

WORKERS' POWER

AQUISITION SECTION
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BIG STATE
MADISON WI 53706

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS OCTOBER 17, 1977 #227 25c

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OUR RIGHTS HANG IN THE BALANCE

The Bakke decision is a wholesale assault on minority workers, students, and women.



The Supreme Court began hearing arguments in the Bakke case Wednesday, October 12.

Over a thousand people showed up at the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C. to hear the proceedings.

The Court will decide if race can be used as a factor in deciding who gets admitted to colleges and universities.

But the case has broader implications.

Affirmative Action programs began as a concession to the Black Power movement, in the late 1960's, during the Johnson Administration.

The federal government would withhold funds from any university or business that couldn't demonstrate lack of discrimination.

This is where we get Affirmative Action programs and Equal Opportunity Employers from.

Allan Bakke is a white male, age 37, who charged "reverse discrimination" when he didn't get into the University of California Medical School at Davis.

The California Supreme Court upheld him. If the US Supreme Court does the same, minorities and women will again be almost totally frozen out of many fields in higher education and employment.

A pro-Bakke decision from the Supreme Court would signal a victory in the resurgence of racism developing today.

Already, business, government and the right wing are trying to take back the gains

oppressed Americans won in the 1960's—Black and minority rights, women's rights, and gay rights.

But these oppressed groups are beginning to organize to defend what they won in the 1960's.

The National Coalition to Overturn the Bakke decision held demonstrations across the country October 3 and 8 on the eve of the Supreme Court's hearing the Bakke case, October 12.

In most cities the demonstrations were attended by Blacks, women, other minorities, and sizable numbers of anti-racist whites.

The weakness of the demonstrations was their size—this issue could attract more support if the member organizations mobilized for mass participation. □

Towns reel under the impact of steel layoffs. No joy in "Christmas City." P. 3

Are the unions going to hell in a handbasket. (If so, why?) P. 6 & 7

"Hope"—"Gloom." It's a lot easier to say something than to do something about it. Carter in the South Bronx. P. 10

Child abuse. The pressures of daily life—a mother vents her frustration on her own flesh and blood. P. 11

Slave Labor Is Back

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, New York state began the Public Works program (PWP).

This program is a vicious attack on welfare recipients, forcing them to work in various city agencies, under conditions little better than slavery, in order to continue to receive their checks.

For a certain number of hours each week, they are forced to do the same work as other city employees, many of whom have been laid off.

While doing the same work,

welfare recipients get none of the benefits, no holidays, no health insurance, and receive only about the minimum wage or less.

Such a program is also an attack on the unions, encouraging layoffs since PWP workers cost the state much less.

ENFORCED SERVITUDE

The program amounts to enslavement.

The workers have no rights on the job as workers. Even while

working, they remain, as far as the state is concerned, welfare recipients.

Recently PWP workers have begun organizing the fight back.

Some meetings have been held to draw up a list of demands. Initially, their demands focussed on getting information about the program: how many workers there are in the program, where they work, how much they should be paid, etc.

In the future, as the organization grows, they also plan to demand

the same rights and benefits as other city workers.

On Tuesday, October 11, many PWP workers went down to the program headquarters, 109 E. 16th Street, to demand a meeting with the director of the program.

The director did meet with them, but was unable or refused to answer many of their questions.

He did however, provide them with a list of locations where PWP workers work.

That list is now the basis for further organizing efforts.

COULD SPREAD

The struggle of PWP workers in New York is important for the entire country.

If Carter's welfare reform proposal passes, such forced work schemes will become national in scope, involving hundreds of thousands of workers.

Successful organizing in New York could lay the basis for a nationwide effort to smash this new kind of slavery. □

Supreme Court Commits Immoral Act

by Tim McDaniels

Gay rights were dealt another setback by the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

In a precedent-setting move, the nine justices decided to let stand a lower court ruling which stated that an individual could be fired for being a homosexual. Not for doing anything, but for simply "being."

The case involved James Gaylord, 39, who has been teaching in Tacoma, Washington for nearly 13 years. He was dismissed for "immorality" by the Tacoma school board in 1972, when it was discovered he was gay.

The ruling was praised by Anita Bryant and her supporters, who led the successful campaign against gay rights in Dade County, Florida.

The United Federation of Teachers and other teachers across the country have condemned the ruling, stating "we don't believe teachers' lives outside the classroom should be grounds for dismissal."

Yet gay teachers were the focus of Bryant's crusade against the Miami anti-discrimination ordinance.

Upon hearing about the high court's decision, Miss Bryant said:

"Now I have greater hope that God has given America a space to repent and that this will slow down the forces that are attempting to destroy the foundations of this country."

Gay teachers say that their sexual preference has nothing to do with their competence, but they also realize that they have tremendous biases to overcome.

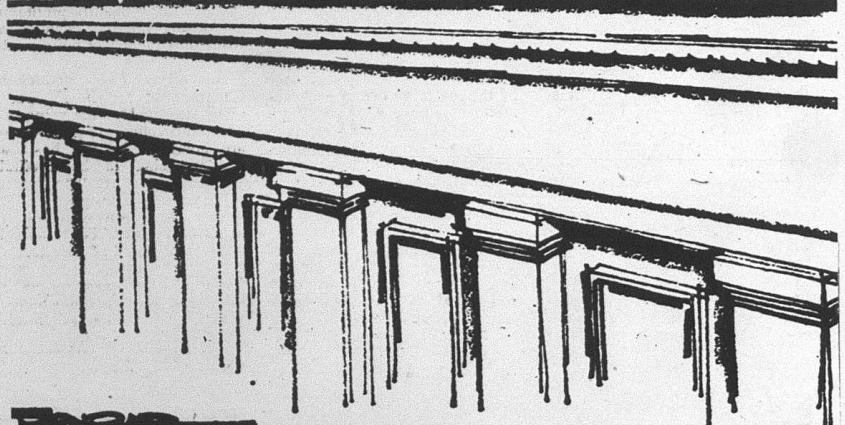
MYTH

"There is a discernable fear among parents of the myth of homosexual molestings," said Marc Rubin, and leader of the Gay Teachers Association in New York.

"There are plenty of heterosexual teachers who lead polygamous lives or are not married, but that's not considered a danger."

Constitutional lawyers who have read the court's opinion believe that it implies that any employer can fire any gay employee simply because he or she is homosexual.

It is clear that minorities cannot look to the courts for relief from their oppression. Gays, women, Blacks, and other minorities can expect to see more and more of the gains that they have won be taken away by judges and courts



Supreme Court lets stand homosexual teacher's firing.—News item.

In Houston, It Cost \$1 To Kill A Chicano.

Like everything else in America, the cost of police brutality has risen too.

Until now the only ones who paid were the victims. Either with their lives, or broken bones and spirits. Now, Houston, Texas has changed all that.

Police officers Terry W. Denson and Stephen Orlando accused of murdering Joe Campos Torres were acquitted, convicted of a lesser charge, fined one dollar each and

given probation.

They arrested Torres last May for disturbing the peace, a minor offense.

While in their custody, Torres died from a beating and drowned in Buffalo Bayou which runs through downtown Houston.

The fact that an all-white jury acquitted the two officers might give rise to the suspicion of racial bias in the verdict. But the one dollar fine left no doubt!

Non-white citizens are in for another round of police brutality.

LEGALIZED MURDER

Detroiters have barely forgotten the "STRESS" pogrom, and now the rise of legalized murder is rearing its ugly head in Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Houston.

Once again we are being made aware of this and past discriminations' contribution to "Crime in the Streets".

Minority citizens will undoubtedly consider the cost of continuing to believe in American "Justice for All" too high a price to pay.

To survive under it they will have to organize to protect their lives from police who would be judge, jury and executioner.

That we will continue to suffer this injustice is unthinkable. We must act! The only valid question is when? □

Al Ferdnance

Workers' Power 227

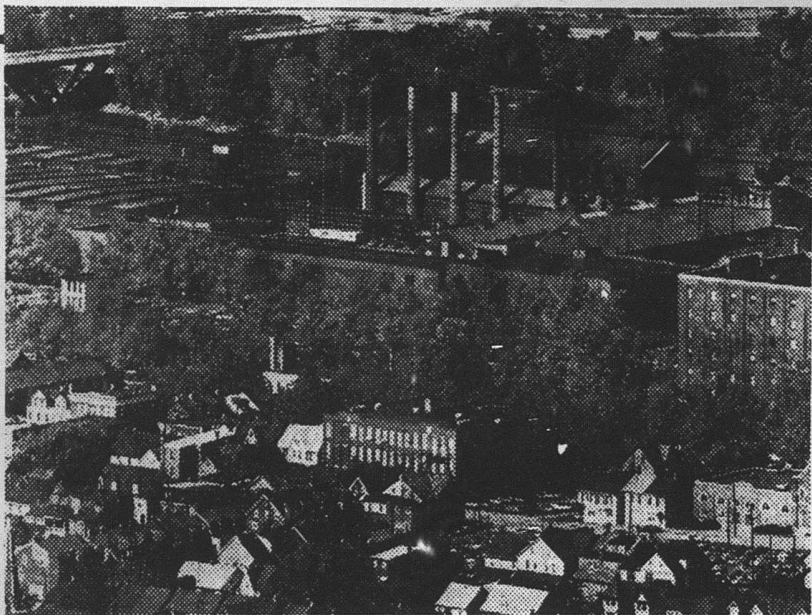
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Subscriptions: \$10 for one year; \$5 for six months. Introductory rate: \$1 for eight issues. Institutional: \$15. Foreign surface: \$15. Foreign air mail: \$20 for six months.

