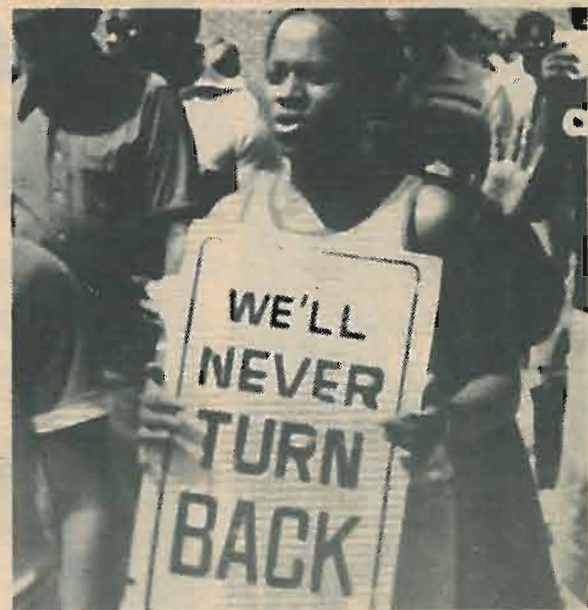


Socialist Worker

Paper of the International Socialist Organization 25¢ monthly



Wrightsville, Georgia: see page 4

OCTOBER 1980



NUMBER 42

WAR IN THE GULF

Warning: this product may cause a swift, terrible death!

The Center for Communicable Disease Control in Atlanta reports that at least 25 women have died in the last five years from the simple act of trying a new tampon.

Procter and Gamble, the giant multinational corporation manufactures Rely.

"MYSTERIOUS"

Rely kills. Hundreds, possibly thousands of women have experienced a "mysterious" disease, usually during or following their menstrual period. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, a rash and a high fever which can be followed by a sudden drop in blood pressure and death.

It is a gruesome death caused by generalized staph infection throughout the body.

When the report first came out, Procter and Gamble announced it would stop production of Rely, in anticipation of a label change. A warning for users was proposed, but what would the warning have said! "Warning: this product may cause a swift, terrible death!" A few days later the

by CELIA PETTY

company asked stores to remove Rely from their shelves.

The Board of directors of Procter and Gamble consists of eight men and a woman—people with direct ties to the world's richest corporations—General Motors, U.S. Steel, etc., etc.

They are now worried, according to secretaries at the company's world headquarters, that the Rely controversy will affect sales of their other products. Read profits.

But are they worried about the women who used Rely? Are they worried about the women, perhaps millions who still have Rely on their shelves.

Not at all. What's remarkable about Procter and Gamble is that a company which produces hundreds of products specifically designed for use by women knows and cares so little about what is safe for women to use.

ALLIANCE

The Alliance for Reproductive Rights in Cincinnati will picket and leaflet the Cincinnati headquarters of the company, and in cooperation with Procter and Gamble workers, will attempt to see if the company attempts to sell Rely, probably under another name, off to the rest of the world—to kill more, women, most likely poor women in poor countries. □



Carter and the Western allies are preparing to throw more oil onto the blazing waters of the Persian Gulf.

FORCE

"It seems clear," says the International Herald Tribune, "the United States, France and Britain are determined to use force as a last resort to keep the Straits open."

The U.S. already has two aircraft carriers and 29 other ships in the area. Saudi Arabia is getting more planes. The British army is running reactionary Oman.

The crisis, however, was prepared by the West. Saudi

Carter and allies prepare for military intervention

Arabia and the other sheikdoms were created by Western imperialism. So was Iraq, before its revolution in 1958. The Shah was installed by the CIA.

The oil companies, the Seven Sisters continue to extract enormous profits from Gulf oil.

Almost all the oil profits of the Persian Gulf end up in the West. They are either deposited in American or Swiss banks or they are used to buy expensive military toys—like

those the Iraqis and Iranians are now hurling at each other.

PRETEXT

Any U.S. and Western intervention in the Gulf will only be a pretext for propping up the corrupt and repressive regimes of the Persian Gulf—and to guarantee Western oil profits.

Socialists must join with the millions of ordinary people in the Middle East who want the West out! No Military intervention in the Persian Gulf! □



Rely. It even absorbs the worry.

U.S. HANDS OFF!

**WHY
THEY
ALL
WON
BY
NEIL
SMITH**

The great debate: winners and losers



Inside the sparkling new Baltimore Convention Center on September 21st, a new American sport was christened. Here's how it's played.

First, there are three teams, but only two turn up. Each team puts its best capitalist politician on the stage, and in front of them sit six of the best capitalist newspaper reporters. Turn on the spotlights, start the TV cameras whirring and we're ready to go.

SERIOUS

The game is marketed by NBC and CBS. It's called "presidential debate." There are six innings and two at-bats for each candidate in each inning. The winner is the one who can spout more of the most irrelevant statistics in reply to the most irrelevant questions from the reporters and end the inning with the most serious frown on his face.

But the funny thing about this game is that there are no umpires. You don't need umpires because the result is known in advance. Barring accidents, or candidates not playing to the script, it's guaranteed to be a dead heat. Everybody wins.

So it was after the Baltimore Game. Candidate Reagan assured us he had won. And he did. He didn't say anything unrehearsed so kept his foot out of his mouth. And Anderson said he won. He did. He got an hour of free TV time to convince us all he was deep and presidential.

But then Jimmy Carter says he won too because the debate was shallow and he didn't lower himself to that level. And according to Mayor Schaefer, Baltimore won too.

Schaefer has spent millions of dollars of tax money on yachting marinas, hotels, Harborplace, the Convention Center, and gentrified housing in an attempt to turn downtown Baltimore into a bourgeois playground. The debate brought national publicity and recognition to Baltimore, Schaefer said.

And the press won, because although most people were too bored to watch an irrelevant dead heat, the ratings were still up. ABC's ratings were up most of all because they showed an old film instead.

So everybody won? Not quite. When the ruling class press quizzes ruling class candidates about god, the quality of the army, and the effect of inflation on business, but does not ask about jobs, the cost of food and rent, racism, sexism or cutbacks in social services, it is the ruling class that wins.

LOSERS

The real losers were not even invited to play the game. The real losers are the working class. Baltimore is second only to Detroit when it comes to Black youth unemployment—51.5% now according to official figures. Yet all the candidates could do was debate, then repair to their various cocktail parties.

What Marx said 120 years ago has never been truer: capitalist democracy is when every four years, the working class gets to elect a candidate from the ruling class.

But though they weren't invited, some of the losers turned up for the Baltimore game anyway. Of course, the police, the secret service and the local red squad had the playing area well protected

from the losers. How undignified, after all, for the real losers to appear on 55 million TV screens and how dangerous.

Outside the debate, about 250 people showed up protest. The Maryland Committee Against Registration and the Draft (MCARD) demanded an end to U.S. war preparations, no intervention in Iran, and U.S. marines out of El Salvador. The working class needs jobs not war.

The National Organization of Women (NOW) and local womens' groups demanded passage of the ERA. Carter versus Reagan versus Anderson is no choice for women.

And a local coalition of groups including the Welfare Rights Organization, which gathered Black working class support for Baltimore's failed rent control effort, demanded an end to exploitation and oppression.

"Mayor Schaefer likes to call Baltimore Charm City," shouted Bob Cheeks of Welfare Rights, "but rat bitten babies are not charming, police brutality is not charming, decayed slum housing with extortionate rents is not charming, children that go hungry because their parents can't get jobs—that's not charming either."

RENAISSANCE

"But you know that they ain't gonna be talking about that in their debate. They're gonna be talking about money for most of the time. Well we're talking about money too. Except they've got it and we don't, and without it we can't live. When they lay you off they don't give you any way to make a living.

"Well, we're just gonna

have to take things into our own hands. They ain't gonna do nothing for us. All they do is build their fancy buildings downtown and have their debates and cocktail parties here, while the rest of us are

still living poor.

"They talk about a renaissance here in Baltimore. Well we ain't gonna take no more. When we take things into our own hands we're gonna show them a renaissance!" □

PCAC PICKETS 'RIGHT-TO-LIFE' CONVENTION



CLEVELAND, OH—Members of the Cleveland Pro-Choice Action Committee picketed the state-wide convention of the Ohio Right to Life Organization.

The picket was held in front of the Hollenden House in downtown Cleveland on September 12. Sixty pro-choice activists took part. □

DETROIT: DEPRESSION CITY

DETROIT, MI—According to Democratic politicians and some spokesmen for business, the end of the recession, if not here, is just around the corner.

To six hundred thousand unemployed workers in Michigan the depression deepens with no end in sight.

The layoff of 700 teachers and 600 Detroit police is an indication of what is happening to public employees all over the state.

ELIMINATE

A nearly one billion dollar cut in the state budget is eliminating social services. Others are being reduced.

The state is threatening to cut 64,000 adults between the ages of 18 and 52 from the welfare rolls.

How are they to live. It is suggested that they can find off jobs such as washing dishes in restaurants. Are they expected to replace those now doing such work by working for less.

Legislation is pending calling for a waiting period of 25 weeks for workers who are fired or who quit their jobs. Not having the necessary time to qualify for unemployment benefits this in effect would deny these workers any benefits.

The layoffs have hit women and minorities the hardest.

They and the young worker who have least seniority are most in need of employment. Many of them live from pay-day to pay-day. They have no financial reserves. Thousands of them are being forced into bankruptcy.

CHARITY

The number seeking free meals at charitable institutions has risen from 150 to 650 per day. These places are running short of food and turning the hungry away without a bite to eat.

by JOHN ANDERSON

IN POLAND
THE PRIVILEGED
BUREAUCRATS HAVE
SPECIAL
SHOPS—

SAKS FIFTH AV

NO CHOICE IN THE 1980 ELECTIONS

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK



—AND HARRASSMENT OF RACIAL
MINORITIES—



—AND LONG LINES
FOR EVERYTHING



THE RISE OF THE KLAN THE FIGHT TO STOP THEM

The Ku Klux Klan is on the rise. This year has seen racist violence, led by the Klan, increase to a level unparalleled in recent years.

In November an open Klansman, Tom Metzger, will be the candidate of the Democrats in the San Diego area. Other Klansmen and Nazis will also be on ballots across the country. A Nazi is on the Republican ticket in Michigan.

RIGHT

The Klan's rally in September in Connecticut also shows that racism is not something restricted to the South and the Sunbelt. The Klan can burn a cross in Ohio, New Jersey and New England—as well as the deep South.

The rise of the Klan takes place in a context of a continuing rightward shift in the country—a shift that is bringing every kind of right-wing fanatic out from under the rocks, from the "moral Majority" Christians to the paramilitary, anti-communist organizations.

The problem for us is devising and putting forward a viable alternative to the right, most importantly the Klan and

by GLENN PERUSEK

the fascist right, at a time when liberals are abandoning the field.

One attempt to do this is the All Ohio Conference Against Racism and the Klan, called for October 11, by TUFF (Those United to Fight Fascism) in Columbus, Ohio. It will be attended by anti-racist activists from all across Ohio and other parts of the Midwest.

Any discussion of stopping the Klan should begin with a realistic assessment of the strength of the left and the organized anti-racist movement. The fact now is that in sheer numbers we cannot match the growth of the Klan, and certainly not the whole range of right wing organizations.

But there is still a lot that can be done. Whenever we can, we must openly and directly confront the Klan and the Nazis, and, when we have the forces, stop them from marching, burning crosses, openly spewing racism and a fascist perspective.

There is a danger, however, of small groups, tiny groups

actual numbers, attempting to substitute ultra-militant actions (some groups actually propose military style action), for the real job—building up our forces, broadening our base beyond today's numbers.

