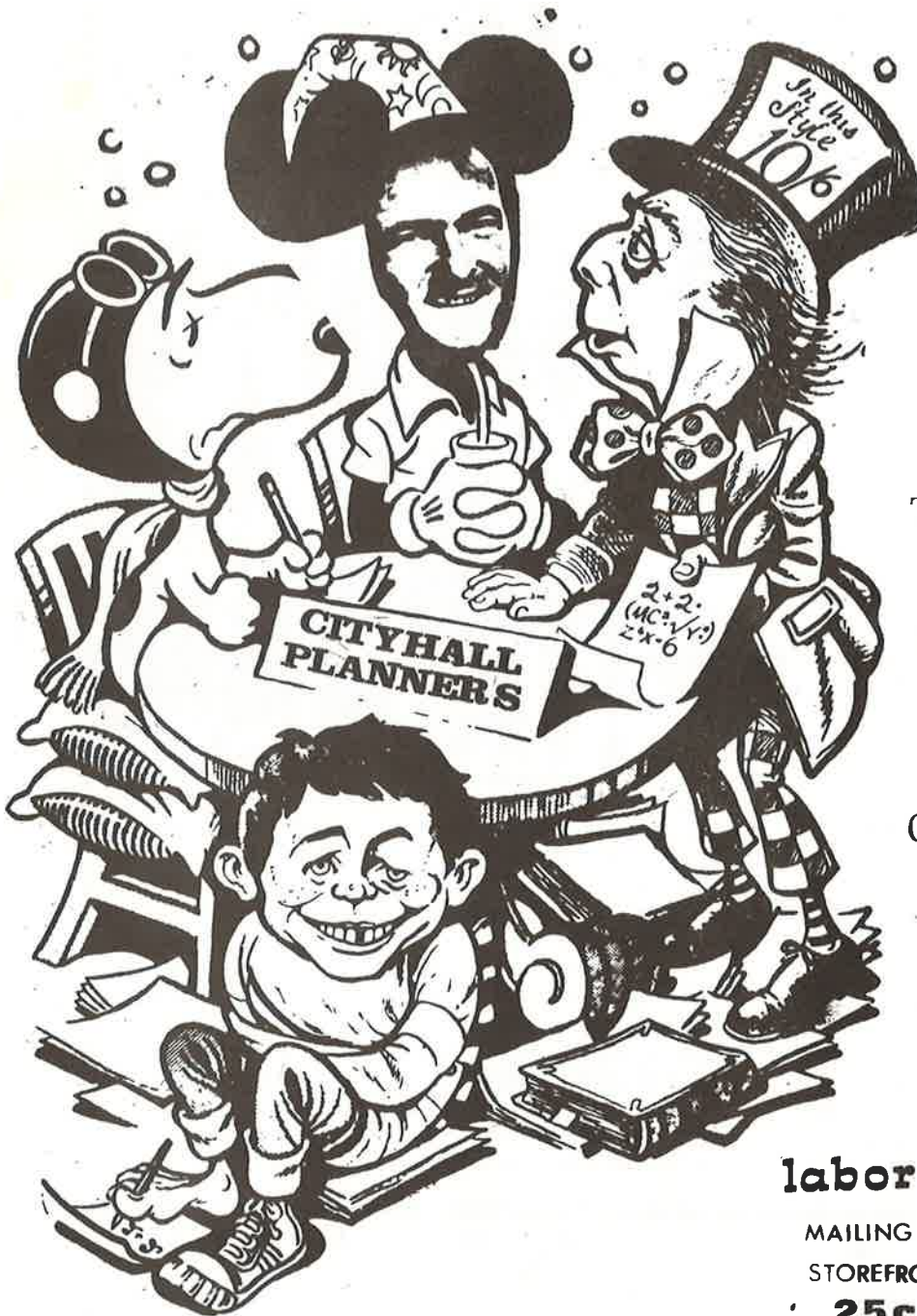


# BUFFALO WORKERS MOVEMENT

## NEWSLETTER

↪ **INSIDE** ↩



RUNAWAY SHOPS  
IN BUFFALO

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION -  
Where to now?

THE E.R.A. IN BUFFALO

PROPOSITION 13 :  
Taxpayers Revolt ?

C.A.R.A.S.A. Update

KENNETH JOHNSON'S  
APPEAL DENIED

**AND**  
**labor round-up - 14 pages**

MAILING ADDRESS ★ PO Box 6 Station G Buffalo NY 14213

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AUGUST ★ 1978

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# BUFFALO WORKERS' MOVEMENT

## ★★★Who We Are★★★

The Buffalo Workers' Movement is an organization of working people who are fighting to build a society based upon the needs of working people. We think the root cause of our country's problems is the system of capitalism - the system that makes decisions concerning the necessities of life according to the laws of profits only. The origins of layoffs, inflation, inferior schools, crime, etc. can be traced to this drive for profits. This country's most destructive people are the small number of men and women who make up the ruling class that makes the decisions that govern our lives.

We are committed to building a revolutionary movement to overthrow the present system and replace it with socialism. Socialism is the system where society is run by the working class and resources are divided according to peoples' needs, not for individual profit. We see capitalism as a system that is dying, and, as more and more countries realize this fact, they struggle to rebuild their societies upon socialist principles. Socialism is a living reality that works in such countries as China, Cuba and Vietnam.

We are part of the century-long tradition of socialism in this country. This tradition includes the fight for the 8-hour day and the struggles of the Wobblies. It includes the efforts in the 30's by the working class to organize unions, win social security and unemployment insurance, and defend its gains. This history also includes the fight against McCarthyism and the movement against the Vietnam war. The tradition is being lived out today in, among other struggles, the efforts to rebuild a strong Communist Party that can play its role in the working class's fight for power. Only with the formation of such a party can the potentially powerful but presently splintered and unorganized working class unite itself as a single force and win state power.

Our organization was founded by anti-war veterans, but rapidly grew to include many different people who realized that war is just one inevitable result of capitalism. In the struggles we have participated in, we have learned of the need to oppose political repression and fight racism and womens' oppression.



We are active in trade union work, in support of political prisoners, in defense of womens' right to choose and in support of third world liberation struggles. We are also part of a national trend to build a new Communist Party.

One key activity for our organization is the publication of a newsletter. Such a newsletter, which we hope to expand to a newspaper, will report news from a class viewpoint, give political direction and sum up political lessons, and act as an organizing tool for militants. To these ends and to the people of this city we dedicate this newsletter.

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## Buffalo Police Department - Just a Few Bad Cops?

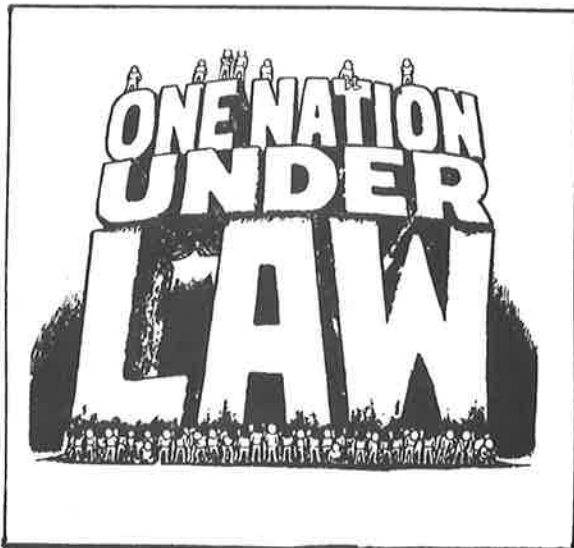
The Buffalo cops are at it again. Two officers are under investigation for the rape of a 28 year old woman in a back room at the Cold Spring precinct. Just a few days ago, three cops involved in the cellblock beating of Bill Johnson were acquitted in a trial that was so racist and so one-sided it might as well have been held in Jimmy Griffin's office. And who can forget the slap on the wrist the court gave the officers who beat Richard Long to death in front of half a dozen witnesses. What with the paid Las Vegas vacations, the connections with organized crime, target practice in local bars, and shakedown of local merchants, prostitutes and gamblers, the Buffalo Police Dept. is making quite a name for itself. And they deserve it!

It's not just a few "bad apples" or a bad press image that gives the BPD a bad name. The reported instances (and there are many which are never reported) are an outgrowth of the unchallenged power, arrogance and inner-departmental cover-ups that have become an institution in Buffalo through the years.



It seems the boys in blue think they can get away with just about anything and have their fellow officers, their superiors, the D.A.'s office and the courts protect them. The simple fact is that the police are not accountable to the people of Buffalo and they know it. We're not saying that every police officer conducts himself in the same criminal fashion, but the good cops learn to wear blinders to keep their jobs or else they quit in disgust while the bad cops get away with everything up to-and including-murder.

This situation has to change. The police must be made accountable to the people of this city. Federal investigations and inner-departmental hearings have proven themselves incapable of curbing police abuse. A city-wide police review board made up of elected community representatives must be established as a first step in cleaning up this mess. And to work it must be funded and staffed adequately and given the power to oversee police affairs. If the police are allowed to continue on this unchallenged and barbarous course, the citizens of Buffalo are in for more abuse.



# —U.S. OUT OF AFRICA—

One foot is already caught in the quicksand of another bloody guerilla war. Air Force transports and US advisors are backing a corrupt and unpopular dictatorship in Zaire. Mercenaries flock to Zimbabwe while the right-wing here makes that country and South Africa the focus of a new cold war. The capitalist press regurgitates the "news" releases of the racists and the puppets with the same blind disregard for the truth that marked their reporting in Vietnam. It is as if the politicians and generals in Washington, and the faceless pillars of Wall Street, remember nothing of the recent war in Vietnam.

They do remember- all too well- but the only thing they learned from their defeat is to keep a lower profile and to let anyone but American draftees do the dying. That is why Washington is condoning mercenaries and using French and Belgian paratroopers to protect imperialist interests and investments in Africa. Some of us also remember Vietnam. We remember how anti-communism and racism served as justifications for attempted genocide. And we saw how a people determined to win their freedom made a mockery out of the Pentagon's deadliest weapons. We can see both starting to happen again in Africa.

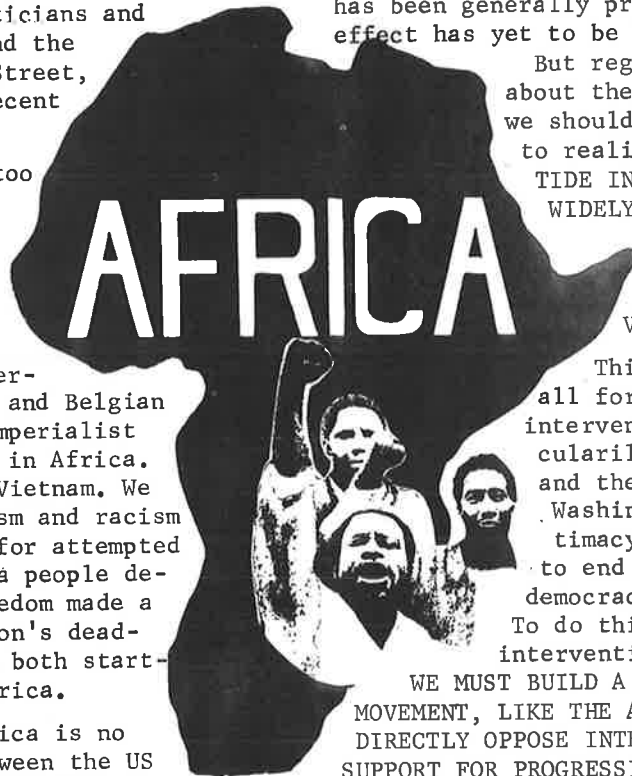
The situation in Africa is no simple power struggle between the US and the USSR. The people of Africa are rebelling against a legacy of racist domination and imperialist plunder. For five centuries, Africa's people were kidnapped into slavery in the New World. In the past 100 years, the gunboats of Europe sliced up the African continent into a crazy jumble of colonies. In our lifetimes, two trends have developed - the masses of African people have risen up against this history of exploitation and colonialism and the US has assumed the role of world policeman. This puts Washington on a collision course with a continent of revolutionaries.