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.

THESE COMPANIES DESTROY JOBS AND CITIES



"Christmas City," that's what they call Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. But it doesn't belong to Santa Claus, to Jesus Christ, or to any church. It belongs to the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. "Christmas City" is a company town.

Most people think of company towns as the impoverished barracks that surrounded sweat shops in the 1890's, when you got your pay in credit at the company store. You bought your groceries from the company, you paid your rent to the company, you owed your soul to the company.

Not today? Well, the Bethlehem giant owns four of them. And like its other company towns in Johnstown, Pa., Lackawanna, New York, and Sparrows Point, Maryland, "Christmas City" is about to be transformed from a prosperous community to an economic disaster area.

How? By large scale lay-offs of both white collar and blue collar workers. By cutting the city's tax base when older facilities close. By reducing long standing contributions to various community projects. And, of course, by turning a lot of fairly well paid, productive working people into unemployment and welfare cases.

Bethlehem Steel has already destroyed the lives of its other company town dwellers. Take, for example, Johnstown, Pa. There they waited for a disastrous flood to announce the closing of their major facilities and the permanent lay-off of five thousand people.

That will mean disaster for the thousands of steelworkers in Johnstown who sweated to build good lives for their families and children.

The Bethlehem barons had the power to play God.

They manipulate not only the industry making steel that the public needs, but the public itself and the towns we live in—schools, hotels, newspapers, taxes. If the only way they can make it run is by crushing out whole communities, someone's got to ask if it shouldn't be the other way around—the public controlling our own communities, the industry we need and the steel we produce.

That's one of the reasons that Bethlehem Steel doesn't like to admit that it controls the destiny of whole towns and their populations. One corporation executive described their "benevolent" attitude: "We know we are big, but we try to avoid using a big stick."

What bigger stick can they use than the wrecking of a city's economy?

Why are they doing this? Profits. Or, as they might put it, the health of the company.

Like most steel companies, Bethlehem is losing money. The reason, they say, is that their older facilities are no longer efficient enough, no longer profitable enough.

So, they plan to return the corporation to healthy profitability by closing the old facilities and using only the newer more productive ones.

As Lewis Foy, Bethlehem's Chairman of the Board, put it, "The facilities that are going to be left in this country to produce steel are going to be the best, and they're going to be profitable facilities with what I believe is a very, very good future."

The jobs destroyed by the benevolent Mr. Foy and his benevolent Board of Directors will not only be those at the closed facilities. They plan to get the workers at the remaining mills to work harder, to work themselves out of a job.

Mr. Foy benevolently brags that "We are already seeing indicat-

**BETHLEHEM—
In Christmas City
There's Peace
On Earth, Good Will
Toward Men
STOCK HOLDERS**

ions" that the company's insecure workers "are concerned about what is happening with the steel business and they are saying to us that we're (meaning 'they're') going to have to work harder.

In 1970, Bethlehem employed 130,000 people. Now, they employ a little over 90,000.

According to the Wall Street

Journal, Bethlehem's latest volley of job destruction will save the company \$120 million a year.

Very nice for Mr. Foy, the Board of Directors, and the stock holders of Bethlehem Steel. But for the people of Bethlehem, Johnstown, Lackawanna, and Sparrows Point things look more like shanty-town than Christmas City. □



Laid-off Zenith employees rally in a protest against loss of jobs.

**AND AT ZENITH—
IT'S THANK YOU
AND GOOD-BYE**

Zenith Corporation said it was out to protect American workers. That's because they care about jobs and people, not just profits.

Zenith ran hundreds of ads on TV, showing the "American Worker" and how terrific we are—how we do quality work, the best in the world.

To their own workers they explained about the terrible threat of Japanese imports.

It was all part of a campaign—a crusade is more like it—to win import controls in the color TV industry.

In May, the American and Japanese governments agreed to an "orderly market agreement"—a limit on how many TV's Japan will send to

the U.S.

Zenith got what it wanted.

Now that's settled and Japanese imports are restricted, Zenith announced that 5000 workers—almost 25% of the workforce—will be laid off within a year.

Thank you and good-bye.

Why? Because Zenith will be building TV's in Taiwan and Mexico and shipping them to the U.S.

What about those wonderful people that Zenith cares about so much? "We'll be sad to see them go," said the Chairman of the Board.

That's what he said. What he meant was: "suckers." □

Steven Lantier

A HERO GOES HOME

Now free
the
four!

Few political prisoners anywhere in the world spent as long in prison as Andres Figueroa Cordero.

He entered a U.S. prison in 1954, when he was 30. Today he is 53, and dying of terminal lung cancer. If he had received proper and early medical care, Cordero would not be dying. Instead, too late, he was operated on three times, losing most of his lungs.

Andres Figueroa Cordero was released last week. Jimmy Carter decided it made a nice headline to allow him to die in his Puerto Rico.

Cordero was welcomed home from prison by a huge celebration. He had to be propped up and assisted with oxygen to speak to the crowd.

But they hung on every word he said.



Andres Figueroa Cordero holds up Puerto Rican flag from his wheelchair after release from prison.

Cordero and four other Puerto Rican nationalists were sent to prison for an attack on the U.S. House of Representatives on March 1, 1954. Five Congressmen were wounded by pistol fire from the galleries.

Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda and Irving Flores are still in prison for the same shootings.

A fifth Puerto Rican nationalist, Oscar Collazo has been in prison

since 1950 for an attack on President Truman.

In Puerto Rico these people are considered political prisoners and heroes of the resistance against U.S. occupation.

The people of Puerto Rico have not forgotten why those attempted assassinations occurred.

In 1950, in the city of Jayuya, the United States military savagely

beat down a brief pro-independence uprising. Planes, bazookas and mortars were launched to support U.S. troops.

Hundreds of Puerto Ricans were killed. A mass roundup began of nationalist supporters, sympathizers, acquaintances and their families.

That's why the Puerto Rican nationalists attempted to shoot Truman and later the Congress-

men. They were trying to gain a small measure of justice for the victims of the 1950 massacre.

The four Puerto Ricans still in prison will get no release from Jimmy Carter. They are being held as an act of revenge by the U.S. government.

But they have not given up their commitment to freeing their country. Lolita Lebron in prison has won support from her fellow prisoners.

And she has refused to beg the U.S. government for a pardon or parole.

In the United States the Puerto Rican nationalists may be forgotten people. But in their homeland they remain symbols for nearly 80 years of resistance.

When Puerto Rico is independent and free, they will be among its first national heroes. □

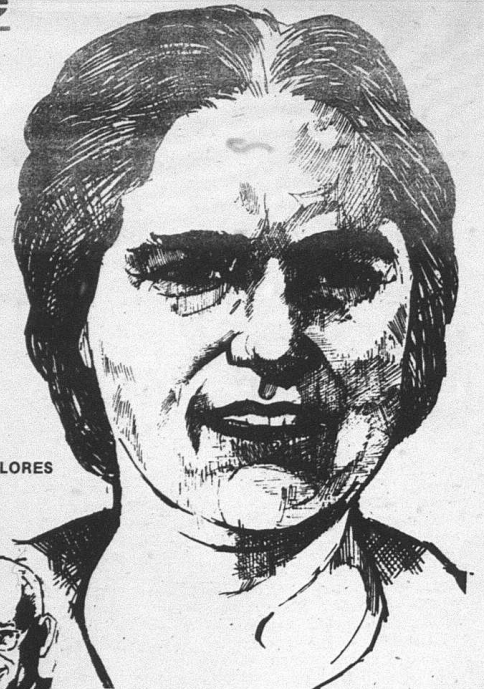


IRVING FLORES

RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA



OSCAR COLLAZO



Lolita Lebron

Biko murder-South Africa's cover-up unravels

Two South African newspapers have dared to print some of the facts about the murder of Steven Biko.

Biko, who was the leader of the South African Black Consciousness movement, died a month ago after 26 days in prison.

The government claimed Biko died following an eight-day hunger strike. But the Rand Daily Mail discovered another story from doctors who examined Biko before his death.

Biko "was found to have extensive brain damage and bruising." There was no sign he was on a hunger strike.

The official autopsy report on Biko ordered by the government has been delayed over and over.

