

WORKERS' Power

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STORY ON PAGES 4-5.

T.D.U. NATIONAL CONVENTION '78
Detroit Chapter Welcomes You!
Teamster Rank # 1 File

WAGES CONTROLLED— PROFITS GUARANTEED



"We must face a time of national austerity," was Jimmy Carter's message as he announced phase two of his so-called inflation-fighting program.

But the program he announced will pin austerity only on labor. It will do nothing to stop inflation—in fact, it will serve to accelerate the inflationary spiral.

Bankers the world over are well aware of this fact. That is why, as Workers' Power goes to press they day after the President's speech, the dollar hit new lows on the world market.

Carter announced plans to hold price increases for business to 1/2 of 1% of the 1976-77 price increases. The government's controls will be "voluntary."

But business will respond to his plan exactly the same way it responded to the last set of "voluntary" price controls—under President Richard Nixon.

Capitalists knew the "voluntary" controls were only the first step toward mandatory controls. They raised prices tremendously.

Just to make sure they will do it again, Carter has handed them the necessary loopholes. A company that pleads poverty, or that it is not making a reasonable profit because of cost increases, will be allowed to break the standards. That's a big enough loophole for Chrysler, Lockheed and American Motors to fall through.

An expected 5-10% rise in world oil prices, not to mention the phased-in de-regulation of natural gas prices just signed into law by Carter, will no doubt allow Exxon, Mobil and the giant utilities to pass even more increases on.

The net result is that inflation will be quickened—not halted.

The labor movement has already had a plentiful dose of Carter's "austerity." Real wages as measured by the U.S. Labor Department have fallen 3% in the last year.

The president's program of a 7% ceiling on wage increases—including all cost of living and benefits—is intended to make them fall faster.

And fall they will—just as real wages

plummeted when Nixon followed his "voluntary" controls with the wage-price freeze of August 1971—unless the unions, beginning with the Teamsters, fight back as they have never fought before.

Supposedly, workers who hold wage increases to 7% will get a tax rebate if inflation goes beyond that level. But this rebate, "within reasonable limits," boils down to a promise from Carter to request rebate legislation from Congress in January.

This from a man who has already promised—but not delivered—two tax rebates since he took office. This from a Congress that has yet to pass a single piece of labor-supported legislation without amending it out of existence.

Carter's voluntary anti-inflation policy is part and parcel of the escalating corporate "one-sided class war" against American labor. The voluntary controls plan mean that the government is openly backing the employers in their offensive against workers.

In the same speech, Carter suggested the de-regulation of the trucking industry—a move which would create many more non-union trucking outfits and far worse conditions for teamsters.

And he boasted that one thousand safety regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are being abolished.

And he announced job slashes and even greater cuts in real wages for government workers.

It is no wonder that International Association of Machinists (IAM) President William Wimpinger called Carter's program "obscene"—a policy of making workers pay for inflation when the government "just gave \$50 billion to the energy monopolies."

Carter's long-awaited anti-inflation policy is nothing but a case of old garbage in a new pail.

A new contract round is approaching. Last year the mineworkers showed the American labor movement what Carter can do with this sort of trash. □

AFTER THE RAIDS

Will U.S. Drop Rhodesia Sanctions?

by Dan Posen

While Ian Smith ate lunch at the U.S. State Department, his soldiers slaughtered somewhere between 500 and 1500 Zimbabwean refugees at a camp inside Zambia on October 21.

Most of the victims of the massacre were unarmed civilians. Some were being trained as liberation soldiers for ZAPU, the Zimbabwe African People's Union, led by Joshua Nkomo.

In the name of "fighting terrorism," the Rhodesian invaders dropped napalm and cluster bombs on the camp. Then paratroopers went in and systematically machine-gunned the inhabitants.

At the same time, the Rhodesian Army was also hitting Mozam-

bique. Supposedly, the targets were military bases of ZANU, the Zimbabwe African National Union.

While few details of the raid into Mozambique have been published, it should be noted that the real base of ZANU military operations is no longer in Mozambique, but inside Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) itself.

Ian Smith, the white Rhodesian prime minister, has promised more such raids will be launched.

EFFECT ON U.S.

But don't these mass murders of African people cause the American government to stiffen its supposed "opposition to Smith's internal settlement"?

In fact, their effect is exactly the opposite.

At precisely the same time as the slaughter in Zambia, the State Department was giving Ian Smith a forum to announce he would attend an "all-parties conference" to end the Zimbabwe liberation war.

In other words, the liberation movements of the Patriotic Front, ZANU and ZAPU, are now supposed to attend a peace conference with the man who has ordered the murder of thousands of their people.

Smith even announced—and the U.S. has not denied—that they have agreed on guaranteeing white control of the police and military command during a "political transition to majority rule."

If Jimmy Carter actually believes the Zimbabwe freedom fighters will attend a conference with Ian

Smith on that basis, it means he probably has had an attack of Camp-David-on-the-brain.

LIFT SANCTIONS?

But the issue is more serious than the proposed all-parties conference.

The timing of Smith's visit to the U.S., his meeting with Cyrus Vance and the Rhodesian raid on Zambia, all indicate that as the Rhodesian whites escalate the war, their racist supporters in this country will make a major push to lift U.S. sanctions against Rhodesia when Congress reopens.

It is an insidious conspiracy. And there is more and more evidence that the Carter Administration is a direct party to it. □

NO TO THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS

Demonstrate at the Renaissance Center, downtown Detroit, at 5:30 pm, Monday October 30. The Israeli and Egyptian Ambassadors to the U.S. will be accepting "awards" for the Camp David agreements, on behalf of Begin and Sadat. Organizations from the Arab and American communities in the Detroit area are calling for the largest possible demonstration against these awards and against the Camp David fraud.

BE THERE!!

Eyewitness Report from Northern Ireland For Catholic and Protestant: misery, hatred and violence

by Anne Quill

THE FIRST surprise for a foreigner in Northern Ireland is that so much is normal. I came half expecting a heap of smoking ruins with a few groups of Catholics, Prods and the British Army fighting it out.

Instead everything seemed very ordinary—the nice neighborhoods are very nice, the parks are beautiful, the city is surrounded by mountains, people get up and go to work or go shopping.

Even the bombed and burnt-out neighborhoods don't look as bad as the worst parts of the South Bronx.

