

RED MEDICINE

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BUILD UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEES

The budget for Cook County Hospital (CCH) has finally gone to the County Board for approval, but large cutbacks are expected. The long-rumored layoffs have started in almost every department. 80 workers, some of whom have worked at CCH for more than three years, were fired at the end of January. There is talk that A Building will be closed floor by floor this month. In spite of their defending the cutbacks at CCH in order to build up outpost clinics and neighborhood hospitals, the Governing Commission is pulling out of Sedgwick Clinic near Cabrini Green. And Dunne has announced "no raises for County employees," although the cost of living rose 8% last year.

The Federal budget proposed for next year shows huge cuts in health care, food stamps, employment programs, and school lunches. Yet Ford wants a huge increase in the military budget, to \$120 billion or 30% of every Federal dollar, so that the country can be prepared to go to war.

Instead of war, the working class needs productive jobs. How can we wage this fight? We must go to our unions and demand Unemployment Committees. These committees can do two things: they can help with the problems of the unemployed individual (for this, we must demand that laid-off workers remain in the union) and they can wage a political campaign for jobs for the working class through government programs and other means. Recall that during the Great Depression, Unemployment Committees were instrumental in winning Social Security and unemployment benefits, and fought for equality for all workers.

Now the fight is up to us. Our Unemployment Committees should join the Unemployed Workers' Council which is composed of committees from unions, neighborhoods, churches, etc. With a strong council of both employed and unemployed workers, we can go to the government and demand JOBS WITH PEACE for all workers.

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ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

RED MEDICINE joins all workers at CCH in celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday. This would have been Dr. King's 47th birthday, and is almost 8 years after his death. Martin Luther King marched and struggled not just for the Negro worker but for jobs and civil rights for all workers. Yet today few if any of the goals

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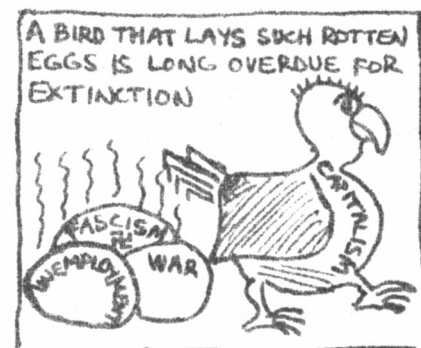
SUPPORT ANGOLAN LIBERATION

We are outraged to see "our" government cutting back health care for the working class and forcing Cook County Hospital workers into the growing mass of the unemployed, while it gives the CIA \$50 million to intervene in Angola. But we are not surprised, because the capitalist class which holds power in the USNA seeks to dominate and exploit the whole world.

Angola, once a center of the slave trade, was for 500 years a colony of Portugal. Enslaved, illiterate, and starving, the people of Angola produced immense wealth for the rulers of Portugal, England, and the USNA. Yet oppression and exploitation always lead to their opposite--the struggle for freedom and equality. For the last 20 years the Angolan people, led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), have fought for national independence. After fascism was overthrown in Portugal, the People's Republic of Angola was established in 1975.

The USNA imperialists are determined to sabotage the liberation of Angola. They want to keep all southern Africa safe for the investments of the multinational corporations which are reaping huge profits there. Angola is rich in diamonds, iron ore, tungsten, coffee plantations, and oil. Gulf Oil and Texaco have already invested over \$500 million. In 1970, Henry Kissinger said, "the biggest interest of the US in southern Africa is Angola."

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Read the PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE, political paper of the Communist Labor Party of the USNA

LETTER

I am a member of Local 46. We voted on a new contract last month without a chance for public discussion.

Also, we weren't given an official count of the vote.

Now that the hospital is laying off work-

ers, what has the union leadership said or done?

We fight for the union, but the leadership doesn't protect our rights. The rank and file should push them to hold open meetings where layoffs and the contract can be discussed.

...MARTIN LUTHER KING (cont.)

of the civil rights movement have been fulfilled.