But the government is striking back at the papers which reported the facts.

Following their reports indicating Biko was beaten to death, both the Rand Daily Mail and Sunday Express were reprimanded by the Press Council.

This Council was set up to make sure the South African press prints only what the government wants to

see. The reprimand is a threat to take more drastic action in the future.

By suppressing newspaper coverage of the Biko case, the South African government intends to complete the cover-up of his murder.

The government also intends to prevent any future press coverage about the murder of more prisoners.

There is little doubt they will get away with it.

Much of the English-speaking press and big business in South Africa would like to see the South African system of racial segregation and oppression modified.

That's why a couple of major newspapers thought the government could be embarrassed over the Biko murder.

But they are more afraid of the powerful struggle by the 80% African majority for full political rights and equality.

Black children, 13 years old and younger, have been gunned down in the streets and beaten by police in the schools and churches of Soweto.

But the white liberal editors won't risk death, or detention, or even their jobs to fight the apartheid system.

WEAK REFORMERS

The English-speaking businessmen speak out for reform as long as it doesn't threaten their pocket-books or the substance of white minority rule.

South Africa will hold a whites-only election on November 30. The great majority of English-speaking whites will vote with the Afrikaaner hard-line racists for the ruling Nationalist Party.

The government is running on the promise it will never grant rights to the Black majority. The 20% white minority will vote for its "right" to keep the 80% majority at the bottom.

Is it any wonder that the Black majority regards the voting as irrelevant?

And is it any wonder that when the powerless white liberals appeal to the Blacks to support schemes for gradual reform, they find nobody's listening? □

Do You Want A Vietnam War in Panama?

There seems to be a small falling out between the distinguished statesmen (otherwise known as cutthroats and thieves) who negotiated the Panama Canal Treaty.

Jimmy Carter, that outspoken champion of the rights of small nations, says the treaty gives the American government the right to use military force to re-occupy the Canal Zone, even after it officially goes over to Panama in the year 2000.

Carter's spokesmen and negotiators made this guarantee to the Senate. In exchange they hoped to get support for the treaty from far-right Republicans and conservative Democratic Senators.

This guarantee forced the government of Panama to reply that it has no such understanding. Panama says the treaty gives the U.S. no right to intervene, and no right to "favored treatment" for U.S. ships.

This is not surprising. What government anywhere could tell its people it just gave a foreign power the right to invade any time it pleases?

The treaty already maintains U.S. military occupation of Panama until the year 2000.

Now the Carter Administration has to answer to the far right, the senators who quite logically ask: "Why not occupy it forever?"

The Panamanian dictatorship, on the other hand, wants to improve its image as a nationalist regime standing up for Panama. Actually it's propped up by American banks, export-import firms and military aid.

Panamanian President Torrijos says, "the new treaty will eventually give us back the land the United States stole from us."

But the people of Panama have the most logical question of all for their President: "Since it's ours, why don't we take it back right now?"

Workers' Power says the people of Panama are right. To hell with the Canal Treaty. We support their right to take it over.

The Panama Canal Treaty only gives this American government, or some future one, an excuse to start a new Vietnam war in Latin America. We need that like we need another Ronald Reagan. □

Steelworkers Won't Take Mesta's Mess Any More

by Eric Stovall

PITTSBURGH—The Mesta Machine Company is facing the first strike in its history as a unionized shop.

Not that conditions there haven't merited one for a long time. For years Mesta tried to play a "father-son" role with its skilled steel-fabricating employees in order to keep the union out. Finally, the company settled, after an organizing effort by employees who were not so pleased with the "family" relations for a sweetheart union deal.

Now Mesta's production workers are represented by Local 7174 of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and, like most fabricating shops, conditions and pay fall short of basic steel agreements.

This year the company has offered only 40 cents in wage and benefit increases, or half of the basic steel settlement. Mesta is also seeking a cap on the Cost of Living Allowance. And it is dragging its feet on local issues that have never been thoroughly resolved from one contract to another.

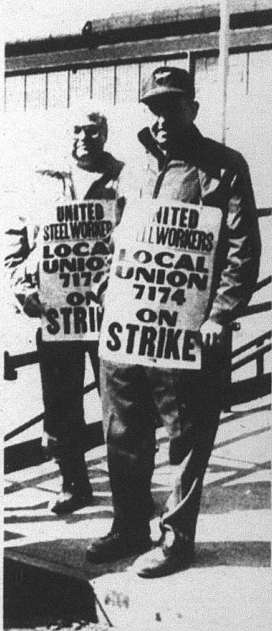
So 1300 fed up production workers are now well into the second week of what may turn into a long strike.

The company prepared well in advance for this strike. It is taking advantage of a lull in orders to mount an attack against the workforce. It is relying on its New Castle, Pa. plant to carry on production while the W. Homestead plant is on strike. The union has not forced a production stoppage there.

Mesta kept another ace up its sleeve to try to crush the strike. It has been using the age-old bosses' tactic—create a bad public image of the strikers. The company claims that union picketers have had company personnel "trapped" in the plant.

The furor around the "trapped" employees and alleged violence has been successfully used by the company to enjoin the union from mass picketing and threats of \$40,000 in fines.

But the p.r. tactic may have backfired. On October 5th, foreman James Short was charged with hit and run. He allegedly struck



picketer James Strang with a car. Not very good publicity for the company image.

40 CENT WAGE HIKE—\$3.7 MILLION PROFITS

Earlier this year, Mesta chairman John D. Iverson was crowing about Mesta's \$3.7 million earnings in 1976 and looking for "a pretty good year" again in '77.

Now it appears that "a pretty good year" will mean cutting down Mesta workers' livelihoods.

But it looks like Mesta is in for a fight. USWA Local 7174 members are preparing for at least a six month strike. In the words of strike chairman John Solomon, "We're going to show we have a union here, that we're organized!" □

Stop Bakke!

"The Bakke decision is a wholesale assault on minority workers and students, as well as women.

"If upheld, anti-discrimination programs such as affirmative action and special admissions will become unconstitutional."

—Statement from October 8 Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision



"Our presence here today serves notice to the boss man that we won't take this discrimination any more."

—Lorenzo Carlisle
Caterpillar Anti-Discrimination Committee

OAKLAND, California — 3000 people marched against Bakke October 8. A third to half of the demonstrators were either Black, Chicano, Filipino or Asian. There were contingents from 50 organizations, including groups from the women's movement, student groups, Third World organizations and labor unions. Contact the Coalition in the Bay Area at (415) 549-3297.

In DETROIT, a black and white crowd of 350 rallied downtown and marched to the Federal Courthouse. Speakers were heard from the Michigan Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision, the NAACP, the Association for the Betterment of Black Employees at Edison, Atlanta Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Organization for Women, and several groups from Wayne State University.

Wayne State has the largest Black student body in the country —25% of 25,000 students. But only 5% of the instructors are Black. Special programs for minority students are being eliminated,

reported Gloria House of the Collective Against Discrimination and Racism in Education. To contact the Coalition in Michigan, call (313) 577-3971.

In WASHINGTON D.C., 2000 people marched against Bakke on October 3. In NEW YORK 400 people protested the Bakke decision October 8. Featured speaker Dennis Serette, President of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, related the struggle against discrimination in the U.S. to the struggle for freedom and against apartheid in South Africa.

In NEWARK, New Jersey, 60 people marched against Bakke. In SACRAMENTO, California, 700 people demonstrated against Bakke October 8. □

CHICAGO TEAMSTERS

Rebellion In Peick's Kingdom

by Mike Kelly

Rank and file Teamsters in Chicago are refusing to be intimidated by employers and union officials who've been trying to stop the growth of their movement.

In the last few months, a local Teamsters-rank and file coalition has pulled together that threatens the dictatorial control of the employers and officials.

Members of a group of UPS workers, UPS Teamsters for Justice (UTJ); of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU); of the Professional Drivers Council (PROD); and of a group of Signal Drivers, the Concerned Drivers Club (CDC) put together a coalition to fight for better union representation.

Several of the leaders of UTJ and the CDC are also TDU members.

This group has Louis Peick,

Secretary-Treasurer of Local 705 and International Vice-President so scared that he and some of the employers are throwing some pretty low blows.

Here are some examples: Last week Aaron Kesner, a Glendinning driver, member of 705 for many years and a TDU activist, went to picket the union hall. Kesner was supporting two Business Agents; fired from their jobs by Peick.

These men, Jackson and Gilmer, are both Black, and race was clearly the motivation for firing them.

Kesner and some UPS workers joined the fired B.A.'s in picketing the hall before work. When he showed up for work that morning he was fired.

The company put him back to work later the same day—but the message was clear. Employers and

union officials are out to get the rank and file.

But there's another message in this too. Kesner got his job back because there's enough rank and file pressure to make sure the union does its job.

Another example is Laura Hodge, a driver for UPS at its suburban Northbrook Hub and also a 705 member.

