

WORKERS' POWER

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WHY U.S. LOST THE WAR

Although the war in Vietnam is over, it will not soon be forgotten. Already we are hearing a new debate about why the war is lost—and who lost it.

A few politicians and generals who still support the line of the Ford, Nixon and Johnson Administrations insist it was lost because "we let down our friends."

They refer to the puppets in Saigon who were propped up for ten years with arms, planes, troops and lies, all supplied by Washington.

Other public voices, supposedly more liberal, tell us it wasn't the United States that lost the war. They say it was the people of South Vietnam and their so-called "leaders" who "didn't have the will to fight for their own freedom."

This is another lie. The U.S. wasn't defeated in Vietnam because the people of Vietnam wouldn't fight. Just the opposite. The United States lost the war in South Vietnam precisely because the people there were fighting. They were fighting to drive the United States government out and gain their national independence.

Even half a million US troops, and the terror bombing of every village, factory and hospital in North Vietnam, could not stop their struggle.

WHO FLED VIETNAM?

As they withdrew, the American government took with it tens of thousands of Vietnamese refugees. We are now being told that these were helpless people fleeing to avoid the horror of a Communist takeover.

But let's be clear. Most of those who fled had one thing in common: they were tied to U.S. forces in Vietnam through bonds of money, political influence and favors. They left because the collapse of American power in Vietnam left them with no future in the society.

They were the generals, dope dealers and black marketeers who left with suitcases full of stolen money. The children of the rich, with the background and money to attend fancy schools abroad. The swarming army of Saigon officials, police spies and torturers who supported U.S. imperialism during its ten years of occupation of southern Vietnam.

In return, the U.S. government is now ready to spend hundreds of millions to help these brutal, corrupt puppets and murderers.

Incredibly, some politicians, especially in California, are whipping up sentiment against these refugees because of their race.

The rulers of this society, who thought nothing of killing hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese in the war, are so racist they have even turned on the people who helped them do it.

MILLIONS STAY

The millions of ordinary people in southern Vietnam—peasants, workers, soldiers and refugees—stayed. Few showed any desire to leave except when they were caught by looting mobs of fleeing Saigon Army troops.

These millions of ordinary Vietnamese were the people who defeated the world's most powerful army.

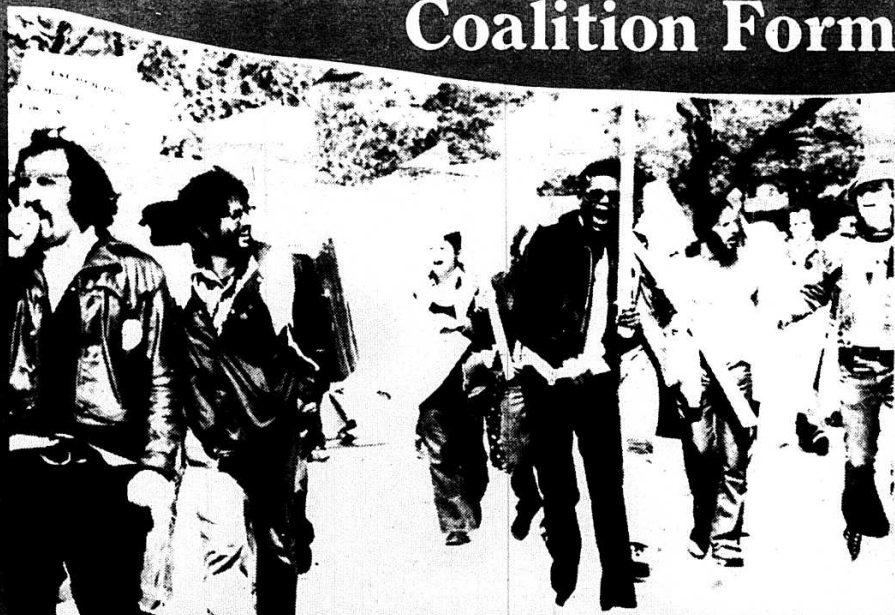
The struggle of the masses of Vietnamese is not over. The new Revolutionary Government, controlled by the Communist Party, is rapidly consolidating a bureaucratic

regime over their heads. The bitter struggle of Vietnamese workers and peasants for their freedom from this new ruling class is just beginning.

But the Vietnamese people know they have made a huge step—they have won back their country. The American defeat in Vietnam is a huge victory for them.

The massive defeat of the policies of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam is a huge victory for us, too.

JOBS, NOT JIVE! 60,000 March on Washington Rank & File Coalition Forms



Stop Attica Trials

Two trials of Attica Brothers are now in progress in Buffalo, New York.

Shango Bahati Kakawana is a black Attica Brother charged with murder. His defense is being forced to select a jury from an all-white pool composed of mostly middle-aged men.

In the second trial, four Brothers face charges of kidnaping connected with the taking of three hostages. The main government witness against them is an inmate informer who was placed in a private hospital bed after the Attica massacre when he complained of a "sore throat."

While his sore throat was pampered, prisoners who had been wounded bled to death in the

mud outside and officials apologized for "a lack of medical facilities to care for the wounded."

The Attica Rebellion occurred in September, 1971. Prison inmates rose up against the brutal repression of the New York State prison system.

Forty-one inmates and hostages were murdered, and scores of prisoners were injured, when a massive assault on the prison was ordered by then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

The corrupt and vengeful Attica prosecution was anticipated by the Attica prisoners during the uprising. Knowing that the uprising was necessary to improve conditions, and well aware of what awaited

them afterwards, the prisoners demanded total unconditional amnesty as a condition for a settlement.

AMNESTY

The state rejected the amnesty demand and came in with high-powered rifles and shotguns instead.

It is too late for there to be any "fair trials" of Attica defendants. There have already been too many fabricated indictments, too much coercion and torture of witnesses, too much perjured testimony, too much confidential information stolen through wiretaps and informers, too much prejudicial publicity

propagated by the press, and too much agony endured by the defendants both in and out of jail.

The Attica trials are, in part, a massive cover-up to protect Vice President Rockefeller. As New York Governor, he directed the assault on the prison. It is Rockefeller who should be in jail. He is the one who is guilty of the 41 murders at Attica.

The Attica Massacre has continued for more than three years. There is only one just way to end it. Complete and unconditional amnesty for all the Attica Brothers.

All people who wish to support the amnesty campaign presently being begun are asked to contact Attica Now, 1528 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14208. □

Tough Times On The Green

Times are, indeed, hard. President Ford demands we keep federal spending to a minimum.

He has attempted to cut off most of the nation's poor from food stamps, to halt increases in Social Security payments to the aged, reduce welfare and pay raises to federal employees.

But even President Ford realizes that certain expenses are absolutely necessary.

Part of Ford's "rock bottom" budget for the Defense Department includes \$13.9 million to maintain military golf courses in 19 foreign countries and the US. □

Depression, 1975

"Ain't We Got Fun"

Some people have birthday parties. Others hold anniversary parties and some celebrate holidays.

The high and mighty of Westchester, a wealthy New York suburb, have recession parties.

On April 19, members of the Westchester Country Club, home of the \$250,000 Westchester Classic Golf tournament, held a huge depression bash.

This socially disgusting event was planned by a committee headed by Mr. and Mrs. John Spohler and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Petrillo.

Invitations were printed on pink slips and were entitled "Termination Notice." They read: "You are hereby invited to terminate all conflicting arrangements and feelings of depression by appearing in person at a recession party."

COSTUMES

Guests were instructed to dress appropriately. Costumes included: embroidered overalls, workshirts, a string bow tie (made of real string), red hankchiefs, and a sandwich board reading



John Spohler, complete with barrel and long underwear, handing out awards at the Westchester Country Club depression bash.

"Buy Your Clothes at Second-Hand Rose" and "Pete's Cafe. Pete's Cheap, So Why Not Eat?"

Mrs. Spohler wore a gilt colored winged number labeled "The Gold Bug" and Mrs. Petrillo wore black leotards and a

cocktail apron with the words "Abie's Bar and Grill."

Prizes were awarded for the best costumes in the following categories: "Most Elegant," "Most Impoverished," "Most Ridiculous," "Most Original," and "Shabbiest."

A prize for the "Most Authentic" went begging.

The awards were presented by John Spohler, dressed in long underwear and a barrel bearing the words "Jesus Saves."

Among the award winners was Bob Rapaport, president of Sucest Sugar Corporation and Dr. Erwin Rock, a top New York nose and throat specialist.

The normally elegant lobby of the Country Club was decorated with signs reading "Foreclosures," "Sheriff's Auction" and "Defaults." Sacks of potatoes and onions, symbolizing poverty food, also decorated the lobby.

The menu included: roast beef, ham, turkey, beef bourguignon, stuffed artichoke hearts, mocha and chocolate layer cakes, cream puffs, eclairs and mixed fruit.

After passing through the bread line, guests were seated at tables lit with candles in bottle necks, symbolizing what happens with the electric company cuts off the lights.

On the far side of the room was a 1930's picture of people lined up outside a food store, staring at signs reading "Dried Milk" and "Lard."

The band was dressed in Salvation Army Costumes.

The end of a fun filled evening, guests returned to their hundred thousand dollar homes, their chauffeur driven limosines, their soft lives and occupations of screwing working people.

Meanwhile real people are jobless, hungry and cold because of these people and their kind.

Their response to the human misery brought on by a system they control is a decadent festival.

Our response is fury. And it adds up. Soon there'll be another celebration—ours. Only we'll be celebrating the end of human misery—when we overthrow their system and their kind. □



AMERICAN DREAM

Gay Semel

UNITED BRANDS BUYS BANANA KINGDOM

On February 3, 1975, Eli M. Black jumped to his death from the 44th floor of his mid-Manhattan office. Black was the chairman and chief executive officer of United Brands, a \$2 billion multinational food concern, big in bananas.

United Brands (formerly United Fruit) has been ripping off the people of Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica for a good many years. Few tears were shed by United Brands workers over Black's death. Brand makes its giant profits by paying tiny wages and working people hard.

Some thought Black's leap signalled the beginning of the

second Great Crash and began watching top story windows of Manhattan skyscrapers. But no other executives followed Black's lead.

INVESTIGATION

However, Black's suicide did signal an investigation into the business practices of United Brands and thus revealed a few more details of the inner workings of American imperialism.

United Brands is one of the three major US banana producing and exporting firms. 25% of the United Brands' banana crop is grown on 28,000 acres in Honduras.

In 1973, seven Central and South American countries formed a union of banana exporting countries. Their purpose was to keep some of the profits made by the large US owned corporations in Central and South America. They attempted to levy a \$1.00 tax on each 40 pound box of bananas.

The US based multinationals refused to pay and began negotiating with the individual countries.

In April 1974, Honduras announced a tax of 50c per box. Black thought this still too high

and began negotiating. The tax was lowered to 25c per box. So far the story sounds no worse than typical, yet honest for capitalists, haggling.

It turns out, however, that the Honduran tax was lowered because United Brands bought off the president of Honduras. Or typical, dishonest, capitalist haggling.

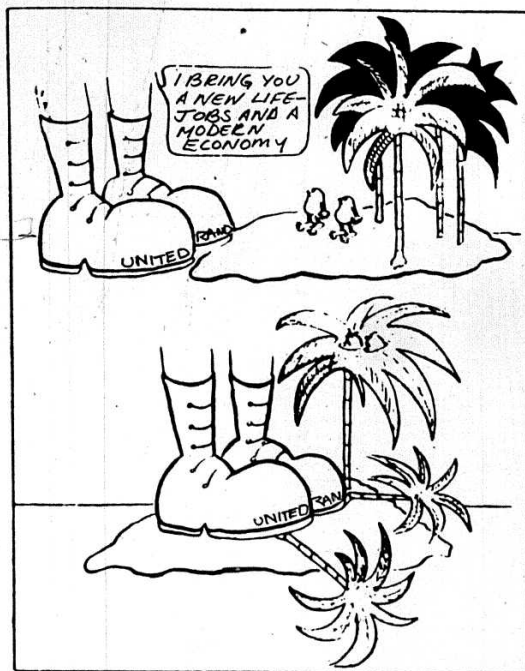
BRIBE

Apparently United Brands paid Honduran President Oswaldo Lopez a \$1.25 million bribe to lower the banana tax. That was only the first payment. Another \$1.25 million was promised but never delivered.

While American corporations and the corrupt politicians they control in Honduras make millions, the workers in Honduras live in poverty.

The average yearly income of a Honduran worker is \$280.

The only thing unusual about the relationship between United Brands and the Honduran government is that they got caught. US based multinationals, aided by the US government, buy and run governments of underdeveloped countries throughout the world. That is the nature of the beast. □



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Speedup at International Harvester, Local 6

Workers Say: "Be the Tortoise - Not the Hare"

JOANN LITTLE - ONE VICTORY

by Karen Kaye

The defense in the Joann Little case won its first victory. Lawyers defending the 20-year old black woman succeeded in moving her trial from Beaufort County to adjoining Wade County.

So far, they have been unable to get the murder indictment against her dismissed.

