

# Workers' Power

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

APRIL 3, 1978

ISSUE #248

25c

## FROM BEEF TO STEEL- PRICES EXPLODE



-IT HAD SLIPPED  
DOWN AN INFINTESIMELY  
THIN CRACK!



Afraid to go into a supermarket these days? Intimidated by the beef counter? Frightened by the cereal aisle?

**For the third month in a row, prices are up and real wages are down.**

Consumer prices rose 0.6% in February—a yearly rate of 7.2%.

Beef prices led the pack with a hike of 4% last month (or an outrageous 48% annual rate).

Business and government leaders tried to tell us during the miners' strike that wage increases are the cause of inflation.

**But real wages (buying power) are falling—despite the fact that people are working longer hours.**

Should real wages continue to decline as they have for the last three months, a worker who gets \$150 in take-home pay will wind up with the equivalent of \$129.40 twelve months from now.

Drops in real wages don't cause inflation. They don't cause food prices to rise 1.2% a month, or steel to increase by \$10.50 a ton (see page 8)—a whopping increase that will cause the prices of everything made from steel to rise.

**What caused it is greed. Greed for profits. The rich get their pound of flesh, even if it means you can't get a pound of beef.**

The wealthy look out for their own. We've got to look out for ours. □



Earlier this year, Puerto Rican union activists visited this country to meet with American trade union militants. Here, they talk with Dan Kablack, a Pittsburgh Teamster (left). Sitting in order from left to right after Kablack are Gil Rios, Miguel Cabrera and translator Victor Quintana.

## Puerto Rican Teamsters' Hall Bombed

LATE MONDAY night the headquarters of the Teamsters Union Local 901 was bombed in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The blast, heard for several miles, caused over a million dollars damage to the building which houses a medical center, library and computer.

Two women connected with the union, Gisela Moreno Gascot and Celia Moreno, were slightly injured while sleeping in an upstairs apartment.

This is the latest act in a long campaign to destroy the Teamsters in Puerto Rico. Last October, leading Teamsters' organizer Juan Rafael Caballero Santana was assassinated.

The Teamsters are a target of employers, anti-labor thugs and the colonial government of Puerto Rico, because they are a spearhead of the militant Puerto Rican working class movement.

Puerto Rican Teamsters have made their union a democratic, fighting organization. □

The government of Puerto Rico is now pressing for legislation which would replace strong industrial unions like the Teamsters with weak, so-called "horizontal" craft unions.

Members of the electrical workers' union, UTIER, who are on strike against the government, also used the Teamsters hall as headquarters.

The electrical workers have been locked out. The government says they cannot return until the crawl back on government terms. □

# U.S. HEALTH PLAN IN STORE?

by Karen Kaye

**HEALTH CARE FOR EVERY CITIZEN.** The United States is the only major industrial country that doesn't guarantee it.

And it's not because the American medical industry does a good job by itself, either.

Not only are an estimated 19 million Americans without any health insurance, but skyrocketing costs are creating cutbacks for the insured.

Since December, the United Auto Workers and the AFL-CIO, allied with Senator Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) have greatly stepped up their efforts to force President Carter to make good on his campaign promise to labor for a National Health Insurance program.

In promising to have ready "principles" of a national health insurance plan by April, the President defied inflation warnings from his "Georgia mafia" staffers and two key Cabinet members.

Kennedy, UAW President Doug Fraser and AFL-CIO's Secretary-Treasurer Lane Kirkland put the heat on Carter at a time when he needs labor allies. Carter's fumbling first-year record left his popularity so low that many are wondering publicly if he can beat California's Governor Jerry Brown in the 1980 primaries.

By thwarting or weakening all labor legislation that has come before him so far, Carter failed to keep any major campaign promises to the UAW, the union to which he owes his 1976 Florida primary victory.

## PHYSICIAN HEAL THYSELF

It is the already sky-high and still rising health care costs that are behind the sudden scramble for a national health insurance plan of some sort. As a private industry, the American medical profession has turned out to be one of the greediest and least effective.

Health insurance is so expensive now that many employers are trying to take away health benefits they have negotiated with their unions.

General Motors' health insur-

ance bill soared from \$230 million in 1969 to \$825 million in 1976. GM failed to make employees foot part of the bill in each of the last two contracts.

UAW President Doug Fraser told Congress last May, "Health care costs for the first time in many years are an important factor in labor strife."

Health costs were important in the recent coal miners' strike. The companies won their demand for replacing the union's Health Funds with private insurance, and started a \$200 deductible, whittled down from their original \$700 demand.

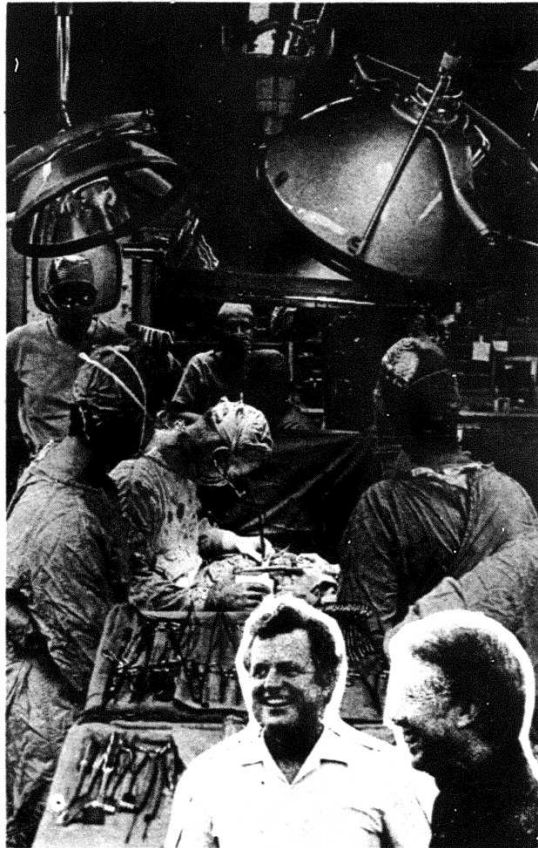
It is because medicine is a private industry that regulates itself that costs are so high. For example, in 1976, physicians' fees went up 131% more than the Consumer Price Index, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics.

## WHAT NHI WILL DO

Any form of National Health Insurance will leave the medical industry in private hands—those of the doctors, who have grown fond of high living as they kept raising fees. What NHI will change is the method of payment and the number of people covered. The government will help pay the bills.

How much the government can keep fees down without taking direct control of the medical industry depends on how tough the eventual bill is.

The AFL-CIO was originally supporting the Kennedy-Corman Bill (S.3, H.R. 21). The principles of this bill were laid out in the March 13 Memo from COPE, newsletter of the AFL-CIO's political committee, in a statement from



President Carter is working with Senator Kennedy on a National Health Insurance plan that will satisfy labor leaders. So far, UAW's Fraser and AFL-CIO's Kirkland are easy to please.

the AFL-CIO's Executive Council:

- Universal and comprehensive coverage;
- Reduction of barriers to prevention and early care (i.e., no deductibles);
- Built-in costs and quality controls;
- Financing by a combination of employer-employee payroll taxes supplemented by general tax revenues.

UAW's President Doug Fraser told a December conference of skilled tradesmen, "We think that health care program should be universal and we're depending on it. We think it should be comprehensive and we're depending on it." He also insisted that any plan must include "cost and quality

controls; [and]... a program of preventive care."

And he warned that "they ought to know over in the White House that if they aren't our allies on this... we're going to look for new allies and we're going to continue to fight until we get quality health care for every man, woman and child in America."

## BIG COMPROMISE

But because the unions want national health legislation debated in Congress before the 1978 Congressional elections, they are all too willing to compromise.

Carter insisted that the National Health Security plan maintain a role for private insurers. In the Kennedy-Corman bill, the federal government would be the only health insurer.

But the Kennedy-Corman bill is probably already dead.

A member of Kennedy's health subcommittee told a caller that, "We are working with the President and the Administration right now. And we're willing to compromise so that we can get some kind of a bill going this session of Congress."

"We're waiting for an administration bill which will probably become adopted as the new National Health Insurance Bill."

While the only announced change in "principles" is an "increased role" for private insurers, the difference in estimated tax costs of the two plans is huge.

Kennedy's staff member confirmed that Newsweek was "probably right" in saying Kennedy-Corman would raise taxes \$130 billion a year in 1980. Carter's plan is said to cost \$22 billion.

But these figures don't tell the whole cost story.

## HOW MANY BENEFITS?

Defending the cost of Kennedy-Corman, the Kennedy staffer said, "...when you're funding a new program like that, usually you're going to pay more in taxes, but you have to delete from that amount the benefits that you're going to get..." "You're no longer going to be paying for Medicare and Medicaid, which are mismanaged and very expensive, and you're not going to be paying for private insurance premiums any more... It's not supposed to break people. It's supposed to make health care more affordable than it is now."

What benefits will be lost in the big compromise? Only Kennedy and the two labor leaders who were so quick to give in now know which Americans' health they are bargaining away.

But even a watered-down bill will likely be a step forward from the present system. Whether Congress will pass it cannot yet be predicted.

# Bert Lance wasn't indicted—of course, he isn't Black...

Last week Michigan Congressman Charles Diggs was indicted by a federal grand jury for misuse of federal payroll money.

In a 35-count indictment, he is charged with padding his payroll and accepting kickbacks from his employees. Congressman Diggs claims he will be vindicated and that he will seek re-election this fall.

