

# WORKERS' POWER

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## "It's A Sad Day For Labor"

# TRENTON 7 — JAIL!

ACQUISITIONS SECTION  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
816 STATE ST.  
MADISON WI 53706

by Paul Broz

FIVE MONTHS ago, auto plants across the nation shut down as thousands of auto workers walked out when it got too hot.

Employers lost millions of dollars in production because they chose not to make plants tolerable to work in.

Next summer, the same thing could happen again, only this time, workers may think twice about walking out.

During one wildcat in a Detroit suburb, the companies got a judge to order strikers to back into a plant.

When they refused, chanting, "Hell no, we won't go!" the companies picked seven men from the picket line at random and charged them with contempt of

court.

Last autumn, they were found guilty.

Last Monday, they were sentenced to jail.

Seldom have ordinary union members been sent to jail for walking a picket line. Usually some specific charge of violence or damage has to be trumped up. But this decision, this jail sentence, gives the court the right to say when being a good union member is legal and when it is not.

With the case of the "Trenton 7," the courts have thrown off any mask of fairness and come down squarely on the side of the employers.

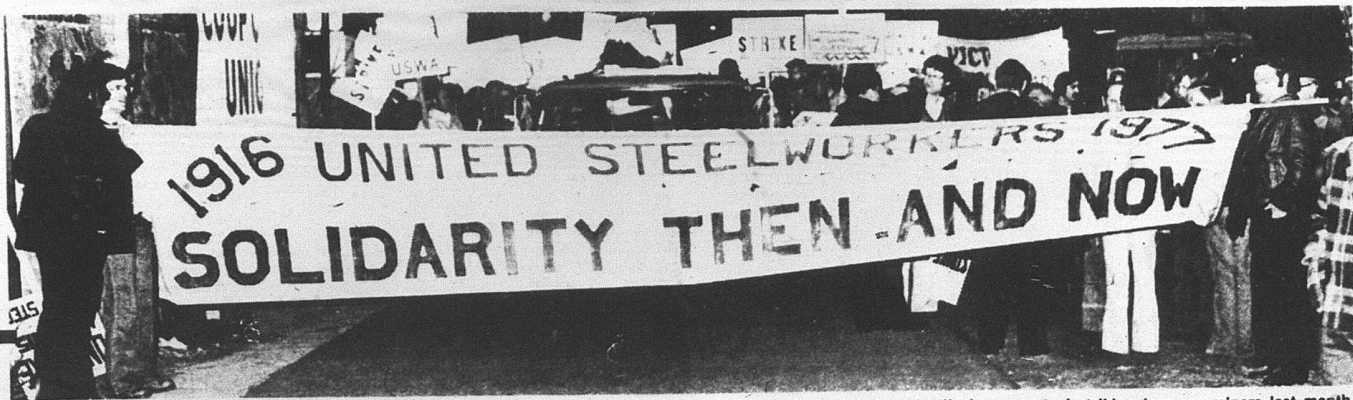
For an account of the sentencing, and a look at the thoughts of these men, turn to page 6. □



USW gate pickets near Mountain Iron, Minnesota.

# Victory on the Iron Range

p.5



Thousands march and rally in support of striking iron ore miners last month.

# Welfare: The Myths, The Facts...

by Paul Broz

This holiday season, millions of American families will trim their trees, exchange gifts, and settle down to a sumptuous Christmas dinner.

For many others, like the woman who writes on this page, Christmas may not be so joyful.

An item in the New York Times last week:

"Thousands of welfare mothers, several fainting in the pushing crowds, waited for hours in the cold here today to apply for a limited number of \$25 emergency clothing checks.

"In Hartford, at least six persons were taken to hospitals after fainting in the crowds or suffering from near-freezing weather."

Welfare is a last resort. A humiliating way to live. A pittance grudgingly given out to keep people alive and quiet.

Most of us believe a lot of things about those on welfare which are not true. Using government figures, we challenge these myths:

• **MYTH ONE: The welfare rolls are full of able-bodied loafers.**

FACT: 55.8% are children; 16.7% are their mothers; 14.9% are the

aged; 11.7% are the blind and disabled; the remaining 0.9% are able-bodied fathers.

• **MYTH TWO: Welfare families are loaded with kids—and have more just to get more money.**

FACT: 54.2% are one or two child families. The typical payment for an additional child is \$35 per month—not nearly enough to raise another child.

Some states give no additional money for more than four or five children.

• **MYTH THREE: Most welfare families are Black.**

FACT: 48.3% are white, 43.3% are

Black. Because of racism, 34% of Blacks have incomes below "poverty" level, compared to 13% of the white population.

• **MYTH FOUR: Why work, when you can live it up on welfare?**

FACT: The highest payment a family of four can receive is \$372, in Alaska. The smallest amount is \$60 a month, in Mississippi. By no stretch of the imagination can one "live it up" on either of these incomes.

"Continual misery" is much closer to the truth.

Socialists have a better idea. It's jobs, dignity, and respect for all. It's a standard of living that means

kids don't get made fun of because they get "free lunch."

It's kids who don't grow up thinking that they are different, inferior, and don't have a chance.

The story on this page is the story of a welfare mother. Women on welfare are cast aside by a society that doesn't need them. They are the casualties of a decaying society.

When we talk about socialism, we're talking about throwing out the real welfare bums, the rich who live high but don't work. We're talking about a society where decisions are made based on human needs, not profits.

# ...AND HOW ONE REAL FAMILY LIVES

In this article a welfare mother describes what her life is like. For personal reasons, she asked that her name not be revealed.

.....

I'm a mother of four children, divorced. Three are in school. The youngest is home with me.

I applied for welfare after I lost my job in an auto plant because I had surgery while still on probation. So, naturally, I was fired.

When I went into the welfare office for the first time, I was borrowing off friends. Luckily, my landlord was a friend; otherwise I don't know what I would have done.

They made me fill out all this paperwork, and to do all that I needed rides. I didn't have money

to feed my kids, let alone ride the bus.

The whole process, from the time I went in, to the time I got my first check, took four and a half months.

Welfare has an emergency assistance. From them I got \$19.02 for food—that's all I got for four kids and myself.

## ANGRY

It took me ten months to get food stamps. Every time I applied my application got lost, and every time I called my worker, she said, "Call back after the 12th of the month."

I did that for seven months, then I really got angry. I went down there and filled out another application right in front of her.

When my caseworker came out to the house she gave me this form, which asked things like, "How much money are you getting?" which she obviously knew because she was the one giving me money.

It asked, "Does anyone live in the house? Do you have any property? Do you have any bank accounts?"

It asks, "Have you received any gifts, any money from friends, parents, or others?"

Of course you say, "No." You're not going to be dumb enough to say "Yes." Anything you get is considered income and is deducted from your check.

At the end, you have to raise your right hand and swear that everything you said on this form was true. And then you sign your name.

All total, I receive \$445 a month to raise a family of four. They give me \$110 for rent, when my rent is \$125. They give me \$28 for heat, and \$22 for my electric.

## LUXURIES

A phone is considered a luxury. Every time you go down to ADC they tell you, "We'll call you, we'll call you," and it really puzzles me because we're not allowed to have a phone. But they never called me.

There's people around, like the guy who lives up the street, who says, "We don't want you in our neighborhood, you don't fit in our neighborhood." He says, "I'm



Connecticut's state welfare director found himself closer to the people than he wanted—as they tried to apply for winter clothing allowances last week. [Top right] One welfare mother sums it all up.

paying to feed your kids."

It's coming out of his tax money and he resents me personally for that.

I don't stay at home because I'm lazy. I stay at home because there's no alternatives.

For the kids' sake, I try to tell them that it's not degrading to be on welfare. You have to sort of lie to your kids—you have to say, "You're not any different from the other kids," when in fact they are.

If the class is going somewhere, they hate to come home and ask me for money because they know I don't have it. They ask me, though, and they usually get it.

They get it because I don't want them to be singled out as not being able to go on a class trip because they don't have any money, or not being able to participate in gym because they don't have any shoes. It means you cut back on other things.

The kids call grandpa and grandma. They ask, "Can you send us money to go to the state fair? Can you send us money to go to the carnival?"

The kids are labeled at school. They have to get free lunches, because I can't afford to pay.

You walk into the school in the morning and the teacher asks, "How many lunches today?" All the kids raise their hands. And then she says, "How many free lunches?"

They have to raise their hands again, and all the kids in the room go "Ha, ha, ha. You get a free lunch."

Free lunch means you're poor—there's no other way around it.

All the kids with free lunch sit in one area. The kids with lunch tickets go to the front first, then the free lunch kids go to the back of the line.

My kids are learning that a lot of people are better than us. And it isn't good for their self-image, and not good for their ability.

You can't make friends easy if you're poor. Nobody wants to be friends with somebody who doesn't have anything.

It would be very difficult for me to get a job because I would have to pay childcare, transportation, whatever, out of that. And my Medicaid would be cut off.

For it to pay, I'd have to get a job paying \$7 or \$8 an hour, and there aren't many of those, especially for women. I wouldn't have time to raise my kids.

But if I could get a job and be allowed to keep my ADC until I get on my feet, then they can have their money.

Being on welfare feels real degrading. Like no one cares about you, about your kids, nobody cares whether you sink or swim.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Because of our regular holiday schedule, the next issue of **Workers' Power** will be published January 9. **Workers' Power** and the International Socialists wish our readers a happy holiday season.