Chicago, one of the most industrial cities in the country, is also one of the most segregated. With high unemployment (35% for Negro workers), segregated housing and schools, and poor health care, national minority workers are hit hardest by the economic crisis. In addition, the civil rights for which people fought so hard are gradually being taken away by fascist attacks. The Ku Klux Klan and Nazis have been terrorizing Negro families in Marquette Park and other communities. The Senate is considering a bill (S.1) which will virtually outlaw civil rights demonstrations and other protests. The message is clear: any Negro who fights for his civil rights will be stopped.

History proves that the attacks on the Negro people always mean worsening conditions for the whole working class. Yet our class is kept divided with different nationalities fighting each other over the crumbs thrown to us by the capitalist class. As long as we're divided, conditions for all workers will become worse. Spanish-speaking workers have been told that money has to be taken away from bilingual education in order to bus Negro children. Thus the ruling class sets Negroes against Mexicans and Puerto Ricans. In the end, we all suffer, for an injury to one is an injury to all.

How can we stop these fascist attacks on our civil rights and standard of living? The successful defense of all workers begins with the defense of the Negro workers upon whom the hardest blows are falling. The Communist Labor Party urges all workers to unite in the fight for equality and a decent life.

We call for an Equal Rights Congress to unite the defense of the minority sections of the working class. This will create conditions for a successful struggle for all workers.

Anyone who would like to participate, or who knows of any organization that would join in building the Equal Rights Congress should contact RED MEDICINE. On Martin Luther King's birthday, let us move the struggle forward.

...ANGOLA (cont.)

For ten years the CIA has supported two puppet groups, FNLA and UNITA. They pay FNLA's leader, Holden Roberto, \$10,000 a year. This is the familiar "divide-and-rule" strategy which the capitalists have used so effectively against our working class at home.

After the USNA escalated its aggression last fall and Angola was invaded by its fascist neighbors, South Africa and Rhodesia, the People's Republic of Angola requested aid from the Soviet Union, Cuba, and other countries in order to safeguard its existence. These are facts which Ford and Kissinger have distorted in their lies about a "Russian takeover".

Angola could become another Vietnam. The imperialist system has only one response to the worldwide economic crisis: fascism and war for the working class here and abroad. That is why the FBI plays the same secret role in sabotaging the national liberation movements of the Negro, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Filipino workers in this country that the CIA plays in the affairs of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Communist Labor Party calls on the working class to support the MPLA. By demanding that the USNA government stop sending millions of dollars to African reactionaries, we will aid the fight of workers at CCH and in Angola for jobs, better health care, and a decent life. We should ask our unions to pass resolutions condemning US intervention in Angola, and demanding: "Cut the military budget and raise the CCH budget!"

JOBS WITH PEACE!

The CLP urges interested workers to contact: US Out of Angola Committee
c/o Dean's Office
2044 W. Grenshaw (1100 south)
Phone 348-3370

They are holding:

*AN EDUCATIONAL FORUM

Friday, February 6 7:30 pm
St. Mary's Center for
Learning

2044 W. Grenshaw

*A DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, February 7, 12 Noon
Civic Center

Cook County Hospital workers in the CLP welcome your comments and criticisms. We will print articles and letters from all honest workers. Please send communications to:
***RED MEDICINE, c/o Communist Labor Party, P.O. Box 3774, Chicago, Illinois 60654
Names and addresses will be treated with strict confidence, but need not be given.

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: DETROIT COMMITTEE FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE

APRIL 12, 1976

We are extremely disturbed that the City Council has cancelled the April 12 public hearing on the future of Detroit General Hospital. At a time when the uncertainty of the hospital is almost daily in the press, when rumors are running rampant and the morale of employees and patients is low; a public hearing of the issues is desperately needed.