A few things were strange, like getting frisked every time I went into the city, or seeing cops with machine guns.

I also noticed the slogans on the walls . . . "Will Lizzie visit H-Block" . . . "Up the Provos" . . . "Sectarianism Kills Workers" . . . "Fuck the Provos" . . . "No Pope Here" . . . "Ulster Defense Association."

REPRESSION

But it took a few days for the real strangeness of life in Belfast to sink in.

The British policy toward Northern Ireland right now is Ulsterization (sound familiar? As in—"Vietnamization"). This, in practice, means restoring the pre-1968 status quo.

For the first time in years, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) are going into the Catholic neighborhoods without the soldiers backing them up.

Some of the worst pre-1968 forces have been abolished, like the B-specials, a paramilitary force of part-time cops. But they have been replaced by similar groups like the Ulster Defense Regiment (UDR), a force of partisan soldiers.

The Protestant private armies, UDA (Ulster Defense Association) and UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) still exist.

DETENTION

What hit me more and more in Belfast was the uncertainty Catholic workers live with every day.

I met Michael and Ellis, a young couple with two kids. The first time I met Michael, Ellis was in England speaking for the Relatives Action Committee.

She was coming back the next day, and Michael was worried that she would be picked up when she got on the boat at Liverpool and held for seven days under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. He also knew every time he'd called her, the phone was probably tapped.

Ellis got back okay, but four people were held the night she came over.

I saw a newspaper story that two men from the North, on their way to Germany to work, were held in London for seven days. As a result, they lost their jobs. Unemployment in the Catholic areas is more than 30%.

People don't go to pubs (neighborhood bars) much because so many have been bombed. The pubs



"It took a few days for the real strangeness of life in Belfast to sink in."

are surrounded with chicken wire. There are only three movie theatres still open in Belfast.

BOMBS, ROADBLOCKS

Just after I left the North some men who were out duck hunting were shot by the UDR, who said it was an unfortunate mistake.

At night you see the British Army foot patrols in Catholic areas. The Brits look so much like something out of an old World War II movie, you expect them to dig in and start shooting. Sometimes they do.

The army also runs roadblocks, mainly in the Catholic areas and on the roads to them. If you're stopped, you do not tell them you've been visiting someone because they'll want the name and address.

The Catholic areas have private taxi services, which act as buses and charge less than the city bus service. For Falls Road and Andersonstown (two Catholic areas) they

use taxis. For the Ardoyne they use private cars, because the Crumlin Road goes through Protestant areas and taxis might be shot at or bombed.

Catholics stopped using the city buses after people who got on in Catholic neighborhoods were shot on the buses by members of the UVF.

A CITY DIVIDED

The other frightening thing is the complete division between Catholic and Protestants, especially in the working class. When a woman in a taxi told me, ". . . And there are people here WORSE than the Negroes," the degree of racism and hatred was clear.

The Catholic and Protestant workers live in different neighborhoods, go to different schools, work in different industries, and therefore belong to different unions. The Prods have much less unemployment and slightly better jobs.

John Z. DeLorean, a former General Motors whiz who was head of the Chevrolet Division in the States, is starting a campaign to build expensive sports cars in West Belfast—a Catholic neighborhood.

DeLorean attempted to make deals with Puerto Rico, Detroit, and the Irish Republic before Northern Ireland came up with a deal that involved \$100 million of government money as an incentive.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission found 11 high-risk factors in the project, including the limited market for a car that would sell for \$11,000, competition from existing cars, and the car being still in the developmental stage.

So the unemployed in West Belfast may once again have their hopes dashed.

MORE MISERY

In the short run Northern Ireland seems almost hopeless. The division between the Catholics and Protestants serves the bosses well. Northern Ireland has lower wages and higher prices than England and Scotland. It has always been way behind England in social services.

A united working class movement is not about to happen. The Provos (Provisional Irish Republican Army, the armed, mainly Catholic resistance movement) are used as scapegoats by the British to blame for all the evils that plague the North.

The Provos, whose only strategy is anti-British military terrorism, are politically bankrupt but dominate the Catholic left.

The other wing of the IRA, the Officials, spend their time trying to look respectable to whomever will talk to them. The ultra-right Protestant groups are still going strong. For Catholics and Protestants alike there will be more misery, hatred, and violence. □

Northern Ireland: A Brief Who's Who

Anne Quill's eyewitness report from Ireland uses a number of names and terms which might not be familiar to many readers. Here is a brief list of names and what they mean.

- **Ulster.** Northern Ireland.
- **Royal Ulster Constabulary.** The official police force, almost 100% Protestant. Hated for its notorious brutality toward Catholics. The **Ulster Defense Association** and **Ulster Volunteer Force** are even more vicious Protestant groups which carry out random murders of Catholics.

- **Pre-1968 status quo.** A civil rights movement for the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland began in 1968. It challenged the existing system of total Protestant domination.

- **Relatives Action Committee.** A committee that protests the mistreatment of Republican prisoners and fights for them to be recognized as political prisoners rather than criminals.

- **Prevention of Terrorism Act.** A law passed by the British Parliament, which allows detention without trial and deportation from Britain. Aimed at suspected Republican supporters. (Republicans are those who fight against British colonialism and Protestant domination of Northern Ireland.)

- **"Official" and "Provisional" IRA.** The Provisional IRA is the Republican organization carrying out armed resistance against British rule. The IRA split between the two wings at the end of the 1960's. □



John DeLorean's auto plant in Northern Ireland

Lesbian Mother Fights For Child

"So many tears shed"

by Elissa Clarke

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—"So many tears have been shed for this unfairness," sighed Margareth Miller, a lesbian mother who is fighting to gain custody of her daughter, Jillian.

"It's an absolute nightmare. I worked it out in the office one day. After 9th of October, there was over 17 million seconds of misery that my daughter and I have been put through.

"There is so little effort put into ending the real cruelty in this world—and so much effort into splitting up a mother and her child. All because I admitted—no, acknowledged—that I am a lesbian."

As more and more gays come out of the closet, child custody has become a much more public issue for homosexual parents. The courts see homosexuality as a reason to deny custody.

There have been few victories. Last week, another Ann Arbor mother was awarded "possession" of her children, but the state has custody. She is taking care of the state's children.

