

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS NOVEMBER 28, 1977 #233 25c

In This Issue:

- Mergers Cost Jobs 2
- Iron Ore Strike 3
- California Teachers Lose in Contract 4
- The Jazz Revolution . . . 7

Do You Want Heat In Your House - Or Blood In Your Body?

by Jim Woodward and Karen Kaye

"WOULD YOU RATHER have heat in your house or blood in your body?" That's almost what this ad asks. It was placed in the Cleveland newspapers by the Plasma Alliance, a company that buys and sells human blood.

The Plasma Alliance suggests that you can earn \$100 a month—enough to pay winter utility bills—by selling your blood plasma.

The shame of it is that many people—in Cleveland and at similar centers in other cities—may have no choice but to accept an offer like this.

A receptionist at the Plasma Alliance told a Workers' Power reporter posing as a customer that "they take out two pints of whole blood, spin it down and give you back your cells. They're only taking one pint of plasma."

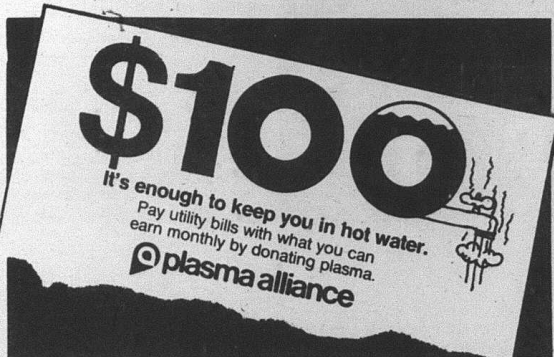
To make \$100 "takes a month. You donate twice a week, every week, and get paid \$10 each time you donate."

DOCTOR'S INFORMATION

A quick check with the Red Cross found that the Cleveland company is using a process called "plasma pheresis."

Dr. A. W. Shafer, Director of the Southeastern Michigan Red Cross Blood Center, told us that plasma pheresis is a medically sound procedure.

"My own personal opinion," he said, "is that to take that much plasma from a donor,



however, is not medically sound and is hazardous to the health.

"In Europe, for example, the current guidelines would suggest that no more than twenty double plasma phereses be done a year. They're talking about doing 104 a year."

Dr. Shafer added that the procedure becomes dangerous when it causes a drop in the plasma protein level, and that this level would probably already be low among many of the "disadvantaged" people who respond to ads like this.

GAS CO. COMMENTS

Since the Plasma Alliance ad suggested selling blood to pay for heating bills, we asked a public relations officer for the East Ohio Gas Company, which serves Cleveland, what he thought about selling blood to pay heating bills.

"I really don't see how we could comment on that," he

said.

Pressed further, he added, "I'm not ducking the question, but I just don't think we're the people you should be asking that kind of question of... you should be asking the, uh, just about anybody else, I guess."

There are a lot of other questions that gas and oil companies have been avoiding.

Every year we read about their profits going up and up. And every year we read about the elderly people who freeze to death because they can't afford the heat.

On reading the Plasma Alliance's ad, one observer said in jest, "Maybe the gas company would just take the blood directly rather than going through a middleman."

Utility executives probably wouldn't think that was very funny. But, figuratively speaking, it's not so far off the mark, is it?

HOUSTON: 35,000 Women Rally For Rights



MORE THAN 35,000 women poured into Houston last weekend to attend the International Women's Year Convention. Only 2000 of them were elected delegates. The rest came to express their commitment to women's liberation.

The Convention addressed some of the important issues before women today: the right to abortion, civil rights for lesbians, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

But the resolutions passed by the International Women's Year Convention are only "suggestions" for "consideration" by Carter and Congress.

Will the same Congress that slashed the right of poor women to get abortions, now reverse itself? Will Carter, who has done practically zero for the Equal Rights Amendment, now put on the pressure to get it passed?

Whether or not these resolutions are taken seriously will depend on the tens of thousands of women who went to Houston and who attended other IWY events this past summer. Carter would have liked International Women's Year to pass silently by—but we can see to it that it doesn't!

This issue of Workers' Power contains an on-the-spot report from Houston. See pages 4 and 5.

Why Sadat, Begin Won't Bring Peace To Middle East p.6

MERGER MATH:

388,000
+ 4,600

380,000

Or: What Your Boss Is Doing With His Profits

We Laid Off 100,000 in 1974 and I Never Suffered at All

by Candy Martin

IT'S A MISTAKE to "relate unemployment to human suffering," General Motors Chairman Thomas A. Murphy said in statements to a meeting of business leaders on November 10.

If anyone should know about human suffering, it's Tom Murphy. He's forced to make ends meet on a yearly salary of \$325,000. To ease the burden a little, GM pays him an additional bonus of \$625,000 a year.

It's also a mistake to relate unemployment to the economic crisis, according to Tom. Lack of education, rather than economic factors, leaves people jobless, says this General Motors expert.

Tom understands that today's

record-setting unemployment figures—the highest in 25 years, since the Great Depression—are misleading.

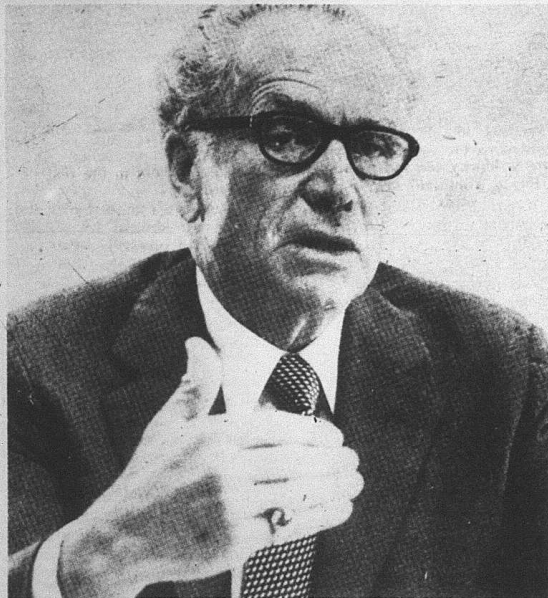
He explains: "Back in the 30's when the heads of households were out of work, that was real privation."

Of course, today's seven million unemployed are mostly just women who want jobs for pin money.

SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE

And if anyone should know about good economy, it's General Motors. This year the nation's No. 1 automaker's capital spending will total \$3.5 billion—double its record 1976 level.

Tom Murphy has to be careful



Thomas A. Murphy: "What, Me Worry?"

what he says to whom. That is why he made his comments to a sympathetic gathering of overfed businessmen.

But millions of unemployed workers with families to feed who've been hitting the bricks, unemployment lines, and personnel

by Kim Moody

THE BOSSES REALLY have only one good argument to justify making profits off of other people's labor.