The Klan will not be stopped by bravado, nor will it be eliminated by the militant—or military—actions of a handful.

CONTEXT

The context in which the Klan is growing must be changed. In fact the whole political climate in the country must be changed.

A radical current, a socialist current must be rebuilt. The Klan must be confronted everywhere, but the job of socialists and anti-racists cannot be restricted to confrontations.

The hard job is to take anti-racist work into the unions, to organize the Black community, to build on the campuses, and in whatever struggles and movements arise.

We have to eliminate the breeding ground of the Klan and in that there are no short cuts. □

Ronald Reagan is a Republican. John Anderson used to be a Republican, and half the Democrats call Jimmy Carter a Republican.

No wonder then that most Americans feel there is no choice in November. No wonder that millions who are eligible will not vote.

But this does not mean that the elections are irrelevant. They are not. Most importantly they are indicative of how far to the right the country has shifted in the past few years.

All the candidates favor renewing American military interventions abroad—from the Persian Gulf to Central America. The only debate is on tactics. Vietnam has been forgotten.

WARS

Reagan wants "absolute nuclear superiority." Anderson wants to be able to carry out conventional wars. And Carter has his program in practice: billions more in the defense budget, marines in El Salvador, and preparations for new interventions in Iran.

All the candidates propose dealing with the nation's economic problems by slashing government spending—government jobs, welfare rolls, aid to cities. Reagan calls this stopping "big government." Anderson calls it convincing Americans they must "accept a new life style." Carter's program is, again, in practice: arms spending, cuts in welfare and social services, and massive unemployment.

They all agree that the working class must pay the bill for the economic crisis—and the debate is simply about how to collect the dues.

It is not an accident there is no "liberal" alternative on the ballot—or as the Democratic alternative. Most liberals have in fact become conservative—Warren Magnuson now calls himself a "closet conservative." But more importantly, the Democrats have never been an alternative to big business.

WING

On the contrary they are just another wing of big business. Watergate revealed, among other things that the giant corporations contribute equally to the two parties.

The American economy is in trouble, long term trouble, and the political parties, Democrats and Republicans, are committed to the maintenance of American capitalism—committed to ensuring

the profits of business, whatever the cost.

Is Reagan a right-wing threat? Is he a danger, a warmonger and racist, as Carter calls him? Yes, he is a dinosaur, that is certainly true! But it is unlikely he will get out of control of the ruling class—any more than Carter, Ford or Nixon. Remember that his partner, George Bush, is the former head of the CIA.

ALTERNATIVE

Is there a radical alternative? Unfortunately not. There will be socialist and radical candidates on the ballot in November, and those people who want to vote should cast a protest vote for one of these.

But the elections will be over in November and either Carter or Reagan will be in power. And all the problems will still be here.

So the job of socialists is not affected much by the elections. We must continue to build, from below, for the future day when there can be a genuine socialist alternative in the United States. □

MALCOLM X ON ELECTIONS

"This is the most explosive year. Why? It's also a political year.

"It's the year when all of the white politicians will be back in the so-called Negro community jiving you and me for some votes.

"The year when all of the white political crooks will be back in your and my community with their false promises, building up our hopes for a let-down, with their trickery and their treachery, with their false promises, which they don't intend to keep.

"As they nourish the dissatisfactions, it can only lead to one thing, an explosion."

From "The Ballot or the Bullet," Malcolm X Speaks.

FIGHTING WORDS

"You miners, understand well that our system has nothing to do with socialism. It is state capitalism in which there is no room for concern for workers' well being.

Miners are not important. The only thing that counts is the coal that can be exchanged for dollars. The red bourgeoisie profits by your sweat, your injuries, and often your lives.

At the expense of working people they build themselves palaces equipped with the modern gadgets imported from the West. It is they who build the luxury Party House at the cost of one thousand flats for which you have to wait for years.

The Party excuses itself with lack of resources but does not spare money to develop the police forces which recruit healthy young men to spread fear and lawlessness in society instead of employment for them in useful work."

Miners leaflet, Katowice, Poland
November 10, 1979

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Strikers shut down General Electric

BLOOMINGTON, IN—Striking members of Local 2249 of the IBEW have shut down General Electric's plant here.

950 of the plants 1050 workers walked out over the firing

of Thomas Upton, a relief worker with thirteen and a half years seniority.

Upton was fired for allegedly having a coffee break "without authorization."

The company insists that the case go to arbitration, but the union has refused and walked out, saying that arbitration has not been fair in past cases

The strike is solid so far. 950 workers out is a good sign, for the union only has 700 members in the open shop.

The workers say they will stay out until Upton is back,

and they are appealing to their international union for support.

by JIM HURD

BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA BY TONY BOGUES

WRIGHTSVILLE:

WRIGHTSVILLE, GA—The sign at the city limits on the road from Macon reads "Welcome to Wrightsville, the friendliest town in Georgia."

The sign is incomplete. The words "for whites only" are missing.

On September 20, over 250 mostly Black people gathered here for a march and rally called by the Johnson County Justice League (JCJL).

Their slogans were "We're fired up, ain't takin' no more," "Ain't no stoppin' us now, we're on the move."

The Black people of Wrightsville and surrounding Johnson County are determined to destroy forever white supremacy—the system that pervades every facet of life here in central Georgia.

The story of the Black people of Johnson Co. is, like everywhere, a history of oppression and the struggle against it. The 4,000 Blacks in the county are denied political representation. They are forced to scratch out a meager living by farming small plots and working the most menial jobs in the nearby textile plant.

This is the way in which the white ruling class wants it. They use the combined power of the Johnson Co. sheriff's department and the Ku Klux Klan to try to keep it that way.

ORGANIZED

In 1976 the Black people of Johnson County organized the JCJL. The group was built around the fight against discrimination in employment, housing and other services—and for justice in the political system. Positive results soon followed.

Wrightsville's businesses consistently refused to hire Black workers. Among them was the local Piggly Wiggly supermarket. This store was targeted for a boycott by the JCJL.

The boycott was so effective that the store was forced to hire Black workers. After this success, the JCJL decided to expand the boycott to all Johnson Co. stores, and businesses that did not hire Blacks. The struggle continues to this day.

'AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW!'

This month's column was written by John Mason

The white bosses have used legal tricks, violence, and meaningless concessions to try to break the movement. It has not worked.

ARREST

On April 5, the JCJL held a march to commemorate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. The police chief of Wrightsville was asked to provide traffic control. Instead, he threatened the life of JCJL leader John Martin, in hopes of stopping the rally.

When John Martin asked Johnson Co. sheriff, Roland Attaway, to arrest the police chief, Attaway threw Martin in jail. The charge was "Obstructing an officer."

Two days later 50 JCJL members marched on the Johnson Co. courthouse demanding to meet with Attaway.

The sheriff refused to meet them and stood by while they were attacked with chains and clubs by a crowd of Klan members.

The next day Blacks returned to the courthouse, and were again attacked. This time the Klan joined the sheriff's deputies—in uniform. Many Blacks were injured.

This brutal attack served to strengthen, not weaken the movement. On April 12, a much larger rally was held, with participants from all over Georgia. A counter-demonstration which included 200 robed Klansmen failed to disrupt the rally.

Faced with massive resistance, the ruling class resorted to terrorism.

On the night of April 19, two white men fired a shotgun blast into the house-trailer of a Black family. Nine-year-old Constance Folsom was seriously wounded—hit in the face and neck.

Soon after, sheriff Attaway staged a night-time raid, arresting fifty local Black activists. His pretext was a riot—a small fire in a deserted building.

A Black woman was shot and wounded during the arrest. All charges against the fifty were eventually thrown out of court.

Today, however, 14 Johnson Co. Blacks are set to stand trial on totally fabricated charges. They are charged with "inciting to riot" while being attacked by the Klan and deputy sheriffs last April.

SUCCESSFUL

The rally on September 20 was called to show Johnson Co. Blacks and whites that the JCJL is not alone in its fight. In this it was successful. Anti-racist organizations from New York, Louisiana, North Carolina and Ohio were represented. Individuals came from many other states.

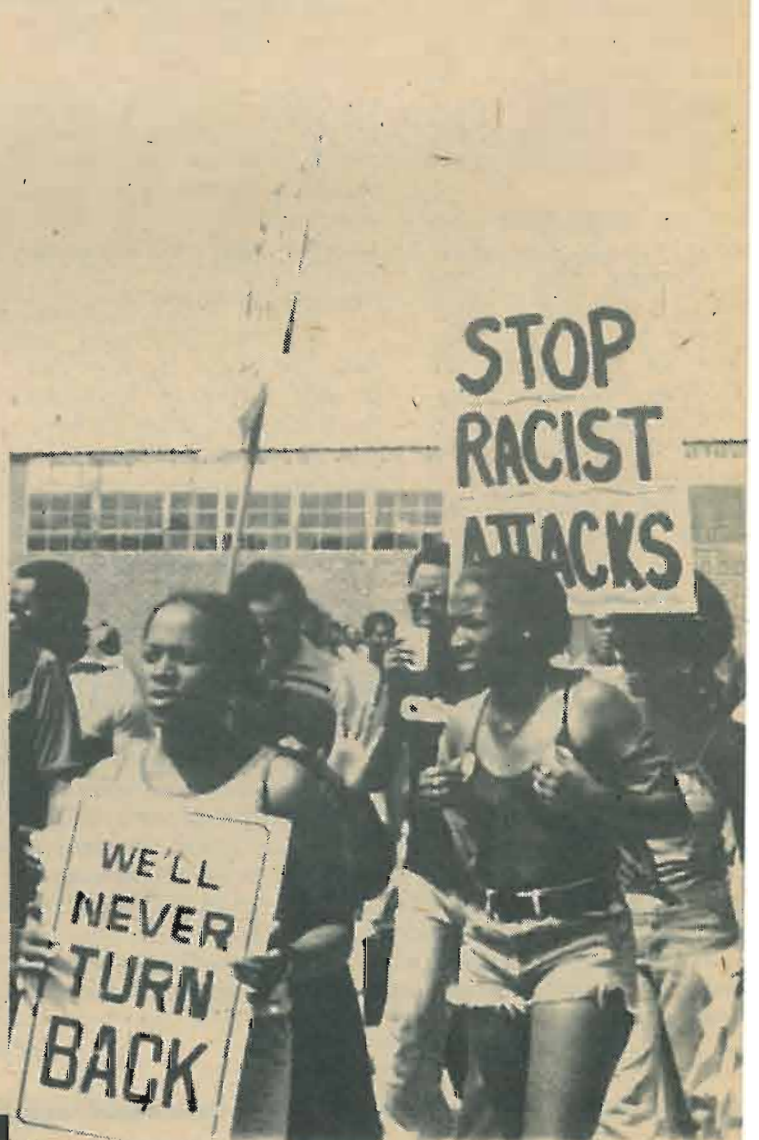
Among the speakers at the rally were the Rev. E.J. Wilson, of the JCJL, and Sonja Sanchez, a black poet and activist. They and the JCJL called for an end to racial discrimination in Johnson County, an end to the racist regime of sheriff Attaway, freedom for the 14 Black defendants, and for political power for the Blacks of Johnson Co. The speakers set

out a strategy for winning these four demands.

They intend to continue the business boycott—to force the stores and banks to hire Blacks. They can force the owners to withdraw their support of Attaway as a condition for ending the boycott.

By building a mass movement in support of the 14 they can turn public sentiment their favor and have their charges dropped. But the struggle will be hard—and we should support the Wrightsville struggle in any way we can.

Marchers in Wrightsville



THE GULF WAR

There's more at stake in the Gulf war than two oil rich states trying out on each other their modern technology sold to them by the superpowers.