The company and the union officials have been able to inspire a phony "rank and file" group, "Concerned Teamsters of Local 705." This group has made its main job promoting the company and the current do-nothing union leaders.

They put out literature that claims that UPS and Local 705 are striving to make UPS workers the best paid and best represented in the industry.

It's hard to figure out how they could believe that. UPS has done away with full-time inside jobs, requires forced overtime that many employees don't want, drives the workers so bad that many of them quit after two or three years, some sooner.

Another activity of this group is to have four of these "Concerned Members" follow Hodge from the entrance of the hub to the women's locker room to make sure she doesn't speak to other workers.

Hodge is not intimidated, however. And other workers are disgusted by four hulking men hovering around a 100+ pound woman.

"The rank and file movement can't be stopped because of the harassment of one individual," says Hodge. "We're going to organize and get this union to do the job and put the company in its

place."

Another UTJ activist, John Jackson, was fired by UPS when he urinated on the dock between two trailers because the supervisor refused to let him go to the washroom.

But he has a good chance of winning—many UPSers remember a speech of Peick's a while back. He said that he'd "piss on the dock" if his boss refused to let him go.

The coalition, its member organizations and individuals, aren't afraid of the employers and union ganging up on them. They have enough support to keep the union honest.

And they have a growing base of support among drivers and dock workers in Locals 705,710 and the Chicago Truck Drivers Union (CTDU), the three major freight locals in Chicago. □

UNION MEMBERSHIP, 1930-1970

After the upsurge of the 30's and 40's... T

The unions are shrinking.

Not only do union members represent an ever smaller proportion of the working population, but now the actual number of union members is falling.

The decline is the greatest among those industries that are traditionally union strongholds—manufacturing, mining, and transportation.

The blame must be placed squarely on the shoulders of the union leadership. Their destructive role becomes clear when you observe: thousands of people thrown out of work; countless jobs eliminated through speed-up and forced overtime; unions broken in once-organized places; run-away shops throughout the south left unorganized.

In other words, the same pro-company policies that have led to

far worse working conditions and rising unemployment have meant a remarkable decline in union membership.

The bureaucrats who run the unions have given up almost all of labor's most effective weapons.

Few have officially abandoned the strike like the Steel Workers.

But most union leaders have abandoned it as a serious weapon.

Today, more often than not, strikes are just token affairs—staged to let the membership blow off steam.

Labor history in this country has shown the strike to be the most reliable expression of workers'

power. There is no substitute for the well-organized strike to win gains from the companies, or to hold on to them afterward.

Yet, union official after union official tells us that "the best hope for the unions is to turn from the strike to electing more and more Democrats to office, and then pressuring them to get results.

To the dwindling performance at the bargaining table that leaves the unions ever weaker is added an always pathetic and now growing dependence on the politicians of the Democratic Party.

To be frank, it is doubtful that the union-busting bosses will surrender at the sight of whiskey bloated bureaucrats hanging on the coat-tail of pork-barrel politicians.

If union busting and scab industry are to be stopped and the decline of the unions reversed, a massive organizing campaign will have to be mounted.



Q. Mr. Meany, why fast as the country's A. "I don't know."

Q. Would you prefer to be a union leader? A. "Not necessarily. I would like to see the unions appear to want to be organized and speak for them and without effective par-

—George

"... Great combinations of capital have assembled great industrial plants and they are almost 100 percent effective in opposing organization of the workers under the policies of the American Federation of Labor..."

"The strength of a strong man is a pridelful thing, but the unfortunate thing in life is that strong men do not remain strong. And that is just as true of unions and labor organizations as it is true of men and individuals."

"And, whereas today the craft unions of this country may be able to stand upon their own feet and like mighty oaks stand before the gale, defying the lightning, yet the day may come... and things are changing rapidly now—the day may come when those organizations will not be able to withstand the lightning and the gale. Now, prepare yourselves by making a contribution to your less fortunate brethren. Heed this cry from Macedonia that comes from the heart of men. Organize the unorganized..."

—John L. Lewis
1935



Labor Law Reform — Small Victory In A Big War

EVEN THE UNION officialdom can see the handwriting on the wall. Even they can read the shrinking membership figures. Even they can feel their declining power at the bargaining table.

They have supposedly decided to do something about it. Their goal, worthy but long overdue, is to organize the non-union industries of the south and southwest, and to re-organize industries where unions are being weakened or broken.

Two of the best examples of this are the Auto Workers' drive to organize General Motors' non-union plants in Georgia and the Clothing Workers' attempt to organize the viciously anti-union textile plants of J.P. Stevens.

To smooth the way, the entire labor leadership has thrown its political weight behind a campaign to amend the National Labor Relations Act, which sets the rules for union and management behavior in

organizing drives.

As these laws stand, the employers are able to stall drives through court suits and fire workers without fear of reprisal.

Labor's original amendments would have plugged some of these loopholes and repealed that section of the law, Section 14b, that allows states to make the union shop illegal.

OPPOSITION

Faced with heavy opposition from Big Business, the Carter Administration got labor to agree to drop the repeal of 14b and some of the teeth in the enforcement mechanism. Proving once again that while labor can elect, it can't really collect—so long as it plays by the Democratic Party rules.

The compromise amendments, which have already passed the House of Representatives, will help. They will make it

more difficult for the employers to stall and victimize. And they should be supported.

But no law will organize the unorganized. The employers will still resist.

They will still fire militants—even if they have to pay a little extra to do it. They will still hire thugs. In fact, they will continue to break the law—no matter how good the law is.

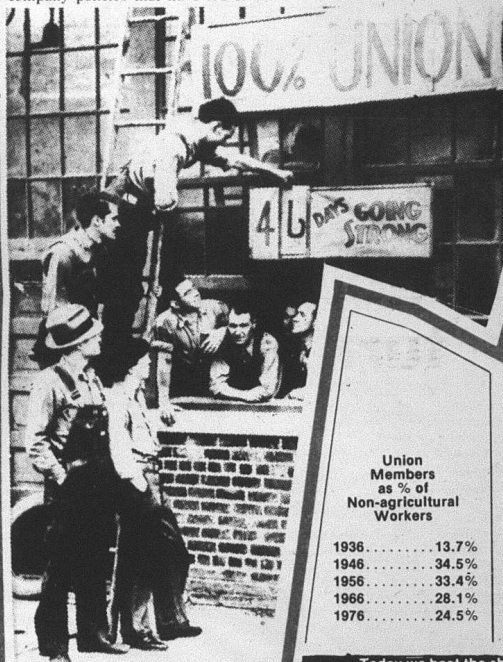
It is fashionable for labor leaders to say today that there is nothing more to be won at the bargaining table; that they must turn to political pressure and legislation.

The idea is costing unionized workers an arm and a leg in their contracts. When it comes to organizing the unorganized it will produce only tragedy.

The real test will not be in Congress. It will be in the plants of the south, the docks and barns of de-unionized trucking companies, the growing number of non-union construction sites, the western coal fields, and the fields and orchards of America.

Union Members as % of Non-agricultural Workers

1936	13.7%
1946	34.5%
1956	33.4%
1966	28.1%
1976	24.5%

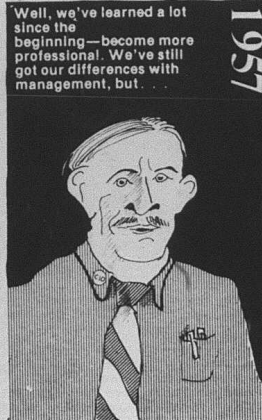


The Flint sit-down strike of 1937. Said one auto worker: "It was like we was soldiers holding the fort. It was like war. The guys with me became my buddies. I remember as a kid in school readin' about Davey Crockett and the last stand at the Alamo. You know, mister, that's just how I felt. Yes sir, Chevy No. 4 was my Alamo."

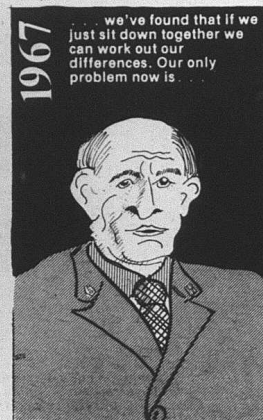
These pages written by: Kim Moody, Al Ferdnand, and Dan Posen. Designed by: Jim Woodward and Terri Ferguson.



1937 Today we beat the shit out of some scabs. Sure, a lot of us are socialists and communists—and proud of it. We just want what we've got coming to us.



1957 Well, we've learned a lot since the beginning—become more professional. We've still got our differences with management, but...



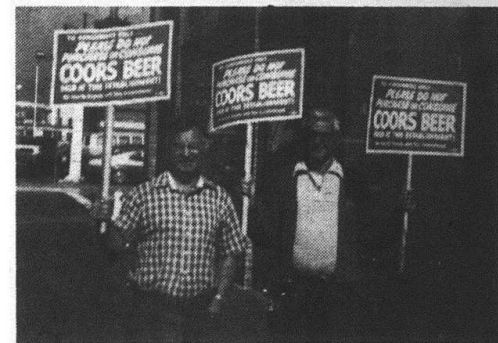
1961 ...we've found that if we just sit down together we can work out our differences. Our only problem now is...