And that is that they use most of these profits, not for their personal satisfaction, but to invest and expand business.

The investment of these profits, they say, creates jobs. And more jobs creates prosperity all around. Right?

Well, not quite.

The truth is, business invests its profits in order to make more and bigger profits. That means they want the biggest return for the smallest investment.

And today, more and more, that means buying up another existing business, rather than building new facilities.

Mergers and take-overs. That's how big business is spending its money.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Example: General Electric has assets of \$12 billion, and made a profit of \$930 million in 1976. Did it use this vast wealth to create jobs

and prosperity?

No. It used over \$2 billion of its hoarded wealth to buy up another company, Utah International.

Plenty of new profits to be made. But no new jobs.

In fact, GE has been reducing its work force over the years.

Before the merger, GE employed 388,000 and Utah 4600. A year after the merger, in 1976, GE's total employment was down to 380,000.

Somewhere, 8000 GE and 4600 Utah jobs got lost.

GE profits, on the other hand, went up big. From \$688 million in 1975 to \$930 million in 1976.

In the early 70's, GE profits ran around half a billion. Now they are near one billion.

GE's rate of profit also rose as a result of the merger. It went up from 4.8% in 1975 to 5.9% in 1976—significantly above its rate of return for the early 70's.

NO EXCEPTION

GE was no exception. According to Business Week magazine, mergers and takeovers of big companies are on the rise. Last year big business spent \$20 billion, the highest level since the late 1960's.

Arthur Burns, the conservative, pro-business chairman of the Federal Reserve System, let the cat out of the bag when he admitted, "Such activity neither generates additional jobs nor additional capacity for our nation's economy."

After-tax profits for the whole economy came to \$53.9 billion last year. \$35.1 billion of this went into the pockets of the rich as dividends.

That left \$18.8 billion in the coffers of the nation's corporations. They used this money and more to buy each other up.

Why are they doing this? The answer is simple and informative.

They are doing it because it is cheaper to buy an existing company and its plants, machines, and facilities, than it is to build new ones.

The Economic Report of the President for 1977, notes that the market value of the nation's industrial assets is only 80% of what it would actually cost to replace these assets.

In other words, when a company buys up another company they are paying 20% less than they would if they had the same facilities built from scratch.

That, of course, means a bigger profit. It does not, however, mean more jobs. In fact, it may well mean fewer jobs.

Often when companies merge they will want to streamline the combined operation. They may close down duplicate or less efficient facilities, re-organize and eliminate jobs. All for the purpose of increasing profitability.

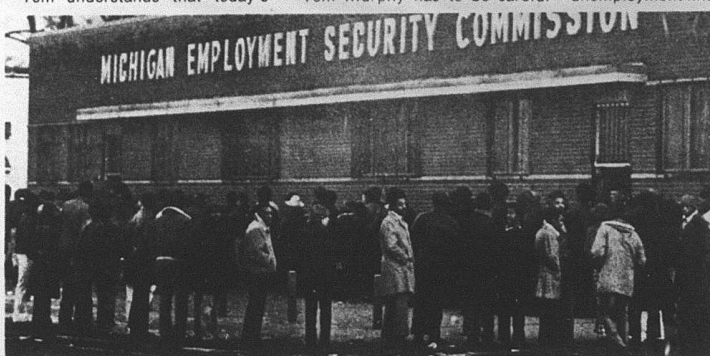
SYSTEM IN DECAY

If the working class controlled the nation's wealth, if we had socialism and workers' power, there would be no need of profits in search of profits.

The surplus produced by industry would be used to increase the well being of all, not to line the pockets of the few.

Mergers and monopoly are but another symptom of a system in decay, a system less and less able to meet the basic needs of the people who live under it.

Socialist revolution will not come because it's a good idea. It will come because the working class can no longer afford the luxury of capitalism.



Murphy's philosophy in action: Detroit workers dance and sing while waiting in line at an unemployment office.

Workers' Power 233

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Will USW International Break Iron Miners' Solidarity?

by Terri Ferguson

TODAY'S UNION MOVEMENT has seen few examples of such solidarity, determination, and militancy as the 16-week-old strike by 14,500 iron ore miners in Michigan and Minnesota.

The strikers are members of the steelworkers union.

As Workers' Power goes to press, the struggle in the north country is three days short of matching the 1959 116-day steelworkers' strike as the longest strike in the union's history.

But there are new attempts by the International union and the companies to break the miners' solidarity.

At press time, at least one local union (#4874, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. in Michigan) has returned to work. The other locals are in negotiations being held in Duluth.

NEW OFFER

Contrary to industry and media propaganda, the strike has taken its toll on the companies. They have been forced to come up with a new offer on the issue they claimed all along was non-negotiable and illegal under the union's no-strike deal.

That issue is an incentive plan comparable to basic steel.

The companies' latest offer, unlike their previous one, agrees that the pay of 25% of the miners (who will be classed as "non-incentive") will not be cut when an incentive plan is established for the other 75%.

But new hires in the non-incentive category will lose out, receiving neither incentive plan pay nor the current attendance bonus pay. The bonus pay will continue to cover other already working non-incentive miners.

The international union and the companies are trying to pick the locals off one by one.

Up till now, the strikers have been represented by an 80-person

negotiating committee. That committee rejected the industry's previous offer.

"DIVIDED US"

"What they did," Joe Samargia, president of local 1938, explained to Workers' Power, "was the International divided us on this thing."

"They said the 80-man negotiating committee didn't have the right to reject anything anymore because the companies were submitting it to each local union."

"They've told us now we have to take it local by local."

"When they did that, they actually separated us out from a coordinated move to a separatist local-by-local situation."

"So what is actually going to happen is that the Cleveland-Cliffs Company in Michigan, which is the 4500 miners in Michigan, is probably going to be settled in the next couple days and it's going to leave the 14,500 in Minnesota still negotiating."

"In Minnesota we're hanging tough for awhile, but with a couple locals accepting it, if a couple more do it's going to break our solidarity and when you break solidarity you got trouble."

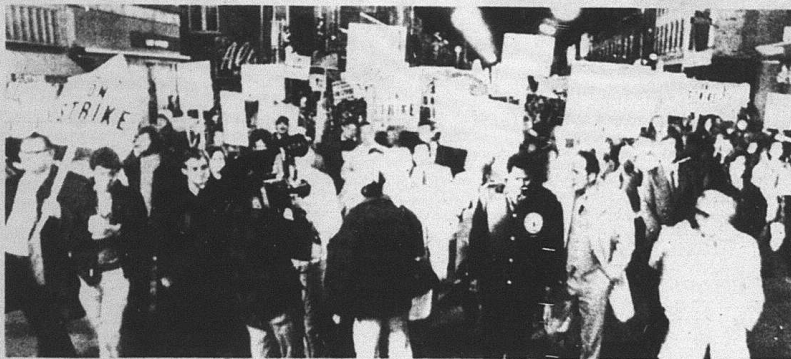
Samargia told us that "we're hoping here for some more continued solidarity and we're hoping for us to continue to try and improve on whatever we can."