Carter has made some symbolic gestures towards progressive forces in Africa, but as long as multinational corporations and international banks prop up white supremacist regimes and put a stranglehold on African economic development, the US will be drawn into intervention there. The excuse the system is cranking out is the same as it was for Vietnam - "containment of communism." This time the villains are Cuba and Russia. And while their role in Africa, especially Cuba's role, has been generally progressive, its full effect has yet to be felt.

But regardless of how we feel about their presence in Africa, we should not let it blind us to reality: THE REVOLUTIONARY TIDE IN AFRICA IS GENUINE AND WIDELY SUPPORTED AND THE US IS THE MAIN BACKER OF THAT REVOLUTION'S ENEMIES FROM MOBUTU TO VORSTER TO IDI AMIN!

This is why we must oppose all forms of US aggression and intervention in Africa, particularly moves by the Pentagon and the CIA, and demand that Washington recognize the legitimacy of Africa's struggles to end oppression and win democracy and self-determination.

To do this, we must fight US intervention on two fronts. FIRST, WE MUST BUILD A BROAD ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT, LIKE THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT, TO DIRECTLY OPPOSE INTERVENTION AND SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN AFRICA. SECOND, WE MUST FIGHT RACISM HERE AT HOME, FOR EVERY VICTORY WON BY RACISTS HERE- FROM A SUPREME COURT DECISION TO A FIREBOMBING - STRENGTHENS THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO SEEK INTERVENTION. It will not be an easy struggle, for Washington and Wall Street are deeply entangled in Africa, but this time we have the lessons of the anti-war movement and the example of Vietnam to draw on.



## BUILD A MASS MOVEMENT

# The E.R.A. in Buffalo

At the June 13th session of the Buffalo Common Council, Elizabeth Sole and Gene Fahey introduced a resolution which prohibits City employees from attending conferences and conventions in states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). This is in conjunction with the national economic boycott spearheaded by the National Organization of Women (NOW) and supported by progressive groups and labor unions.

Mayor Griffin, who has steadfastly opposed the ERA, vetoed the resolution, stating, "It is my judgment that *if* (italics added) there are any fields of endeavor or other areas where women have not in fact achieved equal rights, these particular situations can be addressed by specific legislation."

At the Council session of Tuesday, June 26, the decision to override Griffin's veto was postponed. Action will have to be taken within several weeks by the Council. Also on that date, Griffin's allies on the right demonstrated outside City Hall to "Stop ERA". Although the number of demonstrators was small, it should not be dismissed, but viewed as further evidence of the organized right-wing's offensive on the



Burck in the Chicago Sun-Times rights of people (see article on Affirmative Action).

Buffalo Workers' Movement supports the ERA (see Newsletter, March 1978) as a step towards fighting the second class status women have been forced to assume in this society. While we are not actively organizing around the economic boycott, we support it as an application of the "Don't buy where you can't work" tactic of the Civil Rights Movement.

"Make passage of the ERA a victory for all workers: Men, Women, Black & White."

## Kenneth Johnson's Appeal Denied

Kenneth Johnson, who was convicted about a year ago of rape, robbery and sodomy, recently had his appeal of the conviction and sentence of 5 to 15 years turned down by the Appellate Division. In a sharply divided 3-2 decision, the majority declared that Kenny had received a fair trial and that although the prosecutor had been guilty of misconduct, it was not serious enough to merit the granting of a new trial. The two-judge minority strongly disagreed, stating that: "From the record, there clearly emerges the picture of an overbearing prosecutor obsessed with the idea of obtaining a conviction at all costs, ignoring the court's rulings, deliberately asking improper and prejudicial questions, and engaging in unpardonable efforts and in comments during the trial and in summation to disparage defense counsel and to destroy his credibility with the jury."

The minority opinion also declared that important testimony which would have raised a "significant probability of acquittal" had not been allowed in at the trial and that "it seems distinctly possible that the defendant was mistaken...for another person".

Kenny remains free on bail while he attempts to get leave to appeal to the Court of Appeals.

Kenneth Johnson's case thus remains a center of controversy. Kenny has maintained all along that he is absolutely innocent and that his



arrest and conviction stem from the pressures brought to bear on the police by downtown businessmen who demanded that someone, anyone, be arrested for the string of rapes that in 1975 was disrupting Christmas shopping. Kenny, who is Vice-President of the Criminal Justice subcommittee of the BUILD organization, has attempted to use his case to show that the police and courts are concerned not with justice for the defendant or for the victims of these rapes, but rather with upholding the financial interests of merchants.

For more information on the case or to send donations, contact The Committee to Clear Kenneth Johnson, P.O. Box #75, Station "J", Buffalo, New York 14208; (716) 885-2797.

# Buffalo Supports the Disappeared

## Prisoners in Chile

In Sept. 1973, the Chilean military overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende. This move, which had the covert support of the US government and the CIA, led to a period of extreme repression against the supporters of the Allende regime. The military dictatorship and its secret police jailed, killed, and tortured tens of thousands of Chileans for their political beliefs - while abolishing freedom of press, of assembly, and of the trade unions. Since Sept. 1973, over 2500 people have simply disappeared after having been arrested by the secret police, according to Amnesty International. The military government denies that they were ever arrested. The families of these disappeared prisoners have carried on a steady campaign to force the government to provide information about their missing loved ones.

### HUNGER STRIKES IN CHILE BY RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED

A year ago the families of the disappeared prisoners went on a dramatic hunger strike at the UN offices in Chile. They refused to eat until the government came up with some answers about the missing prisoners. After several weeks the government said it would provide such answers to the families and to the UN. The hunger strikers left the UN building, but the government then declared that there were no disappeared prisoners at all! The UN Human Rights Commission was once again denied permission to enter the country.

This year the relatives of the disappeared once again went on a hunger strike which began on May 22. Over 200 Chileans occupied 17 churches where they refused to eat until the government responded. Meanwhile sympathy hunger strikes around the world were carried out by Chilean exiles and their supporters. Such sympathy strikes occurred in over 50 countries, including the US, where hunger strikes occurred in 8 cities.

Public support in Chile for the strikers was widespread. 17 unions, representing over 1 million workers, issued a statement of solidarity, saying their support would become more active if the situation were not quickly resolved. Four union leaders began a hunger strike at the Chilean offices of the International Labor Org., demanding information about 55 missing union leaders. Meanwhile 100 women relatives of the disappeared marched through the streets of the capital demanding justice.

After 3 weeks the Chilean government agreed to meet with a church committee and respond to specific inquiries about disappeared prisoners. The Church then urged the hunger strikers to stop the strike - the strikers agreed to a one month postponement.

### LOCAL SUPPORT

That month is up. The government has come up with no information, although it has allowed for the first time a visit by the UN Human Rights Commission. In the face of this official stalling, it is expected that at any time the hunger strikes may begin again. We in the US have a special responsibility to pressure the Chilean government to account for the disappeared - given the US government's role in encouraging the military coup of 1973.

Here in Buffalo Chilean refugees and their US supporters carried out a 1 day fast on July 8 at the Unitarian Church on Ferry and Elmwood to call attention to the issue of the disappeared prisoners in Chile. A spirited demonstration of about 50 people outside the church in support of the hunger strikers received wide coverage in the local press.

Rightnow the Chile Support Committee and the Latin American Solidarity Committee are planning to have a display at the upcoming Virginia St. Festival, with information about the disappeared. Also planned is an evening of Chilean food, music, and dancing on August 11, to raise money for the relatives of the disappeared. For more info call 881 0008, 847 1567, or 883 9028.



**SOLIDARITY MOUNTS**

**IN**  **BUFFALO**

# AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - WHERE TO NOW ?

## racism today

This country was supposedly founded on the basis that all people -black, brown and white, men and women, have an equal chance for jobs, education and a decent life. This noble ideal has never been reality. Today, Blacks earn only about 60% of what whites get paid, women earn only 56% of men's income; and the income differential is widening. Minorities are concentrated in the most dangerous, lowest paying jobs. A 1974 discrimination suit against Bethlehem Steel found massive job segregation practices. For example, Blacks made up 90% of the crews working the coke ovens while the machine shops remained virtually lily white.

The great civil rights struggles of the 1960's won for Blacks basic democratic rights, greater access to education, the end of Jim Crow laws, and guaranteed them the legal right to vote. But while the formal barriers of discrimination fell and a small number of Blacks entered the "middle class", for the vast majority of Black people very little has changed. With the Civil Rights Act, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Affirmative Action programs in colleges, racism has changed its face but not its content. Racism has not ended; it has just gotten more sophisticated.

## THE BAKKE DECISION

ON JUNE 29th, THE U.S. SUPREME COURT MADE THEIR LONG-AWAITED DECISION IN THE BAKKE CASE. THE DECISION WAS A BAD ONE FOR ALL WHO OPPOSE RACISM AND SUPPORT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. BY A 5-4 MAJORITY, THE COURT RULED THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAVIS' "QUOTA" SYSTEM FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WAS ILLEGAL, THAT BAKKE, A WHITE MAN, HAD BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, BUT THAT RACE COULD BE A FACTOR IN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS. THE COURT'S DECISION WAS COMPLEX AND CONFUSING AND THUS HID FROM MANY ITS REAL MEANING - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS ARE UNDER ATTACK, DISCRIMINATION CAN CONTINUE, AND THE COURT WILL NOT RECOGNIZE THE SPECIAL HISTORY OF BLACK OPPRESSION. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE BAKKE DECISION IS ONLY THE FIRST SKIRMISH IN A LARGE SCALE BATTLE THAT WILL BE FOUGHT OUT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS OVER THE ISSUES OF RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION. IT IS GOING TO REQUIRE A MASSIVE MOBILIZATION FOR PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS WAR.



## affirmative action - how does it work ?

The starting point of all genuine affirmative action programs has been a realization that minorities have been, and continue to be, systematically pushed into lower paying jobs, or no jobs at all, denied the educational opportunities that whites have enjoyed, and barred as a group from achieving a significant degree of power in this society.

Affirmative action says that there are concrete societal reasons why only 10.7% of the Black population graduates from college as compared with 29.3% of the white; why 98.2% of lawyers, 97% of engineers, 96% of pharmacists and 94% of physicians are white; and why minorities as a rule can get only less interesting, lower paying jobs with less opportunity for promotion. These reasons have absolutely nothing to do with any myths about minorities being less intelligent or less capable than whites.

## unfair to whites ?

It is unfair that White people do not get promotions or cannot get into college, but this unfairness has nothing to do with affirmative action. Affirmative action is not giving someone special favors because that person is a member of a minority group; it is taking special action to remove the disadvantages that the person suffers by reason of being a member of that minority group. Minorities who have benefitted by affirmative action are gaining nothing more than what they would have if this society were not riddled with racism and discrimination. The people accepted under affirmative action are every bit as competent as their white colleagues. Thus, Orel Knight, one of the students admitted under the affirmative action program at Davis Medical School (the program which in the Bakke decision was declared illegal) was voted the senior class award for demonstrating overall ability as a medical student. The unfairness to whites arises from a situation where access to professional skills and interesting and well-paying jobs is restricted by an economic system which cares not for the needs of people, but only for profits. For instance, the number of places available in medical schools is deliberately restricted so that there will always be a shortage of doctors. There are thousands of capable and qualified persons who will never get a chance to become doctors because of this policy.

