

# WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS FEBRUARY 6, 1978 #240 25c

Automakers Downsize—  
Wages, Jobs and  
Conditions

pp. 6-7

# MINERS' STRIKE SHOWING MUSCLE

**Suddenly the smug smiles have turned to frowns.**

When the miners went on strike two months ago, there were such big coal stockpiles, or so we were told, that the strike could go indefinitely before it had much effect.

"Let 'em strike til July," you could hear the coal operators chortle.

**Well, for some folks, it seems July has come early this year.**

The operators expected the strike to collapse and the miners to crawl back to work long ago.

Even though the miners are in a weaker position this year, the union's rank and file isn't about to give up.

This has finally started to get through to the coal operators and utilities and steel companies and railroads and newspapers and TV

networks and all manner of politicians and the rest of the higher elements of this society.

And now, great howls of protest are beginning to be heard.

"Coal Crisis," screams the banner headline of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Power Cut is part of CEI plan [Gov.] Rhodes calls for Carter's intervention."

Indeed, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. (CEI), and a dozen

other major utilities, are running low on coal and may soon institute power cutbacks.

At the same time, the coal operators are heard squabbling among themselves.

Suddenly, the real strength of the miners is showing through. But there is a serious possibility that the union leadership will soon settle on extremely inadequate terms.

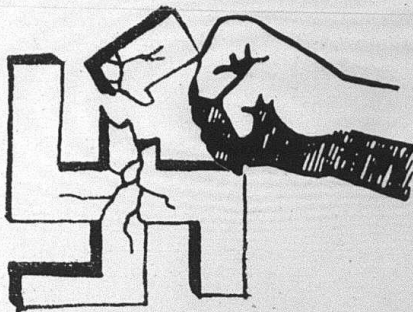


Most utility and industrial coal users say their stockpiles are sufficient to maintain operations through a coal miners' strike—if the strike does not last more than 90 days.

Fifty days into the strike, businessmen and politicians got worried.

- For the latest developments in the miners' strike, see page 11.
- For the story on what rank and file union members are doing to support the miners, see page 5.

## Detroit: stop the Nazis!



Since Nazis opened a storefront in Detroit in December they have been met with numerous pickets opposing them.

United Effort Against Fascism was formed last month to bring together the various groups fighting the Nazis presence in the city's southwest side. A leaflet put out by "Effort" says:

"We want the people of Detroit to show that we will drive the Nazis out—that the decent people of this city, the working people and our families will not tolerate their intimidation or their hate.

"We want the whole community—Black and white, Chicano and Pole, to show these Nazis that we know who

they are, we know what they want to do, and we will not allow it.

"We are all of us trying to make Detroit a decent place to live again. We are trying to end the hatred and tensions in our community. The Nazis want the opposite.

"There is no place for Nazis in our city. The people of Detroit will prove it to them."

□ □ □

For full coverage of the Nazis in Detroit and what they're doing, their goals and how to defeat them, see pages 8 and 9. □

### HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED LAST WEEK

Last week's Workers' Power was ready to go, but the blizzard closed our printer and forced cancellation of the issue. We're sorry for any inconvenience this caused to WP readers and sellers. Much of last week's paper has been saved and included in this week's expanded issue.

### Workers' Power

### THIS COULD BE MADE ILLEGAL

Labor reform bill aids union organizing but threatens wildcat strikes



**DETROITERS: RUN THE NAZIS OUT OF TOWN!**

### Demonstration Against Nazi Office

Saturday, February 11. 2:00

March from Patton Park (Vernor and Woodmere) to Nazi headquarters at Vernor and Central

# A Banker Draws A Red Line — And A Community Dies

**Will the last person to leave Detroit please turn off the lights?**

So reads a popular bumper sticker.

Detroit's obituary has been written many times over. But some Detroiters are not accepting the decay of their city—they are fighting back.

by Elissa Clarke

A bank manager takes a red pencil and draws a line around a neighborhood—or even a whole city—and says, 'We're not writing any more mortgages in this area.'

That is where redlining—the practice of refusing to insure or mortgage property because of its location—got its name.

Why? The banks and insurance companies say it's because these areas are "bad risks."

But as soon as they refuse to invest in an area, they guarantee it will decay.

One building burns. The owner, Mr. Smith, never fixes it. Of course not—he can't afford to because he has no insurance.

Next door, the people move out. Who wants to live next to a burned out hulk? They can't sell their house because prospective buyers can't get a mortgage. The house is boarded up.

Now the neighborhood is "going down"—just as Mr. Smith's insurance agent predicted it would!

That is the legacy of redlining.

## WIDOW

A movement to fight mortgage redlining has been going on in several states. But insurance redlining can be equally devastating.

Here is what insurance redlining means for one Detroit. Two years ago, a widow living on Social Security bought a house near the State Fair grounds for \$7500. She paid \$48 annually for insurance.

Today, she pays \$123 to the same company for \$15,000 worth of coverage. Two weeks ago, her house was appraised at \$6500.

For other Detroiters, there is no insurance at all. People are afraid to make claims on their policies for fear that they will be dropped—but people are dropped whether or not they've had any claims.

Mortgages are denied—no reason given. Home owners wanting to make improvements on their property cannot get loans.

"These banks were taking our money and investing it in the suburbs," said Joe Drobot.

Drobot was formerly associated with the Michigan Avenue Community Organization, a group that is fighting redlining. (Michigan Avenue is a largely Chicano and Polish community on Detroit's southwest side.)

"When we went to ask for a loan they told us the minimum loan they could make was \$15,000 or \$20,000. That rules out most of the houses in our area," Drobot explained.

## THREE CENTS

In other states, city residents experienced the same problems.

A survey conducted in Chicago by the Federal Home Bank Board revealed that Chicago's older

neighborhoods received 3c in loans and mortgages for every dollar deposited—while suburban community's received 30c.

Cincinnati, Cleveland, California, Massachusetts, New York, and Illinois have passed legislation against redlining.

Most of the legislation covers only mortgages and home improvement loans. The fight against insurance redlining is only beginning to gain momentum.

Some states have developed alternatives to private insurance plans. These "Fair Plans" are designed as a last resort for people denied coverage by private industry.

## NO ALTERNATIVE

However the Fair Plans are not terribly fair. In New York, for example, the Fair Plan charges premiums that are sometimes five times higher than the going rate.

As a result, the Fair Plan is no alternative for the people it is supposed to help—they simply cannot afford to pay the premiums.

In Michigan, many community groups and block clubs have organized to fight redlining. That fight resulted in legislation that outlaws denial of loans on the basis of the racial or ethnic characteristics of a neighborhood, or the age of a house. The bill will go into effect in July.

by Marilyn Danton

REMEMBER IN THE FALL of 1976 when Jimmy Carter promised "clean, honest government" if he was elected?

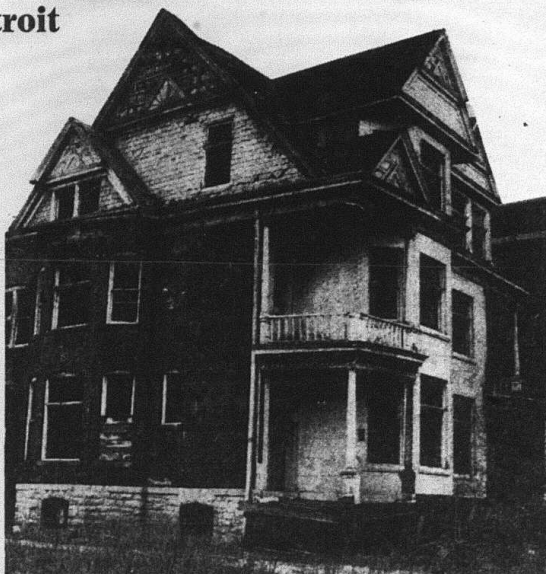
Remember Carter promised to restore faith in the government by appointed U.S. attorneys on the sole basis of merit?

Maybe you don't remember the last one. Jimmy Carter obviously has forgotten both promises.

□ □ □

LAST TUESDAY the Justice Department officially cleared Attorney General Griffin Bell and President Carter of charges of obstructing justice and improper conduct in the recent firing of Philadelphia U.S. Attorney David Marston.

This is a blatant cover-up. Marston, a Republican, had been involved in a series of investigations into political corruption in Philadelphia. These investigations



There are thousands of houses like this in Detroit—empty, abandoned, eye-sores, fire hazards. The banks think they know when a neighborhood is "going down." Sure they do—because they make the decision to withdraw the very money that is necessary to keep the area healthy and growing. One study showed that for every dollar deposited in a bank by a neighborhood in the city, the bank gave them 3c in loans. Suburban communities receive 30c for every dollar deposited.

A person who can prove he has been redlined can sue the lending institution.

But the jury is still out on the effectiveness of this bill.

Ms. Mary Malone, a member of the Winship Community Council on Detroit's west side, told Workers' Power, "I think we're going to have to wait and see how it's enforced—and how it can be enforced."

"I don't think people usually can prove that they've been redlined."

## INSURANCE

Currently, there is another bill pending in the Michigan legislature that would require insurance companies to insure homes and cars in Detroit—if they want to write any policies in Michigan at all.

# Did you hear the one about clean government?

had already led to two convictions of prominent state Democratic politicians last summer.

He was currently investigating two other prominent Philadelphia Democrats, Representatives Joshua Eilberg and Daniel Flood for allegedly profiting from a \$65 million hospital financed partly with federal money.

Marston's firing followed quickly on the heels of a telephone call to Carter from none other than Eilberg last November.

Eilberg urged Carter to "expedite" the firing of Marston, and to replace him with "a Democrat, any Democrat."

## DISMISSED

On January 12, Carter was asked at a press conference about the Marston incident. He replied that he didn't know too much about Marston except that "he had a very heavy commitment to calling press conferences...."

On January 19, Bell dismissed Marston, later temporarily replacing him with his assistant Robert N. DeLuca, a Republican as well.

Carter and Bell denied any knowledge of the current investigation into Eilberg and Flood's activities.

But, the facts speak for themselves:

- The U.S. Justice Department was involved in a separate investigation of Eilberg.

- Marston stated that he specifically mentioned Eilberg in his November report to the Justice Department source, the fact that Marston was conducting the investigation was discussed with Bell by his two top aides on Friday, January 12, one week exactly before Marston was fired.

Clean Jimmy and the Attorney General have maintained that they were only following the usual political patronage system of rewarding loyal party members

Ms. Malone said, "It's going to be a very hard fight. The insurance companies have had very few regulations up to this point. They don't want it."

Redlining is very difficult to prove. Few lending institutions are still stupid enough to admit that they denied an application because the neighborhood is Black or "turning."

Instead, they say they can't mortgage a home that is more than 30 years old—or 25 years, or even 20.

Or they refuse to lend less than a fixed minimum—say \$20,000—which means that many of the housing bargains in the city are effectively eliminated.

Or they only offer mortgages for short terms—say 12 years instead of the conventional 20 to 30. That way the down payments and the monthly payments are so high that many people cannot afford them.

All of these practices effectively redline, without validating a charge of racial discrimination.

## CHICKEN/EGG

Statistical studies show that banks and insurance companies have three basic reasons for redlining—race or ethnicity (a Polish neighborhood may be as likely to be redlined as a Black one); age of housing; and potential for financial loss.

Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? When a neighborhood is redlined, banks withdraw the very money that is required to maintain the health of the area.

The decision to redline is often made in advance of the decline of the neighborhood—as if the banks know something that home buyers don't.

What they know is that the neighborhood is "going down"—and they can prove it, because they cause it! □

with appointments to the U.S. Attorney's offices.

According to Bell: "So there are a lot of complaints about Mr. Marston. They say we ought to have a Democrat as U.S. attorney in Philadelphia... this is the political system in the country."

## THE FOURTH

So much for cleaning up corruption in Philadelphia. Marston is the fourth U.S. Attorney ousted for investigating political corruption in Philadelphia. So much for hiring and firing attorneys on the basis of merit. So much for clean, honest government.

First Bert Lance, now David Marston. It is a return to politics as usual. As usual as the Nixon-era White House plumbers, Watergate coverup and obvious obstruction of justice.

Too bad Jimmy. That's about all you had left going for you. □

# Proposed labor reform a mixed bag

by Paul Broz

For many Americans, the prospect of working in a union shop for good wages and with decent working conditions is just a dream. Many employers, especially in the south, ruthlessly crush any attempt at union organizing, often willfully violating the law.

Penalties for law violations are slight and procedures for conducting union representation elections are slow.

For these and other reasons, major unions, faced with shrinking membership rolls, have sought help in organizing from Congress,

in the form of a sweeping Labor Law Reform Bill.

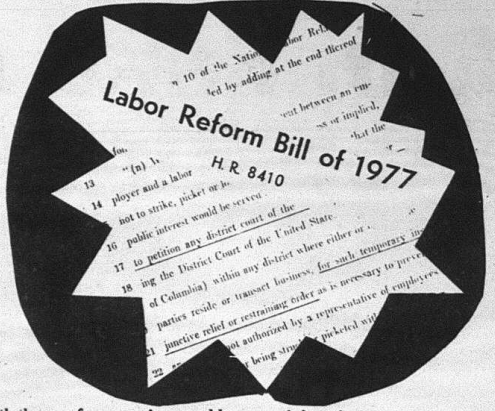
The bill passed the House, in October, by a wide margin, and is now being debated in the Senate. United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser termed the passage "a giant step toward justice and equity... the bill recognizes the basic human rights of workers."