Whether the Minnesota miners can improve on the industry offer or whether they will be forced back to work as isolated locals break down, will be seen in the next week.

VICTORIES

But even if they are forced to go back, they have already won an important victory.

With some support from their International union (which has been sorely lacking throughout the



Iron ore strikers holding Solidarity Rally earlier this month.

strike), the iron ore miners' victory could have been much greater.

But the miners have established an incentive plan comparable to rates in basic steel. And they have struck a serious blow to the union's ENA no-strike deal (Experimental Negotiating Agreement).

According to the ENA, locals may only strike over local issues, not national ones.

All along, the companies refused to negotiate incentives, claiming they were not a local issue. However, incentives are already established for production and skilled steelworkers in the rest of the union.

The industry went further and filed a court suit against the iron ore miners for allegedly breaking the no-strike agreement.

But the pressure of the strike forced the companies to back down and come up with a settlement on the issue they had claimed was non-negotiable.

ARBITRATION

Big steel and their buddies in top union office don't want to see it happen again.

So included in the latest tentative

settlement is also an agreement on local issues, in the form of an amendment to the ENA.

In the future, when a local issue is disputed by the companies to be a "national" one (therefore non-strikeable), it will go promptly to arbitration, if this offer is accepted.

The companies want this amendment to apply not just to the iron ore miners, but to workers in basic steel as well.

Since taking these issues to arbitration is sure to heavily favor the companies, this will mean cutting even further into steelworkers' already-gutted right to strike.

With even a little help from Lloyd McBride and the International union bureaucrats, the magnificent solidarity of the iron ore strikers could have meant an unqualified victory in extending the right and the power of steelworkers to strike.

But the bureaucrats have no more interest in supporting that power of the rank and file than do the company bosses.

The power and determination of the iron ore strikers show that the privileged position of neither group need be assured. □

Watchdog Team On The Move

DETROIT—A rank and file union group, the Watchdog Team, members of UAW Local 212, have won one steward's election at Chrysler's 8-Mile Stamping Plant, and are contesting the results of another.

The UAW establishment group, the "Green Slate" has campaigned vigorously against the Watchdogs, but has lost two positions in the last couple of months. The insurgents are strong supporters of union democracy and rank and file power.

Watchdogger Marvin Harris won the day shift steward's election last week by a substantial margin. But the Watchdog candidate for third shift steward, Randy Scott, lost by 20 votes out of 124.

It turns out that after the third shift election the Chairman of the Shop Committee, Willie Hubbard, a Green Slate member, took the ballots home with him, "for safe keeping." Only Hubbard had the key to the ballot box.

He says he kept them in the trunk of his car all night. How safe is that?

Many workers were upset when the vote was announced and they found out that the ballots had been removed from the plant.

Committeeman John Ware, of the Watchdog Team, says that a protest has been filed and that a re-vote is being demanded.

In Ware's words, "So many people were angry that Randy Scott had not won, it makes us suspicious that the vote may have been tampered with." □

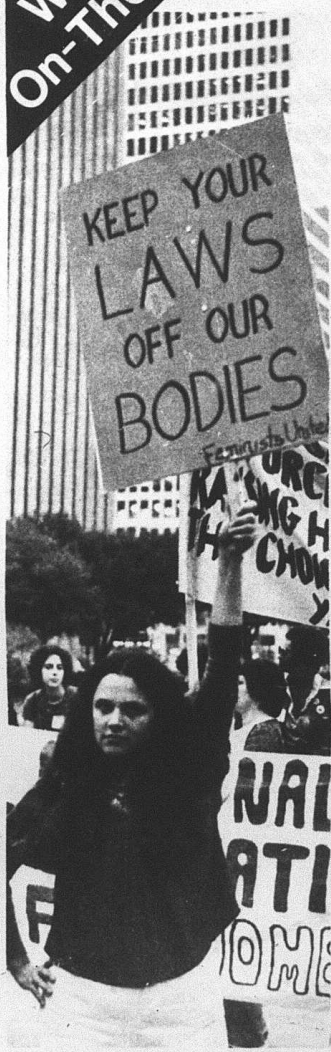
Today's union movement has seen few examples of such solidarity, determination, and militancy.



After what may become the longest strike in the union's history, these iron ore miners may be forced back to work as the International union isolates individual locals. Still, they will have won an important victory

Delegates Discuss Women's Rights At IWY Convention

Workers' Power On-The-Spot Report



by Christy Nichols and Toni Hawk

HOUSTON—The city was divided into two separate "turfs," with the International Women's Year (IWY) Convention occupying the city center and the right-wing holding a "Pro-Family" rally five miles south in Astro Arena.

Downtown, smartly dressed middle-class women, boisterous groups of radical feminists, militant lesbians—white, Black, Chicana—mingled and celebrated.

The general spirit in Houston was one of friendship and tolerance, if not sisterhood.

The official IWY ceremonies took place inside the Sam Houston Coliseum, where the same spirit of conciliation was dominant.

More than 35,000 women flooded into Houston for the Convention. Only 2000 of these were delegates. The rest came to show their support for women's rights. Another 15,000 conservative women came to show their opposition.

CONTROLLED

But the Convention was tightly controlled. Strict parliamentary procedure stifled debate. Every effort had been made to keep "conflict" to a minimum.

Only resolutions passed by ten or more states were allowed to come before the Convention. Other resolutions were added by the IWY Commission, appointed by Gerald Ford.

Half of the 1500 elected delegates were minority women. But the IWY Commission was authorized by the legislation that established International Women's Year to appoint "delegates-at-large" to "balance" the Convention. An additional 370 delegates were appointed. Thus, 20% of those voting were appointed, not elected!

There were 26 resolutions in all, called the National Plan of Action.

The resolutions were considered in alphabetical order, with controversial issues such as reproductive freedom (if it had been titled abortion rights, it would have come first), sexual preference (lesbian rights) and welfare reforms near the end of the agenda.

The hope of the Convention

organizers was to quickly pass the 26 resolutions without "divisive" debate that would give the right wing delegates any opportunity to defeat specific resolutions.

UPSET

This strategy prevailed throughout the Convention. The "Pro-Plan" caucus controlled about 80% of the votes. "Pro-Plan" forces organized support from about 100 national women's organizations beforehand to pass the National Plan of Action without "quibbling" over weak points in such areas as minority rights and lesbian rights.