Lined up behind Iraq's president Saddam Hussein are all the forces of reaction in the Middle East.

The Iranian revolution sent shock waves throughout the region. After the British government withdrew its forces out of the Gulf in 1971, the Shah of Iran became the West's policeman in the Gulf.

According to a congressional committee, the Shah had, by 1977, received \$300 billion worth of military hardware, including 77 sophisticated F-14 jets and 875 British Chieftan tanks.

The fall of the Shah left the Gulf—a source of 60% of the West's oil imports—wide open.

TERRIFIED

The feudal sheiks that rule the Arab states are terrified that Iran is only the beginning of a revolutionary wave that will sweep them all from power.

The new wave of Islamic militancy struck at the heart of Saudi Arabia—the West's main oil supplier and the lynchpin of OPEC—last November, when Muslim zealots seized temporary control of the Great Mosque in Mecca.

Enter Saddam Hussein, eager to replace the Shah as the Gulf's strongman and establish himself as a dominant figure in the Arab world. Since 1978 he has been shifting Iraq away from its previous alliance with Russia and creating closer and closer links with the conservative Arab states.

At the OPEC conference in Vienna earlier this month, Saudi Arabia and Iraq worked together to block demands from Iran, but still raised the price of oil, and thereby tightened the vice that is choking the Iranian economy to death.

OIL

Now Iraqi tanks and planes are striking into Khuzestan, the center of the Iranian oil industry. The population of province is mostly Arab and Hussein may be hoping to turn Arabestan, as it is sometimes called, into his dependency.

And the reactionary Arab states are backing him. Perhaps not all the way—for fear it ends up under Iraq's thumb—but most of the way.

King Hussein of Jordan is especially enthusiastic.

Even more important, the United States, despite its position of 'neutrality', has been drawing closer to the Iraqi regime ever since the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran. "We see no fundamental incompatibility of interests between the United States and Iraq," Brzezinski, Carter's ultra-right wing security advisor, said last April.

STABILITY

The *Wall Street Journal* spelled out the basis of the new rapprochement between Washington and Baghdad: "With revolutionary Iran creating so much tension in the Middle East, Washington



would welcome any role the Iraqis might play in stabilizing the Persian Gulf."

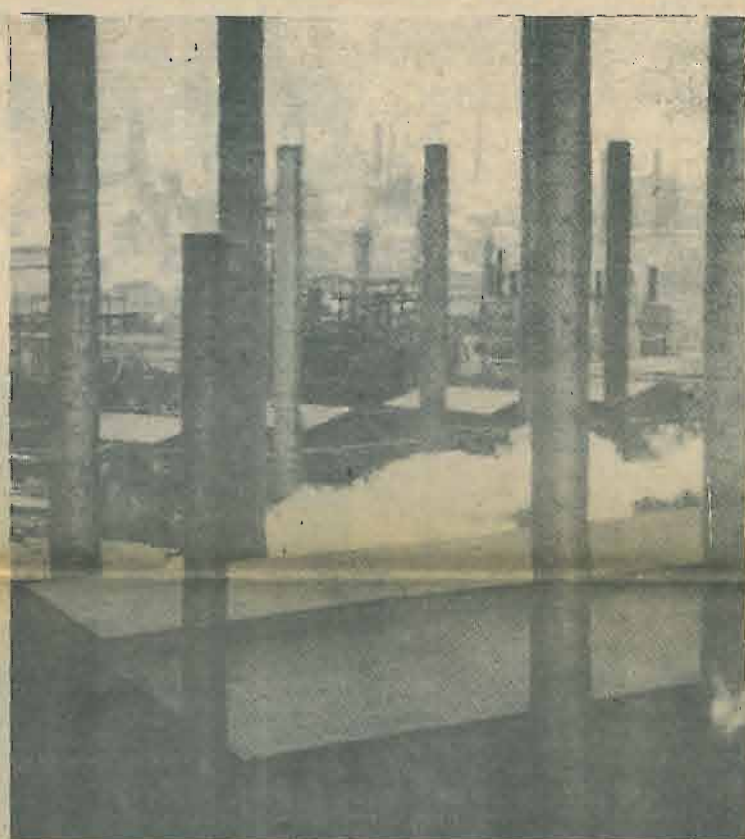
The U.S. ambassador to Israel persuaded Menachem Begin to allow Iraqi planes to stop off in Jordan—a clear indication of where American sympathies lie.

At the same time, Carter like the Arab sheiks would probably prefer that Iraq doesn't win too overwhelmingly. It is in Washington's interests to have a united pro-Western Iran that can best serve as a buffer against the Russians and defend the oil fields.

There are people in the US who would like to run such an Iran. They are totally bound up to the Iraqi regime. General Oveissi, for instance, who ordered the massacre of the anti-Shah demonstrators in Tehran in September 1978, returned last week from the U.S. to Iraq—where he commands a 5,000 strong army of Iranian exiles.

AVERT

For the divided and increasingly unpopular regime in Tehran, the war was in some ways a godsend. The mullahs can beat the drum of Persian nationalism, proclaim 'holy



Above: Iraqi soldiers. Below the Abadan refinery

war' against Iraqi blasphemers and "Carter, Thatcher and the other satans", and avert attention from the failure of the revolution.

They will not take the steps that will make Tehran the beacon of genuine revolution throughout the region—granting the right of self-determination to the Kurds, Arabs and other national minorities,

establishing organs of popular power, fighting for the liberation of women from the Islamic yoke.

An Iraqi victory would give all the conservative regimes in the Middle East a much needed shot in the arm. That's why, even if it would temporarily strengthen the mullahs hold, let us hope the Iranians can repel the invaders. □

Harlem hospital fight

NEW YORK, NY—The night before it was to be closed, September 15, Sydenham Hospital in central Harlem, was occupied by 150 demonstrators.

The occupation was led by Rev. Daughtry of the Black United Front, Senie Williams, president of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Rev. Timothy Mitchell, and Diane Lacey, a member of the Health and Hospital Corporation Board, and a leader of the Community to Save Sydenham.

POLICE

After a week and a half of occupying, the police removed the remaining nine occupiers at two in the morning. During and since the occupation there has been constant picketing, and demonstrations of 500 to 2000 on the weekend. If the hospital is not kept open, there are plans to march to Washington a week before the election.

There is only one other municipal hospital in central Harlem besides Sydenham, and it is already beyond capacity.

Harlem has New York's highest rate of death by accident, injury and murder. Infant mortality is the highest in the city. Sydenham closing will mean people will either die because of lack of health care or they will have to move.

The alternative plan, supported by the politicians, is for a drug rehabilitation center. This is unacceptable. It will not alleviate the lack of health care in Harlem. As usual, the politicians are trying to make a deaf instead of save the hospital.

MOVEMENT

It is clear that the Harlem community is not going to let itself be destroyed without a fight. The struggle to save Sydenham has turned into a movement, run independent of politicians, to save all of Harlem.

The issue is whether people are more important than profits. Only by continuing to organize in the streets will the people win. □

by ALLYSON SMITH



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Gruffiti

by PATRICIA GOLDSMITH

Clams win...

Unit Two of Arkansas Nuclear One power plant near Russellville is jammed up with clams, and officials of the Arkansas Power and Light Company do not know when they will get it back in operation.

The unit was not put back on the line as expected, primarily because the reactor was still infested with thousands of clams.

Officials of the utility discovered that the clams were slowing the flow of water through a backup cooling system of the reactor.

They worked all weekend to flush them out of the water supply, a spokesman said, but enough remained to keep the reactor shut down. □

Censored...

Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention says he is not anti-Jewish, but Jewish prayers do not reach god.

When told Jewish leaders had taken offense at the statements, Smith said, "They are offended by the New Testament... No prayer gets through that is not prayed through Jesus Christ." □

Radiate the night away...

The New Musical Express, a British music weekly, reported the opening of Europe's "first radiation and explosion proof disco", near Montbelliard in eastern France.

The builders allege that it will withstand a bomb "100X more powerful" than the Hiroshima killer.

Among the special features are a 1/2 ton armored door and specially designed "filtration" in the ventilation system.

Left unsaid was whether the sound system was powerful enough to outshout the sound of the bomb explosion itself. □

Potted but stingy...

Last year Americans spent more on potted plants and flowers (over \$5 billion) than they did on aid to the third world (4.6 billion).

In the late 1960s, when America devoted just over 0.4% of its gross national product to help for third world countries, only France, Australia, Belgium and Holland gave a bigger slice of their national income.

By last year, when the share of America's GNP going to aid had fallen to 0.19%, only Italy, among the rich countries of the non-communist world, was more parsimonious.

Austria also gave just 0.19%, but the American effort had been bettered by the incorrigibly stingy Swiss. □

CONTAINER WORKERS READY TO STRIKE

JAMESBURG, NJ—Members of USW Local 6405 in Jamesburg, New Jersey unanimously supported a strike vote recently, sending their negotiating committee back to the bargaining table.

This action marks the first time in the eighteen year history of this Container Corporation of America plant, that the workers here have been so militant as to support the idea of a strike.

FRUSTRATION

The present three year contract, which expires October 30 of this year, has repeatedly been a point of frustration.

Among the problems are language loopholes which allow the company free reign to create and do away with job classifications, no sick days, a repressive absenteeism policy and inadequate health and pension programs, to name a few.

by C. RENAUD

The agenda of union proposals contains some fifty-seven items.

During the past two weeks the union and company have met nearly sixty hours in which very little has been accomplished. The company has blamed this on the fact of the extensiveness of the agenda. However, Container Corp. fails to note the years of union confusion caused by this catch-all contract.

To date, all the company has offered is forty cents an hour per year for the next three years and a few changes in contract language.

As this article is being written, the company appears to be making some movement on

their absenteeism policy. CCA appears unwilling to give on health insurance.

The union membership has asked for Blue Cross-Blue Shield because of its wide accessibility. The present insurance firm, Travelers, has been rejected at some hospitals, leaving some CCA employees in difficult situations.

RESPONSE

It was in response to the above problems that the rank and file here supported the strike vote. This was an encouraging sign and will certainly put the company in a mood of dismay. Perhaps now Container Corp. will begin to bargain and stop bullshitting. □

POLISH WORKERS SUPPORT FUND

The Socialist Workers Party of Britain, the sister organization of the International Socialist Organization, has set up a special fund to send money to Gdansk workers.

The money will be taken to Poland by members of SWP, who will then be able to bring back a first hand account of the situation in Poland and the new independent unions.

The amount collected will be small in comparison to the needs of the Polish workers, but solidarity is still important.

Send contributions to Socialist Workers Party of Britain, International Fund, PO Box 82, London E 2, England

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

But isn't religion always reactionary?

Religion and the Polish mass strike

Karl Marx is often quoted as having said: "Religion is the opium of the people." He meant that religious belief drugs workers into cooperating with their masters.

But that's only part of what he said, and the rest is more complex: "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, the spirit of unspiritual conditions. It is the opium of the people."

STRENGTH

Thus Marx saw religion in the context of class society—a "heartless world," in which physical, social and spiritual strength of the majority of people is spent to enrich a few.

Religion's purpose from the standpoint of the rulers is to make the system of exploitation and oppression seem natural and legitimate to people. It's purpose for the working class is to make life endurable, to give it the appearance of purpose.

Until the rise of the fundamentalist "moral majority" movement in this country, it would have been easy to underestimate the power and resilience of religious ideology in the present day.

Now that born-again, right wing, patriotic Christianity is on the rise, it's important for socialists to remember that these ideas are not just cynically produced by the ruling class for mass consumption.

They are a real part of the consciousness of many working people because these beliefs find an echo in their everyday experience.

