisco Sheriff Hongisto batters elderly resident's door during evictions at International Hotel.

In the last 10 years, 2300 low-rent units have been demolished in that Chinese neighborhood. No new public or low-rent housing has been built.

At present, there are 5000 poor people on the city's public housing waiting list.

The battle at the International Hotel has laid the groundwork for a city-wide organized struggle for decent low-income housing.

Four Seas Investment Corporation is rumored to be owned by one wealthy man—one man who didn't think he could make enough money

from Felix Ayson and his friends. As the sun rose Thursday morning, Felix Ayson, assisted by two sobbing friends, made his way down a San Francisco street.

A reporter trailed the three, carrying a kitten in a wire basket. □

WORKERS' POWER

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

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

Name

Address

Trade Union

14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203

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

South Africa on TV

by Jenny Singer

A BLACK REVOLUTIONARY is being chased in a plane by the South African secret police (BOSS). They are nearing the border. If he can just make it to Botswana he will be safe.

The Wilby Conspiracy, a movie starring Sidney Poitier and Michael Caine.

But when he lands in Botswana, BOSS is waiting. The police mow down the African villagers with machine guns. They try to take off with the revolutionaries' leader in a helicopter.

But the villagers grab hold of the bottom of the helicopter and won't let it take off. They pull it down to earth and smash it to pieces with sticks.

The BOSS agent, who is always calling Blacks "Zulus twenty years out of the trees," is shot.

This sounds like a news story from Workers' Power, but it was the Sunday night movie on TV!

I saw a half-minute of commercials for "The Wilby Conspiracy," and it looked like a good way to spend Sunday evening—chases, gun fights, a regular TV movie.

But it turned out to be about South Africa. And it was completely on the side of the Blacks and against the white racists, especially the police.

In the beginning of the movie, the Black revolutionary is let out of jail. His lawyer tells him, "The government is still out to get you. You had better look out."

He answers, "No. THEY had better look out."

This movie shows that TV can no longer ignore the liberation struggle in South Africa. A few years ago, South Africa was never men-

tioned on TV or in the papers. It was a cover-up, whether conscious or not.

But now they play a movie in prime time that shows the South African police state in all its true viciousness. It makes anyone who is watching root for the Black revolutionary all the way.

After "Roots" was so popular (and so lucrative), TV wanted to milk Black militancy for all it was worth.

The movie still had to have something for everyone, of course. There is a white Englishman who BOSS is also after, for white people to identify with. The white man is even the one who gets the privilege of putting a bullet in the BOSS agent at the end.

There is a couple-in-a-bubble-bath scene, a sex-in-a-closet scene, and a body-in-a-trunk scene.

But this movie was on the right side in South Africa. It was a bang-bang-shoot-em-up with a point. □

Workers' Power

MINERS' HEALTH STRIKES PLAGUE COAL OPERATORS



Striking miners from Districts 17 and 29 rallied in Washington August 6 to protest health care cutbacks.

by Jim Woodward

COAL MINERS from United Mine Workers District 17 stopped a back to work movement in West Virginia last week and then sent out travelling pickets to spread their strike to adjoining states.

By August 16, some 80,000 miners were involved in the wildcat strike—half the unionized coal miners in the country.

The strikes are protesting cuts in medical benefits, which have put health care out of the reach of many miners. The cuts were inspired by the coal operators, who are trying to use them as a club to beat back the miners' militancy.

The UMW Health and Retirement Funds are funded by the operators, based on tons of coal mined and hours worked. The operators claim wildcat strikes have depleted these Funds.

IMPACT ON PROFITS

One coal industry group admitted that the strike has already had a serious impact on business. The

National Coal Association said in Louisville August 17 that coal production this year will be 33 million tons less than consumption.

The Association said the difference would have to be made up by dipping into stockpiles.

Additionally, the Pittston Company, the leading coal producer, said the wildcat strikes would have what the Wall Street Journal termed a "severe impact" on its profits.

To the miners, the operators have peddled the theory that it is written in heaven that there is no solution other than to end the strikes. And Arnold Miller, UMW president, has agreed with them.

"SOME ASSHOLE"

That has a lot of miners angry. As one said: "I think what [the operators] projected was that our fund would go broke about the time it did and then they knew that all hell would be raised over it. And then you got some asshole that goes agreeing with them every fucking time and he happens to be

president of the goddamn union."

District 17, based in Charleston, West Virginia, has become the center of the movement. On August 10, all locals in the district held meetings, and the miners voted solidly to stay on strike. Then they sent pickets to southern West Virginia's District 29 to halt a back to work movement there.

On Sunday, August 14, District 17 miners set out in car caravans for Ohio. They were successful in keeping many miners out of work there, but were unsure that it would last.

One of the District 17 miners told Workers' Power that although "we were met pretty good by the rank and file workers," they did not intend to stay on strike after the pickets left.

"They said you people put Miller in and you're going to have to live with him if you don't like the way he does things." (District 17 voted 57% for Miller, while Ohio's District 6 gave him only 40% of their votes.)

"They told us we'd have to baby-

sit 'em three shifts a day," he said of the Ohio miners, "and we just don't have the manpower to do it."

At Workers' Power press time, meetings were scheduled in West Virginia to assess the situation and decide on a course of action. A return to work was a possibility.

"But if they cut those funds for those old people," the District 17 miner said, referring to threatened pension cuts, "we ain't gonna be back to work long anyway."

"ALL APPROPRIATE ACTIONS"

Meanwhile in Washington, the UMW International Executive Board passed a resolution threatening "charges and all appropriate actions" against union members who continued the strike.

UMW President Arnold Miller was pushing this resolution, all the while hiding out from the rank and file. When miners marched on Washington to protest the cuts August 6, Miller flew to West Virginia. Later, during mass meetings in West Virginia, he was back

in Washington.

Harry Patrick, the union's secretary-treasurer, wanted to move the executive board meeting to West Virginia. A board meeting in West Virginia during the last major wildcat strike adopted considerably more militant resolutions than did a subsequent meeting in Washington. But this time the board stayed in Washington.

Patrick also issued a call for a return to work. He said the strike "is playing into the hands of the coal operators."

Attempts to reach Patrick for elaboration were unsuccessful. But a source close to him said Patrick thought the executive board resolution threatening charges against the strikers was "a bunch of shit."

Miller and Patrick did not actually vote on the resolution because the roll call procedure used excluded the three top international officers.

But the source said Patrick "wouldn't have favored that resolution. I think he feels the strikes are justified in that nobody was doing anything." □

Miners' Wives Take Over Picket Duty

"OUR MEN don't want us to picket," said the wife of a Kentucky coal miner, "but they are on strike and if the other men don't stick with them, we'll lose all we've got."

She was part of a group of miners' wives who set up picket lines to keep coal operations shut down at several sites in eastern Kentucky. The story

was reported August 11 in the Mountain Eagle, a weekly newspaper published in Whitesburg, Kentucky.

Some 10,000 miners were on strike in eastern Kentucky's UMW District 30, but occasional work was being done at a few locations.

The wives set up picket lines at the Beth-Elkhorn company's

maintenance shops and Dunham tippie, and were effective in keeping those operations closed.

The Mountain Eagle said the women were putting off needed health care for their families because of the cuts in medical benefits.

"We're not doing this to get publicity, but because things

are getting so bad," said one.

"I think when the women have to get out on the picket line, it's the last straw."

"The men have got to get themselves together," said another. "Either they go out on strike or they don't, but they've got to stick together or be destroyed by their own division." □