The timing of the indictment is interesting. It came when Diggs was in Tanzania on a fact finding mission and before he was to meet President Carter in Lagos, Nigeria.

In Nigeria, Carter will be attempting to sell his southern Africa policy to the most powerful Black nation on the continent.

The indictment means that Diggs and Carter will not be seen together in Africa.

## WHAT'S NEW

Charges of misconduct and abuse of the public trust are not new to the Washington scene. The past six years have seen the Watergate,

Koreagate, Bert Lance, and other scandals to tarnish the image of our so-called public servants.

What is new about this case is that Diggs is the ranking Black member of the House. He was one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman of the House sub-committee on Africa and head of the committee on the District of Columbia.

The Diggs affair is important to watch to see how it is handled. If it is handled like Watergate then Diggs will move to San Clemente instead of San Quentin.

If the case is handled like the Korean CIA's adopt-a-Congressman program, then absolutely nothing will happen. If it is handled like the Bert Lance affair, then Diggs with a diplomatic passport has a promising future to follow in Lance's footsteps—as a bag man for Middle East banking interests.

Bert Lance kept his diplomatic passport after he left government and claimed he was a "special envoy of the President."

Understanding American politics, however, we know that Diggs' case is unlikely to be treated like the rest.

The indictment of a current congressman in the Diggs affair is in striking contrast to the Korean-CIA U.S. Congress affair.

## DIFFERENT STANDARDS

Diggs is Black, and Blacks in government do not receive the same treatment as whites in government. The Adam Clayton Powell affair of the 60's is an example.

Then, the same congressmen who were later to become involved in the Korean-CIA and other scandals were in the forefront of the attempt to drive the Black congressman out of office.

In the Diggs affair be sure to look for the double standard. Also be sure to hear the moral indignation that will flow from the mouths of the unrighted criminals in the halls of government.

—Larry Mitchell



Congressman Diggs, indicted for misuse of federal payroll money. In the Diggs affair, be sure to look for the double standard.

**Workers' Power 248**

Copyright © 1978 by I.S. Publishing Co. Editor: Marilyn Danton. Production Editor: Karen Kaye. Circulation Manager: Tom Dougherty.

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

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

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

# STRIKES SWEEP "ME-TOO" SHOPS IN MON VALLEY

by Larry Butler

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Pittsburgh is not only "Steel City," but also a town steeped in strong militant union tradition. And for this reason, it has been under heavy attack from corporate union busters.

As many an old-timer "mill hunky" can tell you, over the years many of the steel mills that pepper the Monongahela Valley have been bought off by conglomerates.

Where union resistance was too fierce, plants were shut down and moved out to cheap labor centers in the South, or to sweatshop foreign countries.

Pittsburgh is steadily losing its young labor force, as the future of this aging mill town is uncertain.

## STRIKES HIT

Along with the coal strike, a rash of big and little steel strikes has hit Monongahela Valley.

To name the most recent ones, Mesta Machine, United Steel Workers of America Local 7174, just won a five-month lock-out, get-

# Small Shop Steel Workers Get Raw Deal

ting its basic "me-too" package and better, while two others, Latrobe and Pullman Standard, are still fighting their stonewalling parent corporations.

These large locals, each over a thousand workers, have been able to gain decent publicity through

mass picketing (where incidentally pickets at Mesta and Pullman Standard were run down by company cars), and most recently, through a massive labor solidarity parade at Latrobe.

Even United Steel Workers (USW) International bureaucrats

like Lloyd McBride and James Coyne have been forced to lend public and possible financial support to these larger shops.

But what of Pittsburgh's many small USW shops, which are undergoing the same employers' onslaught but have much less power at their command?

Small steel locals like 1531

at Stearns, Kentucky.)

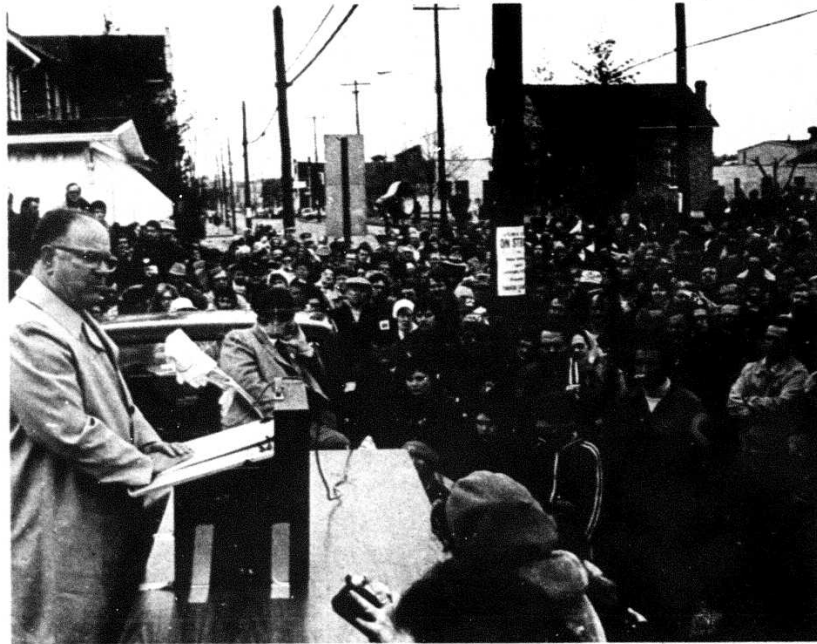
Next door to Heppy's, in the old mill district of Lawrenceville, is one of the oldest steelworker locals in the country, 1531 (McConway & Torley), which makes most of this nation's railroad couplers.

The local has been systematically destroyed over the last three contracts by the Ellicott Machine Corporation, which doesn't want McConway & Torley to continue to be the only union shop within its domain.

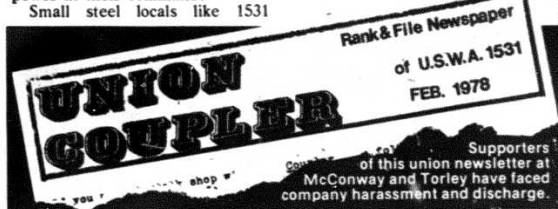
Over this past year, rank and file resistance to both unscrupulous management and a sell-out International Union has been met by company reprisals—the firing of a militant union official, and harassment of rank and filers who write for the union newspaper.

As the March 31 contract deadline neared last year, 1531 members were threatened with a one-third cutback in manpower if they did not accept a union-busting contract.

Accepted by only about 30 votes, the contract included overt anti-union provisions, like one allowing



USWA President Lloyd McBride addresses crowd at Labor Solidarity Rally last month for strikers in Latrobe, Pa. "Someone must have kidnaped him and put him in the car," commented one participant. Even McBride has been forced to support recent steel strikes as workers hold out and solidarity grows.



(McConway Torley), 2584 (Pittsburgh Gear) and 1601 (Heppenstalls), have all lost ground in recent years and today face extinction unless they accept the humiliation of take-away contracts.

The four hundred workers at Heppenstalls for decades have produced some of the finest precision machine tools and parts in the country.

But the Blue Diamond Coal company, which last year bought Heppenstalls out, wants that old mill to relocate in right-to-work state Tennessee, where it can get away from its responsibilities to the many men who have worked there for a pension all their lives.

Last year, Blue Diamond forced the men to accept a cut in wages just to buy time before the inevitable shutdown. (The Blue Diamond Company, by the way, is the same outfit which has fought a brutal scab war against the miners

supervisors to work to cover absenteeism. An incentive plan will be started at McConway & Torley under the new contract as well.

The same issue—the establishment of time studies and speed up under the guise of an "incentive plan"—is one of the main issues in the five-month strike at another USW shop, 2584 (Pittsburgh Gear Co.) [See interview on this page]

All of these small shop examples point to a glaring need. First of all, the small shops must unite and bargain collectively, possibly by District, so as to have as much clout as the big steel shops.

Secondly, workers in big steel have got to recover the democratic rights which its sell-out bureaucrats gave away—the right to strike and to ratify.

The United Mine Workers would only be a footnote in history today if miners had neither of these powers in their fight against the BCOA.

On to a stronger USWA! □

# "What Pittsburgh Gear Wants Is Slaves"

"The strike will last as long as the company wants it to last," is what Leonard Barker, the President of United Steel Workers Local 2584, had to say about the strike that has lasted since November against the Pittsburgh Gear Company.

About 85 employees have been out for five months for a contract at the Neville Island, Pa. plant of Pittsburgh Gear, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bucyrus-Erie International.

The main issues in the strike, Barker told Workers' Power, are money, working conditions and fringe benefits.

"We're not anywhere near up to basic steel," he explained.

## INCENTIVES

Particularly sticky is the incentives issue. An incentive plan was tested last year at Pittsburgh Gear

on a temporary basis. At the end of the trial period, November 1, the union opposed extension.

But the company said it would not sign a contract without the incentive plan.

"The rank and file members

don't want incentives," Barker said.

"We had specific guarantees in writing that no employee would be disciplined or discriminated against because of their inability to perform under the incentive pro-

gram. Yet we have employees that are constantly harassed about the amount of production they put out.

"The statement from the man from Chicago [Stuart Ward, vice-president and general manager of Pittsburgh Gear and Bradford

servitude. What they want is slaves.

"It seems to me that there's a general trend, that some of the management people don't want to deal with unions—they don't want

to deal with the rights of people. "I've talked to some of the people at Latrobe and many of their problems are the same that we're dealing with... and the only thing I can see is that we're reverting back to the '20's to get rid of the unions.