The contradictions inherent in religion became clearer in

by DEBORAH ROBERTS

the recent Polish workers strike.

Over the past 25 years the "communist" regime in Poland has tried to find a way to use the enormous popularity of the Church to control the working class.

The Church has a hold over the people and can thus be recruited to maintain law and order, in spite of hostility between church and state.

Since 1956 every time Polish workers have gone into motion, as they did this August, the Church has appealed for calm and condemned the growing militancy.

In return for these favors, the state has made such concessions to the Church as allowing religious instruction in public schools.

The Church consistently strives to diffuse workers' movements, while ostensibly championing opposition to "communism."

But the Church has no more interest in change from below than has the state. Thus it appeals to the government on behalf of the workers, rather than stressing the need for workers' self-organization.

However sympathetic individual priests may be to working people, church leaders steer a narrow course between giving verbal support to the workers' movement but as little active material support as possible.

Yet while the Church's role is designed carefully from above to be that of mediator between workers and government, millions of Poles look to the Church and Catholicism as a bulwark against the regime.

The Gdansk shipyard workers celebrated mass their occupied yard and hung a picture of the Pope out of the wall.

As Anna Paczuska writes in the September issue of *Socialist Review*, this was an act of defiance as much as religious fervor. For Polish religion is an expression of nationalism directed against the Soviet Union.

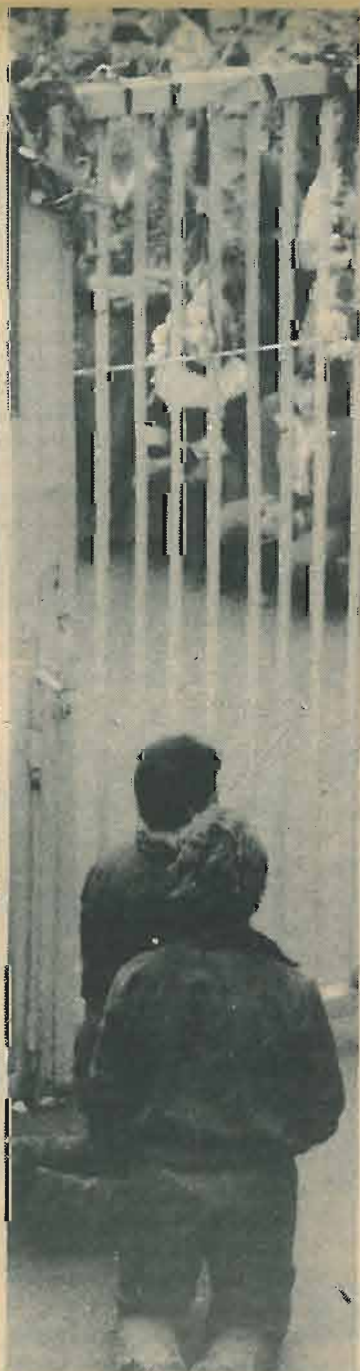
But in spite of the obvious influence of the Church with the workers opposition, workers maintained their militancy despite appeals from the Church Hierarchy.

On August 23 the Polish Catholic Church predicted sympathized with the workers but warned that prolonged disputes would only hurt workers' interests in the end.

PROCESS

The strike continued a way, and it spread. As a shipyard worker told a reporter, "The Church does give me bread, it doesn't take my meat."

When workers take steps to become their own masters, hold of religious ideas wanes: This process is far from over in Poland, but it has begun.



Praying Gdansk workers

**NEW
TURKISH
COUP
DELIGHTS
WEST**

The third military takeover in Turkey since 1960 has been met with barely concealed sighs of relief by Western political and banking circles.

The press and television have been at pains to stress how different the Turkish army is from Latin American armies, how it is a defender democracy and does not wish to remain in power for long.

SENSIBLE

The new dictator, Chief of Staff General Evren has been praised as a "sensible soldier", "a modest man", "paternal rather than threatening."

This went so far that the day after the coup Turkish radio quoted the press at length, with obvious delight.

It took the US and the EEC less than one day to announce that economic aid will continue. NATO headquarters in Brussels is reported to be delighted.

Hardly surprising—as the London *Financial Times* wrote: "Turkey is a major potential market, and of considerable strategic importance." It also owes Western banks and institutions \$16 billion.

The political and economic turmoil of the last three years or so, was clearly worrying the West considerably.

They need not worry any more. One of General Evren's first moves after the coup was to personally deliver a message pledging Turkey's continued loyalty to NATO. Trade agreements will be honored.

What will the coup mean for working people in Turkey?

The first decree of the Junta banned political and trade union activity. DISK, the militant trade union confederation with nearly one million members has been closed down.

CRISIS

So have the well organized white collar workers' organizations. With inflation running at 100 per cent it is only through such organizations that workers were able to resist the complete decimation of their living standards over the years of economic crisis.

The right to strike has been removed and workers on strike at the time of the coup have been ordered back.

The second task is to destroy the left and the Kurdish movement. On the morning of the coup countless 'terrorists' were rounded up by army units.

As General Evren said: "We shall demolish the perverted traitors at one blow."

Censorship has been imposed in the east—a massive campaign of terror is clearly in the offing in Kurdistan. As we go to press, there are reports that the executions have already begun. □

Poland: the role of the 'soviets'

The 'threat of Soviet intervention' in Poland was a constant theme in the press over the last month. Well, there *was* a soviet intervention; *real* soviets (at least two of them) played a decisive role in forcing the Polish government to concede the workers demands.

For a soviet is a workers council representing many different workplaces whose delegates are subject to direct election and recall at any time.

There are no soviets in the USSR and its rulers fear the possibility of such things more than they fear anything else in the world. Because soviets are the instruments of effective workers' power, of real direct democracy.

CREATED

The joint strike committee in Gdansk and Szczecin in the last weeks in August *were* genuine soviets. And, like all genuine soviets in the past, they were created by workers in the course of struggle against their bosses.

It began back in July when a wave of strikes started in central Poland. They were sparked off by a sharp increase in meat prices.

By the beginning of August the Warsaw refuse collectors were out in a highly visible strike—garbage was piling high in the streets. The city's bus workers followed them out on strike.

Before the middle of the month 150 strikes were reported, a remarkable number in a country where police repression is the normal reply to working class action.

The tactic of the government was to deal with each group of strikers separately.

Gierek and Co refrained from the use of police violence this time. They knew that the increase in meat prices was only the last straw to workers who were thoroughly discontented and hostile to the whole set-up in so-called 'People's' Poland.

They feared that police repression might provoke a revolutionary explosion. So they told the various plant and enterprise managers to negotiate and to settle as quickly as possible, even at the cost of substantial pay rises.

To negotiate with whom? Not with the official state-controlled 'unions'—nobody had any trust at all in these fake 'unions'. No, it was necessary to deal with the (completely unofficial) strike committees elected by workers on strike.

This was done. Depending on the degree of industrial muscle each group of strikers had, pay rises of 4-20 per cent were conceded in order to get a quick return to work. Of course, this still further discredited the fake 'unions'.

Already at this stage there were demands for genuine trade unions, for real election of union officials and many wider things, including an end to press censorship, abolition of the 'special stores' for privileged people (including foreign visitors with hard currency, and so on).

But, by and large, the bosses—the highly privileged bureaucrats who rule Poland—were successful in settling the strikes, one by one, on the basis of real immediate pay rises and vague promises for the future.

BY DUNCAN HALLAS

Divide and rule plus cash in hand prevented a *united* working class opposition from getting off the ground in central Poland.

Then came Gdansk. Late to strike, and provoked by the victimization of a woman militant (a victimization the Polish bosses must bitterly regret), the 16,000 workers of the shipyards at Gdansk came out on August 14.

Within a week practically every enterprise on the Baltic coast had followed suit, crucially, a general strike in Szczecin.

ISOLATE

The response of the government of the bureaucrats was to try to repeat their previous tactic. Concede money to the strongest sections, isolate each enterprise and so prevent *general solidarity*.

They failed. This time the workers broke through. Unity was achieved.

It was a close run thing. The turning point was August 16. The government negotiators agreed to concede the wage demand at the Lenin shipyards (not the original demand but an agreed compromise favorable to the workers).

The strike committee (200 strong) agreed, by a majority, to recommend acceptance. But they would not sign without the agreement of a mass meeting of the workers. Lech Walesa recommended acceptance at this meeting.

The mass meeting turned them down. Gdansk bus workers' delegates had lobbied the workers at the yard. If you settle, they said, we and lots of others will be sold down the river. And the shipyard workers responded.

Not only was the separate deal rejected, a unified Joint Strike Committee was set up. 24 workplaces were included at first, ultimately nearly 500.

They agreed to settle *only* as a whole. Divide and rule was out. One out, all out, became the slogan and resolve of the workers.

This was the decisive turning point. The separate strike committees were merged into a *soviet*, a real workers council.

The government's response was to refuse to negotiate with the joint strike committee, while saying they were willing to negotiate with each separate strike committee—divide and rule again.

REPORTS

They would not discuss, they said, the 21 demands of the joint strike committee. The 'dissidents' of the KOR in Warsaw, who had been putting out reports of the strikes were arrested.

It is probable that a secret ballot at this stage, would have given a majority for acceptance of the separate wage offers.

Fortunately, the matter was decided by *mass* meetings, at which the issues were argued out.



WORLD IN STRUGGLE



Striking Silesian coal miners

The power of the mass media (anti-soviet of course) was minimized. Solidarity was re-affirmed.

The government then resorted to *more* sweeping manoeuvres. The Prime Minister was fired. The head of the Polish trade unions was fired (showing, incidentally, who controlled him) and so were other bosses who were thought to be politically objectionable to the workers.

'New faces', supposed to be more sympathetic to working class interests, were appointed.

Cardinal Wyszynski, Roman Catholic Primate of Poland was persuaded to appeal for 'calm'.

None of this worked. The strikers stayed solid. Working class solidarity and working class self-confidence was growing fast in the course of the battle.

The joint strike committee in Gdansk had its own press bureau, its own printing press, its own translators for the foreign press, its own *identity*.

The self-confidence and creativity of the workers was waxing strong. By now 500 workplaces were in the soviets. It was a situation of dual power. The power of the organized workers versus the power of the state machine—police, army, etc, still intact.

What now? Obviously the rulers of Poland, shaken to the core, will tread carefully. Unless the rulers of Russia intervene with their army, the Polish rulers will try to re-assert their power slowly, bit by bit.

They will certainly try to incorporate Lech Walesa and his like into the state machine.

They have achieved a victory by the very dissolution of the joint strike committee, the Polish soviets. How far they can push it remains to be seen.

STRIKERS

There is one general lesson for all of us. The soviet *form* of organization is supremely important as the real road to workers power. *But the form alone will not suffice.*

Some socialists will have been shocked by the role of priests. Masses for strikers, crucifixes in soviet headquarters, national anthem, not the internationale.

Yet what else can be expected? The stalinist prostitution of the workers movement in the interests of bureaucratic exploitation *inevitably* ensures that rebellious workers will seek other symbols.

Much more important, the soviet form allows the actual aspiration of workers to be expressed. Within it various political tendencies struggle for influence.

In Poland the 'reformist' influence was dominant. That meant also the (temporary) end of the soviets.

The outcome is not inevitable. It all depends on the whether genuine revolutionary forces win a real base in the working class *in advance* of the acute crisis that throws up soviets—in Poland, in the United States and in every country. □

1953: East Germany

On June 16, 1952, building workers in East Berlin went on strike against increased work norms. When they demonstrated through the streets thousands of other workers joined them.

By the next morning the whole city was gripped by a general strike as demonstrations continued.