Business representatives, however, are not so pleased. Clarence Randall, a corporate lobbyist, said, "This is the most outrageous demonstration of unchecked union power ever witnessed on Capitol Hill."

Here's what the law, if enacted,

would do:

- Set timetables for the holding of union representation elections.
- Require employers to give 1½ times back pay and immediate reinstatement to workers illegally fired during an organizing campaign and until the signing of a first contract.
- Bar flagrant and repeat violators, such as J.P. Stevens, from receiving federal contracts, at least in some cases.
- Compensate workers in the event an employer refuses to bargain on a first contract.
- Allow unions equal time with the bosses to campaign on paid company time.



With these reforms, unions could more easily and cheaply "organize the unorganized," especially in the south, but one provision of the bill, Section 12, is strongly anti-labor.

It would allow the National Labor Relations Board to seek injunctions against strikes if the strike is unauthorized, or the contract contains an "implied" no-strike clause, and if the Labor Board believes the "public interest" would best be served by ending the strike, even if it is not in violation of any law.

Those who designed this section stated that it was aimed "at the problem of stranger picketing in the coalfields of West Virginia and Kentucky."

Picketing by those not covered by a contract, for instance, relatives and friends of union members, could also be barred.

use injunctions against picketing... However, if it comes down to a Labor Reform Bill with Section 12, or no bill at all, we would take the bill."

## LABOR LAW

It was labor militancy—sometimes physical battles between workers and employers (or the government acting on behalf of the employers)—which created the major industrial unions during the years of the Depression.

Since then, government labor policy has been to try to channel worker discontent into established channels—collective bargaining, during which deals are made with employers in exchange for labor peace.

To lay, union leaders often find themselves unable to deliver the goods, and, to their deep embarrassment, unable to control their ranks. Union members distrust their union leaders as much as they distrust their political leaders.

This rank and file discontent has led to the formation of such organizations as Miners for Democracy and Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

Section 12, which invites the use of labor injunctions, challenges the basic democratic rights of workers to organize and fight independently within unions.

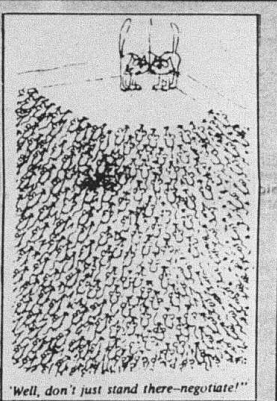
How strongly present union leadership, often the target of this rank and file anger, will oppose Section 12 remains to be seen. □

# Autoworkers challenge section of labor bill

by Jim Barczyk  
UAW Local 372  
Chairman, Trenton Defense Committee

DETROIT—Union members at a January 15 United Auto Workers Local 372 meeting were presented with an unusual situation.

They were asked to endorse a Labor Reform Bill which very few people knew anything about. Charlie Hill, union trustee, gave a report on the New Orleans Skilled Trades Conference, during which he asked for the signing of petitions in favor of the Labor Reform Bill.



He couldn't say anything more about the bill other than to state that the UAW was 100% behind it, and that "the ability to organize the unorganized would be greatly enhanced by passage of this bill."

Willie Ways, chairman of the rank and file political group in the local called for "writing hand-written letters in your own words" to speed passage of the bill.

When questioned about specifics, neither Hill nor Ways could supply any details.

I then spoke in opposition to the endorsements. The bill has many good parts, but Section 12 would give injunction powers to the Labor Relations Board, which could be used when union members wildcat—a strike that is not authorized by union officials.

People couldn't believe that they were being asked to call for passage of a bill with such a provision.

Members of our local had faced a court injunction last summer during a wildcat resulting from excessive heat. Seven of our members had been sentenced to a week in jail as a result of that injunction. Now, if another heat walkout occurred next summer, we could face two injunctions, one from the court,

one from the National Labor Relations Board.

Bob Stair, Financial Secretary, said, "The UAW probably drafted this section because of their loss of control over strikes in the recent past."

"Last summer's strike at Trenton Engine was unique in that the UAW was conspicuous by their absence."

The matter was finally referred to the Political Action Committee for further investigation.

The Committee met January 19, and invited representatives from the UAW International to attend and present their arguments in favor of Section 12. But the International declined, saying that they weren't sufficiently prepared to answer their questions.

Joseph Bingel, International Typographical Union vice president, has called Section 12 a "time-bomb set to explode in the faces of workers the next time they band together for their mutual protection."

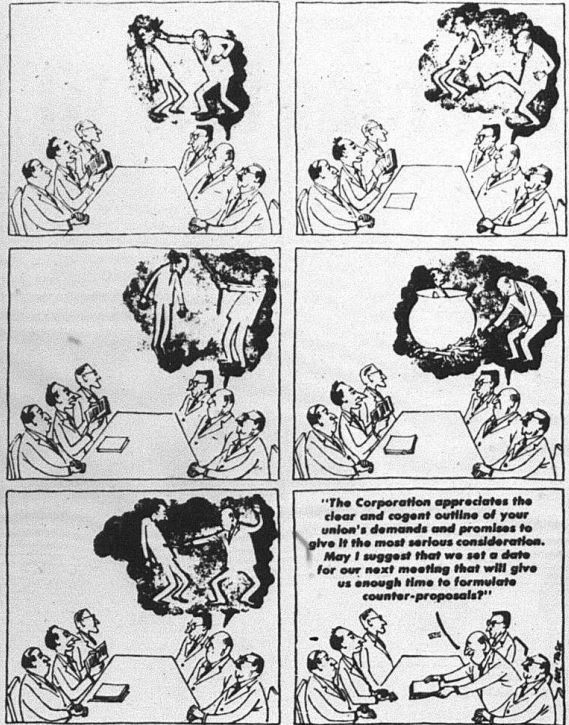
He also said that this section "is so hopelessly imprecise especially in its reference to 'implied' agreements not to strike—so open-ended in its possible effect that it could easily turn back the clock and revive the evil of government by injunction."

## BACKGROUND

Historically, the labor injunction has always been the most hated anti-labor weapon in the employer's arsenal. The first court rulings on labor relations held that labor unions themselves were criminal conspiracies.

Because of the labor injunction's sordid past, some unions, the UAW and the International Typographers Union among them, have opposed Section 12.

UAW Legal Representative Leonard Page, told Workers' Power, "We are against the National Labor Relations Board, or any other party, having the right to



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# Can Fake Peace Talks Stop Zimbabwe Liberation?

by Dan Posen

IF YOU BELIEVE television news, the war in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is about to end.

This week or next, Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith will reach a so-called "internal settlement" with three Black politicians on a new division of political power.

The three Black leaders, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the "United African National Council," will agree to safeguard white property rights and the investments of multinational mining and manufacturing corporations.

The Rhodesian Army, the same white-run gang of cutthroats and foreign mercenaries who massacred 900 refugees and civilians at the Chimoio refugee camp in Mozambique, will be magically transformed into protectors of "the peaceful transition to majority rule."

And the Zimbabwean guerilla forces, who have been waging a

ten-year war for liberation, will either melt away or be easily defeated.

## BELIEVE IT?

And if you believe all that, then you must have believed the American army in Vietnam was "winning the hearts and minds of the people."

Inside Zimbabwe, the story is slightly different from what official news reports say.

Over a month ago, guerillas from the Patriotic Front (the alliance of liberation movements) were able to attack a major Rhodesian military base, called Grand Reef.

They also struck in the middle of a major mining town, Shabani, and other strategic targets.

Since that time, Rhodesia has clamped total censorship on all news. The white government is working to hide the fact that the guerillas' liberation offensive has intensified.

American newspaper and television correspondents are fully cooperating with the Rhodesian censors.

They are telling the world that Black majority support in Zimbabwe is totally behind the so-called "Black moderates" who are negotiating with Ian Smith.

It is, in fact, very likely that a coalition government of white racists and Black puppets led by Muzorewa will be set up. But this has nothing to do with mass Black support.

## U.S. INDUSTRY

The real force behind a so-called "internal settlement" would be western industrial and banking giants.

Representatives of Union Carbide, Mobil Oil, 3-M, Citibank and Chase Manhattan met last October with former U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers. He told them they had a "vital role to play" in the

future of Zimbabwe.

If these corporations and the American government think that Ian Smith's settlement with Muzorewa and the Black puppets can succeed, they will throw their economic and political muscle behind it.

But the American ruling class is not convinced by its own television propaganda. It knows that the real Black liberation force—the Patriotic Front guerillas—are actually gaining strength.

That's the reason why Andrew Young and British Foreign Secretary David Owen met with Patriotic Front leaders at Malta this week.

## SAME GOAL

Officially, the British and Americans are on record against Smith's internal settlement. They have their own plan, calling for a British Resident Commissioner to take over Rhodesia while a "peaceful compromise settlement" is worked

out. But the Anglo-American peace plan and Ian Smith's settlement have the same goal: to force the six million Black majority of Zimbabwe to accept continued domination by a white-controlled business and military elite.

The western powers are desperately trying to split the guerilla forces, hoping that one leader of the Patriotic Front, Joshua Nkomo, will accept the Anglo-American plan.

For if the guerilla fighters' movements remain unified and militant, no sellout in the world can stop the liberation war. □



"Protected villages"—concentration camps for villagers in Zimbabwe. The army murders dozens of Blacks every week for curfew violations.

## HERE'S A SUMMARY of the main points of Ian Smith's "internal settlement" with Bishop Muzorewa and other so-called Black moderates:

- 28 out of 100 seats in Parliament reserved for the 4% white minority. That is, one white vote equals seven Black votes.
- Constitutional guarantees of private property. That means continued economic privilege for white farmers, manufacturers and administrators who live off Black labor.
- Security to be controlled by the present Rhodesian Army. The army will continue to hold hundreds of thousands of Black villagers in concentration camps called "protected villages."
- Assurances that no future Black majority government would be allowed to change the Constitution against white opposition. □

## 60 Minutes Shills For Ian Smith

SUPPOSE YOU'RE SITTING home watching a TV news special on Alabama.

It's at the height of the civil rights movement in the mid-1960's a few years back.

George Wallace has just made his famous stand in the schoolhouse door to keep the University of Alabama segregated.

Blacks demanding the right to vote have been beaten and arrested in the streets of Birmingham and Selma by Wallace's police.

Now, imagine that the TV program's message is this: George Wallace is working hard to bring peace and racial harmony to Alabama.

Things are changing, and if it wasn't for those agitators who go around stirring up trouble, all the state's problems would soon be solved, the program concludes.

## NOW, RHODESIA

Now repeat this scenario, changing Alabama to Rhodesia and George Wallace to Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith, and you have the kind of insult that CBS-TV's "Sixty Minutes" presented January 29.

The difference is that Rhodesia is far away, and not many many Americans know the details of what's going on there. And "Sixty Minutes" has a reputation for being honest and hard-hitting.

But what CBS served up was a press release for Ian Smith's white supremacist government.

Smith was portrayed as the man who was trying to do his best to bring democracy to Rhodesia, despite the guerilla fighters who, CBS said, go around terrorizing the population.

CBS said the guerillas oppose democracy. It didn't mention Ian Smith's proposal for a Constitution to give every white the voting strength of seven Blacks.

CBS called the guerillas terrorist murderers of civilians. It didn't report how, in December, 57 Black civilians, mostly children, died from poisoned canned food which the Rhodesian Army left on the road for the freedom fighters.

Also omitted were scenes of the rural "protected villages" surrounded by barbed wire where over 300,000 Blacks are forced to live.

And CBS left out one other thing. It didn't reveal that it cleared every piece of footage it shot with Rhodesia's military censors before leaving the country. □

# Wilmington 10 Denied Pardon

by Karen Kaye

BE IN FRONT of the White House March 25 if you want to fight racism and injustice.

That's the day the Wilmington 10 and their supporters have set for a demonstration to "let Jimmy Carter know that there are some serious violations of human rights in North Carolina."

The 10 were convicted of arson and conspiracy charges in October, 1972, and were handed among the stiffest sentences ever in North Carolina for an arson conviction where no one was injured.

The case began in the struggle for Black people's rights. That struggle has continued at every step: from jury selection, through the trial, hearings, appeals.

Governor James Hunt's refusal on January 23 to grant a pardon of innocence to the 10 was the latest victory for racism.

## NIGHT RIDERS

In early 1971, Black Wilmington high school students were peacefully protesting the way court-ordered school desegregation was being carried out. In this Ku Klux Klan stronghold, white reaction was swift.

As tensions built, members of

North Carolina's Good Neighbor Council invited Rev. Ben Chavis of the United Church of Christ's Racial Justice Commission to come from Raleigh to try to calm the situation.

On the night of February 6, armed whites were riding the streets in pickup trucks. They fired into a church where Black people had armed themselves and gathered. Later that night, a nearby white-owned grocery was fire-bombed.

Allen Hall, arrested that night, testified later that the cops told him they "didn't want me, they wanted Ben Chavis."

Why? Because Chavis' arrest would provide a Black scapegoat for the violence, and advance the career of District Attorney Jay Stroud, who later prosecuted the case against the Wilmington 10.

Besides Chavis, eight other Black men and one white anti-poverty worker were arrested.

## TRIAL

Their trial was marked by racism and was an obvious continuation of the frame-up.

When a jury of 10 Blacks and two whites was selected, an assistant D.A. developed a sto-

mach ache. The judge granted a mistrial.

In the second jury selection, the judge declared that membership in the Ku Klux Klan was not reason to reject a juror.