COURT BATTLES

When Margareth Miller and her husband separated, he said he did not want the children, son Ricky and daughter Jillian. "I was not aware that I was gay at the time that I married, although I knew that I was not happy with the relationship right from the start. In 1972, I told my husband that I had to leave, that I was unhappy in the marriage, that I knew that I was a lesbian.

"In 1976, the children went to him for a summer vacation. While they were there, he went to court, told them I was a lesbian, and they changed the custody. I had no idea what had happened until five days later the sheriff's department came to my home and informed me that my children had been taken out of my custody."

More than two years of court battles have followed. Originally, Margareth worked out a deal with her husband that he would keep Ricky and she would keep Jillian—"on a temporary basis." In June, 1977 Oakland County Judge Ziem ruled that Margareth should not have custody of the children.

Margareth appealed the case because Ziem had disregarded the Child Custody Act of 1970, and had not interviewed Jillian. Instead, in his final statement, Ziem read a newspaper clipping which quoted President Carter saying that homo-



Margareth Miller and Daughter, 12-year-old Jillian.

sexuals are not normal, so therefore he couldn't rule that they were normal either. Jillian was supposed to be returned to her father on September 1, 1977.

AFRAID

"Jillian spent the whole summer worrying that she was going to leave a mother that she wants to stay with very, very much," said Margareth.

Twelve-year-old Jillian says: "I'm very afraid when my mom comes home from court that I won't be here and I won't see her."

"I want to live with my mother. She's a good person."

Just a few days before Jillian was supposed to return to her father, the appeals court agreed to review the case. They ordered the case back to Judge Ziem because he had disregarded the Child Custody Act.

"He went down the Child Custody Act, and he simply added the word 'lesbian' after each point," Margareth said. "He interviewed Jillian for five minutes... five whole minutes! We lost again."

The case is now before the Michigan State Supreme Court. "We have been waiting and waiting and waiting each day, day by day, to hear whether the Supreme Court will actually hear

the case. If they say no, that means they can come and get Jillian tomorrow.

BEST INTERESTS

"This case is supposed to be for the best interests of the child. I wonder what they think two and a quarter years of this has done to Jillian. It has been a terrible ordeal for Jillian, of course it is. Horrible.

"They are afraid that somehow this child will grow up to like women instead of men. I don't know what they think we do, but it's their fantasy, not our reality."

"There was a study done by Richard Green from Stoney Brook, New York. It came out in June in the American Journal of Psychiatry. He studied 37 children of gay and homosexual parents. Of all the children, there was one who might have been bisexual; other than that, all the children were heterosexual.

"We know that one child in ten of heterosexual parents is homosexual. Of course I'm being facetious, but according to these statistics, we should be taking children away from heterosexuals."

SO MANY YEARS

"The whole judicial system is supposed to be for human rights. It's terribly unfair. It's just so unfair that I cannot say enough about that. I have lost my son; I have nearly lost my daughter—and quite possibly might. I'm in debt up to my ears. Since I have lost three times in court, I have to pay his court costs, too. I owe over \$6,000.

"And it's been so many years out of our lives. Years that I should have been just nurturing Jillian, being able to play on the weekends instead of running benefits."

"I myself, along with my lover and my daughter, took the briefs to the [state] Supreme Court and handed them in. A victory in this case will not only be a victory for Jillian, but a victory for gay rights. It will win something for humanity. So the courts can't go into someone's bedroom—or decide that they don't like you for some other reason—and take your children away."

Margareth and Jillian appreciate any contribution to their defense fund. Send donations to: The Margareth and Jillian Defense Committee, 3401 Michigan Union, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48101.

MIXED VICTORY FOR WOMEN

IN ITS FRENZIED rush to adjourn, Congress passed legislation that will have a devastating effect on women's right to abortion. Poor women are no longer the only target of the attack against abortion.

Virtually all federal funding for abortion was cut off. The ban on Medicaid funding for abortions was continued. In addition, the government will no longer pay for abortions for military personnel, military dependents, or Peace Corps personnel.

An amendment was attached to the new pregnancy disability law that will allow employers with private health insurance to refuse to cover abortions.

MIXED VICTORY

The pregnancy disability law was a long awaited victory for the women's movement. It reverses a 1976 Supreme Court ruling which held that exclusion of pregnancy from medical insurance plans was not a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The Supreme Court ruling said that since pregnancy is "voluntary" it is not sex discrimination to discriminate against pregnant women.

It was the Supreme Court ruling on pregnancy disability that began a long series of attacks against women. Today, women are beginning to organize and fight against the attacks. A coalition of 300 organizations fought for the pregnancy disability legislation.

The new legislation will improve benefits for millions of working women. More than a billion dollars annually in sick pay and medical benefits will be paid through this legislation. Many companies will be forced to improve their pregnancy benefits. For example, a six week maximum for benefits will no longer be legal.

It is ironic that this victory also signals a new stage in the attack against abortion. Poor women were hit first, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that the aim is not to cut federal spending, or to "get the government out of the abortion business" (as the anti-abortion forces say), but rather to end the right of all women to choose abortion.

The abortion amendment should serve to remind women that the attack continues, and despite a couple of recent victories, women must rebuild the women's movement if we are to turn back the attacks.

E. Clarke

EDITOR'S NOTE

Workers' Power will suspend publication until the I.S. National Convention, November 10-12. We will send our readers an informational report immediately following the Convention.

BRITISH FORD WORKERS STRIKE

by Anne Quill

LONDON, ENGLAND — At the largest Ford plant in Britain, Dagenham Works near London, I spoke to some of the 57,000 workers at Ford's in England who walked out last month.

The immediate issue in the strike is the five percent limit in wage increases imposed by the Labor Party government.

But what is really at issue may be the future of this government itself. Prime Minister Callaghan has staked his future on a policy of wage controls similar to Jimmy Carter's, only more restrictive and less "voluntary."

He is doing so in defiance of his own Labor Party's rank and file which at the Labor Party conven-

tion a few weeks ago refused to endorse the five percent limit.

The crisis of the Labor government is becoming worse, as it loses the confidence of both the workers who voted it into office, and of the businessmen who don't trust it to control the workers.

I saw Michael Foot, a member of Callaghan's Cabinet, on TV trying to explain the difference between the Labor Party's wage restraints and the Conservative Party's wage restraints. He did not do a good job.