Little is accused of murder in the death of Clarence Alligood, the night guard in the jail where she was held last August. Little was awaiting appeal on a charge of breaking and entering.

Little doesn't deny killing Alligood. But her defense is grounded on the fact that she was defending herself from his attempt to rape her. The weapon she used was the ice-pick with which he threatened her.

Her lawyers sought to have the trial moved because she cannot get a fair trial in Beaufort County. The grand jury which indicted her was chosen by a process which systematically excludes blacks and poor people from the jury rolls. Relatives of Alligood were among the jury prospects.

INDICTMENT

However, the main goal of the defense is to have the indictment thrown out. The grand jury which indicted her was not told the full story, including the fact that Alligood's body was found naked from the waist down, except for socks.

Jury selection in Wake County is done by computer and is somewhat more fair, a defense committee spokesperson told Workers' Power.



Dr. Ralph Abernathy addressing rally of 2000 demanding the prosecution of Joann Little end.

At stake is the issue of the rights of a woman threatened with rape. A black woman prisoner defending herself against a white guard is a target for many prejudices.

Had Alligood succeeded, it is unlikely that he would now face a rape charge. Every day prisoners suffer indignities at the hands of guards who are free to commit crimes that will never be reported.

SUPPORT GROWS

One reason that Little's defense has been able to succeed as far as they have, is the support and publicity her case has received. Black, women's and prisoner's rights groups and radical organiza-

tions are united in protesting the farce called justice to which she is being subjected.

Dr. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference recently led a march of 2000 on the Beaufort County Courthouse to demand an end to prosecution of Joann Little. He also mentioned that 68 other persons, of whom 50 are black, are on North Carolina's Death Row.

If Little is convicted, she will automatically join them.

A trial date has not yet been set. Support and contributions to Joann Little's defense can be sent to Joann Little Defense Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 1003, Durham, NC 27702.

by Ted Farrow

The International Harvester plant in Melrose Park, Ill. has been the scene of a deliberate speed-up campaign over the past few months. Management is attempting to take advantage of the depression to speed-up, eliminate jobs, and destroy conditions which the union fought for and won over many years.

The company is trying to move fast enough to bust up jobs and conditions before the workers can organize to fight back.

Rumor has it that a decision was made at management's highest level, to increase production and profits, and step on anyone's toes to do it. They are breaking the contract left and right.

In one department the best daywork jobs have been totally eliminated and the work divided up among piecework jobs. Jobs which have not been retimed for 20 years are now being retimed to cut the rate. Unsafe and unhealthy methods are brought in to replace safer but costlier ways of working.

FEEBLE RESPONSE

The response of the UAW Local 6 leadership to this vicious attack has been feeble. The chairman of the shop committee, Bob Stack, revealed his strategy at a recent steward's council meeting.

His plan was to stop the company with secret "guerrilla tactics." They amounted to going into a few departments and quietly suggesting that the workers there might like to ban overtime for a short time and cooperate a little bit less than usual.

This was tried out in a couple of departments for about one week, and then dropped.

Stack has now given up all pretences of even trying to fight the speedup.

The only reason Stack proposed any action at all is that it is now election time in the local union. He hoped that his talk would get his caucus voted into office.

Since then, Stack has spent his time attacking his opposition in the local. He has become so committed to helping the company to run a profitable business, that he can now do little more than argue that we should do nothing to harm the "goose that laid the golden egg."

It is not possible to defend the company and the workers at the same time, and that is why Stack is now fighting only his opposition. That is also why his "guerrilla plan" proposed to keep everything quiet, and didn't call on the members to take effective action. It would have no effect on production or the company's speed up plan.

A BETTER PLAN

The Rank and File Coalition, a group within the local, is organizing against this nonsense, and is running a full slate in the local elections. The Coalition has pointed to the speed-up as the main issue of the elections.

A Coalition leaflet argued that the only way to stop the speedup is to hurt the company's production through a slowdown. The title of the leaflet was "Be the tortoise, not the hare."

Within the next few weeks, a slowdown of production must be organized by rank and file union members themselves. This can be started in two or three of the best organized departments and then spread by example to the more backward ones.

If this is not done, the rumors of a layoff coming in June will turn out to be more than just rumors. Any speed-up, if it is not stopped, will make it easier for the company to eliminate jobs and lay off more workers.

SANITATION STRIKE

Garbage Piles Up In Suburbia

Cheltenham, PA.—Officials of this wealthy residential Philadelphia suburb got a big shock on April 26.

Angry sanitation workers, recently organized by Teamster Local 115, reinforced by 21 other Teamster locals from throughout eastern Pennsylvania, stationed pickets at 17 major intersections leading into Cheltenham for the morning rush hour traffic.

The pickets were set up to support the Local's fight against scab garbage pickups organized by Cheltenham officials to break their two-month strike. They succeeded in stopping most trucks headed into the cities for deliveries, as well as buses operated by union drivers.

The eighty-eight sanitation workers went on strike February 24 after the Township had turned down the recommendations of a local fact-finder.

The union is calling for a pay hike of 95c an hour and improved benefits.



Striking sanitation workers charge across the lawn at Curtis Arboretum, to stop scabs.

After a few weeks, the city contracted a scab outfit and, on April 2, brought them in to haul out the piles of accumulated garbage.

Accompanying the trucks to work were 100 policemen armed with riot helmets, jack boots, and billy clubs. They were followed by a command truck equipped with tear gas, pepper foggers, high powered rifles, and submachine guns. Overhead circled a helicopter, carrying the chief of police.

The Teamsters, caught completely unprepared for such an onslaught, massed themselves at

the entrance of the trash site. The local union president, Johnnie Morris, rushed to the scene in his car, shouting "Get the scabs!" over his roof-mounted bullhorn.

Even this minor threat was too much for the police. Morris was dragged from the car by six helmeted policemen, one of whom held a nightstick to his head while others pulled him by his arms.

Morris, who lost his right hand in an industrial accident, was treated at a local hospital for cuts and bruises to the left wrist.

The strikebreakers were able to make off with 60 tons of garbage.

The next day, they were not so successful. As soon as the "independent workers" began to load the trash, a line of pickets charged across the field towards them as one of their members shouted, "We're gonna get you. Scabs, you're gonna get got."

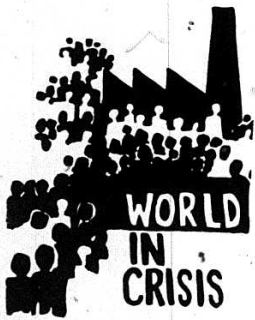
The pickets were headed off by the police, but only after the scabs had beat a hasty retreat to the cabs of their trucks.

Finally, the police gave up and accompanied the defeated scabs down the street, followed by a crowd of gleeful Teamsters.

The next day, a Montgomery County judge issued an injunction ordering the workers not to interfere with the trash removal. It took three more weeks before the strikers' new Teamster leadership organized the April 26 action against the injunction and strike-breaking effort.

If the sanitationmen continue to win militant support from other workers in the region, they may still win their battle to bring unionism to the Philadelphia suburbs.

—Anne Larson



ZANU Head Murdered In Zambia

Herbert Chitepo, the chairman of Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), was murdered in Zambia March 18 by agents of the government of Rhodesia. Another ZANU representative and a two-year-old child died along with Chitepo when his car drove over a land mine planted outside his home.

Chitepo's assassination came during a new wave of repression directed against the black liberation struggle in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Ndabaningwe Sithole, ZANU president, was re-arrested by Ian Smith's white, racist Rhodesian government and thrown back into detention two weeks before Chitepo was killed.

TALKS IN ZAMBIA

Sithole himself had been released from confinement only three months earlier, to attend talks in Zambia. They were set up to negotiate a cease-fire in the war of liberation led by ZANU. Sithole had been imprisoned ever since his original arrest in 1964.

Those peace talks were arranged by the agreement of Rhodesia's main ally and backer, South Africa, and of Kenneth Kaunda, the President of Zambia.

The talks collapsed because the white Rhodesian regime demanded the black freedom fighters give up and surrender their arms. Now Sithole is back in prison, and Chitepo has been murdered.

The campaign of terror has not stopped. The government of Zambia is acting as an agent of white-ruled Rhodesia and South Africa with a massive crackdown on ZANU activities based in Zambia.

MOURNERS SEIZED

Five days after the murder of Herbert Chitepo, 100 ZANU members attending his funeral were seized by Zambian police on instructions by President Kaunda.

ZANU offices and papers operating in Zambia have been raided and ordered shut. All ZANU bank accounts have also been seized.

As Rex Chiwara, ZANU representative in Western Europe, stated: "This action is part of a systematic plan to eliminate ZANU."

"The Zambian government publicly admitted in the British press that before its attack, it consulted and agreed on the action with the leader of the racist Rhodesian regime Ian Smith and South African Premier John Vorster."



Herbert Chitepo

PORTUGUESE WORKERS MEET

"We will aim eventually to arm the working class. In the progress of the socialist revolution, this would take place under workers' councils."



WORKERS MOBILIZED TO SMASH THE COUP: On March 11, workers set up barricades and armed pickets to guard the outskirts of Lisbon against the right-wing threat. Thousands of revolutionary Portuguese workers are learning their power lies in the factories and in the revolutionary councils.

ARMY TO HOLD POWER 5 YEARS

Portugal's First Election In Fifty Years

Portugal's first general election in 50 years was held April 25. It came in the midst of a crisis which has been growing every since the old fascist regime was overthrown a year ago.

For the past several months, the Portuguese government has been controlled by military officers of the Armed Forces Movement (MFA). They are strongly supported by the Communist Party.

These officers, who have been firming up their own position by nationalizing the property of Portuguese big business, knew they were not strong enough to win a majority in the election. So they announced in advance that the results would mean nothing.

MILITARY POWER

Before the election, the major political parties were pressured into signing an agreement that the

military would control all real power for the next five years. The Communist Party, knowing its own vote would be small, strongly supported this agreement to put power in the hands of its closest allies.

In spite of all these arrangements, the election results came as something of a shock. A large majority of the votes went to the Socialist Party (over 37%) and the Popular Democratic Party (over 26%).

These two parties were the biggest right-wing forces in the election.

The huge majority of middle-class votes were cast for Socialist Party and the Popular Democrats. A few days before the election, President Costa Gomes made a major speech, in effect urging a vote for the SP as a force for stability.

Costa Gomes has no real power in the government, but he is the

A two-day congress of workers' and delegates from 150 factories and organizations met in Lisbon April 19-20. Revolutionary officers and rank and file soldiers from 35 army units were also present.

The aim of this conference was to deepen and unify the struggle for workers' control in the factories, and to form a network of powerful revolutionary workers' councils. It also aims to form soldier's committees to fight for an end to officers' decorations and privileges.

Members of the Revolutionary Part of the Proletariat (PRP), a revolutionary group, initiated the conference.

The program adopted calls for organizing revolutionary councils throughout the country, with the aim of putting workers in the factories in firm control of industry and uniting with rank and file soldiers.

NATIONWIDE

This conference represents an enormous leap forward for the workers in Portugal. For the first time they are forming a nationwide movement to join together workers in every separate factory, to take over industry and begin the fight for political power.

An organizer of the conference explained: "In industry, we will exert control over the running of firms, cooperating with workers' committees where they exist already. We will control workers' management relations and oppose company policies where they go against the working class."

"We will not control the business side generally, however. That would mean participating in an economy which is not socialist."

"We will aim eventually to arm

the working class. In the progress of the socialist revolution, this would take place under workers' councils."

The aim of the workers' councils will be to unite the working class in direct action to break through the sectarian fragmentation of the left.

Besides delegates from the glass industry, the shipyards and the national broadcasting station, workers also attended from the newly nationalized railways, the state airline, many foreign-owned factories and the banks.

Thousands of revolutionary Portuguese workers are learning that their power lies in the factories and in revolutionary councils—not in the existing military government.

POLITICAL POWER

"The only way in which the workers can take political power," said one of the organizers, "is to oppose the present tendency toward pseudo state capitalism as promoted by the Prime Minister (Vasco Goncalves), the Communist Party and its allies."

The workers' councils to be organized will build upon the work already done by the Inter Empresa, or joint factory committee of 43 factories around Lisbon, which organized a huge march on February 7 against the NATO fleet.

Portuguese workers are giving their answer to the plans of the monopolies, the right-wing parties and generals who are plotting to regain power through a coup.

They are also putting the bureaucrats of the Communist Party and its military allies in the government on notice. They intend to create their own power and their own revolution and sweep aside everything that stands in the way.

most prominent right-wing politician in the country.

The votes of the workers were split. The Communist Party, with a big working class base, got 12.5% of the votes.

There were several revolutionary groups running in the election but four of them were either banned or censured by the military government.

However, a large number of workers apparently cast their votes for the SP. Some did so to protest the tightening grip of the Communist Party on the unions and the government.

Many workers also still believe that the Socialist Party itself stands for progressive policies.

NATO TIES

The leaders of the SP do make speeches about building democratic socialism in Portugal. However,

their real ties are to NATO and the imperialist governments of western Europe.