The second jury was 10 whites and two Blacks.

The prosecution based its case on the testimony of three witnesses. All three have since recanted, saying the D.A. bribed and threatened them into lying on the witness stand and prepared false testimony for them.

Jay Stroud has admitted buying a mini-bike for one witness, and finding him a job.

While two witnesses were memorizing their false testimony, Stroud housed them for a time in a beach house owned by Tex Gross, a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.

When witness Jerome Mitchell confessed his perjury, he wrote to the Court of Appeals, the attorney general, two governors and the parole board from his prison cell.

Only the parole board even acknowledged receiving his letter. Nothing happened.

Since the witnesses recanted, State Judge George M. Fountain denied a new trial, and the North Carolina Court of Appeals on

January 5, 1978 declined to overturn that decision.

## POLITICAL PRISONERS

But others see the case differently. Amnesty International put the Wilmington 10 on their world-wide list of political prisoners held in violation of human rights.

A petition of 300,000 signatures demanding their freedom was presented to a hearing in May.

Instead of granting a pardon, Governor Hunt shortened the sentences, making the nine still in prison eligible for parole earlier.

In his speech, televised statewide, the governor emphasized that he believes the 10 are guilty, and that parole is not automatic.

Having passed a law that allows North Carolina governors to run for second consecutive terms, Democrat Hunt now needs support from white racist voters and backers, despite his reputation as a liberal on race issues. Hunt faces a right wing challenger in 1980.

Defense attorney James Ferguson called the governor's speech a "crass political appeal," and said the 10 will fight the racist frame-up.

Besides the March 25 White House demonstration, the 10 will appeal to the United Nations. □

# Support Grows In Atlanta AFSCME For McKinney Rebuild-the-union Campaign

by Jack Bloom

ATLANTA—A year after Black Democratic Mayor Maynard Scab Jackson defeated their strike, city workers here have stymied the city administration's attempts to break their union.

And one candidate in the Feb. 11 election for the presidency of AFSCME Local 1644 is determined to build a stronger union.

Candidate James McKinney wants to build a union that can go on the offensive against the bosses the workers face, whether they are the city administration, the Grady Hospital administration, or the school board. The local represents workers in all three areas.

It's no small task, but it's one which the membership has been training for, as they defended the union over the past year.

## BROKE WORK GROUPS

The city administration broke up work groups, sending workers to different locations.

Workers were moved from the union's strongest shop, the water works on 14th Street.

But these moves didn't weaken the union's shop floor strength. Strong places absorbed the newcomers.

The 14th Street installation recently beat back the city's attempt to break past practice and force the workers out in freezing weather. They did it by jointly refusing overtime.

Neither have the workers who left their old places given up. Many have been selected as stewards in their new workplaces.

In some cases, their new locations have a higher percent of union members than before.

It is in the spirit of these members and others like them that James McKinney is basing his campaign.

## EXAMPLE

Candidate McKinney has said that the way he conducts his campaign is an example of how he wants to conduct his administration.

One goal is to carry out an organizing drive to vastly increase the number of workers in the union.

Building a base for himself and his program during the election campaign is a first step.

Visiting two to five work locations a day, McKinney is building a network of solid union members based especially, but not exclusively, on stewards.

McKinney has begun by developing a group of "campaign coordinators," people who are his representatives in the various shops and departments.

He believes that the steward system is the focus around which the union should be built.

He wants to set up a stewards council to develop cooperation among different departments, and to identify common problems and common solutions.

Grievances should be settled more often at the first step, he says, avoiding the upper levels of the grievance procedure which are heavily stacked against the workers.

In order to accomplish this, McKinney wants to establish classes to train stewards in preparing grievances.

They also need training in how to carry out direct action in support of their goals, and how to organize

their shops to do it. McKinney wants to make the 14th Street installation a model for the rest of the local.

To build a union strong enough to withstand the city administration's efforts to destroy working conditions, rapid communication between stewards is vitally important.

Supervisors try to force their workers to break past rules or to set

up new ones. Instant communication between stewards can make it more difficult for them to pull it off. There is little question that McKinney will be elected over the incumbent Cleveland Chappel.

If McKinney can build up a strong enough base of support among the workers, he will have the chance to have a big effect upon the union and on the balance of power within the city.

# UNION BOWL

## Raising funds to back miners - A Bowl that's REALLY Super!

by Eric Stovall

PITTSBURGH—A game jersey worn by Joe Namath will be auctioned here February 4, to raise money for the miners' strike.

That's just one highlight in a unique and exciting display of solidarity, organized by rank and filers from about two dozen mills, mines, shops and barns who have formed a loose coalition called the Committee of Concerned Unionists.

The committee is planning a marathon seven-hour football game for February 4, to raise money and publicize the miners' side of the strike.

A wide base of support has been mobilized.

•Joe Namath has donated a game jersey for the auction and is sending a message of solidarity with the miners.

•Ernie Stautner, all-time great defensive tackle of the Pittsburgh Steelers, has also sent a solidarity message.

•Beer for the post-game party, to be held at Teamsters Local 249 Hall, has been donated by Iron City Beer and local bars. Music will be provided by bluegrass and other bands.

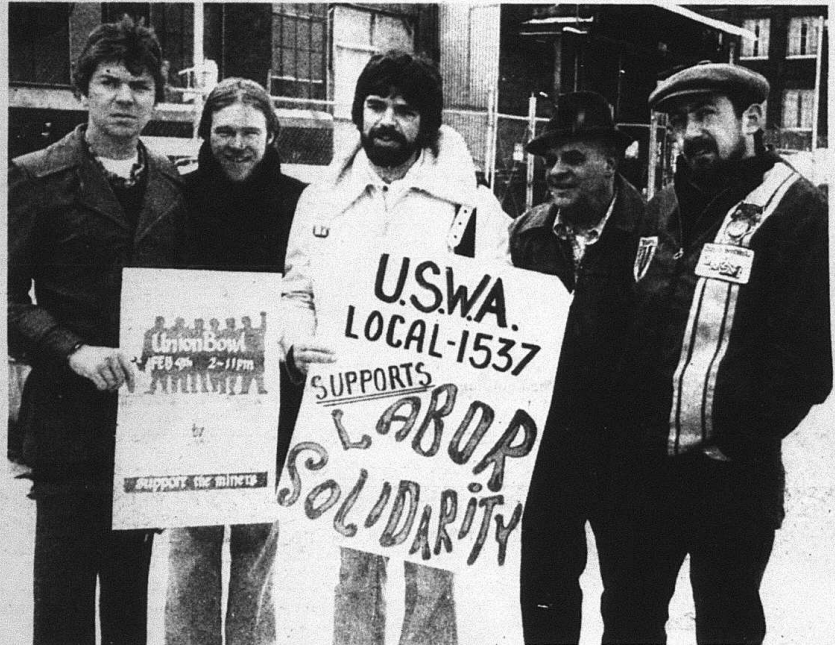
In addition to the local union teams, there will be 14 volunteer referees for the football marathon.

## TEAMS

Several of the local unions participating in the effort to aid the miners are on strike themselves.

The whole executive board and the members of UAW Local 1020 at the Wiegand company, on strike now for two months, have enthusiastically joined the effort and entered a team.

Wiegand has been the scene of mass picketing. One striker was run down by a scab.



Press conference announcing the Union Bowl at the Wiegand picket line. Left to right: Pat Burn and John Brosnan from Mesta Machine; Bill Ehman, Latrobe Steel; Bernie Casey, Wiegand; and Mel Pecker, Consolidated Freightways and Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

USWA local 7174 from Mesta Machine Co. has also entered a team. They have been on strike since last October and have been enjoined from mass picketing after a striker was run down by a foreman.

Running down of union members seems to be a rapidly growing popular sport in this area. USWA

Local 1531 at McConway and Torley Co. (also entering a team) recently had their recording secretary struck by a foreman with a truck.

The other striking locals with teams are the workers at Pittsburgh Gear, whose local president was fired; Pullman Standard USW local 1415, on strike for over two months, and most notably local

1537 USWA at Latrobe Steel, whose three-month-old strike has also been the scene of mass picketing.

In the case of Latrobe, U.S. marshals have been called in to escort scab trucks, and the local volunteer fire department once refused to cross the picket line to put out a fire.

## SOLIDARITY

This year's Union Bowl promises to be a real step towards union solidarity, involving hundreds of unionists.

Included with the football game in a nearby gymnasium will be showings of various movies such as *Harlan County USA*, *Union Maids*, and *sports films*.

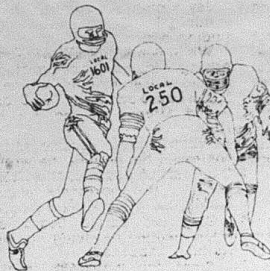
Also on the program will be speakers from the coal fields, striking shops, and also labor singer Jeanne Mackey.

After digging out of the 78 snow to make it to work on time and make ends meet, Pittsburgh's workers are digging in to help each other out and gain back some of the yardage that has been lost to the employers.

In the Union Bowl, you can bet the score will be the workers everything, and the bosses and scabs nothing.

## THE MATCH-UPS

Hours	Field One	Field Two
2:00-3:00	Jones & Laughlin Steel, USW Local 1843 vs. Firefighters, Local 1	Buckeye Mine vs. Firefighters Local 1
3:00-4:00	U.S. Steel Homestead USW Local 1397 vs. The Pennsylvania Social Services Union, Local 668	U.S. Steel's Dillworth Mine, UMWA vs. UPS, Teamsters Local 30
4:00-5:00	Duquesne Works, USW 1256 vs. United Department Store Employees, Local 101	U.S. Steel's Rabina Mine, UMWA vs. Wiegand Co., UAW 1020
5:00-6:00	Heppenstaff, USW 1601 vs. Pepsi Cola, Teamsters 250	Heppenstaff, USW 1601 vs. Coca Cola, Teamsters 250
6:00-7:00	Mesta Machine Co., USW 7174 vs. Consolidated Freightways, Teamsters 249	McConway & Torley, USW 1531 vs. 7-Up, Teamsters 250
7:00-8:00	U.S. Steel Homestead Works, USW 1397 vs. Werner Continental, Teamsters 249	Allegheny Ludlum, USW 1196 vs. Yellow Cab, Teamsters 128
8:00-9:00	Latrobe Steel, USW 1537 vs. Post Office	Pullman Standard, USW 1415 vs. Westinghouse, IUE 601



# The Auto Companies Wages, Jobs And

by Mark Levitan  
and Kim Moody

For years, when it came to cars, bigger was better.

Each season, longer, lower, and wider autos hit the nation's showrooms as regularly as rain in Oregon.

Longer to impress your neighbors. Lower to scrape bottom getting out of your driveway. Wider to make two cars passing each other on a narrow bridge virtually impossible.

Financing was easy, payments were low, insurance rates manageable. Gasoline was cheap.

The "Automobile Age" was upon us. Drive-in restaurants, drive-in movies, drive-in banks. You could eat in your car, be entertained in your car, even create a future generation.

The government helped things along by providing the \$500 billion Federal Aid Highway Act in 1956. This Act created the interstate highway system, insuring that cars and trucks would be America's basic means of transportation.

But now, some things have changed.

## DOWNSIZING

A fuel crisis and the public's growing awareness of the seriousness of air pollution has led the federal government to set mileage and exhaust emissions standards.

Beginning with the Clean Air Acts of 1963 and 1970, which set standards for the level of auto emissions, the government has been taking on a growing role in the regulation of the auto industry. The most far-reaching step is the fuel economy regulations passed in 1975 after the oil embargo.

These regulations demand both massive investment and a radical change in the kind of car the industry will be producing. They will also effect the industry's once comfortable profit margins.

To meet these standards, auto

makers are scrambling to "downsize" their lines. Longer, lower and wider has given way to shorter, higher and lighter.

The auto companies are committed to an unprecedented investment program of \$45 billion over the next few years to meet a 1985 27.5 miles per gallon overall average fuel consumption standard.

Every year GM will spend \$3.5 billion to that end. Ford will spend \$1.8 billion and Chrysler \$700 million.

## EXTENSIVE, EXPENSIVE

The changes are extensive. A car can't simply be washed in hot water and dried on the hot air cycle. It must be reduced piece by piece, part by part—engines made of aluminum, grills of plastic.

Extensive—and expensive. All the retooling is putting the squeeze on profits.

The trick to downsizing is to reduce the size and weight of the model while maintaining its internal dimensions and its "recognizability." This, it is hoped, will convince consumers to buy smaller products at higher prices.

The tradition marketing strategy of the auto companies was developed by Alfred Sloan of GM in the 1920's. It's called "upgrading the market."

This involves two related processes. One is to make it ever-more expensive for the customer to stay in the same car market each time they buy a new car.

Chrysler provided an excellent example of this when they eliminated their highly successful Dusters, Darts and Vallants and replaced them with a significantly more expensive Volare and Aspen models.

Now, if you want to buy a Chrysler compact, you have to shell

out almost \$2000 more than when you bought your last Dart.

The second aspect of "upgrading the market" is that prices are structured so that the greatest profits are made as you go toward the top of the car line.

GM estimates that for every \$1 they spend in adding options or making a car bigger, they recover \$3 to \$4 in sales.

But customers are already resisting paying full-sized prices for smaller cars. The poor sales figures for GM's 1978 intermediates are the first clear example.

## FOREIGN COMPETITION

Another factor that makes it difficult to force American car buyers to pay more for less is foreign competition.