Len Barker was fired by Pittsburgh Gear on August 14. "It was for union activities, a safety violation," he explained.

"They were lifting a 10,000-pound piece of equipment with a 4000-pound-rated crane. I approached the foreman; I pointed out the situation. He gave me no satisfaction.

"I went to get his boss and brought him to the scene. I asked who would accept the responsibility if someone got hurt. A disagreement arose as to who would accept responsibility if someone did get hurt with this crane after he got done abusing it.

"The foreman hauled off and hit me. He got three weeks suspension and I got fired."

Barker's case is going to arbitration on April 25.

Gear Works in Chicago] was, "We'll weed out the deadwood, if you can't do it, we'll weed out the deadwood."

"At Pittsburgh Gear they would like to enter into an agreement that would come up to involuntary

servitude. What they want is slaves.

"It seems to me that there's a general trend, that some of the management people don't want to deal with unions—they don't want

to deal with the rights of people. "I've talked to some of the people at Latrobe and many of their problems are the same that we're dealing with... and the only thing I can see is that we're reverting back to the '20's to get rid of the unions.

"At Pittsburgh Gear they don't pay their people very much money, so their profits must be awful damn high.

"Until Joe Average opens up his eyes, sees what's going on and does something about it, and solidarity comes together within the whole labor movement—not only the steel workers, not only the coal miners—till everyone stands together—they have to understand, there's something that we're losing here.

"We're losing our human rights. We're told when to come to work, when not to come to work, now we're told how long and how fast we have to work.

"We're made to work in unsafe conditions, we're told what we're supposed to think and how we're supposed to think, both on and off the job.

"That's not the way it's supposed to be." □

# ITALY: WHAT'S BEHIND THE "RED BRIGADES"?



The search for Aldo Moro has put police roadblocks on every Italian highway. Left wing activists with no connection to the co-called "Red Brigades" are being arrested and held without charges. Homes are broken into and ransacked by police. A climate of fear is being created for a possible wave of repression against the entire left.

"Italy is a country on the brink of anarchy tonight as police continue their search for the left-wing terrorist kidnapers of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro..."

That's how a typical nightly TV news broadcast begins these days. But what's really happening in Italy? What is behind the so-called "Red Brigades" and their actions?

The following article is an on-the-spot report by CARLO BELLINI from Milan, Italy. We have reprinted and slightly abridged it from the British revolutionary socialist newspaper, Socialist Worker.

□ □ □

THE ARMY AND the police have thrown a cordon around Rome, and are systematically searching the houses of all known to be on the revolutionary left.

The minister of the Interior has given orders for unlimited telephone tapping. Hundreds of private houses, local sections of left groups and newspaper offices have been ransacked.

Many left wing militants have been arrested without charge. Stronger public order laws,

increased powers for the police, a crackdown on the right to demonstrate, can be expected.

The kidnapping of Aldo Moro has given the right-wing Christian Democrats a martyr and a saint. Democratic liberties in general, and the revolutionary left in particular, are the losers.

## MOVE TO RIGHT

The so-called Red Brigades argue that their actions have "destabilized the state."

In a long message issued the day after the kidnapping, the Brigades claimed it would "mobilize a vast and unified armed initiative for the further development of class war..."

What nonsense. The Italian government will move to the right following the Red Brigades' action—but it will not crumble.

When the news of the kidnapping spread throughout Italy, there were massive demonstrations of protest—nearly 200,000 in Rome, 100,000 in Milan.

The majority were sympathizers of the communists, the socialists and the revolutionary left. There were thousands of workers, hundreds of banners from the factory councils.

The working people of Italy don't like the Christian Democrats or Aldo Moro. The speeches praising Moro, or the Christian Democrats, were greeted with silence if not open abuse.

The Communist Party's attempted alliance with the Christian Democrats is still treated by workers with open distrust.

But on one thing everyone was clear: if democracy was going to be defended, it was the left who would have to do it.

The Red Brigades, far from being treated as they would hope as a revolutionary vanguard, are widely regarded by socialists and militants here as either criminally stupid, or else infiltrated by the fascists.

## FASCIST BOMBING

There are many who remember December 1969, when a bomb killed more than 30 people in a Milan bank.

The whole capitalist press blamed "leftist terrorists." An anarchist, Pinelli, was arrested and mysteriously fell to his death from the top of police headquarters.

Then it was discovered that fascists, in close contact with certain sections of the police, were almost certainly responsible for the bomb. They have not yet been brought to justice.

# THE JETS THAT BOMBED LEBANON - MADE IN U.S.A.

by Dan Posen

**QUESTION:** Which country in the world is currently receiving American military aid in clear violation of United States law?  
**ANSWER:** Israel.

You might find this surprising, seeing how Congress falls all over itself every year about its commitment to the defense of Israeli security. But it's true anyway.

You see, U.S. law requires that American military aid be halted to any country which uses those arms to invade another country.

The required cutoff on American military aid was imposed, for example, on Turkey after its troops moved into Cyprus using American military hardware.

The Israeli armed forces did the very same thing when they invaded and seized southern Lebanon. By law, the U.S. government is now obligated to cut off its military supplies to Israel.

The State Department knows perfectly well that American arms were used in the Israeli invasion. But a high official was

quoted as saying the Department would put off "investigating" the issue.

## HIGHER CONSIDERATIONS

Our second question is easier to answer: What is the American government going to do about this?

If you answered, "Nothing," we think you've made a pretty good guess.

After all, United States Middle East policy is dictated by certain considerations higher than petty things like respect for the law or political principle.

One of those considerations, for example, are the crucial military and air bases established by Israel in the occupied Sinai desert.

American military analysts see those bases, and United States access to them, as critical to the future of U.S. domination of the Horn of Africa, the Indian Ocean and oil shipping routes.

In fact, the U.S. military wants those bases secure for American use whether or not the bases themselves ever transfer from

Israeli to Egyptian control in some future settlement.

That's part of the reason why, invasion of Lebanon or not, U.S. arms will keep right on flowing to the Israeli war machine.

That's also part of the reason why the Carter Administration is prepared to sell advanced jet fighters to its other Middle East junior partners, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, as well.

## HOW U.S. ARMS BUILT ISRAEL'S WAR MACHINE

In the last ten years, the U.S. has shipped Israel \$4.2 billion worth of arms, the bulk of it after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.



# Sami Esmail trial: what's at stake

DOES AN AMERICAN citizen have the right to participate in legal political activity, speak out on issues that concern him, and visit other countries if he so chooses?

Sami Esmail, a young Palestinian who is an American-born U.S. citizen, is on trial in Israel facing two counts of "membership in an unlawful organization" and "contact with an enemy agent."

He faces prison terms of 15 years on one count and 10 years on the other.

This case would be similar to the Soviet Union putting an American citizen on trial for carrying a bumper sticker saying "Free Soviet

Jews" in Skokie, Illinois.

Sami Esmail is not accused of any terrorist act—but under Israeli law, Esmail's support for pro-Palestinian activities at Michigan State University constituted "unlawful membership."

And Israel accuses Esmail of "contact with an enemy agent"—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—during a two-week visit to Libya in August 1976.

Esmail was arrested in Israel last December when he arrived to visit his father, who was dying.

Either before or during his interrogation, the Israeli authorities received information on his

background and college campus activities from the FBI.

Ernie Goodman of the National Lawyers Guild has attended part of the trial as an observer. He told Workers' Power that one part of a three-part "confession" signed by Esmail under physical duress, has been admitted as evidence by the Israeli court, while the other two parts are still being contested.

## THREAT TO ARABS

Coverage of the case has caused the Israeli government enough embarrassment that a substantial, and apparently well-financed,

campaign has been launched in the U.S. to discredit Sami Esmail's supporters.

The attack on Sami Esmail is being spearheaded by Monroe Freedman, from Hofstra University Law School.

The "revelation" of Esmail's two-week visit to Libya, is said to prove there's a basis for the charge that he threatened the security of Israel.

The real significance of this is that any Arab student is liable to be arrested and jailed by Israel for visiting Middle East countries Israel doesn't like.

Monroe Freedman is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) national Board of Directors. In view of the FBI's complicity in: turning over information to the perfectly legal activities of an American citizen—an apparent blatant violation of the First Amendment, which the ACLU was founded to defend—we found this rather shocking.

The ACLU national headquarters, which promised to return our call when we called to inquire, has not yet done so. We are continuing to investigate.

—D.P.

# Why Miners Voted "Yes"

by Kim Moody

On Friday, March 24 members of the United Mine Workers voted by 58% to accept the latest contract offer and end their 108-day old strike.

The contract fell far short of the demands approved at the union's 1976 Convention. In fact, it fell short of the 1974 contract in most respects, except money.

The question is why, after the miners had broken the unity of the operators, rejected one offer, and defied and defeated Taft-Hartley, would they ratify a contract that they didn't like?

## HARDSHIPS

An Alabama miner explained: "It's not what we wanted when we came out, but it looks like the best we're going to get."

The media would have us believe that the miners ratified the contract because they were broke. That's only part of the reason.

Although millions of dollars were donated by other unions and rank and filers to the UMW's relief and pension funds, little of this money found its way to the strikers.

Some districts set up their own relief funds. But those in District 17 and District 6 went broke just before the contract was ratified.

The personal finances of most miners were already a disaster. The large car caravans that had closed down a good chunk of eastern non-union coal in the first month and a half of the strike had to be discontinued by the end of February. The miners simply could not put \$20 a day into their gas tanks any more.