The victory of the Socialist Party and the Popular Democrats in the elections have not ended Portugal's revolutionary crisis. The results are being used to strengthen the demand of the right for a return to strict capitalist rule.

This demand is disguised in phrases about "moderation" and "democracy." But nothing could be further from the truth.

Giving back to Portuguese capitalists the power they have begun to lose would mean smashing the workers in the factories. It would mean crushing the revolutionary organizations and the workers' councils that have begun to form.

The victory of the SP and PPD in the elections gives the capitalists and their allies the appearance of democracy to hide behind, while they organize their next attempt at counter-revolution.

UAW Skilled Trades Organize

by Moe Orlansky

The Independent Skilled Trades Council is the hottest thing going in the UAW. Since its birth in August of 1974 it has grown steadily. Today, over 4000 rank and file skilled tradesmen belong to the council.

The ISTC is building an independent rank and file organization of skilled workers which is committed to fighting for a militant and democratic UAW.

SPECIAL HISTORY

Since the mid-1960's skilled workers in the UAW have had a special history of rebellion and opposition to the conservative UAW administration. Tradesmen are in a contradictory position in the Union and the industry.

They are a minority, yet because of their skill, they have more power, per worker, than the "unskilled" majority.

Skilled workers understand that they are not so easily replaced and that a few well-organized tradesmen can apply enormous leverage in the daily shop floor tug-of-war between company and worker.

Tradesmen see workers in the construction industry with similar skills making up to \$5.00 an hour more than they. They feel the threat of job dilution—parts of their work being given to unskilled workers—and of sub-contracting.

Yet the UAW leadership has been as unresponsive to their needs as to any other group in the Union.

All this has brought rebellious skilled workers to one conclusion: they need their own organization. But the debate now going on in the shops is what would such an organization do?

In response to the 1973 contract round, when the International Executive Board overruled the rejection vote of the Ford skilled tradesmen, three different movements have grown.

SEPARATION?

There has always been a wing of the skilled trades movement which has defined the problem as their minority status in the UAW. They claim that the union only takes care of the majority, the production workers.

Workers with this approach have been attracted to the International Society of Skilled Trades (ISST), which has tried to lead a movement to break from the UAW and from their own union.

This solution would guarantee disaster for both skilled and unskilled auto workers. It would be a blow to the most important achievement of the American working class, industrial unionism.

Without industry-wide organization, auto workers would soon be scabbing on each other, crossing each other's picket lines, never getting at the real enemy, the corporations and their allies in Solidarity House.

Some skilled workers in the Chrysler shops in Detroit have been interested in the formation of a separate skilled trades local. Yet skilled workers in existing locals which are predominantly skilled are no better off.

More importantly, skilled trades locals would mean nothing on a national level. They would have no more say over UAW policy, in particular on national contracts.

UNITY

These two movements have one idea in common: skilled workers can solve their problem by going it alone. They see no possibility of an

alliance between skilled and production workers. Nor do they see their possibility of overthrowing the UAW bureaucracy and bringing the union under the control of the rank and file.

The Independent Skilled Trades Council is based on these possibilities. An example shows how necessary they are.

When skilled workers were denied the right to reject the 1973 contract, they appealed it to the Public Review Board. The decision handed down said in effect that only the UAW executive board could decide on a contract.

A statement from the ISTC on this said: "This should be put to rest the naive notion that our problems as skilled men flow primarily from the fact that we are a minority within the union, and that the International only takes care of the majority, the production workers. The International takes care of nobody but itself."

The ISTC stands for independent organization of skilled tradesmen to insure that the special problems of skilled workers are dealt with. But they also stand for an alliance with production workers in a common struggle against the cor-

porations and the UAW International leadership.

Many of the founders and leaders of the ISTC are members of the United National Caucus, a militant rank and file group within the UAW which has both skilled and production workers as members.

ISTC PROGRAM

On April 6, over 250 members of the Council met in Detroit to adopt a tentative set of bylaws and begin establishing an ISTC program. Resolutions were adopted committing the ISTC to positions on nearly every aspect of union policy and practice.

Some of the most important resolutions passed were for rank and file control of the union through such measures as the restoration of the membership right to reject contracts, a referendum vote for international officers, and a skilled trades council with clear legislative power.

The Council also took a position against the old toothless strategy of one-at-a-time strikes for national contracts, and for a general strike strategy for the entire labor movement.

UAW LOCAL 51

MILITANTS RUN SLATE

**30 HOURS WORK FOR 40 HOURS PAY
NO OVERTIME DURING LAYOFFS
FREEZE WORK STANDARDS
HALT SPEED-UP**

by Beth Cady

DETROIT—The arrival of May means one thing in the United Auto Workers union—local elections. Because of the disastrous unemployment facing auto workers, elections this year are particularly important.

In several locals here, slates have emerged that are committed to fighting for the needs of members of the UAW, rather than defending the auto companies. Slates have already been formed at Local 212, Local 600 (Tool and Die Unit), and Local 51. At Locals 235, 869, and 961, various individuals are running for office, pledged to making the union serve the workers.

At Local 51, representing Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly and Mound Road Engine plants, the campaign has been in full swing for two weeks. Elections are set for mid-May.

Most locals traditionally have at most two slates, but the campaign at Local 51 has so far produced four slates. Underneath the jumping from one slate to another and the backstabbing, there is one slate that stands out, the United Coalition.

UNITED COALITION

Formed two years ago, the Coalition goes into the election with a reputation of fighting for the membership. It was the United Coalition with other groups in the local that forced the local leadership to form an unemployed committee. It was the United Coalition that led the fight against the local contract at Mound Road Engine.



Local 51 members board buses for February UAW Washington rally

Already positions taken by the Coalition during the campaign have forced the present local leadership to respond.

Questions raised by the United Coalition concerning what happened with short work week benefits when the SUB fund expired could not be left unanswered. The local leadership was forced to concede the national agreement was very weak on the subject. It had to promise to police it diligently.

ISSUES

Issues raised by the Coalition that are particular to Local 51 have defined the campaign and other candidates have been forced to respond. First there is the question of the local contracts. It is two years since the 1973 contracts were negotiated and Mound Road still does not have one. Lynch Road barely has one.

At both plants contracts were forced down the throats of the membership. The local officers



Al Gardner, chairman of Independent Skilled Trades Council

In response to the enormous unemployment in the auto industry, the Council committed itself to fight for a 30 hour work week at 40 hours pay as a top priority as both a legislative and collective bargaining goal.

Both the program and strategy of the ISTC offer the only alternative to the dire problems of UAW tradesmen. Skilled workers need an independent organization, but

no movement of skilled workers can go very far without reaching out to other UAW members.

A movement of skilled workers can set a fighting example to production workers and encourage common struggle.

[Dues of the ISTC are \$1 a month. Give application or dues to your local ISTC representative or mail to P.O. Box 135, East Detroit, Mi. 48021.]

forefront of the fight to guarantee the union rights of laid off members.

AN ALTERNATIVE

While none of the slates in Detroit that are trying to provide an alternative to the present leadership expect to win, their existence and campaigns are extremely important.

Campaigns such as those at Local 51 and other Detroit locals represent a beginning step in building a rank and file movement throughout the UAW.

With 1976 negotiations beginning next spring, issues raised now will be reflected in negotiations. With elections for new officers for the International being held in 1977, the next three years are very important for all UAW members.

The 1975 local officers elections provide that needed beginning in the fight to make the unions serve the workers rather than the corporations as the present leadership does.

VICTORY IN DETROIT HOSPITAL STRIKE

by Joyce Nesbit

DETROIT—"Their objective is to break our union spirit. It's remarkable that Leonard Woodcock can talk about workers' rights and then treat us this way."

That's what Phyllis Tensley, an assistant billing supervisor at Metropolitan Hospital here had to say while leading a strike against a hospital management that includes UAW international officers on its board.

The 486 strikers, mostly women, many blacks, at the Metropolitan Health facilities here approved a contract offer on May 5 after a two week strike.

To reach the agreement, the

OPEIU members have overcome opposition from their international and local leaderships, a threatened injunction, numerous arrests and a stubborn management.

The contract expired in November. On April 18 management refused to negotiate any longer and demanded that key issues be submitted to binding arbitration. The strike began.

The Metropolitan Health facilities—two hospitals and six clinics—are part of the Metro Health Plan, an insurance-health care

program set up by the UAW. It is used by many Detroit union members.

DISGRACE

The conduct of the UAW in this strike has been a disgrace to the union movement. Three UAW international officers, Emlin Mazey, Ken Bannon, and John Bateman, are on the board of directors of the hospital.

While the UAW fatcats would have their members and other

potential patients believe that the strike is directed against them, this is not the case. In fact, one demand of the strikers was to continue medical coverage for laid off workers covered by MHP.

The UAW-controlled management tried to deny that hospital workers have the right to strike. Even legally this untrue, since they are now covered by the NLRB. But any union member should fight for the right of all workers to strike.

This management spread slanderous lies about violence on the picket line and on that basis tried to obtain an injunction against the picketers. It was denied by the judge.

Another indication of the despicable conduct of the UAW leaders is their attitude toward the demands of the strikers. They have acted just like any management.

The OPEIU members demanded wages on a parity with other union members, such as UAW members. The UAW leaders found this "excessive."

Management has also wanted to put a cap on the hospital workers' cost-of-living clause. It took an eleven week strike at GM for the UAW to get the cap off its cost-of-living clause.

HOLLERAN

Local 42 President Mabel Holleran played an equally rotten role in the strike. In a conflict over strike authorization she was adamantly opposed.

An executive board meeting reaffirmed authorization over her protest. When 25 union members appeared at the meeting, Holleran called the cops on them.

This woman is a co-chairperson of Wayne County Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). CLUW is supposed to be dedicated to organizing and aiding the struggles of working women. Ms. Holleran should be expelled from CLUW for her conduct in this strike.

Individual members of CLUW supported the strike, and joined



the picket lines.

There are some who did not betray these workers, however, and that is other rank and file workers, including many covered by the MHP.

The United National Caucus (UAW) supported the strike, and its members helped out on the picket lines. Also supporting the strike were the UAW Local 51 Unemployed Committee, UAW Local 140 Dodge Truck, and a union at another local hospital.

Finally there are the many patients who called strike headquarters to find out where else they could go for treatment. Metro x-ray and lab technicians declared their readiness to go out if it appeared that management was going to starve out the strikers.

VICTORY

The new contract is "better than average" for non-profit private hospitals in the area, according to Rita Valenti, head of the striking unit.

Besides a wage increase and the unlimited cost-of-living the contract provides for no reprisals against strikers.

This strike leaves no doubts that the UAW leadership is more interested in helping management than in supporting the workers.

They have had lots of practice, selling out their own members from the halls of Solidarity House, the UAW International Headquarters. They've made a mockery of the name, for clearly they've forgotten all about worker solidarity.

But the Metropolitan Hospital strikers and their supporters have not. They have shown that workers' power lies, not in the bigwig officials, but in the rank and file. □



Windy City—Daley's Police State

by Peter Vento and Karen Kaye

Police state. That's what they had in Nazi Germany, or what they have in Russia, right? Well, we have it here too. And not just those FBI files on the sex lives of Congressmen either. It's something closer to home.

An extensive police spy network has recently been exposed in Chicago. Police agents infiltrated, and in some cases became leaders of, at least 50 community groups in the Chicago area.

They also worked with a right wing group, the Legion of Justice, to break into and bug offices of radical groups to steal papers and intimidate demonstrators.

FILES

The existence of extensive police files on individuals and organizations was also revealed.

One undercover agent, Marcus Salome, was President of the Organization for a Better Austin, (OBA), a community improvement group, for two years.

People United to Save Humanity (PUSH), a black organization, was infiltrated by agent Howard Pointer. PUSH's leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, was investigated.

Two of the agents, including Salome, were still active in the organizations they were spying on when the Chicago Daily News broke the story.

At least half the organizations

and individuals subjected to surveillance are black.

One of the infiltrated groups was Citizens Action Program (CAP), whose avowed purpose is to improve the environment and to help older people. Another, OBA, has the goal of upgrading the Austin neighborhood.

The press asked the black Deputy Police Superintendent, Mitchell Ware, why they infiltrated these rather innocuous groups. His reply: "I'm not going to try to justify anything to you. We've got a policy that there's got to be a valid reason, and that's the only time we do it."

Their "valid reasons" applied also to a black former Chicago Bears star, Gayle Sayers, and to Jackie Robinson, the late baseball great.

PATROLMEN'S LEAGUE

The Afro-American Patrolmen's and Firemen's Leagues did not escape either.

The spying extended even to a black state Congressman and a state senator.

Even Arthur Woods, chairman of Sears Roebuck and Co. and Gaylord Freeman, chairman of the First National Bank were on file.

Don't let it make you feel any safer, however, to know that you may be in the company of famous Establishment figures. The goal of such spying is the same in any

police state: to let this nation's rulers know everything that's going on, so they can try to stop what they want.