American cars are forced to compete with compact and subcompact foreign cars, that have now captured 20% of the American market.

To compete, the Big Three has to stay in the same price range.

Used to be American companies wouldn't have to compete with anyone but each other—and when one raised prices the others went along. A gentlemen's agreement.

Now, seven or eight companies are slicing up the pie, and the pieces are getting smaller.



1948

1963



Another drag on the car market is that the country is glutted with cars. In 1950, there was one car for every four people, now there is one for every two people. In the jargon, this is called "market saturation."

## BEAR HUG

Add to the list of "squeezes" on the auto market lower consumer incomes, higher insurance rates, repair bills, and gasoline prices, and the squeeze turns into a bear hug.

Auto industry spokesmen themselves are bracing for a slowdown. They predict sales increases of only 2%, compared with tradition 3% to 4% increases. A recent Chase Econometrics study put the figure at 1.3%. Profits are going to be down.

## WHAT ABOUT US?

So far, we've been talking about the plight of American auto companies.

You may be asking yourself, "But this is a socialist newspaper. They're not concerned about the fate of the corporations, they're worried about the plight of the American worker. Right?"

Right. What does it mean for most of us?

Alfred Sloan gives us a clue. He once observed that GM wasn't in business to make cars, but to make money.

The best way for them to make money is to put the squeeze on the American auto worker. We can expect companies to try to cut labor costs by speeding up work, cutting out jobs, and cutting back benefits. And they'll use model changes as an excuse.

When the next contract rolls around, employers will take a much harder line in negotiations.

How should auto workers meet this challenge? Not by "downsizing." But by building a rank and file movement that is longer, stronger, and more powerful. □

## WORKERS' POWER ANALYSIS

# Behind The Profits Squeeze

Corporations live or die on the basis of their profits.

Recently, GM Chairman Thomas Murphy said, in an interview with

Ward's magazine, "We're always striving to be a more efficient organization. That's our job, to keep costs from eating up what

margin of profit we have."

But Murphy noted something else. That GM profit margins had been falling over the years. He said, "For the first nine months (of 1977), we did 6% (earnings as a ratio of sales) compared to 6.2% a year ago. . . Four years ago, we did 7% when the volume wasn't too greatly different, and if you go back to 1965, you'd probably find it was over 11%"

What is true for GM is true of the other auto makers, of most industrial corporations, indeed, of the the economy as a whole. That rate of profit, the return on investment, has been declining since the late 1960's.

## PROFITS IMPORTANT

For instance, the return on total Net Working Capital (profits as a percentage of Net Working Capital) has declined for the U.S. economy. In the mid-1960's it ran above 29%. In the boom years of 1972-1973 it ran just above 20%. Now this profit rate is running below 20%.

This tendency for the rate of profit to fall was noted and analyzed by Karl Marx over a hundred years ago. He saw that profits were the life-blood of the capitalist system, and that a fall in profit margins would lead to crises.

The reason is that profits are ultimately the source of all future investments, of economic growth. It is with profits that new plants, machinery, and tools are built.

If the size of profits doesn't grow as fast as, or faster than, the cost of replacing old equipment and building new, the system will run into snags, and eventually deeper and deeper depressions. This is just what has been happening for the last ten years.

In the past ten years, total corporate profits have grown by nearly 100%, but the actual cost of replacing corporate assets have grown by nearly 150%. In other words, the cost of investing is running way ahead of the total amount of profit available for investment.

In the auto industry, the declining rate of profit for all of the Big

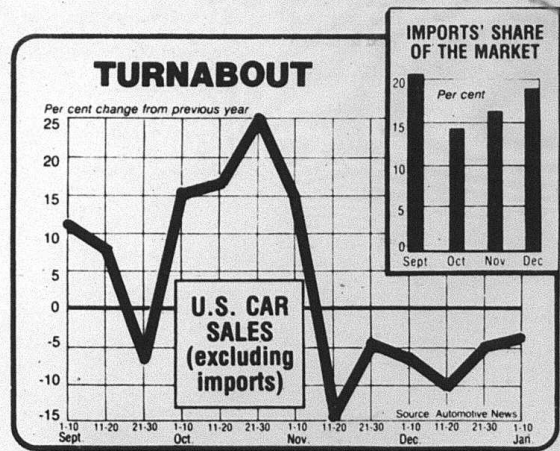
Three auto makers has meant less and less real investment and, as a result, a decline in the rate at which productivity grows.

From 1957 to 1967, productivity grew by an average of 4.8% a year. Since 1967, that average has been only 2.9%. Lack of investment leads to lower productivity gains, which in turn hurt profit margins even more.

True to form, the economy and the auto industry have seen two serious recessions since the late 1960's. The second of these, 1974-1975, was the most serious recession since the 1930's.

The latest problems in the auto industry occur in the context of, and to a large degree, are a result of, this growing crisis in the capitalist system as a whole—a crisis that is world-wide.

Years of producing high profits by high pressure sales, low gas mileage, irresponsible pollution policies, and non-existent safety standards are at an end. Their own beloved "free enterprise" system has caught up with them.



# Are Downsizing - Working Conditions!

1966



Olds Cutlass, Chevrolet Monte Carlo: shorter, much lighter than last year, and sales below expectations



Ford Fairmont, Chevrolet Chevette: trim, gas-sipping designs that are Ford and GM's hot sellers

Dodge Omni: Chrysler's new front-drive entry

## Auto Makers Looking For Big Profits Off Small Parts Workers

The company president makes the highest salary paid to any executive in America: \$1,662,000 a year.

But when the workers asked for \$1.20 raise (over the \$2.76 they were making), the company said 62 cents, and not a penny more.

For eight long months, they slugged it out. Finally, the workers were forced to accept a penny less

than the original offer. At the end of the contract, they will be making two cents over the minimum wage!

They work for the Essex Wire Corporation, in Elwood, Indiana. In many ways, Essex is typical of the small parts industry.

Essex makes electrical components. Switches for Amana, things like that. Essex also sells small parts to the auto industry. The

plant in Elwood makes wire harnesses that go into virtually every car in America.

The plastic presses that mold these parts cycle as much as 350 times an hour. The work is hot, fast, and monotonous. For their trouble, Essex workers make about half as much as auto workers who work for the Big Three.

The small parts industry is becoming increasingly important to the Big Three auto makers.

Forced to meet government regulations for fuel efficiency and emissions standards, the Big Three are looking for ways to make cars smaller and lighter. Plastics, aluminum, rubber-based components, and other non-traditional, lighter-weight materials are used to cut down on the weight. These parts and materials are becoming a greater proportion of the cost that goes into producing a car.

An industrial publication, "Plastics World," states that while the average 1977 car had 150-200 pounds of plastic, the 1985 car will have 500 pounds.

These new materials often are not produced by the Big Three or by traditional auto parts suppliers. Rather, they are manufactured by companies who have only recently gotten in the auto parts business.

### LOW WAGES

Most of the workers in these plants, even if they are union members, work for low wages, with poor working conditions. The Essex strikers are members of the UAW.

The Big Three want to keep it that way. They pressure the parts companies to hold down wages because, of course, they want to keep their own costs down.

What seemed like unexplainable stubbornness on the part of the company during the Essex strike is a part of that strategy. And they were successful. They will continue to rake in the profits. The Big Three have a source of cheap parts—and the workers will pay with poverty wages.

The company's victory in the Essex Wire strike can only

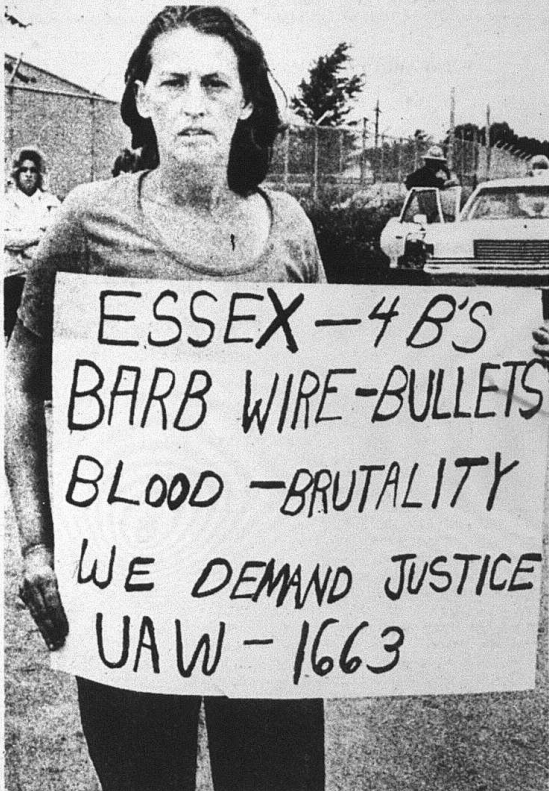
encourage the Big Three themselves to become more aggressive at the bargaining table—and in the plants.

Since 1970, the number of UAW members in the small parts and suppliers industry has risen, to about 420,000, while there are 40,000 fewer GM, Ford, and Chrysler workers. This is sure to exert a downward pressure on wages and conditions of the higher-paid workers.

The union's strategy for beating a corporation like Essex should be a national master contract for all the parts plants, expiring across the country at the same time. Teamsters have won a similar master agreement in the trucking industry.

But this would mean a fight, something the union leadership is not up for. The UAW is unwilling to cross the Big Three. They believe that they only way auto workers can get any improvements is to keep the industry profitable.

Winning in small parts will have to become part of changing the UAW and its leadership. □



Essex striker on picket duty.

ESSEX - 4 B'S  
BARB WIRE-BULLETS  
BLOOD - BRUTALITY  
WE DEMAND JUSTICE  
UAW - 1663

## Growers Renew Attack Farmworkers End Boycotts

United Farm Workers President Cesar Chavez announced Tuesday the end of the UFW's boycott of table grapes, head lettuce and Gallo wine.

Begun in 1965, the long series of UFW boycotts helped win massive popular attention and support for the struggle of farmworkers for a union.

### ORGANIZED

When the farm workers' movement began in Delano, California, grape and lettuce field workers often worked 14 hour days, for less than a dollar an hour, without sanitary facilities or protection against child labor.

They were not covered by

national labor legislation protecting their right to organize a union.

At their height, the boycotts nationally organized tens of thousands of people who marched, demonstrated and turned out week after week to picket supermarkets carrying California grapes, lettuce and non-union wine.

The boycotts hurt not only union-busting growers, they also helped turn back the efforts by leaders of the Teamsters union to destroy the UFW.

The most successful boycott weapon was the secondary boycott—which meant boycotting major supermarket chains carrying scab products—until AFL-CIO Pre-

sident George Meany forced the UFW to abandon it.

Boycott activity had slowed in the last couple of years. Under California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA), the UFW has been able to sign over 100 contracts and is negotiating about 100 more.

But the struggle is far from over. Les Hubbard, spokesman for the Western Growers' Association, responded to the end of the boycott by announcing the growers will step up their campaign to cripple the ALRA.

The growers want the law changed so that union organizers are forbidden access to the fields. □

D.P.

# THE NAZIS



Sign in storefront a few blocks from newly-opened Nazi book store.

by Candy Martin

The week before Christmas, residents walking down W. Vernor Avenue on Detroit's Southwest side saw something shocking. In between an Army Recruiting Center and the corner Beauty Shop, a new storefront had opened.

Two swastikas screamed out from plywood painted over in black. Between them, and beneath an American flag which flew overhead, were the words "WHITE POWER."

Within twenty-four hours, a demonstration was called opposing the Nazi recruitment center. On virtually no notice, 100 people rallied in protest.

Within the week, another demonstration was called. It included supporters of four different church groups, the NAACP, and neighborhood shop and home owners, who chanted "Down with Fascism," and "Nazis and Klan are the Scum of the Land."

## REACTION

Opposition to the Nazis' attempt to gain a foothold in what is one of the few predominantly white communities here has mounted ever since. Numerous demonstrations, including one held at Mayor Young's inauguration in early January, have been called.

The 600-member Southwest Detroit Improvement Association, a group of homeowners, came out in opposition, calling the Nazi store-

front an insult to their neighborhood.

The General Council of Ford Local #600, the largest of all local labor unions, passed a resolution calling for whatever measures are necessary to help the West Vernor community in its efforts to close the Nazi book store.

The W. Vernor Avenue landlord, who did not know he was renting his premises out for a fascist recruitment post, has delivered an eviction notice. The Nazis say they do not intend to move, and the procedures are being taken to court.

In a shop a few blocks away from the Nazi office, the owner told me from behind the counter, "This is a predominantly white neighborhood, which is why they opened up here.

"I had a reaction from a Black truck driver," he went on, "who said if they had opened up anywhere else in the city they would have been burned down the same day that they put up."

## BITTER

"When I first found out about this thing," he continued, "I thought, there was a time in history when a lot of people died because of Nazism, the master race theory and everything else. I know now from the protests, I know that the neighborhood reaction, the people here who are getting involved, is very bitter against it."

Walter Nossler, who owns Trig's



# DON'T LET THE

ANITA BRYANT gets center stage in the media for attacking gays. In several states, her rallies are built by the Ku Klux Klan. It is the same Klan that patrols the Texas border for "illegals"—Mexicans—and that protects scabs crossing a union picket line.

IN CHICAGO, a hundred fascists demonstrate, dressed in full Nazi uniform. In a short time, they have grown from a group of six when they opened their first office. Today, they maintain five headquarters in the Chicago area.