They used the right-wing presence as an excuse to ram through less comprehensive resolutions.

Only one of the 26 resolutions was defeated—it called for the creation of a cabinet-level post for women. This was considered a personal defeat for IWY Chairperson Bella Abzug, since everyone there figured she wanted the job for herself.

The only other upset to the bureaucratic control of this Convention was the "minority rights" resolution. A much stronger and more specific resolution was passed.

Across town, busloads of right-

wing conservatives filled the Astro Arena to overflowing with an estimated 15,000 supporters. They came mostly from the south and midwest.

About equal numbers of men and women, many with their children, listened to such speakers as Phyllis Schlafly (head of Stop ERA), prayed, sang hymns and put money in constantly circulated collection buckets.

The proceedings were dominated by men except for a few female speakers such as Schlafly who thanked her husband for allowing her to be there.

The right-wing was hysterical

What We Think

But What About Liberalism

by Elissa Clarke

MORE THAN 35,000 women poured into Houston to be at the International Women's Year (IWY) Convention.

All summer long, it was the same story. In state after state, IWY planners expected two or three thousand women at their state meetings. Instead, 10,000, 12,000, or 13,000 would show up.

Even after the summer's experience, conference planners predicted that 20,000 women would attend the Houston Convention. Almost twice that number came!

International Women's Year, it started out with all the pomp and circumstance of another dull government program.

But it ended up as an expression of tens of thousands of women's commitment to women's liberation.

In part, the interest in International Women's Year was drummed up by confrontations with the right-wing in states such as Utah,

Nevada, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana and Hawaii.

But even in states like New York, which had no opposition from the right-wing, 3000 women were expected and 13,000 showed up! A solid feminist delegation of 88 women was elected.

Betty Freidan, sometimes called the mother of the women's movement, ran for delegate from New York, but did not make it. Instead, the highest vote-getter was Sawn Leach, a 16-year-old woman who is the co-founder of a youth group called Black Reality and member of the Westchester Black Women's Caucus.

The most significant thing about International Women's Year was the participation of tens of thousands of women.

Some of them active in the women's movement for years. Some of them who never considered themselves feminists, but decided that they wouldn't sit back while the government and right-wing take away the gains women have won over the past 15 years.

International Women's Year was not designed to accomplish anything. It was designed as window-dressing by a government that is really intent on smashing women's rights.

Congress was willing to fund a \$5 million Convention to establish "priorities" for women's equality—but it's the same Congress that has cut off funds for Medicaid abortions, the same Congress that will send thousands of poor women to die at the hands of back-alley abortionists.

There is absolutely no machinery for implementation of the resolutions that were passed by the Convention. Instead they will be presented to Carter and Congress for their "consideration" this spring.

DEAF EAR

Many of the resolutions will get a deaf ear in Washington. Like the one calling for an end to restrictions on abortion rights.

A resolution was passed saying the "Equal Rights Amendment should be passed" but neither Congress nor Carter can pass the ERA. It has to be passed in the states.

Most of the other resolutions are very vague, outlining only the most broad generalities. For example, the resolution on child care calls for the government to take a "major role" in providing "low cost, non-sexist" day care centers. In employment, women should have "better access" to "managerial positions" and "jobs."

The Convention was completely controlled by middle-class, establishment women.

They were forced to get themselves together by the shocking display of right-wing strength during the summer IWY state conferences.

So they organized their "Pro-Plan" caucus, they paid \$50,000 for security forces to keep the right-wing under control, and they used strict parliamentary procedures to keep conservative participation to a minimum.

They also used the threat of right-wing action to subdue any plans that more militant feminists had to improve the resolutions.



Feminists Drive Off The Klan

by Christy Nichols and Toni Hawk

RIGHT WING FORCES had threatened to attack the International Women's Year Convention.

And it started when a rally of 300 was ending. The rally, called "Beyond the Equal Rights Amendment," covered topics such as abortion rights, lesbian rights, women in labor unions and forced sterilization. It was sponsored by a coalition of groups including the International Socialists.

Suddenly a shout went up: "Here comes the Klan." A contingent of

20-30 men and women holding signs and waving Confederate flags was coming onto the plaza in front of the Convention Hall.

The signs said the Convention was run by "Reds, Feds, Kikes and Dykes."

People from the rally charged across the street chanting, "Ku Klux Klan, Scum of the Land!"

The two groups met in the middle of the plaza.

The feminists joined hands to form a chain, herding the rightists off to the side.

The right wing's chivalrous

defense of womanhood seemed to have its limits as several scuffles broke out between feminist women and right wing men.

One woman was smashed in the cheek. Another has a loose tooth. Someone else got hit in the ear and temple trying to pry a man's arm from around her friend's neck.

Another got hit in the eye and cheek: "But I kicked him a good one."

We forced them across the street.

The police inside the hall looked on and did nothing during the 15 minutes of fighting. Now the

police came in cars and stood with the rightists across the street.

Four women told the same story: some of the men had on police badges. "After I kicked this guy he raised a badge out of his shirt pocket and said, 'I wouldn't do that.'"

Other women joined in: "A bunch of them had badges they flashed at us."

They were undercover cops, or they wanted us to think they were.

One woman was fearful: "But they'll be back." We replied: "So will we." □

Women's Convention

and irrational in their hatred of women's equality.

During the opening ceremonies, a young male demonstrator carried a sign calling the IWY "Immoral Women's Year." In a later advance, right-wing signs appeared saying that "90% of lesbians have had abortions."

Phyllis Schlafly had predicted that International Women's Year would be "the death knell of women's liberation."

But the right-wing moved their forces five miles away, and avoided the expected confrontation between those supporting women's rights and those opposing them.

The "Pro-Family" rally did make an important point: the right is active, organized, and can bring out the troops.

Still, they were vastly outnumbered and outmaneuvered. At the Convention itself, the right-wing was thoroughly smashed.

The alternative was loud and clear: women from across the country, most of whom paid their own fares to come to Houston to make their stand, 35,000-strong, for women's rights.

About tion?

The resolutions that were passed won't liberate anyone. Not ruling class women, not middle class women, not working class women.

Quite a shocking number of the resolutions are geared to a very small percentage of women. For example, the first resolution considered on Arts and Humanities calls for women to get "upper-level positions" in "libraries, museums, universities and public television and radio."

But the issue of critical importance to women today—jobs—gets barely a mention: "better access to jobs through nondiscriminatory hiring practices."

Meanwhile, a whole resolution was written and debated to create a cabinet post for Bella Abzug, but the hundreds of millions of women who can't find work, or work at sub-standard pay, were given barely a mention.