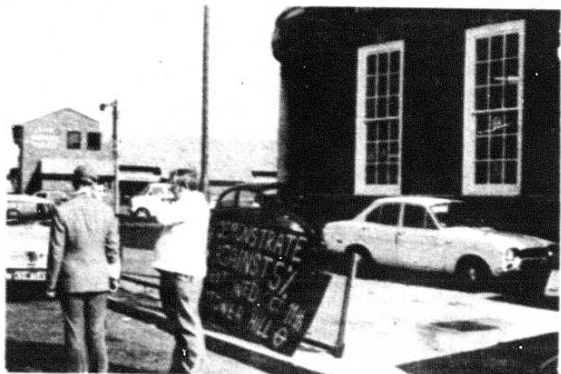
The government knows that if Ford workers break the five percent, then other British auto workers and workers in other industries will fight for more and get it.

Workers know this too. Dockers, railway workers and truckers are refusing to handle Ford products.

When I visited Dagenham the strike was almost two weeks old. The workers at Dagenham belong to many different unions, but because they have a strong shop floor organization, they are able to work together.

I talked to a steward from the electronics union who told me: "You know in the shop we have to work together all the time and that makes it easier at times like this. Sometimes we have problems when some unions don't recognize a strike."

"Everyone comes out, but only some people are getting strike pay. But on this issue we know we all have to stick together."



Ford workers picket. Sign calls for demonstration against wage controls.



Safeway Strike

Productivity is one of the major questions facing the Teamsters Union in its new contracts. Jim Watzek, a leader of the grocery strike in California, told the convention that Safeway has demanded an increase in productivity from 1200 cases per day to 1800-2000. The human costs of this speed-up are considerable. Watzek said that when a similar scheme was introduced in Los Angeles, the average age of grocery warehouse workers dropped from 37 to 22 years. The older workers were simply forced out. Watzek said the international union has undermined the strike, alternately giving strike sanction and then withdrawing it. Similar problems have been reported across the country, including Pittsburgh, where productivity standards have been introduced in violation of the contract, but with the cooperation of the Eastern Conference.



Affirmative Action

Willis Pitts urged the convention to take a position on the Weber case, which is being appealed to the Supreme Court. Like the Bakke case, the suit brought by Brian Weber is directed against affirmative action, but this time it involves employment rather than admission to medical school. The case comes from Louisiana, where Kaiser Aluminum and a United Steelworkers local had negotiated an affirmative action plan. It claims that preferential hiring and promotion for Blacks, women, and other minorities—who have traditionally been discriminated against—is unfair to white men. If Weber wins the case, all affirmative action programs would be endangered. This would be particularly serious in the trucking industry, which still has an extremely low proportion of Blacks and women, particularly in the better jobs. After discussion of the importance of the Weber case, TDU voted overwhelmingly to join in opposing it.



Author Speaks

Dan Moldes, author of "The Hoffa Wars," was a guest speaker at the TDU convention. He spoke about the history of struggle inside the Teamsters, and praised TDU for its fight to democratize the union.

TDU Convention Shows New Strength

Contract Fight Planned

WINDSOR, Ontario—Five hundred rank and file Teamsters from 28 states and provinces met here October 21-22 in the largest, most militant, and most representative meeting yet of the growing movement inside the big union.

The background for the successful Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) convention is the coming national Teamster contracts. The national freight agreement expires April 1, 1979 and is followed by the UPS and carhaul national agreements, along with regional grocery contracts.

What got the Teamsters at this meeting jumping to their feet were calls for a stand of "no contract, no work" and winning the right to strike in the coming contracts.

CARHAULERS LEAD

In the weeks prior to the convention, meetings of carhaulers were held in 15 cities—and the result was that representatives were present from carhauling terminals that employ the majority of the nation's 22,000 carhaulers. In many cases actual delegations were sent, with their way paid by contributions back home.

The carhaulers are organized into the Carhaulers Contract Committee (CCC) which is aiming to pressure the union to win "majority rule" on their contract and win big contract gains from the carriers. The companies are enjoying record profits while instituting "cut rate" contract deals at an alarming rate. It was reported that dozens of such deals have come in during the life of the present contract.

CCC Chairman Jim Carothers of Detroit announced to the convention after the carhaulers had met separately that "the price of hauling cars just went up!"

Organization of the 400,000 rank and file freight drivers is coming along more slowly. Strike sentiment was strong here also, however.

FREIGHT CONTRACT

Mel Packer, who is running as a TDU candidate for president of Pittsburgh Local 249, reported that his local and two others in Pennsylvania have passed resolutions that they "would refuse to work" after April 1, 1979 unless productivity standards were banned in the contract.

Other key demands are a new grievance procedure, and improvements in working conditions and pension benefits. Wage demands were clearly secondary.

Two staff members from PROD, the other Teamster reform organization, attended the convention. At the conclusion of the convention, PROD Organizing Director Paul Poulos joined TDU organizer Ken Paff in telling the press that the two organizations would stand together in the contract fight.

The convention marked TDU's second birthday. It was reported that TDU has doubled in the past year—in numbers and strength.

As if to prove it, Ken Paff announced in the first session that TDU leader Jack Farrell had just won the presidency of Local 886, an 8,000-member trucking local in Oklahoma City. TDU has only been organizing in Oklahoma for the past four months.

Further indication of growth was the wide spread of representation, with people flying in from such places as Jacksonville, Florida, San Jose, California, Amarillo, Texas, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and numerous other distant points. The largest delegations came from the mid-western states.

LEADERSHIP

The most dramatic indication of growth was not in numbers, but in the depth of rank and file leadership the movement is producing.

It was well-known dissident leader Pete Camarata who got the biggest ovation, but a large number of rank and file activists took part in building, leading and conducting the convention sessions and workshops.

The trucking employers and the most corrupt union bureaucracy in America are producing the angry rank and file, but it is the TDU that is creating an effective team of militant rank and file leaders.

This core of militants is based on people who have worked together closely for the past two years, and who are training an expanding network of rank and file organizers.

Indicative of this depth of leadership was the election of the International Steering Committee—it was changed from "national" as the group has spread to Canada and elected two Canadians to its leading body.

Some leaders declined to be re-elected to make room for new people. In addition, new militant leaders are developing in the various contract fights.

Kroger grocery drivers, for example, have developed their own national network through TDU. Kroger employs 6,000 Teamsters.