IN THE predominantly Black city of Detroit, the National Socialist "White Power" Movement opens a book store the week before Christmas. The Nazis already have several offices in surrounding suburbs and throughout the country. They call for ovens for the Jews, deportation of all Blacks in America, and a re-birth and celebration of Adolf Hitler.

EACH IS a reflection of a growing extreme right-wing movement in this country, a movement that would not have dared to raise its head openly on the streets five and ten years ago.

The fascist groups themselves are still small, and do not pose an immediate threat on a national scale, but they represent a serious potential danger. It is extremely important to understand how to stop them.

It is dangerous to overlook the Nazis because they seem small today. They are the lethal enemy of

the working class. In power, the fascists' role is to crush labor organizations, outlaw unions, jail all activists and "troublemakers," and slash wages and workers' living standards. The role of the Nazis today is to organize the racist movement.

If left alone to peddle their hate and death propaganda, to organize squads and gangs of thugs that go about beating, killing, and disrupting communities, they are free to grow. One day it can become too late to stop them.

Many people do not want to see the Nazis grow, but they hope that the government will stop the fascists with legal measures.

But when the Nazis actually become a powerful political force, they do so with support and financing from Big Business—the same ruling class that pulls the strings in government now.

The government may be willing to pass certain measures against the fascists today, but tomorrow it will not.

## LESSON

In Germany, many workers who formed anti-fascist defense groups were pressured and convinced to use only the government and legal measures, and to abandon their direct actions against Hitler's brown shirts.

History answered that strategy with one of the cruelest and most dramatic disasters ever known: Nazi Germany, six million Jews burned to death in ovens, the labor

movement smashed. In fact, it was labor militants and union leaders who were the first to be sent to the concentration camps.

Even when the State does agree, under certain conditions, to pass short-term measures against fascists, the government cannot be trusted. Many times in history governments have turned around and used those laws not to stop Nazis, but to harass and jail the fascists' enemies—revolutionaries and trade union militants.

There is only one way we can be sure to stop the Nazis—direct action. Demonstrations, marches, mass action, confrontation. This is language they understand.

Whenever they raise their heads, we must organize to push them back into the gutters from which they came.

Candy Martin

How does Fa  
grow?  
Who support  
What does it  
for workers?  
Read "The S  
ist View" pa



# S AREN'T JOKING

Coney Island a few stores down, told me over a cup of coffee that he came to this country from Lebanon because he wanted freedom and democratic rights.

As he agreed to an interview with Workers' Power, he explained that he does not like the Communists and socialists. But he believes that everyone, including the Nazis, have a right to their ideas.

Yet, Nossor explained, "We don't like the Nazis to be in this neighborhood, don't misunderstand me. I've protested against them, I've put pamphlets in my store for all the customers to see. I've walked in the demonstrations, I've carried pamphlets in front of the store. I'm an Arab, but we believe that the Jews have a right to live here, like anybody else."

While we were talking, a customer joined us. Would I go with

him to visit the bookstore? He was curious to find out what they were really about.

Inside, we first saw a picture of Adolf Hitler in uniform dominating the back wall. Surrounding the picture, hung a large American flag, the red and black Nazi flag, and a confederate banner.

A 12-gauge short-barrelled shot gun leaned in the corner near an open entrance to a back room. No one was allowed to go behind that line, we were warned.

## OVENS

Everywhere was racist literature and posters. One told "Jew Dwarfs" that "There is an oven in YOUR future!" Skull and cross-bone posters warned, "Niggers Beware!"

Stickers with swastikas proclaimed, "I've been born again," and "Hitler was right"—even

though the book store spokesman tried to claim that they had nothing to do with Germany and were "simply" out to "Save America." There was a swastika on the phone dial.

A man named Bill Russell met us when we walked in. He told us that Jews and "kikes" were behind all the problems in America, and that "niggers" were ravishing and raping "our white women." "We want a white America," he explained, "and to send all the Blacks to Africa."

My friend asked him if they weren't simply stirring up hatred and violence. "Right," answered Russell, "but what do you do when you're the only one who knows the truth and the country and the world depend on it?"

The Nazis brought their racist hate into the neighborhood before they ever opened up for business. Steve Hanscu, who lives two blocks from the Nazi book store, told

Workers' Power that a month before the store opened up, he found a leaflet on his porch.

"It had a headline," Hanscu said, "that said 'Special Rights for Black Savages.' It talked about the 'special right' to rape white women, the 'right' to father an unlimited and uncared for number of children. There isn't a single racist stereotype that was left out."

## SCHOOLS

The Hanscu family is the only Jewish family in the neighborhood. Steve works with News and Letters, a left group that has been involved in the protests against the Nazis. One of the Hanscu children goes to Harms elementary school, which is integrated on a 50/50 ratio.

"I'm worried for my daughter," Hanscu said. "The Nazis' stated intention is to disrupt busing and terrorize parents from sending their kids to this school."

"Even people who don't like busing admit that integration has made this school a lot better now."

There is little doubt that the presence of the Nazis will inflame racial conflicts in the schools.

Anita, a 16-year-old member of the Red Tide (youth group of the International Socialists and Workers' Power), is an 11th-grader at Western High School. Her brother was recently chased and stoned by a gang of 30 white students. Earlier, members of the same group raped one of Anita's girlfriends.

"In school, you'll see a lot of people who spray-paint White Power and swastikas all over the bathroom walls, and through the hallways," she said. "I think for sure it's gonna bring on a lot more fighting, especially when it's warmer in the spring, and a lot more hate, between the students, racial hate."

"I'm sure if the Nazis could kill me they would. I don't like them at all and I know they have to be, well...destroyed."

One woman who lives in the West Vernor community summed up the fears of her neighbors: "It really is a threat to all of us. You don't have to be Jewish, you can have Jewish or Black friends."

"They might decide that my kid looks Jewish. Just because I'm not on the list today, they can put me on their list tomorrow."

So far, the demonstrations against the Nazi book store, though numerous, have been splintered up. A newly-formed organization, United Effort Against Fascism, is attempting to bring together all the different left groups, labor unions, church groups, and neighborhood organizations.

"Effort is sponsoring a demonstration on Saturday, February 11. It has the potential to be the largest, most united, and most spirited protest so far. □



In hard times, during a depression, when the whole structure of capitalist society is crumbling, fascism flourishes.

Economic and social crises are part and parcel of capitalism—they have occurred repeatedly in the past, and will happen again in the future.

Socialists believe that the only ultimate cure for this ailing system is for workers to take power out of the hands of the rich, and run things, democratically, ourselves.

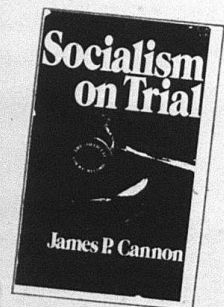
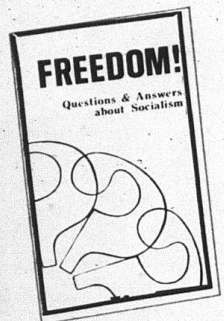
Only then can inflation, poverty, unemployment, and the threat of fascism disappear for good.

Make sense? Find out what we're talking about. You may find that socialist politics are your politics.

# IM SPREAD



Confrontation. Young people demonstrate in front of Nazi headquarters.



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SUN DISTRIBUTION  
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Detroit, Michigan 48213

Fascism  
ts it?  
mean  
Social-  
age 12

# Firemen's Strike Beaten

## Setback for British workers

British firemen have been forced back to work after a two-month national strike. It is one of the most serious defeats that British employers and the government have inflicted on workers in ten years of bitter class struggle.

The firemen struck two months ago to break the government's regulation restricting annual wage increases to ten percent.

The firemen had widespread popular support for their action. Given the fact that prices are still rising 15% a year in Britain, it is easy to understand why.

Their strike was extremely effective. Picket lines prevented the use of modern fire-fighting equipment. Soldiers who were brought in by the government to provide fire protection, were stuck with World War Two equipment.

The strikers were always available to help save lives and the death rate from fires hardly increased during the duration of the dispute.

Fire losses, however, soared. The government was subsidizing about two million dollars per day in extra insurance payments.

In just over a month, this would have been enough to pay all the firemen's wage demands for a full year!

### •SOLD OUT

But the British Labor Party government considered that a small price to pay to break the firemen and hand the whole working class a defeat.

The government sat on its hands for two months, until the National Executive Committee of the Fire Brigades Union concocted a way of selling their members down the river.

The union bureaucrats never wanted the strike in the first place, but a delegate conference had rejected their advice to accept the original 10% offer. This is the offer the firemen have now, finally, accepted.

That's the story of the defeat of the British working class: betrayed by their union leaders, whose loyalty to the government is stronger than their loyalty to the ranks who pay them.

British workers have seen their real wages cut by one-fifth over the last four years.

Even the miners, who brought down the last government by beating the previous pay freeze, have seen their leaders ignore a referendum vote and sell them out too.

So this round of the class struggle has been won by the British bosses. By forcing up prices and unemployment, and using the workers' own Labor Party to keep everyone in line, the bosses have finally succeeded in disciplining the British working class.

It has taken them ten years, but they have done it. Over the next year or so, capitalism in Britain will be more stable than it has been for a long time.

On top of the bosses' victory, the British ruling class also has an



Fireman watches as scabs do his job. The government let \$2 million a day go up in smoke.

offshore oil boom going on.

But the respite will be brief. The next recession won't hit Britain as hard as some other countries, but it will be enough to get British workers back on the offensive.

The long-term crisis of Britain continues. Even now the British fascist movement, the National Front, is making great gains. The left is growing too, though not with the same rapid pace at the moment.

The revolutionary socialists of the British Socialist Workers' Party, who organized the backbone of rank and file support for the firemen's strike, also led a series of actions against the fascists last summer and fall.

But until the SWP has a much more powerful base in the working class, the fascist menace is real. The next couple of years will be decisive ones. □



Firemen had mass support—but sellout union leaders.

# Mideast: Who's The Hard-liners?

by Dan Posen

According to most American newspapers and television networks, the Middle East peace talks broke down because of a supposedly "hard line" position taken by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

This "hard line" position is Sadat's refusal to accept the demand for permanent Israeli settlements, and military occupation of parts of the Egyptian Sinai desert and the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza strip.

But the real story of the breakdown in the talks reveals a very different picture.

The talks actually broke down when Sadat discovered, to his surprise, that the position of the United States is total support for the political and territorial demands made by Israel.

By postponing the negotiations, Sadat desperately hoped to get the Carter Administration to change its policy. Unless the United States government tells Israel that permanent Israeli occupation of Arab lands is unacceptable, there will be no possibility of a peace agreement.

But there is no sign of any such American position—yet.

Most Americans have no real idea of the extent of Israeli colonization in the Occupied Territories. There are already a half dozen full-scale Israeli settlements in Sinai; nearly 50 in the West Bank; and 25 in the Syrian Golan Heights, also occupied by Israel since 1967.

Economically, these territories are becoming colonies and reserves of Arab labor for Israel. The Israeli settlements are also military bases, from which the Israeli government plans to establish total control of

the Palestinian population.

Eventually Israel intends to annex the West Bank, by driving out hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and bringing in enough new Israeli settlers to outnumber those who remain.

This plan is the reason why no Israeli government will recognize that the Palestinians have rights as a nation.

When Anwar Sadat made his dramatic trip to Israel, he was sure this gesture would convince the United States to force Israel to drop its dream of further expansion.

But the opposite has happened. Sadat's peace initiative convinced the Carter Administration that Sadat would accept Israel's demands, in return for American aid to Egypt and the return of most of the Sinai desert.

The American government's joint declaration with the Soviet Union, calling for respecting the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians, has been scrapped.

So has the Carter Administration's idea of opening up channels of communication with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The American government used the Sadat trip to abandon any mention of Palestinian self-determination.

The U.S. State Department put extreme pressure on Sadat to go back to the talks. But the talks are resuming with no change in Israel's position.

And the same American television networks, which were falling all over each other to get "exclusive" in-depth interviews with Anwar Sadat, are now simply acting as mouthpieces for Israeli Prime Minister Begin's speeches. □

# ABORTION: WE HAVE TO FIGHT AS HARD AS THEY DO

The right to abortion celebrated its fifth birthday on January 22.

Abortion was one of the most important victories of the women's liberation movement. Throughout the sixties, millions of women marched and demonstrated for the right to choose. Finally, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that abortion is legal.

But now the same tactics are being used to attack the right to abortion. On January 22, 3000 "right to life" marchers gathered in Washington to demand a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion.

The "right to life" are gaining momentum. This year they dealt a

tremendous blow to the women's movement when Congress cut off federal funds to pay for Medicaid abortions.

They claim they are interested in saving lives—but they don't care about women who will die in illegal, back alley abortions.

It is poor women who will suffer from this, but the attack is against every woman's right to abortion. In Washington, one thing that the "right to life" demonstrated is that it was not their intention just to cut off money for poor women's abortions.

The issue is not welfare spending, the issue is abortion, a woman's right to choose.

The attack against abortion has not gone unanswered.

Thousands of women have participated in hundreds of demonstrations across the country.

In New York City, for example, 3000 people demonstrated in November when HEW Secretary Joseph Califano came to town. They were protesting Califano's opposition to federal funding for abortion.

The "right to life" march in Washington should serve as a warning to all women. If we want to protect the right to abortion—and beat back the attack against poor women—then we have to fight as hard as they do. □

E. Clarke

# BLACKOUT STRENGTHENS COAL STRIKE

by Jim Woodward

The street lights are out in Columbus, Ohio. That energy-saving measure symbolizes the dramatic reversal in the balance of power that has occurred in the last two weeks of the coal strike.