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# LA Teamsters Hold Local Elections

LOS ANGELES—In its first election campaign in the two main Los Angeles freight locals, 208 and 357, candidates from the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) received one quarter and one third of the votes respectively.

L.A. freight drivers belong to Local 208; dock and clerical workers belong to Local 357.

**TDU candidates ran on a program of organizing the ranks to defend the national Master Freight Agreement and protect against casualization and use of owner-operators.**

TDU ran Doug Allan, co-chairman of L.A. TDU, 22 years in Local 208, and now on strike against Acme Freight, for Local 208 trustee.

Allan came in fifth, with 591 votes. There are three trustee positions in the local. All but one of the executive board positions were won by the incumbents.

Local 208 is one of the most democratic in the IBT.

While there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the growing use of owner-operators and casuals, and the failure of the

leadership to fight this, there is still widespread belief that the local leadership is doing the best it can.

## GOON SQUAD TACTICS

In Local 357, TDU ran for four non-salaried executive board positions, recording secretary and three trustees.

**Top TDU candidates received about a third of the total votes, and were tops among all opposition candidates.**

The election campaign showed Local 357 to be quite different from Local 208 as the officials resorted to

red-baiting, goon-type intimidation, and condoning physical beatings.

Local 357 TDU candidates spoke out on how the officials were not fighting for seniority rights at several barns.

In retaliation, officials encouraged cars of goons to drive around the docks looking for prominent opposition candidates.

TDU recording secretary candidate Morley Hoffman, and ICX steward Bob Flack had their tires slashed, campaign leafletters were harassed, threatened, and followed around.

**At the polls, goons knocked out Bob Flack as he was watching the polls, as pro-administration people looked on.**

At the Los Angeles TDU meeting the following Sunday, 357 members began organizing in their defense.

Plans are being made for mobilizing 357 members and other rank and file Teamsters to attend the 357 general membership meeting on December 18, to protest the goon attacks and to pressure the executive board to bring charges against the guilty parties. □

# Miners Stop Scab Coal

by Jim Woodward

While union and management negotiators in Washington labor over the details of a possible agreement, striking miners throughout the coal fields are acting to strengthen the union's hand.

Without any instructions from their top leadership, miners are shutting down non-union mines and stopping deliveries of scab coal.

**"They swarmed my truck," said Raymond Russell, who was hauling scab coal from a Honeywell, Kentucky mine. "I was carrying 22 tons of coal and they made me dump it all."**

The striking miners told Russell if he wanted to keep his truck intact to take it home and park it. "That's where I'm headed," he told a reporter.

Eastern Kentucky saw a lot of this activity. A 100-car caravan carrying 400 Ohio miners roamed the area, stopping any movement of coal they could find. Numerous truckloads of scab coal were dumped by the highways, with picket signs planted on top of them.

## ROBIN HOOD

Area residents usually cleaned up the coal before state highway crews arrived to cart it away. "That makes us just like Robin Hood," one of the Ohio miners said. "We took the coal from the companies and gave it to the poor folks."

The strikers also stopped the movement of coal between two stockpiles belonging to the Kentucky Power company.

Trains carrying coal have been stopped in Cherry Tree, Pa., at an Eastern Coal mine in West Virginia, and at the Swisher mine in Utah.

Car caravans also travelled through Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana forcing scab mines to shut down.

In St. Charles, Virginia, a \$180,000 coal auger at a non-union mine was destroyed by an explosion. "They blew it all to hell," lamented Mike Fotz, a company representative.

In Clarion County, Pennsylvania, hundreds of union pickets trapped 40 miners in a scab mine until they were rescued by state police.

**There is no central direction for all this activity, but miners everywhere agree with the sentiment of a West Virginian who said, "The operators have the upper hand, that's for sure. Unless we can shut**

**off the nonunion coal, they'll starve us to death."**

Scab coal accounts for about 50% of all U.S. coal production. Much of the non-union coal comes from the new western strip mines. But a surprisingly large amount is from strip mines and small underground mines in the east.

Pennsylvania coal, for instance, is 40% non-union, and over 55% of Kentucky's coal is non-union.

Since transportation networks are not sufficiently developed to immediately and massively increase the amount of western coal coming east, cutting off the supply of eastern scab coal is particularly

important.

**There are no reliable figures yet on how much of it the miners have been able to stop.**

In some areas, such as heavily-unionized West Virginia, most scab operators routinely shut down during any strike. In Kentucky it will be more like a cat and mouse game. Scab mines and coal truck drivers will stop working when pickets are around, but open up again when they're gone.

So until this strike is over, neat piles of coal with picket signs on them will dot the highways, and the spirit of Robin Hood will live in Appalachia. □



These Ohio miners travelled to Kentucky to stop scab coal. They forced non-union coal truck drivers to dump their loads by the highways. Above, a Kentucky resident scoops up a pile of coal near Cattslettsburg.

# A Sell-out in the Works?

News reports from the coal negotiations indicate that the outlines of a tentative settlement to the United Mine Workers strike are emerging.

If these reports are correct, a monumental sellout is in the works. Here are the contract proposals reportedly being considered by the negotiators:

- The union would drop its demand for the local right to strike.

This was a feature demanded by last year's UMW Convention. Union president Arnold Miller vowed only a few weeks ago that he would not sign a contract without the right to strike.

Nevertheless, a recent shift in

sentiment probably means that most miners would not support continuation of a lengthy strike solely to win this demand.

Restoration of health benefits has become the over-riding concern, and many miners reason that they strike whenever they want anyhow.

- The coal operators would drop their demand for a formal prohibition on the local right to strike.

But this isn't much of a concession because:

- The union and operators would agree to take a firm stand against wildcat strikes.

Any miner who picketed any mine without authorization could

be fired immediately. Up until now, a miner could be fired only for picketing his or her own mine.

- Penalties would be assessed against an individual miner for any unexcused absence from work, including wildcat strikes. The penalty of \$22 per day would be payable to the UMW Health and Retirement Funds.

- The operators would drop their demand to dock the pay of any miner 40% if there are any unexcused absences in any two-week pay period.

- The operators would agree to a standard absenteeism policy for all mines. Details are not clear. Varying absenteeism policies at

different mines have been the cause of numerous wildcat strikes.

- Details of the health and pension plans were either not worked out or were being kept secret.

This package is not yet final, according to published reports, but negotiators feel they've come much closer to agreement. It amounts to a full-scale union retreat.

The union leadership has apparently decided to accept these proposals out of weakness and as a way of re-asserting their control over the rank and file.

The question that remains is how they think they can get something like this ratified. □

# MINERS BATTLE COMMUNIST PARTY BOSSES

## Rumania: Mass Strikes In The Coal Fields

by Dan Posen

TO ANY MINER from Harlan County or Stearns, Kentucky, the scene would have been almost like home.

**Pickets appeared at the main entrance of one mine, and all work halted. In one day the strike spread to dozens of villages and mines across a whole valley.**

Over 35,000 miners gathered for a mass rally and declared a total shutdown of the mines to demand decent pay, housing, and pension benefits.

Naturally, all this activity had no "official" union sanction and was totally illegal.

□ □ □

THIS SCENE took place in the Jiu Valley, the mining center of the Eastern European state of Rumania.

The largest Rumanian miners' strikes erupted four months ago, in August. The shock waves are still spreading throughout Rumania and other Eastern European Communist Party-ruled regimes.

**Miners' paychecks are being docked up to 25% each month for not meeting production quotas.**

Four thousand miners are said to have been arrested.

One strike leader who presented a petition to the President, Nicolae Ceausescu, was picked up in the middle of the night and deported to a village 200 miles away.

This is very much like the treatment called "banning," which is imposed on trade union organizers and dissidents in the racist state of South Africa.

Yet Rumania is supposed to be totally different from South Africa or other totalitarian capitalist states like Chile or Argentina.

Rumania officially calls itself "socialist." But Rumanian workers have no more right to meet, or organize, or strike, than the workers of South Africa or Chile.

And just like those dictatorships, the Rumanian rulers cannot stop the workers from carrying on the struggle.

One miner told a reporter: "Things are quiet now because people are afraid, because now there are government spies everywhere."

"But we are waiting. And next year..."—he clenched his fist.

THE MINERS' STRIKES are the biggest industrial upheaval in post-war Rumania.

In other Eastern European Communist states there have also been significant struggles this year.

In Poland it was against the jailing of strikers, and in East Germany over the deportation of the popular dissident artist Wolf Biermann.

But it's not surprising that the Rumanian miners have organized the most advanced struggle so far.

For one thing, like miners everywhere they work under conditions where their very lives depend on co-operation and solidarity.

And the Rumanian miners, in particular, have to carry on their backs the industrial expansion of one of the poorest nations in Europe.

The rulers of Rumania insist there must be sacrifices for the

sake of the national economy.

But it's the workers who are expected to sacrifice. They're told to "volunteer" for 10 and 12 hour days of factory overtime and earthquake relief.

### NOT SHARED

This suffering is not shared by the Party bureaucrats, their underlings and hangers-on.

Three thousand of them interrupted Rumanian President Ceausescu 40 times with wildly enthusiastic applause during his four-hour speech at the Communist Party conference last week.

In this speech Ceausescu demanded more industrial production as the only way out.

He called for industrial output to rise by 12 per cent a year between now and 1985.

He vaguely promised that if these goals are met the work week might be cut from 48 to 44 hours!

But consumer industries are not expected to be increased, at least until the industrial quotas are met.