1977 ...the goddamned socialists and communists who are trying to wreck this union!

1976 % OF NON-AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE

s. . . Twenty years of decline. . . Why?



Out west several years ago, Coors Beer led a successful fight against the Teamsters. They broke the union of their beer drivers.

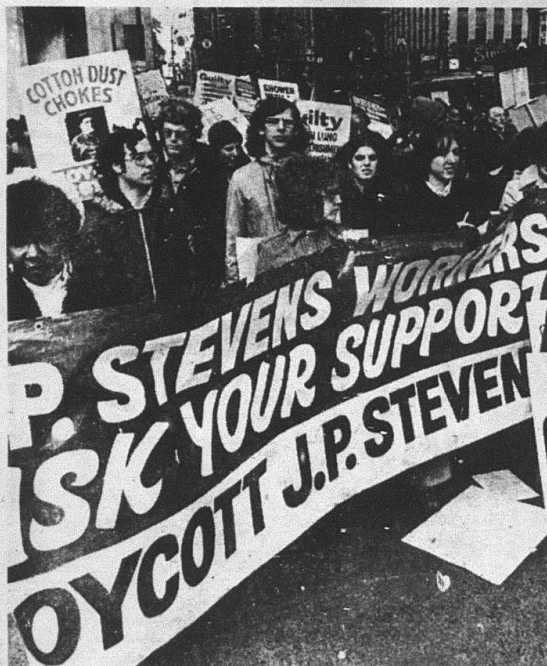
Now Coors is trying to break another union. Last April, Coors brewery workers walked out when the company refused to bargain seriously. Coors hired replacements, but the strike continues. The union has organized a boycott of Coors Beer.

J.P. Stevens employs 44,000 workers and does more than \$1 billion in business. In the past 25 years Stevens closed 21 textile mills in the Northeast, costing 11,700 workers their jobs.

Stevens has fought unionism for decades. They have fired hundreds of workers, tapped the phones of organizers, broken every law on the books.

James D. Finley, Chairman of the Board of J.P. Stevens, made \$235,556 in 1975—and he plans to keep things just as they are.

If the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers are going to change things, they are going to have to fight like hell.



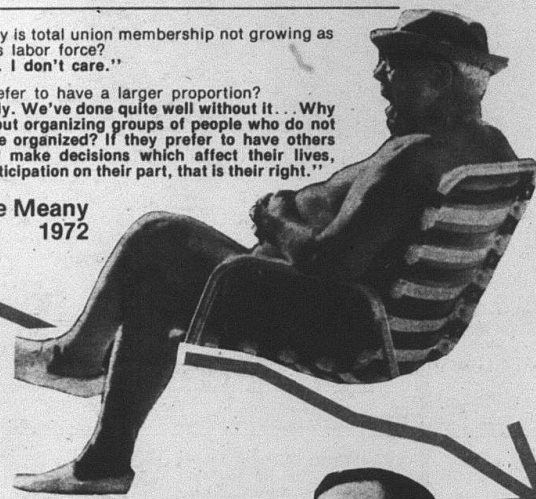
Q. Mr. Meany, why is total union membership not growing as fast as the country's labor force?

A. "I don't know. I don't care."

Q. Would you prefer to have a larger proportion?

A. "Not necessarily. We've done quite well without it. . . Why should we worry about organizing groups of people who do not appear to want to be organized? If they prefer to have others speak for them and make decisions which affect their lives, without effective participation on their part, that is their right."

—George Meany
1972



War

employers to stall and should be supported. Organize the unorganized. still resist. militant—even if they extra to do it. They will act, they will continue matter how good the

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not be in Congress. It of the south, the docks ionized trucking com- number of non-union e western coal fields, chards of America. □

The split in the ranks of the trucking employers is "self-destructive. This is a time when the industry should be banding together with all its problems. . . I hate to see it pulled apart."

—Roy L. Williams
Vice President, IBT
1977



ned communists to wreck this 1977



I.W. Abel, then president of the United Steel Workers, gives up the right to strike to R. Heath Larry, of U.S. Steel. Says Abel: "We believe that the United Steelworkers of America and the leaders of the American Steel Industry—through the ENA [no-strike agreement]—have helped point the way to labor peace in the future. It has been a long road, indeed, from the early, chaotic days in the beginning of our relationship. But we also believe that, at long last, we have reached that stage where we finally have developed the maturity and respect for each other that permitted us to take a bold step. . ."

So how do we turn it around?

ORGANIZING the unorganized, and the future of organized labor in America depends on how the organizing drives and political battles of today are fought.

Enforceable gains for labor—legislative reforms—can be an important tool for future organizing.

But can we afford to rely on pressure campaigns waged exclusively through "friends of labor" in courts and Congress?

Given the time involved and the scale of changes that are needed, if the shrinking union movement is to start growing again, the cost of relying on gradual legal reform and compromise is too high.

Whatever Congress may grudgingly pass for labor today can easily be wiped out tomorrow by the Supreme Court on the grounds of "Constitutional" property rights—unless labor has the force to back the reforms up.

The proven, effective way to get concessions from the companies and the government is militant action.

It took long sit-in strikes to force the giant auto makers to recognize the union. It took the determination of rank and file truckers to refuse to touch scab freight to organize trucking.

It took years of strikes and boycotts to organize the fields of California.

And when the farm workers' union wanted labor law reform for agricultural workers in California, it organized statewide marches, mass lobbies and sit-ins of state legislators' offices—all so that union organizers could win the minimum right to talk to workers on the ranches.

HIGHER STAKES

Today it is becoming harder, not easier, for the unions to make new gains and protect the old ones.

There is no slowdown in the bosses'

drive against wages, working conditions and union organization—the employers' offensive.

Recently, for example, 25 companies withdrew from the Trucking Employers Inc. (TEI), the bargaining organization for the freight companies.

The new group, Carriers Management Inc. (CMI), wants a tougher stand—by the trucking companies—against the already watered-down Teamster Union demands. These "dissident employers" include Yellow Freight System and Consolidated Freightways, two of the nation's largest carriers.

This split in the employers was partly caused by pressure from the militant rank and file movement in the Teamsters, and in particular the growing influence of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

The employers recognize the stakes are getting higher. It's time the whole labor movement recognized the same thing.

NEW POLITICS

It's also time American workers took another look at relying on the so-called "two-party system."

The position of the working class in our society is declining. It should be improving.

The need for a political party in Washington, to support and articulate the demands of working people, is just as obvious.

An army of AFL-CIO lobbyists have succeeded in getting a tiny handful of crumbs for labor from the Democratic Party-controlled Congress. A real party of labor, controlled by the unions instead of begging Democrats for favors, would get results George Meany can't even dream of.

Only workers and workers' organizations can create "workers' power": on the job, in the community, in the political arena. . . or anywhere else for that matter. □

UAW, AFL-CIO MERGER FIZZLES

NO UNION IN THE UNIONS

by Dave McCullough,
Vice-President, UAW Local 869

WILL SHE OR WON'T SHE ?

The UAW is once again flirting with George Meany's AFL-CIO—one of the longest on-again, off-again romances in American labor history.

As of October, 1977, it is off again.

A UAW Special Convention was mandated by delegates last May to decide whether the UAW should rejoin the big labor federation. The UAW International Executive Board has cancelled it.

President Doug Fraser and a majority of the UAW leadership favored returning to the AFL-CIO. A minority, led by long-time UAW leader Emil Mazey, opposed it.

There were good arguments on both sides. Position papers circulated among local Union officers and to the press.

LEFT OUT

But the membership was left out of it except for what they could glean from newspaper reports.

The Executive Board cancelled the Special Convention because democracy was getting out of hand.

Respected UAW leaders publicly disagreeing? Then one or another of them could be wrong. It could even mean that people could hold differing opinions about what the UAW should do and still remain respected, loyal union members.

In normal UAW practice, disagreeing and being wrong are the same thing.

Anyone who differs with the (always) unanimous decisions of the UAW International Executive Board is labelled a communist or a reactionary . . . sometimes both.

To prevent public knowledge of their dispute from spreading the notion that union democracy includes disagreements, the UAW tops closed ranks and cut off debate.

Things remain as they were: the AFL over there and the UAW over here. And that is a decision in itself. The minority position won by default.

So why did Doug Fraser choose to run rather than fight?

The AFL-CIO is not popular among UAW members.

Some regard it as corrupt, conservative, racist, and run by stodgy old fuddie-duddies who sail around the Florida coast drinking up dues money with Republicans.

And, of course, many officials would prefer to hold on to their political pork barrels, developed since the UAW's political organization split from the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education in 1968.