Intervention by Russian troops provoked bitter fighting. They eventually managed to clear the streets, but not before the revolt had spread to every industrial center in East Germany. Prisons were broken into and government buildings were burnt down.

Only massive use of force enabled the authorities to put the revolt down.



Protesters in Prague, 1968

1968-69: Czechoslovakia

A 'reform movement' began among a section of the bureaucracy itself.

But the working class, together with intellectuals and students, became the chief force pushing for democratization of society after the third Russian invasion into an Eastern European country.

Mass meetings of workers in the factories and certain trade unions continued to resist the demands of the Russians long after many of the original 'reformers' had changed sides.

1970: Poland

When the average food prices were raised by twenty per cent in December 1970, the workers of the cities of Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin went on strike and occupied their workplaces.

After being fired upon by the police, they burned down government and Communist Party offices. Dozens of workers were murdered by the police, but the strike spread, until a general strike in Warsaw seemed certain.

The ruler of Poland at the time, Gomulka, resigned and a new government was formed that made promises to the workers. When this government refused to freeze prices more strikes followed. Finally the government was forced to announce a two year freeze.

Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe

Chris Harman

Hera Press, PO Box 18037,
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Bureaucracy and Revolution

The dramatic and turbulent upheaval that has rocked the 'Communist' system in recent weeks has once again forced socialists in the West to pose the question: What do we have in common with socialism?

The power of the Marxist world view has always rested on its vision of socialism as a possibility of offering humanity for the first time the opportunity to overcome alienation, exploitation and misery.

According to an Eastern European joke: "capitalism is the exploitation of man by man, and socialism is the exact reverse." If marxism cannot solve that problem it is indeed a truly nightmarish future we can look forward to.

Our starting point in any examination of the Eastern European regimes is that not one of them came to power through a workers' revolution. Communist Party leaders were only able to seize control as a result of an agreement made between Stalin and the Western leaders, Roosevelt and Churchill, at the close of the Second World War.

At the Yalta Conference a division of Europe into 'spheres of influence' was formulated. Stalin agreed to the suppression of revolutionary movements in the West in return for being able to do what he wanted in Eastern Europe.

The Russian Army which overtook these countries immediately set about establishing regimes—with the aid of local Communist Party leaders obedient to Moscow—on essentially the same lines as the one in Russia itself.

Having entered coalition governments the Communist leaders quickly took advantage of their new found control of the police and the presence of Russian occupying troops to end the independence of other parties—capitalist and working class.

CHOICE

Politicians were given the choice between physical elimination by the secret police, fleeing to the West or becoming puppets of the new power. Others were given positions of eminence in the hastily formed governments.

By this mixture of terror and bribery a massive machine was built up which could dominate all other sections of society subordinating everybody to its control.

The workers played no part

and suffered from it as much as other social groups. Power lay with a small new group of people at the top of the new bureaucracy—and even then only on condition that they did as the Russian leaders wanted.

When Karl Marx spoke of the socialist revolution he envisaged it as being carried through by "the immense majority."

And Lenin, in carrying through a Russian revolution that inspired socialists throughout the world, had argued the old repressive state machine had to be smashed and replaced by the direct rule of the workers expressed through democratically elected workers soviets.

Yet for the 'Communist' rulers of Eastern Europe the 'revolution' was to be inaugurated from above and carried through by a tiny minority. Instead of mobilizing the working class they simply took over the existing state and then turned its weapons of repression against all opposition.

OPPOSITE

What took place was the opposite of the revolution generations of socialists had fought for. A bureaucratic ruling group calling themselves 'Communist' controlled the state and industry and began to accumulate capital at the terrible expense of the living standards of workers and peasants.

And a massive police apparatus was erected to crush resistance. In the process many thousands of workers found themselves rooted out of factories and sent to prison or forced labor camps.

The Russian rulers that had brought these regimes into being now mapped out the contours of their future. They had long identified their interest as being to "catch up and overtake the West."

At the same time Russia increasingly felt they could only survive provided they continually developed industry so as never to fall behind the Americans in the race to produce newer and more advanced types of armaments.

Now they forced the Eastern European states to follow the same policy. A pattern of 'planned growth' was imposed on the new 'Communist' regimes.

Five year plans were introduced that aimed at a massive increase in total production. Yet only heavy industry expanded while targets for growth in popular consumption were more often than simply abandoned.

The regimes of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, East Germany, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were compelled to behave as single capitalist enterprises to subordinate consumption to accumulation and to establish dictatorship over the working class in the vain hope of achieving fast industrial development.

SUBORDINATE

Yet there was virtually no attempt to coordinate the economies of the different states. Each national economy was subordinated to the needs of the Kremlin, and each had

Gdansk shipyard workers,



cracy and tition

aken the very fabric of Poland's
gain forced many militants and
to the regimes of Eastern Europe

attempt independently to
satisfy those needs.

And it was not human need
but international competition
that determined the priorities
of the economy. Like private
capitalists in the West, the
rulers of countries like Hun-
gary and Poland could only
survive by continually selling
their goods abroad.

State capitalism is still capi-
talism. And the internal diffi-
culties facing the rulers of the
different state capitalist
regimes force them to clash
with each other. Each tries to
pass off some of the obstacles
to further rapid expansion on
to others.

Russia, the most powerful,
has been able to do so by
exploiting her satellites and to
a lesser extent other countries
of the world.

Yet Russia's satellites, af-
fected as much as any country
by world wide recession and
deepening crisis, are experi-
encing recurrent economic
problems offering a grim
future for their inhabitants.

Their long term aim of
'catching up and overtaking'

the West has been seen to be
unrecognizable.

The Eastern European
rulers' problems are accent-
uated because of the smaller
size of their economies—even
the USSR's economy is much
smaller than that of its main
competitor in the arms race—
meaning that the proportion of
national resources tied up in
accumulation is much greater
than in the West.

Poland in the summer of
1980 is only the latest in a
whole series of revolts by the
working class where such
regimes have been shaken to
their foundations.

In each case the source of
the crisis lay in the drive to
accumulate enforced on the
ruling bureaucracy by its need
to compete internationally.

Yet in a regime where the
ruling group controls all
industry any re-organization
of the economy necessarily
also involves a re-shuffling of
the monolithic apparatus.

As in Poland today the
Soviet style Communist Party
is not designed to be an agent
of change. It is a machine
geared to routine administra-
tion and hell-bent on self-
preservation.

And although the workers'
strikes have posed a serious
political challenge to the
regime, the bureaucracy—as
in previous revolts—has
managed to maintain control
over industry, the banks, the
army and the police.

From such a basis they may
well be able to make a come-
back and reinstate their un-
divided rule.

TRANSFORM

The ruling group in Poland
can only be prevented from
staging a successful comeback
if the most radical sections of
the working class insist that
the *whole structure* of econo-
mic and political control is
transformed.

The Russian economy is
increasingly plagued by the
same imbalances that have
produced revolts in the satel-
lites.

At some point the monolith
in the Kremlin itself will
crack. Sixty million Russian
workers will have the opportu-
nity to make their mark on
history.



Workers militia, Budapest 1956

1956: Hungary

On the evening of October 23, 1956, a large peaceful demonstration of all sections of the population was fired upon by the political police. Within hours fighting had spread throughout Budapest and other Hungarian cities.

What had seemed like an all-powerful bureaucratic machine collapsed before the general insurrection. In the factories—where a general strike was proclaimed—workers' councils sprang up everywhere.

Only an assault on Budapest and other centers by Russian troops and tanks thirteen days later brought the revolutionary process to an end. Even then the fighting continued for another week, and the general strike for much longer.



Boeing: bombers and billions

On October 3, the contract between the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and the Boeing Company expires.

If no agreement is reached, thirty thousand members of the IAM in the Puget Sound area, in Wichita, Kansas and several smaller places will strike.

Steve McFadden is a shop steward at Boeing in Seattle, and he has been active in the rank and file effort to get a good contract. Here he reports on the negotiations and the background of the IAM at Boeing. □



Many people think of Boeing when they are unfortunate enough to board a McDonnell Douglas DC-10.

But during World War II Boeing became a terrifying household word—for hundreds of thousands of German and Japanese people.

Almost half the bombs dropped by the US on Europe, and practically all the bombs, including atomic, dropped on Japan fell from the ten thousand bombers built by Boeing.

In Vietnam, 25 years later, Boeing B-52 bombers eclipsed the bomb tonnage dropped in World War II.

MILITARY

Despite Boeing's pre-eminence in the manufacturing of commercial airlines, 60% of all passenger jets built by Western capitalist countries, it has been in the military arena where the company has grown fast and rich.

Presently, about 20% of its business is in armaments, with such projects as the Cruise Missile, Minuteman ICBM's, sub-contractor on Minuteman's replacement, the MX, 707-747 air-force command posts, and assorted missiles heading a long list.

It's also in competition for the CX Heavy Transport—to be used to deploy the US Rapid Deployment Force.

It is this very wealth, this rocketing climb in profits, that has become the central issue in these contract negotiations.

Unfortunately, it's much more a central issue for the union negotiator(s), than it is for the membership of IAM District 751.

The IAM Aerospace Conference held earlier this year in California decided 15% would be the minimum wage settlement. This was again echoed by William Wimpinger, President IAM, when he said, "Workers should not bear the brunt of the ravages of inflation."

SHRINKING

But inflation is just the issue. The faltering economy affects workers who have escaped unemployment in more ways than a shrinking dollar.

In order to prosper in the way Boeing has, it has tremendously developed productivity. It cranks out about 28 planes a month.

Seven of these are 747's which now take less than half the workers than originally.

Part of this is due to technological innovation, particularly in the area of computer controlled manufacture.

MOTTO

But a lot of this productivity increase is from old fashioned speed-up.

The capitalist motto has always been: "If you can't work them faster, work them longer, or better yet, do both."

Consequently such things as forced overtime and improved working conditions have become important concerns of the membership.

This was expressed very clearly at a September mass meeting of District 751 and the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association members, whose contract expires in December.

The meeting of 35,000 in the Seattle Kingdome was called

for a strike sanction vote, a legal formality which passed by 97%. District 751 went through a lot of effort and expense, including lost wages, to attend, and were rewarded with a too long, 45 minutes, of boring, totally uninformative speakers headed by Wimpinger.

Noting the proliferation of banners referring to the elimination of forced overtime, Wimp added that Boeing held the dubious honor of being number 1 in this endeavor as well.

But, the union's contract proposal on this question remains: No change.

One of the top officials put it to me this way: "If Boeing is to remain competitive, especially against European Airbus Consortium, it must retain flexibility in its manning requirements."

William Allen, former Boeing president, said it another way, "If they knew they had security, they wouldn't work: And anyway an employer in a free enterprise system has to be able to get the best for the least."

With the attitude of our negotiators showing through, it was no surprise that many unionists left the Kingdome with a profound sense of disappointment and frustration.

This is an abhorrent introduction to trade unionism for the new generation of IAM members and Boeing workers. (Sixty per cent have less than two years seniority).

Most are unaware of the issues involved in the 1977 strike of 45 days. Even fewer experienced the disastrous days of 1969-70, when Washington's largest employer slashed its workforce from 105,000 to 37,000.

Mismanagement in the 747 production and the US government's cancelling of the supersonic transport were cited as the principle cause for this catastrophe.

BANKRUPT

35,000 aerospace workers stopped work for a day and met under one roof, only to be denied a sense of our own power—by a bankrupt bureaucracy which stands in the way of workers controlling their

shop floor, controlling their own lives.

This same bureaucracy, 40 years ago expelled 50 members and brought them up on charges. 24 for "communist" activities—some of our best trade unionists of the time.