In fact, jobs for all has more to do with women's liberation than every other resolution passed. But the conference leadership accepts unemployment as a part of the system, and that means financial dependence for women.

The significance of the Interna-

LIBERATION
NOT JUST
EQUALITY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS



tional Women's Year Convention was not in the resolutions it passed. But rather in the overwhelming sentiment to build a women's movement from tens of thousands of women across the country.

Eventually that movement will reject leadership from Congress, Bella Abzug, Rosalyn Carter or any of the other "stars" of the IWY Convention.

As the International Socialists slogan said, that movement will demand "liberation—not just equality."

OAKLAND Teachers' Strike Ends In Setback

by Richard Hobbs and Paul Ryan

OAKLAND, Ca.—Teachers here returned to their classrooms November 16 after a nine-day strike which left them worse off than before they went out.

The teachers' bargaining agent, the Oakland Education Association (OEA) appeared more determined to gain an advantage over its more militant rival, United Teachers of Oakland (UTO), than to win better pay and working conditions.

The ratified contract included an immediate six percent raise retroactive to October 15. The teachers had rejected an offer of six percent retroactive to July 1 when they began their strike.

The contract includes two provisions that will help the OEA keep its power. In one, the contract was lengthened from two to three years.

Because of state law, the UTO will probably have to wait an extra year till the end of the three year contract period before challenging the OEA's representation.

The other new contract clause allows for an agency shop, which is a modified union shop for public employees.

Al Rossi, president of the UTO, told Workers' Power, "I'm convinced they (OEA) sold teachers out for the three year contract and agency shop. Through the agency shop alone, they stand to gain \$1.5 million in dues and fees over the life of the contract."

OEA was elected bargaining agent last May 26 by a close margin after a long, bitter campaign. UTO, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, proved to be a strong contender for future certification.

INEFFECTIVE STRIKE

While the school district administration took a hard line against teacher demands, the OEA conducted an ineffective strike.

School officials announced their determination to keep the schools open.

They offered substitutes \$100 for the first day and \$80 for each day thereafter.

Normal sub pay in Oakland is about \$40 a day.

The OEA did everything possible to avoid involving the UTO in preparations for the strike. At one point, the OEA leadership proposed that a ratification/strike vote be limited to OEA members. This proposal was defeated by OEA's Representative Council.

The OEA did not make a systematic effort to build community support or establish alternative schools.

This policy reaped bitter rewards. As the strike began, a large number of Black and community organizations, including the Black Panther Party, called for an end to the strike. No community groups backed the teachers.

The initial 80% teacher support for the strike began to decline as the strike continued. Only 50% of the students stayed away from school.

SUPPORT DROPS

The mood at the ratification meeting was bitterness and resignation.

Faced with a tough school district, weak union leadership and lack of community support, the teachers voted 1229-507 to return to work.

The teachers walked back in with less than when they walked out.

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

NBC has special Christmas presents for about 4% of its workers: layoff notices. The network announced November 17 that 300 of its employees would be on the streets by January 1 as part of an "economy drive." NBC had profits of \$100 million last year.

Your hard hat may not be very hard. That's the conclusion of a Wall Street Journal story on safety equipment. It says government standards for items such as hard hats, safety shoes, and goggles may be seriously inadequate. For example, the government says the steel toe of safety shoes should not be compressed to less than half an inch when tested with a steel plunger. Yet most men's feet are more than an inch thick near the toe. The story also found that much safety equipment often does not meet even these inadequate standards. Some manufacturers have "a total lack of quality control," one official says.

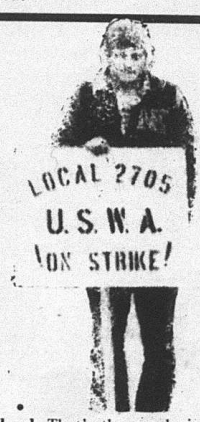
Teamsters: If your union officials seem to be getting more and more cozy with the employers, there's someone new you can blame. John Dunlop, former Secretary of Labor. He's just been appointed the supposedly-neutral head of new labor-management committee for the trucking industry. During his career in the government, Dunlop was a specialist in convincing union bureaucrats and company executives that their interests lay in the same direction.

A federal judge has dismissed charges that Anthony Provenzano conspired to get a kickback on a Teamster pension fund loan. Provenzano, secretary-treasurer of Local 560 in Union City, N.J., was a Teamster Vice President until 1966 when he began a prison term on extortion charges. In the kickback case, the charges were dismissed because the key government witness suddenly decided that he couldn't make a positive identification of Provenzano's voice on a tape recording. Wonder why. Provenzano still faces charges of conspiracy to murder an official of Local 560, and has been linked to Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance.

The United Mine Workers has won a tremendous victory over the company-minded Southern Labor Union in Harlan County, Kentucky. For months, the SLU had been campaigning to oust the UMW as bargaining agent at Eastover Mining Co.'s Brookside Mine. The SLU emphasized the turmoil inside the United Mine Workers, and got enough cards signed for an election. But when the votes were counted, the SLU lost 135-5. The SLU represented the Brookside miners before 1973, when the miners began a 13-month strike for a UMW contract.

This week's Quote of the Week falls into The Grass Is Always Greener Department. It comes from a Teamster who, tired of the considerable mandatory overtime at work, is looking for a job in the auto industry. Innocently the Teamster asked, "They don't have overtime in auto plants, do they?"

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.



Workers' Power Women's Conference

Workers' Power is holding a Women's Conference in Cleveland on December 3 and 4. If you're a woman and you want to start turning things around, come to our Conference.

During the Conference, we will explain the attack against women. And then we will introduce you to women who are fighting back. During workshops, you'll have a chance to rap with other women and work out strategies for implementing change. And then we'll tell you what we think is the key to women's liberation. We don't just want equality, we want liberation!

Come to Cleveland. This is an event you won't want to miss.

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Please send me more information about the Workers' Power Women's Conference.

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SADAT IN ISRAEL

They Talk Peace... While A People's Rights Are Trampled



Peace—or Israel's biggest propaganda coup?

"I come to you today on solid ground to shape a new life and to establish peace."

— Anwar Sadat, to the Israeli Parliament

"Israel does not wish to rule and does not wish to disturb or divide. We are looking for peace with all our neighbors, with Egypt, with Jordan, with Syria, with Lebanon, with Arabs of the land of Israel living in Judea and Samaria (the Occupied Territories)."

— Menachem Begin in reply to Sadat

"Then why won't you talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization, which represents them?"

— Representative of the Israeli Communist Party (Rakah), interrupting Begin from the floor

East crisis would have been ended on the spot.

There is no doubt that millions of people—in Egypt, Israel and throughout the world—are responding with joy to a meeting which looks like ending the threat of more Middle East wars.