For the miners of Lupeni, this means they are expected to produce more. But there won't be any more for them to buy.

There will still be lines forming four or five hours before bread and meat shops open.

Like their rivals, the capitalist bosses of the west, the bureaucrats of Eastern Europe are less and less able to provide even the promise of a decent standard of living.

That's why strikes, riots, and other forms of class struggle can be expected to grow. □



South Africa's Black resistance struggle (above) has not been crushed by the banning of Black organizations and newspapers. Below, editor Percy Qoboza before his arrest.

## South Africa: Black Journalists Walk Out

When the South African government banned the Black newspapers, the *World* and *Weekend World*, and arrested their editor Percy Qoboza, a pro-government publisher in Johannesburg set up a new paper to replace them.

The new paper, called the *Post*, has been publishing for several weeks.

But last week, Black journalists working for the *Post* went on strike. They claim the government-approved editor is an arrogant white racist who treats them with contempt and censors their articles.

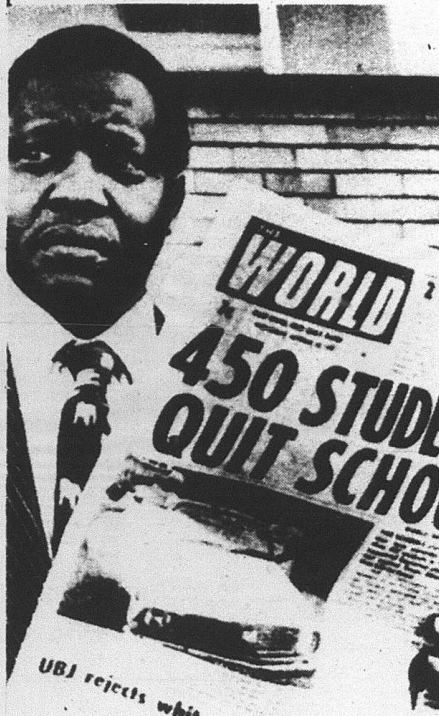
A strike by Black journalists — who are among the best paid of all Black South African workers — is a sign of the fantastic resistance struggle going on at all levels of the Black townships.

A quarter million junior high and high school students are still on strike, even though all Black Consciousness organizations have been outlawed.

School teachers have maintained solidarity with the students, even though the government refuses to allow them to apply for any other work during the student strike.

Although the struggle is now totally underground, it is probably more widely based and organized than the great civil rights "defiance campaigns" of the 1950's in South Africa.

South Africa's police state murdered Steve Biko, but it has created thousands of new leaders to take his place.



## Rumanian miners speak for themselves

The Rumanian miners' strike began August 1. An eyewitness account, written by 22 of the miners, was smuggled out of the country to a western radio station. They wrote:

"All of the miners of the Jiu Valley rushed to the town of Lupeni, because that's where everything was happening.

"On August 3 when President Ceausescu arrived, there were no less than 35,000 miners in the yard of the Lupeni mine.

"The miners had had many clashes with the security police, the regular police and men from the Communist Party. The miners were dressed for work, with their lamps and axes.

"Not only couldn't they be dispersed with firemen's hoses, but the miners grabbed two government ministers, Verdets and Pana, and arrested them saying they would not be freed till Ceausescu (the President) came himself."

### JEERED

When Ceausescu showed up he was jeered and abused by miners who changed, "Down with the proletarian bourgeoisie!" ("Bourgeoisie" means capitalist class.) This term—"proletarian bourg-

eoisie"—is the workers' way of describing the Rumanian ruling class, the top officials of the Communist Party who control economic planning, factory management, the police, and the army.

Recently, when Ceausescu tried to speak to another group of miners about working harder for the national cause, one yelled:

"How much do you earn, Comrade Ceausescu? We have seen your wife on television and on five occasions she was wearing a different fur coat."

At Lupeni, Ceausescu promised the miners their grievances would be met with better food, clothing and pension reform.

But instead of keeping that promise, two weeks later he sent 2000 troops to occupy the valley.

### REFUSE TO SCAB

The soldiers have refused to be used as scab miners.

But the government has planted spies all over the mines to break up the underground workers' organizations that organized the strike.

The anger of Rumanian workers has also spread from the mines, leading to unrest in textile mills and a major machine factory in the capital city, Bucharest. □

# 137 DAYS OUT, THEN

by Terri Ferguson

**"Any time you bring the company down to their knees, it's a victory"**

This holiday season opens with an impressive and spirited victory for the north country's iron ore miners.

On the Saturday before Christmas, caravans and buses carrying thousands from all over the state of Minnesota will converge in Hibbing.

Their "Support and Victory" Rally, organized jointly by the state AFL-CIO and Steelworkers District 33, will celebrate the victory of the longest strike in the history of the Steelworkers Union.

Striking iron ore miners in Michigan and Minnesota have weathered winter cold, hardship, and company attempts to divide them since August 1.

They have been battling one of the most overtly-anti-strike union bureaucracies in the country and some of the most powerful corporations, who claimed all along their stockpiles could out-last the strike.

The miners' determination and understanding of how to use the power of the union has produced results.

The iron miners have made important gains on local issues and on the key overall issue of incentive pay.

Perhaps most significant is the serious blow they have struck to the union's ENA no-strike agreement.



The ore miners have been demanding incentive pay comparable to what USWA members in basic steel receive. Local negotiators accepted the companies' latest offer as an improvement over previous ones.

## CALLED STRIKE ILLEGAL

Early on in the strike, the steel companies that own the iron mines claimed that incentives were not a "local" issue. Therefore they refused to negotiate.

They claimed the strike was illegal. They sued in court.

**But the miners weren't listening. The strike held solid. The companies changed their minds.**

The industry then came in with

## EXPORT MCBRIDE!

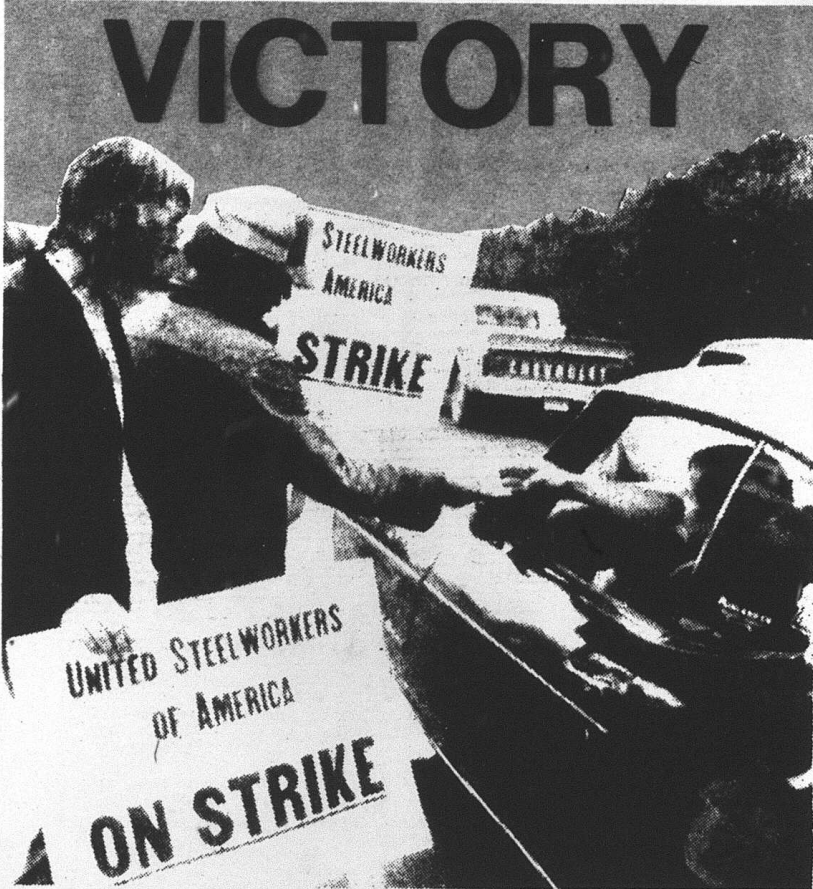
THIS WEEK'S Workers' Power talking-out-of-both-sides-of-your-mouth award goes to Lloyd McBride, president of the United Steelworkers of America.

McBride has been a leading proponent of import controls in the steel industry.

But at a recent conference of steel union local presidents in Washington, D.C., McBride said he had "mixed feelings" about fighting imports of iron ore by U.S. Steel.

The company was using those ore imports to try to break a four and a half month long strike by iron miners in Minnesota.

McBride's "mixed feelings" about cutting off U.S. Steel's strike-breaking imports arise, he said, because the result could be shutting down an entire industry in support of a "local strike."



an offer. Lloyd McBride, International President of the Steelworkers Union, tried to convince the strikers that nothing more could be won, that they had no choice but to return to work.

**That offer was rejected unanimously.**

Further negotiations showed McBride that the industry could indeed come up with more when pressed. The second offer was an improvement over the first, particularly for the status of non-incentive workers.

But McBride did not want to risk another collective rejection. So the International by-passed the 80-man negotiating committee, and called the vote by each individual local.

Although that offer included loopholes and fell short of 100% incentive coverage, it established a plan not too dissimilar from basic steel.

Miners in Michigan and one Minnesota local accepted it.



That settlement in itself was a victory for the strike, but 10,000 miners in Minnesota remained out over other individual local issues as well as further improvements in the incentive agreement. They got some of those further improvements by remaining out.