And while they may want to know what a Congressman or sports hero is doing, they want to stop activists for social change.

Like they stopped Fred Hampton and Mark Clark of the Black Panther Party. The two were murdered in cold blood by Chicago police in 1969.

The special prosecutor in the resulting case against the police,

Barnabas Sears, was one of those investigated.

CITIZEN SPIES

Now the attempt at control is going even further. Chicago Police Commissioner Rochford has announced the start of a citizen's spy structure.

The city will be divided into 50 areas which will correspond to the 50 police administrative districts. Each area will have a volunteer who will act as liaison between the

police and the community.

Each volunteer will be responsible for organizing a system of block captains who will report any "strange" occurrences in the neighborhood.

With the rise of crime, this plan could appeal to many people. But it sounds like what our government told us about "totalitarian" societies like Russia: children informing on their parents, neighbor on neighbor, sister on brother.

And since crime can never be ended until society provides decent lives for everyone, the purpose of such networks is only to suppress rebellion and discontent.

REPRESSION

Repression is increasing through the nation. Gun control, which is supposed to reduce crime, will have the effect of disarming people, and leaving all weapons in the hands of the police and the state.

Elite police forces now exist in almost every major city. They have gained notoriety as legal execution squads—especially of black people.

All these police state measures must be opposed—by challenging them. And the way to do it is to continue to organize to change this society around.

Their spying is aimed at plugging up the holes in the dam—but if the dam bursts they will drown. □



Jesse Jackson and PUSH were targets of police spy network.

60,000 WO MARCH ON

DEMANDING JOBS

Some 60,000 workers went to Washington April 26, demanding jobs. Many of their picket signs were not very complimentary to Republican President Gerald Ford. But the demonstrators who jammed RFK Stadium were no more friendly to the Democrats and union bureaucrats they heard promise them everything under the sun.

The rally had been organized by the Industrial Union Department (IUD) of the AFL-CIO, the IUD planned it to be a quiet, tightly-managed affair. On hand to speak were eight or ten labor leaders and at least half a dozen eager politicians.

The most eager to speak was Democratic Senator Hubert Humphrey, who seems to have a promise to match every occasion. But the audience wasn't buying. "No More Promises, We Want Jobs!" they shouted.

GOOD-BYE HUMPHREY

Before Humphrey had gotten far into his speech, several thousand angry workers were on the field of the giant football stadium shouting him down. Most of the audience remained in their seats, but applauded those on the field and joined in shouting down the speakers.

"Yes, I hear you," pleaded Humphrey. "We will give you jobs." No one believed him.

Congresswoman Bella Abzug appealed to the demonstrators to return to their seats "so we can continue with the program." No one listened to her. They shouted down every speaker, until the rally was ended an hour after it had begun.

No one listened or believed what they heard because the recession is pinching so tightly. You can't buy a loaf of bread with a promise from Humphrey.

Many of those attending were like Gary Finley, an unemployed black worker from Louisville, where joblessness is increasing. Or Sam Jones, a laid off auto worker from Linden, New Jersey. Half of his local is out of work. Or Isabel Nelson, a housewife from New York who can't find a job because there are no day care centers for her two children.

These workers and thousands like them made the rally a success. It was a success because it got a message across, even though it was not the message the rally organizers intended.

A MESSAGE

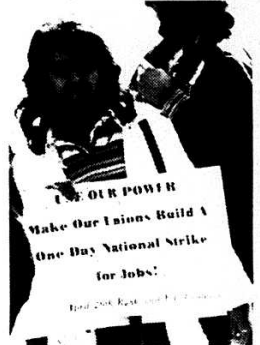
It was a message that said rank and file workers are no longer willing to leave matters up to their union leaders and politicians. It was a message directed to these union leaders and politicians themselves.

Barbara Winslow, a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, said it well at a rank and file meeting afterwards: "People didn't want to come and listen to empty promises. We didn't come to hear Hubert Humphrey. If anyone is all talk it is Humphrey. And the fact that we were able to shut him up is no small feat. People have been trying to shut him up for a long time."

"I am very optimistic and confident of the future," she said. "Today showed the strength and potential of the rank and file." □



Senator Hubert Humphrey, above, looks dejected at not finishing his speech. Thousands of workers, right, swarmed onto the stadium's field halting the rally to demand more than politicians' promises.



Isabel Nelson



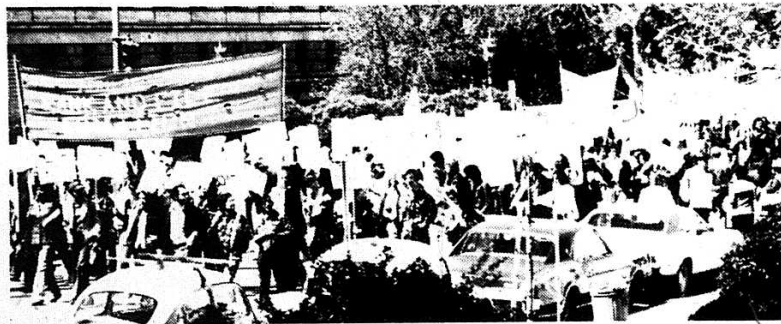
Barbara Winslow



April 26th
coverage by
Jim Woodward

see
pages
8 and 9

Photos by:
J. Evans
G. Alikar
R. Vance



Rank and File Coalition marching down East Capitol Street.



Harold Kincaid



Bob Falgione



Fred Hobby

Officials Blame Coalition For Rally Collapse

Shortly after the April 26th rally began, Senator Hubert Humphrey was announced as a speaker. As Humphrey began to recite his well-worn catalog of promises, first one, then dozens of workers dashed onto the field at RFK Stadium.

Carrying signs and banners and cheered on by the crowd, they were pursued by slow-footed security guards. Every attempt by guards to carry one of them off was met by a chorus of boos from the 60,000 workers in the stadium.

Within minutes there were close to 3,000 workers on the field, booing Humphrey's every word. "No More Bullshit," was a frequently heard cry. Other speakers tried to make themselves heard and failed, getting no support from anyone in the stadium.

An hour after it had begun, the rally collapsed because the crowd

did not want to hear more empty promises.

Since the rally, Workers' Power has learned from reliable sources in the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department that officials there are blaming the Rank and File Coalition for the collapse of the rally.

Even though these officials admit that the protest started spontaneously, they say the Rank and File Coalition was the first organized group onto the field and is therefore responsible for what happened.

At the same time, in public statements trade union officials are forced to admit that the rally collapsed because of the overwhelming anger of the workers who were there.

Jacob Claymen, secretary-treasurer of the IUD, told the Washington Post that while some

of those on the field may have been "exhibitionists" or "left-wing splinter groups." "I suspect that most of them were unemployed and... full of frustration and anger."

Robert Brindza, an AFSCME district director from Cleveland said, "I think the people who might have contributed to breaking up the rally—if there was a breakup—indicated the mood of the people today."

And Robert A. Roe, a Democratic Congressman from New Jersey who was at the rally with the trade union officials, responded this way: "I think this is a signpost to America. People are distressed. They are just trying to be heard. Maybe public officials ought to listen to them instead of giving speeches. The people didn't come here to listen to 20-minute speeches. They want to speak for themselves. I don't blame them."

These statements, grudging as they may have been, are a tacit admission by the trade union bureaucracy and their Democratic Party cohorts, that they have no ideas on how to solve the economic crisis and end unemployment. They have in fact admitted that the rally collapsed because its organizers had nothing to say.

The events at the rally shocked and horrified the trade union officials. It showed them how completely out of touch with the rank and file they are now. It showed them a rank and file that they didn't know existed—one that is militant, angry, and determined to do something about jobs. □



first ones
and twos...
... then
thousands.



Wendy Weinberg



Bob Grant

"Now that workers are marching on Washington, we're learning just what the civil rights and anti-war demonstrators found out. Racism, imperialism, depression its all part of one stinking capitalist system. I'm here because I want a revolution to change this country, and its the rank and file movement that's going to do it."

—Wendy Weinberg, UAW Local 235, Gear and Axle Justice Committee

"Laugh if you will, IBT officials in Chicago who wouldn't send a contingent of members to Washington demanding jobs contributed \$10,000 each to feed monkeys in the Lincoln Park Zoo.

"We need to get together to throw these bastards out. We need to build a rank and file movement that's indestructible. We need to join together again and again and never allow the Humphreys, Meanys, Abels, Woodcocks and Fitzsimmons to speak in the name of the rank and file, spewing their lies and promises.



George Feldman

"The stadium rally was like my local meeting. The bureaucrats controlled the mikes and bored us to tears. The rank and file rally, that was our own thing. It was terrific. It's what union meetings are going to be like when we run them."

"The politicians will hear the voice of the rank and file loud and clear: WE WANT JOBS AND WE WANT EM NOW! Not 50,000 strong, but millions. We will chant across the entire nation, we will march to the drums of the rank and file brothers and sisters before us, and we'll never be stopped. We'll organize until we gain our freedom. As those before us weren't stopped, neither will we."

—George Feldman, Steward, CWA Local 1101, United Action

—Bob Grant, Chicago Truck Drivers Union, Concerned Truckers for a Democratic Union



Pete Kelly



George Bowen



Tom Mullen



Ken Doran

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Det

26th RANK AND FILE COALITION



Teamsters from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, New York and Chicago marched with the Rank and File Coalition.

COALITION

Before the jobs rally in RFK Stadium, thousands of workers marched from the Capitol building to the Stadium. One section of these marchers was the Rank and File Coalition—a group formed especially for the march and rally. The Coalition's purpose was to show that there is an alternative to George Meany and the rest of the present trade union leadership.

The Coalition was tremendously successful. From across the eastern half of the country, trade unionists, the unemployed, and the unorganized joined. The 500 marchers in this contingent came from New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Louisville, Indianapolis, Detroit, St. Louis and a number of other cities.

Harold Kincaid, a steward in CWA Local 10310 in Louisville, was typical: "I came to Washington," he said, "to show Glenn Watts and all the other labor leaders that it's not just a few of us pissed off in Local 10310, but it's happening to all of us."

Kincaid is a member of Louisville United Action, a rank and file group in the union, which was one

of the sponsoring organizations of the Rank and File Coalition.

Banners identified other marchers as from these groups: United National Caucus, UAW; Rank and File Team, USW; Teamsters Local 249, Pittsburgh; Concerned Truckers for a Democratic Union, Chicago Truck Drivers Union; AFT Local 3220, Madison, Wis.; Alliance of Concerned Teamsters, Local 135, Indianapolis; Workers for Collective Progress, Louisville; Rank and File Coalition, UAW Local 6, Chicago; Gear and Axle Justice Committee, UAW Local 235, Detroit; Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Detroit Federation of Teachers; United Action, CWA Local 1101, New York; and others.

TEAMSTERS

Teamsters in the contingent from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, New York, and Indianapolis were by far the most vocal and enthusiastic. "Frank Fitzsimmons, Off Your Ass—We Want Jobs and We Want Them Fast!" They alternated that slogan with several others: "No More Promises, No More Lies—The Rank and File's Gonna Organize!" and "Teamsters Comin Down the Pike—One Day General Strike!"

Complete with a sound truck, the Rank and File contingent was the most impressive in the march. The message came through that here were a determined group of rank and file workers who were prepared to take on the no-win policies of the trade union leadership.

Bob Falgione, a member of Teamsters Local 249 in Pittsburgh, summed up some of the demands raised by the rank and file group: "I think there should be shorter work week and more jobs, sooner retirement, possible at 55, and also definitely no overtime while there's any layoffs whatsoever. That's what the unions should do."

Signs carried by other marchers in the contingent demanded: "Fight Racism and Sexism"; "Not Another Penny for War—\$100 Billion for Jobs"; "Labor Needs Its Own Party"; and "Make Our Unions Build A One Day National Strike for Jobs."

When the group reached RFK Stadium, the officials there had to be persuaded to let them in. One union member at the head of the march explained to Workers' Power what happened:

A BIG GOON TYPE

"There was a big goon-type. I believe he was an AFL-CIO official. He tried to stop the front of the line, and specifically told my wife she couldn't go in because she didn't have an IUD badge or a union card. We got into a bit of an altercation about that, which made

me decide that he was probably going to try to stop anybody without badges or union cards.

"So I ran to the back of the line and told everybody to start pushing so they'd have more of a problem to handle, and I came up and pushed him around a little bit. He pushed back, but by that time the gate was broken. Everybody just flooded on through while I held him off along with a couple of big guys from Detroit. And after that there was no problem."

The union officials do indeed have good cause to fear the rank and file. The potential for building a serious, nationwide rank and file movement was demonstrated at a meeting held after the Stadium rally by the Rank and File Coalition.

COALITION RALLY

At a nearby church, speakers from the sponsoring organizations addressed a spirited crowd.

Pete Kelly, co-chairman of the United National Caucus, (UAW) said: "Obviously the leadership of the UAW has not put any effort behind this demonstration today in Washington. They do not want to create the feeling of togetherness that's needed to get jobs. I think that we've got to do exactly what we've been doing and that is trying to organize a national rank and file."