People from 751 organized the aircraft plants in California into the IAM.

People who merely advocated joining the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) were labelled as reds and expelled.

VISION

The same happens today. Union activists in 751 can expect to be red-baited for such revolutionary acts as encouraging shop steward elections or demanding information on secret contract negotiations.

If our problems as workers are to be solved, control of the union must be returned to the membership.

Trade union activists, with vision of socialism have the ability to help in that struggle.

26,000 people line up for 75 jobs in Baltimore

by CURTIS PRICE

BALTIMORE, MD—On September 15, in response to word of mouth information that the new Metro West Social Security Administration office would be accepting applications for 75 entry level jobs, over 12,000 people, overwhelmingly young, Black and chronically unemployed, showed up to apply.

DEMAND

Most of them ended up standing in lines ranging up to a half-mile long for the better part of a 90 degree day—while Social Security staff frantically xeroxed employment applications to keep up with the demand.

By the end of the week, the total number of applications filed had sky-rocketed to over 26,000! A substantial minority

of those who were interviewed stated that they had actually been without permanent work for 3 years or more.

To add insult to injury, Metro West officials stated that only 3 applicants for each position would actually be seriously considered and get an interview—a grand total of 225 people out of 26,000—or less than one per cent.

Were these cushy, \$20,000 a year management jobs being offered? Hardly! The vast majority were \$7,500 a year bottom level clerical positions with the tops paid being \$11,000 for warehouse laborers.

The latest Department of Labor figures released for Baltimore for the year 1979—before the effects of the current recession would have been felt—show unemployment rates of 12.6% for the city as a whole, 17.9% for Blacks, and a whopping 51.5% for Black youth between 16 and 19.

Since the government's criteria for being considered unemployed fails to take into account those workers who have become too disillusioned, thru constant rejection, to bother with the whole mess—or part-timers who would take full-time work if they could find it—the real unemploy-

ment rate—or as someone aptly called it "the index of human misery"—stands a higher than official figure show.

INDICTMENT

The lines at Metro West and the dozens of other cropping up in other cities across the country—stand an indictment to a system that's failed to even provide that most basic right—right to work.

Only when a movement working and oppressed people takes control of this society and runs it in our own interests—that is, socialism—will Metro West become a thing of the past.

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



"And ain't I a woman!"



Of all the women in our movement who have fought for racial and sexual emancipation, Sojourner Truth has no equal.
She stands above everyone else.

Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree in or near the year 1800 in Ulster County, New York.

She was sold as a slave. She also witnessed her brothers and sisters auctioned off at an early age.

Her master repeatedly raped her, flogged her in the presence of the man she loved and then forced her to marry another man.

She bore that man 13 children, all of whom were sold into slavery.

VISION

In 1827, slaves were freed in New York and Isabella sued her master for the custody of her youngest child. She then ventured into the South, and eventually rescued him.

Isabella Baumfree was working as a domestic servant in 1843, when she had a religious vision. As a result of the vision, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth, "Because I was to travel up and down the land . . . I was to declare the truth to the people."

It was as an itinerant preacher that Sojourner Truth reached fame in the North.

cher that Sojourner Truth reached fame in the North.

She had a strong, mystical effect on her audience and frequently won over hostile crowds by her imposing demeanor and her fearless attitude.

She preached for abolitionism, for feminism and for the poor.

ANSWER

In 1851, at an early women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio, none of the white women were able to answer an outburst of heckling which came from a group of preachers.

It looked as if the convention would be ruined.

Sojourner Truth came forward to speak. Some of the women were frightened that this Black woman would "hurt" their cause.

Francis Dana Gage, an abolitionist and feminist did not agree: "Sojourner moved slowly to the front and turned her great speaking eyes to me . . . I rose and announced 'Sojourner Truth'. I begged

the audience to keep silent for three minutes."

Sojourner Truth turned the full force of her eloquence against her hecklers, men who ridiculed the weakness and helplessness of women, and, in one of the finest speeches ever made, lashed out:

"That man over there says women need to be helped into carriages and lifted over ditches and to have the best place everywhere.

"Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over puddles, or gives me the best place—and ain't I a woman."

CRY

With a gesture that electrified the audience she raised her strong Black arm and cried:

"Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted and gathered into barns and no man could head me—and ain't I a woman?"

"I could work as hard and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a Woman!"

"I have born thirteen child-

ren and seen most of them sold into slavery, and when I cried out my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me—ain't I a woman!"

Sojourner Truth left the stage and tears of more than gratitude streamed down the faces of the women.

During the Civil War Sojourner Truth enlisted, with other feminists and abolitionists, in organizing women and public opinion for the struggle to emancipate the slaves. She visited union troops, preaching and entertaining them.

After the war ended, she embarked upon a homesteading program to provide land and education for newly emancipated slaves.

DEBATE

Sojourner Truth was in the thick of a bitter debate during Reconstruction—one which pitted abolitionists and feminists against each other.

The fifteenth amendment to the constitution would only allow male slaves to vote.

This amendment was a slap in the face to all women—

Black and white—who thought that Reconstruction would mean genuine racial and sexual equality.

Only Sojourner Truth stood up for the rights of all women, and those people doubly oppressed by race and sex—Black women.

"I want to have their rights. In the courts women have no right, no voice, nobody speaks for them."

"I am above eighty years old. I have been forty years a slave and forty years free and would be here forty years more to have equal rights for all."

"We do as much, we eat as much, we want as much. I suppose I am about the only colored woman that goes about speaking for the rights of colored women."

Her speech ends with the prophetic words—as important today as for women in 1867:

"I am for keeping the things while things are stirring because if we wait until it is still, it will take a great while to get it going again." □

WHERE WE STAND



Workers' Control

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggles of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

Revolution Not Reform

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

A Workers' Government

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, the courts, army and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda — newspapers, radio, television, movies, the education system. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the working class can trust and use in the fight against the present system.

Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class — pitting men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups — blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, gays, youth — suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing, and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation, supporting equal pay for all women workers. We fight for free abortion and an end to forced sterilization. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for equal hiring opportunities for women and an end to sexual harassment and hirings. Discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities must be fought.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

Rank and File Organization

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped truly fighting for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders act either as brakes on workers' struggles, or as cops, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to put an end to this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

Internationalism

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international, so the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico — from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

Revolutionary Party

The activity of the ISO is directed at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

What's ON

BALTIMORE

Steve Jefferys on **Poland: The Mass Strike**. October 7, 7:30 pm at the Bread and Roses Coffee House, 420 East 31st St. Donation: \$1.50.

Jean Maunder on **U.S. Population Control in the Third World**. October 19 at 7:30 pm. Bread and Roses, 420 E. 31st. Donation: \$1.00.

BOSTON

Steve Jefferys and Wayne Standley on **Socialism and the Trade Unions**. October 12, 7:30 pm at 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Call 661-8765.

Brian Kelly on **Ireland and the National Question**. October 26 at 7:30 Mass. Ave., Cambridge.

CHICAGO

Neil Smith on **The Urban Crisis**, October 12 at 7:00 pm. Call 769-6233 for details.

CINCINNATI

Steve Jefferys on **Socialists in the Unions**. October 2 at 8:00. UCM House, 2699 Clifton.

Cal Winslow on **The elections: Is there and alternative?** November 3 at 8:00 pm. Call 871-1371 for details.

CLEVELAND

Retha Hill on **Fighting Racism**. October 4 at 7:30 pm. Call 321-6143 or 371-7648.

Victor Alba on **The Spanish Civil War**. October 17 at 7:30 pm. Call 321-6143 or 371-7648 for details.

DETROIT

Barbara Winslow on **Socialists and the Elections**. October 19 at 7:30 pm. Call 868-2932 for details.

KENT

Barbara Winslow on **Revolutionary Feminism**. October 9 at 7:30 pm, Kent Student Center.

Christina Bergmark on **Socialism and War**, October 23 at 12:00 noon. Kent Student Center. Call 678-3367.

RED TIDE JOINS ISO

On September 7, a new ISO branch was launched in Detroit. Members of the Red Tide, a revolutionary socialist organization based in Detroit, voted unanimously to join ISO—and build it.

The Red Tide was formed in 1973, as the youth group of the International Socialists, in California. The organization grew rapidly in the midwest from 1975-77.

At its peak, Red Tide had 8 branches and 70 members, and a bi-monthly paper called *The Red Tide*, with a circulation of 3,000.

There was much good organizing that took place in that period and the following years—especially anti-racist and high school organizing—that Red Tide members look back on with pride.

Red Tide maintained a revolutionary perspective through a difficult time for the left. By 1980 Red Tide was an independent collective in Detroit.

But as revolutionaries we know we need organization—both national and international—as well as tools with which to popularize socialist ideas—most importantly, a socialist newspaper.

Today, we are active in a wide range of struggles—anti-draft work, strike support, anti-racist struggles.

The prospects for rebuilding a strong revolutionary socialist current in the U.S. are excellent. We are glad to be members of the ISO and urge others to join.

Frank Runninghorse
for Detroit Red Tide-ISO

MARXISM AND BLACK LIBERATION

THREE ESSAYS
BY TONY BOGUES
AND C.L.R. JAMES



Available from Hera Press, PO Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118. \$1.50. Also available, "Black Nationalism and Socialism", \$1.50.

PROVIDENCE

Steve Jefferys on **Why Socialism?** October 13 at 7:30 pm. Wilson Hall, Room 102.

Brian Kelly on **Ireland and the National Question**. October 28 at 7:30 pm, Wilson Hall, Room 102.

SEATTLE

Public Forum: **Socialists and the Elections**. October 25 at 7:30 pm at Bread and Roses, 915 East Pine, IOOF Hall.



buttons 50¢



"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

— Karl Marx

If you want to help us change the world and build socialism, join us. There are ISO members and branches in the following cities:

- Baltimore, MD
- Berkeley, CA
- Bloomington, IN
- Boston, MA
- Charleston, WV
- Chicago, IL
- Cincinnati, OH
- Cleveland, OH
- Dayton, OH
- Detroit, MI
- Fort Wayne, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Kent, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- New York, NY
- New Haven, CT
- Northampton, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Providence, RI
- Rochester, NY
- San Diego, CA
- Seattle, WA
- Trenton, NJ
- Washington, DC

ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

Join the International Socialist Organization

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO), please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

reviews

More than any other Marxist, Rosa Luxemburg provides a great and burning example for socialists today. An understanding of her life and political thought is so inspirational, in fact, that words are practically inadequate to express it.

FLAME

"In Rosa Luxemburg," wrote her close friend Klara Zetkin, "the socialist idea was a dominating and powerful passion . . . She was the sharp sword, the living flame of revolution."

During the course of her life, to the day she died, Rosa Luxemburg was a fighter for the socialist transformation of society. The meaning of socialism was not nebulous to her. It was crystal clear. "The essence of a socialist society is that the great mass ceases to be a ruled mass and instead lives and controls its own political and economic life in conscious and free self-determination."

Tony Cliff's book, *Rosa Luxemburg*, brings out in vivid relief this radical conception of socialism.

It concentrates on the important debates she engaged in during the years of the Second International, the First World War and the German revolution. It is clearly written, accessible to a

ROSA LUXEMBURG

BY TONY CLIFF

Glenn Perusek reviews the new edition of Tony Cliff's classic, *Rosa Luxemburg*, published by Bookmarks in London and available from Hera Press for \$4.95.

wide audience, and by and large avoids the petty polemics that cloud most accounts of Luxemburg.