Last week all but 4000 Inland Steel and USSteel workers were back at work. Those 40,000 workers remain out over some unresolved local issues.

But most of them, who work for U.S. Steel, are expected to ratify an agreement in local meetings Thursday night as Workers' Power goes to press.

Inland, however, "does not look good" according to a spokesman for the International. "The company does not appear to be interested in settling at this point," he said.



Inland Steel would not be able to hold out now if the International had pursued a policy that all the locals remain on strike until all could return together.

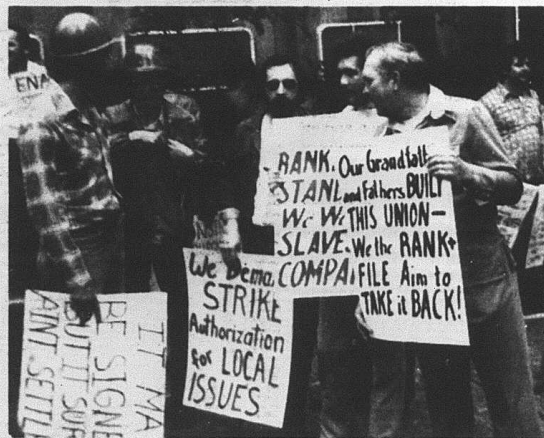
But in spite of the individual local breakdown, and in spite of certain weaknesses in the agreement's coverage, the strikers have

won an incentive plan they were told could not be won.

**They have shattered the myth behind the ENA that "strikes will get you nowhere."**

"I think steelworkers all over found out that the ENA is no good," explained Joe Samargia, president of USWA Local 1938. "What we've done has helped defeat the ENA."

"And," he continued, "that's beside the gains we've made out of negotiating. A victory there? You bet! Any time you bring the company down to their knees it's a victory."



Steelworkers like these organized in "Fight Back" against the ENA last year. As the iron miners strike has impressively shown, the Fight Back in steel continues.

# NO STRIKE DEAL EXPLODES ON IRON RANGE

THE MOST IMPORTANT aspect of the ore miners' strike has been its challenge to the union's no-strike deal.

In this, it has importance for workers throughout the labor movement.

The growing employers' attack on the unions in recent years is eroding organized union membership and has led to proposed legislation that could make striking a legal crime.

In the Steelworkers Union, the no-strike agreement (also called the ENA—Experimental Negotiating Agreement) was negotiated secretly in 1973 by past president I.W. Able.

The ENA surrendered the most basic right and most effective weapon of workers throughout the basic steel industry.

## CHALLENGE

Last year, Abel's bureaucracy faced a serious challenge in elections to top International offices.

Steelworkers throughout the country organized a national opposition through "Steelworkers Fight Back" to Abel's policies and to his hand-picked successor, Lloyd McBride.

The right to strike became a key focus of the opposition.

Fight Back supported reform candidate Ed Sadlowski for president against the entrenched McBride in what became a heated election, equal in importance to the miners' 1972 Miller-Boyle battle.

Sadlowski won the majority of votes in basic steel, where the ENA applies. But in the union as a whole, which includes many fabrication workers and smaller shops, McBride took the election.

Basic steelworkers remained saddled with the no-strike deal.

Now the successful strike of the iron ore miners has jeopardized the ENA-labor-peace, be-nice-to-the-company-and-they'll-be-nice-to-you policies of the union bureaucracy.

McBride wants to avoid examples like this in the future.

## E.N.A. CHANGE

As part of the negotiations, he agreed to an amendment to the ENA which guts the right to strike even further. It sends disputes over whether an issue is local, and therefore strikeable, to arbitration.

The amendment is meant to prevent strikes like the iron range struggle in the future.

But the impressive strike there has shown that the Fight Back among steelworkers is far from over.

Opposition continues and may be able to forge itself into a stronger and more organized force in contending for union control in coming years.

# "THE SADDEST DAY OF MY LIFE"

## SENTENCING OF TRENTON 7

by Paul Broz

DETROIT, DECEMBER 12—"Next summer, if it gets hot, people will think, 'I might get thrown in jail.'"

"That's the point of this trial."

The words are Dennis White's. Until last August, he worked at Chrysler's Trenton Engine plant.

Today, he, and five fellow auto workers, were each sentenced to a week in jail. The charge was Contempt of Court. The crime: standing on a picket line.

All are ordinary men, none of them "trouble-makers," none with a criminal record—all good union members. No one could have guessed six months ago that they would be in court today.

Victims of chance, most are without jobs and in financial trouble. Some have watched as their families fell apart and their hopes were shattered.

### This is how it happened:

Last July, hundreds of workers walked out when temperatures inside Trenton Engine reached 130 degrees in some parts of the plant.

Two weeks after the walkout, four stewards, who the company said had led the heat walkout, were fired. When the workers heard the news, they shut the plant down again.

With hundreds picketing, on August 9, Chrysler went to court and obtained an injunction. These seven men were chosen at random and charged with violating the court order.

They have become known among Detroit auto workers as the "Trenton 7."

### ANTICIPATION

OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM, before the sentencing, some of the defendants paced nervously. Others sat on window sills, talking with relatives or reporters.

Jim Hart, a husky, pleasant man of 38, joked about spending the previous evening lining an old coat with fur in anticipation of a cold ride to jail in a paddy wagon.

Dennis White, leaning on a window sill, arms crossed, was sullen and resentful. Until August 9, he had six years seniority.

"I feel like I robbed a bank. The little man just don't have a chance in a court of law."

"The UAW's losing power if they let them get away with it. They're supposed to be one of the strongest unions in the country."

Al Larcenese looks like the family man that he is. Twenty-seven years with Chrysler, 17 at Trenton Engine, he was ready to retire when suddenly he found himself in the middle of a controversial court case.

Visibly agitated, he hadn't slept much the night before.

"I've never been in trouble in my life. I done my job as well as any man."

"The day of the walkout, this fellow passed out on the line near me. They took him to medical and gave him ice."

"An hour and a half later they brought him back and put him to work."

"This thing had been building for months. When we heard the

stewards had been fired that just set things off."

Tall, brooding, Tom "Cowboy" Kemp, his eyes red-rimmed, was supset. At first he refused to talk, then relented.

"This is the saddest day of my life," he said. "My wife's in the hospital and I can't afford money for drugs."

"My stepdad bought medicine for her."

"It's been hard getting employment because of this right here. I applied at BASF, but the lady circled 'fired' on my application, and I didn't get the job."

Cowboy's trying to make ends meet working seven days a week at a friend's gas station. He has two children at home, a boy, 5, and a daughter, 2½.

### DAY IN COURT

SOMEONE LEANED their head out the door of the courtroom and said, "It's time."

Slowly the six auto workers filed in to receive their sentences.

Everyone rose as the judge, John Feikens, old, white-haired, in long black robes, walked in.

Defense lawyer, Buck Davis, made the first statement:

"You can convict these seven men, but you can't convince them that they are criminals."

"If you picked men at random, you couldn't choose more law-abiding, hard-working people than these."

"What they did was, at worst, a mistake, at best, a reasonable and courageous act."

"They resisted intolerable conditions and resisted the firing of stewards who defended them."

"These men are not socially dangerous in any manner. They need to work—where they used to work."

The judge listened, and then asked the prosecutor if he wished to make a statement. He declined.

One by one, as the judge called

their names, the defendants were allowed to speak.

### BEFORE THE JUDGE

Dennis White didn't score any points with the judge when he said, "If I've learned one thing here, it's that unless you've got money you can't make the courts work for you."

"If I'd had a jury trial, I'd be back at work right now."

Dave Heinrich was next. He told the judge that his pregnant wife was working overtime six to seven days a week trying to make ends meet—"I need my job back."

Only the stirring of several small children disturbed the court as 60 year-old Al Larcenese rose, took a deep breath, and in a strong voice said:

"This is a sad day for labor. Reminds me of the days when they use I to use mobsters, troops and police to break a strike."

"Now they use the courts."

"This is a labor question. This case had no business being in this court. The court should have said, 'Sit down together and solve your problems.'"

"I predict today will start a revolution in labor!"

Then it was Tom Cunningham's turn. He's a member of the Local's Executive Board, and Black.

"I don't know what a TRO [Temporary Restraining Order] is. Why I'm here, I don't know."

"I wasn't picketing, I was in the doctor's office on sick leave that day."

When the judge called Tom Kemp's name, the "Cowboy" choked back tears, but couldn't speak.

He handed his defense lawyer a note he had just written on a crumpled piece of yellow legal paper.

It read: "I've tried to keep a job. I've been working for a friend—I'm trusted with money."

"My wife's an epileptic, and I

have two kids at home."

When the last auto worker had finished, Judge Feikens took the floor.

He was unimpressed. As he saw it, there was only "one essential issue."

"If we are to have law and order, the orders of the court must be obeyed."

Replying to Al Larcenese, the judge said, "This is not a labor question. It is significant that not the union International [UAW] or the Local supported these defendants..."

"At issue is obedience of an order of the court... I have a period of incarceration in mind."

Wives, friends, relatives of the defendants gasped.

The judge stayed the serving of the sentences, pending an appeal. Roger Elkins, injured the previous day, and in the hospital, could not make it and was sentenced the next day.

• To Tom Cunningham, married, with two children, ten years seniority, no criminal record, he gave one week.

• To Jim Hart, married, seven years seniority, honorable discharge from the Navy, no criminal record, one week.