Other speakers also emphasized the need for solidarity. George Bowen of the United Black Workers

(UAW Local 906, Mahwah, N.J.) told the crowd that his local union's leadership is pushing the divisive idea of "Buy American."

"But 25% of the vehicles we make are exported," Bowen said. "What if British or French workers would then be out of work. The problem is not foreign workers, but the capitalist system."

Fred Hobby of Workers' for Collective Progress, a group of black workers in Louisville, said: "For the rank and file movement to be successful, it will have to demonstrate its ability to take the lead in the struggles of all workers, regardless of race and sex. We realize a class divided against itself cannot move forward, just further apart."

Other speakers at the rally included: Ken Doran of the Rank and File Team (RAFT), United Steel Workers; Bob Grant of Concerned Truckers for a Democratic Union, Chicago Truck Drivers Union; Tom Mullen, President of AFL Local 280; and Barbara Winslow, Secretary of the Cleveland Coalition of Labor Union Women.

The organizers of the Rank and File Coalition announced that they would attempt to form a continuations committee in order to keep the individuals and groups who participated in the rank and file contingent in contact with each other.



Walter Mitchell

"I hope that this march will help show people that there is organization, there are interested people, and they should get involved with it. Because the only way we're going to do anything constructive is if we get together."

"I hope people begin to understand that black and white, we're all concerned with this. People with children, with 4 or 5 kids, they can't survive. The SUB fund is gone, and what you're getting from unemployment is not enough for a family to survive on."

—Walter Mitchell, UAW Local 212, United National Caucus

WE THINK

WHAT

"If I were a Democrat or a labor bureaucrat I'd be ashamed. But I'm not and I'm damned proud." That was the reaction of Joe Nabach, a Teamster from New York, to the April 26th Jobs Rally.

We agree. The rally showed that the trade union leadership can no longer effectively control their membership.

The rank and file's message came through: Jobs—not promises. No faith in the glib words of Democratic politicians.

But while the strength of the ranks was clear for all to see, there was also a weakness. We could not do much beyond shouting down Humphrey and the other politicians. The rank and file is not yet organized to lead its own actions. It is not yet able to throw out the labor leaders who try to contain rather than lead a struggle for jobs.

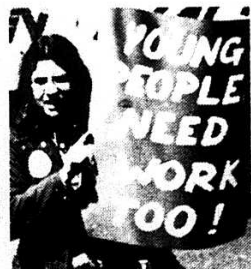
That's why it's important to view April 26th not as an accomplishment in itself, but as a beginning. The presence of hundreds of workers in the Rank and File Coalition at the march and at the Coalition's rally afterwards was a small beginning, but a very exciting one. For the first time, teamsters, steel workers,

telephone workers, auto workers, teachers, unemployed workers, and others got together. The were black and white, men and women, and from many different places around the country. They talked to each other, exchanged experiences and exchanged ideas.

The job now is to build on that beginning. The job now is to organize a nationwide rank and file movement.

As the economic crisis intensifies, more and more workers are looking for ways of fighting back. The present trade union leadership has proven that they are not willing to fight, and indeed that they are no longer even capable of fighting. We must build a movement to challenge them, to replace them, and to lead the fight for jobs.

Nabach compared building this rank and file movement to the attempt of AFL-CIO officials to keep some rank and filers out of the stadium: "Some of you may have noticed that we had a little difficulty getting into the stadium. But eventually we did because there were enough people behind pushing. One day soon we'll call a rally and they won't get in because there won't be enough people behind them."



Merry Busch

"When everybody tore out onto the field, well, it was the greatest thing I've ever seen. It showed that we're not gonna put up with all that crap about "legislative action" they've been handing us. We finally made it clear to them—we want jobs and we want them now!"

—Merry Busch, Detroit

THE RACISTS DON'T OWN... THE STREETS OF BOSTON

DESEGREGATE BOSTON SCHOOLS



BOSTON

March Set For May 17

May 17th is the twenty-first anniversary of the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education Supreme Court decision outlawing school desegregation. It will be the day of a rally and march in Boston, Mass., in support of school desegregation there.

Solidarity demonstrations are planned in Los Angeles and the Bay Area of California.

There are three goals to the Boston march and rally: desegregate the schools, keep the buses rolling and end the racist attacks against Boston's black public school students.

The first phase of the Boston busing plan began last fall. Black students from Roxbury, a black ghetto near Boston, were bused to "Southie", a white, poor and working class section of that city.

The black students were met by rock-throwing mobs determined to keep the schools white. Despite this violence and a boycott of the schools by white students, the

busing plan has proceeded.

Phase two of the plan begins next September. Then the remaining 123 of Boston's 204 public schools will be integrated. White racists have threatened to blow up the tunnels through which school buses must travel.

NAACP

The demonstrations are organized mainly by the NAACP. They are important actions, but they fall far short, NAACP President Thomas Atkins describes the present attacks against busing as an "effort to write the black community out of the United States Constitution." In fact, the Constitution is a racist document that protects capitalism's rule over all working and poor people. It legalized slavery, for instance.

To point to the Constitution as a protector of people's rights, as the NAACP does, is treason against the black community.

While the rally is a good and important action, far more militancy will be needed to protect black children if racist mobs attack again this fall.

The Los Angeles and Bay Area rallies are also organized by the NAACP. In addition the LA rally is co-sponsored by the Pasadena Information Center.

In the Bay Area there will also be a two-day conference on racism at Ygnacio Valley high school, May 8-9. It is organized by the Concord Committee Against Racism.

There will be an analysis and history of racism in America and a slide show on the black liberation movement. There will also be a debate on busing.

Speakers will be from the La Raza Unida Party, from the Puerto Rican community, a civil rights activist and a speaker who has been involved in the Boston busing activities.

Kay Stacy

STEEL PROFITS UP

by David Katz

While millions of people are out of work, the privileged few continue to make millions of their own. That's what the steel companies are doing.

The economy is depressed, thousands of steel workers are laid off, production of steel is down 7% for the largest steel company, while shipments of its products are down 25%. But as for its most important product, US Steel's profits are up 103%.

All these figures are for the first

quarter of 1975, in comparison with a year earlier.

Bethlehem Steel, the #2 of the industry, wasn't quite so fortunate. Its profits were up only a modest 86%.

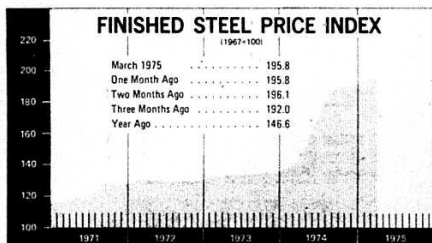
Even though they make and sell less steel, these monopolies can continue rolling out such fantastic profits by just raising prices.

NEVER ENOUGH

And predictably, neither company is willing to say it's making enough profit. US Steel complained

its "rate of return" was "substantially" below record levels. And both companies hinted that additional price increases might be justified.

Much of these fantastic profits for the wealthy few can be attributed to the no-strike agreement the United Steel Workers signed, giving up the right to a national strike until 1980. For that little deal, rank and file steel workers are now paying the price of a falling standard of living and thousands of layoffs.



MASSACHUSETTS BUDGET CUTS FOUGHT IN AMHERST

AMHERST, Mass.—More than 2000 angry students and townspeople held a stormy meeting here April 17 to fight impending massive welfare and aid cuts. Massachusetts Governor, Michael S. Dukakis, has announced that more than 15,000 welfare recipients may be taken off the rolls. The University of Massachusetts, funded by the state, may have its \$231 million budget cut by up to 30%.

The University is a major employer in Amherst. Administrators claim that a 30% budget cut will mean nearly 2,000 layoffs. A

reduction in student enrollment of up to 9,000 is possible.

Tuition fees are also likely to double and huge cuts in student financial aid will follow.

A Student Action Committee has presented a series of demands to the State Legislature and University Trustees, threatening strikes and boycotts if there are budget cuts and tuition hikes.

The demands were "strongly supported" by the Socialist Faculty Caucus, an ad-hoc committee organized April 21 comprising radical staff in the University. The Caucus

demand "increased corporate taxes and other taxes on the wealthy."



STRIKE FOR JUSTICE

labor notes

by Jim Woodward

Thanks to the US government, child labor is likely to continue in the fields of Washington and Oregon. A law passed by Congress last year was supposed to outlaw work by children under 12. But, according to liberal Republican Senator Mark Hatfield, "concerned growers... saw no recourse but to plow under their crops" if child labor was outlawed. In Oregon alone, 10,000 to 14,000 children under 12 are normally employed in the harvest.

So, under pressure from Oregon and Washington Senators and Governors, the Department of Labor is pushing a bill to allow children between the ages of 5 and 12 to work in the fields—outside of school hours, of course. At least these five-year-olds will be helping their parents meet the high cost of living, right? Wrong. They'll be making pennies—because the minimum wage law does not apply to children under 16 who do piece-work in the fields.

Keeping up with the militants: Steel Workers District 26 Director Frank Leseganich is trying to keep up to date on the activities of the Rank and File Team (RAFT). RAFT is an opposition group within the Steel Workers Union, centered in Youngstown, Ohio. Leseganich recently wrote District 38 Director Frank McKee asking him to "be on the lookout for letters to the editor" about a movement to cut dues and officers' salaries. McKee told District 38 local officers, "If any such material should surface in your local newspaper signed by persons identifying themselves as members of RAFT, in particular Ed Mann or William Litch, I would appreciate sending me the article." Mann and Litch are officers of USW Local 1462 and leaders of RAFT.

New York Telephone Co. announced on April 18th that if economic conditions did not improve by the first of June, operators with under five years seniority would be laid off or reduced to a four-day work week. The early announcement was designed to allow the Telephone Traffic Union, a company union representing traffic employees in downtown New York, to "negotiate" the layoff.

Officers of Communications Workers of America Local 1101, which represents craft workers in the same area, appeared unconcerned because the layoffs affect the traffic department, not plant. The local officially continues to stick to its head-in-the-mud attitude that the company does not intend to lay off plant workers.

The militant Telephone Workers Independent Union in Puerto Rico is on strike because the phone company there refuses to bargain with them. The company, which is owned by the Puerto Rican government, appears to be in collusion with two more conservative, US-based unions. The Teamsters and the Seafarers are attempting to raid the independent union.

Officers of Consolidation Coal Company are being investigated by a federal grand jury for falsifying dust samples from their mines. Federal law requires that dust in coal mines be kept below two milligrams per cubic foot of air. The companies must submit dust samples to the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration. Consolidation apparently submitted inaccurate and false samples on a regular basis.

Officers of Consolidation who directed the sample-tampering are subject to a \$25,000 fine and a year in prison. Miners who work for Consolidation Coal are subject to life-long suffering and death from black lung disease.

With little publicity, President Ford has denied railroad workers the right to strike. After the membership of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks voted 85-90% to strike, Ford banned a strike for 60 days under the procedures of the Railway Labor Act. Union officials have become so comfortable with such anti-labor legislation that Ford's action was treated as a routine part of collective bargaining.

Thorfare Markets, a food chain in the Pittsburgh area, is asking members of the Meatcutters and Retail Clerks to "stop present cut to "stop present operating losses." Otherwise, the chain threatens store closings and layoffs. Union officials have not yet responded, but in 1973 the membership overwhelmingly rejected a similar proposal. Said one union member, "If we give in to them, A&P, Kroger and all the rest of them will be in here asking for the same thing."

It's not quite panhandling. J. Leon Altomese, a non-union building contractor, has sent letters to 7,000 major corporations asking for contributions in his fight against the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council. So far he has received \$2,500 in contributions. Over the last three years Altomese has spent \$2 million to keep his firm non-union. "It was all right when times were good," he said. "But now times are rough."

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to Labor Editor, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-3137.

SUPPORT FARMWORKERS!
BOYCOTT GALLO WINES!





Which Side Are You On?

by Kim Moody

'Wages Fall, Misery Grows'

Over a hundred years ago Karl Marx wrote that as the crisis of capitalism grows, so "grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation" of the working class. Strong words, frightening ideas.

Until recently, most of us in the US experienced growing living standards, not growing misery. To be sure, black people continued to experience mass misery. Extreme poverty always existed in urban ghettos, and in places like Appalachia. But for the most part, working class people's lives tended to get better.

LIVING STANDARDS FALL

The trend has reversed. Living standards for the majority of working class people are declining. Working class income is not even going up and down a little. It is only going down.

As Workers' Power has often reported, real wages are now below the 1965 level. Inflation has wiped out all the wage gains of the past ten years. Then, in February 1975, real wages fell below the 1964 level—another year gone.

This decline in real wages came, as Marx said it would, with the growing crisis of the world capitalist system. By 1970 all of the leading industrial capitalist nations began to show signs of trouble. In that year recession hit the US. That recession was ended by a government sponsored productivity drive (speed-up), and wage controls. The purpose of Nixon's wage-price controls was, as was admitted, to "zap labor." And they did.