REFORM

In the 1890's, as one of her first activities in Germany (after living in Poland and Switzerland) she wrote against Eduard Bernstein the pamph-

let *Social Reform or Revolution?*

Bernstein had theorized that revolution had become increasingly impossible, given the ability of capitalism to stabilize. He argued that a reform party was what the German socialist movement needed, one that would eventually win a majority in



Rosa Luxemburg in 1910

Parliament and institute socialism, a bit at a time, from there.

All the leading Marxist theoreticians of the day participated in the debate against Bernstein. He himself, however, admitted that Luxemburg's polemic was by far the best of those advanced against him. She was 23 years old at the time.

Luxemburg proved Bernstein wrong—capitalism was not stabilizing but rather was even more susceptible to crises, as it developed. Just two years after the publication of her pamphlet, history was to vindicate Luxemburg, as the world economy went into a downswing in 1900.

Further, Luxemburg argued that Bernstein's alternative really had nothing to do with socialism. Socialism for her meant working class control of production and political life itself. It must be based on the self-activity of the workers themselves. It was absurd to think that a socialist society could be decreed from above.

LIFE

From this early debate with Bernstein through the German revolution, Cliff takes us through the politics of Rosa Luxemburg. Her influential criticism of Lenin's first formulation of the role of the Marxist party in Russia, her unique position on the national question, her original writings on economics, and her later criticisms of the Bolsheviks are all included.

Though her entire political life was consistently productive, the last few years of Rosa's life witnessed her best writing. After the parliamentary representatives of the German Socialist Party (SPD) voted for war credits (support of the war effort) Luxemburg spent most of the First World War in jail, as an opponent of both the government and official SPD policy.

From her prison cell she took aim at the slaughter of Europe's working class, sponsored by imperialism and

abetted by the official leaders of socialism. "Shamed, dishonored, wading in blood and dripping in filth . . . capitalist society stands . . ."

"And in the midst of this orgy a world tragedy has occurred: the capitulation of social democracy.

"By their vote for war credits, the official leaderships of the socialist parties assume their share in the responsibility for the war itself and for its consequences."

UPSURGE

One of those consequences, of course, was the revolution in Russia. In Germany, the war gave birth to a revolutionary movement that toppled the Kaiser and held out the possibility of spreading the Russian revolution through Europe. This upsurge freed Rosa from prison in November 1918.

Tragically, she was to live only two more months. But it was in this period that Luxemburg is the clearest, most resolute expression of the will of the revolutionary section of the German working class.

Workers' councils had been set up, and they stood in direct conflict with the call for a national assembly. The councils represent nothing less than the actual instrument through which the working class can exercise its power, and usher in the socialist society. And Rosa Luxemburg writes:

"The path of the revolution follows clearly from its ends, its method follows from its task.

"All power is in the hands of the workers and soldiers councils . . . This is the guiding principle of all measures to be taken by the revolutionary government. Every step, every act by the government must like a compass point in this direction."

Cliff's book, long out of print, has now been published by Bookmarks in London and is available from Hera Press. All socialists should read it. □

'Each team had two Blacks'

"The Cubs are just plain racist!" This statement was made recently by a former Black Chicago Cub player.

His appraisal of the Cubs organization is not unique.

He is only one of numerous Black and Latin ballplayers who have been systematically discriminated against by the Wrigley owned Chicago Cubs baseball club over the past four decades.

"COLOR LINE"

It was not until 1953, seven years after Jackie Robinson of the then Brooklyn Dodgers smashed the so-called "color line," that the Cubs had their first Black major league ballplayers.

As Billy Williams, a 16 year Black veteran of the Cubs, recently put it, "For a long time there was a quota system in baseball. Each team could have two Black players. One was a good player, and the other was his roommate."

The Cubs' policy of excluding Black players continued after 1953. During the remainder of the decade only one Black player came through the Cubs minor league system to become a regular on the parent club.

In the 1960's the trend continued. Of 506 players chosen by the Cubs in the

by JIM MADIGAN AND JOE ANTOS

regular and secondary phases of the first 12 (1965 to 1977) amateur player drafts, only eight were Black players who would eventually make it to the major leagues, and none of the eight became starters on the Cubs' team.

The Chicago Cubs organization has had even less to do with Latino ballplayers. Though many Latino players have played for the Cubs, only one has been signed and developed in the Cubs' minor league system, and that was back in the 1940's.

Also, when you play for the Chicago Cubs, "attitude" means as much, if not more, than talent. "Attitude" is translated as meaning keeping your mouth shut and doing what you're told.

As Jim Brosnan, a white ex-Cub pitcher states, "A proper attitude was as much an attribute to Cub players as talent. As long as you were loyal and didn't pop off, you had a position."

ATTITUDE

This emphasis on "attitude" was often the main factor in determining whether a Black or Latino player remained with the Cubs or was traded.

If you "kept your place" you had a job; if you didn't you were gone. As Williams said, "There were many (Black and Latin) fellas who seemed to have major league talent and wound up with other clubs."

The list of Black and Latino ex-Cub players that are now not only playing, but starting, for other major league teams is staggering.

A partial list would include: Manny Trillo, Oscar Gamble, Bill North, Bill Madlock, Jose Cardenal, Ray Burris, Rodney Scott and Miguel Dilone.

The Cubs are not alone among professional baseball teams in their practice of systematic racism. The records of such teams such as the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets and Minnesota Twins, to name but a few are equally as bad.

A few years ago Calvin Griffith, the owner of the Twins, went so far as to say that the reason he moved the then Washington Senators to Minneapolis-St. Paul was because the Twin Cities were, "... white towns with hard-working people." Griffith is only unique in the fact that he is more vocal with his racist sentiment. □



FLOC STRIKE HURTS TOMATO GROWERS

TOLEDO, OH—Leaders of FLOC, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, say their strike is hurting the tomato growers of Northwest Ohio.

The season is at its peak and the yield is lower than normal.

Hundreds of farmworkers picketed the tomato fields, asking workers not to pick tomatoes bound for Campbell's and Libby's.

The strike was begun in 1978 by 2,000 farmworkers.

SUPPORT

Messages of support and donations can be sent to FLOC, 714 1/2 St Clair, Toledo, OH 43609. □

A strike becomes a cause

AMHERST, MA—At 6:00 am September 22, picket lines went up in front of the Amherst Nursing Game.

The 53 strikers, members of District 1199, New England Health Care Employees, AFL-CIO, had been trying to negotiate a new contract since the last one expired in May. They were all "non-professional" workers: nurses aides, laundry and kitchen workers, maintenance and housekeepers.

ISSUES

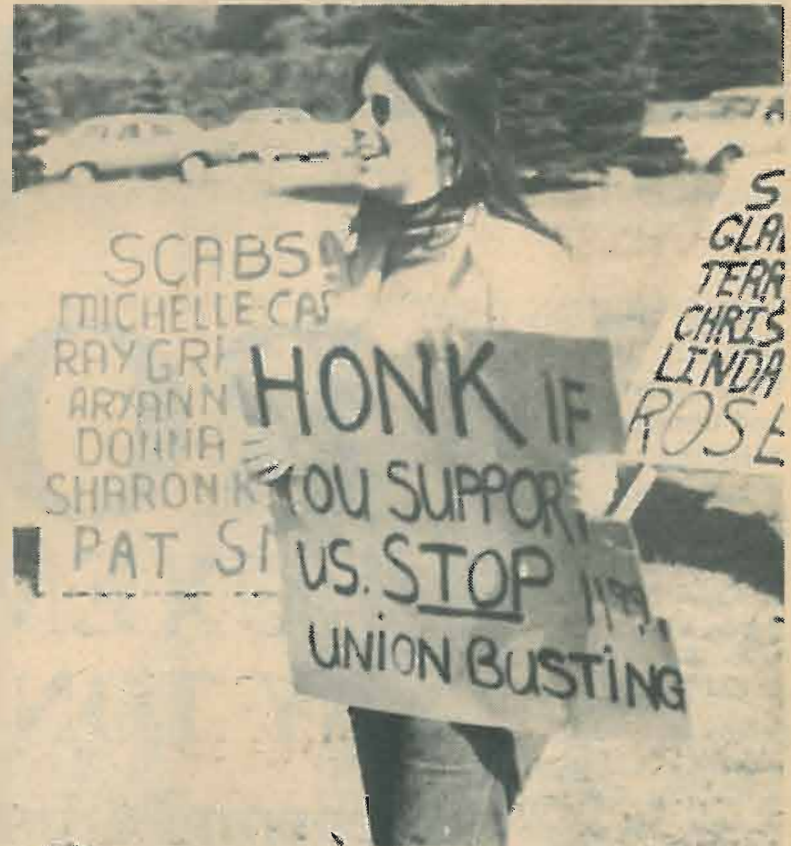
The two main issues were the workers' demand for a decent living wage and a union shop.

Before the strike, over 75% of the workers earned the minimum wage—\$3.10 an

hour, or less than \$100 a week take-home pay for full-time workers.

This was directly responsible for an extremely high turnover rate—of 65 workers the May 1 payroll, 50 had quit by September 1. The only way to achieve a decent life for the workers and consistent, quality care for the elderly patients is good pay and a union shop.

Although the owners refused to grant the workers even these minimal demands, they spent over \$100 an hour for attorney Presser of Skoler, Abbot & Hayes, a notorious union-busting law firm, and 24 hour police protection to escort scabs across the picket line. Both town and University of Massachusetts police,



often without badges or name-tags, were used. During the first two days of the strike, said on striker, "the police were out to show their brute force. The consistently used excessive force."

Many of the striking workers and their supporters were roughed-up, punched, choked and scratched.

RESTRAINT

Growing community and labor support forced the police to restrain themselves. The strike was endorsed by 11 community organizations, 6 local unions, and the Massachusetts State Labor Council.

On Saturday, September 27, over 300 people rallied on the Amherst Common. The next day, the same number showed up for a mass picket at the entrance to the nursing home. That afternoon a compromise tentative agreement was reached between the owners and the union.

The striking workers have won a big victory against tremendous odds. They did not gain all their demands. But, as striking worker Linda Edwards said: "It began as an individual thing—I want more money, I want better working conditions, I want more benefits.

CAUSE

"It's become something more. Its affecting the whole community, and especially the other nursing home workers in the area.

"It's not an individual thing any more, it's a cause . . . Last April the union here had never been weaker. Its never been stronger than it is today." □

by WAYNE STANDLEY

BY JOHN ANDERSON TALKIN' UNION

The working class has no country

The campaign by the UAW leadership to "buy American" and accept responsibility for producing a quality product is pitting worker against worker. The Chrysler workers are being told they must compete with Ford and General Motors. The latter are to compete against Chrysler.

Instead of calling for international solidarity among workers the UAW is calling for international competition. These policies are self-defeating. They not only destroy solidarity among American and Canadian UAW members, these policies generate international animosity and conflict.

OBLIGATION

The first obligation of the UAW is to its membership. Their interests can only be protected by a world-wide struggle of the workers. The multinational corporations recognize no national boundaries. They invest their money where the profits are highest. These corporations disregard national flags and boundaries in the interest of profits.

Ford, Chrysler and GM are trying to compete with Toyota, Volkswagon, Fiat and other foreign auto producers at the expense of the American worker. They are using the same advanced technology as employed by their foreign competitors.

The employers are world-wide investors exploiting a world-wide market. It is not just American auto workers who are unemployed. Unem-

ployment is growing in all the industrialized countries. Japan has a temporary advantage in the American market because of its high quality fuel efficient cars. The day is not far off, according to Japanese authorities, when this advantage will disappear.