Following the convention, TDU plans to move its national headquarters from Cleveland to Detroit.



TDU Co-Chairmen

Pete Camarata of Detroit (left) and Doug Allen of Los Angeles were elected co-chairmen of TDU. Other officers elected were Ken Paff of Cleveland, organizer, Eileen Janadia of Detroit, Phyllis Carpenter of Green Bay, Wisc., and Ray Kuszelowski of Toronto, trustees. These officers and nine others constitute the international steering committee, which directs TDU between conventions.



The organization feels this move will strengthen its preparations for the coming contract fights because of Detroit's importance as a Teamster center.

MOVE TO DETROIT

Detroit is the home of TDU's leading spokesman, Pete Camarata, and was the center of opposition to the 1976 freight and carhaul contracts.

A TDU official said, "This is not just a symbolic move. It will put us in a much better position to coordinate rank and file actions nationally and give us more resources to do the job."



RS FOR A
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TEAMSTERS



TDU
CONVENTION



MAJORITY
VOTE

TDU Candidates

Pete Camarata (right) and Jack Vlahovic are TDU's candidates for General President and General Secretary-Treasurer of the Teamsters Union. Unless Frank Fitzsimmons resigns sooner, the election will be held at the union's 1981 convention. At a pre-convention news conference, Camarata told reporters that "it's not like [the employers] are after contract demands—they're after the union. They want to break it. We're losing members and the union is falling apart around us." Vlahovic said that a similar union-busting mood is prevalent in Canada. "We have a liberal government that is interested in abolishing the right to strike," he said, noting as an example the recently-passed legislation ordering postal workers to end their strike.

STOP Carhauers Organize

"This meeting should mark the rebirth of classical unionism," said Jim Carothers, a Detroit Teamster and leader of the Carhauers Contract Committee (CCC). "Labor peace," he said, "I want to know what that means...because when they talk about peace they mean a piece of your hide." During the convention the carhauers spent long hours meeting separately to work out their demands for the upcoming contract. These include eliminating cut rate deals, limits on forced overtime, and the right to strike on grievances. In 1976, carhauers twice voted to reject contract proposals, only to have an unwanted contract forced on them because the international demanded a two-thirds vote to reject. The most popular contract demand, judging from the carhauers attending the TDU convention, is the rehiring with back pay of the 52 workers fired during wildcat strikes in Cincinnati, Flint, and Detroit protesting the 1976 contract. "We are not going to haul any more cars unless these men go back at full back pay," Carothers said.

Rank & File Cooperation

TDU organizer Ken Paff (left) and PROD Organizing Director Paul Poulos announced at the conclusion of the convention that the two organizations would cooperate in the upcoming contract fights. They estimated that by April 1, TDU and PROD collectively should have some 10,000 members.



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Volkswagen workers approve new pact

Union fails to win wage parity

Workers at the new Volkswagen plant in New Stanton, Pa. approved a revised three-year contract the weekend of October 21.

The new contract does not provide parity with Big Three autoworkers, as the employees had demanded in a week-long strike.

The new contract has the same money as the first one, but it is divided up differently.

For example, the first raise will be larger, but new hires will start "substantially" lower and have to work nine months instead of 90 days before getting the regular pay.

(The company plans to add a second shift in January, hiring 1600 to 1700 more workers.)

SURPRISE

The members of UAW local 2055 stunned both management and union officials October 9 when they voted 1235 to 94 to reject the proposed contract and immediately proceeded to set up picket lines.

"We aren't second class citizens.

"Our work is as good as any in the auto industry. We should get paid what everybody else does," striker John Lyman of the paint department told a reporter.

His union leadership does not agree.

UAW International Representative Harry L. Davis told a reporter, "When we recommended [the first contract], I predicted the vote would be overwhelming. I was right. The vote was certainly overwhelming. But I was predicting it would pass. I guess I had it backwards."

The UAW leadership bought the company's hard luck story.

The Wall Street Journal, a business newspaper, didn't. VW officials in the U.S. "have been working hard to portray the subsidiary as an isolated and struggling operation," the Journal noted.

"...its big German parent... Volkswagenwerk is the world's fourth biggest auto maker in terms of dollar sales, and it is highly profitable. It is bankrolling the U.S. operation and will reap any future profits," the Journal added.

GREENER PASTURES

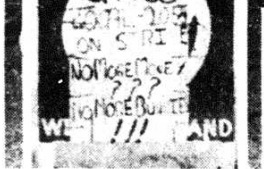
Foreign auto makers are interested in producing in the U.S. now because the dollar's declining value makes their imported cars too expensive to be competitive.

The UAW has been doing P.R. work on the U.S. as a plant site for German and Japanese auto makers, apparently with some promises about the behavior of UAW members.

For instance, when he announced the first proposed VW contract, UAW President Doug Fraser called the subcontract pact "an excellent example for other foreign auto manufacturers who may open manufacturing or assembly operations in the United States.

(Fraser is the man who announced a couple months ago that business was waging a "class war" against labor.)

After the VW wildcat, a Japanese auto executive complained, "If [UAW leaders] can't control their rank and file, how can they expect



Workers at Volkswagen's first U.S. plant are producing the Rabbit model again after a week-long wildcat strike (top) for parity with Big Three workers (inset: "No more money??? No more bunnies!!! strikers' sign said). But the International did not support them and VW workers did not win parity.

us to come here?"

The first contract left VW workers making at least \$1.00/hr. less than Big Three employees. Seventeen raises in three years would raise wages but not necessarily to parity. Also, Big Three workers get a new contract in less than a year and presumably their wages will go up, leaving VW further behind.

At the end of three years, the

approved contract will have given the same raises as the rejected contract. The cost to Volkswagen is the same.

By allowing or forcing employees of foreign-based auto makers to accept lower wages and benefits than Big Three employees, the UAW threatens its entire membership.

American Motors and parts supplier workers already had standard UAW contracts.

Lower wages "for some" will eventually set a lower standard throughout the whole industry.

If the UAW doesn't change its policy, Chrysler, Ford and GM will soon be lining up with sob stories for the UAW leadership which is so willing to sacrifice its members to help corporate giants.

