



THE HEARTBEAT

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Bannon and the Blues

On Thursday, October 30th, Ken Bannon, UAW Vice-President and the new Chairman of the Board of Directors at Metro, met with the union officers of O.P.E.I.U., LPN's, RN's and techs. Our last "Heartbeat" had put out a call to all workers to come to this meeting. Bannon hearing of this, threatened to exclude the O.P.E.I.U. officers from coming to the meeting. What was he afraid of?

But the meeting did come off and this is what happened. Mr. Bannon began on a very positive note. He committed that he would use the influence of the UAW to insure that the Blues would honor the Metro Health Plan. After all, UAW workers in Detroit compose one of the largest group of Blue Cross members. If they were to be encouraged to switch health insurance to say Hancock or Aetna, it would financially hurt the Blues. Further, it is in the UAW's interest to continue Metro, since they have over a million dollars invested here. For the commitment we are pleased and feel objectively to have accomplished part of our goals.

Then Mr. Bannon launched a red-baiting tirade against the "Heartbeat." Yet, it was the C.L.P. nucleus and the workers at Metro that have forced this issue into the light!

Further, he quickly moved to blame the "foreign doctors," the "high crime neighborhood of Metro," and "our attitudes" for a turn over in the MHP membership. No, fellow workers, we are not to blame! The attack on foreign doctors and staff is outright national chauvanism. There are good and bad foreign doctors and good and bad American doctors. Yet, doctors do need criticism. They all must learn that more and more they are just super priveleged workers. They must lose their arrogant attitudes that result from decades of holding power and status above us. Objectively their interests lie with us.

And no, it is not the "neighborhood" where Metro is located. Rather, it is the economic base of the community. The city, state and federal government is abandoning our cities, forcing national minority communities into deeper exploitation and oppression. Who is first hit with layoffs? Who is first hit with food-stamp, medicaid and welfare cuts? When we work our butts off everyday, how can they say we create our own poverty?

This kind of thinking is used to reinforce segregation and inequality. It sets the conditions to isolate Negro national minorities and launch fascist attacks economically and politically.

And no, it is not our "attitudes!" Marx and Lenin clearly have articulated what most of us already know. Our attitudes are based on real things, material conditions. If there were more of us here, and if supervisors and guards didn't constantly harass and confuse us, maybe our "attitudes" would be better. No one here wants to provide better quality health care than we, the workers do. But, smiles and flowery promises at meetings are not enough.

November 2nd's Detroit News ran another story on the deepening crisis of health care in Detroit. The Blues have clearly mapped out a strategy to cut back on hospitals which serve the predominately Negro national minority communities in the area. Even the state says they will not fully reimburse its medicaid patients. And, in particular in our case, it is clear that an attack on one is an attack on all.

United with all working people of this area, we can raise demands that offer a real solution. Health care and health facilities should be universally guaranteed for every person living in a country as wealthy as this. If the Blues won't do it, if Lansing won't do it, then we should demand Washington to do it! Free and universal quality health care for all people!

On November 15th, the Blues is having a meeting for all Metro Health Plan members. We should be there, united among ourselves and the patients for:

- 1) Keep Metro open - no layoffs!
- 2) No cutbacks in medicaid payments! Get the money from the outrageous military budget! Free medical care for all - not war!
- 3) Reopen Hazel Park Health Center!

Another Worker's Story

To whom it may concern:
In October, I entered Metropolitan Hospital to bring food to _____ that she had prepared for a going away party for one of the employees. As I entered the hospital through the back door, I was approached by the head of security in a very undignified manner. After stating to him why I was there, he told me to go ahead. Upon leaving the hospital I was once again stopped by the same security guard. He grabbed me by my arm, shouted in my face, "there's a certain way to do things around here, come back again and I'll throw you and the trash out. His display of rudeness was down in front of employees and visitors.

JOANN LITTLE IN DETROIT!

WHAT DO WE, AS HOSPITAL WORKERS,
HAVE IN COMMON WITH JOANN LITTLE?