Politicians and utility executives are kicking up a storm. "I urge the Administration to call upon the electric utilities to call upon the coal mine owners to be a little more amenable," said one.

Mandatory power cuts are reported just around the corner in sections of Ohio, West-Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky.

The high and mighty "union be damned" attitude that characterized the Bituminous Coal Operators

Association (BCOA) up til now has begun to give way to internal bickering.

The BCOA's negotiating team has reportedly been upstaged by management heavy-weights: a committee of top executives from Peabody Coal, the Pittston Company, U.S. Steel, and Continental Oil. The miners are not dealing with Mom and Pop Coal Company.

## DANGERS

The new industry negotiators are not more liberal. On the contrary, U.S. Steel, for example, has been worried that a wage settlement above what the United Steel Workers got last year would raise steelworkers' expectations and

undermine the steel industry's no-strike agreement.

But the BCOA negotiators are coming under pressure to settle, and may have to move a little.

That raises a new danger for the miners. Their negotiators, led by United Mine Workers president Arnold Miller, have already given away so much during the negotiations, that if a settlement is reached soon it will almost certainly be a big sellout.

News reports support the view that Miller is trying to sweeten the proposed contract with enough cash that miners will accept some very backwards non-economic terms.

## FINES FOR STRIKING

"The major obstacles right now are economic," Miller declared at a news conference January 30.

While the union has not officially confirmed other details, the proposal negotiators are working on is understood to contain these provisions:

- Coal companies would have the right to fire "stranger" pickets (persons who picket a mine other than their own).

- Miners who engaged in wildcat strikes would have to reimburse the UMWA Health and Retirement Funds for royalties lost.

Eric Stovall

tioning the infamous union-busting activities of Adolph Coors.

The Johnny Paycheck concert was, nevertheless, a step in the right direction.

# A Paycheck For The Miners

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 29—1000 people gathered in the Soldiers and Sailors Hall here for the kickoff of Miners Support Week with a concert by country singer Johnny Paycheck and his band.

The rally produced donations and spirited support for the nation's striking coal miners.

The 18,000 iron ore miners who recently won their 141-day strike against the nation's steel companies sent a telegram of support and solidarity.

## DUBIOUS

Only about half of the audience stood to applaud the entrance of Arnold Miller, International President of the Mineworkers' Union, as the rally began.

But Miller was not the only speaker to get a dubious welcome. Promises of assistance from James Smith (United Steelworkers assistant to Lloyd McBride) and his praise for the miners' strike, rang hollow against the background of his union's ENA (no strike agreement) and this year's record of lost jobs in the steel industry.

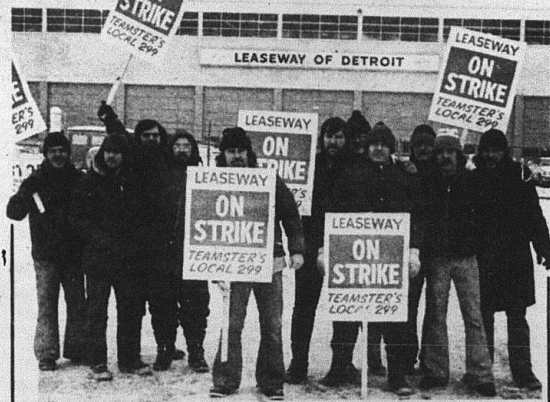
Smith was even embarrassed enough by the presentation of a \$100 check from the rank and file of Local 1397 at U.S. Steel's Homestead Works to write out a \$100 check of his own, but that's all the miners got from the USW International this day.

## SOLIDARITY

On the other hand, the tone of the rally immediately grew more emotional as Henry Dropkin of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers rightfully attacked the union-busting intentions of the coal operators and pledged \$3000 from his union.

Paul Piccirilli, from the 11,000 member USWA Local 1211 at Jones and Laughlin Aliquippa Works, also drew support from the crowd when he admonished the miners to "never give up the right to strike," and ended his speech calling for "power for the working class."

The crowd was enthusiastic in its support for union solidarity and the generosity and good music of Johnny Paycheck. But this reporter was dismayed at one point that Paycheck could sing of drinking "Colorado Coolade" (Coors "scab" Beer), with no one men-



## Teamsters Battle Leaseway

WESTLAND, Michigan—Warehouse workers belonging to Teamsters Local 299 here have been on strike since January 1 against Leaseway, one of the nation's largest trucking companies.

The primary issues are wages and cost of living. Leaseway is paying \$3.00 an hour less than Teamsters working under the national Master Freight Agreement receive. Work rules are another issue.

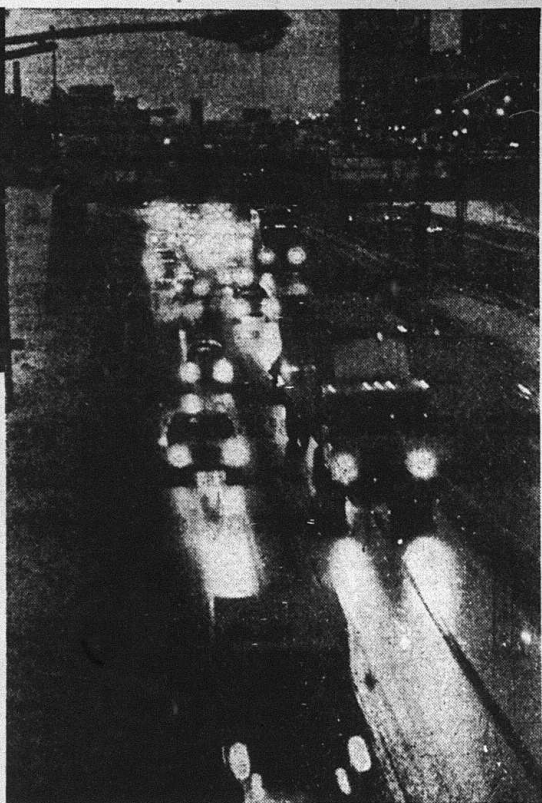
On January 30, the strikers rejected Leaseway's latest offer, 154-4. "We're prepared to stay out a couple of months," one picket told Workers' Power.

In addition to braving freezing weather and snowstorms, pickets have been subjected to arbitrary arrests and assault by company guards.

David Mars, one of the strikers, told how he and five others had been hit by a security guard's car. A bent signpost 50 feet down the highway marked the spot where Mars was thrown off the car's hood, as it sped out of the driveway.

The guard was later arrested and charged with felonious assault. Many strikers have been arrested as well, but for no apparent reason. Six were arrested for loitering as they stood around a fire barrel trying to keep warm.

Another was arrested for inciting to riot. The riot the police feared would no doubt have been caused by the six other persons on the picket line.



Columbus, Ohio: Street lights have been turned off to save dwindling coal supplies.

If an arbitrator rules that the company has caused a wildcat strike, the company would have to pay. Since the arbitration system is one of the miners' major grievances, this will not appear to be much of a concession.

Still in dispute is whether miners who simply honor a picket line will be penalized under this "payback" scheme.

Miners will have to pay a certain, unspecified, amount of their own medical coverage. This is a step backwards from the previous contract, which called for full payment by the Health Funds.

## BATTLE AHEAD

Lack of progress in other critical areas is sure to upset many miners.

Equalizing pensions has been a major issue. Older retirees, who get only \$250 a month pensions, will be angry if their pensions aren't raised closer to what more recent pensioners receive.

"If they don't take care of the retired miners, the river will run red again," one old timer told a reporter recently. "I can still shoot, and I'm willing to give my life if I have to. And my wife will be out there with me, if it comes to that."

With both union and management saying a settlement is near, it may soon "come to that."

Then the fight would enter a new round. Rank and file ratification of any proposal is required.

Almost certainly, there will be many miners campaigning for a rejection.

# Nurses Free!

VICTORY!—Filippina Narciso and Leonora Perez are free.

The release of the two Filipino nurses have been finally won because of protests and demonstrations by thousands who organized in their support.

The nurses were convicted last July of supposedly mass-poisoning patients at the Ann Arbor, Michigan Veterans' Hospital.

Government efforts to continue prosecuting Narciso and Perez collapsed on Wednesday. U.S. Attorney James Robinson asked that the charges against them be dismissed, explaining that public opinion in Michigan and across the country was against renewed prosecution.

Judge Phillip Pratt, who overturned the conviction was the same judge who presided at the original trial. Pratt cited gross misconduct by the prosecution both in court, and in its efforts to convict the nurses through public campaigns in the press.

## OUTRAGE

It is extremely unusual for a conviction to be overturned by the same judge who presided at the original trial. That happened in this case because of the tremendous outrage over the verdict among

nurses, the women's movement, and even in the Philippines.

The conviction of Narciso and Perez was an example of the government spending huge amounts of money to snare the jury with a blizzard of circumstantial "evidence"—and not a scrap of proof.

Most importantly, the case is also an example of how a broad-based defense movement can fight back and win.

The FBI alone spent over a million dollars investigating. All it proved was that Narciso and Perez were somewhere in the VA hospital when a series of patients stopped breathing, presumably from deadly Pavulon injections.

The government spent so much time dragging this out through a three-month trial that the jury felt it had to convict. It never suggested any motive for the crime. Now, the federal prosecutor admits that public opinion believes the nurses are innocent.

He even said that a new trial of the nurses "would undermine faith in the federal justice system."

So the government has ended its witch hunt of two innocent nurses. After taking two years out of their lives, it has given up.

Not that it plans to pay them back, or even apologize for railroadng them.

# Speaking Out

## What We Think

# Carter: Who Needs You!

"Government cannot solve all our problems, set all our goals, or define our vision.

**"Government cannot eliminate poverty, provide a bountiful economy, reduce inflation, save our cities, cure illiteracy, provide energy, or mandate goodness."**

This is what President Carter said in his State of the Union message last week.

Now, it's true that no government can 'mandate goodness.' But, to the President to state that this government cannot do any of the other things is outrageous.

**Why do we need this government, if it's not going to do anything about the real problems—our problems?**

### THE REAL PARTNERSHIP

Carter continued: "Only a true partnership between government and the people can hope to reach these goals."

What people and how? What's our role in this 'partnership'? Later on in the speech, Carter spelled it out:

• Jobs: "... private business, not government, must lead the expansion..." [to create jobs].

• Tax Cut: "Almost \$17 billion in tax cuts will go to individuals. We will also provide strong additional incentives for business investments." He conveniently forgot to mention that the new Social Security taxes will eat up this tax cut within one year—the real beneficiaries are the businessmen.

• Inflation: "I am asking government, business, labor, and other groups to join in a voluntary program to moderate inflation by holding wage and price increases." We know who'll hold them and who won't as prices rise and wages fall behind.

In other words, we can only expect more of the same: sacrifices on our part for the real partners of government, big business.

**That's what a capitalist society is all about. Government's role is to aid the businessmen in making a big enough profit so that they in turn will provide us with jobs. There's only one problem, somehow their profits aren't ever big enough these days and we never get the jobs.**

We think that government should eliminate poverty, provide a bountiful economy, reduce inflation, save our cities, cure illiteracy, and provide energy.

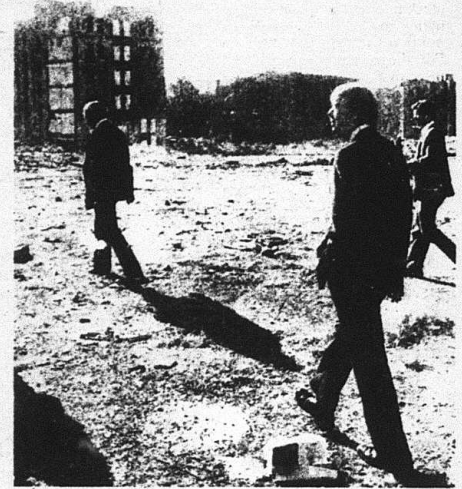
A government that was really ours would do just that. It wouldn't have to be concerned with the profits of big business, the oil companies' induced energy shortages, or inflation for one simple reason: profits and businessmen wouldn't exist, and with them gone, neither would inflation.

**With government and production controlled by working people, there would never be any reason to lay off steelworkers or construction workers, for example. Their labor would be needed to build all the housing, schools, childcare centers and hospitals that capitalism refuses to provide for us.**

A society and government organized around the needs of working people and the poor would provide full employment, schools that really educate, thriving cities, and plentiful energy, as well as racial and sexual equality. A true socialist society would produce for people's needs, not businessmen's profits.

To Carter and Congress we say: Enough of government by business, of business, and for business.

We're fighting for a government by working people, of working people, for working people. □



Carter visits the South Bronx: The government can't do anything about this.

## The Socialist View

# WHAT IS FASCISM?

by Candy Martin

The word "fascist" is often used very loosely, to mean anything from right-wingers, to "evil," to the police.

People are confused because the fascists call themselves "National Socialists," when, in fact, they have nothing whatsoever to do with socialism.

**But the word "fascism" has a precise meaning. It is a form of capitalism that the capitalists are willing to turn to as a last resort to save their system when it is in deep crisis.**

Normally, Big Business prefers to rule with the trimmings of democracy. A choice between the Republicans and the Democrats, between Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee, may not be much of a choice, but it is different from no choice at all. And it gives working and poor people, the majority of the population, the illusion that they have some control over society.