CHALLENGE

But the only words spoken throughout the whole weekend's ceremonies which actually addressed the real issues of peace were quickly hushed up.

Those were the words of the member of the Communist Party (Rakah), the only non-Zionist party represented in the Israeli Parliament.

He interrupted Begin's speech to demand recognition of the Palestine resistance movement, the PLO. Television did not translate his remarks for its live audience.

It was not just a challenge to Begin. It challenged the entire basis of Sadat's trip to Israel.

Sadat promised peace and secure borders for Israel. But neither Israel nor its political and military

backer, the United States of America, recognizes the right of secure borders and national self-determination for the Palestinian Arab nation.

Jimmy Carter, Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat all expect the Palestinians to gratefully accept whatever deals are made over them.

Sadat's trip is an effort to negotiate arrangements over the heads of the Palestinian people, without even consulting them about their future.

up inside the Israeli Parliament was heard much louder outside.

In East Jerusalem, Israeli police massed to drive off young Arabs who came to demonstrate their anger at Sadat.

In Egypt, Sadat's government cut off the Palestinian radio station to prevent any public criticism.

It is too early to predict the immediate political results from the Sadat visit. But it has solved no real problems.

All it has done is give Menachem Begin the biggest propaganda coup of any Israeli government in history.

But the challenge quickly hushed

by Dan Posen

The world watched in amazement Saturday and Sunday as the President of the largest Arab nation, Anwar Sadat of Egypt, arrived in Jerusalem as the honored guest of the government of Israel.

Every word that Sadat and right-

wing Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin spoke in public was instantly translated and broadcast to a live audience throughout the world.

If a mass media mega-event could create peace, the Middle

WHAT ARE THE REAL ISSUES?

Supposedly, the biggest breakthrough of the Sadat visit is that a major Arab leader "has recognized Israel's right to exist."

According to the Israeli establishment and its American protectors, the basic problem in the Middle East has been 30 years of Arab refusal to recognize this right.

But Israel's right to exist is not the basic issue—especially today.

Nor does peace depend upon what Israel calls "secure borders" or even peace treaties with surrounding Arab countries.

TWO NATIONS...

Israel has created a state, an economy and a vast military

machine bankrolled by the United States.

But there are two distinct nations in the historical land of Palestine. Beside the Israeli nation which has come into existence since the 1940's, is the Palestinian Arab nation.

Both national groups are of roughly equal size, between three and four million people.

But the modern Israeli state has been created at the expense of the Palestinian nation—and that is the basic issue.

Inside Israel, although they are supposedly equal citizens, Palestinians called Israeli Arabs have a fourth-class status. There isn't a shred of economic, political or economic equality.

A document called the "Koenig Report," written by a high Israeli official, calls for forcing thousands of Arabs to leave Israel completely.

In the Occupied Territories, seized by Israel in the 1967 war, the position of the Palestinians is becoming more and more like Blacks in South Africa.

After ten years, nearly half the workforce in some Israeli industries, such as construction and agriculture, is Palestinian.

Yet Palestinian West Bank workers have no rights of citizenship. They have no right to remain inside Israel overnight.

Every day they must cross into Israel in convoys where they are subject to humiliating searches. Their communities are patrolled by Israeli military forces who answer to no law but their own brute force.

... AND OPPRESSION

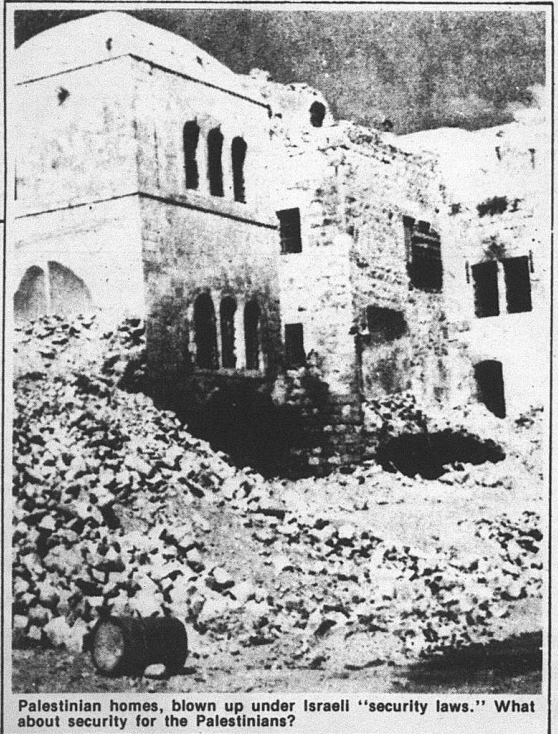
Palestinian school children are arbitrarily arrested and beaten, homes broken into by soldiers. Right-wing Israeli settlers in the West Bank harass them, and resistance activities are crushed with riot sticks and bullets.

According to Zionist ideology, Palestinians are only part of the broader "Arab nation," whose leaders Begin says can all come to visit.

But the Palestinians themselves are a distinct nation. Palestine is their homeland, and to live there is their right.

Neither Sadat of Egypt, Assad of Syria, or Hussein of Jordan can speak for them. Only the Palestinians can make peace with Israel—not the rulers of Arab states.

Israel cannot live in peace until it recognizes Palestinian national



Palestinian homes, blown up under Israeli "security laws." What about security for the Palestinians?

rights and the legitimate demand of the Palestinian people for a homeland.

But that is what no section of Israel's political structure will recognize.

The Zionist nature of Israel today—the idea that the Jewish people have a higher claim on Palestine than other people living there—inevitably means more land grabs and worse repression.

Does Israel have a right to exist? The socialist answer is: yes, the Jewish nation in Palestine has the right to a state, like any other nation.

But a nation which claims the right to trample all over the lands, the homes and the rights of another

is inviting its own destruction in the long run.

And the Palestinian people—the oppressed nation—have every right to continue their struggle for national freedom down to the end.

Zionism claims that Israel represents "the historic homeland of all Jews," while Palestinians who live in slums only miles from the homes they lost in 1948 can never return.

Those are the real social relations that stand behind Menachem Begin's sugar-coated lies about "living in peace with our Arab neighbors."

And that is why Palestinians who are struggling for their rights view Anwar Sadat as the biggest traitor of this generation.



Israeli seizures of Palestinian land, from 1949 to today.

VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

Exploring The Jazz Revolution

Wildflowers: The New York Loft Jazz Sessions. Vols. 1-5, Casablanca Records. Recorded May, 1976 at Studio Rivbea in New York.

by Dan Posen

What, exactly, is "popular" music?

Any executive of a major recording company can tell you. Popular music is what can sell at least a million copies of a single and a couple of hundred thousand copies of an album.