DOMINATE

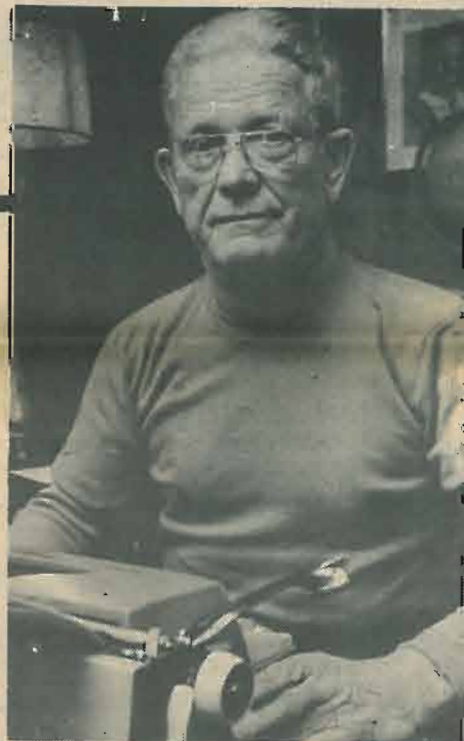
By 1982 when the present three-year UAW contract ends, the small efficient car will dominate the world market. General Motors and Ford, with plants on five continents, will produce their parts and cars where they can earn the highest profits.

It is acknowledged by the employers that employment in the industry will decline by 30 to 40 per cent. This means there will be as many as 400,000 unemployed in the Big Three and the supplier plants.

For the UAW leadership to cuddle up to the employers in the hope the latter will be generous with the workers in 1982, is to disregard labor history. Profits are always put before the interests of the workers.

To meet the Big Three on equal terms the UAW leadership must develop ties with the auto workers in all the industrialized countries. To combat unemployment we must prepare to fight for a 30 hour week with 40 hours pay world-wide. If the Japanese can guarantee their workers employment for life so can the other multi-national corporations.

The support of the UAW and the



John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW local 15 in Detroit.

AFL-CIO to the strike of the Polish workers should be practiced worldwide. We must support the Black workers in South Africa in their struggle for wages equal to those of white workers. Instead of shouting nationalistic slogans like "buy American," we must come to realize that workers have no country. They must go where they can find employment.

An international approach by labor for a solution to their problems will reduce the burden of an armaments program. The Russian, the Chinese, the workers of Eastern Europe would all welcome the extended hand of the American worker in their struggle for a better life.

PRIORITY

Bargaining in 1982 must not only be industry wide. It must enlist the support of the Japanese worker, and those of all nations producing parts and assembling cars. The problem of the unemployed must be given top priority. The 30 hour week with 40 hour pay must become a world-wide demand. Without the support of the unemployed we court disaster. □

A personal history by a rank and file worker
THE DEPRESSION OF THE THIRTIES



BY JOHN ANDERSON

Available from Hera Press, PO Box 18037, Cleveland, 44118. 50¢.



TEAMSTERS FIGHT TO MAINTAIN CONDITIONS

With Teamster jobs and working conditions already under attack, the trucking employers want to take away more. Led by Trucking Management, Inc. (TMI), the employers want to re-open the National Master Freight Agreement (NMFA).

TMI chairman J. Curtis Counts says, "Any re-opening of the contract will occur because it will impact favorably on management."

ELIMINATION

Among the employers' demands are the elimination of COLA payments scheduled for October 1 and April 1, elimination of certain pick-up and delivery jobs, and the introduction of flexible work weeks and starting times.

Negotiators for TMI and the IBT met in Chicago on September 10. While the IBT would not agree to across the board take-aways at present, they did agree to consider local and regional concessions—further undermining the contract.

In some areas new sweetheart agreements are already in effect. For instance, a "trainees" clause has been established in Pennsylvania.

Now, wages there will be at least 30% below union scale and there will be no union benefits for the first 6 to 18 months of work. More local take-aways are expected in coming months.

ELECTIONS

Why did the IBT negotiators not agree to national concessions at this time? One reason is that approximately one-third of the 750 local IBT seats nationwide come up for election this fall.

Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), a rank and file Teamsters' organization, will hold its national convention on October 11 and 12. According to Convoy, the TDU paper, they "call on all Teamsters to attend their local meetings and fight against take-aways and fight for job security language in the contract." □

POULTRY WORKERS KILLED

MORTON, MS—Two workers at the B.C. Rogers Poultry Processing Plant here were killed in June—adding more evidence to the charge that conditions in the poultry industry here are deadly.

Mark Answorth, 20, and Jasper Ealy, 30, died when they were sent to clear out a tank that holds chicken remains.

FUMES

They were overcome by methane fumes produced from the chicken waste, and killed. □

Rochester teachers defy law, strike two weeks

ROCHESTER, NY—After a strike of nearly two weeks, 2300 teachers, aids, program advisors, and building administrators in the Rochester School District returned to work on September 12.

At issue was the teachers' contract for the next two years, with the school district trying to force concessions not only in wages, but also the length of the school year and working day, class size, and vacancy and evaluation policy.

PURPOSE

Hanging over the strike from beginning to end was New York State's Taylor law, which prohibits strikes by public employees.

The law is also called the "Public Employee Fair Employment Act," and its stated purpose is to "promote harmony between government bodies and public Employees."

In fact it is a vicious anti-labor law, and it provides that public employees like the Rochester teachers lose two days pay for each day they are on strike.

More than any other factor it was this law that prevented the teachers from winning their strike.

On September 1, the teachers voted overwhelmingly to strike. Several days before they had all received an insulting letter from the school board, which began "Dear Colleague" and then outlined in detail penalties for strikes by public employees.

Teachers were to report to school on September 2, but over 90% of them stayed away and joined the pickets. They ignored a court injunction obtained by the school board declaring the strike illegal.

The following day was the first day of classes. Officials planned to open the schools using administrators, but over two thirds were forced to close early for lack of staff.

SUBSTITUTES

Even in the schools that stayed open the substitutes could do no more than herd students into gyms and cafeterias. The strike remained solid throughout the rest of the week.

Teachers picketed the schools, board meetings, and school bus depots until eventually the district had to close all the schools to students.

When pickets resumed on Monday morning the teachers had to face a court order limiting pickets to only three per school. They ignored the order and kept 20 to 50 pickets on the schools.

By Tuesday the State Supreme Court had handed down fines of \$40,000 to the Rochester Teachers Association, plus \$5000 for each additional day of the strike.

The fines were beginning to have an effect by the middle of the second week. Although practically no teachers were crossing the picket lines, the

Thousands of teachers walked the picket lines this fall, from Philadelphia, PA to Snohomish, WA. Many are still on strike. Here Brian Erway reports on the Rochester teachers strike.



prospects of continuing much longer meant losing more from fines than the teachers could hope to gain in a settlement.

The consistent bias against the teachers in the local press was also beginning to mount. There was demoralization among some strikers, but among even more there was a greater sense of determination.

The strike effectively ended on September 11 when a tentative agreement was announced. The Teachers Association Executive called off the pickets early in the morning,

instead of waiting till the membership had a chance to vote.

The members didn't vote until the evening, and by that time the end of the strike was a foregone conclusion. The ratification meeting was like a wake.

Many teachers were angry at the way the strike had been ended. One science teacher said, "The settlement is a crock. I'm not happy at all." Others commented that "We've been had again."

The teachers were unhappy but their position was weakened and their unity was

compromised. Most of them felt they could not successfully continue the strike, and they ratified the settlement by a large margin.

PREVENT

Instead of the 11% they were asking, the teachers got 7%. Once the fines are handed down most teachers will probably lose overall.

On the other hand they successfully prevented the school board from imposing extra days on the school year and extra hours in the week. □



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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

WHEELER STRIKE

WORKERS PROTEST POTENTIAL LOVE CANAL SITE



Gulzari Sherma, president of USW Local 2831, above left: "Even if the company offers us \$100 per hour, we will not let them victimize him. That's the issue. If the company is innocent, what do they have to be afraid of?"

CAMBRIDGE, MA—The strike of 45 steelworkers at Wheeler Manufacturing Company, began on September 1, like many strikes, over the issue of "take-aways". The new contract took away Blue Cross-Blue Shield, replacing it with an insurance policy that didn't even cover the first \$200 of a hospital bill, and the new wage offer didn't meet inflation.

SHIFT

But the emphasis of the strike shifted when the company started to harass the vice president of the Local, #2831 of the United Steelworkers, Al Haynes, for displaying a sign on the picket line that read: "Potential Love Canal Site"—referring to the lead fumes that are produced by the plant and caused the local community ten years ago to try and shut down the plant.

The company, when it saw that Al's sign was causing folks to stop and ask him about his sign, tried to have him arrested for blocking traffic. They accused him of "causing a riot"!

A company statement, sent to all members of the local reads: "By telling motorists, pedestrians and residents of the community that the company is polluting the environment and comparing us to Love Canal, Mr Haynes seriously jeopardized our position in the community. In light of this serious misconduct, the company will not reinstate Mr Haynes after the strike."

The company intends to sue Al for \$50,000 for every day the sign was out. They have taken 200 pictures of Al, caught in the act of "seriously jeopardizing the company's position."

On September 17, the shop committee met with the company and were prepared to recommend an offer from the company that gave back Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and granted a substantial wage increase, until they discovered that the company would not back down on the Al Haynes case.

The strikers are solid now in solidarity with Al Haynes, in affirmation of the often forgotten union idea that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

But the issue of health for workers and the surrounding community has also come to the fore. As one worker, Luis Paso said: "The lead they cook inside the plant gets into the air. We don't want that to happen." □

by PAUL DAMATO

Seattle rank and file cement drivers show their power

SEATTLE, WA—Three hundred drivers of dump trucks, fork lifts, tractors and trailers and cement mixers, members of Teamsters Local 174, have been on strike against eight sand and gravel companies here since September 11.

The drivers have turned two inadequate company proposals down so far—in the face of hostile press coverage, and despite the refusal of the King County Sand and Gravel Association to bargain over their demands.

UNANIMOUS

The contract expired July 31. The first proposal was turned down by the membership unanimously. The vote to sanction a strike was 172 to 11. Just three weeks later the drivers were asked to vote on the same proposal again. This time the vote was 210-27.

At stake are many important issues, including over-

time pay and the contract expiration—the drivers want the contract to expire in early summer when construction is at its peak. The workers want a 22, not a 36 month contract. They also want the maintenance of all present benefits.

The drivers are also angry, because for the past three years they have been working under a contract which was opposed by 60% of the workers when it was adopted. Two-thirds must vote to reject a contract.

Despite the relatively small numbers involved in the strike, the dispute has had a large impact on construction in the King County area.

It has shut down union operations in a county which is 90% union. In the midst of the biggest commercial construction boom anywhere in the U.S., the strike has idled

by SCOTT WINSLOW

\$250,000,000 in construction, enough to bring even *Business Week*, the financial magazine, in to interview the strikers.

No new negotiations are presently scheduled.

COMMITTEE

Earlier this year, a committee was formed to review the negotiations, a committee made up of an elected driver and the shop steward from each shop. The committee has continued and become the organizing center for the strike.

But the union leadership is being overly cautious in spreading the strike—sending pickets to the Steilacoom, 30 miles South, the biggest sand and gravel deposit in the U.S. and to Lone Star's bulk cement plant.

So the organization and soli-

arity of the strike so far have been the result of rank and file initiative. The demands, the communications between strikers, the picketing, virtually all aspects of the strike have been organized by the rank and file.

The union leadership recommended the first proposal, and had no recommendation on the second proposal. Nor did they recommend a strike or any action necessary to win one.

SUCCESS

Success will remain dependent on the ability of the strikers themselves to hold firm to their demands.

If they can, they will win—in their first strike in thirty years—more than an important contract.

They will know that the strength to improve their conditions and their lives is in their hands. □