• To Dave Heinrich, married, with one child, nine years seniority, Army and reserve veteran, no criminal record, one week.

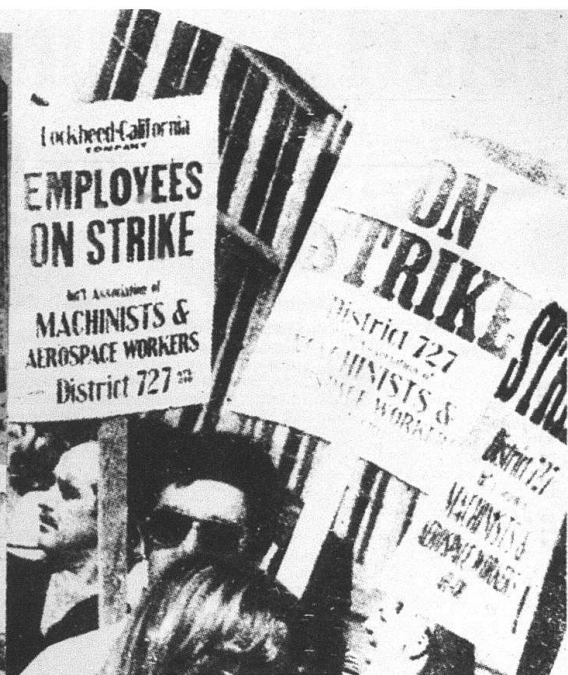
• To Dennis White, six years seniority, engaged (plans postponed because of firing), his father about the retire from Trenton Engine, no criminal record, one week.

• To Thomas "Cowboy" Kemp, married, two children, his epileptic wife in the hospital, eleven years seniority, honorable discharge from the Marines, no criminal record, one week.

• To Al Larcenese, family man with grown children, 17 years seniority, 10 years as a chief steward, ready to retire, no criminal record, one week. □



From Georgia (above) to California (right) Lockheed workers strike to save seniority and dignity.



# Remember when the union made the demands?

by Jack Bloom

Workers in the Machinists union are battling their boss, the Lockheed Corporation. The outcome of this strike, already two months old, will be extremely important to the rest of the labor movement.

The issue in this strike is not the workers' demands. It is the bosses' demand to gut the seniority system.

Specifically, Lockheed wants to limit the right of workers who have been laid off in one job to "bump" lower seniority workers from other jobs. (Remember the good old days when the union made the demands?)

To whittle away at the seniority system is to attack the very foundations of unionism. The seniority system gets rid of favoritism. It prevents the boss from punishing militants and favoring apple-polishers. Most important, it keeps the workers from competing with each other.

But Lockheed is doing more than making an anti-union demand: it is doing everything it can to undermine the union.

Of the four striking locals, it has induced one to break ranks and go back to work. Lockheed has gone out of its way to encourage back-to-work movements in the remaining locals.

In California, the company has tried to go over the heads of the negotiators. It mailed a complete copy of the proposed contract that was rejected by negotiators to the homes of the workers in California and tried to persuade them to break ranks with the union.

The union, the International Association of Machinists, has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board. They are charging the company with unfair labor practices.

Unfair they are, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

## TRICKS AND THREATS

In Atlanta, the company tried to get the workers back to work after Thanksgiving by promising that any worker who reported to work by the following Wednesday would be paid for the holiday. Bitter employees pointed out that the company had never given holiday pay for anyone who did not work the day before and the day after the holiday.

A few of the workers in Atlanta went into the local meeting after the holiday, determined to force a vote on the contract the negotiators had already rejected. They gave up when they saw they had no support.

The workers responded to the company's tricks and threats with a mass picket line.

A few years ago, workers at Lockheed bailed the company out.

The company was in serious financial difficulty. The workers lent Lockheed their own money, and they donated their own time to go to the public to win support for government loans to bail the company out.

Today, Lockheed is repaying its workers for their help by trying to weaken the union and break their strike.

Lockheed workers will think twice next time the company cries for help.

Strikers have had to hang tough under difficult circumstances. Strike pay is usually little enough. But the strike fund ran out after the first month of the strike. The Georgia strikers, who went out late, got only one payment before the fund was exhausted.

Workers have been harassed by the police, while the company has tried to put up a show of continuing to operate the struck plants.

Lockheed has gotten sweeping injunctions interfering with union activity. In Georgia, the strikers are prohibited from having masses of pickets at the gates (no more than three at one time, one person on the pavement at a time, and he or she must cross within 30 seconds.) Strikers cannot use abusive language (like "scab") to those crossing their lines.

There has been violence on the picket lines. More than once, cars have driven through the lines, hitting picketers. Picketers have been arrested, including one arrest of 73 workers at one time.

Lockheed Corporation is openly on the offensive. If the Machinists lose, it will be a signal to other employers to turn the screws on their own workers. If Lockheed loses, others will think twice before following their lead. □

# What's Behind The 'New Right'?

## - Big Money, That's What!

by Kim Moody

**REMEMBER WHEN** right-wing extremists where suburbanites hiding bazookas in their garages and running around the countryside in camouflage fatigues?

There might have been something frightening in their intentions, but there was always something comforting in their amateurish and downright screw-ball approach to politics.

**No more. The extreme right has grown up, become professional.** They may still have the fatigues and bazookas, but they have added computers, plush offices and enormous budgets. They style themselves the "New Right."

Their chief honcho is Richard A. Viguerie, owner of a computerized direct mail service which reaches 30 million American voters. Viguerie's mail service raises money for a cluster of far-right front groups all controlled by a small group of men around Viguerie.

Most significant of these groups are the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, the Conservative Caucus, the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), and its various state affiliates.

Related to these are Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum, which has been fighting the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, and the National Organization of State Conservative Parties, a coordinating body for various local conservative parties.

Today most of the groups associated with Viguerie are raising money for conservative candidates in both the Republican and Democratic Parties.

And their results are impressive. In 1977, an off election year, Viguerie's groups raised \$25-30 million.

That is equal to the entire budget of the official Republican Party organization. It is \$5-\$10 million more than the 1977 budget of the Democratic Party.

### BIG TIME BACKERS

The New Right has some big-time backers, too.

**Joseph Coors, owner of the famous Coors Brewery, throws in some big bucks and lends his name to Viguerie front operations.**

Coors, of course, is one of America's biggest union busters. Last year, he broke the Teamster contract covering his drivers. This year he is trying to break the Brewery Workers union.

There is no doubt that the New Right has contributed much money and talent to the election of ultra-conservative Congressmen and to favorite conservative causes.

**These include opposition to labor law reform, ERA, federal funds for abortion, or anything else that**

**Fund to Defeat  
Big-Labor Politicians in 1976**

The Committee for Survival of a Free Congress  
6 Library Court, S.E. Capitol Hill • Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Senator Garn:

Yes, I agree that we must Defeat the Liberal Pro-Labor Congressmen who threaten to destroy our Nation with their radical policies.

I want to help immediately in CSF's efforts to defeat these liberals and replace them with conservatives.

Enclosed is my maximum contribution of:

\$15,  \$25,  \$50,  \$100,  
 \$250,  \$500,  \$1000  OTHER

(Please make checks payable to Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress)

**Richard Viguerie (below) with his computer tapes. Above, an excerpt from a fund-raising mailing signed by Utah Senator Jake Garn.**



**threatens to cost the employers another nickel.**

But Viguerie also practices the profit system he so dearly loves. He has his principles, after all. And

making a buck is one of them. It turns out that only about 10¢ out of every dollar that Viguerie raises actually ends up in the campaign coffers of his favored candidates.

For example, Viguerie raised over \$2 million for his Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, but candidates it supported saw only a little over \$200,000.

### PERMANENT MACHINE

Paul Weyrich of the Committee explained that much of the money was used to build a permanent political operation—another fact that makes the New Right more of a threat than their kookier ancestors.

Weyrich said, "We spend money to recruit candidates, to train campaign managers, to analyze every vote cast in the House and the Senate, to publish newspapers and weekly reports..."

**In other words, these people are dead serious. They are building a national political machine that can deliver the goods.**

The goods, of course, are union-busting, low wages, race hatred, inequality for women and other ingredients of a "good business climate."

The danger is that these right wing extremists are just slick enough and rich enough to make some headway.

American working people have a big stake in stopping the likes of Richard Viguerie. □

## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

George Meany got a \$20,000 raise last week to \$110,000 a year because, according to other AFL-CIO officials, he deserved it. At the same time, the AFL-CIO Convention voted to raise monthly assessments from 13¢ to 16¢ a member. One reason cited for the assessment increase was the loss of more than 500,000 members over the past two years—nearly 4% of the AFL-CIO's total membership.



The dangers of coal mining were underscored recently with the recovery of three more bodies from Consolidation Coal's No. 9 Mine at Farmington, W.Va. The three were killed along with 75 others in an explosion nine years ago. The bodies of twenty miners are still buried there.

Anti-labor forces have failed to get a measure on the California ballot outlawing public employee strikes. Backers of the initiative could not get the necessary signatures.

The profit system at work: The Veliscol Chemical Corp. in St. Louis, Michigan knew it was manufacturing a dangerous product. In 1971 the company notified its customers that the chemical PBB was hazardous. It warned them to protect their employees from PBB dust and fumes, which could be "dangerous". At the same time, Veliscol's own employees were complaining about skin irritations and other PBB symptoms: The company told them PBB was safe and rejected their requests for protective equipment. Now many Veliscol employees are sick, some so seriously ill that they cannot work. Some of the company's PBB also made many Michigan farm families and others seriously ill after it was mistakenly dumped into cattle feed in 1973.