## what has affirmative action achieved ?

There is no doubt that affirmative action programs in employment and education have begun to challenge some of the discriminatory practices which run rampant in American society. But for the overwhelming number of minority people, affirmative action has meant nothing. Housing, social services, recreation facilities - these have been affected not at all by affirmative action; jobs and education have been affected only marginally. It is clear that affirmative action has achieved no basic change in this society and that as the threat posed by the militant minority organizations of the 60's has declined, so too has the urgency with which affirmative action has been pushed.

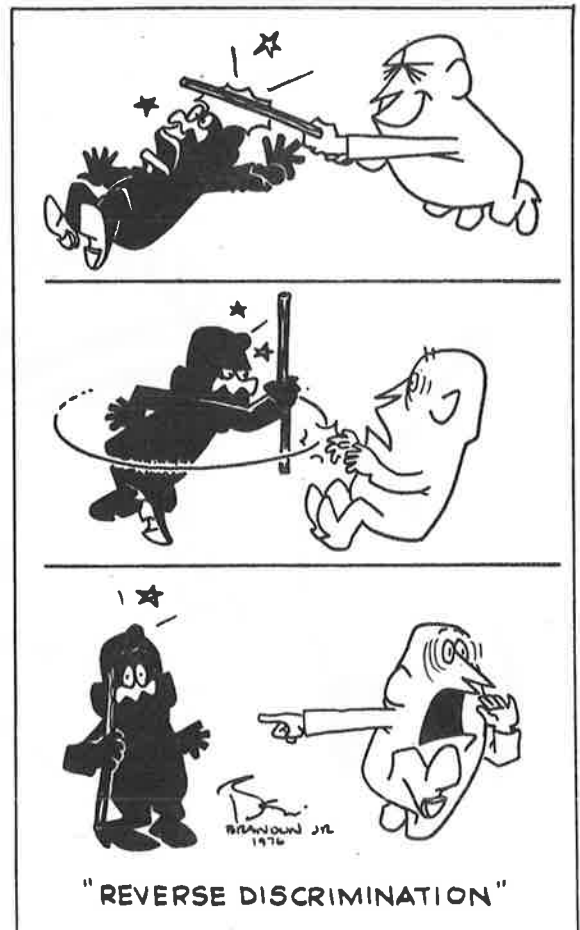
## racism - in whose interest?

Racism is profitable for big business. Reserving the worst work for minorities divides the working class against itself. White workers may feel secure that they will never have to scrub toilet bowls or shovel coke. And sometimes white workers will support discriminatory practices because they do not want increased competition for their jobs. But this ignores the fact that concretely, white workers lose when their wages and working conditions are held down by depressed wages and intensely exploitative working conditions.

When Black and White workers battle it out among themselves, Big Business looks on, laughing all the way to the bank. It is estimated that business makes an additional \$23 billion a year in profits by paying discriminatory wage rates (The Organizer, April, 1978). Business, politicians and the media play upon people's economic fears to whip up racism and oppose the gains of Blacks. This is particularly easy in periods of economic instability like the present.

But when the crunch really comes, when 3,000 people at Bethlehem Steel are laid off, when Hewitt Robbins, Western Electric, Sperry Rand, G.E. and Spaulding Fiber close shop, when W.T. Grant goes bankrupt, then nobody has a job. When economic hard times come, we are all hurt regardless of race. Inflation does not spare Whites at the supermarket. When public services are cut, it is both White and Black children who must endure overcrowded classrooms.

In the longrun, working people have much more to gain by fighting racism. The most important goal is to build a strong and united working class that will eliminate the lower wages that undercut everybody's pay, that will fight for better working conditions, the retention of all jobs, and that will demand better public services rather than cutbacks. Black and White workers do have common interests. We must not allow ourselves to be tricked into thinking that we are enemies.





# RUNAWAY PLANTS - BITING THE BULLET IN BUFFALO

It happened again in June, the second time in four months. To Eyewitness News, it was just another "item". The company president was quoted and some statistics were read, and that was that. But to the 120 workers of Acme Steel, it was a wrenching and fearful experience to be told that the plant was closing and that they would be out of work.

Dark and silent factories, with broken windows and "For Sale" signs, have become a depressing symbol of hard times in Buffalo. Acme, a 100 year-old foundry that became unprofitable, is the latest Buffalo-area industry to shut down or move away. Only last March, Gold Bond Building Products moved its corporate headquarters from downtown Buffalo to Charlotte, North Carolina with the loss of 422 jobs here. Since 1969, over 56 major plants averaging 250 workers each have closed on the Niagara Frontier. Dozens of smaller plants have also closed.

These plants produced cement, steel, animal feed, clothing, baked goods, cast iron, aircraft parts and much, much more. Only twenty years ago, Buffalo ranked 11th in the nation in industrial importance. It was 1st in primary metal production and 3rd and 4th in chemicals and electrical machinery. Since 1967, in these three categories, over 20,000 jobs have disappeared. The total job loss in the Buffalo area due to plant closings and permanent production cutbacks is over 41,000 jobs. The annual payroll loss is almost half a billion dollars.

The economic impact of runaways goes far beyond the loss of wages. For every payroll dollar lost, a ripple effect takes three dollars out of the area economy. The loss in sales and property taxes is staggering. Tonawanda lost almost \$280,000 a year in property taxes when just one plant - Western Electric - closed in 1976. The drain of jobs and taxes fuels inflation and is a major cause of that tangle of problems, from crime to potholes, called the urban crisis. It particularly undercuts the gains made by women and minorities in recent years.

In two decades, the Buffalo area lost over 25% of its manufacturing jobs. Will the Niagara Frontier become the dustbowl of the 1980's?

## migration to the south - and farther

Some plants, like Acme Steel and Iroquois Brewery, just wheezed to a halt, too old and



inefficient to compete anymore. But the major part of the job loss was caused by runaway plants - that is, by factories which were moved out of Buffalo by their owners in order to increase profits. Most of them were relocated in the Sunbelt - from Florida to California - or in underdeveloped countries, especially military dictatorships like South Korea or Iran.

Buffalo has been hit hard, but we're not alone. The entire Northeast is affected by runaway plants and the loss of jobs. New York tops the list, but Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Connecticut are also suffering. The big winners are California, Texas, Florida and North Carolina, in that order. Following the change in the economic foundation of the country, a population shift is taking place both nationally and within the affected cities. Since 1970, New York State has had a declining population.

This industrial migration to the Sunbelt has come in three overlapping waves. Starting after World War II and still continuing, labor intensive industries such as textiles and electric components began heading south. They were followed, starting in the 1960's, by capital intensive industries such as refineries and steel. And since 1970, the headquarters of national corporations like Gold Bond have been moving to the Sunbelt. It's no surprise that a 67 year-old Buffalo worker, when asked how he lost seven different factory jobs, said: "Every plant closed. That's it."

## capitalists profits vs people's jobs

The press blames runaways on labor costs, taxes, the energy crisis and the "business climate" of the Northeast, but a more central reason is the old capitalist goal of maximizing profits. This is best seen when we realize that the relocation of plants is a form of class struggle waged by the capitalists against the working class. According to sociologist Brad Heil, the Sunbelt's attractiveness to the capitalist class stems from the fact that it is "marked by a politically centralized ruling class, a limited welfare system, right-to-work laws, low unionization rates, cheap and highly exploitable labor, and a disproportionate share in federal expenditures." In addition, industry in the Northeast was generally concentrated in cities like Buffalo where labor unrest and strikes could rapidly spread. In most of the Sunbelt, the tendency has been to disperse factories throughout rural and semi-rural areas.

Historically, the migration is capitalism's response to the rise of industrial unions and working class militancy in the 1930's. Its beginnings are related to the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, which restricted the power of unions to organize, and the McCarthy-Era purges of militants and progressives from the CIO. The Vietnam War sharply accelerated this process by shifting war-related spending to the Sunbelt. This hurts the Northeast doubly, as military spending creates fewer jobs than other forms of government spending, such as public housing or education, that could directly benefit cities like Buffalo.

State governments in the Sunbelt fall over each other to provide favorable conditions to the capitalists, but the federal government is the biggest accomplice in this theft of jobs. Federal economic policy, shaped by three Sunbelt presidents (Johnson, Nixon and Carter) and appor-tioned by a Congress top-heavy with southerners, favors the Sunbelt in everything from energy policy to subway subsidies. In 1975, over 30 billion dollars in federal tax money flowed out of the Northeast and Great Lakes States to the Sunbelt.

Local and state governments in the Northeast are no better. Most of our politicians are no more than thinly disguised hacks for the corporations. They deal with runaways by trying to appease the remaining factory owners by doing all they can to shift the burden further onto the backs of the working class, especially Blacks and other minorities. This is the real background to the rise in attacks on unemployment insurance and welfare, and the appeals to fear and hatred in local elections.

The future is bleak for the unemployed in cities like Buffalo. The employment growth rate for this City, as projected by Money Magazine, is the second lowest in the country. And the future is bleak for those presently employed,

as well. The massive shift of production to the Sunbelt and beyond supplies much of the thrust to a new assault on workers' rights and benefits, lead by the National Association of Manufacturers, intended to break whatever power and initiative unions still have.

- the rank and file must lead the unions

unions must lead the fight against runaways



Two things are clear.

The problem of runaway plants has reached crisis proportions. All of the social issues of our times - crime, inflation, racism, abortion, housing and the rest - are being fought out on a stage that is being dismantled piece by piece.

And second, only the working class, its right to a livelihood directly threatened by this tyranny of profits, can lead the fight against runaways and job loss. Other groups and classes in society, such as professionals, may be affected by the problem, but they have neither the direct self-interest on the line nor the organizational means to fight back. Those means are unions.

Unions must take the offensive. But how? Right now, American trade unions are losing membership and political clout. Their problems - particularly lack of internal democracy, graft and corruption, and their consistent failure to recognize and confront the special oppression of minority and women workers - are widespread. Before unions have a chance of succeeding in this struggle, they must be revitalized by a strong and politically aware rank and file movement.

The problem of runaways affects all sectors of the labor movement, even the public sector, as it cuts away the tax base, leaves fewer choices for jobs and more unemployed. Therefore

all unions locally have to fight against run-aways. The AFL-CIO strategy of lobbying and reliance on friendly politicians has been a path to failure, doing nothing to curb the runaways. Their support of our government's policy of propping up fascist regimes as in Iran, South Korea, Taiwan, Chile, etc., is catastrophic for the labor movement. These countries prohibit labor unions and jail and murder labor leaders. With the labor movement totally suppressed, these countries serve as an open receptacle for U.S. investment, hurting both US workers and the workers in these countries. If the AFL-CIO does not change these policies, runaways will never be stopped.

The labor movement, of course, should be involved in political action, supporting progressive legislation that is to our benefit, and working for the repeal of legislation that is detrimental, such as the right-to-work section of the Taft-Hartley Act, which effectively keeps the South an open shop and a haven for runaways. We should also support the J.P. Stevens boycott, which is integral to the organizing efforts of the Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union and their attempt to organize in the South. If the J.P. Stevens workers lose, it will be a severe blow to organizing the un-unionized south and a further stimulus to industry to move there.

On the local level, as long as the industries can threaten us with moving out, we are severely weakened when it comes to bargaining for a contract. We should work for the inclusion of anti-runaway clauses in our labor contracts, holding the corporations accountable for their every move. If the company we work for closes, there should be provisions for guaranteed pen-

sions, severance pay and contract benefits for all workers for a certain length of time. All of this should be won and enforced in the contract struggle, but it can happen only with the backing, participation, awareness and militancy of rank and file union members.