VW body shop worker James DeBernardi put it this way during the strike: "As I understand it, some of the members of our committee were given schooling in contract negotiations. But the way this has gone, I get the impression they may have been schooled by Volkswagen." □

Letters

Family tragedy

Dear Workers' Power,

Today I talked to a telephone worker who is in a desperate situation. After 17 years, he and his wife are miserably together, and would like to split up, but can't afford to. His wife has attempted suicide, and is now hospitalized for depression for the third time.

Last summer he worked a lot of overtime to try to earn enough for them to afford separate houses. He wore himself out, and when his supervisor saw him crying beside his truck (out of worry for his wife and kids) he was sent to the doctor. The doctor said he was having a nervous breakdown and hospitalized him—across the hall from her.

She takes home \$400 a month as an office worker. The reason they cannot afford two households and two reliable cars is because she makes so little. She is so depressed she could lose the job she has.

They are experiencing how the sexual oppression of women oppresses men as well. If wives were

paid fairly, husbands wouldn't have to stay in relationships for economic reasons. Families headed by women wouldn't have to be the poorest families.

This man is gearing himself up for another fall of overtime. His hard work is not leading to a happy retirement; in fact, they are sinking into poverty in spite of all their efforts. How many years of hard work does he have left?

It has been said that the ship of love runs aground on the reef of everyday life, that the real state secret is the misery of private life. It doesn't have to be that way.

Every worker is entitled to good wages and human working conditions. We have to cheer on and support the struggles of our class, the miners' section this spring, the postal workers' section, next spring the teamsters; we have to stick up for each other so that these private family tragedies can stop once and for all.

Toni Hawk
Austin, Texas

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



A resolution passed by the United Electrical Workers convention this year deserves to get attention from the rest of the labor movement. The "labor strategy of electing 'friends of labor' from the two major parties is a loser," the delegates said. "To continue working exclusively within the two-party shell game is a dead-end for American workers. We can no longer afford to fight the bosses inside the shops every day and then vote for the bosses' representatives in government... There is no solution to the political bind in which we find ourselves except the formation of a labor party—a party which unites workers, Blacks, Hispanics and other minorities, the women's movement... and others who are fed up with what is happening to our economic and political life."

Chrysler workers in Warren, Michigan complain that the tank assembly plant there is infested with lice, and everybody gets to take some home from work. A Chrysler spokesman said not to worry, the lice are only a health hazard to the pigeons that bring them into the plant. Somehow, there should be a way to fly a few of those pigeons into the executive dining room...

Do trucking employers have any respect whatsoever for the men and women who work for them? Listen to Donn D. McMorris, first vice-chairman of the American Trucking Associations, speaking against government truck safety regulations: "Someone ought to tell them in Washington that the main cause of accidents is still the nut behind the wheel."

A ruling in a western Kentucky federal court—if upheld on appeal—might actually do something to improve mine safety. In a case involving the death of two men in a Peabody mine, Judge Thomas Ballantine Jr. ruled that federal mine safety inspectors can be sued for damages if they are negligent in enforcing federal safety laws. In the case in question, the lack of guardrails on a roadway and rollbars on a machine contributed to the death of the two miners. Federal inspectors had cited Peabody for rollbar violation six times before the accident. But the citations were never enforced—each time the company was given additional time to obey the law.

Sounding suspiciously like Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew, the New York Times maintains it is not guilty of discriminating against its women employees. But the paper settled a discrimination suit out of court to the tune of \$248,500 in back wages and adopted a wide-ranging affirmative action plan. The Times' 550 female employees charged that the newspaper refuses to promote women, pays them less, and gives them poorer assignments.

A Times official claimed that the paper avoided going to court to spare the women a painful public evaluation of their performances. But there is speculation that the newspaper wanted to avoid setting a court precedent, especially in light of the fact that Black Times employees have a similar lawsuit in the works.

Southern and Appalachian governors, meeting on Hilton Head Island, S.C. September 24, decided unanimously to ask the White House to suspend implementation of the new cotton dust regulations. Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton was reported to have said, "Breathing cotton fiber is like breathing carrot juice. It doesn't feel good but it won't hurt you." Yet hundreds of thousands of workers suffer breathing impairments because of cotton dust, including 65,000 who are either totally or partially disabled. Those governors voting for the resolution included Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Julian Carroll of Kentucky, both of whom have claimed to be friends of coal miners by supporting black lung compensation. The difference is that coal miners are organized and ready to fight on that issue, while textile workers are still largely non-union.

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers union is one of the strongest supporters of protectionism in the American labor movement—a philosophy which sets working people of different countries competing with one another, rather than cooperating. So it was not surprising that ACTW President Murray H. Finley denounced "the flood of imports which are robbing us of our decent jobs" at the union's convention. What was surprising was that in the same speech he had the nerve to pose as an internationalist—thanking the international labor movement for supporting the J.P. Stevens boycott, and particularly thanking Japanese workers for refusing to handle J.P. Stevens products. If Mr. Finley were a bit more like the Japanese he praises, it would do wonders for international trade union solidarity.

Wondering what to get your boss for Christmas? Something to keep him busy and off your back? Here's the solution. Appropriately enough, it's cheap—only \$3.99. Advertised in a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal is the Executive Desk Top Train. "Run your own railroad!" the ad reads. "Let it roar past your 'In Basket.' Switch the tracks and it will take the express route past your phone." Included are six feet of track, two switches, a battery-operated engine, and... a "bright orange caboose"! Choo-choo. □



BATTLE LINE
The Coal Strike
of '78
Kim Moody
Jim Woodward

by Dan Posen

Seven months after the end of the 110-day coal strike, the established media in this country seem to have forgotten all about it.

What with Proposition 13, Camp David, the falling dollar, Pappalotomations, Battlestar Galactica and so on, the coal miners are yesterday's news.

Once again, the coal miners and their families are forgotten people—as they almost always are, except when strikes close the mines

Battle Line, The Coal Strike of 1978. By Kim Moody and Jim Woodward. Sun Press, Detroit, 1978. \$2.50.

and they are blamed for threatening the lifeline of American industry.

But what the United Mine Workers strike of 1977-78 left behind—the unresolved issues, the changes in active unionists all over this country, and the impact on developing battlelines between labor and American capital—is more important to us today than much of what the media like to report as “news.”

And that is what the new book *Battle Line* from Sun Press is about.

This book was not written simply, or even mainly, to give a blow-by-blow account of the dramatic events of the strike. It was written to analyze why those events occurred, and what they meant.