A federal court has ruled that members of IBEW Local 1547, representing electrical workers in Alaska, lost the right to ratify their contract when the 1974 IBEW convention authorized IBEW officers to "negotiate" with electrical contractors. When the International union negotiated a new nationwide pension agreement with the contractors, it made certain concessions as well. The membership was upset, but not allowed to vote on the new agreement. The federal court agreed with the International union, and refused the members' request that the agreement be thrown out.

**Quote of the Week:** "Our guys battle slippery streets, get stuck in drifts, work overtime and endure equipment breakdowns everytime a storm hits. Then along comes a guy from the North Pole, riding in an over-loaded, reindeer-powered sled, parking illegally on rooftops and the only thing he has to worry about is getting his potbelly stuck in a chimney." That militant sentiment comes to us from Robert Lins, president of Detroit Teamsters Local 299. We have a suggestion for Lins. If only he had thought last Christmas of asking Santa to win some grievances for him, he would have a better chance in the 299 elections now in progress.

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

## Eugene, Ore. Passes Gay Rights Law

On November 29, Eugene, Oregon became the third city to pass a gay rights ordinance since the defeat of the gay rights law in Dade County, Florida last June.

**Important elements in the victory, according to organizers, included the support of women's and other organizations, personal testimony from victims of discrimination, and the stronger presence of supporters over opponents at the City Council debates on the bill.**

Foes now must gather 6000 signatures within 30 days to put the issue to a referendum.

The bill was lobbied for quietly, and the leading gay rights group is presently maintaining silence on the anti-gay petition drive. Whether these methods will win the support of the mass of voters if the issue comes to a ballot remains to

be seen.

On December 2-4 about 200 gays from all over Oregon came to Eugene for the first statewide gay conference.

### CONFERENCE

Liberal gay activists called for gays to support the "human rights" of many oppressed groups, but also advocated working for liberal candidates and trying to influence business groups like the Portland City Club.

A new gay radical group, Radical Activists for Sexual Minorities (RASM), from Portland, questioned whether gay rights bills will be anything more than scraps of paper as long as the mass of people do not grasp the concrete connections between gay oppression and their own, and support gays at work and

in the community.

At a workshop on gays and feminism, RASM made some of those connections, talking on how the present type of family, the schools, and the church oppress both gays and women, forcing them into dependent or closeted roles. In addition, they pointed out how the same goes for transvestites and transexuals.

Women who are too strong, and men who are too supportive to women's rights are often accused of being gay.

**A speaker told about a variety of coalitions between sexual minorities and women on the West Coast around childcare, child custody, and union rights.**

The conference concluded by launching a loosely organized statewide gay coalition. □



# Labor Leaders

# Duck the Crisis

"Where are the plant gates?"

The Democrats will save us!

Sorry I couldn't come to the AFL-CIO Convention — Business is having profit problems



Lane Kirkland and George Meany



Jimmy Carter

by Kim Moody

The 12th Biennial Convention of the AFL-CIO met last week in Los Angeles against a backdrop of dwindling union membership and increasing employer aggression.

The AFL-CIO convention saw the problems labor faces. But it turned away in horror from any real steps toward solving them.

If the convention had a clear theme it was that salvation lies in political action.

To the delegates this meant two things: pressure on Congress and the White House this year, and next year the defeat of those Democratic Congressmen, previously backed by labor, who have not voted for labor-sponsored legislation.

## UNEMPLOYMENT CHARADE

For instance, the solution to unemployment passed by the Convention was an elaborate \$31 billion federal spending package.

Sounds good. But Federation President George Meany knows only too well that this plan was defeated by the Carter Administration nine months ago. Carter's far more modest budget plans for 1978-79 have already been nailed down.

A program of mass action, not lobbying and begging, would be needed to force such a plan on Congress and the White House. No such idea reached the floor of the Convention.

The fact is that the Carter Administration and its Congressional allies are trying to win the confidence of big business, not of George Meany and the leaders of the AFL-CIO.

The economic crisis that has been unfolding for nearly ten years has eroded the profit margins of

many employers—including many of the biggest. And it is this problem that has the White House's attention.

The symbol of the hopelessness of labor's pathetic dependence on the Democratic Party was the unusual lack of Democratic Party leaders at the Convention.

Traditionally, these conventions are addressed by the President, always if he is a Democrat, and by Democratic Congressional leaders.

## CARTER REFUSED

But Carter refused Meany's invitation. Instead, he sent Vice-President Mondale, who is known to have little influence at the White House.

Top Congressional leaders did not attend. Only a phone call from Hubert Humphrey, who is dying of cancer, reminded delegates of the old days.

The key element missing from the old days is the unspoken understanding between employers and union chiefs.

Throughout industry for the nearly 25 prosperous years after World War II, bosses would grant more or less continuous wage and benefit gains as long as labor leaders kept their demands within the limits of the employers' profit margin.

Now, a growing number of employers are breaking the deal altogether. Union busting is on the rise.

More and more employers are making demands on the unions without offering anything in exchange.

No plan of aggressive organization of non-union jobs was discussed. No ideas on how to stem concessions to the employers were discussed.

Instead, the Convention saw two labor leaders from opposite ends of union officialdom's political spectrum agreeing on the lobbying and begging approach.

Both conservative Building Trades leader Robert Georgine and self-styled left-of-center maverick and newly-elected Executive Council member William Winpisinger of the Machinists have seen their unions suffer under the employers' attack.

Georgine's once-powerful Building Trades unions now represent only half the construction industry.

Wage gains have dwindled and traditional working conditions given up in the face of employer resistance and out-right union busting.

Winpisinger's Machinists have lost a quarter of their members in the past ten years.

And recent employer aggression in the aerospace industry has led to bitter strikes at Boeing and Lockheed [see page 7] over the union's seniority system.

At Boeing, the Machinists were forced to make concessions after a two-month strike.

The current strike at Lockheed has already passed the two-month mark.

The answer of AFL-CIO leaders to union busting is passage of the Labor Reform Act.

Passing labor law reforms will help. But anti-union giants like J.P. Stevens, who break the law with abandon, will not be organized by Congressmen.

This reality did not stop AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Lane Kirkland from writing recently that while plant organizing is fine, the real action is in Congress.

"Where is the plant gate in this day and age?" he asks in the November issue of the American Federationist.

"The plant gate is the door of the halls of Congress."

It is idiotic ideas like those that explain why labor loses more representation elections than it wins.

The one program that the AFL-CIO might get some of its call for import controls. In fact, George Meany virtually called for an international trade war—"tariff for tariff, barrier for barrier."

The last international trade war was in 1929. It did not produce jobs. It produced a world depression.

Labor leaders are trying to ignore the economic crisis that broke their romance with business and the Democratic Party. Working people can't afford to ignore it. □

## WOMEN WIN ONE IN COURT

**YOUR BOSS CANNOT** take away your seniority if you take a leave of absence to give birth to a child, the Supreme Court ruled December 6.

The case involved Nora Satty and the Nashville Gas Co. Satty was a clerical worker with three and a half years seniority when she took a three month leave to have a baby. She received no sick pay.

When she returned to work, the company wiped out her seniority. She was re-hired for a temporary job at \$10 less per week. When the job was terminated a month later, she was fired.

Satty filed a sex discrimination suit and was awarded \$9456 in back pay and reinstatement with full seniority. The Gas Co. appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.

### EARLIER RULING

Exactly a year ago, the Court had ruled that an employer does not have to include pregnancy coverage in health insurance plans.

This time, the court reaffirmed that reactionary ruling, but said that wiping out seniority was going a little too far.

This time the logic of the court is that the Nashville Gas Co. "has not merely refused to extend to women a benefit that men cannot and do not receive, but has imposed on women a substantial burden that men need not suffer."

**What's different about these two issues? Nothing.**

Both are cases of discrimination against pregnant women. In the first case, the Court said it's okay to discriminate against pregnant women; in the second case it's not.

The only difference between the two cases is that last year women across the country were outraged by the Supreme Court ruling and began demonstrating and organizing to have it reversed.

A bill is pending in the House that would make discrimination against pregnancy illegal. The bill was written in response to the wave of outrage that greeted last year's decision. Apparently, the Court did not want to provoke a similar reaction this year. □

E. Clarke

## AGAINST ABORTION?

**DURING THE LONG** debate over abortions for welfare mothers, we heard many pious and moralistic speeches. Congressmen spoke about "the right of the unborn" and "taking life".

**But the Federal government still pays for abortions—for the wives and daughters of Congressmen.**

Congressmen, as Federal employees, are offered a range of private insurance plans, most of which cover abortions.

Elective abortions are also performed as part of the medical care provided for the military and their dependents. A total of 12,687 abortions were performed on military women and dependents in the year between Sept. 1, 1975 and August 31, 1976.

In addition, the government paid for 13,090 elective abortions for civilian employees of the military and their dependents in 1975. The cost of these abortions was \$5.8 million dollars.

Exact figures are not available on abortions for non-military government employees, but they number tens of thousands.

**Yes, they're pious and moralistic when they slash the rights of poor women. But for their own wives and daughters—only the best.** □

# IT'S A ROUGH LIFE

Dear W.P. gang,

I just thought you might enjoy this glimpse into the lives of these upper crusties.