If necessary, we should be prepared to seize the factories, equipment, etc. where we work when a company attempts to leave town. It must first settle accounts with the people who work there. These seizures, regardless of their legality, should be supported by other unions, as indeed, "an injury to one is an injury to all" as this article so clearly points out. Three years ago, everyone in the labor movement knew what was happening when Hewitt Robbins Rubber Factory threw 470 workers out on the streets and said they were closing down. We knew they were liquidating their stock, acquiring a new corporate mantle and moving their equipment south and mid-west for continuing production. We saw fellow workers denied a pension after 34 years service, and of course the company got away with it. We watched as United Rubber Workers Local 188 did almost everything it could legally, politically, etc. to fight the closing. We watched. We watched G.E. move to Dublin, Ireland. We watched Gold Bond. We watch Amco, and we watch - as long as it's not us - the way the story goes. Well, it's about time labor in Buffalo stopped watching and fought back. Regardless of the size of the plant - 50 workers or 2000 - it will take a cross-union solidarity on the part of Buffalo labor to stop runaways. It is this which is key for an effective, active campaign to oppose runaways. We've got the muscle. Let's use it.

## BUFFALO RUNAWAYS

Erie Scientific - Erie moved out of Buffalo in 1977 with a loss of 270 jobs. The company was founded in Buffalo in 1933, and acquired by an outside company in 1969. In a parallel development to runaways, many locally-owned companies have been taken over by outside conglomerates or holding companies. The list includes such plants as Bell Aircraft, J.H. Williams, Kittinger Co., Hooker Chemicals, Fisher-Price, M.Wile & Co. and Gioia Macaroni.

Gold Bond - Gold Bond was the biggest division of National Gypsum, which at one time was the largest industrial company head-quartered in Buffalo. They moved to Dallas in 1976, two years before Gold Bond moved to Charlotte. Houdaille, Inc., the only other Buffalo corporation on the Fortune Magazine "500 largest corporations" list, also

moved to the Sunbelt during this time.

General Electric - When GE closed its Fillmore Avenue Semi-Conductors Plant in 1972, it was a classic example of the runaway plant. 400 workers were laid off (down from almost 1200) when GE announced it was shifting production to a new plant in Ireland.

International Paper - IP "temporarily" closed its North Tonawanda mill in March, 1975, and laid off 440 workers. A year later, IP announced it would not re-open the mill because it was unprofitable. During that year, it had shifted its operations to new plants in Alabama and Georgia. Since then, IP has sabotaged efforts by the workers and some local politicians to purchase the mill and re-open it.

# C.A.R.A.S.A.

## UPDATE

### Hyde Ammendment: poor women can't get abortions

This City's Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse (CARASA) was organized in the fall of 1977, by individuals and women's and community groups in response to attacks on the rights of all women to have access to safe, legal abortions. The Hyde Amendment and Supreme Court decisions (BWM Newsletter, Dec. 1977) prohibit medicaid reimbursement for abortion except in very limited circumstances. While this does not affect the availability of abortions for wealthier women, it does make them virtually unobtainable for poor women. The right of all women to have access to safe, legal abortions is under steadily growing attacks by conservative and reactionary forces. It is important for people to join forces against the "emotional and moralistic" banter of the right.

### forced sterilization - not an alternative

CARASA was also formed in response to the increased numbers of involuntary sterilizations, performed mainly through federally-funded family planning programs. Between 1960 and 1972, sterilization rose from 100,000 a year to about one million a year and the growth rate continued since then. Part of this increase was related to restrictions on other forms of birth control, particularly abortions. Even after legalized, legal abortions continued to be unavailable in 80% of U.S. counties, since only 18% of the nation's public hospitals performed them in 1975. Meanwhile, as of January 1975, the Federal Government assumed 90% of the cost of sterilization under medicaid for all poor or medically indigent people. But for abortions, it will reimburse only 50 to 80% of the cost.

In 1974, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare issued a set of guidelines to regulate federally-funded sterilizations. These guidelines included the stipulation that all sterilization procedures take place only after the potential patient had given her "informed consent". In addition, a 72-hour waiting period was imposed to allow the patient time to reconsider her decision, and the minimum age for sterilization was set at 21. However, these guidelines were ignored by many institutions, and the required 72-hour waiting period, even when observed, did not offer sufficient protection against coercion.

CARASA cont. on page 13



Worse, it worked to promote sterilization by unnecessary hysterectomy which pays \$800 to the surgeon, rather than by tubal ligation, which pays only \$250.

### speakers bureau formed

CARASA is a coalition made up of individuals and representatives from organizations who are urging people to fight against sterilization abuse and for the rights of all women to obtain abortions. Locally, CARASA has recently formed a Speakers' Bureau. If your group, organization or school would like a presentation, discussion or information on abortion rights, sterilization abuse, and on women's rights to choose, please contact:

CARASA  
c/o Women's Studies College  
108 Winspear Ave.  
Buffalo, New York 14214  
831-3405

Subsequent complaints, investigations and legal cases have uncovered not just single instances of involuntary sterilization, but a policy and practice of coercive sterilization of the poor - disproportionate numbers of whom are Black, Hispanic and Native American girls and women. In these cases of gross sterilization abuse, the key point at issue is the absence of voluntary and informed consent to this irreversible procedure.

We must fight against these rollbacks and abuses on our right to control our bodies and lives. It is necessary to link men and women, Black, White, Puerto Rican, Chicano, Native American, young and old in this struggle. We should fight for the right of all women to free or low cost abortion on demand, combined with a program of education on and development of contraceptive methods, accessible at low cost not only

# PROPOSITION 13

## CALIFORNIA VOTERS REVOLT ?

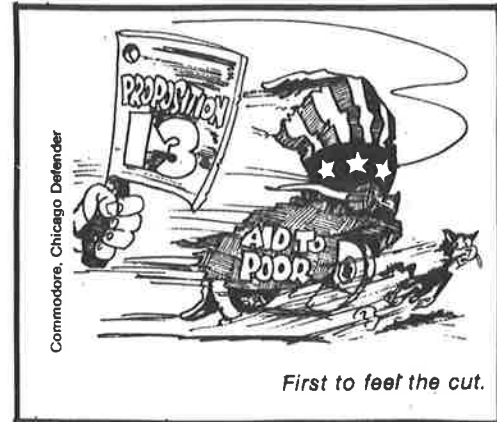
An overwhelming vote by 4.2 million California voters on June 6 approved by a 2-to-1 margin Proposition 13, a state constitutional amendment which limits property taxes to one per cent of the 1975-76 assessed value. As a result of this vote, the State of California has been confronted with a \$7 billion loss in annual revenue due to the 60% slash in property taxes. Out of the \$7 billion savings, homeowners will get a collective savings of only \$2.3 billion; landlords will receive \$1.2 billion and the other half (\$3.5 billion) will go to commercial and industrial property owners. Renters who make up to 45% of California's households will receive no direct benefits. Property in California had been taxed at 3% of its assessed value. With Proposition 13, rates are frozen at 1% of the 1975-76 assessed value, with the limit of not more than 2% increase per year from the 1975-76 value, except when the property is sold. Marketed property will be reassessed at market value at that time.

### most tax relief goes to the monopolies

65% of the \$7 billion goes to businesses, and since businesses are rarely exchanged, except in corporate takeovers, their 1975-76 assessed valuation will remain far lower than homeowners over a period of time. Pacific Telephone will pick up \$140 million savings from the cut. The state's ten largest utilities and railroads will pick up a combined \$400 million in savings; Standard Oil will benefit by \$13 million and Lockheed (which was bailed out of bankruptcy by a \$300 million give-away of federal taxes) will save \$9.5 million in state taxes. The Jarvis-Gann Proposition 13 was carefully orchestrated to give the largest benefits to the largest monopolies. These monopolies then reciprocated the right-wing initiators with the financial backing to publicize their amendment as a "revolt of the little guy taxpayer".

### taxpayers are burdened

The success of Proposition 13 reflects on the increasing squeeze on the so-called middle income, homeowning taxpayers and their lack of control of government spending. Nationally, the average property taxes per capita have tripled since 1960 from \$88 to \$260 annually. In California, the legislature had previously passed a bill to reduce the tax rate from 5% to 1%. But since the assessed property valuations still increased, most homeowners were completely frustrated by still having to pay property tax



increases. The total amount of property taxes collected in the State of California increased from \$6.6 billion in 1973 to \$12.4 billion in 1977. Nationwide, taxpayers are experiencing similar frustrations over rising taxes. There are tax revolt movements afoot in a total of 27 states. Like the loaded gun that went off in California, the after-effects are now being heard in almost every other state in the union. People in Alaska have an amendment on the ballot giving them the right to vote on the final say in taxation. In Colorado, a taxpayer's union is pressing a petition to add teeth to a 1977 law to limit state spending to a 7% annual increase. In Michigan, the proposed constitutional amendment would hold state spending to the level of the growth of the state's personal income. In Massachusetts a constitutional amendment, if passed, would permit limits on the assessing of real estate of homeowners.

### study the tax revolt

It's obvious that California's movement is right-wing inspired and supported by big business. Jarvis, the main initiator of proposition 13, and a representative of the huge landlord interests in California is in the business of attacking minorities and isolating progressives and working people. "The Constitution talks about Life, Liberty and Property," sneers Jarvis, "Not Life, Liberty and Welfare, nor Food Stamps nor Illegal Aliens." The taxpayers' relief in California is more fraud than reform. Monopolies and landlords are going to benefit from more than 65% of the tax cuts. The majority of working people in California are going to end up paying for these breaks to the corporate interest through increased layoffs, lower quality educational and other state services.

Tax Revolt cont. on page 13  
BWM Newsletter, August 1978 Page 12

(CARASA continued)

for women, but for men as well. We should defend the right of every woman to determine the size of her family and the role she will play in this society as a whole.

### legislative update

1. The re-write of S-1, the Reform of the Criminal Code, now called S1437/HR6869, would further limit the availability of abortion to women. The bill, already passed by the Senate, makes it a felony to mail any materials, printed or written which "directly or indirectly" give any information about procuring abortions. There are many other passages in the bill that are a threat to women and all people.

2. The language of the 1977 Hyde Amendment has been changed, as of October, 1978, to be even more restrictive, banning federal funding of abortions except to save the life of the woman.

Let your congresspeople know your stand on women's rights.