Yet, a dynamic Doug Fraser, sparked with the fire of militant unionism, speaking for the down-trodden worker and against the fat cats—such a Doug Fraser could have led the UAW in a crusade to unite the labor movement into a single, irresistible fighting force.

Walter Reuther could have done it. He could have reached into the dim memory of his radical past to find the images and rhetoric needed to electrify the Convention and galvanize them into action.

But Fraser did not electrify, he fizzled out.

The message is clear. Fraser is unable to rally the ranks with a progressive vision. He has run out of steam.

It's not just tired blood. It means that Fraser no longer believes in that vision of workers struggling together for justice.

NEW VISION

His vision is of labor leaders scuttling around the back doors of government trying to peddle the union vote to the businessmen and millionaires who run Washington.

A goal of pooling political clout inside the Democratic Party with

the AFL gets Fraser's juices flowing. But it doesn't turn on the rank and file.

Workers in the plant can see that the Democrats are already running things. And nothing has changed.

Until we see the UAW bureaucracy reform itself, how can we believe it has the moxie to reform anybody else?

The labor movement can be reformed and united, but the Frasers and Meanys stand in the way even when they are for it.

Despite different styles, both men see themselves as brokers for the union, not leaders of a movement. Like lawyers, they take the money but not the consequences.

WE NEED IT

Real unity and reform will result from masses of us demanding it for our survival.

The need is already there. Jobs are threatened in the North. Our only defense is to unionize the South and Southwest on level with the best.

To do that, we in the UAW need the aid of other unions. But the UAW leadership does not even tend its own backyard. Only a few miles from "Solidarity House," a small manufacturer (U.S. Manufacturing) has fired all the UAW members and runs the factory with scabs.

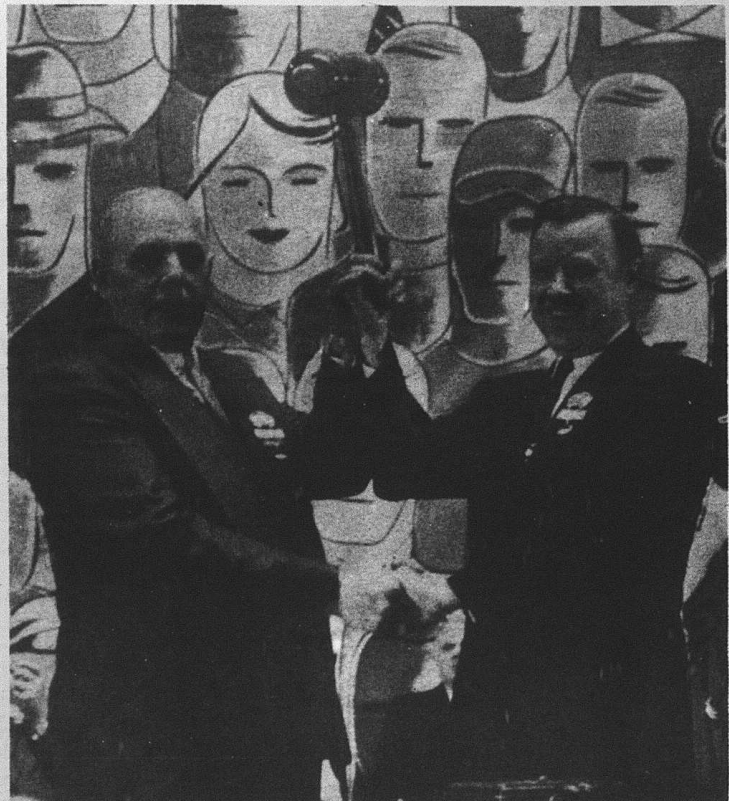
The UAW needs the help of other unions to win political battles such as nationalized health care and pensions.

Yet the leadership locked retirees into a six-year, no-increase pension plan in their own contract. And "Solidarity House" turns a blind eye while the Big Three tries to wiggle out of paying negotiated sick benefits.

American workers sorely need a united movement, for there is strength in numbers. The UAW should re-enter the AFL-CIO.

Not because unity between Fraser and Meany amounts to anything. Zero and zero still add up to zero.

The ranks of labor need unity to dump these zeros and get on with the fight. □



George Meany and Walter Reuther celebrate AFL-CIO and UAW merger in 1955. In 1968 the two unions broke it off. In 1977, the UAW still doesn't know if it's coming or going.

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



Migrant farm workers are on strike against the Glendale Arrowhead Ranch in Arizona, partly owned by the brother of Senator Barry Goldwater. The strikers, estimated at between 100 and 200, are all "undocumented workers" (illegal immigrants). They are protesting unsafe working conditions and law pay. In addition, the ranch has been deducting social security taxes from some of the workers' pay, even though undocumented workers are not eligible for social security and could not possibly collect any benefits.

United States Steel has agreed to pay royalties of \$9.7 million to the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Funds. U.S. Steel was trying to avoid this payment, which was due according to the national coal contract on any coal purchased from non-union or foreign sources.

With one quick stroke of his pen, Harold Brown, Jimmy Carter's Defense Secretary, made it illegal for over two million Americans to join a union. Brown's order also prohibits strikes, work slowdowns, "coercive picketing," and collective bargaining. It prevents union organizers from going onto the employer's property, even though that is where the employees live. Brown's order applies to the 2.1 million members of the armed forces.

A West Virginia woman has been elected the first woman president of any United Mine Workers local. Mary Maynard, 39, drives a 48-ton coal truck for the Pittston Coal Co. Maynard was elected president of the 90-member UMW Local 1971 because, in the words of a male union member, "she's as good as anybody we could get. We're supposed to have women's lib now anyhow."

A Cleveland theater group is currently presenting a play by James A. Brown based on the life of John L. Lewis. It is being promoted by various unions in the area. One rank and file who attended a recent performance reported that several top officials of the United Steel Workers, including Vice President Joe Odorcich, were there. He said that when the actor playing Lewis delivered the line, "Without the right to strike, you are nothing," the entire audience applauded . . . except for the steelworkers.

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

"We're not letting anyone railroad us!"

Longshore Strike Brings Out The Best — And Worst



Except in New Orleans, longshoremen are striking only these containerships.

SOME UNION OFFICIALS take payoffs. Some are just so half-hearted, short-sighted, half-witted and complacent that they do the employers' work for free.

That's the story behind the east coast dock strike which began October 1. Or part of the story, at least.

Fred R. Field Jr. is one of the top five officers of the International Longshoremen's Association, the union which works the east and Gulf Coast docks.

Two days before the current strike began, Field was convicted of taking \$124,000 from the United Fruit Company to keep its bananas moving during the 1968 and 1971 strikes.

The payoffs also ensured smooth sailing for the company's bananas during the 1974 contract. That was the only contract year since World War II that the ILA hasn't struck.

When the 1974 contract expired, the first of this month, 50,000 dock workers from Maine to Texas set up picket lines. Only this time anywhere from 40% to 75% of the freight is still moving.

EXEMPT

That's thanks to ILA President Teddy Gleason, who decided to exempt from the strike general freighters, passenger liners, military cargo, and ships hauling perishables (like bananas). That leaves only containerships, which carry pre-packed trailer-sized vans.

Use of these containers is a major strike issue, since they have cost the ILA thousands of jobs. Because of the declining number of jobs, the "guaranteed annual income" (GAI) is key to this strike.

GAI is the formula which guarantees longshoremen a certain number of hours pay a year, whether there is work or not.

Northern cities have a substantial GAI, amounting to 2080 hours (or fifty-two 40-hour weeks) in New York and 1800 to 1900 in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Norfolk. In southern ports, such as New Orleans and Houston, the GAI is only 800 to 900 hours.

The union is demanding equalization of the GAI, while the employers are quarreling among themselves as to what to offer.

But the ILA's selective strike has eased the pressure on the port employer groups.

It has hit hardest in New York, where 60% of the traffic is containerized. But the New York

employers, for competitive reasons, are all for the other cities paying as much GAI as they do.

In New Orleans, by contrast, where the GAI is low and union pressure is needed the most, only 25% of the freight comes in containers.

If it were all up to Teddy Gleason, the ILA might lose the strike just as effectively as if the

employers had paid him off. But fortunately, as we said earlier, this is only part of the story.

New Orleans longshoremen know a losing strategy when they see one. They have defied Gleason and their own local officers, and closed down all shipping in that port.

While seven ships were being struck in New York (the busiest U.S. port) three in Baltimore, and

none in Hampton Roads, Va., 51 ships were tied up in New Orleans. Since 60% of all U.S. grain exports go through New Orleans, they've got some real muscle in the strike.

An ILA spokesman at the union's New York offices said the New Orleans longshoremen would go back to work October 5. But rank and filers in Locals 1418 and 1419 stormed out of a union meeting

shouting, "No, no, no!" and the docks remained quiet.