Frank Cleveland

P.S. Ms. Swearingen is particularly off the wall, eh?

## FISHY STORY

Dear Workers' Power:

I saw your article on what the boss might get for Christmas. Here's another suggestion. I always knew there was something fishy about how the rich spent the money we earn for them.

K.M. Detroit



STOCKING AND FLY - A Strubben Christmas Favorite. Crystal and 18K gold. Height 8 1/2". \$1,025.00. Send \$3.00 for full color 1977 Catalogue of Christmas Gifts.

STEUBEN GLASS

# LETTERS



Mrs. John E. Swearingen, wife of chairman, Standard Oil Co. (Indiana) — I did absolutely nothing to help him. He was already boss when I married him. But being the boss' wife is a tough, demanding, unrelenting, stamina-sapping job. I love every delicious, glorious, exciting, stimulating and educational minute of it. I've packed for overseas trips in minutes, dressed in airplane rest rooms and once put it all together for a White House dinner in about 10 minutes.



# Where We Stand

## WE OPPOSE

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

## WE SUPPORT

- **THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT**  
The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace, not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.
- **LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION**  
Black people are an oppressed national minority in the United States. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their own future. The struggle of every oppressed group for equality is a just struggle—Blacks, women, gays, Latinos, American Indians. We are for the independent organization of oppressed peoples to fight for their freedom. Support from the entire working class movement will make the 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 profit voluntarily. Socialism can be achieved 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.

# To Answer Your Questions

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers: We welcome your interest in Workers' Power and suggest you send for a copy of the Workers' Power pamphlet, "Freedom! Questions and Answers About Socialism."

In plain language, this short booklet outlines the basic ideas of the revolutionary socialist outlook.

They are the ideas of Workers' Power newspaper and of the organization that publishes it, the International Socialists (I.S.)

To answer F.B.'s question briefly, the I.S. is an organization of people with the goal of a world socialist society: where working people control industry and government.

This is different from both the Western system of private ownership and capitalist government, and the so-called Communist states controlled by small Party elites.

I.S. members work toward this goal by organizing for more

power for working people and less for the employers;

For rank and file control of the unions, and against all forms of discrimination, that oppress and divide working class people.

This is why I.S. members are active organizers and militants at their workplaces and in their unions.

I.S. members have helped build the rank and file group, Teamsters for a Democratic Union; participated in the election campaign of the insurgent Sadlowksi slate in the steelworkers' union; and helped create women's committees in steel and auto union locals.

I.S. members are working to defeat the racist Bakke decision and others have organized a community group in New York's South Bronx.

In answer to David Findley's inquiry, we suggest he take out a subscription to Workers' Power. He will find a subscription form on page 11 of this issue.

Dear Comrades:

Workers' Power is coming through okay. Thanks for the sub. Still wondering who the I.S. are though.

In struggle,  
F.B.

P.S. Others also are reading my stuff. I'm the D-block struggle library. F.B.

Hello,

I saw some of your literature. I would like any other literature, newspapers etc. because I also am interested in workers' power.

David Findley  
Gary, Indiana

I would like a copy of "Freedom! Questions and Answers About Socialism." Enclosed is 65c for a postpaid copy. (Free to prisoners).

Name .....  
Address .....  
Zip .....

Send to: Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

# what ever happened to gas stations?

Dear Workers' Power,

Well, big business is up to one of its favorite tricks again—take something away, call it by a new name and make you pay double to get it back.

Remember the old time gas station? Not real old time. You ain't all that old, and neither are cars. The old service station where you could get your car worked on, have the oil and water checked, get free maps, hang around and shoot the breeze, lean under a hood and learn how to fix

cars yourself?

Then during the so-called energy crisis the big oil companies taught us a lot of things.

One was how much power they've got, and another was how to pump gas.

Taught everybody how to pump gas at those new "self-serve" gas stations. Instead of three or four people, they'd hire only one to take your money. For minimum wage he or she would sit in a bullet-proof booth and wouldn't touch your car.

You'd save three or four cents a gallon if you pumped your own gas, but of course you were still paying 20 cents more than before they taught us a few things.

Now there are self-service gas places all over. Even at those little quick stop stores. Makes you wonder if the gas and the stores aren't owned by the same outfits, even.

The other night driving home I saw a big 65-foot high Shell sign. Below the Shell there was an official sign like for a hospital:

Automotive Diagnostic Center. What was this? Below the sign was a plain old-fashioned service station!

So when you break down don't walk to a self-serve station. The person can't leave the booth, even if he or she could fix your car. You'll have to get to an Automotive Diagnostic Center.

You know, I can't wait til we teach them a few things.

Love and kisses,  
Toni Hawk  
Austin, Texas

# 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
- Austin: P.O. Box 8492, Austin, TX 78712
- Bay Area: P.O. Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604
- Boston: P.O. Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
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- Detroit: 16155 Meyers, Detroit, MI 48235
- Gary: P.O. Box 426, Gary, IN 46402
- Los Angeles: P.O. Box 1545, Lynwood, CA 90262
- New Jersey: P.O. Box 897, Chestnut Station, Union, NJ 07083
- New York: 30 E. 20th St., Room 207, New York, NY 10003
- Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120
- Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

Workers' Power  
313-869-5964

# DETROIT TO NEW ENGLAND:

# "SORRY 'BOUT THAT!"

From our offices in Detroit, Workers' Power sends condolences to the embittered football fans of New England.

It's the least we can do. We know how they must feel.

New England fans have good reason to think the National Foot-

ball League product is a little "tainted," to say the least.

Many of them even think the Baltimore Colts went "in the tank" Sunday to lose to the inept Detroit Lions in the last nine seconds on a blocked punt, of all things.

This unbelievable freak play all but wrecked the New England

Patriots' hope for a Super Bowl playoff spot.

It's much too complicated to explain, but the NFL's illogical, arbitrary method of breaking ties in the standings meant that Baltimore, by losing this game, wrecked New England's chances without harming their own.

It seems that Baltimore actually was better off losing than winning! All we can say, folks, is it wasn't our fault. Please believe us.

Really, would you believe that was the first big play the Lions made all year? It must have been a horrible mistake, an accident.

Let the NFL know loud and clear what you think of its idiotic hype-the-ratings tiebreaker system.

Meanwhile, be thankful at least you get to suffer with the Patriots—here in Detroit we're stuck with the Lions.

Dan Posen

# VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

BOOKS MUSIC TELEVISION ADS MOVIES TRENDS BOOKS MUSIC TELEVISION ADS MOVIES TRENDS BOOKS MUS

## Fed Up With Baby Burps?

# BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT REAL PEOPLE

by Amy Bromsen

Are you tired of having a hard time finding gifts for your children?

Do you think you have to choose between Baby Burps, a Starsky and Hutch car and an R-2 D-2 copy robot? Do you wish you could give your kids something educational that presents a different picture of America, something that explains the world more like you see it?

Today there is an alternative. Today there are several books written for young people that tell working people's side of the story. This is something they can't get in school, from the big newspapers, and certainly not from TV.

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**Struggle & Lose, Struggle & Win** is the miners' own story of how they built the United Mine Workers union—"born out of bitter and bloody struggles that claimed the lives of thousands of working men, women and children."

The book, for ages 12 and up, begins with a history of the coal mining region and the beginnings of the labor movement in this country. It is a history of the struggles of working people against the big employers.

"Struggle" is 100% for the union.

The book's criticisms of the UMW leadership are all in the context of making the union more effective. It is against corruption, bureaucracy, and giving into government compromises with the employers, opposed to no-strike pledges and anti-communism, and in favor of unity across racial and sexual divisions.

The authors have a clear point of view, one you won't find in many books: Only if rank and file miners take control of their union and make it work for them can they

have a union that really fights for them against the coal companies and the government.

There are no individual heroes in "Struggle." Not John L. Lewis, even though he was a hero to many miners for many years; nor Jock Yablonski, who is described as "wavering," "a comfortable local officer who had to rediscover his dedication to the miners"; not Arnold Miller.

The heroes of this book are the miners who risked their lives to build a movement to take back control of their union and bring democracy to the UMWA. For once there's a book that shows that the really big changes in history are made by ordinary people like you and me.