As one miner from Letcher County, Kentucky told the Mountain Eagle, "We've each lost \$6300 to \$6400 in wages since this thing began and the effect is showing."

## MILLER

Yet, 42% still voted no. And in spite of all the economic hardships the vote might have been different if it wasn't for Arnold Miller, President of the UMW.

The miners' militancy in the coal fields had forced the operators to retreat from many of their take-away demands. But Miller at the bargaining table in Washington, D.C. agreed too early and too often to too small concessions.

Don Ellis, a miner from Cedar Grove, West Virginia summed up the feelings of many miners when he said, "Maybe it's the best we could get with the kind of people we've had negotiating for us."

There is no doubt that this strike has helped to forge a new, militant leadership throughout the coal fields.

This new leadership is doing something about official union leadership. The first steps in the procedure to recall Miller have been taken.

These new, younger local leaders have been fighting for several years now. They have influence in the local unions and networks around the country. It is they who were the backbone of the strike.

But the leadership at the top was out of step and weak. Miller, who was prepared to surrender everything from the start, prevented the miners from reaping in the contract, the victory that they had won in the struggle. □



[Left] UMW President Arnold Miller. [Above] Miner casts his ballot. 42% voted no.

# Trenton Local Backs Miners' Relief Fund

A car caravan will leave Trenton, Michigan later this month carrying food and clothes for coal miners who have just ended their long and powerful strike.

Jim Barczyk explains for Workers' Power readers why the caravan is being organized by the Trenton Defense Committee.

The Trenton Defense Committee (which Barczyk heads) was formed by people from the Trenton Engine Plant in Michigan to support seven workers who were fired and convicted of contempt of court, as a result of a wildcat strike during the blistering heat last summer. Their case is being appealed. Recently six of the seven got their jobs back.

by Jim Barczyk  
Chairman,  
Trenton Defense Committee

The Trenton Defense Committee supports the right to strike over health and safety issues.

Since seven of my co-workers still face seven days in jail (pending appeals in circuit court in Cincinnati), we feel that we have much in common with the miners.

In their case, it looks as though they have on their contractual battle on the strike issue.

The mine workers turned down the first proposed national contract by a two-to-one vote, partly because of language which would have fired wildcat picketers at mines.

Most often mines are picketed because of safety hazards.

Seeking financial aid, miners have been coming to Detroit. We know the importance of money, as the Trenton Seven have legal debts amounting to about \$18,000.

To raise money, a rally was called here in Detroit by a committee of trade unionists—Teamsters, teachers, steelworkers, auto workers and garment workers. There, over \$700 was contributed to the UMWA District 6 Relief Fund.

The day after the rally was our UAW Local 372 union meeting. Two miners were still in Detroit, so

we invited them to speak to us.

They were greeted with a standing ovation.

One miner, Jim White, Safety Committeeman from District 6, addressed our membership.

When he finished, Mel Graham, a steward at Local 372 for as long as anyone can remember, moved that we give \$2000 to the District 6 Relief Fund. It was passed.

He also "passed the hat" around for expenses, setting a goal of \$200.

When only \$170 was collected, the Local 372 photographer, "Daddy" Thompson, kicked in an extra \$30. A most generous gesture.

I then moved that the local start a food and clothing drive for District 6. It passed unanimously, as were all other motions to assist the miners.

It was a great day for the membership of Local 372. They became involved, and they liked it.

A report on the caravan down to District 6 to deliver the food, clothing, and toys, will follow. The caravan is scheduled for the first week in April. □

## Emergency Appeal Saves Fund

The purpose of the UMW District 6 Relief Fund is to pay utility bills that have been given shut-off dates because of non-payment.

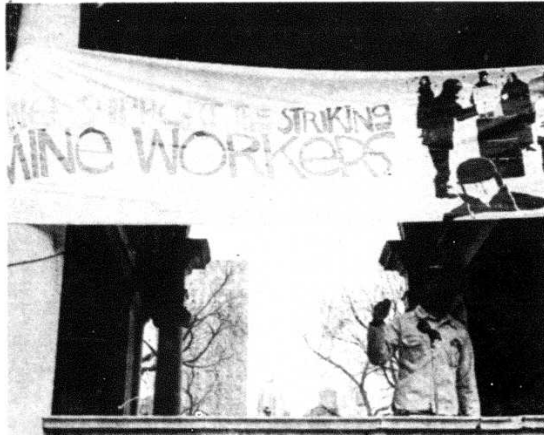
Before the \$2000 check from Local 372 could be delivered the Fund went broke.

In desperate need of money, the miners came back to Detroit. They called the Trenton Defense Committee, because of our help a few days earlier.

On short notice, we initiated a plant gate collection. A limited leaflet was put into the plant on the day before the collection.

With the aid of two miners, Louie and Ron, the collection was a fantastic success, despite police harassment.

\$860.17 was sent to bolster the broke fund. □



Miner addresses New York rally.

## NEW YORK RALLIES FOR THE MINERS

New York—On Saturday, March 25 over 250 people attended a rally called here by the United Mine Workers' Support Committee.

Afterwards, a truck and several cars left to take food, clothing and \$2000 directly to the miners in West Virginia.

For several weeks now, the Committee had been raising food and money. Drop-off points were organized throughout the city. Contributions came in from trade unions, rank and file groups, community groups and individuals.

The caravan went to Beckley, West Virginia, part of UMW District 29, an area which had received less outside support than other districts.

—M.U.

## Bargaining Council Okays UMW Construction Pact

Last December, 10,000 United Mine Workers members who work for the Association of Bituminous Contractors (ABC) joined the coal miners on strike. The ABC workers are construction workers who dig and build the mines.

When coal production resumed on Monday, March 27, the construction workers were still on strike.

The major issue in the strike was over the union's right to require the contractors to hire only from the union list. The contractors want the right to hire whomever they please.

ABC workers in Illinois, Indiana, and Western Kentucky threw up picket lines that kept some 19,000 miners off the job by the middle of last week. By Wednesday, picket

lines began to appear in Ohio and West Virginia as well.

In some places, miners, destitute from their long strike, have crossed the construction workers' picket lines.

As a result, there is some bitterness between construction workers and miners. Last December, the ABC workers walked out three weeks before their contract expired, in solidarity with the miners, and now some miners are refusing to repay the favor.

On Wednesday, March 29, the UMW's 39-member bargaining council approved a tentative settlement with the ABC.

The construction workers will vote on the agreement on Tuesday, April 4. It is generally expected that they will ratify. □

# 'LABOR' CANDIDATE IN DEMOCRATIC PARTY STIRS CONTROVERSY

## DEFEATS MACHINE, BUT CAN SHE DELIVER?

by Mark Harris

"...Miriam Balanoff will work for us" states a major piece of campaign literature in the Chicago Democratic primary election that was held on March 21.

Attorney Balanoff won the Democratic primary for the Illinois 30th state legislative district. She is the sister-in-law of United Steel Workers District 31 Director James Balanoff, and wife of Clem Balanoff, coordinator of the Sadowski Fight Back election campaign.

While Balanoff was identified throughout the campaign as the insurgent steelworkers Fight Back candidate, her campaign was aimed primarily at winning elective office. To the disappointment of some supporters, her campaign did not emphasize building a base for a rank and file movement or concentrate on important issues.

The 30th legislative district covers Chicago's South Side and Calumet City. It includes white, Black and Latino communities. It is the most industrialized and blue collar unionized legislative district in Illinois.

### NON-MACHINE CANDIDATE

Balanoff's campaign was significant because it was one of the few victories for a non-machine candidate in this election.

Her district was also the home of Edward "Fast Eddie" Vrdolyak, Alderman from the 10th ward and one of the four chief bosses for the Chicago Democratic Party machine.

This was the first primary election since the death of Boss Daley, and the machine proved to everyone that it could still turn out the vote.

Because Balanoff ran against the machine, even though she raised few issues she was identified by her opponent as "anti-business" and as representing "only one faction of one union."

Many Balanoff supporters are critical of the Democratic Party and the way the labor movement subordinates its political action to the Party machine.

### "WINNABLE?"

Even those steelworkers active in

the campaign who were in favor of building a labor party as an alternative to the two business parties rejected the socialist argument that campaigns like Balanoff's inside the Democratic Party do not lead in the direction of working class independent political action.

These steelworkers supported Balanoff because of the close ties between the Balanoff family and the steelworkers reform movement. They believed it was necessary at this time to engage in activities that were "winnable."

But, what does "winnable" mean?

If winning means getting elected, no matter how it's done, then Balanoff was successful.

But, if winning means beginning to build a political focus within the union reform movement, she was not successful.

### PAYING DUES

Once elected, Balanoff—no matter how principled she is—will be unable to deliver on any promises she made on the utilities, workman's comp or taxes without accommodating to the real power in

the legislature—the Democratic machine.

Working people need their own politics and their own working class political organization—we need our own base of power.

The Democratic Party never has been and never will be that organized power base.

One endorsement shows why: The Chicago Daily News endorsed Balanoff February 20, before it went out of business.

Their statement said in part: "...she would be a strong articulate voice for labor."

But actions speak a lot louder than words. When the News went out of business, it blacklisted a number of members of the newspaper guild for militant activity. In fact, the News does not stand on the side of labor at all.

So they weren't too worried about the Balanoff "voice for labor" because they knew well that once in office, she would be powerless because her only option will be to make deals with the machine.