#### Representatives:

Local	Washington
John LaFalce 1304 Federal Bldg. 11 West Huron St. Buffalo 14202 (842-2880)	230 Cannon Office Bldg. Wash. D.C. 20515

Henry Nowak 212 U.S. Courthouse 68 Court St. Bflo 14202 (853-4131)	1504 Longworth Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515
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Jack Kemp 1101 Federal Bldg. 111 W. Huron St. Buffalo 14202 (842-6876)	2244 Rayburn Bldg Wash. D.C. 20515
---	---------------------------------------

#### Senators:

Daniel P. Moynihan 620 Federal Bldg. Bflo 14202 842-3494	Jacob Javits 222 Federal Bldg. Bflo 14202 842-3690
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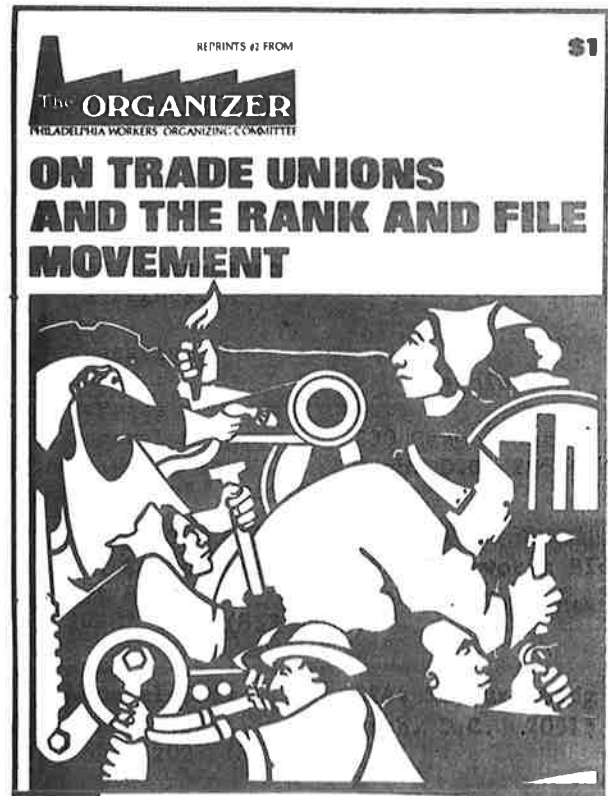
(Tax Revolt continued)

### learn the lessons

We must examine and learn to oppose the methods of the right wing-led "tax revolts".  
1. We should recognize that the taxpayer's revolt is part of genuine mass sentiment of working people. We can't afford to sit on the sidelines, braying a self-fulfilling prophesy about how the tax revolt is a "right wing, neo-fascist movement" which therefore must be opposed in all its aspects. In California, under the skillful direction of the right wing and business interests, the tax revolt sentiment divided the working class against itself; skilled against unskilled, small homeowner against tenant; employed against unemployed and white against national minorities. We need to join with the progressive aspect of the tax revolt movement to isolate the reactionaries, like Kemp, who gets his meals from monopoly.

2. Not all tax revolt movements in the other 27 states are as reactionary as Proposition 13. For example, the Michigan proposal, even though it is led by conservative interests calls for a limitation on government spending - not the outright giveaways to the corporate interest as Jarvis or Kemp-Roths does. We should examine and support those measures which call for the limitation of large, wasteful government, not to the cutbacks in services to the poor. Finally, we must understand that we can never really reform the tax structure under capitalism, but we can limit the large military, bureaucratic state in service to

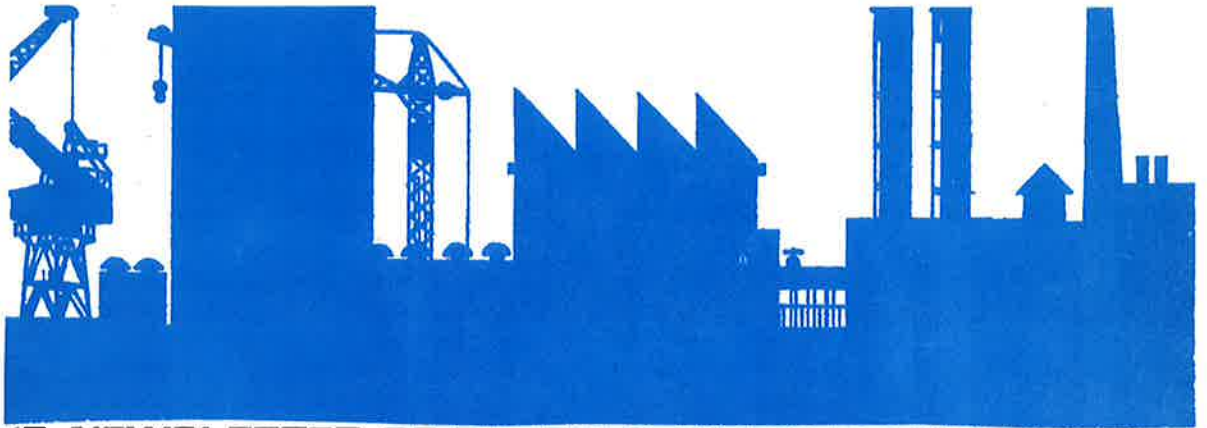
the monopolies. We should increase our demands for decent jobs and work directly towards the corporations, not just for more government work projects.



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# Labor Round-up

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★ FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF BUFFALO WORKERS MOVEMENT

## ★ INSIDE ★

Introducing the Labor Round-up

A.F.S.C.M.E. 264 & 650: fight or die

T.D.U. Update

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY COUNCIL FORMED

HEALTH AND SAFETY Update

U.C.P.E.U.- a union shop victory

C.S.E.A. A new direction for state employees?

LABOR NOTES

BUFKOR: I.A.M. Jewellery case workers

WHO WON AT TRICO?



LABOR DONATED

# TRICO

Trico is a large company which has three plants in Buffalo, employing 2500 people. The company makes all sizes of windshield wipers. Currently the United Auto Workers (UAW) union is trying to win union representation for Trico workers against the TWUI, a company union. The UAW recently won a union election at Trico, but both the company and the TWUI are disputing the results. The following article outlines the alternatives.

## U.A.W. Wins at Trico ?

If the UAW wins at Trico, we would at least see the following positive results:

- 1) a new contract, negotiated by Trico workers with the support of a national union.
- 2) Our benefits - medical, dental, sick days, and cost of living - would be substantial.
- 3) We would receive a pay increase of at least more than the present 5% raise which doesn't even cover the cost of living increase for this last year.
- 4) We would have a steward system, better work rules, less overtime and better working conditions because of less speed up, less fatigue on the job.

The UAW, everyone admits, has been dragging its feet in gaining recognition as our legal union representative. They have said that the UAW will speed up the NLRB decision - but the UAW hasn't. They have said that a UAW newspaper will be produced by people from Trico and that a steward training session will begin soon. Neither has happened. Even if the NLRB (Natl. Labor Relations Board) continues to stall, it is important that the UAW begins to act like our union. Perhaps they need a petition - like the one that was sent with 800 signatures of Trico workers to kick the Washington NLRB in its bureaucracy.

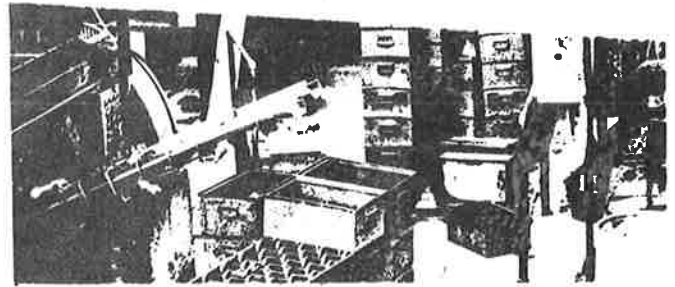
## Trico Workers Union wins at Trico?

If the company-inspired union ever wins again we can expect more of the same tactics:

- 1) This local union, no matter how well-intentioned some of the officers might be, has a history of certain officers taking long trips in expensive cars. TWUI has never opened its books to the membership.
- 2) More than the misuse of union funds, the TWUI has never fought for the interests of Trico workers. There's never been a strong steward system, never a good health and safety committee, and never a negotiating team that was open with the union membership.

The TWUI can get Trico workers a "July 4th vacation" (with the cooperation of Trico bosses) but we'll never have any better wages or working conditions with the TWUI in power.

## INSIDE TRICO



## Trico bosses win at Trico !!!

The real winner during this last year when Trico workers have had no union is Trico Products Corporation. Last year the company earned a \$16,497,000 profit on sales of \$117 million. The Oishei family who owns 56.2% of the corporation is so well off, that they are considering selling the company to the Houdaille Corporation. With the sales from Trico and the \$53.9 million that they own in other corporations (Exxon, GM, Ford, and AT and T) the Oishei family can go into permanent retirement from the next 200 years. But if Houdaille buys Trico what's to prevent them from moving away from the Queen City and down to the Sunbelt? And what will Trico workers do? We can tighten whatever is left of our own belts or we can begin a long overdue fight to improve the lives of the people who built this corporation - the Trico workers.





# Introducing the Labor Round-Up

The Labor Round-Up is a bi-monthly feature of news and commentary on the struggle of Buffalo's working people. This column is produced by a joint effort of the Buffalo Workers' Movement and worker correspondents who are either in the shops or by friends who are close to the shop struggle. We want to utilize our resources and through a unified effort stimulate and strengthen the growing militancy of our rank and file movement in the workplace.

We think that the bulk of the trade unions in the U.S. have to be rebuilt from the bottom up. At present, they are dominated by bureaucrats who do not fight for the needs of their members, but instead co-operate with big business, the bosses and government to stifle labor militancy. Labor mis-leaders such as Meany, Fitzsimmons, Lloyd McBride and locally George Wessel are typical of these business unionists. Their weak-kneed, collaborationist approach to trade unionism is the reason why our unions\* are in the deplorable condition they are today losing membership with only 23% of all workers organized. Women and minorities face discrimination and are forced to take the lowest paying jobs daily without an adequate response from our unions. Unemployment for these sectors are in the double figures. Speed-ups, forced overtime, lay-offs, runaway shops, declining wages, coupled with rampant inflation are the order of the day, and the "misleaders" sit on their hands and "hope" for a change in the economy, channeling labor's militancy into endless lobbying efforts, pressuring politicians who are controlled by the wealthy in the U.S. We think that this approach to struggle within the trade union movement has to change, and it's up to us militants in the shops to do it. This sorry situation in our movement has brought us to the state we're in. We can't even defend our basic livelihood, as well as take the offensive against the forces of capital. We have to remember that monied

interests in our country are united in their efforts to take as much from our labor in the form of profits as possible. It is for this reason that we work for a united workers' movement that has as its foundation strong and fighting trade unions.

We work to build a strong trade union movement. The trade unions that we work in are our major organizations of defense from the onslaughts of the current economic crisis. But they should not be limited to the position of purely defensive organizations. They must be forged into instruments that take the offensive - that not only fight for our day-to-day interests - they have to fight for our futures. To do this, we must fight class against class, that is the interests of working people versus the interests of corporate bosses. Then we will build a trade union movement that fights in the real interests of all working people. The thrust of our fight has to be aimed directly at the capitalist class for us to win. But to achieve class struggle unionism, we have to rid ourselves of the excess baggage of labor bureaucrats, racism, sexism and collaborationist trade unionism.

We present this round-up to you from this class point of view - the view of the working class. We see our tasks as getting news and information about working people in Buffalo as a way to help unify and focus the struggles of working people in this city. We will utilize our newsletter for these purposes. We encourage your responses and input.

Drop in and see us at our storefront at 426 Grant Street. We are open weekdays from 6 to 9 p.m., and our phone number is 882-8232. If you have an article that you would like to put in the labor round-up, contact us or send it to: Buffalo Workers' Movement, P.O. Box 6, Station G, Buffalo, New York 14213.