One New Orleans dock worker was quoted as saying, "Some of our leaders think they can hand us anything... Maybe that was true years ago, but it isn't now."

"We can read and we're not letting anyone railroad us into things we don't want." □

David Katz

Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You! Write: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203

LETTERS

LAYOFFS ARE BLACKMAIL BY STEEL COMPANIES

Dear Workers' Power:

Here in Pittsburgh, the local newspaper, The Press, has been covering the massive lay-offs in the steel industry. The Press recently "speculated" on the "possibility" that the steel corporations could be pressuring the government for import quotas and relaxation of environmental controls. Quite profound.

I want to take this opportunity to put to rest the speculation. No one should have wonder anymore whether or not the steel companies are using the layoffs to blackmail for import controls.

Immediately following the announcement of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube closure, the companies began plant-gate distribution of hard hats and bumper stickers blaming imports for the ever-decreasing number of steelworkers.

Rumor also has it that this insidious propaganda was being distributed through the union, even though I didn't see Lloyd McBride at my plant gate.

Yours, eliminating the propaganda at every opportunity,
Eric, L.U. 1256, USW
Pittsburgh

P.S. Keep the truth coming.

WORKERS' POWER COMMENTS

Workers' Power called a Lykes Corporation spokesman for comment after the announced closure of Youngstown Sheet and Tube.

We asked the assistant manager in charge of communications, a Mr. Butler, how long in advance the company had known that it would be cutting off 5000 steelworkers livelihoods. Mr. Butler told us that even he had not known about the decision until the wee hours of the morning before it became public. Strange, since a professional publicity campaign with banners and stickers and slogans like "The Threat is Real From Foreign Steel—It's A Job-Robbing Deal" appeared at the plant gates of mills in Pittsburgh immediately following the announcement.

The threat is REAL from foreign steel. Companies' propaganda

Tribute To A Fallen Comrade

Dear Workers' Power Comrades,

"Tribute to a Fallen Comrade"

Sometime during the night of September 14, 1977, a dedicated revolutionary brother, "Musa", was slain by agents of the imperialist state apparatus, in particular the Pennsylvania agents of the concentration camp at Huntington, as he, along with other revolutionaries made an attempt for their freedom.

At this time the monopoly media has made a concerted effort to suppress the details of the incident.

What we, his comrade here are attempting to do by this written tribute is to bring to the peoples' attention the fact that this brother (s/n Wayne Henderson) was just one of the numerous anti-imperialist revolutionaries that are concentrated in these camps across Amerika whose struggle have helped to heighten and deepen the contradictions between global imperialism and the miserable oppressed struggling peoples.

Those of us who have worked with Musa in the last 10 years or more in various struggles know that he would not want us to sit

around and mourn his death but to use his death as another vehicle to help us struggle harder and more thoroughly.

He made the supreme sacrifice and like so many others before him, he would only want his death to be used as another plus in the province of practice instead of one more countless memorial.

Musa would say the time for memorials has passed and the struggle will continue.

In solidarity,
His comrades
State Correctional
Institute at Pittsburgh

Where We Stand

South Bronx Tells Carter Where To Go

AS EVERYBODY knows, Jimmy Carter took a walk through the South Bronx last week. He said he saw "a lot of hope amidst the gloom."

But the man was looking for what he wanted to find, because up near that rubble-strewn lot there was a lot more than just "hope" and "gloom."

One block from where Carter walked was "The Freedom Spot," a new storefront community center opened by the International Socialists at 170th Street and Prospect Avenue.

Workers' Power talked with some of the I.S. members and Spot "regulars" about their thoughts on Carter's visit.

“We've got a lot of people up here who want to have work with a future. People have to understand that. And Carter would not ever visit The Freedom Spot because we're out to fight for a better society.”

Sherry, Ed, Ruby, and others were angry that there had been no warning. "Man, I wished we'd known even five hours before. We could have gone over there and let him hear what's really going on in the South Bronx. But he wasn't about to do that."

Big Ed just laughed at Carter's showing up for a walk in the South Bronx rubble. "He didn't let anyone know because we'd have let him know what we want and need—jobs, real jobs, not a bunch of handouts and 'plans'."

He went on. "Look, Carter's not stupid. He knew what he was doing coming up here. He owes Blacks something for getting elected. He's gotta look good."

"So he talks and he walks, and now New York will get, oh, maybe



Jimmy Carter tours the South Bronx, while secret service agents keep their fingers on the trigger.

a hundred million dollars. Who's going to get that hundred million?"

"First, Carter's got to help all the politicians who are out of a job. Like Beame. He's out of a job now. After all the politicians and all their business cronies get help, that'll eat up \$75 million right there."

"That leaves \$25 million which you can divide up between all of the boroughs of New York. So with today's prices what will you get for that? One damned park in each borough—a park for senior citizens—and the muggers. Dig it. The seniors and the muggers."

"And then we're back to square one. Zero for the people."

JOBS

Rudy went on to what was needed. "As a socialist, I know this community needs and wants jobs. Not just one park in the middle of nowhere. We've got a lot of people up here who want to have work

“It's a lot easier to say something than to do something. I'll wait to see something done first. And I'm not holding my breath.”

with a future. People have to understand that. And Carter would not ever visit The Freedom Spot because we're out to fight for a better society."

A few people at the Spot were definitely impressed with Carter's visit. "Let's face it. No President of the United States ever visited this neighborhood before—ever. That does say something."

But Sherry pointed out a key way socialists judge someone. "It's a lot easier to say something than to do something. I'll wait to see something done first. And I'm not holding my breath."

Most people at The Freedom Spot weren't interested in waiting around for Jimmy to come through.

"In the meantime, we've got our own work to do—our politics are different from Carter's. Look what

we've done in the South Bronx already. Someday Jimmy and his gang will really know about us."

The list of activities mentioned was long. Helping organize workers in Carter's public works program (a program where you have to work as scab labor to collect your welfare payment for housing and food), fighting the Bakke case, southern Africa support, political education, women's activities, community activities.

“The Freedom Spot is small, but our ideas aren't. No politician's ever helped anybody until we made them. So maybe we'll just help ourselves.”

“The Freedom Spot is small, but our ideas aren't.”

"We've got a long way to go before we get it all done, but our road's quicker than Carter's. No politician's ever helped anybody until we made them. So maybe we'll just help ourselves." □

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 not 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.

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

I.S. BRANCHES

National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203

Atlanta: P.O. Box 11016, Atlanta, GA 30310

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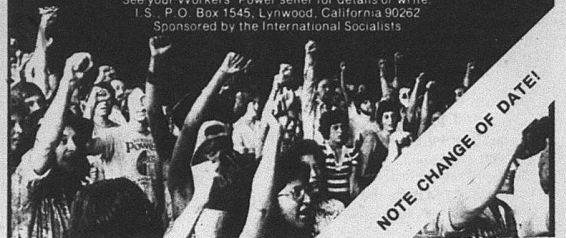
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Family Brutality on TV

...Children Aren't The Only Victims

"Mary Jane Harper Cried Last Night" is a television film about violence and victims.

Mary Jane is a four-year-old victim of one of society's most vicious and terrible crimes—child abuse. Mary Jane dies.

Her mother Rowenna is also a victim.

A lonely and bitter woman who blindly vents her unhappiness on her own flesh and blood. Desperate but unable to stop, she gets no help from her family, the court, or from social services.

Finally Rowenna's mind snaps and the death of her daughter is the tragic conclusion.

This show gets very high marks for both drama and realism. It got rid of a lot of myths that make simple solutions to child abuse seem adequate.

For instance, there are many, many children just like Mary Jane. Child abuse is close to a social epidemic. Literally tens of thousands of very young children are continually battered and bruised. They end up mentally if not physically crippled for life.

Rowenna, the mother in the movie, has had just such a childhood.

The movie shows that few of the parents are mentally ill. The problem is not that some parents are just "sick."

And it is a far more complicated issue than "good" parents versus "bad" parents.

children. Some of the best material in the movie showed how ordinary parents could batter their kids.

One woman says about her own past with her daughter, "I used to get her with my fingernails in the kitchen. I was always in the kitchen..."

The woman's frustration and dissatisfaction with her imprisonment in the kitchen had been thrown off on her child.

That's a terrible way to have to cope. And no one willingly chooses that kind of solution.

The movie made lots of suggestions about the courts, social services and educating the public. But after the effective job done showing how serious and complex this problem is these were not very convincing solutions.

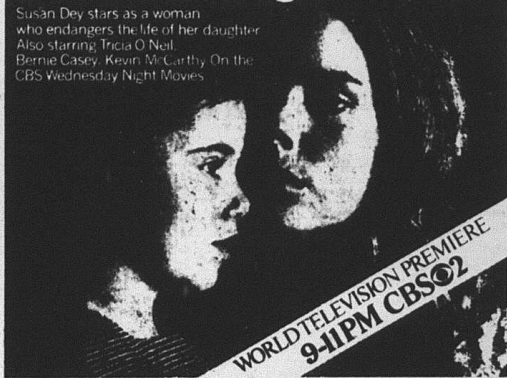
Abuse and violence like this come from being convinced that we are stuck with things pretty much the way that they are. That we cannot change ourselves, our lives, or anything else.