And that's how things will stay for working people in politics until we have our own political party—we'll be basically powerless. □



## THREE COPS MURDER MAN— GET ONE YEAR

ONE YEAR in prison. That's the final sentence for three Houston police officers who beat up a Chicano prisoner, tied him up and pushed him into a bayou, where he drowned.

It took nearly that long—11 months—and two trials to convict the police in the first place. They could have received life sentences.

The one-year sentence was imposed on Terry Denson, Stephen Orlando, and Joseph Janish by Federal Judge Ross N. Sterling.

Sterling was appointed federal judge by Gerald Ford in 1976. His former senior law partner is John Conally, former Texas Governor.

### OUTRAGE

The body of Jose Campos Torres was found last May 8, floating in Buffalo Bayou, a few hours after his arrest in a minor disturbance at a tavern.

Torres had been beaten by police, then driven to the police station. There, the sergeant told the officers to take him to the hospital for treatment.

Instead they took him to the bayou, handcuffed, and shoved him in.

Two officers, Denson and Orlando, were tried in state court for murder, and acquitted. Instead they were convicted of negligent homicide, and fined—one dollar.

Outrage among Houston's Chicano community and civil rights workers created so much uproar that the Federal government decided to step in.

### FEDERAL JUSTICE

The Houston police department, one of the most brutal in the South, became the subject of intense publicity.

Federal charges were brought against the officers for the violation of Torres' civil rights—a law originally written to allow federal courts to try the murderers of civil rights activists where state courts refused to act.

The conviction of the officers in Federal court, many believed, would be a turning point, the first signal that Houston police could no longer murder and mistreat prisoners at will.

Judge Ross Sterling, by placing the value of a young Chicano's life at one year, has made sure it will still be business as usual for Houston's police. □

## WORKERS' POWER

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

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

Name .....

Address .....

Trade Union .....

14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203

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

# WHAT HAPPENED TO FREE SPEECH?

## Union leaders penalized this man for saying what was on his mind

by Ilene Winkler  
CWA Local 1101

**NEW YORK—Union bureaucrats have the right to kick dissidents out of union office for opposing union policy, according to a recent Court of Appeals decision in New York.**

The ruling, which could have a potentially disastrous effect throughout the labor movement, came in a case brought by 22 rank and filers against the officials of their union, Local 1101 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

The Local covers plant workers for the New York Telephone Company.

Last year, a shop steward, Dave Newman, wrote an article in a newsletter, criticizing the Local Executive Board for failing to mobilize the membership for contract negotiations.

For this, he was removed as a steward by Local 1101 President Ed Dempsey. Dempsey reasoned that, while members were free to criticize the Local, any steward who did so should be removed at once.

Newman and other union members went to federal court, where they argued that the Landrum-Griffin Act protected freedom of expression by union members and prohibited union officials from penalizing officers or members who dissented.

They got an injunction against the Local, and Newman was reinstated as steward. However, the union leadership appealed the case, and appeals court recently handed down its ruling in their favor.

### STEWARDS AS "AGENTS"

According to the court, and to the officials of Local 1101, a union is a top-down organization in which stewards are "agents of Local management" (the court's words). They are not representatives of the members who elected them.

Any steward or other official who steps out of line, can be removed from office regardless of the wishes of the membership.

**This is a sharp break from earlier decisions under Landrum-Griffin, which have upheld the right of union members and elected officers to dissent from union policy without penalty.**

But in this case, the court bought 1101's argument that there's a difference between the rights of members and the "responsibility of officers." Members can say anything they want, according to the court, but they cannot elect officers to express their point of view.

### NEWMAN A THREAT

It's no accident that this decision came down now. What upset the appeals court in New York the most was that Newman was calling for the union to organize telephone workers to strike for a better contract in 1977.

**As the judges wrote, in horrified terms, Dave Newman was threatening CWA's "relatively calm and dispassionate negotiations with Bell."**

So union militancy has now been made legal grounds for removal from union office.

We can now expect to see the courts intervene more and more on the side of the bureaucrats, as

movements for union reform grow stronger and the conflict between the ranks and union bureaucrats intensifies.

The Newman case, which a few years ago might have been quickly settled in Newman's favor, now threatens to become a significant weapon to keep down the rank and file movement.

The CWA International is publicizing the case within the union, in

an attempt to frighten other stewards.

### LEGAL DEFENSE

Members of Local 1101 have set up a defense committee and have decided to try to bring the case to the Supreme Court.

There is a need for publicity, court briefs from members of other unions, and of course, for money.

It is estimated that it will cost \$5000 just to ask the Supreme Court to hear the case. In addition, Local 1101 has successfully sued the 22 rank and filers for \$1600 court costs.

For further information, or to send contributions, write:

Telephone Workers Legal Defense Committee, c/o Kramer, 410 Seventh Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215.



PRODUCES "EXPERIMENTAL" EDITION

# NY POST SET TO PROVOKE STRIKE



by Sandy Boyer

All signs indicate that the New York Post—one of the country's largest newspapers—may be the next newspaper to try to smash its unions.

Robert Murdoch, the Australian millionaire who recently bought the Post, is preparing to publish a scab newspaper in case of a strike.

With its contracts with the Newspaper Guild, the pressmen, and the stereotypers about to expire, the Post has produced an "experimental" edition using non-union workers.

The workers were imported from the San Antonio Express-News, which Murdoch also owns. If there is a strike, they will be housed in a dormitory at the Post's headquarters.

Murdoch is using the same strategy the Washington Post used to break the Printers Union, and the Oakland Press, in Pontiac, Michigan, is using to try to defeat its unions.

Management has also been trying to recruit scabs by getting union members to resign from their unions. They have had some success.

The Newspaper Guild received 26 identically worded letters of resignation from members of the Post's circulation department. All 26 used to be non-union workers on another paper that went out of business.

The gimmick is: if they've quit the union, then they can't be disciplined for scabbing. A vice-president of the New York Times recently wrote, in the New York Law Journal, that if they "want to

continue to write or broadcast during a strike there will be no effective way for the union to stop them." No legal way, at least.

As this is being written, it appears that the nation's largest newspaper, the New York Daily News, is preparing to follow the Post's example.

Management personnel have been practicing making plates and running presses for at least a week. The Daily News' union contracts expire at the same time as the Post's.

The battle lines are being drawn on what may be shaping up as one of the most important confrontations in the history of newspaper unionism. If the Post or News succeeds in breaking their union, soon there may be few union jobs left on American newspapers.

# Speaking Out

What We Think

## Behind inflation: wages or corporate greed?

On Wednesday, March 29, U.S. Steel announced a price rise of \$10.50 per ton of steel—an increase of 2.2% beginning April 1. The corporation claimed the increase was needed "to cover the costs of the new coal labor contracts."

This increase comes on top of 5.5% increase that took effect on February 1. According to the Council on Wage and Price Stability, the two increases "would bring total steel price increases for the first quarter of this year to about 8% That's as much as steel prices rose for the entire 1976-77 pricing year.

The steel companies have been crying over lost profits. Last fall they blamed the Japanese steel companies for undercutting them. This time they're blaming the coal miners' wage increase.

But at most, the coal contract will cost the steel corporations \$5.50 over three years according to the wage-price council.

### GOVERNMENT-BACKED MONOPOLY

The steel companies can raise prices at will and not worry about competition because of monopoly pricing and government protection. The import controls instituted by the government last fall mean that cheaper foreign steel is

kept out of the U.S. through the establishment of a base line price.

Because the value of the American dollar keeps falling, the base line price will be revised upward to reflect the increased value of the Japanese currency.

Robert Crandall, who helped develop the import control plan, said that "without a doubt" the trigger price system makes raising domestic steel prices easier. While American steel makers will rake in extra profits from the fall in the value of the dollar, every consumer will suffer from higher prices.

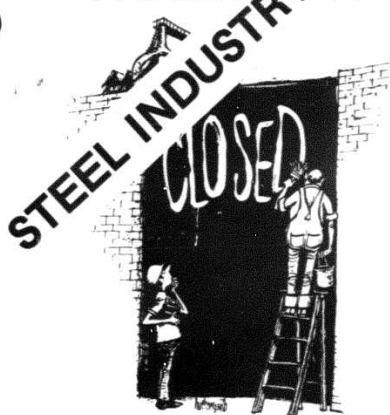
### PRICES FILTER DOWN

The major price increases will be reflected in higher construction, transportation and housing costs. Already the growing inflation rate of the past three months has meant that spendable income—income corrected for inflation—has dropped 3.6%.

As these price increases filter through the economy over the next few months, we can expect inflation to increase, and spendable income to drop further.

All of which makes it clear where inflation comes from in this society—monopolies and monopoly pricing—not unions and workers' wage demands.

Unfair foreign competition takes jobs from American steelworkers



Bethlehem

The steel industry ran ads like this one last fall in their successful campaign for import controls.

## Fighting Words

Every time somebody gets a dollar that he didn't work for, it means that somebody else worked for it and didn't get it.

Eugene Debs

As I See It

# Illegitimate Wealth

by Toni Hawk

ONE JOHN DAHLINGER has just published a book claiming he is Henry Ford's illegitimate son.

He has lots of evidence for thinking he's the son of the inventor of the automobile assembly line, mainly the way Ford set up his mother and the way Ford treated him, but whether or not he's really Ford's son is of secondary interest to this reviewer.

What is fascinating is the glimpse into what was

happening to all the wealth Ford was taking from the auto workers who were turning out all those Model A's and Model T's.