The Detroit Committee for Better Health Care has evolved as the crisis surrounding Detroit General Hospital has heightened. The Detroit Committee for Better Health Care felt it was essential to get the facts and all information regarding the hospital out in the open. On February 26, 1976 we sent a letter to all collective bargaining units in the hospital asking for their cooperation in obtaining an open meeting with Commissioner Roberts, Mr. Sheffield, Dr. Murray Thomas and Mayor Young. That resulted in a meeting between Mr. Roberts and union representatives at Mr. Roberts assured them that everything would be all right. He did not give the unions the requested full WCAH report. Subsequent to that meeting, no open meeting with DGH hospital employees was held. The Detroit Committee for Better Health Care then went to five members of the City Council, requesting information and we were told that the best way to "get the issues on the table" was to petition the City Council for a public hearing. As suggested by these council members, we submitted a petition on March 12, 1976, signed by 25 people, requesting the hearing and the presence of the Board of Trustees, Collective Bargaining units, the Mayor and all those who could shed light on the subject.

We were granted a public hearing scheduled for April 8, postponed to April 12. Once we were granted the hearing, we went out to the public inviting them to the hearing because we recognized that the future of Detroit General Hospital is relevant to all citizens of Detroit as well as DGH employees. As we contacted community organizations, churches, union locals, block clubs, etc., we were amazed and encouraged by the widespread support.

On April 10, two days before the hearing, we were abruptly notified that the hearing was cancelled. This action by the City Council was in response to pressure from the DGH Board of Trustees. In a letter of April 6, 1976, the Board accused the Detroit Committee for Better health Care of lying and misrepresenting itself and stated that "we do not feel that we have any present obligation to respond to its questions at a public meeting before the Council and the news media."

In cancelling the April 12 hearing, the Board and the Council informed us that they will be happy to meet with us, but at some later date and under different circumstances. Yet they are unwilling to meet with the public now, at a time when public interest has been aroused, when the newspapers are releasing stories of secret reports, when hospital workers are being laid off, and when rumors of deals concerning the hospital affect workers and patients morale. We are outraged at this hypocrisy and stand firm on our belief that hospital workers and the general public need an airing of information now and that the only way to do this is in the broadest, most open, most public form possible; a hearing before the City Council with the Board of Trustees and the Mayor present.

Although the City Council and the Board refuse to meet the public on the promised date, we do not intend to stop our efforts to get information and to get

(2) To City Council from Detroit Committee for Better Health Care

guarantees insuring worker and patient rights. We will be eager at any time to join in public meetings with the Board and the City Council to raise questions, exchange views and share information regarding the future of public health care in Detroit.

We accept the written invitation from the City Council to make a presentation at the budget deliberations April 19, 1976, at 11:00 a.m. We are submitting to the City Council the following statement which we ask you to adopt as a formal resolution. We expect your response on April 19.

"We the Detroit City Council, resolve today that we will not approve any ordinance or budget regarding the governance of Detroit General Hospital that does not guarantee the following:

1) That Detroit General Hospital will remain open, public and available to all regardless of ability to pay.

2) That regardless of the structure of Detroit General Hospital, the City of Detroit will continue to assume ultimate responsibility for the health care of all those who have no means of payment or other access to care.

3) That job security, seniority, benefits and union contracts for all DGH workers must remain fully intact regardless of who governs the hospital.

4) That the Board of Trustees of Detroit General Hospital be elected by the citizens of Detroit."

In asking for the adoption of this resolution, we recognize the city council is not the sole body responsible for the future of Detroit General Hospital. But this does not mean that the Council is entirely powerless. It does not mean that the Council can avoid taking a firm stand at this time.

This hearing was not the end but just one step in the work we have to do to insure that public health care be provided in Detroit. We recognize that the hospital's major problem, its financial crisis, cannot be solved by proposals dealing with the hospital by itself, but must be analyzed and attacked at its roots; in the economic crisis of the local, state and federal governments.

We still come to you in a spirit of hope and cooperation. In this time of crisis, we must pull together the wealth, the talent and the power within this great city to save Detroit General Hospital, to save Detroit!

Detroit Committee for Better Health Care
44B 1720 Randolph
Detroit Michigan 48226