What he won't tell you is that those kinds of sales require extensive marketing and advertising of the product. He also won't tell you that the industry decides in advance that some kinds of music aren't popular—so they seldom record it, and never bother to aggressively market it.

Which brings us to the kind of music presented in the five records called "Wildflowers: The New York Loft Jazz Sessions."

The recordings are highlights from a brilliant series of live concerts at Studio Rivbea, a studio and hall run by saxophonist Sam Rivers as a center for performing jazz musicians.

A number of relatively well-known musicians like Rivers, Anthony Braxton, and Randy Weston (one of the very best jazz pianists for over 20 years) are involved.

BARRIERS

However, the emphasis is mainly on musicians who don't get a lot of record dates, or big concerts, or engagements at the fancy night clubs where management is pouring another drink down your throat every ten minutes.

The problem is that there are incredible, overwhelming commercial barriers set up between this music and the millions and millions of people who could be enjoying it.

The music here is commonly labelled "avant-garde," which is supposed to make it sound as foreign and strange-sounding as possible. "Avant-garde," which is supposed to mean "so new you can't possibly figure it out," has been applied to the same music and the same musicians for 15 or 20 years!

It's totally wrong to think of this as music for a tiny cult or elite. In fact, this is music you can listen to, relax to . . . and with some effort and energy, dance to if you want.

That is, if you ever get a chance to listen to it. And that's the problem. Try and find these records at your local record stores. Go ahead—just try it.

Not only do most of these musicians get few concerts and no air play. Most of them can't even get club dates in Harlem, Chicago's South Side or inner city Detroit.

Part of the reason is purely economic. Music over three or four minutes long can't get AM air play.



Graphic from the "Wildflowers" album.

And even though it could be profitable, the profit margins wouldn't be as high as the millions the industry currently makes with disco styles.

But there are other reasons. The entertainment business has an effective monopoly on almost all popular music.

BLACK AUDIENCE

The commercial media and the music industry have actually worked to cut these musicians and their music off from the Black community—the community that makes jazz in all its forms possible.

The music industry doesn't want a large audience, especially a Black audience, to have easy access to alternative musical ideas—in particular, music associated with protest and revolt.

So many of the best jazz musicians find themselves isolated.

That's the one and only reason why the music of "Wildflowers" isn't at least as "popular" as, say,

Stevie Wonder, if not the O'Jays or Spinners.

The musicians on the "Wildflowers" sessions are, for the most part, using and extending the musical space created by John Coltrane and Eric Dolphy in the "jazz revolution" of the early 1960's.

JAZZ REVOLUTION

There are no really revolutionary new trends in jazz right now. In part, this is because the tremendous expansion of Black consciousness and struggle that produced the last two "jazz revolutions"—bebop in the early 1940's and the "new music" of the 1960's—has levelled off in the 1970's so far.

These two earlier jazz revolutions, symbolized by Charlie Parker and John Coltrane, each changed the whole concept and musical scope of jazz.

Today's musicians, represented on the "Wildflower" recordings, are developing a fantastic range of

styles and forms of expression within that framework.

Sam Rivers' soprano saxophone on his own composition "Rainbows" may be the high point of the entire series.

Rivers' trio exemplifies the power, high energy and rhythmic tension which characterizes the jazz developments of the 1960's and '70's.

Sunny Murray and Bayard Lancaster's rendition of "Over the Rainbow" demonstrates how the most modern jazz of today can make use of melody as brilliantly as the tradition, mainstream or bebop styles can.

GAIN CONTROL

These recordings are also important because they show a new generation of musicians who are not about to let their art die from neglect.

The concerts at Studio Rivbea and other New York lofts are produced, presented and run by the musicians in most cases. They feel that if they can produce their music free of the control of the mass entertainment monopolies, it will reach a bigger audience.

It is an exciting attempt by creative artists to gain control of the product they create.

But only when creative artists and other workers actually control that industry—in a socialist society—will everyone get a chance to experience what art and entertainment could really be.

Unfortunately, even this effort has turned out to be subject to the inescapable pressures of capitalism. An attempt to set up a series of "loft festivals" in New York this summer was badly hurt by disputes among different lofts over arrangements for booking and paying the musicians.

The "Wildflowers" sessions offer a glimpse of the kind of musical possibilities which the giants of the entertainment industry don't want you to know about.

If you can't find these records, but would like to, you can probably get them by writing: Casablanca Records, 8255 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. □

TDU In Jersey Teamster Election

SECAUCUS, N.J. — Teamsters Local 177, which represents over 3000 UPS and other warehouse and retail delivery workers, has been thrown into turmoil by the campaign to elect new officers. In a crowded field of two full slates and numerous independents, one candidate stands out.

Howard Cohen, a UPS worker for eight years and a former shop steward, is running as a Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) candidate for president. The election is scheduled for November 27.

Cohen is fighting long odds to win, but feels he had to run because no one else is speaking to the issues.



Cohen

In the last election, a number of rank and filers were elected to the executive board. The new officers enjoyed wide support at first because of their militant stand against the companies. But over time they have been ground between the employers, particularly UPS, and the International.

UPS CONTRACT

For example, last fall, most of the local's members participated in the 13-week eastern states UPS strike. To this date, the contract has not been signed because the International and the companies can't agree on what it means. The key issues involving job security for full timers have gone to arbitration in the meantime, seriously weakening the union.

As Cohen says, "Our next UPS contract is going to be a national contract—even more out of the local's hands. Without a strong national rank and file movement, Fitzsimmons will give us whatever he damn well pleases."

While the other slates concentrate on mud-slinging and arguing over election technicalities, Cohen is promoting the ideas of a national rank and file movement and 100% democratic by-laws. Some specific proposals are: a local newsletter, a shop stewards council, and shop floor committees to handle problems on each job.

"The only way to make this a fighting union is if you unify the rank and file and get them involved in controlling the union, Cohen says. "It will be the leadership's responsibility to lead in that direction." □

And Across the Country

Rank and file Teamsters are also candidates for office in several other locals around the country. The TDU paper, Convoy, reports that in addition to Local 299 in Detroit [see page 8] and Local 177 in New Jersey, TDU members are running for office in these locals:

- **Local 357.** TDU is running a candidate for recording secretary and candidates for three trustees in this southern California local. The election is scheduled for December 7-8.

- **Local 208.** Doug Allan, a TDU National Steering Committee member is running for trustee in the Los Angeles freight drivers local. Allan is currently involved in an important strike against Acm/Alltrans. He is campaigning for membership election of all 157 officers, from top to bottom, and pledges to be in the rank and file voice on Local 208's executive board. Elections are December 8-9-10.