Ford built his mistress and her husband a mansion near "Fairlane," his Michigan estate. It had stables, guest houses, a pool, garages for their cars, and many servants. He also built them a summer house with boat docks and all the trimmings.

Nostalgic about his old grammar school, the rich man had

it moved, lock, stock and barrel so that his son could sit in his same old desk.

Dahlinger is sentimental about a lot of things—his boat rides with Ford up the Rouge River, playing with half-brother Edsel's children. He spends a lot of paragraphs on his fifth birthday party. Ford showed up at the party apparently empty-handed.

But when little John sat down at the table he found a key next to his plate—a key for a gas-powered car of his very own. The car itself was so big it was left outside on the—ahem!—race track.

All of that was in the days when Ford was paying workers \$5 a day, trying with all his might to prevent the CIO from organizing the workers in his factories. Five dollars a day was supposed to be enough for Ford's workers and their families, but \$5 a day hardly kept his kids and grandkids in gasoline for their various toy cars.

With the difference between what he paid them and the wealth his workers created, which he took from them, Ford was able to indulge himself and his kind in every imaginable whim. Gas cars for five-year-olds at a time when the Depression had most Americans desperate for enough food!

### TODAY AND TOMORROW...

Today the rich indulge themselves and their kids in other ways. The Shah of Iran's son, for example, pilots his own single engine Bonanza aircraft at the age of fourteen.

Someone once said, "The rich are different from you and me." Well, one day they won't be. They'll work, no different from you and me.

Sorry, Ford, but that's a better idea.

## 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 workers.

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

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.



The Socialist View

# system in crisis

# PROFITS

## first in a series

by Michael Urquhart and Paul Broz  
In this capitalist economic system, the name of the game is profit.

Cereal on a supermarket shelf, cars rolling off an assembly line, Fred Flintstone cartoons on TV—each is produced only because someone could make a buck off it.

If there's no money in it, it's not going to be produced, no matter how useful it might be.

In the U.S., a small group of wealthy individuals own the machines, the raw materials, the land, and the factories that are used to make products. The average person, who doesn't own a factory, is forced to work for the people who do.

For so many hours a day the worker belongs to whoever buys him. He can be laid off as often as his employer sees fit, or when the boss no longer gets any use out of him.

But the only way most ordinary workers can be done with employers, short of warfare or revolution, is suicide.

While a laborer gets up early in the morning and goes to work at a dull, tiring job to make a living, the wealthy need only to sit on their duffs.

### A DAY IN THE LIFE

It is the worker who produces the profits, not the "capitalist."

If you worked for General Motors last year, for every \$2 you were

paid, GM got \$1 in profits. The rest of what you produced went to pay GM's expenses.

In economic terms, a GM employee's work week looks something like this:

• **By lunch on Tuesday**, he has produced enough to pay his week's wages and benefits (and the government and the union).

• **Tuesday afternoon through Friday morning**, he works to pay GM's operating and finance costs.

• **Most of Friday**, he works to enrich the wealthy (and the government again).

Is there a worker alive who, at one time or another, hasn't heard his or her boss talk about "a fair day's work for a fair day's pay"?

But what's fair? Profit is unpaid labor. It's time we work that we don't get paid for.

**While we work, and don't get paid, the wealthy stockholders don't work, but get paid.**

### SOME HISTORY

Before capitalism, during feudalism, a laborer worked three days on his own farm, three days on the lord's.

Although today, it's more difficult to see, this same sort of situation of working without pay still exists. Marx called it "wage slavery."

The wage system—pay by the hour—makes unpaid labor seem paid. In a slave system, it's the reverse. All labor seems unpaid,

when in reality some of it is paid, by giving food, clothing, shelter, etc.

Capitalists are always trying to increase the amount of unpaid labor, by reducing wages, or working people faster or more efficiently. When a contract expires, workers and capitalists argue over how much labor is to be unpaid.

**Profit—unpaid labor—is important to workers not just as individuals. The drive for profits shapes the entire structure of our society.**

For example, GM competes with

other auto companies. If GM can produce a car at a lower cost than its competitors, it can drive the competitors out of business.

When GM organized its production into the General Motors Assembly Division it lowered its costs by streamlining production, increasing speed-up, modernizing plants, and laying off workers.

The other auto companies had no choice but to follow suit.

When one trucking company begins using dangerous double trailers, other companies are forced to do the same—the alternative is bankruptcy.

### ACCUMULATE!

In order to remain profitable and able to compete with other firms, companies must keep expanding their operations. Eventually, as some corporations get larger and larger, they dominate their industries, becoming a kind of monopoly.

Today, these corporations extend across national boundaries into other countries. Their owners make decisions which affect or control

many of the basic aspects of our lives.

An entire town is wiped out, lives destroyed, because a steel company decides that it is cheaper to produce steel somewhere else.

Numerous workers are injured or killed each year on the job, because the wealthy who run the corporations decide that safety precautions are too expensive—they cut into profits.

Millions suffer the burden of low wages. Millions more receive no wages, because there aren't jobs available for them.

**Of the plight of the worker in his day, Marx said, "He works that he may keep alive. He does not count the labor itself as part of his life; it is rather a sacrifice of his life... Life for him begins where this activity ceases—at the table, at the tavern seat, in bed." Sound familiar?**

For the wealthy, this system makes a lot of sense. Little work, a lot of money, the good life.

For the working class, it doesn't make any sense at all. □

Next in this series: Capitalism—its ups and downs.

## Letters

# Violence and the Catholic Church—a reader replies

Dear Workers' Power,

In his letter published in the March 20 issue, Jim Woods hopes that the charge included in your March 6 story "Right to Lifers' Firebomb Ohio (Abortion Clinic)" that "the Catholic Church condones and encourages violent opposition to abortion" is in error.

Unfortunately the charge is all too true. As can be seen from the enclosed article, on January 6 in New York City, 20 demonstrators coordinated by a Roman Catholic priest barged into an abortion clinic, into the sterile rooms.

They had intended to physically prevent abortions from proceeding. But since none were in process, they contented themselves with harassing women awaiting their operations.

This assault took place at the same time that six abortion clinics were being invaded in different states.

Further, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (to the U.S. Constitution—an amendment that would make abortion once again illegal, thus sending thousands of women to their death through back alley abortions) reports that of the \$906,404 it raised from January 1976 to March 1977, contributions of \$500 or more, totalling \$459,403 came from Dioceses or Archdioceses of the Catholic Church.

I can understand that Brother Woods is upset to learn that the Catholic Church is involved in such actions.

I would urge him to use whatever influence he has to convince the church hierarchy that their policy of encouraging violence against abortion clinics is seriously in error.

Barbara Zeluck  
New York

article below taken from HealthRight Winter, 1978

On Friday, January 6, an umbrella anti-abortion group calling itself P.F.A.C.E., infiltrated the Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health, a New York City abortion clinic. Twenty people, many of whom were young, barged into the clinic and back to the sterile procedure rooms, pushing aside workers who tried to block the doors. The demonstrators had intended to interpose their bodies between doctors and women to prevent abortions from being performed. No abortions were in progress, so they contented themselves with harassing women who were waiting for their procedures, and singing hymns about babies. After disrupting the functioning of the clinic for an hour, six of the group submitted to arrest and the others left to join a demonstration outside. For three more hours anti-abortion people marched on the street and accosted women coming to the clinic for any service.

The action was part of a well-organized simultaneous assault on six abortion clinics in different states. Right-to-Life members and representatives of other anti-abortion groups participated, although the New York demonstration was coordinated by a Roman Catholic priest who teaches in a school in Queens. The new aggressiveness directed towards women exercising their legal rights makes us wonder where we ought to be demonstrating—the Church and its private schools?



# Bankers Seize Hostage: City Workers' Pensions

by Steve Zeluck

The employers, government and corrupt union leaders are always finding new ways of screwing working people. Last week the coal operators negotiated a contract that did away with the United Mine Workers' comprehensive health plan.

Teamster union officials have been robbing Teamster pension funds blind for years.

Now, in New York and other cities throughout the country, the corporations and their political stooges are out to go the mine owners and Fitzsimmons one better. They plan to raid the public employee pension funds to the tune of \$3 billion.

Here's the plan.

## CITY BOND BLACKMAIL

New York says it's going broke. As a result, it is threatening to cut thousands of jobs unless the Public Employee Pension Funds are used to buy city bonds.

The money from the sale of these bonds would be used to pay off the banks for the last loan to the city and give a 5% pay raise to city workers whose contracts expire soon.

That means \$1.1 billion will be paid to the banks and \$125 million will be distributed among 250,000 workers. That comes to \$600 per worker.

On the surface it doesn't look too bad. But, it's important to look at the fine print.

The city, it turns out, already gives the banks 17% of all city revenues. Suppose the city cannot pay back and therefore redeem the city bonds? Then, there will be no money to pay retired workers' pensions.

Already the Firemen's pension fund is going into the red as of June 1978.

The proposed plan was too much of a steal even for union leaders Albert Shanker of the American Federation of Teachers and Victor Gotbaum of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to accept.

So the city and the federal government came up with another plan.

The federal government agreed to guarantee the city bonds.

There's just one problem. The money that will be used to

guarantee the bonds is the \$600 million that the federal government sends to all cities and states to help pay for schools, construction projects, hospitals and mass transit.