ZAP

But wage-price controls zapped labor in a carefully planned manner. At first, wages were actually allowed to grow faster than prices. From 1971 to the end of 1972 real weekly wages after taxes grew from \$92.43 to \$96.96. A small gain, but still a gain.

In 1973, however, this short trend was reversed. By December, 1973 real wages were down to 94.07. In May of 1974 wage controls were finally repealed. By then real wages had fallen to \$92.38—that is just below the 1971 level. Wage controls had done their job.

For manufacturing workers the story is even more dramatic than for all workers. Real wages for

manufacturing workers rose to a weekly average of \$108.18 in 1972. By December 1972 they had gone all the way up to \$111.37! The next month, January, 1973, they plunged to \$108.09, and have kept falling ever since.

The drop in real wages since the end of 1972 has been steady and severe. Average weekly real wages for all workers fell nearly 10%. For manufacturing workers the drop was 12%.

The wages of American workers are not yet at the level of "misery." But that is where they are heading, if the bosses get their way.

RECOVERY?

Furthermore, unemployment has become massive—another sign of growing crisis and the return of mass misery. It is 10%. Mass unemployment is certain to remain with us as long as the capitalist system itself. Of course, there will be cycles in the economy. There will be a "recovery" later in the year. As a result unemployment will decline.

But virtually everyone agrees it will never get as low as in the 1960's. Back then the government considered 4% unemployment "acceptable." Then they pushed the "acceptable" level up to 5%. Now, it is unlikely that unemployment will ever drop below 6-7% in the US—nearly 7 million workers out of work. That is getting close to "mass misery."

REVOLT

It won't end there either. Just as surely as there will be a "recovery" there will be another slump, and another, and another. And each time unemployment will be more massive. Those things that could never happen again here are now happening.

Fortunately, Marx said more than that the working class will experience mass misery as capitalist crisis grows.

Marx goes on to say, "but with this too grows the revolt of the working class, a class always increasing in numbers, and disciplined, united, organized by the mechanism of the process of capitalist production itself."

And so it must and should be. As they, the bosses and their political hirelings, whittle away our living standards, the more we fight back. Increasingly, it becomes a matter of us or them. □

Granny Hager Dies

Forty Years

A Fighter For Miners



Mrs. Frances "Granny" Hager, a fighter in the workers' movement in central Appalachia for over four decades, died March 27 at her home on the North Fork River above Hazard, Kentucky.

Granny began her organizing career in 1932, when she travelled through Tennessee collecting food for miners on strike in Harlan County, Kentucky. Later, she and her husband helped organize the United Mine Workers in neighboring Bell County.

In the early sixties, Granny led the "roving picket movement." Miners and their wives travelled from mine to mine through eastern Kentucky, pulling the miners out on strike for better working conditions and union recognition.

FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

In the late sixties, Granny fought for compensation for workers with black lung disease and was Chairwoman of the Perry County Black Lung Association.

She became a leader of the Miners for Democracy and campaigned with Arnold Miller through the Kentucky coalfields.

Granny spent her life, as she put it, fighting to "wake these mountain people up till they would stand up for their rights and fight for what is just and honest and due them."

The working people in Appalachia who are carrying on that fight will remember Granny Hager and the great contribution she made. □

Anne Larson

ANTHRACITE MINERS ON STRIKE

Anthracite coal miners, who have been on strike in eastern Pennsylvania since March 31, are angered that they have not been more closely involved in the bargaining going on in Washington.

One hundred and twenty miners told local newspapers they had decided to go to Washington to picket the United Mine Workers headquarters to protest the union's failure to inform the rank and file about the progress of the negotiations. Unfortunately, however, they have so far been unable to raise funds for the trip.

At issue in the strike are a large catch-up wage increase, a pension hike for retired miners, and improved working conditions. □

RECESSION SQUEEZES TEACHERS

40,000 Rally In Texas



40,000 Texas teachers rallied in Austin April 26th.

AUSTIN—40,000 teachers and their supporters came from all parts of Texas April 26 to show their disgust at the pay and conditions in the state's schools. Texas is at or near the top in terms of wealth and ability to pay for education, and twelfth from the bottom in actual pay. In terms of class size, school dropouts, and teachers' pay, the state's record is among the worst.

It was to protest this situation, and to demand a minimum annual salary of \$10,000 that teachers streamed in from all over the state. It was one of the biggest teachers' rallies ever held.

Unfortunately, the Texas State Teachers' Association and the Austin Association of Teachers, who jointly sponsored the rally, were more interested in projecting a favorable "image" and in providing a platform for friendly

politicians, than in building a militant struggle. Signs and placards were forbidden inside the huge Memorial Stadium ("bad for the professional image"), and there was no march on the capitol. Just speeches.

Many teachers were clearly frustrated by the passive role their leaders had assigned them. Some came with militant placards, some talked of organizing a march, and many chanted such slogans as "Where is Briscoe?"—the governor of Texas, as well as the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House, had been invited, but none of them bothered to show up.

No rank and file organization as yet exists here, which could have organized and given shape to the militant feelings of many teachers. □

Washington Teachers Demand Action

SEATTLE—Thousands of teachers, parents and students have marched on the Washington State legislature in the last few weeks. They are demanding action to meet the state's school financing emergency.

Thousands of teachers and other school staff members will be jobless next year unless the legislature acts. Class sizes will jump over 30%, support services will be slashed and over 20 schools closed in Seattle alone.

In Washington State a large part of all school funds come from yearly "special levies" which increase the local property tax rate. This tax is already very regressive. This year, with taxes already

sky-high, the special levies failed. Next year teachers in Seattle will have anything less than nine years' seniority will be axed.

The Washington Education Association (WEA) has called for massive lobbying and possibly a coordinated strike in many districts. A strike by the Seattle Teachers Association and the Seattle Federation of Teachers is set for May 9 unless the legislature acts by then.

Unfortunately, WEA has pushed back its strike date many times—to give the legislature "time to think"! A coordinated state-wide strike now seems unlikely.

Local AFL-CIO leader James Bender has contributed little to the

move toward militant teacher action. His advice to teachers is not to strike, saying they have little clout alone.

At this date the legislature has no answer to the impending disaster. Governor Evans proposes raising sales taxes and utility rates to cover the cost. These new taxes would simply fall on workers, the same people who can no longer survive the old "special levies."

There must be no new taxes on working people to pay for the crisis brought on by this system.

The only real answer would be a state-wide strike of education workers, aimed at forcing full funding of the schools at the expense of the wealthy and the corporations. □

Letters

to

Workers' Power

How To Keep Informed

Living in a place in which there is little political consciousness, it is difficult to always be informed of the state of workers' struggles in the rest of the world.

Workers' Power helps me to understand what is happening world wide in a clear, down-to-earth, worker-oriented way. It is unique in that it gives me the information that I seek in a manner that I like and can easily understand.

Thanks!

W.C.
Franconia, New Hampshire

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



... AND "EXPERTS"



BERNARD O'HIGGINS

Many people say that socialism is impossible because average working people can't understand how the economy fits together and how it should be run. They tell us that only highly-trained and highly-skilled "experts" are capable of running a complex industrial society.

If we accept this line of reasoning, we obviously have to give up the idea of socialism, a society based on workers' democratic control of production. Industrial democracy can never work if working men and women can't understand what they're making decisions about.

It's very important to the capitalists who run this society and the politicians, bureaucrats and managers who serve them, that we accept their myth about "experts." Every idea that convinces us of our own worthlessness and powerlessness is a weapon in their hands.

Like every other myth, this idea has real roots in the way society is organized. If it didn't, no one would ever fall for it.

DIVISION OF LABOR

The myth about "experts" is based on the division of labor as it exists in a capitalist society. There wasn't much division of labor in primitive societies because there weren't that many different kinds of labor to be done.

As society grew larger and more complex, the division of labor spread. Jobs were broken up into smaller and smaller parts.

But there's another part of the division of labor that's even more far-reaching and more destructive. That's the division between mental and manual labor.

The division is between the capitalists and all their managers and technicians and time study people who make decisions, and the workers who have to carry them out. It's a strict class division between the working class and the capitalist class.

OWNERSHIP

This division wasn't as extreme in earlier societies. Craftsmen used to make a whole product from beginning to end. They made many decisions about their work—and they owned the tools they used.

But they couldn't produce much by these individual methods.

The rise of modern capitalist society made production more efficient by changing who owned the tools. Capitalism took all productive property—land, mach-

inery, raw materials—away from people who worked them and made them all the property of the capitalist class.

Once working people were deprived of the tools they needed to work they were also deprived of all decision making power over their work.

From then on the capitalists and their servants made all the decisions and workers' only role was to follow orders.

That's the situation that exists today. The capitalists consciously prevent us from making any significant decisions about the work we do.

This isn't just true of work, but of every other facet of modern capitalist society. The huge government bureaucracy that lives off the taxes of working people is full of so-called "experts" on every conceivable subject.

"Experts" on economics. "Experts" on population. "Experts" on poverty and welfare. We are constantly told that we should leave it to the "experts" to decide what's best for us.

INFORMATION

The "experts" who serve the rich have access to all kinds of information that most working people are never allowed to lay eyes on. This fact is then thrown in our faces as "proof" that workers can't run society because only the "experts" know what's really going on!

If we look around us today we can see that most of the "experts" aren't really very expert at all. The fact is that right now capitalism is in the middle of a crisis that its "experts" in social sciences—economists, sociologists, historians—don't understand and have no idea of how to get out of.

Ordinary workers in Portugal today have an idea though. In the last year they have kicked out the fascist dictator and occupied many of their factories.

They are forming workers' councils where workers together can make decisions about running society. They are on what could be the road to making a socialist revolution and a new society.

This is the way we will get rid of the division between mental and manual labor and the dependence on "experts" that goes with it. We'll be more complete human beings—we won't be divided into decision makers who don't work and workers who don't make any decisions.

We'll run production for ourselves—we'll produce what we need at the speed we decide on and in the way we decide to do it. We'll all be "experts." □

Compliments And Corrections

I would like to compliment you on Cal Williams' generally excellent article on the Steubenville strike in WP #118. However, I think you made three small factual errors.

1) I was told that it was not the engineers who were fired, but other workers who refused to work with the foremen.

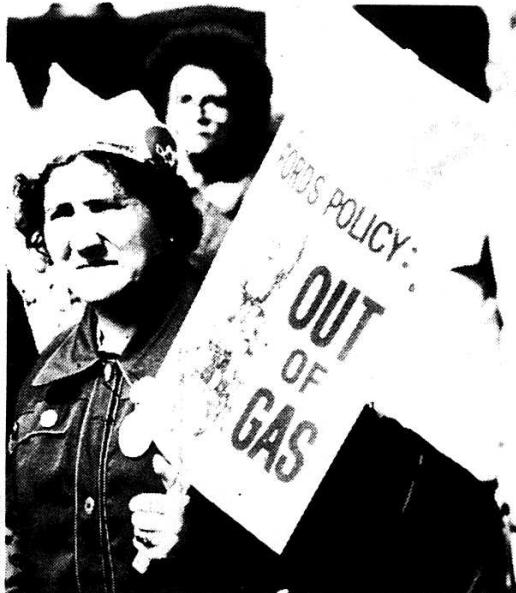
2) Reducing pay classification by 7 points from 14 points to 7 points will not take away half the pay. The exact reduction would depend on what the incentive rates were.

3) Eighteen jobs were eliminated prior to the strike at Campbell, not eight.

For example, if the incentive rates were about the same, the loss would be about 15%. If the engineers had been making incentive rate of 50% (very high) at the old 14 points rate, and dropped to no incentive at the new rate, the pay drop would be about 35%. It is not likely to have dropped this much.

I want to stress that the article was good. The point of this is to maintain WP's reputation of reporting facts.

V.M.
Cleveland



Comments on Washington Rally

I would guess that at least 80 per cent of the people at the Washington march [April 26] came from New York City; and of these nearly all were from three unions—District Council 37 of the State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (ACW), and the Ladies Garment Workers (ILGWU).

These are weak and threatened unions. The city workers—clerks, typists, can't tie up production because they aren't production workers. The garment workers are in one of the weakest industries, unimportant to American capitalism, and highly susceptible to imports—thus they carried a lot of

"protectionist" signs, reflecting their unions' campaigns against overseas competition and runaway shops.

There were very few auto workers; only a handful of steel workers; some electrical workers and communications workers, but certainly not a lot; no miners; no teamsters; no machinists; and of course no construction workers. No workers from the Southern industrial cities.

Thus no power—and I'm sure intentionally so. Matters could easily get out of hand if they mixed together too many workers who can shut down the whole show.

Charles Leinenweber
New Paltz, NY

Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

What you like about the paper—and what you don't. What you think of the political ideas we present, and your comments on problems facing working people.

But please be brief.

Write to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, Michigan 48203.

1400 IBEW WORKERS STRIKE

NORTHAMPTON, Mass.—More than 1400 members of the IBEW Local 486 are on strike as a result of a breakdown on April 16 of contract negotiations with the New England Electric System (NEES). Striking workers include linemen, office workers and meter readers in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Nearly 2400 members of the other two unions in the NEES are honoring the IBEW picket lines. Charles Miller of Northampton, Mass., a business agent of Local 486, cited job security and worker safety as the two most important issues in the dispute.