- **Local 341.** Paul Micelli, a TDU member, is running for president of this Pittsburgh construction local. Unemployment is a major issue in the campaign. The election will be December 11. □

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DETROIT LOCAL 299 ELECTIONS

Last Minute Trick—Too Little, Too Late For Teamster Bosses

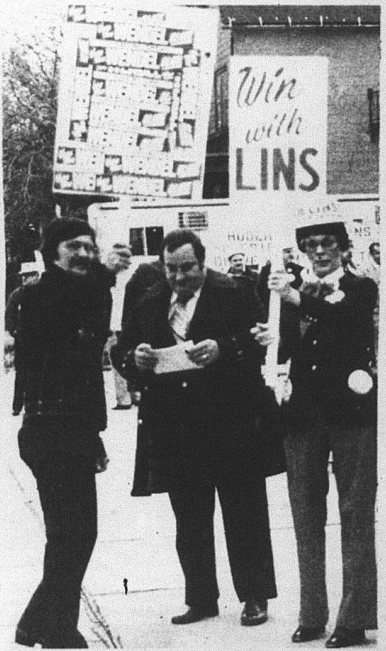
by Mike Kelly

DETROIT—Faced with a strong sentiment for rank and file control in Teamsters Local 299, the local union's administration seems to have gotten itself organized to stop the ranks' favorite candidates—

Pete Karagozian for President and **Pete Camarata** for Vice President.

The ballots for the Executive Board elections go out in the mail

next week. **Otto Wendel**, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 299 withdrew his candidacy for President last week, taking his slate for the other six offices of the local executive board with him.



Supporters of Old Guard candidates **Bob Lins** and **Otto Wendel**. Once allies, **Lins** and **Wendel** were both scrambling for the top position in Local 299. Later, **Wendel** withdrew to create unity against the reformers.

Wendel gave his health as his reason for pulling out.

Frank Fitzsimmons and the Teamsters International may have made it clear to Wendel that it would be bad for his health if he continued in the race—and divided the pro-administration vote in the local.

Wendel was running against his boss, current Local 299 President **Bob Lins**, and against Business Agent **Pete Karagozian**. Both had full slates for the seven executive board offices.

FILED CHARGES

Wendel's troubles began early this month. **Andy Provenzano**, 'Watch Dog' candidate for Vice President, filed charges against Wendel for using his powers as Secretary-Treasurer of the Local to begin campaigning for office before the official campaign period began.

The Local 299 executive board



Members of TDU campaign at the Local 299 nominating meeting.

upheld the charges. The running of the election, normally one of the duties of the secretary-treasurer, was given over to the Michigan Joint Council of Teamsters 41.

Now **Bob Coy**, Secretary-Treasurer of Joint Council 41, is running the election.

Provenzano probably wasn't motivated solely by a concern for the rank and file. Following a three-day wildcat here in summer 1976, he was for calling in the International to throw the Local into trusteeship.

Under a trusteeship the Local union loses home-rule and the International takes over all its affairs. It's this that gives **Provenzano** the reputation as the local face of **Fitzsimmons**.

Wendel may have been a ringer from the beginning, who planned to withdraw and throw his support to incumbent President **Bob Lins**.

In any case, his withdrawal puts the local administration in a stronger position.

About the same time that

Wendel withdrew, **Bob Lins** issued a statement of support for his campaign by about 100 stewards of Local 299.

This steward's support means less than it usually would because the local union machine has been divided and weak. Many stewards will not be able to deliver more than their own vote.

MYSTERY

Wendel's withdrawal is not the only mystery of the campaign.

Two weeks ago, **Jerry Zimmer**, candidate for trustee on **Karagozian's** slate, found his car fire-bombed.

The car had previously belonged to **Karagozian**. No one was injured.

The Teamsters for a Democratic Union speculated that the fire-bombing may have been an attempt to make it look as if the Local was in a chaotic state, unable to run its own affairs, and that therefore a trusteeship was in order.

Meanwhile, in the barns, the talk from many of the members is—"The two Petes."

Pete Karagozian is a popular business agent with the support of an organization called the Concerned Members.

Pete Camarata is the dock steward from **Earl C. Smith** running at the head of the TDU slate, for vice-president.

Karagozian heads a full slate. **Camarata** is running with two other TDUs—**Walter Ruff** and **Dennis Wade**—both candidates for trustee positions.

Now, just a few weeks before the final count in the election, two full and two partial slates remain.

The election is being conducted by mail ballot, with suspicions on all sides about the possibility of an honest count.

A larger voter mail-back than usual will help the ranks elect their "two Petes" and get the last of the **Hoffa** and **Fitzsimmons** administration off their backs. □

Coal Bosses Ask Too Much

Negotiations for a new bituminous coal contract are getting down to the strike deadline, but almost no progress has been made.

This is because the coal operators have offered nothing, stone-walled union demands, and even seem to expect the union to give them something.

Because coal miners will not work without a signed contract, both sides estimate that an agreement will have to be reached by November 27 to avert a strike.

About 10 days would be necessary for membership ratification of a new contract before the old one expires December 6.

According to an Associated Press dispatch November 19, "sources

close to the negotiations say not a single issue has been resolved since the talks opened October 6."

Instead of negotiating, the two sides have traded charges.

United Mine Workers president **Arnold Miller** wondered whether the coal operators "genuinely want to achieve a new contract that can be ratified."

He said the operators have been "unwilling to bargain constructively and in good faith on a number of critical issues."

The Bituminous Coal Operators Association said that "unless the UMWA begins to negotiate realistically," there will be a strike.

The trustees of the UMWA Health and Retirement Funds

added their clout to the employers' side by announcing that all health benefits will be halted immediately if a strike occurs December 6.

They also said that pension payments could be suspended or eliminated entirely in January if the strike goes that long.

RIGHT TO STRIKE

Last year's UMWA convention mandated the Union to include the local right to strike in this year's contract. Under pressure from the ranks, **Arnold Miller** has repeatedly stated that he will not sign a contract without the right to strike. The coal operators are equally

united against the right to strike.

BCOA President **Joseph Brennan** said, "The Union has demanded that the operators agree to a right-to-strike proposal under which the International Union and District officers would totally abdicate their responsibilities for delivering a stable workforce which is their principal guarantee to management when they sign a new wage agreement."

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Another important issue is the grievance procedure. Its problems indicate why the miners will probably not ratify a contract which lacks significant improvements in

this area. The grievance procedure is simply not working.

In the last year, 2700 cases were appealed to the joint union-industry arbitration board. That board has resolved only 116 cases in the last two years.

Thus, the operators can violate the contract at will, and tell a miner to "file a grievance," knowing nothing will happen.

The union wants to abolish the arbitration review board, and include the local right to strike in the grievance procedure. The coal operators are strongly resisting this as well. □

Jim Woodward