The major failing of the movie was that it just got stuck on that level. □

The most vicious crime in America is being committed by those who love their victims most. That is why..

"Mary Jane Harper Cried Last Night"

Susan Dey stars as a woman who endangers the life of her daughter. Also starring Tricia O'Neil, Bernie Casey, Kevin McCarthy. On the CBS Wednesday Night Movies.



WORLD TELEVISION PREMIERE
9-11PM CBS/2

SOLUTIONS

But for all the attention, there are few solutions offered for these difficult problems. Partially that is because there is a lot of disagreement about why people who live together and care for one another can turn on a family member so brutally.

Child abuse is a serious problem today, in this society, because the pressures of daily life overwhelm far too many people.

Gay Rights: If Archie Bunker Sees The Light, Why Can't Anita?

by Karen Kaye

IF EDITH'S MAIDEN AUNT had not owned the heirloom silver tea service, her death would have only subtracted from the family's numbers.

But inheritance can bring complications to next of kin. Archie Bunker saw a trip to Hawaii in the items that his wife intended to polish and preserve.

The conflict between selling and saving, however, never had a chance to develop in last week's episode of "All in the Family."

Edith was taken aback when her aunt's roommate confided that the two schoolteachers had been more

to each other than roommates and that's why they had only one bedroom.

But Edith is quick to accept new ideas if they mean people are treating each other with warmth and love, of which she approves very much.

As she told Archie, the tea service really should go to her aunt's friend and lover, because they were "like married". That made her aunt's "friend," rather than Edith, the next-of-kin.

Of course Archie blows up, and not only because he sees his Hawaiian dream dissolving.

God made men and women different for a reason, and for Archie it is unthinkable that two women could be married, as he tells Edith, "like me and you!"

Edith maintains that love and caring for each other is the important part, but Archie wants to take the matter of this inheritance to court.

He's discovered he has some power in the situation, for the teacher will lose her job if he makes good on his threat. And "they" shouldn't be teaching children anyway, he declares.

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This outburst is too much for Edith's sense of decency. How could Archie stoop so low as to try to take someone's job away from them? And why couldn't she be a good teacher?

So Edith takes Archie aside and explains to him that this woman and her dear aunt had loved each other, and now the teacher was bereaved and alone in the world, and what was she going to do, unless others in the family stood by her.

Lots of Archie Bunkers don't have Ediths to explain these things to them and they become convinced

that people's private sex lives are more important than how they act in the world. And then they go out in the world and try to take jobs from people.

But Archie and Edith and the teacher friend were lucky that they talked about it and found out how it really was. That they were really "all in the family" together.

And as Edith said, the only sad part was that her aunt and roommate had loved each other so long, and they could never tell anyone about it, the way you want to when you care about someone. □

SIX MONTHS ON STRIKE

"When Carol got shot, somebody had to do something"

Workers' Power

by Elissa Clarke

Georgia Ellis. Grandmother. President of the Poetry Society. A good worker who gave the company a little "extra."

"I had never filed a grievance," Georgia Ellis said in an interview with Workers' Power. "I went to work and worked eight hours and felt that I earned my money. I never felt that much interest in the union."

But today Georgia Ellis is a fighter. "I could never go back to being the way I was before. I don't intend to stop fighting."

Something happened that made Ellis mad—fighting mad.

Georgia Ellis worked for nine and a half years for Essex Wire. She hired in at \$1.69 an hour. After nine years, she was making \$2.76. "\$2.76 an hour, this is not a living wage," Ellis said. "\$35 a week for sick pay just will not feed our kids."

When the contract expired in April, Essex offered 62c an hour, over three years. Not a penny more than \$35 a week for sick pay. No cost of living. No pensions.

The United Auto Workers



Georgia Ellis

(UAW) organized the plant seven years ago.

Georgia Ellis and 220 other Essex employees went on strike on April 6. "Up until now we've never really demanded much. Most of us are older women or people who know they can't get other jobs. But this time we have to have more," Ellis said.

The story of the Essex strike is a story of ordinary people. It's a story of unity, solidarity. A story of how people change, and how hard they're willing to fight for what's right.

SCABS

Essex Wire is not a small company. It is owned by United Technologies, a company that pays its president the highest salary in the United States: \$1,662,000. ("He could give us a raise on his lunch money," Ellis commented bitterly.)

But Essex Wire is a vicious company. It is determined to keep wages down, determined to break



the union. And the company does not mind turning their Elwood, Indiana plant into a battle ground to do it. Violence has marked this strike, and blood has been spilled.

A month after the strike closed the plant down, Essex brought in scabs. The plant began to run again.

But the strike became violent. Scabs and security guards began to fire revolvers and flares at the strikers. "It's hard for UAW members in the larger plants to have any comprehension of what we're up against," Ellis told us. "A strike to them doesn't mean this. They don't have any idea of what it's like to face somebody with a shield or a club or a gun. We've got people here who have been beaten and shot."

"To them, a strike is just you play cards around the gate till somebody else settles it. Frankly, the large unions have forgot what it's like to stand up and fight for what you know is right."

On July 6, 88 scabs went in to work. It was dangerously close to the 111 needed for a union decertification election. That afternoon, 200 workers and townspeople gathered across the road from the main gate. When the scabs came out at 7 p.m., the crowd surged forward, taunting them.

The tense moment was enough to make the Madison County sheriff call it quits. The deputies didn't show up the next morning to protect the scabs, and the strikers closed the plant down.

Essex was losing the strike. To change the balance of power, they had to bring in state troopers to protect the scabs. But the governor cannot order troopers in unless there is a major outbreak of violence.

TRAGEDY

On July 11, company guards began firing across the road. At 2:00 a.m. Carol Frye, a young striker, was shot.

The troopers came in the next

day. Scabs were running the plant again.

Carol Frye is permanently disabled. A bullet is nestled against her spine, just below her neck. And there it will stay because doctors have determined that an operation would be too dangerous.

Carol Frye's tragedy has been an inspiration to the strikers. Georgia Ellis said: "When that little girl got shot out there, that 25-year-old little girl, I knew it was time to stand up and say, 'By God, it's gonna stop.'"

"Less than two hours before my own 16-year-old daughter had been down to the picket line with her

date. It could have been her. It could have been me.

"When I saw that those people would actually shoot one of us... I don't know if I'll ever stop them, but I don't intend to stop fighting."

The Essex strike has been going on for six months. The company has made six offers—all identical. 62c an hour, no other benefits. And scabs to be given top seniority, strikers rehired "as needed."

But the strikers are not giving up. "We all came out of that gate together, and we all earned the right to go back together. The UAW has the muscle, they have the power. I do know that they

could back us to the point where we could win."

The Essex strikers have experienced a sense of unity and solidarity that they never thought was possible. "I have a fantastic amount of pride in our people," said Ellis. "The feeling is almost impossible to describe. When you see a man with seven children standing with us, knowing the company has called him and asked him to come back to work.

"But he is doing without because he respects the rest of us. It's pretty moving."

"Before the strike, some of us didn't even go to the union meetings. And when we did the discussions were just about petty little things that didn't amount to much, the grievances were petty little things."

"None of us knew the people on the other shift. Now that we've been off, everybody knows who's been sick, and they're worried, and they put their quarters in to help out."

"I'm not the type of person that leads things, but when Carol got shot and everyone was so demoralized, people were hurt, the police were there, we were scared. Somebody just had to do something."

"I was never involved in a strike or even in union business until this thing happened. I'm a grandmother, but I've learned more about cooperation with other people in the last six months. Now my pride is in the other people."

"I'm much different. I could never go back to being what I was before. I don't think any of us could." □



Carol Frye reads to her children. Frye was permanently crippled by a gunshot wound during the Essex strike.

UAW Members - Help This Strike Win!

If you are an auto worker, the story of the Essex strike should tell you something about your union.

The women who work at Essex make \$2.76 an hour. "We are making parts that are made in the Big Three plants for sometimes as high as three times the wages," said Georgia Ellis, a striker.

Essex is typical of hundreds of small shops organized by the UAW with standard wages and conditions.

The women at Essex need a strong, militant, determined union. But the UAW has done little besides pay strike benefits. Unless the union is willing to fight, Essex will no doubt hold out until April when they can legally hold a decertification election and kick the union out.

If you are an auto worker, you can help.

- Pass a resolution at your next union meeting calling on the International to lead an aggressive fight against Essex Wire.

- Pass a motion to send financial support to Carol Frye, who was permanently crippled in the strike. Send donations to the Carol Frye Fund, Security Bank, 125 South Anderson Street, Elwood, Indiana 46036.