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# AFSCME 264 & 650

## FIGHT OR DIE

### Griffin's cuts challenge AFSCME - Will the city unions survive ?

#### the current situation

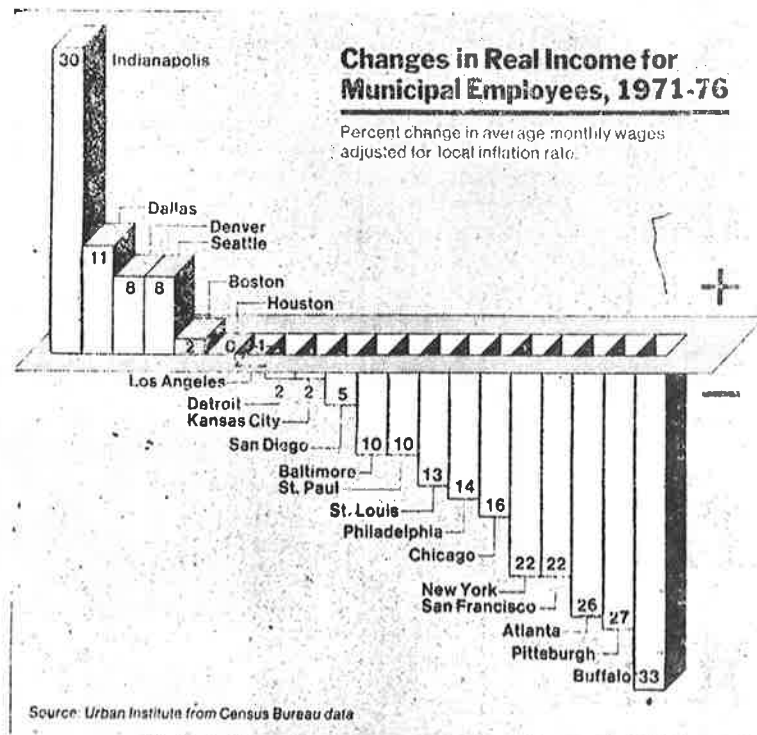
The Griffin administration's recent proposals for cutbacks of the City workforce threaten the very existence of public employees' unions. Inflation along with a declining tax base, the symptoms of a nation-wide economic crisis, are the rationale for the proposed cuts. The city workforce has been taking a beating for the last ten years. Since 1971, more than 1,566 jobs have been abolished. As of May 14, 1978, there are 4,888 workers employed by the city of Buffalo. This means increasing hardships for the workers who remain, plus a decline in valuable public services provided in our community such as parks maintenance, street repair, snow removal etc. These cuts have not resulted in decreasing taxes for Buffalonians, though. You would expect to be able to hear the outcry from the two major public employees' unions of the City, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Locals 264 and 650, but that's not what occurred.

#### playing ball with city - no fair game at all

These unions have not even been able to win enough in contract negotiations to keep up with increases in the cost of living. In fact, they've lost more than they've gained for the past 6 years (see chart). Not only have over 1,500 people lost their jobs, but for those remaining, it's been a losing battle with the pocketbook. Why does such a pathetic situation exist? The City's game plan is clear! Keep expenditures for City employees down, administrators' salaries up (Griffin's newest proposal), and the taxpayers confused and docile. In the meantime, local banking interests that actually manage Buffalo's coffers make out like bandits as Buffalo slides into the same economic mire as New York City.

Just 11 days into the new fiscal year, and the City faces the prospect of increased short-term borrowing, to the tune of \$65 million, at steep rates of interest. Borrowing costs will exceed \$2 million. Coupled with debt service and increasing expenditures, this puts a severe strain on the city's cash position. The City is dependent on the credit market for its operations - the banks manage the credit market.

For the City workforce, the continual cuts mean that they have to do more work with fewer workers, for less money with little job security. Where three workers used to do an adequate job, one worker now is employed and is barely able to provide even minimal services to the residents of our City. Some of the most visible examples are lack of snow removal, street maintenance and parks. This is not the fault of the workers. It is the fault of the City administration who do not provide enough people to do the job. The city managers, however, get let off the hook as the City worker is branded lazy and greedy when contract time comes up. The Griffin administration cries the blues, blaming city workers for not doing their share. This vicious propaganda is part of a successful campaign by City Hall which results in many taxpayers calling for more cutbacks of City workers, rather than holding the Griffin administration accountable, and demanding improved and increased services. Instead, City workers provide a ready scapegoat as the politicians get let off the hook.



The New York Times/June 7, 1978

The City has also utilized the federal CETA program to cut deeply into the Civil Service workforce, actually replacing permanent employees with CETA workers. CETA workers, most still unfortunately nor represented by any union, have no say in where the City places them; thus, the program serves as a scab labor service to bust municipal employees unions. In case of a strike by City workers, CETA workers would be used as strikebreakers.

The Court and legislature are also used against the municipal unions. The City has the club of the Taylor Law to crack over workers' heads, penalizing public employees who strike.

What has been the response to these attacks by AFSCME Locals 264 and 650?

### how to mislead a union

### the failures of local leadership

Municipal unions in Buffalo were not built through struggle with City administrations for their membership's benefit. Rather, they were tied to the coat-tails of each Democratic administration, providing an in-grown electoral base, exchanging patronage and kingpin-making for limited economic gains of their membership. With the shifting sand of the U.S. economy and the inability of each of the past three mayoral regimes to deliver the goods, AFSCME has painted itself into a corner. They're unable to deliver the goods in turn to their members and unwilling to bite the hand that feeds them. Endless co-optation of union leaders by local politicians has proven to be an unsuccessful approach to winning gains for union members. After each election, the politicians take off their sheep's clothing and bear their wolves teeth to City workers, gaining submission through fear, job insecurity and cutbacks. It's about time our AFSCME leaders woke up to the fact that the collaboration of AFSCME leaders with city managers results in selling the membership down the river without a paddle. If this weren't enough, the AFSCME leaders have compounded these errors.

They have gone along with the discriminatory hiring practices of the City of Buffalo and not fought for jobs for minorities. In fact, they claim to be protecting the interests of their membership by attacking affirmative action programs such as CETA. If they were really interested in fighting for their members, they would have organized CETA workers years ago and fought the city managers in a united front in the interest of each workforce. Instead, the AFSCME leadership has driven a hopeless wedge between CETA and regular city workers with its endless breast-beating about CETA, attacking CETA workers directly. Of course, this has

racial overtones as CETA has a large number of minorities and the city workforce is lily white, with minorities making up more than 40% of the City population, but less than 7% of the City workforce. Thus, the AFSCME leaders play into the hands of City managers. They realize a divided workforce is a weak one, and the racial antagonism dividing the City itself is evident. To be strong, we have to take up a consistent fight against racism - against the city's discriminatory hiring practices. To do this, the predominantly white membership of AFSCME locally has to be won to that fight, for it is in their interest. Until our local leaders realize that, or are replaced by leaders who do, there can be no strength in the fight against City Hall. Strength demands unity.

Finally, as could be guessed, the only method local AFSCME leaders have offered to fight the City with is blowhard threats of legal action and slick lawsuits with slick lawyers. These methods may succeed in 20 years, but the City has its share of slick lawyers to counteract AFSCME lawyers. The legal fight is important, but it has its limits. The legal battle is limited within the confines of the Taylor Law and is an abject denial of mobilizing the strength of its membership to fight the City in any sort of job action. Their union should have the power, and its about time they mobilized it from the bottom up instead of the top down, as they now approach it. The future for City workers looks bleak. The question now is, "What can be done to turn this around?"



### how to fight back

In addition to the changes cited above, there are other important steps AFSCME can take to fight City Hall. To begin with, we will have to realize that it will take a fight to beat the City. No longer can union leadership play footsy with "friendly" politicians, nor can we rely on lobbying in the form of political patronage. The vital services that City employees provide our

AFSCME cont.

City and their strategic role in the workforce and in the City's functioning should be utilized from a position of strength, even if that means violating the Taylor Law. From this position of strength, city workers wouldn't have to beg for their bread as they do now.

Secondly, AFSCME has to make an attempt to build a strong community-labor alliance so that when cuts in city services do take place, the community (e.g. community centers, etc.) can fight alongside City employees, in opposition to cutbacks. The commonality of interest of the community and the City labor force must be stressed. These cuts do affect all of us. To build this alliance, the key issues for AFSCME are: to fight the discriminatory hiring practices of City Hall; support CETA workers and affirmative action; and place special emphasis on the severity of cutbacks on poor (mostly non-white) communities. To do this, AFSCME has to take a consistent stand against racism. Here we see clearly how much racism hurts all working people. AFSCME leaders have to get off their butts and seek out these alliances. They can no longer be contented with bi-monthly press releases and pathetic lawsuits.

Thirdly, the local AFSCME has to generate an active publicity campaign to counter the image portrayed by the media and City administrators that depict City employees as greedy, shiftless and expendable. In conjunction with this, the attitude of "the taxpayer be damned" frequently projected by public employees, particularly at contract time, must be squashed. The recent victory of proposition 13 and the severity of cutbacks in the state of California signals the immediate necessity for an alliance built with taxpayer groups and public employees.

Finally, and this cannot be stressed enough, to have a union that can fulfill these tasks, the rank and file has to mobilize itself (if the leaders cannot or refuse to do it). Participation in all affairs of the union by the rank and file has to be the foundation of a strong union. Without it we have a bunch of dues-payers led by a bunch of do-nothings. The necessity for rank and file mobilization, to steer their leaders on the right course, is a crying need. At this time, no such rank and file force exists. We would encourage its development and provide any assistance we can. Fight the cutbacks; fight for every job; fight for your livelihood.

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## TDU Update

The Teamsters are the largest and one of the most powerful unions in this country. The membership numbers over 2 million. While the Teamsters are thought of primarily as a "truckers" union, truck drivers are actually only a small percentage of the union. Most Teamsters are people either in truck-related industries, or in totally diverse areas such as clerks, farmworkers and toll-bridge collectors.

The history of the Teamsters reflects the history of the U.S. labor movement. Founded in the last century, it was a small, exclusive craft union of mainly truck drivers until the 1930's. During the massive upheavals of the Depression, the labor movement, including the Teamsters, grew as never before, organizing millions of previously unorganized workers. The Teamsters, by reason of their key position in the economy and their aggressive organizing, compiled an outstanding record for protecting and representing their members. However, its progressive tendencies gradually turned into their opposite as the union leadership fell increasingly into the hands of union bureaucrats and outright gangsters. Now, the Teamsters, while still large and powerful, are widely known as one of the more corrupt unions in the country. The leadership has allowed the spread of "sweetheart" contracts and the deterioration of job conditions.

Within the Teamsters, organizations of union members have sprung up to fight for the return of the union to its membership. The two most important groups are PROD and TDU - Teamsters for a Democratic Union. The Buffalo chapter of TDU will be celebrating its first anniversary this September. This group, from modest beginnings, is having an increasingly important effect upon local Teamster affairs. It has conducted regular meetings since its founding. It has sent delegates to national meetings. It distributes the national TDU newspaper, CONVOY, and its own local newsletter, UPFRONT, to hundreds of Teamsters. Last April, it sponsored an event at which the featured speaker was Pete Camarata, a nationally known Teamster from Detroit, and the TDU candidate for president of the Teamsters. It is involved in attempts to ensure that local union bylaws are followed by the local union leaders, in Local 375 and in the other Buffalo-area locals. TDU's next meeting will be on July 23, 2:00 p.m. at 2720 Seneca St., West Seneca, and all interested Teamsters are invited.



# Health and Safety Council Formed

## Group to address workplace hazards

In 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was set up to provide for "safe and healthful employment". For those of us who live and work in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area, we need only look at our actual work places to see how far we are from OSHA's stated goal.

Chronicled in the Courier Express and the Buffalo Evening News is a history of callous disregard for worker safety and cynical economic blackmail on the part of several corporations.

### VIOLATIONS BY 4 COMPANIES

**Hooker Chemical:** Niagara Falls - Scene of repeated explosions, the largest in 1975, which killed four workers and sent 90 others to the hospital. In 1977, Hooker refused to release to researchers the medical records of 131 workers exposed to Mirex, a chemical similar to kepone, which has caused serious neurologic symptoms that were originally misdiagnosed as due to over-work.