Historically, hospital workers have been among those that are lowest paid and yet, we find ourselves a part of the second fastest growing industry in the U.S.N.A. Why is this true? Joann Little faced a mandatory death sentence for defending herself and killing a jail guard who was trying to rape her. Why is this true?

Joann Little is a Negro national minority women. The hospital industry workforce, in general, is dominated by women and, in particular, it is dominated by national minority women. In both situations, the gross injustices can be linked concretely to male supremacy and white chauvanism.

Male supremacy puts forth puts forth that women are inferior and white chavanism holds that national minorities are inferior. These devisive ideologies or ideas are put forth and spread in every aspect of life. by the ruling class and its institutions soley to make profit and to keep the working class divided.

How is this spread in every aspect of life? Well, we see it in low paying jobs, inhumane working conditions, lousy benefits and unemployment. But we also see this devisive hate put forth by the state (the police, military, government, laws, etc.).

When at Metro, we struck for equality for national minority women, who was the first to attack us? The police! Joann Little was put in jail for a petty theft and then tried for murder for defending herself as a women! The security guards searched the women on the afternoon shift, but have they kept us from getting ripped-off in the parking lot?

Once again we see the state put forth and protect the ruling class and their profit-making, disuniting ideas, such as private property, white chauvanism, and male supremacy. We must expose these bourgeois tactics and unite the working class to create equality for all workers through the building of socialism, where it is the workers and their interests in control.

Thus, we see that Negro national minority women are triply oppressed; as workers, as national minorities and again as women. The Metro nucleus would like to invite the workers at Metro and their friends to hear Joann Little speak while she is here in Detroit. The following is a list of events where she can be found:

- 1) Saturday, Nov. 8th from 1:00 to 3:00
A SUPPORT RALLY For General Baker, Jerome Scott and James Johnson at Wayne State Univ. Eastside Extension Center, 3127 E. Canfield - called by International Black Appeal, Detroit Unemployment Council & 3 for 3 Coop.
- 2) Saturday night, Nov. 8th - A CABARET at St. Gregory's Church, 15031 Dexter given by International Black Appeal.
- 3) Monday, Nov. 10th from 6:00 to 9:00pm
The PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE PRESENTS JOANN LITTLE at Mr. Joe Mack Hall, locat at 6590 Hurlbut.
- 4) Tuesday, Nov. 11th at 7:30pm
CONTROL, CONFLICT & CHANGE presents JOANN LITTLE at Central Methodist Church, 23 E. Adams on the second floor.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF THESE EVENTS!
EQUALITY FOR ALL WORKERS!

The M.A.D. Battle

In the second issue of the "Heartbeat," the CLP nucleus at Metro put out a call for all honest fighters to come show their support for busing by marching in a demonstration against M.A.D. (Mothers Alert Detroit). The newly consolidated city-wide anti-busing organization was having a fundraising dinner at the Roma Hall in Roseville.

A number of our readers have asked us, "what happened at the anti-M.A.D. demo?" They correctly pointed out that we should have reported on that event in the third issue of the "Heartbeat," because the "public media didn't. It's true, the media, which generally reports that which supports the ruling class, has put a blackout on all news that supports the struggle for busing. Yet, they are still covering anti-busing activities fully. The "Heartbeat," as does the Communist Labor Party, represents the working class and we report on the full working class struggle.

The demonstration was very successful with workers from Metro joining other workers from various auto and steel plants, hospital workers, teachers, mothers and members from the CLP. There was a united, strong picket line of about 200 in front of the hall and we visably showed that there are many pro-busing forces in this city. We must continue to show, at every turn of this struggle, that every decent, fair-minded person must support busing in order to achieve integrated, equal and quality education. And we must be bold in our support for busing to defeat the fascist forces, such as M.A.D., the KKK, and the Nazi Party.

SMASH THE KLAN & OTHER FASCIST GANGS!
FIGHT FOR INTEGRATED,
EQUAL & QUALITY EDUCATION!