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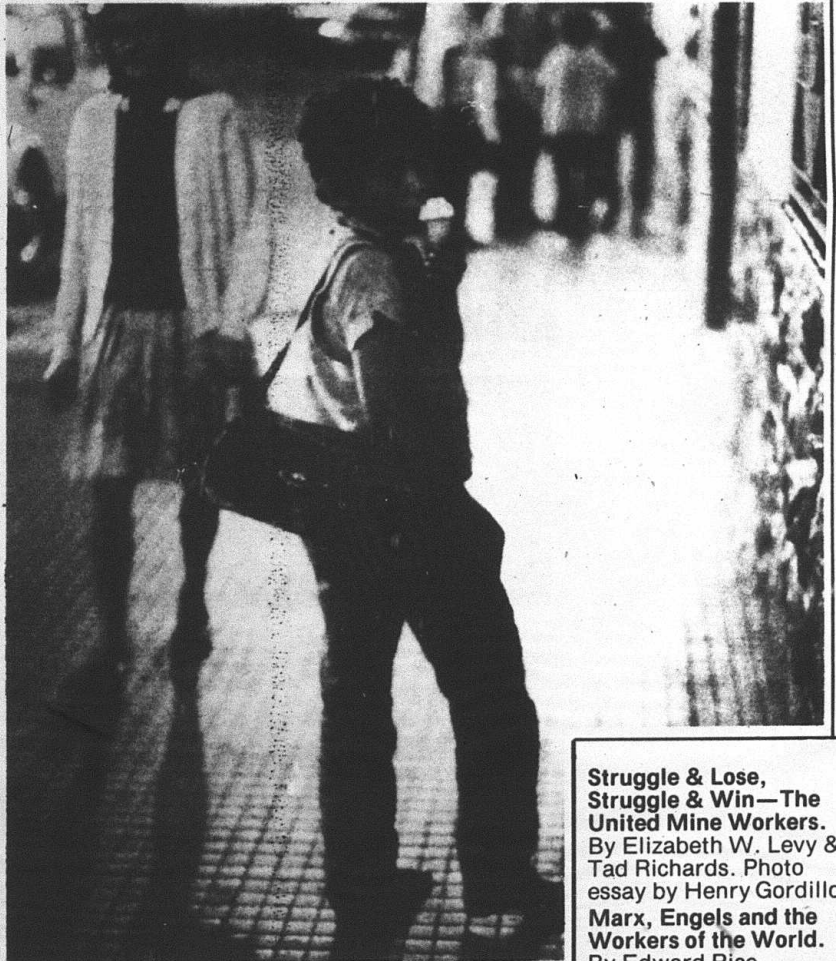
**Marx, Engels and the Workers of the World.** This book, for ages 12 and up, is really more appropriate for readers 15 and older who know a little about Marxism.

The author tries to do too much. We learn everything about Marx and Engels' lives and the fight inside the first international workers' organization, and nothing about the importance of the First International itself.

The book could be more lively. But for a high school student who's interested in socialist politics, this is the only book available on the beginnings of Marxism.

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**Lito, The Shoeshine Boy.** This is



Lito, the shoeshine boy. Photo from the book.

the story of a young boy abandoned by his parents in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. It is for ages eight and up.

Lito lives by hustling for shoeshines and selling papers in the streets. The beautiful photographs

help tell the story of his fight to survive by his wits in an unfriendly world.

It is realistic, too. Like most real life, there is not the traditional "happy ending" forced onto most children's books.

**Struggle & Lose, Struggle & Win—The United Mine Workers.** By Elizabeth W. Levy & Tad Richards. Photo essay by Henry Gordillo.

**Marx, Engels and the Workers of the World.** By Edward Rice.

**Lito, The Shoeshine Boy.** By Lito Chirinos, told to and translated by David Mangurian.

Four Winds Press, 50 W. 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

# Workers' Power

## Merry Christmas, Essex Strikers

by Elissa Clarke

Six years ago, Carol Frye enjoyed a very special Christmas when her first child, a son, was born.

On December 25, Art will be six years old. But this birthday, and this Christmas, have been touched by tragedy.

**Carol Frye was shot in the back six months ago. She was wounded on the picket line at Essex Wire Corporation. Carol and her husband divorced recently.**

The strike began uneventfully eight months ago in a quiet, sleepy town—Elwood, Indiana. But it turned into a battle, with real bullets, and real blood.

Carol was shot by company 'guards' — armed strike-breakers hired by Essex to break the union. Essex Wire was organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW) seven years ago.

Christmas looks bleak for Carol and her children. "We'll have a Christmas tree and some presents," Carol told Workers' Power. "But I don't have the money to buy very much." The strikers get \$40 a week strike benefits.

But it's not just that there will be fewer presents this Christmas. Carol lives with a tragedy that will affect her whole life. She hopes to go back to work "eventually", but the bullet is still lodged near her spine, just below her neck. Doctors fear that an operation would be too dangerous.

**Although Carol's children are very young, they know their mommy will never be the same again.**

"The children know I've been shot," Carol said. "But they just can't understand why I can't do the things I used to do. Back when it was warm, my little boy wanted to learn how to ride a bicycle. I couldn't run to hold him up. I can't run; I can't play ball; I can't swim."

"My daughter, Annette, is three. She doesn't understand why I can't hold her all the time."

### UNION BUSTING

Why did Essex Wire Corporation shoot Carol Frye?

Essex is a vicious, anti-union company. Although Essex is owned by United Technologies, one of the biggest corporations in America, they only pay their workers \$2.76 an hour. Essex is determined to break this strike, and keep wages down. They don't care who suffers because of it.

During July, three months into the strike, 88 scabs worked in the plant. But after a tense confrontation between the scabs and the strikers, the sheriff said he could not protect the scabs any more and called it quits. The plant was shut down.

The company asked Indiana Governor Bowen to send in state troops to protect the scabs. But



Carol Frye reads to her children, Art and Annette.

**"The children know I've been shot, but they just can't understand why I can't do the things I used to do."**

Indiana law forbids sending in state troopers unless the strike is violent.

**Essex had Carol Frye shot to prove the strike was violent.**

On the night of July 11, Carol Frye went down to the picket line. "It wasn't even my picket duty," she explained. "It was third shift. That's a lonely shift in the middle of the night. So I went down to accompany them."

But Carol made one mistake. She wore a red, white, and blue striped blouse. That made her an easy target. About three in the morning, a shot rang out. "Oh my god, I'm shot!" Carol yelled.

For a few moments, the strikers waited in terror in the dark, unable to reach her. The guards shot a flare into the air as they made their way back through a hole in the fence; the strikers saw them go into the plant.

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

The bullet that Carol Frye carries changed the balance of forces in the strike. Essex got what they

wanted: the governor sent in the troops. Five days after Carol was shot, Essex reopened the plant; business as usual.

**The Essex strike is eight months old. The strikers face a dreary Christmas with no money to buy gifts for their children and grandchildren.**

Meanwhile, the plant is operating. One hundred scabs work twelve hours a day, seven days a week. Every offer that the company makes is the same: 62c over three years; scabs to get top seniority as non-union employees; strikers rehired "as needed".

The United Auto Workers has the power to bring Essex to its knees. But they haven't even kept the scabs out! Instead, they urge the strikers to take the company's offer, warning them that it's the best they're going to get.

**If the Essex strikers go back for 62c, at the end of the contract they would be making just pennies more than the minimum wage! Is that what they need a union for?**

### INSPIRE

The strikers know they can't settle for that. "I haven't given up," Carol said. "Even if I'm unable to work, I wouldn't give up for the rest. I wouldn't go back without the others because they were fighting for my job as well as theirs, the same as I was fighting for them."

The unity of the strikers is inspiring. They are mostly older women, widowed, divorced, handicapped. This is their first strike, but they are courageous and determined.

They know that they are fighting a battle that reaches far wider than themselves. "If they can get us to make these parts for \$2.76 an hour, they're not going to pay some Ford or Chrysler workers \$7.00 an hour!" Georgia Ellis, a leader of the strike, pointed out.

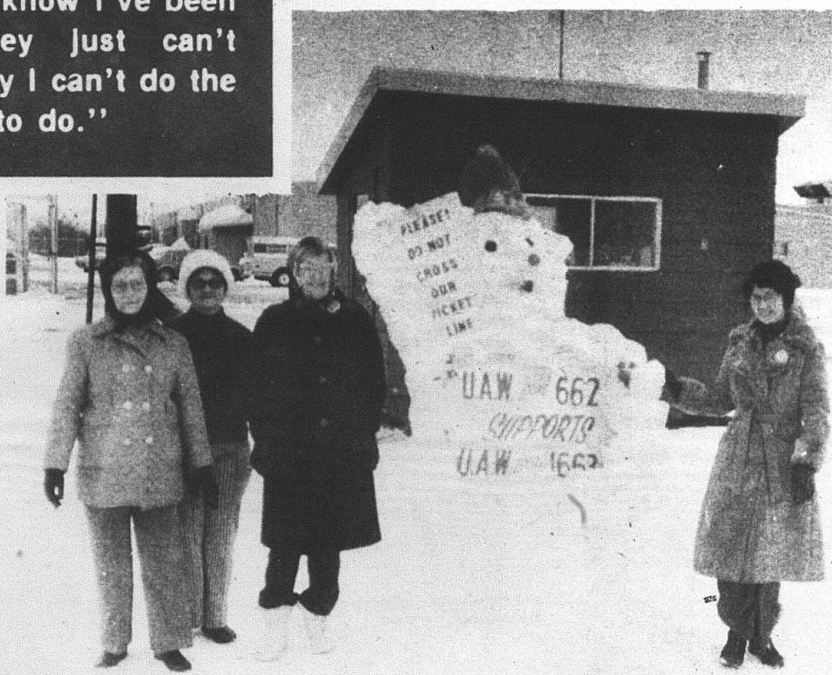
**Help the Essex strike win! Raise the story of the strikers where you work. Get resolutions of support. Pass the hat. Help the strikers keep their morale high by sending them money for Christmas.**

"People have been so wonderful to me," Carol Frye told us. "They had a trust fund set up, they have taken up collections for me, bought me groceries, offered to help pay my utilities, or come over and help me clean up my house."

"They realize that I was out there for their benefit as well as mine. We've all got to help each other or we won't make it." □

Send contributions to Carol Frye to: Carol Frye Fund, Security Bank, 125 South Anderson Street, Elwood, Indiana 46036.

To make donations to the strike fund, write: Essex Strike Support Committee, P.O. Box 179, Elwood, Indiana 46036.



Essex strikers built a snowman on the picket line. The strike is approaching its ninth month.