**Allied Chemical:** Buffalo - A user till 1971 of BNA (Beta-naphthylamine), a dye known since 1962 to cause cancer.

**Goodyear:** Niagara Falls - It took several workers contracting the very rare cancer - angiosarcoma of the liver - before Goodyear controlled levels of vinylchloride monomer even though years earlier it had been shown to produce tumors in animals.

**Bethlehem Steel Corp.:** resisted till 1977 complying with federal standards mandating decreases in coke oven emissions, even though it was documented since 1972 that benzoapyrene produced there was responsible for a 10-fold increased risk of cancer to coke oven workers.

The list could go on and on. When we think of our own workplaces, we realize how difficult it is even to know when we are working with a hazard. Safety problems are easier to recognize but foremen or supervisors often taunt us not to be "chicken" just because a guardrail is broken and to keep production moving. Can we refuse to work in that situation? What about the chemical worker who doesn't have access to the names of the raw materials used in the plant? Or the nurse who's around anesthetics, but hasn't been told that this exposure could harm her unborn child? Don't we have a right to this information? How do we obtain it? What will OSHA help us with

and what must be won by our own fights and via contracts? Our doctors aren't even trained to consider that something in our work environment may be the cause of a preventable disabling disease. How do we recognize the symptoms? If we do get sick or injured due to work, what doctor and what lawyer will prove our compensation case for us, and how do we protect ourselves from being fired or losing pay scale when the company doctor thinks we should be moved away from a toxin we're susceptible to? This list of questions could also go on and on and it would be as varied and particular as all our individual work situations are.



### THE HEALTH & SAFETY COUNCIL

A Buffalo Council on Occupational Safety and Health has just been formed to help answer these questions. The Council is comprised of several trade unions including USWA, UAW, OCAW, AFSCME and the technical personnel from Roswell Park, SUNY at Buffalo Medical School and Law School. The council is just now setting up a structure and beginning work on several projects instigated by the unions. A public forum is being planned in the fall which will introduce the council to the community. By then, the council will be in a position to deal with the particular needs of different workplaces and be a forum where unions and workers can learn from each other's experiences in fighting for improved working conditions.

BWM Labor Round-Up, Page 5

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

## UPDATE

### Carter Blocks OSHA Standard Against Brown Lung

The Carter administration has blocked implementation of new OSHA standards which would limit cotton dust exposure for some 800,000 U.S. working men and women. Cotton dust, trapped in breathing passages and in the lungs, causes Brown Lung, also called byssinosis. Brown Lung leads to chronic coughing, reduced breathing capacity, total disability and finally death. More than 35,000 people are disabled by Brown Lung and up to 200,000 people working in textile mills will get it.

Carter thinks OSHA's standards are "too inflationary", but victims of Brown Lung feel differently. They have organized the 2500 member Carolina Brown Lung Association to fight for an end to Brown Lung and for compensation for those already disabled by it. Both the Brown Lung Association and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union have condemned Carter for "weighing a dollar cost to employers' profits against the health and the very lives of workers".

Carter's action is a direct challenge to the intent of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which stipulates that the Secretary of Labor and the OSHA administrator, not the president, are to issue health and safety standards. Carter's torpedo follows an earlier one by the Supreme Court which ruled that OSHA must evaluate the economic impact of new standards.

Products used by the Swedish hospitals staffs included pHisoHex hand detergent made by Winthrop Laboratories (New York), which contains 3% hexachlorophene. pHisoHex is still manufactured and used in the U.S., along with a number of other products containing hexachlorophene. Now banned from general over-the-counter sales, these products are available to consumers by prescription only. Still, they find widespread use in hospitals and other health care institutions. Winthrop Labs had no comment on the findings. (Source: Chemical Week, 7/5/78)

### A Hazard to Nurses

A recent study of medical personnel in 6 Swedish hospitals shows an alarming increase in the number of malformed infants born to women who used soaps and lotions containing hexachlorophene as compared with hospital workers not exposed to hexachlorophene. Of 460 pregnancies among nurses using hexachlorophene, the report said, 25 resulted in severe malformations and 46 resulted in minor deformities. A control group of nurses who did not use the bacteria-killing chemical during their pregnancies gave birth to no severely deformed infants and to 8 with minor deformities.



### Facts on West Valley

#### Wastes Nuclear

West Valley, only 35 miles southeast of Buffalo, is the location of a nuclear waste reprocessing plant which has been used to recover fuel from the wastes of the government nuclear weapons industry and commercial nuclear power plants. The plant was shut down in 1972, due to high operational costs and inability to meet safety standards: **THERE WAS TOO MUCH EXPOSURE TO RADIATION TO WORKERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.** More facts follow:

\*Buried in trenches on the site are two million cubic feet of "low level radioactive wastes" - solid material such as contaminated tools and clothing.

Health & Safety cont. on page 7  
BWM Labor Round-Up, Page 6

(Health & Safety cont.)

\*In 1975, radioactive water from the trenches was found leaking into Cattaraugus Creek. This creek flows into Zoar Valley and empties into Lake Erie.

\*Stored in tanks just below the ground are 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive liquid wastes.

\*Tanks of similar construction at the government-owned nuclear power plant in Georgia have leaked highly radioactive wastes into the river and ground water. (Over 10% of government-owned waste tanks have leaked.)

\*The West Valley tanks, now 13 years old, were designed to last only 40 years, but the wastes will be dangerous for 250,000 years. The plant lies in a seismic risk zone, and an earthquake could disrupt storage facilities, causing mass leakage.

\*Nuclear Fuel Services was owned by Getty Oil and had the backing of the state and federal governments in the event that Getty lost money on the deal. Getty bailed out, and now we're left to pay the bill - with our tax dollars, our health, our environment and possibly our lives.

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## U.C.P.E.U. - Union Shop Victory

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Four years ago the United Cerebral Palsy Employees Union (UCPEU) was a fledging organization seemingly lost in the bureaucracy of the State Labor Relations Board. A year and a half ago, UCPEU was carrying out a militant strike through Buffalo's bitterest winter in the struggle for their first contract. Today, because of a Union Shop clause won through the grievance procedure, being a member of UCPEU is a condition of employment at the United Cerebral Palsy Assn. of Western New York. The union shop clause was agreed on as part of the signed contract in February 1977. The administration of UCPA never lived up to this clause and the union grieved it. It wasn't until Nov. 1977, that UCPEU won a union shop when an arbitrator settled in the union's favor.

By definition, Union Shop means that an individual must join the union within 30 days after beginning employment. It is important, however, to be aware that a union shop clause is a legalistic method to insure 100% union membership at a workplace, and that a good union should not rely on this for support and strength. A good union takes the interests of its members to heart by consistently standing up for and protecting every worker's rights under the contract. This means that in a workplace where union membership is voluntary, the union must defend the rights of union members and non-members alike. What a union shop does is prevent free-loading. For example: UCPEU struck over and won good material benefits in terms of salary, insurance, etc. for both the strikers and the scabs. The scabs lost no money during the strike and made more money after the strike. Union shop puts an end to such a rip-off by non-strikers. Another example: UCPEU spends hundreds of dollars on an arbitration that brings in a monetary settlement for both union members and non-members alike. But it is the dues of union members that paid for that arbitration. Union shop insures that all workers pay their dues and reap the benefits.

A union cannot depend on a simple clause in the contract like a union shop for its strength. A union will be strong and have the support of its members only if it fights for the interests of its members, which a democratic union like UCPEU does.



Peg Averill, LNS

# A NEW DIRECTION FOR STATE EMPLOYEES ?

Recent developments in the national labor movement have affected the New York State Civil Service Employees Association (C.S.E.A.) and the more than one-quarter million state and local public employees that C.S.E.A. represents. An examination of these developments is helpful in determining the direction that organized labor is going in, the effects on the working class, and possible responses.

## growth of public employee unionism

The post World War II development of the U.S. has been marked by increased centralization of industry and a larger governmental role in the economy. There has been a corresponding increase in the number of public employees, and the public sector has shown the greatest growth in union organizing of any area of the economy.

Many states have had existing state-wide labor organizations such as C.S.E.A. Often these have historically been little more than "company unions" which existed primarily as social organizations and didn't even want to be called unions. The pattern changed in the 1960's, as the numerical growth of public employees and the weaknesses of organizations such as C.S.E.A. led this sector to be ripe for organizing and raiding by larger, more powerful national unions. This has been the situation which C.S.E.A. has had to deal with in the past few years.

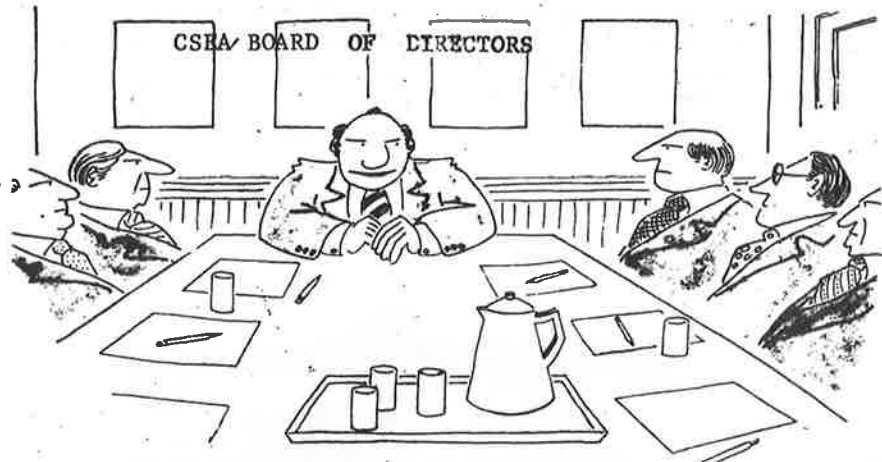
## responses... raids

Realizing that their PS&T defeat to PEF could soon lead to more raids and the eventual demise of C.S.E.A., the top leadership, in a series of rapid and complicated events, affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) immediately. By affiliating with another AFL-CIO union, CSEA hoped to avoid losing PS&T to PEF, under AFL-CIO "no-raiding" policy. They were able to do this because, although they had lost the PS&T election, the results hadn't been

A new union called Public Employees Federation (PEF), which was formed from Albert Shanker's New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) tried unsuccessfully in 1976 to raid the Profes-

sional, Scientific and Technical (PS&T) unit from the C.S.E.A. The PS&T unit is one of four in C.S.E.A., and represents 45,000 state workers. Although they lost the election in 1976, the PEF continued their efforts to bring PS&T into the AFL-CIO fold. Finally they did succeed in winning a challenge election this past April, legally certified yet. C.S.E.A. also challenged the validity of the election itself by claiming that forged signature cards were used to illegally get the election held in the first place. The current situation is that the election still hasn't been legally certified. Thus, C.S.E.A. still represents PS&T and the AFL-CIO Council (George Meany) hasn't decided whether PS&T will belong to C.S.E.A. or to PEF. These decisions probably will not be resolved for several months.

In the meanwhile, the membership of PS&T is left in limbo in terms of what their future will be. Rumors are abundant regarding whether C.S.E.A. is making an honest effort to represent them now. It is also very unclear about what the situation would be if PEF finally does represent them.



*'Of course what we're doing is wrong, but that doesn't make it indefensible.'*

## affiliations

The general membership of C.S.E.A. was mixed in terms of response to the AFSCME affiliation. While membership generally favored the affiliation, the secret manner in which it was done shocked many out of the delusion that theirs was (and compared to most probably is) a democratic union. C.S.E.A. leadership sought and received an after-the-fact endorsement from the delegated body of the union.