But when the economy falls into a deep crisis things change dramatically. During the 1930's, Hitler's rise to power came during 15 years of decline in the German economy. Inflation ran as high as 1000%. Money became practically worthless. Chaos reigned.

When an economy collapses, Big Business can only protect its profits, and its control over society, by an all-out attack on workers' living standards. To win such a battle, the capitalists' must smash the unions, the labor organizations and the political parties. They must also put

an end to freedom of speech.

To do this, they turn to the fascists, and finance their movement.

**If the fascists manage to seize power, they outlaw labor unions, rounding up stewards, militants, and union staff, and closing union halls and seizing union literature. Often unionists are tortured.**

In the early stages of fascism's rise to power in Italy and Germany, anti-labor squads were organized—of scabs, goons, and criminals. These fascist bands went around breaking up meetings and busting heads.

The fascists' key tool in their drive for power is the inflammation of racial hatred. In Germany, it was the Jews. In this country, it will be the Blacks.

### WHO SUPPORTS THEM?

Fascism is different from a military coup and other forms of dictatorship because it organizes and comes to power on the back of a mass popular movement.

Their backbone of support comes not from workers, but from the "petit bourgeoisie" (middle class store owners and small businessmen) and the "lumpen proletariat" (the chronically unemployed, youth, veterans, and others who are forced to the bottom rung of society.)

These groups become desperate as inflation, unemployment, job or profit insecurity and the plain problems of survival reach drastic proportions. They see their lives and the world around them falling apart, and are confused and scared—ready to grasp at any straw.

Fascists take advantage of this fear and confusion. Their explanations for what's wrong are designed to provoke racial hatred: "Jews are to blame for all the problems in your life—exterminate the Jews—all your problems will go away." "Hate, deport, kill niggers—no matter how frustrated you feel, at least you have power over someone."

The fascists aim to get working people of all ethnic groups, nationalities, and races fighting against each other,

seeking scapegoats among themselves. They try to blind workers to the real cause of the collapse of their lives: the captains of industry and their class system.

### LESSONS FROM HISTORY

In fact, the private profit economy—capitalism—cannot avoid cycles of serious crisis and depression. It cannot over a long period of time provide for the basic needs of the majority of the population.

The only way out of capitalist crisis is to change the very basis of the economy itself. Crises will continue to occur, as they have throughout history, until the economy is organized for the needs of the population rather than the profit of private millionaires. No other solution, including scapegoating Blacks or Jews, can change the root problem.

Today, in this country, the economic crisis is not so bad that fascism is likely to flourish and become a real threat in the near future.

But that does not mean that they should not be stopped now. Left unchecked, a few can eventually grow into many.

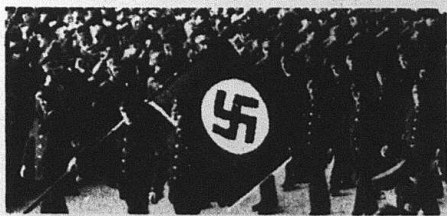
**Adolph Hitler himself said, "...only one thing could have broken our movement... If the adversary had understood its principle from the beginning, and from the first day had smashed, with the most extreme brutality, the nucleus of our new movement."**

A sign in a Detroit store near the recently-opened Nazi headquarters tells the story: "In 1928, Nazis were a big joke. By 1943, no one was laughing." □

## Fighting Words

“You'll get freedom by letting your enemy know that you'll do anything to get your freedom; then you'll get it. It's the only way you'll get it.”

—Malcolm X



Letters

# South Africa: Debbie Boone's Hideaway

Dear Workers' Power,

For millions of people, television is the great escape. With TV you can escape from the outside world to Kojak and Welcome Back Kotter.

Sometimes TV can bring some of that outside world into your living room. To some degree it did that with the war in Vietnam. For those who could afford the price of a set it was brought to us in living and dying color.

But mostly TV is a modern day opiate that dulls the brain.

It was to my surprise that the American Music Awards' TV extravaganza would offer us a reminder that there is an outside world.

The awards are voted on by a part of the American public. To the audience, the program is a

futile two hour search for entertainment. For the sponsors, it is enough time for them to bombard you with commercials until you are senseless.

Debbie Boone won an award for her record "You Light Up My Life." The presenters of the

awards were Charley Pride and Barry White, both Black.

Debbie's sister accepted the award for her. Debbie, it seems, was vacationing with her father, Pat Boone, in South Africa. South Africa—besides being the land of apartheid—is a big vacationing spot.

A telephone link with Debbie was provided so for a few minutes you heard her thank the American public for buying her record.

"You Light Up My Life" is a silly song from a somewhat less silly movie. Both will rapidly fade from our consciousness.

South Africa will not.

On the same day as Debbie Boone won her award, 20,000 Blacks were evicted from their shanty homes around Cape Town, South Africa. Their homes were then bulldozed by the authorities.

Larry Smith  
Detroit

# SEXISM IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Dear Workers' Power:

Last Sunday night I was watching some late night TV. Late night Detroit TV is filled with public service announcements since the networks use this time to fulfill their public service announcements quota.

One public service spot really struck me. The ideological guts of capitalism was presented in a one-minute spot.

## PANTS & LONG HAIR

Sex roles was the topic of the sermon. Today's society, the message went, confuses sex roles. Women wearing pants or men with long hair blur the physical differences between men and women.

On top of this women are now doing men's jobs. Several pictures were flashed of women doing jobs that had been previously denied to women. After all, the ad went on, aren't there any sex roles that are still sacred?

To add insult to injury, a man was shown doing laundry. The



message was clear. A woman going to work is seen as an attack on the precious male ego.

But the best was yet to come.

The last line of the commercial said in today's day we have to keep clear what our roles are. Men must be men of strength and integrity

and women must be women of compassion and warmth.

There is a nutshell was the message. Strength is a man's trait and warmth is a woman's. In a short, concise, one-minute commercial, clear stereotypes of what men and women are supposed to be were presented. The sponsor was some local church.

What really got me was where this fit into some bigger picture. I do not believe a few years ago I would have seen something like this on TV.

## GREAT FEAR

It is clear that the church and others in this country have a great fear that sex roles are drastically changing. After all, much of the American system is based on men and women doing what is expected of them. Men are aggressive, strong and the breadwinners of the family. Women are the little mothers, keeping the home going and the old man happy.

It is women's labor in the home that keeps the family going and is a key part to the maintenance of the system. But all of this is changing as more and more women are forced to find jobs to make ends meet.

Once at work women have been determined to hold on to their jobs. As more and more women challenge their "god-given sex role," they are challenging the basics of the society.

## MONEY

This the church and right wing understand well. Thus the necessity for such commercials and the others like it. They also have the money and resources to blare their message across the nation. TV is powerful in getting their message across and shaping the American mind.

We need to build a movement in this country that can put an end to the growth of the right wing and their attempt to tell me as a woman what I am supposed to be. We need to build a society where we can really explore what we are regardless of our biological destiny. And for that we need socialism....

Steve Kindred  
Detroit

Enid Eckstein  
Detroit

# Less Milk - Fewer Jobs

Dear Workers' Power,

Al Ferdnace's article in the January 16 issue, "Government Milk Cuts for Kids," reminds me of what one woman told a rank and file workers' conference in England in November.

The woman, a school lunchroom employee, reported that when the English government cut back the amount of food in school lunches for poor children, not only did this hurt the children, but it cut down the number of workers in the lunchrooms, the number of workers producing the food, and the number of truck drivers delivering it.

She pointed out that we're all affected by the government's "saving money" that way, so all workers must join together to fight back—and she got a standing ovation from the workers from many different industries who were present!

Fraternally,  
Barbara Adler  
New York

# Hubert & the Democrats

Dear Workers' Power,

Your article on Hubert Humphrey mentioned that he was booted off the stage at the Rally for Jobs in April 1975. I had gone to that rally with a bus load of fellow Teamsters from Chicago, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

The crowd was angry and began

chanting "We Want Jobs" during the long speeches by politicians. When Humphrey was booted down, he was trying to put himself at the head of this anger by leading the chants!

It seems to me the biggest problem with the Democrats is when people get angry and start chanting, the Democrats try to lead

the chanting and then steer it into harmless and ineffective channels.

They did it during the Depression. When Martin Luther King organized the March on Washington for civil rights in 1963, the Democrats put their money and their people in charge.

During the Vietnam war, liberals at first supported the war. But when a mass movement grew against it, as early as 1967 the "liberals" began to do it again.

Rather than join the fight for immediate U.S. withdrawal, they wanted to be "reasonable" by calling for "negotiations now." They helped defuse the anti-war movement, which helped prolong the war another six bloody years.

Socialists judge by facts, not myths like Hubert the Happy Warrior.

The fact is capitalism breeds war and can't create jobs and all the wishing and occasional chanting by liberals like Humphrey can't change that fact.

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

# Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their



Portuguese workers refuse to accept wage cuts and layoffs.

# PORTUGAL: A New Phase Of The Crisis

With the fall of Portugal's Socialist Party government, one state of the long-term revolutionary crisis has ended—and a new stage is beginning.

A new government, based on a shaky agreement between Socialist Party leader Mario Soares and the big business Social Democratic Center (CDS) party has been formed.

During the last 16 months, the Socialist Party government under Soares attempted to restore the health of Portugal's capitalist economy. It has completely failed to do this.

## FAILURE

Even though the Soares government pleaded with bosses to re-occupy their factories seized by

the workers, and sent the national guard into the countryside against farm worker co-operatives, the Socialist Party (SP) failed to win the confidence of the bosses or stop the deterioration of the economy.

Many factory owners have refused to come back at all until all forms of workers' control and resistance are smashed.

Those bosses who have come back, especially in the Lisbon industrial area, have faced long, drawn-out battles to regain management authority.

At the Copam starch-making plant in Sacavem, for example, it took two months before the boss, an ex-fascist named Carmona e Costa, could even walk through the plant, surrounded by his bodyguards.

The new government will not be able to seriously change the balance of forces between the working class and bosses inside the factories.

The new SP-CDS government agreement will do two things: pass a budget and accept conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for \$750 million in new western bank loans to Portugal.

These conditions include interest rates of over 20% on loans, large-scale layoffs, and trade restrictions so brutal that Portugal will not be able to import needed raw materials.

This kind of "shock treatment" will produce a new economic recession.

Under these conditions, a growing number of Portuguese capitalists are turning to the underground forces to the right of CDS—the extreme right-wing parties and the armed fascist groups.

## WORKERS FRATERNITY

The crisis is also stirring a growing response inside the working class. Trade union leaders and militants expelled from the Socialist Party have formed a new organization, Fraternidade Operaia (Workers' Fraternity).

F.O. has support from parts of the Socialist Party's working class base, but as a left-wing, social-democratic party it has little chance to survive a deepening crisis.

At the same time forces of the revolutionary left, especially the Proletarian Revolutionary Party (PRP) have made important gains in trade union elections against union officials from the Communist Party.

This is especially true among textile workers, as well as industrial unions in northern sections of Portugal.

In the immediate future there is a good chance for building a new revolutionary movement through united efforts by the PRP and other forces of the revolutionary left. □

# Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The miners have Inland Steel climbing the wall. The company reports its profits dropped 30% in the fourth quarter of last year because its iron ore miners and coal miners went on strike. That's a loss of nearly \$7 million, an amount that will grow as the coal strike continues.

The Japanese Federation of Textile, Garment and Chemical Workers has announced it is joining the (U.S.) Clothing and Textile Workers' boycott of J.P. Stevens products. The boycott is in support of a major union organizing drive.

Remember the long rubber workers' strike in 1976? If you bought a car then, it probably came without a spare tire because the bitter strike lasted so long. The man who led the industry bargaining team during the strike was Firestone Vice President Joseph Cairns. Cairns is now retiring, and the United Rubber Workers union has seen fit to present him with a retirement gift of \$500. Cairns donated the \$500 to charity, but pointed to the possibilities of "good personal relationships" between management and union leaders the gift represented.

The Supreme Court is the latest to take advantage of the weakened state of the American labor movement by chipping away at union rights. The Court ruled that a construction union cannot picket an employer to force him to honor a "pre-hire" agreement he has signed with the union. Pre-hire agreements, legal only in the construction industry, allow a union and a contractor to sign a contract before the work force for a project is hired. But when a Kentucky construction company violated its agreement by hiring non-union workers, the Court ruled it illegal for the union to enforce the agreement by picketing.

The American Trucking Associations will begin a travelling road show April 15, presenting a series of "Grievance Prevention Workshops" for terminal managers and supervisors in eight cities. The idea is to "create a positive working environment," thereby cutting down the number of grievances. Part of this, according to one trucking executive, involves "the ability to bring to the surface issues which are causing conflict and tension."

We think that if the ATA wants to find issues which are causing conflict and tension, they might start by looking at Helms Express in Pittsburgh which is trying to institute an illegal production standards system, or at Acme Fast Freight in Los Angeles which is trying to break the Master Freight Agreement, or maybe at United Parcel Service, the granddaddy of them all when it comes to "causing conflict and tension."

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.

# "Free Speech" For Ku Klux Klan - ACLU Learns The Hard Way

The American Civil Liberties Union has learned a lesson about civil liberties—the hard way.

Last fall the ACLU in Mississippi went to court on behalf of the Ku Klux Klan, arguing for the Klan's so-called "right" to hold a rally at a public elementary school.

Ten out of the 21 members of the Mississippi ACLU Board of Directors, including all seven Black members, resigned in outrage.