STAND-OFF

It explains why this strike became the most bitter class struggle in recent American history. It explains why, after the coal bosses headed by Big Steel put all their muscle into an effort to smash miners' resistance, and after the miners tore up two tentative contracts, defied government intervention and told the President of the United States to take Taft-Hartley and “shove it”—after all this, why neither side was able to win a decisive victory over the

other.

“As the strike entered its third month,” write the authors, “it appeared that the proverbial ‘irresistible force’ had met the old ‘immovable object.’ The miners would not be moved. The BCOA would not stop pushing.”

The employers, the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) had gone into battle with some serious miscalculations.

They saw the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) internally divided, with a widely despised leadership, with a membership that had already gone through long wildcat strikes over issues of health and victimization the previous summer.

They concluded that the union was weak.

They did not recognize that these very experiences had created the most conscious, self-reliant, and confident union membership, and therefore the strongest union, in the country.

The employers and the media also calculated that the percentage of union coal had declined from 70% to 50%, and that eight to ten weeks without paychecks would starve miners into submission.

They didn't calculate that a rapidly mushrooming coal industry had actually made the UMWA a larger and younger union. And that traditions of solidarity, which were once through unique to Appalachian miners, have now spread to places like Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

GIANT STIRS

And what no one foresaw was how that real solidarity would spread beyond the coalfields—to the auto plants of Detroit, the steel mills of Baltimore, the fab shops of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

One rank and file steelworker explains why in the book: “The industrialists have drawn the battle lines. They mean to destroy the UMW, and the United Steel Workers are next. The rank and file miners are right on. The American labor movement cannot afford to lose this strike.”

Unionists did not react with the expected fear and panic when the media warned that “the lights

would go out,” that their homes and jobs would be lost.

Just the opposite. People went out to organize collections, caravans carrying canned goods, public rallies, fundraisers. There was an understanding that the miners were spearheading a fight for all American labor.

As the book puts it, “for the first time in memory the sleeping giant of labor had stirred. Muscles, weak from long disuse, had been flexed.”

LEADERSHIP GAP

That solidarity, the roving pickets the miners used to stop non-union coal, and the genuine leadership displayed by rank and file miners and by many union officials at the local, and in some cases even district level, wiped out the operators' program of ramming massive takeaways down the miners' throats.

Quite simply, the profits of the coal operators, particularly those not owned by steel and oil conglomerates, began to starve before the miners did.

But even so, the miners did not win a decisive victory either. Their health fund was dismantled and their medical card system abolished.

Much of what the miners won in the coalfields was taken away from them when the final contract was ratified by 57-43%.

It happened because the crisis of top leadership in the union stalemated the effect of the rank and file leadership from below. As one miner put it:

“The way most miners expressed it was that we just couldn't get any more with the leadership we had.”

Most of the second half of *Battle Line* is devoted to discussing what this crisis of leadership means, both for the miners and in the rest of the labor movement.

Rank and file miners and local union officials pushed back the coal operators' offensive—this time. But every basic issue in the struggle is unresolved.

And it will remain unresolved, until either the BCOA really does smash the power of the UMWA—or until the miners create a new leadership for their union, not just at the bottom but all the way to the top.

SAME BATTLE

But the same battle line which the coal strike drew between employers and labor is also increasingly being drawn in other industries.

And as the lines are drawn, reform movements and rank and file networks are slowly gathering steam.

The book concludes with brief descriptions of some of the more important rank and file or reform movements in major unions today—Teamsters for a Democratic Union and PROUD in the IBT, the Independent Skilled Trades Council and COLA on Pensions Committee in the UAW, and others.

These movements are quite diverse. None can be considered a model for the miners, or for members of other unions with their own particular set of problems to face.

The point is, rather, that there is a trend, a series of movements beginning to produce new ideas and new leadership for labor. And that for many of the activists in these movements, the miners' struggle of 1978 showed there is “no turning back.” □

Battle Line can be ordered from: Sun Press, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

THE STRUGGLE FOR FRIENDSHIP

“Girlfriends”

by Elissa Clarke

USED TO BE that romance was the only reason for making a movie that wasn't about the wild west, outer space, or murder. Today, there is a genre of women's films that aim to explore the new issues that face women after the women's movement. Julia, An Unmarried Woman, Turning Point, Annie Hall have been some of Hollywood's attempts to explore these issues.

Girlfriends. Produced and directed by Claudia Weil. Starring Melanie Mayron and Anita Skinner. With Eli Wallach and Viveca Lindfors.

Girlfriends is a refreshingly un-Hollywood film that takes up these same issues. What a relief to watch a film that is not about beautiful people and their exciting lives!

Rather, Susan and Ann are two ordinary women, each trying to come to terms with the new

responsibilities of being a woman in the 70's. Neither is marching in the streets for the ERA, but both are feminists in their own way, one struggling to find some inner strength, the other struggling to come to terms with a side of herself that she considers weak.

The friendship goes through a crisis as Susan and Ann measure themselves against each other. That crisis is the subject of the film.

Early in *Girlfriends*, Ann announces that she is going to get married. “I want to be taken care of,” is her reason. “For chrissake, Ann, you don't need anyone to take care of you,” Susan objects.

“I don't?” Ann asks, and quickly agrees, “I don't!”

Ann gets married anyway; neither the issues nor the characters are black and white in this film. He's a nice guy, he cooks dinner, takes care of the baby. But Ann's life grows insidiously middle class.

Her sensitive lover becomes a humorless husband. Her romantic pregnancy becomes a demanding toddler. Their exciting travel to far off places becomes souvenirs that make their home a little shrine to their own preciousness.

But Ann continues to struggle to

find some inner strengths. She is a writer (a pretty poor one), but she fights to make herself take her “work” seriously. She gets up at 5 each morning to have some quiet time to write.

Meanwhile, Susan, who is the focus of this film, is progressing with the same struggle, but from the opposite direction. To Susan, a successful and meaningful career is a must. She accomplishes that, but then has a much more difficult task to come to terms with her own needs for love and security.

Though she tries not to, she fails in love. She provokes a fight. “I like myself best when I don't need you,” she says, and leaves.

In the end, both women are able to begin to express the missing dimensions of their personalities.

Ann has an abortion to try to preserve the little independence that she has in her life, and Susan finally admits that what terrifies her about her relationship is not being too dependent, but “being left.”