## the campaign

The PEF waged a reactionary campaign in the PS&T election. They tried to convince PS&T members that "professionals" like themselves shouldn't be in a union with "non-professionals". They also pushed the divisive tactic of title bargaining which tends to split workers. C.S.E.A. also was at fault, the membership generally dissatisfied with past contracts negotiated by their union and the weak enforcement of these contracts on every level. Progressive elements with PS&T urged the members to vote for C.S.E.A. because, despite its flaws, C.S.E.A. was felt to be better for membership than PEF. Labor unity for all state workers would also be easier to achieve with one, rather than two, unions.

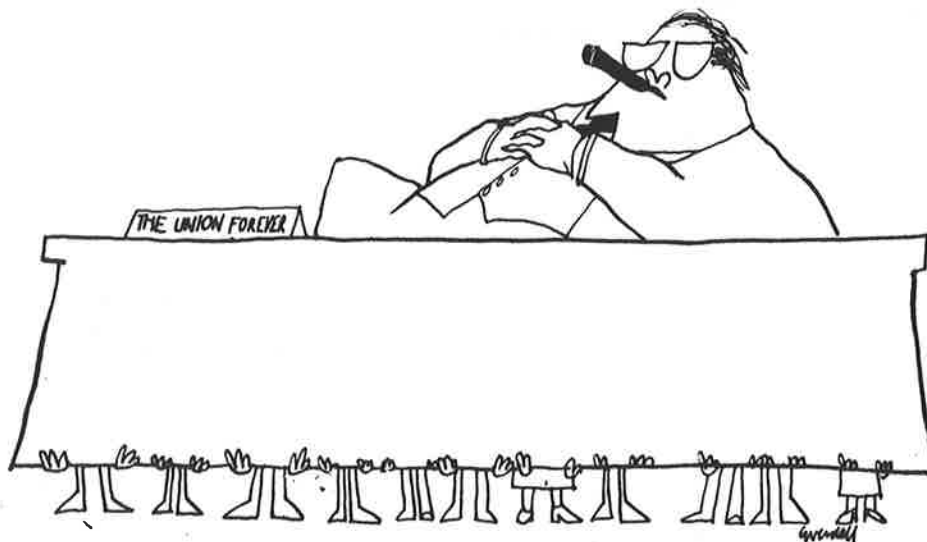
## national trend new directions

From a national perspective, the C.S.E.A. affiliation with AFSCME was a coup for Jerry Wurf, the national leader of AFSCME. Wurf's union is now the largest within the AFL-CIO, with over 1 million members. Wurf has a heated rivalry with Albert Shanker, and even if PS&T goes to PEF, Wurf is clearly a winner over Shanker in this instance. If George Meany decides that PS&T will stay with C.S.E.A., there is little that Shanker could do. Shanker clearly has

personal aspirations that would keep him from splitting with Meany and the AFL-CIO. The pattern of consolidation will be decided on the national level, and will filter down to the local level.

C.S.E.A. leadership has changed its focus in the past two years. Formerly preoccupied with raids, the C.S.E.A. is now free to further follow a program of almost total emphasis of political (legislative) action, both on a state and now, due to affiliation, federal level. At least partially this is in response to the state's greater reliance on the federal government to bail them out of fiscal difficulties. It is also in response to the greater centralization of state services and the shift of state services from people- to business-centered. The C.S.E.A.'s efforts as a lobbying group has had some relatively minor successes during the past two years. An example of this would be the change in the Taylor Law to eliminate the one-year probation provision for striking.

The practical effect on the rank and file is that contract enforcement on a local level would seem to be given even less emphasis. Local departments and agencies shirk responsibility for problems and pass these problems on to Albany, and workers have an extremely difficult time solving matters on a local level. This trend now seems to be reinforced, with problems being dealt with by legislative rather than local action. "Political action" of the sort advocated by the Meanys, Wurfs and C.S.E.A. leadership is hardly a meaningful alternative to a democratic union that fights for its members on a daily basis. Until the public sector unions can be forced to shift their focus, the trend towards less union democracy and greater centralization of the unions will continue.



# LABOR NOTES

## Equal Pay for Equal Work

During the first six months of fiscal 1978, over 11,000 working women were found to be illegally underpaid under the Equal Pay Act. This represents a 32% increase from 1977, and amounts to over \$8.5 million. The Equal Pay Act requires that women receive wages equal to those of men doing essentially equal work for the same company.

The Federal Wage and Hour Administration investigates violations of the Fair Labor Standard Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, as well as the equal pay laws. Total underpayment found in the first half of 1978 amounted to over \$61 million owed to some 320,000 workers.

Employers have been told to pay out about \$37.9 million to some 250,000, according to the Department of Labor report. The remainder must be fought for through private lawsuits due to limitations in the Labor Department laws. It's not known how much short changing the employers actually get away with, but you can lay a safe bet that a lot more workers are being gypped than the 320,000 reported by the Labor Department. (Source: Guardian, 6/5/78)



## Shorten the Work Week

700 delegates from over 200 local unions met in Detroit at the first conference of the All Unions Committee to Shorten the Work Week (AUCSWW). 25 national and international unions were represented, including the UAW, Steelworkers, UE, Meatcutters, Communications Workers, UMW, Teamsters, Machinists, AFSCME, AFGE, 1199 Hospital Workers and the Retail Clerks. George Meany and other top leaders of the AFL-CIO didn't bother to attend.

It was pointed out that while total production has increased 93% from 1953 to 1977, the number of production workers has actually declined 16%. This has resulted in massive layoffs and high unemployment.

AUCSWW plans to carry on a local (city-by-city) as well as a national campaign to increase the number of unions involved in the fight for a shorter work week. They also plan to push Congressman John Conyers' Shorter Work Week Bill HR11784. The bill calls for double time for overtime, elimination of compulsory overtime and reduction of the work week from 37½ hours after 2 years to 35 hours after 4 years with no cut in pay. AUCSWW voted to co-sponsor the bill and to secure 250,000 signatures on a petition before Labor Day.

For more information: The All Unions Committee to shorten the Work Week, 4300 Michigan Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48210, tel. (313) 897-8850. (Source: The Organizer, May 1978)

## Senate Kills Labor Law Reform

After 27 days of filibuster, the Senate sent the Labor Law Reform Bill back to committee. There it will probably die or at best be even more watered down.

The bill was the AFL/CIO's top priority legislative effort for 1978. According to AFL/CIO leaders it was supposed to make organizing the unorganized easier - shortening some of the delays encountered in organizing drives, putting penalties on employers for firing union organizers and placing federal economic sanctions against corporations that are repeated labor law violators. However, the bill was watered down from the start, especially concerning rank and file actions. For example, the bill contained provisions making it easier for courts to issue injunctions against wild-cat strikes and against anyone who "engages, induces or encourages" an unauthorized work stoppage. Regardless of the strengths and weaknesses of the bill, its defeat is a serious set-back to the labor movement when we consider the all-out effort on the part of corporations to stop it and labor's inability to deal with that opposition.

Big business met the bill head-on with a highly organized, well-financed campaign to kill it. The Business Roundtable, the most influential corporate lobbying group in Washington representing over 190 of this nation's biggest corporations, organized a multi-million dollar campaign. Joining with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the US Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Associated General Contractors, they formed a coalition to defeat the bill.

The AFL/CIO is now relying completely on so-called allies in the Senate and Carter Administration to keep the bill alive. Labor has little chance of achieving meaningful reforms relying on this strategy of upper-level lobbying while failing to build pressure from the rank and file. (Source: Guardian, 7/5/78)

Labor Notes cont. on page 11

## Longshoremen Demonstrate Solidarity with Chilean Workers

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) of Oakland, California staged a demonstration to protest U.S. shipments to Chile after refusing to load 22,000 pounds of bomb parts destined for that country. The union also refused to load 250 tons of cargo in 1976. These actions are the result of a resolution passed at the ILWU's Annual Convention in 1975, which calls for a boycott of military cargo bound for Chile. The boycott protests the repression of trade union rights in Chile and is a show of solidarity with Chile's working people.

Since the military overthrow of the democratically-elected government of Salvadore Allende in 1973, all trade union activity in

Chile has been banned. The right to organize or strike is illegal and hundreds of trade union leaders and activists have been arrested. At the time of the overthrow, many union leaders were executed by the military and many are still "missing" after being rounded up by the army and secret police forces.

Herb Mills, secretary-treasurer of Local 10 of the ILWU, expressed the hope that "the action we have taken...will bring to the attention of the American people the U.S. role in Chile." The U.S. government, particularly the CIA, took an active role in overthrowing the Allende government and now gives open support to the military dictatorship. The U.S. response to the ILWU boycott has been to re-route shipment through other Latin American countries. (Sources: Daily World, 6/9/78, Guardian, 7/5/78)

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## Bufkor - I.A.M. Jewellery Case Workers

Workers in the Buffalo-based jewelry industry, mostly women and minority groups, suffer from poor wages and working conditions. These members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) local 1053 need strong, militant leadership to help them better their conditions. Presently, however, such leadership is lacking.

Bufkor, Inc., recently concluded a new three-year contract which will probably set the trend for the rest of the industry. The base rate for Bufkor workers in their last contract was \$2.84 per hour, only slightly above minimum wage. Workers rejected the company's offer of 73¢ over the life of the contract and went on strike. In describing the negotiating situation and the decision to go on strike at 1053's monthly meeting, Business Representative Howard Stankey threw up his hands and said, "Hey, I hope they can get more." The strike ended after

two weeks when the workers reluctantly accepted \$1.10 (down from \$1.15), when at the end of negotiations an additional holiday was discussed. The company accepted the extra holiday only in exchange for a nickel of the hourly wage. This totals \$104 a year, or about four days pay at the base rate. Business Rep. Stankey apparently offered no resistance to this proposal. Such "leadership" will not win the necessary concessions for jewelry case workers.

One positive light is in the wings. The Local is moving in the direction of coordinating bargaining among the various jewelry case plants (Bufkor, Warner and Wasson & Fried). If workers in the whole industry unite, their chances for a decent contract will be greatly increased. We hope to see this in the near future.

BUFFALO JEWELRY CASE WORKERS NEED STRONG LEADERSHIP

WHAT WE CAN'T  
DO ALONE  
WE CAN DO  
TOGETHER



By Averill (LNS)

# Acme Steel Shuts Down

## CETA Workers continue organizing effort

The union election victory of 472 CETA workers in the Police Athletic League community sector has culminated in the formation of local 2008 of the Int. Brotherhood of Painters, AFL-CIO. This union of CETA workers, perhaps the first such local in the US, has now entered contract negotiations with the city of Buffalo. As for the remaining 2000 non-unionized CETA workers in Buffalo, The CETA Workers Organizing Committee and the Painters Union have initiated an effort to organize them as well. With the possibility of some 2500 CETA workers entering the labor movement within the AFL-CIO, the potential power base of CETA workers within the city of Buffalo is immense. The Buffalo Workers Movement will continue to support this organizing effort in any way it can.



This plant site as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1978, belongs to Buffalo history. Two weeks before the shutdown, Acme Steel officials announced that they were trying to find new employment. But most of the laid-off Acme workers knew better. Since the average age of the 120 Acme workers is 45, many will not get much help from New York State Employment Service. Working people in Buffalo should never allow this kind of business exodus to take place. Severance clauses, labor coalitions and plant seizures are all possible strategies to stop these plant shutdowns and runaways.

### WORKING PAPERS

If you are interested in the political activities of the BWM and our perspectives on such issues as women's oppression, trade unions, national oppression, party building and the international situation plus other major issues - our working papers are now published. At the present time we are only distributing them on a person to person basis; not through the mail. If you are interested write us: BWM, P.O. Box 6, Station G, Buffalo, N.Y. 14213 or call 882-8232, 6 to 9 pm weekdays. Give us your address or phone number and we will contact you.

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