Now the truth has come out. The Klan's purpose in approaching the ACLU for support in the first place was to split and weaken the ACLU. They did this by getting the ACLU to go on record for the Klan's "right" to organize nationally.

Klan leader David Duke, in a letter to Klan supporters, openly bragged about this. He wrote:

"By our pressing of the suit for the white Klan servicemen at Camp Pendleton and elsewhere, we caused the basically anti-white ACLU to lose forty percent of its support."

The figures are obviously dubious, but it is certainly true that national financial support for the

ACLU has declined drastically.

A member of the Mississippi Board of the ACLU, Henry J. Kirksey, warned months ago that the Klan was out to cripple the ACLU. Kirksey led the struggle against ACLU's support of the Mississippi Klan lawsuit.

## WARNED

The Duke letter confirms Kirksey's suspicions.

One of the statements David Duke has made at Klan rallies is: "Give us liberty and give them (Black people) death."

What was obvious to Henry Kirksey, the Black ACLU Board members in Mississippi, and so many others, is that these statements have nothing to do with free speech. They are out-and-out, up-front racial terrorism.

The ACLU has now changed its mind and is no longer supporting the Mississippi Klan lawsuit.

The tragedy is that the ACLU national leadership had to be taught a basic lesson in civil liberties by the Ku Klux Klan. □

## 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.

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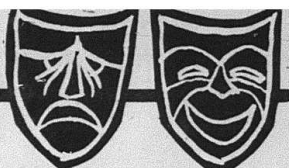
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# SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

by Mark Harris

Working people and their families make up the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Nevertheless, popular fiction, television and films traditionally portray Americans with few exceptions living a comfortable, classless, "middle class" reality where

the only night he is free.

Travolta is a fine young actor, overshadowing co-star Karen Gorney. The Bee Gees' score is terrific; the whole project is tightly filmed and flawless.

### HOLLYWOOD'S BEST

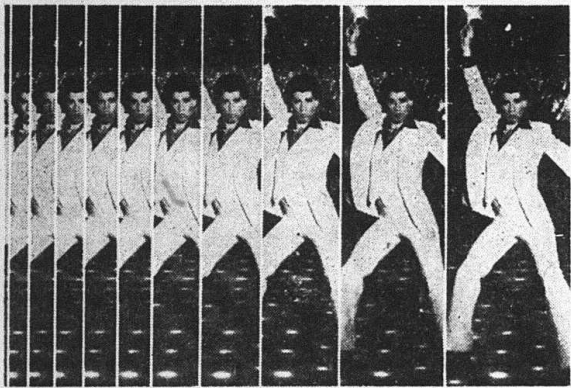
Like "Looking for Mr. Goodbar" earlier last year this film represents the best Hollywood is capable of doing, brilliantly executed and intelligent.

Also, like Hollywood's best, it is a conservative and elitist film.

The explanation for Tony's alienation, this film tells us, is not a capitalist system that provides increasingly fewer jobs for young people (something we shouldn't expect Hollywood to say anyhow).

Rather, it's the supposedly degrading working class Italian culture of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn that keeps people down. The whole film portrays working class life as essentially vicious and hopeless.

The solution (in films) is simple. Leave your home and class, become something else, escape into the "middle class." As though class were primarily a psychological attitude, and escape as easy as driving across the river to a hip studio apartment in cosmopolitan



Manhattan.

The theme is clear. The only thing that holds people down is themselves. No system exists to victimize most of us.

### ESCAPE

Much of the film is actually insulting. The gang members' cracks about Black manliness are nothing but inflammatory.

Tony explains that in the real world there are only two ways women can relate to men: either as "good girls" or as "cunts."

When the film's ending suggests a third alternative, friendship (and equality), this is left so vague the implication is that "friends" can't have sex.

While Tony's father, a laid-off construction worker, is portrayed somewhat sympathetically, his

mother is a pathetic religious fanatic whose hopes for Tony's sensitive older brother—a priest—are dashed when he leaves the Church.

But we never find out why this happened.

All Tony's friends are portrayed as either crude, violent or suicidal. Life among the working class in Brooklyn is pretty nasty, so the message goes. And the best thing would be to get out.

### AS THEY SEE US

We can't expect Hollywood to produce socialist films. If one is accidentally imported it is either poorly distributed, so the film won't sell, left to play in exclusive "art" theaters, or else it's purposely killed.

In the absence of a strong, self-confident working class movement, the ruling class's views and prejudices continue to go unchallenged and filter into every part of our culture.

Too often they make us look at ourselves the same way the ruling class looks at us. And we end up hating ourselves in the process.

The ruling class's justification for using its own naked power, is its notion that the rest of us are too stupid to run ourselves, let alone run society.

We know, rationally, that this is garbage. Yet in an emotionally charged environment such as a good piece of art—which this film is—we are all too likely to take attitudes we'd never accept otherwise.

"Saturday Night Fever" is a pretty effective, and certainly enjoyable piece of propaganda—for the minority who run society today. When working people, the majority, run society, actors like John Travolta will be able to portray working class heroes, not escapees. □

**Saturday Night Fever.**  
Directed by John Badham. Screenplay by Norman Wexler, from a story by Nick Cohn. Music by the Bee Gees. Paramount Pictures. Starring John Travolta and Karen Gorney.

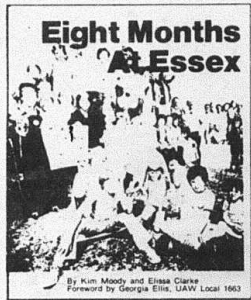
personal problems are separate from any relation to work.

So when a film like "Saturday Night Fever" portrays several members of a working class family sympathetically, it is an event.

When the film is also an artistic success, it is worth taking seriously.

John Travolta is brilliant as Tony Manero, an aging gang leader and disco champ. Tony is increasingly dissatisfied with his job clerking in a hardware store, and lives for his dancing triumphs Saturday night—

## Workers' Power Pamphlet Tells The Inside Story



A striker is gunned down on the picket line.

Others are beaten up by guards armed with clubs, hoses, and plexiglass shields. One striker suffers a heart attack.

Scabs come in, break the strike and are rewarded, with top seniority. Every day, they are escorted safely in and out of the plant by state troopers.

Strikers are arrested. They face \$2700 in civil fines, and another \$600,000 law suit. Twenty-two strikers are threatened with jail sentences. Eleven strikers fired.

The strike ends. The workers at the Essex Wire Corporation go back for a penny less than the company offered eight months ago! At the end of the contract, they will be making two cents more than the minimum wage.

That is what happened in Elwood, Indiana in a strike that pitted 220 members—most of them women—of the United Auto Workers against one of the largest, most vicious corporations in the world.

The story of the Essex strike is the subject of a new Workers' Power pamphlet, "Eight Months At Essex."

**"Eight Months At Essex"** by Kim Moody and Elissa Clarke. With a special foreword by Georgia Ellis, UAW Local 1663.

There is much more than a simple retelling of the Essex story in this pamphlet. It contains information available nowhere else.

The pamphlet includes not only the details of the Essex settlement, but information of the UAW contracts with other Essex locals. This information proves that Essex was lying when they said they couldn't afford to pay the Elwood workers more!

When Carolyn Forest, for the UAW International union, sold the rotten contract to the strikers, Workers' Power was there. The details of that meeting are available only in this pamphlet.

Workers' Power investigated the plight of Carol Frye, the young mother gunned down on the picket line. For the shocking story of how little the union plans to aid Carol, read this pamphlet.

The pamphlet details how the story of the fight at Essex was affected by a change coming about in the auto industry, which will have a tremendous impact on workers in the Big Three as well.

The failure of the union's strategy at Essex could also spell defeat for workers in the Big Three.

What is this change? And how can we turn around the string of defeats?

Find the answer in Eight Months At Essex.

Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan, 48203. Forty cents each, 25 cents each for orders of ten or more.

Emily Sharpe

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# Workers' Power is for YOU

## REFORMERS WIN BIG IN WISCONSIN TEAMSTER VOTE

by Mike Kelly and Jim Woodward

The Teamster rank and file movement won a big victory in Green Bay, Wisconsin January 22 when all four Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) candidates swept the elections for Local 75 officers.

Running on a platform calling for rank and file election of stewards and negotiating committees, and pledging opposition to Frank Fitzsimmons and other top Teamster officials at the next Teamster convention, the TDU slate took all the top offices by a substantial majority.

"We think that now we're going to have a complete reversal of Local 75, that finally we're going to start getting some answers to grievances and this type of thing."

"It's certainly going to change the union around up here," said Phyllis Carpenter, head of the local TDU election committee, and a member of the national TDU steering committee.



Phyllis Carpenter

When reformers took over Local 213 in Vancouver last year, newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer Jack Vlahovic found himself suddenly brought up on phony charges and stripped of his office.

Teamsters for a Democratic Union has pledged that if the International tries anything like that in Green Bay, it will throw the support of the entire TDU behind

### Local 75.

Phyllis Carpenter is optimistic that the International will keep its hands off. "I believe Fitzsimmons is on shaky ground right now, and that he doesn't want to do anything to rock his boat," she said.

"Plus the fact that he had just come out in January and made the statement which was printed in our Wisconsin Teamster newspaper that he didn't give a damn if you belonged to the American Legion or the Elks, or if you were a Catholic or a Baptist, or even a TDU or a PROD member, they were there to represent every Teamster."

"This was a public statement, and I think it would be very damaging to him [to take action against Local 75]."

The victory in these local elections is a big step forward for the reformers in northern Wisconsin, and it will provide a boost to the Teamster reform movement nationally, as well.



Green Bay, Wisconsin Teamsters took this sentiment to heart and voted in the entire Teamsters for a Democratic Union Slate.

### NEW OFFICERS

Phyllis Carpenter is the wife of newly-elected trustee Claude Carpenter, an over-the-road driver and steward at Schneider Transport.

Elected to the Local 75 presidency was Fred Gegare, steward at Pauli Cheese. Ernie Gussert, a driver for Red Owl grocery, was elected Vice President, and Cliff Berg, an employee of Super-Valu, was voted Secretary-Treasurer. This gives the TDU slate a majority on the local executive board.

"We were running strictly on the TDU platform," Ms. Carpenter told Workers' Power. "And of course we were trying to get the present officers out because they had done nothing for us in the last contracts—the men lost so very much on them."

The TDU activists were able to unite Teamsters from both trucking and non-trucking areas in the local, including over-the-road drivers, grocery warehouse workers, and cheese processing plant employees.

The victory, according to Carpenter, came only one week after [Edward] Lawson, the International Vice President out of Canada, made a statement that these dissident groups aren't doing anything, they don't mean anything, they can't even win a local election.

"And so I think they're most certainly going to sit up and take notice," she said.

### THE INTERNATIONAL

Some TDU activists fear that the International may do more than

## Organizing Against Police Violence

# Puerto Rico Teamster Militants Set U.S. Visit

by Nora Helm

NEW YORK—Several Puerto Rican Teamsters and striking Electrical Workers plan to visit New York and other U.S. cities this week to spread the news about harassment of trade unionists in Puerto Rico and to seek solidarity with U.S. workers.

The Puerto Ricans are members of the Trade Union Committee Against Repression (TUCAR), formed in response to mounting attacks against the labor movement

there.

While in the U.S., they will speak in New York and Pittsburgh, and possibly other cities. They will also meet with representatives of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU).

Police harassment of trade unionists in Puerto Rico intensified

following the September assassination of a notorious anti-labor lawyer, Alan Randall.

The repression focuses especially on the Teamsters union. In October, Teamster shop steward Juan Raphael Caballero was found murdered. It is widely believed that he died at the hands of a police "Death Squad."

The police, however, have arrested three Teamsters, charging them with the deaths of Randall and Caballero. TUCAR has denounced these arrests as a frame-up.

### STRIKES

Meanwhile, two strikes of major political significance are going on in Puerto Rico. The Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers union (UTIER) has been on strike for almost a month. More recently the United Workers of the Metropolitan Bus Authority (TUAMA) also went on strike, paralyzing public transportation.

In an attempt to intimidate the workers and dampen the widespread popular support for the

strikes, police have arrested three electrical workers and charged them with sabotage.

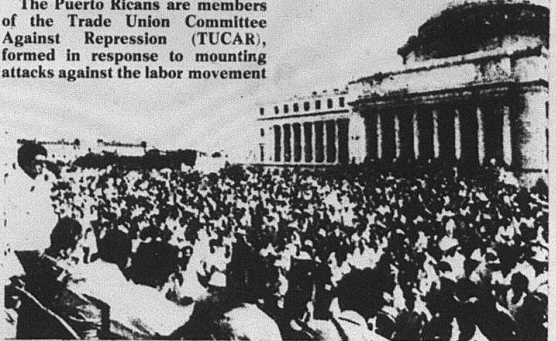
TUCAR is supporting these struggles, and fighting to extend the right to strike to public employees.

The Puerto Rican and U.S. governments, together with the major corporations, are resorting to these attacks in an all-out attempt to squash the labor movement. This is because the unions' militancy and pro-independence sentiments are an obstacle to the continued exploitation of the people of Puerto Rico and its natural resources (copper and oil).

So far, the repression has only served to unite the working class movement.

In New York, the TUCAR delegation will speak February 3 at the New York University law school at 7:30.

From New York, they will go to Pittsburgh to attend the "Union Bowl," a marathon football game staged by many union groups in support of the coal miners' strike [see page 5]. They may also visit other midwestern cities.



Ten thousand Puerto Rican workers protest the murder of Teamster Juan Caballero.