And most importantly, the two friends realize that their lives are not a threat to each other, but rather that they complement each other, and that there is a real basis for friendship. □



Melanie Mayron. Ordinary people in an extraordinary film.

STOP THE BAILLY PLANT!



Pickets' signs show opposition to nuclear reactors by the Bailly Alliance, the group that organized the Commoner Briefing. The many official sponsors of the meeting included some that are not opposed to nuclear power per se. But the proposed Bailly power plant poses such a hazard that all stand opposed to its construction.

by Paul Broz

GARY, Indiana—A local utility's plan to construct a nuclear power plant within a few yards of a national lakeshore preserve, and a steel mill employing 8200 people, has generated a lot of controversy here.

An anti-nuclear power group, the Bailly Alliance, has called demonstrations, publicized the dangers of nuclear power through its newspaper, and most recently on October 14 organized a "Briefing on Energy Policy in Northwest Indiana," at which Barry Com-

moner spoke.

Commoner is a scientist and widely known proponent of alternate energy sources. Two hundred people attended the "Briefing."

The audience, in contrast to many gatherings of this kind, was impressively diverse: energy activists, unionists, old, young, conservative, radical.

The talk was officially sponsored by a broad mix of 21 environment, labor and community groups, including union locals of the Steel Workers, Mine Workers, and Hospital and Health Care Employees.

Commoner's talk, introduced by Gary's Mayor Richard Hatcher, concentrated on the wastefulness, irrationality and enormous expense of nuclear power compared to other energy alternatives.

For the Gary area, he said, the problem is "especially severe" because of the community's heavy dependence on large amounts of energy. The area has a high concentration of steel mills and refineries, which are energy-intensive industries.

Dependence on nuclear power

could mean "economic disaster" for the area, Commoner warned.

UNSAFE

"Energy problems have to do with the lives of people, not thermodynamics," the speaker emphasized.

Residents of the area are well aware that the proposed Bailly nuclear power plant threatens their lives and welfare in more ways than one.

The Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) has

proposed building the plant on short pilings, which would not go down to bedrock.

Opponents of the plant say this could cause the plant to settle, resulting in ruptured pipes and a major nuclear accident.

Part of NIPSCO's requirement for obtaining a construction permit originally was the submission of an evacuation plan for an area close to the reactor. This area is designated the "low population zone," in spite of the fact that much of Bethlehem Steel's large Burns Harbor works lies within these boundaries.

The evacuation plan—to be used in the event of a radiation spill, or "containment breach"—provides for a suicide squad of steel workers to remain at the plant and shut down the equipment. Workers from the coke ovens would be expected to stay six days.

Currently, NIPSCO is waiting for a decision from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission before resuming construction of the power plant. NIPSCO recently won an NRC ruling on other contentions, and two years ago defeated a court suit brought by local environmentalists, the city of Gary and the state of Illinois.

The success of the public "Briefing" meeting and the breadth of community and labor representation that it drew are an important step in the fight to stop the NIPSCO nuclear power threat. □

Victory -

Sami Esmail Set Free

by Dan Posen

FOR SAMI ESMAIL, a nightmare is over—but a larger struggle is just beginning.

Esmail was released October 16 by prison authorities in Israel, who freed him on parole and immediately deported him back to the United States. He arrived home in Lansing, Michigan last weekend.

Sami Esmail, who is an American-born U.S. citizen, had served nearly ten months of a fifteen-month sentence imposed by an Israeli court for "membership in an illegal organization."

The basis for the conviction was Esmail's activities at the Michigan State University where he is a student, in support of the Palestinian cause.

Under Israeli law, a citizen of a foreign country can be prosecuted for so-called "anti-Israel activity," even if the accused neither committed nor intended to commit any illegal act inside Israel.

FBI COMPLICITY

There is strong evidence that information on Esmail's perfectly legal, open political activity in the U.S. was supplied to Israeli officials by the FBI.

Among other things, Esmail told a reporter for the Detroit Free Press that when he was questioned, he saw a two-inch thick folder marked "FBI."

During a week of questioning he was also subjected to physical

brutality and psychological abuse, to the point where he signed a completely false "confession" which was the main evidence against him at his trial. Only after signing was he allowed to visit his dying father, whom he had gone to Israel to see.

BACKFIRED

The arrest of Sami Esmail was clearly aimed at intimidating all Arab students, and Palestinians living abroad in particular, to silence their opposition to Israel's occupation of Arab land and torture of Arab prisoners.

The effect was exactly the opposite.

Because Esmail happened to be an American citizen, many people in this country for the first time learned some of the truth about the so-called "advanced system of justice" in Israel.

Through the efforts of the Committee to Defend the Human Rights of Sami Esmail, not only in Lansing and Detroit but in many other cities throughout the U.S., through newspaper articles, television programs and demonstrations, thousands of Americans began to learn about Israel's denial of Palestinian people's human and national rights.

The movement to defend Sami Esmail was effective enough that two of the most prominent liberal Zionists in America wrote a full-page article in the New York Times

attempting to smear him.

Esmail originally faced 25 years in prison on two separate counts. As a result of the publicity and outrage over his case, one charge was dropped and he was given a 15-month sentence.

VICTORY

His early release on parole was also a victory won by the efforts of his supporters, who refused to let the matter drop.

An emergency petition for Sami's parole, launched by the National Committee to Defend the Human Rights of Sami Esmail, gathered the signatures of many

well-known American figures and was presented at the parole hearing.

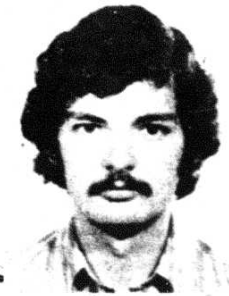
Even though Sami had been subjected to harassment by prison officials for refusing on principle to do certain kinds of prison labor for the Zionist state, when confronted with this petition the Israelis were only too eager to get rid of him.

Chances are that by now, the Israeli government wishes it never heard of Sami Esmail. Unfortunately for them, it doesn't look like they've heard the last of this case.

Esmail plans to remain active in not only getting out the information on his own case to more people, but

in making clear that his is only one case among thousands of Palestinian political prisoners—most of whose names and stories remain hidden and buried. □

Workers' Power



(Above) Sami Esmail (Left) some of the 3500 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel for "security reasons."