In other words, if the city has to default on the bonds—and remember New York went broke once before—it will tell the unions:

'Look here. If we give you a pay increase, or even if we redeem the bonds in your pension funds so you can pay the pensioners, there won't be any money for schools, hospitals, or public transportation.'

## TRAPPED

Public employees will be forced between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, they can accept future job cuts and the responsibility for cuts in city services. The alternative will be allowing the city not to repay what it owes the pension fund and accepting cuts in pension benefits.

And unions are falling for the trap. They figure the plan will give them a 5% pay raise now. And if it destroys the pension funds of thousands, that's tough.

This is not the first time union pension funds have been raided by New York with the agreement of union leaders. Four years ago the teachers' union negotiated a salary increase at the expense of pensions.

The union agreed, without telling the members, to let the city reduce payments to the pension fund.

The money from the fund was used for salary increases. In other words, the teachers paid for their own salary increases.

Actually the city pension funds are in such a danger now that Shanker and Gotbaum are trying to spread the risk to state pension funds.

They are pressuring the New York State Controller to use the state public employee pension funds, in addition to the city funds, to buy city bonds. The Controller is refusing to allow this to happen.

## TAYLOR, TAFT-HARTLEY

New York City's workers have more in common with the coal miners than getting deprived of their union funds.

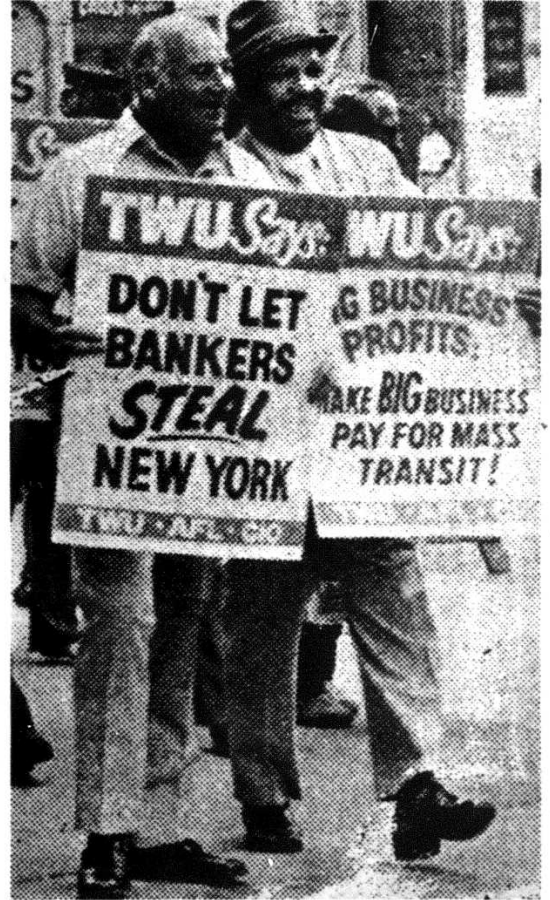
Like the miners, who were ordered back to work by Taft-Hartley injunction, New York City unions may face their own Taft-Hartley.

Under the Taylor law, striking city workers are fined two days' pay for each day on strike.

And, like Arnold Miller, the City union leaders don't mind. Miller didn't want a miners' strike, and Shanker doesn't want a city union strike. He has refused to fight against the Taylor law.

Unfortunately city workers are not yet ready to give Shanker, Gotbaum and the government the treatment the miners gave Miller and Carter.

Until they are, Shanker and Gotbaum are not worried. Their pensions are provided for by private insurance companies, who are not about to go broke. □



These transit workers were demonstrating against the big bank takeover of New York city three years ago. Today New York is broke again. City union leaders have agreed to a raid of the unions' pension funds to back up city bonds.

## Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

If you're going somewhere in a Boeing jet soon, keep in mind what a fine organization the Boeing Company is. Boeing has been charged by the Department of Labor with firing a large number of its older engineers just in order to get younger ones. There's not much that's lower than using the sweat and labor of a worker while he's young, and then firing him before he's old enough for a pension. Such age discrimination (against workers over 45) is illegal. The labor Department's suit asks for reinstatement of those illegally dismissed.



A delegation of women trade unionists went to the White House March 17, demanding that President Carter halt the awarding of Defense Department contracts to the anti-union J.P. Stevens Company. Addie Wyatt, vice-president of the Meat Cutters union, reported that the Pentagon has given Stevens over \$118 million worth of contracts in the last eight years. The Clothing and Textile workers are boycotting Stevens' products, in support of a union organizing drive. The visit to the White House was in connection with the formation of a National Women's Committee to Support the J.P. Stevens Workers.

The next major battle facing the nation's farm workers will be mechanization. The Agriculture Department says the number of farm workers in this country dropped 7% last year. Modern farm machinery has the potential for eliminating some of the most back-breaking work you can find. But when used by big business, machinery eliminates the workers' jobs and income, along with the drudgery.

Teamsters, take note. Wall Street speculators are latching onto trucking industry stocks as a future money-maker. Despite bad winter weather and the coal strike's impact, "sunny forecasts are being advanced by some analysts about profit and unit volume gains and about the performance of the stocks this year," says the Wall Street Journal.

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

## JOIN US!

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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Union .....

## I.S. BRANCHES

National Office: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203  
 Atlanta: P.O. Box 11016, Atlanta, GA 30310  
 Austin: P.O. Box 8492, Austin, TX 78712  
 Bay Area: P.O. Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604  
 Boston: P.O. Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114  
 Chicago: P.O. Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago, IL 60611  
 Cleveland: P.O. Box 03336, Station B, Cleveland, OH 44103  
 Detroit: 16155 Meyers, Detroit, MI 48235  
 Gary: P.O. Box 426, Gary, IN 46402  
 Los Angeles: P.O. Box 1545, Lynwood, CA 90262  
 New Jersey: P.O. Box 897, Chestnut Station, Union, NJ 07063  
 New York: 30 E. 20th St., Room 207, New York, NY 10003  
 Pittsburgh: P.O. Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120  
 Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

BUT WERE TOO POOR TO ASK



# Everything you need to know about labor law

by W. Strunk

Staughton Lynd's timely and remarkable little book on the legal rights of rank and filers goes a long way toward teaching shop-floor activists how to find their way around in the mysterious world of labor law.

This is a practical book, of a small size so as to fit into a workers' breast pocket or purse.

**Labor Law For The Rank And Filer.** By Staughton Lynd. Published by Miles and Weir.

Under present conditions, it is not sufficient for an activist to have leadership ability, mass support, and an understanding of capitalist exploitation.

The government so effectively regulates the manner in which unions and caucuses organize that it is impossible to make headway without some knowledge of how the government works in this field.

## DO-IT-YOURSELF

Most past attempts at explaining or demystifying labor law for non-lawyers have been simple lists of do's and don't's. Organizers are told to follow the rules, to stay out of trouble. Lynd's book is not very extensive in this regard.

Rather, Lynd sketches the most important laws in broadest outlines. Then he explains how the organizer, himself or herself, can find the answer to a specific problem by consulting named legal texts.

So you save yourself \$50.00 an hour, and get a faster (and just as good) answer than a lawyer can provide.

As Lynd pointedly remarks: "Believe me, when you take a labor law problem to a lawyer, the first thing he or she does when you leave the office is to take down [these books] and go through the [research] process I have just described."

## BILL OF RIGHTS

After reviewing resource material, the book covers a few important problem areas, and illustrates its points by frequent reference to successful tactics employed by other rank and filers.

For example, this section begins with a quotation of the entire "Teamster Bill of Rights" resolution adopted by Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), at its September 1977 convention.

The TDU list of rights is actually a set of goals TDU is fighting to have included in the official IBT constitution and local by-laws.

Lynd proposes this list as a model other rank and file groups could use to democratize their own unions.

This is important as a legal tool, because courts view a union's constitution and by-laws as a legal contract between the union and the members. The better your "contract," the more extensive your ability to organize.

Other problem areas covered include the right to act together, the right to leaflet, the right to refuse unsafe work, the right to be fairly represented by your union, and the right to be a socialist.

The book ends with what might be termed a vision of the future. The law says it is perfectly legal to strike—but the strike will be protected by the National Labor Relations Board only if the strike is over certain narrowly confined terms and conditions of employment.

The Labor Board will not require the company to bargain (for instance) over a company's investment decisions.

"Workers need to control the big

decisions in their enterprises as well as the small ones," Lynd says.

He points to the example of Sweden, where companies are required to negotiate with unions over plant closings or relocations.

Even without laws on the Swedish model, Lynd suggests that a powerful national union with the support of its rank and file could use a national strike or boycott to dictate to companies such decisions which affect the lives of their workers.

What Lynd is really getting at is that workers need to change the laws themselves, if not the whole structure of our society to achieve a measure of workers' power.

His text is peppered with examples of reactionary and inhuman court decisions and deceptively written laws that workers and even lawyers cannot understand without doing extensive research.

The intended effect of this language, as Lynd shows, is to encourage workers to rely on lawyers and professional union staffers, a generally conservative lot, for leadership in problems of organizing workers.

## CONCLUSION

In this work Lynd does not take the final step in a social critique of our present labor laws.

In the preamble to the National Labor Relations Act, the U.S. Congress stated that the "policy" of the act was to "eliminate" strikes.

By giving workers a narrow right to bargain collectively and strike, they will have incentive not to actually use that right, it was reasoned.

Workers' rights are thus secondary to the rights of employers to have uninterrupted production, as the Supreme Court said in 1974.

Using this policy justification, the Supreme Court has on several occasions interpreted the law to mean exactly the opposite of what it says.

Lower courts also take away workers' rights, where they conflict with the national labor policy.

The one overriding conclusion: There is no labor law; there is only labor policy.



Drawing by Handelsman ©1973 The New Yorker Magazine

# The Soul Of The Coal Miners

It's winter in the mountains And it's also contract time. The only shift I'll pull is picketing the mine.

So begins Roger Bryant's latest single, "Stop the Flow of Coal."

Bryant is not a coal miner, but he is part of the miners' culture. His grandfather was killed in a rock fall in 1938, and he lives in Logan County, West Virginia—the heart of the coal fields.

## Stop The Flow Of Coal.

Written and sung by Roger Bryant.

The song was an immediate hit among the miners because it tells the story of the 1978 coal strike.

The companies they won't bargain And I won't get on my knees, So till we get a contract It's just walk and wait and freeze.

But pretty soon I won't be The only one that's cold Those big old power plants

Can't get no non-union coal.

The chorus is about the roving pickets' favorite target:

I'm going to Kentucky to stop the flow of coal. Going to Kentucky Don't let the big trucks roll.

Like the civil rights movement of the 1960's, it's no accident that the coal miners' long struggle for justice has produced some of the most moving music in American history.

Song writers like Harlan County's Florence Reese wrote about the events she was part of—the suffering and tragedy and triumph that have characterized the United Mine Workers.

The more strongly the issues are felt, the better the music. And in the mines, the issues are often life and death.

Reese's "Which Side Are You On," written in the 1930's, was a favorite of the civil rights movement 30 years later. There was always a Mississippi sheriff who had beaten, jailed and sometimes killed peaceful demonstrators — a sheriff whose



Roger Bryant

name could be substituted for Harlan County's J.H. Blair.

Stop the Flow of Coal will be on an album Bryant is recording, due out this spring. In the meantime, you can get it as a single by writing to Roger Bryant, PO Box 343, Davis, West Virginia 26260. The price is \$1.50, including postage.

Jim Woodward

[W. Strunk is a Detroit labor attorney who represents rank and file groups in several unions.

"Labor Law for the Rank and Filer" is available from Singlejack Little Books, Box 1906, San Pedro, CA 90733.]

# Cindy!

## OLD FAIRY TALE GOES TO HARLEM

by Elissa Clarke

I started watching "Cindy" to keep my daughter company, but it's hard to say who enjoyed it more (though only one of us was allowed to stay up till the end.)

Cindy is an updated, version of Cinderella. The cast is all Black, but they don't merely fill the old roles. The story was rewritten to describe the lives of Blacks during the depression.

Cindy. Starring Charlaire Woodard and Clifton Davis. An ABC movie.

Imagine the boring old fairy tale—you remember, the wicked stepmother, the fairy godmother, the pumpkin coach, and the glass slipper—moving light years ahead until it lands in Harlem in 1943. Sure, it's still a fairy tale where the fire escapes sparkle with potted flowers (and this during the depression), but there is a healthy dose of reality sprinkled in. And it's a great deal of fun to figure out where it's going to come.

For example, this time the "fairy godmother" is played by a draft-dodger, Michael. Michael explains to Cindy that he has a deferment for working in a war-related industry: chauffeur for the chief honcho in the Black mafia.

By far, the best part of this production was the music.

A jazz band appears in the strangest places. When Cindy asks her stepisters to tell her what the Sugar Hill ball will be like, the band suddenly appears: the french horn sitting at the kitchen table, the trombone on the windowsill, and so on. The song that follows is fabulous.

## STAR

Charlaire Woodard, who played Cindy, is someone you should keep an eye on. Cindy was Woodard's first feature role. She is a spirited, charming, talented actress, sure to go to the top.

In my daughter's mind, Cindy doesn't hold a candle to the Wizard of Oz, on a couple of nights later. But what do you expect from a four-year-old?

P.S. Cindy doesn't marry the prince, thank goodness.

# STOP U-CAL RACISM, HOME AND ABROAD



Demonstrators demand no investments in South Africa.

LOS ANGELES—Approximately 200 people from student and community groups met at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Friday, March 17, to protest racist policies of the University of California Board of Regents.

The demonstration was initiated by the state-wide organization, Campuses United Against Apartheid (CUAA) and co-sponsored by the Southern Africa Support Committee, the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition, the UCLA Chile Solidarity Group, and many other student and community groups.

The demonstrators focused on three of the Regents' racist policies: the investment of millions of dollars of University endowment and employee pension funds in corporations doing business in South Africa; the poor defense mounted by the University in the Bakke case; and the positions of the Regents as directors of inter-

national corporations who aided in the overthrow of the legal government of Salvador Allende in Chile.

This was the first state-wide protest action called by CUAA. The organization was born last year out of student demonstrations demanding divestment of university funds in Southern Africa at Stanford, Santa Cruz, and Berkeley.

A state-wide meeting was held in January to organize support for African liberation on campuses, in trade unions, and in the community.

Since January, groups have been started at every University of California campus and some state colleges and private universities.

Over 10,000 signatures have been collected calling for divestment of UC funds in corporations with South African investments.

At the rally, a speaker from CUAA reminded the audience that the University of California Re-

gents invest \$800 million in corporations doing business in South Africa.

After an hour of spirited chants, the demonstrators met on the lawn of the Convention Center to hear speakers from the sponsoring groups.

Representatives from across the state of California will meet at Stanford on April 2 to plan future activities to support African liberation. They hope to put pressure on the Regents to hold public hearings on the divestment issue.

The UCLA chapter, in which members of the International Socialists have been active, will be organizing broader participation on their campus.

It will also try to expand to state university and community college campuses in the Los Angeles area which have not yet started CUAA chapters. □

# WORKERS' POWER COAL STRIKE ENDS

## But miners' fight for justice has just begun

by Kim Moody

"You can't feel like you've just won a big victory, cause you ain't. On the other hand, staying out for 110 days, beating them back and beating Taft-Hartley, shows we're pretty strong."

That's how Dave Lamm, a miner from Bell, West Virginia, described feelings in the mines this week.

Most of the 160,000 striking members of the United Mine Workers were back at work this week.

About 19,000 miners honored the sporadic picket lines mounted by mine construction workers, who are still on strike. But most of the country's 5000 coal mines were back in production.

The mood in the mines was one of caution, of watching and waiting. For the moment, neither the miners nor mine supervisors know what the contract holds in store.

### WAIT AND SEE

Bill Bryant, a safety committeeman for UMW Local 1766 near Charleston, W. Va., said management in his mine was "just cautious like we are. They don't know what they got or how they come out either."

Dave Lamm felt that the local management hadn't gotten its orders yet.

"If some of these national companies have any plans to do anything, it'll take a while for it to filter down. They've got to give the orders in New York and then it'll filter down."

When the plans do filter down and when the fights over what the new contract means start, they will not find a defeated union membership.

Unlike many other unions in America, the UMWA has not been on the decline, but on the rise.

Former UMW Research Director Tom Bethel has pointed out that

the UMW has grown from 150,000 members to 280,000 since 1965. Its average age has dropped from 48 to 31.

In the past several years, this membership has reformed the structure of the union and engaged in a series of massive and largely successful strikes.

Business Week magazine, in its April 3 issue, has shown that a number of big coal companies, including those owned by oil and utilities, will have lost tens of millions of dollars in profits due to strikes.

This fact led companies like Consolidation, Pittston, Island Creek, and Westmoreland to make compromises with the union.

### TROUBLE AHEAD

But even if the operators back off for a while, and even given the fact that most miners want to earn some money to make back the more than \$6000 they lost while on strike, there is trouble ahead.

None of the basic issues causing this and most of the other strikes has been resolved.

- The operators continue to blame safety standards, established in the contract and under the Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, for the 50% drop in deep mining productivity.

- An arbitration finding grants the operators the right to fire picketers or those who "foment" strikes.

- The operators have the right to demand that Local unions accept productivity and incentive plans. The Locals have the right to refuse.

- As of Monday, March 27, 280,000 health cards were invalidated by the UMW Health and Retirement Funds, while 120,000 belonging to retirees are immediately being renewed.

A number of big operators have already switched over to private



Members of the United Mine Workers struck for 110 days for "a contract we can live with" — but did they get one?

insurance plans. But many have yet to switch. And even when they do, there is bound to be confusion and attempted swindling by the operators.

- The operators will certainly continue to undermine the seniority system.

All of these factors represent potential causes for local strikes, wildcats and other forms of conflict.

### FINE THE BOSSES

Retired coal miner Frank Brunk of Charleston, W. Va., told the Charleston Gazette that if you wanted to end the strikes you should fine the operators, not the miners, every time there's a strike. "Pretty soon there'd be nothing to strike about."

While it will certainly take more than fines to tame the big billion dollar corporations that mine coal, Brunk hit on the fundamental truth that the bosses, not the miners, are the cause of strikes.

One West Virginia local President predicts, "there is going to be more trouble in the next three years than in the last three. It's not a workable contract. When people catch up a little bit, they'll probably be ready to throw off whatever junk is thrown at them."

In the long run, he pointed out, "the union's house has got to be cleaned," referring to the campaign to oust UMWA President Arnold Miller.

In all likelihood, the United Mine Workers is a stronger union today than at any time since the 1940's, when John L. Lewis held the operators and the government at bay.

The strike has ended, but the struggle for justice in the coal mines is far from over. □

Why the miners ratified—even though they don't like the contract. For an analysis, see page 5.