In negotiations ongoing since February, union representatives have tacitly accepted a company offer of a 7% pay raise. But they refuse to give in to company demands for "increased productivity" stemming from the elimination of inclement weather clauses essential to workers safety.

At the same time, NEES officials propose to extend the seniority requirement for job security guarantees from 5 to 15 years.

Rank and file union members promise that they will stay on strike as long as is necessary to protect job rights that they have won in the last twenty years. □



NEW FROM PLUTO PRESS

The Hazards of Work: How to Fight Them

by Patrick Kinnersly Workers' Handbook No. 1 \$2.70 postpaid

Workers Against The Monolith

by Ian H. Birchall The Communist Parties since 1943 \$3.45 postpaid

John Maclean

by Nan Milton Maclean was regarded as Britain's greatest revolutionary of the time—by both Lenin and the British government. \$3.65 postpaid

Order from Sun Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave. Room 225, Highland Park, MI 48203

Picketing Clears Shelves of Gallo

SEATTLE—The United Farmworkers won several victories recently. In early March, after a seven week struggle, the Inside Passage Tavern was cleaned of Gallo wine. The victory was won in spite of arrests of pickets and scab-herding by the owners.

Soon after this victory, three small stores in the area were cleaned out, one after another. Each took only a few hours or, at most, a few days of picketing. Other small stores in the area have begun to give in. The union is following up these victories with more boycotts.

In the United States it's perfectly legal to maim and even murder other human beings.

Every day, workers are killed in fires and explosions, mangled by machinery, poisoned by cancerous fumes and gases, and choked with deadly lung-filling dusts.

These cases are called accidents, but Rachel Scott's book, **Muscle and Blood**, shows that this massive industrial slaughter is intentional, cold-blooded murder, all done in the name of profit.

IT'S CHEAP

The reason is simple—it costs less to replace an injured or dead worker than to provide a safe and healthy working environment. The companies know this and plan their spending accordingly.

A lawyer for Chrysler Corporation described the process to Scott: each year the company figures out the cost of workmen's compensation and balances it against the cost of making the plant safe.

"And it always turns out that workmen's comp expense is less. Therefore they don't spend the money on safety."

Chrysler is not the only one. Clifford and Josephine Walker worked for Thiokol Corporation, a company with a federal contract to produce trip flares to use in the Viet Nam war.

In 1971 an explosion in an assembly room killed 29 workers, throwing their bodies hundreds of feet into the woods outside the plant. Another 59 were seriously injured.

Josephine Walker was hurled 200 feet by the explosion, and totally disabled. She was awarded \$37 a week in workmen's compensation benefits.

A report made before the explosion had listed hazard after hazard, but no action was taken, either by Thiokol or by the government agency responsible for enforcing safety standards.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

A look at these government agencies shows that the safety they protect is that of the companies' profits, not of the workers' health.

The National Institute of Safety and Health was set up by Congress to establish health standards so that "no employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional capacity." The Occupa-

tional Safety and Health Administration was empowered to inspect and fine businesses for violations.

But although it looked good on paper, the administration quite effectively took the teeth out of the bill—they simply don't fund it.

As for enforcement, the fines imposed can be paid out of the corporations' petty cash.

Muscle and Blood by Rachel Scott

E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc; New York 1974

The Beryllium Corporation was fined only \$928 for 31 violations. One of these was a concentration of toxic beryllium dust of 5000 micrograms per cubic meter of air when the standard is 2 micrograms!

With fines this low, the company could easily afford to ignore the social problem. The disease has a mortality rate of 30%.

INSURANCE

Insurance companies, doctors and lawyers are all part of the set-up. Since companies are insured against disasters they don't have to worry about preventing them.

The insurance companies don't try to keep accident rates low, either, because if the rate goes too low they have to lower their premiums and make less profit.

Doctors hired by companies generally worry more about lost-time accident rates than about the health of the workers they exam-

ine.

Rose Logan, a Chrysler worker who was struck by a fork-lift, was made to work in the plant in a wheelchair so that the company could protect its lost-time record.

As for the legal system, lawyers press their clients to settle quickly for a small amount. The lawyer makes more money handling many easy cases than a few which would mean a real battle against the companies.

PROTECTION

With case after case Scott proves that workers can't count on the companies, the government, the courts or the medical profession for protection.

The only times the workers were able to win their demands for health and safety were when they took matters into their own hands and walked out.

As long as the only incentive for production is profit, the wheels of the industrial machine will continue to be greased by workers' blood. The price of the prosperity of America's corporations is the pain and death, the maimed bodies and blighted lives of the working class, the women and men who create the nation's wealth.

John Niewierowski is a worker poisoned by carbon disulfide at an American Viscose rayon mill. He put it this way, "The American worker everywhere is supporting society. The American society, they owe the workers something."

The time is overdue for the working class to force the system to pay up.

Sarah Schafer



The ladder is not secured and has a rung missing. One false step and this welder could fall on blowtorch.

The Great Plains' Untold Story

[The Adventures of the Negro Cowboys by Phillip Durham and Everett I. Jones Bantam Pathfinder Edition, 75c.]

Although you'd never know it from Hollywood movies, there were about five thousand black cowboys in the Old West. Their story is laid out in a very enjoyable little paperback that is true documented history. It was lifted from a scholarly book called "The Negro Cowboy," written by the same authors.

The first black cowboys were slaves brought from plantations in the South to ranches in Texas. Many of the Texas cowboy slaves escaped over the Mexican border. Some free blacks owned ranches before the Civil War.

CATTLE DRIVES

After the war the cattle drives began. The Chisholm Trail from Texas to shipping points in Kansas was the most famous route.

Black cowboys were welcomed into cattle outfits, because the good cowboys were scarce and the herds

were usually huge (2500). The average trail crew consisted of a trail boss, eight cowboys, a horse-wrangler, and a cook.

The trail boss was almost always white, and the horsewrangler and cook were frequently black. The horsewrangler had the hardest job, because he had to catch and keep up with the 60 or so horses the outfit needed.

The cook was usually the oldest and most experienced man in the outfit. He drove the chuckwagon and made home for the crew each night on the trail.

FIRST PRISONER

One black cook became the first prisoner in the Abilene, Kansas jail.

Abilene was the first of the roaring cowtowns. It was a railroad shipping point for cattle.

This cook rode into town, had a meal somebody else cooked for a change, drank a lot of Abilene whiskey, then began to shoot up the place.

No damage was done, but the

town marshal came and threw him into the new jail.

He stayed in the jail until his hungry trail crew learned where he was. After driving the marshal into hiding, they shot the lock off the door and freed the cook.

"Thus a Negro cook posted two records: He was the first man thrown into the new jail, and the first man to break out."

STAGECOACH MARY

There were tough black women, too. At the age of 70, Stagecoach Mary was drinking whiskey at a saloon when she looked out and saw a guy who hadn't paid her his laundry bill.

She went outside, flattened him with one punch, then came back in and resumed her drink, saying, "His bill is paid."

Was there racism in the Old West? Sure there was. Black people seldom became foremen or trail bosses and frequently did all the dirty work.

But there was a lot of room out there, and the frontier was the



Bill Pickett, the famous bulldogger, on his horse, Spradley.

freest place in the country.

In the 1870's a black barber was elected to the territorial legislature from Wyoming.

In Cheyenne in 1868, two buildings were dedicated: the three-story Ford House, said to be the best hotel in the West, owned

and operated by a black man; and the first school in the city, open to all, "rich or poor, black or white."

There's more to the American West than what's in all those old movies, and it's high time we heard about it, pardner.

Yvonne

"Build The Weekly Paper"

Neil Davies is a construction worker in Great Britain. He is also a member of the National Committee of the British International Socialists.

On a recent trip to the United States, Davies met with rank and file American workers and discussed with them the relationship between building the rank and file movement and building the revolutionary organization.

Here he discusses with Workers Power the value a weekly newspaper will have in spreading revolutionary socialist ideas within the working class and building the IS.



Neil Davies

"If a revolutionary party has a weekly paper, then it can organize people who aren't in IS. They can read it, they can identify with parts of it, they're going to sell it, show it to other people, ask for money to support the paper. That's objectively going to organize people and expand their socialist consciousness, organize them around the ideas in the paper.

"The paper is really going to be important, it's going to recruit these people who are just beginning to think about is there an alternative, do we have to go on with this mess here.

"And the paper, obviously can be the best recruiter, because it's better than any one individual member. And you can really see why you need to join a revolutionary party when you read a paper like Workers' Power.

"When a small group of revolutionaries can produce something nationally like Workers' Power which has got the breadth of socialist agitation, the reportage of industrial struggles, it's got the ideas to convince and bring the workers forward. And that's the collective product of small number of revolutionaries. Just think what the paper will be like when you've got several thousand."

[Workers' Power will begin weekly publication next fall. IS members and supporters of Workers' Power are involved in a very successful drive to increase the use of Workers' Power.

But more must be done. Most of our readers are not yet members of the IS. Yet many find Workers' Power more than just an interesting newspaper. They, too, find it a useful tool in building their work and spreading ideas with which they agree.

As the economic crisis grows, the importance of building a socialist workers' newspaper also grows. We believe that all those serious about building the workers' movement must play a role in building Workers' Power.

Readers wishing to obtain bundles of five or more copies can write: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Room 225, Highland Park, MI 48203.]

WHAT'S ON

Detroit, Sunday, May 18—"Liberation and Revolution 1975"—The US and Africa. Fred Hobby, Chairman, Workers For Collective Progress, member IS; Glenn Wolfe, National Organizer, IS. Trinity Methodist Church, 13100 Woodward, Highland Park. 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the International Socialists and the Red Tide.

"Why We Need A Labor Party"

by John Anderson

[Working people need their own political party. Unemployment continues to rise as the living standard of working people continues to decline.

The program of the Republicans and Democrats alike is to protect the interests of business which means to further screw workers.

The call for the formation of a labor party grows louder as the organization of rank and file workers into an opposition movement strengthens.

But to fight to build a party of working people is not new to this country. It has been consciously defeated by the policies of the conservative American trade union leadership.

John Anderson, a militant in the auto workers movement for over forty years and a member of the International Socialists, tells how they did it.]

At the UAW convention in South Bend in 1936 a resolution was passed calling for the formation of a labor party. Before the convention adjourned John L. Lewis ordered the convention to rescind its action. He threatened to withhold funds for the organizing campaign in auto unless the UAW gave its support to Roosevelt in the 1936 presidential elections. The conventions submitted to his order.

Support for the idea of a labor party came from the Socialist and Communist Parties. With Roosevelt's election in 1936, members of these parties drifted over to the Democratic Party. After the UAW had organized General Motors, Chrysler and the independent auto producers many of the leaders of the SP and CP had full time jobs in the locals or with the International union. These union bureaucrats lost interest in forming a labor party. They were more concerned with their jobs than with advancing the interests of the workers.

The idea of a labor party lay dormant until the end of the war in 1945. Many workers had become disillusioned with the Democratic Party during the War. The Roosevelt Administration had frozen wages while prices were skyrocketing. Federal troops had been used to break strikes.

In June 1945 the Michigan CIO and the UAW went on record in favor of a labor party. On the basis of this support the Michigan Commonwealth Federation was formed. After its formation the labor bureaucracy had second thoughts about giving it their support. They ran no candidates against state democratic candidates. The few candidates it did run got little support from either the UAW or CIO officials. As a result the candidates of the MCF did poorly. That party was short lived.

In 1946 when Walter Reuther announced his candidacy for president of the UAW, he said that if elected he would initiate a movement in support of a labor party. He sold out his promise.

LABOR PARTY

The American labor bureaucracy doesn't favor a labor party because of their cozy relationship with the employers. Also the Democratic politicians cover up for the corrupt labor leaders. The employers have always thrown their support to these "labor lieutenants of capital" whenever left wing militants have attempted to challenge the conservative bureaucrats.

Through militant campaigns to regain jobs and halt inflation, and candidates dedicated to a working class program to end the crisis, a labor party could win the allegiance of millions of working and oppressed people. Politics would no longer be limited to the elite. Such a party can be formed if the rank and file can be organized to support it.



What We Stand For

The International Socialists is a revolutionary socialist organization. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and work as a member of our organization to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Socialism must be achieved by the independent action of the working class. The liberation of the working class can be won only by the struggles of workers themselves.

SOCIALISM FROM BELOW

Both capitalism and bureaucratic collectivism (the system of dictatorship in Russia, China, and the other so-called "Communist" societies) must be replaced through working class revolution. This will create a socialist society, controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people. The wealth produced by labor will be controlled collectively by workers and used to produce a decent life and freedom for all.

DESTROY THE CAPITALIST STATE

The state is a weapon of capitalist class rule. Its institutions like the legislature, army, police and courts cannot simply be taken over by the working class and used to build socialism. The working revolution must destroy the old state and create one of an entirely different kind. It will establish direct rule by the masses of people based on workers councils elected at the workplace.

MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

The trade unions are today the only mass organizations of the working class. To make the unions fighting instruments of workers against the employers, we work to build their struggles, and fight for rank and file control.

INTERNATIONALISM

The socialist revolution must be international. We fight for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose all racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples, in this country and worldwide. We call for international solidarity and cooperation among unions in different countries. We oppose all immigration controls, protectionism, and strike-breaking by workers in one country or one union against those in another.

AGAINST BUREAUCRATIC COLLECTIVISM

The first successful socialist revolution was made by the Russian working class in 1917. But the revolution was isolated, and destroyed by a counterrevolution led by Stalin. Today Russia, China, and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but bureaucratic dictatorships. We support workers' struggle in these countries for democracy and freedom and call for revolution against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To create socialism, the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The party does not represent an elite to rule over the workers "in their interests." It is a political force helping to organize workers and leading them to take state power and control society as a class. The activity of the IS is directed toward building such a party. Building a rank and file movement based on the principles described here strengthens the consciousness, self-confidence and organization of the working class, and is the road by which a revolutionary party will be built.

WHERE WE STAND

*For rank and file control of the unions. For secret negotiations. All contracts to be voted on by mass membership meetings. For rank and file committees to lead the struggle when union officials refuse to fight, and national rank and file opposition caucuses in the international unions.

*For class struggle unionism. Abolish all anti-labor legislation. No restriction on the right to strike, picket or boycott.

*Defend working conditions. No control on wages. Against unemployment, layoffs, and speed-up. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. We demand the right to a job at union wages for everyone.

Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.

*Equality for all oppressed peoples. Full support to their liberation struggles.

*For the right of the black community and other oppressed peoples to defend themselves. Against all forms of racism, police harassment and discrimination. For independent organization by black and other specially oppressed workers to fight

for their own demands. Independence for Puerto Rico.

*Abolish all forms of sexual oppression. For complete social, economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion. For a working class women's liberation movement. End discrimination against gay people.

*Against imperialism, East and West. Against all nuclear weapons and imperialist alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. For unconditional support to all national liberation movements, against both US and Russian imperialism. We support the military victory of the National Liberation Front over US imperialism in Vietnam, but we give no political support to the anti-working class dictatorship of the NLF represents.

*We support to Republican, Democratic and Wallaceite parties and candidates. For an independent political party of the working class, based on the unions and controlled by the rank and file, to struggle against the capitalist parties.

International Socialists



If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to:

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U.S. Foreign Policy- No Longer World's Boss

by Dan Posen

The defeat of the US in Vietnam has convinced anyone who still doubted it: the US is no longer the boss of the world. No more can the US control the capitalist world by dispatching troops or money here, or threatening to withdraw them there.

The NLF victory is not, however, simply a result of the enduring determination of the Vietnamese people to rule their own country. Nor has David slain Goliath—the US is still a super-power. But it is one that is slipping, and it has been for some time.

Why is the US in this new position?

MASSIVE POWER

For about 25 years, the foreign policy of the United States shaped the entire capitalist world.

The US emerged as the world's greatest power after two world wars destroyed the economies of every other major capitalist nation. France, Britain, Germany, Japan—all the old industrial powers were reduced to ruins.

They lost their old colonial empires. Revolution threatened countries previously ruled by Britain and France. But American power stepped in to prevent it.

When the French colonial rulers were kicked out of Vietnam in 1954, the US set up a new right wing regime in South Vietnam.

British rule in Greece, the Mediterranean and the Middle East was replaced with American political influence and a vast network of military bases.

The United States became the center of the system of capitalist imperialism.

By the 1950's two imperialist blocs were struggling for world rule. The US led the capitalist countries against Russia and China's system of bureaucratic collectivism.

These two sides fought for control of Korea, and confronted each other across Europe in the Cold War.

Through its gigantic economic and military power, Washington dictated the policies of its European allies. It organized them into the NATO alliance.

STABILITY

The strategy of US foreign policy was to protect the stability of capitalist rule everywhere it existed. But capitalism had little stability and needed a lot of

protection. Dissatisfied people were ready to rebel everywhere. The US had to enforce stability—brutally.

The US government and the CIA trained the officer corps and the secret police of the world's most oppressive right wing and fascist dictatorships—in Spain, South Korea, Iran and in Chiang Kai-shek's Taiwan.

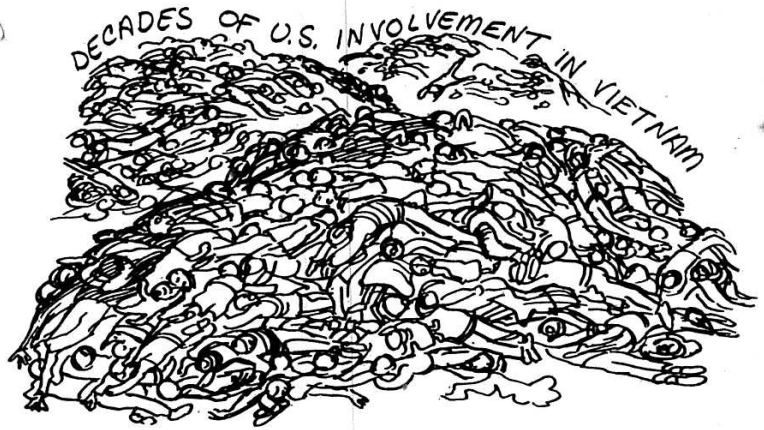
In Portugal the US not only backed the fascist regime. It provided advice and equipment to help Portugal's rulers fight wars to suppress independence movements in their colonies.

The US became the most loyal ally and closest economic partner of the white supremacist Republic of South Africa.

The American war budget was the backbone of this post-war world. As the only big power whose economy had survived the war, the

PENTAGON ARGUMENT #17

'If we withdrew, there'd be a bloodbath!'



Their real reason: Vietnam and wars like it protect capitalism's profits and stability.

which brought American workers' wages under severe attack.

This fueled a militant response by American workers. Many began to realize that the government's all-out war in Vietnam was not being fought in their interests.

The defeat in Vietnam is now

promises no longer carry the weight they had a few years ago.

In the Middle East, Henry Kissinger's prestige has collapsed in the last few months. He failed to negotiate a deal between Israel and Egypt because neither side believed that he could deliver on the

alist grip, which is the main factor behind the foreign policy crisis of the US, is creating much more favorable conditions for sweeping these systems off the face of the earth.

THE FUTURE

In the last year, the people of Portugal and its colonies have shown the way. In Portugal, workers forced out the government of Antonio de Spínola. It was Spínola who wanted to rule Angola and Mozambique under the guise of formal independence.

Portuguese workers have begun to create workers' councils through which they can run society. In Mozambique and Angola, strikes by miners and other black workers have become the backbone of the resistance to neo-colonialism.

The future of the world does not depend on maneuvers and secret decisions taken in government chambers in Washington.

More than anything else, it will depend on millions of American workers to finish the job of destroying the power of imperialism—by rising in struggle against their system of capitalism that produced it and freeing themselves.

"For about 25 years, US foreign policy shaped the entire capitalist world... The strategy of US foreign policy was to protect the stability of capitalist rule everywhere it existed. But capitalism had little stability and needed a lot of protection. Dissatisfied people were ready to rebel everywhere. The US had to enforce stability—brutally."

US rebuilt the economies of Western Europe.

But the policies that made the US a giant for 25 years are the very ones that are causing its decline today.

After the US rebuilt the European and Japanese economies, they became competitors of the US—economically and politically.

The arms spending which fueled American prosperity caused inflation.

Ultimately, the power of American capitalism rested on the prosperity of its own economy at home. Today that prosperity has ended. Its decline is slowly dragging down the massive power of US imperialism.

The postwar boom has now given way to the deepest recession since the 1930's, hitting the US and the whole capitalist system.

DECLINE

The roots of today's foreign policy crisis began at the height of the war in Vietnam.

In the late 1960's, the tens of billions spent to fight the war helped create a sharp inflation

complete. It is only part of a larger picture, however.

Other victims of this system are fighting back around the world. America's rulers can no longer peacefully oppress and exploit them.

Just two years ago, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was the super-hero of the Nixon administration. His policies everywhere, from Vietnam to Europe and the Middle East seemed to work miracles in keeping the US on top of the world.

HAS-BEEN

But suddenly Kissinger has turned from a hero to a has-been. His fantastic diplomatic victories have become disasters. Once he was considered irreplaceable—but now many newspapers and Congressmen are openly suggesting that he resign.

Why is he now producing nothing but flops for America's rulers?

The unchallenged power of the United States as the world's greatest superpower has eroded. That is why Kissinger's threats and

fancy promises he made to them.

As a result, the US cannot prevent Russia from exerting much greater influence in the Mideast negotiations. This guarantees America's rival, Russia, considerable clout in shaping the next Middle East war.

The world today is still carved up between the major super-powers—the United States and Russia—and their social systems.

But the weakening of the imperi-

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Workers Group In Czechoslovakia

A new underground workers' group has formed in Czechoslovakia to help organize the struggle against the bureaucratic regime. The group, called the Party of Workers Councils, declares:

"Our aim is to overthrow the bureaucratic power apparatus and to end the direct influence of the Soviet occupiers.

"We disagree with the Great Power policies of the USA and the USSR, and will fight against them.

"We have no intention of restoring the factories to private owners. We do not intend to return to capitalist industrial relations.

"The factories will have to be delivered from the clutches of the vast administrative personnel, min-

istries and all parasitical organizations. We shall prepare for the establishment of workers' councils.

"Protest strikes have been only sporadic up to now... Our first stage will be to bring unity to the strike movement. This stage will eventually culminate in a general strike against the ruling bureaucracy."

GALLO DRIVER TELLS ALL

How The UFW Boycott Is Crippling Gallo's Sales; How Gallo Is Trying To Fight Back

[Editor's Note: The following story is based on an exclusive Workers' Power interview with a member of Teamsters Local 848 in Los Angeles, who is a driver for the Gallo wine company. The driver is a supporter of the United Farm Workers Union and its boycott of Gallo wine products. Because of the sensitive nature of his position, his name must be kept confidential. We'll call him Fred.]

LOS ANGELES—The United Farm Workers' boycott of Gallo wine products has brought Gallo executives in this city to the brink of despair. Over 400 stores in Los Angeles have been cleared of Gallo wine because of the boycott.

In response, Gallo and their supporters in the leadership of the Teamsters Union, are trying to enlist Gallo employees to fight against the UFW.

On April 24, Gallo called a meeting of all its delivery drivers and warehousemen at the main Southern California distribution center. It asked them to counter-picket at stores where the UFW has picket lines.

At the meeting, Fred told us, "the head of sales of the Gallo Los Angeles division, a man named Bufalino, spoke for an hour and a half on counter-picketing being done by management and salesmen. He urged the drivers to join the effort 'in order to defend your jobs.'

"Bufalino brought Sam Gelman, a secretary-treasurer of our local, along to back him up," Fred said. "Gelman went Bufalino one better, telling us to support our company and the union. He told us that the Teamsters were fighting the AFL-CIO at every step."

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

The counter-picketing in Los Angeles is apparently part of a national campaign by Gallo to bolster sales, which have dropped sharply as a result of the UFW boycott.

In Michigan, for example, Gallo sales have dropped 23% in the last year, while sales of Gallo's chief competitor, Italian Swiss Colony, have shot up by 290%.

In Detroit, Gallo public relations employees and salesmen (who are non-union) have appeared at UFW picket lines in recent weeks to attempt to counter the boycott. A few Teamster drivers have also joined the counter-picketing, but not many. Salesmen have reportedly been told that it's part of their job to counter-picket.

In New York, Teamster leaders have written to AFL-CIO unions threatening to cross their picket lines in the future if they don't stop backing the UFW. Joseph Trerotola, president of Teamster Joint Council 16, wrote the AFL-CIO



Unity is the lifeblood of the labor movement.

leaders that "the UFW is raiding the Teamsters," and that by supporting the UFW "you are inviting New York Teamsters to take their friendship elsewhere."

SECONDARY BOYCOTT

At the Los Angeles meeting, Fred told us, "Gelman went along with Bufalino as he attacked the secondary boycott tactic as 'unfair to consumers and to Gallo.'

"Apparently Gelman has forgotten it was the secondary boycott, or hot cargo as we call it in the Teamsters, which was the major weapon for organizing Los Angeles teamsters.

"It's a disgrace, really," he continued. "In their eagerness to raid the UFW, our leadership is giving up one of our most powerful weapons—the secondary boycott. That's why it's in the interest of every member of the Teamsters Union to support the UFW. Because if the leaders of our union can crush the UFW, it will mean handing over to the bosses weapons like the secondary boycott. And that will mean a weaker Teamsters Union for all of us."

Fred explained that neither Bufalino nor Gelman have much credibility with the workers when it comes to the way the company treats its drivers or the poor protection the union gives them. "However, confusion about the Teamster's role in attempting to destroy the UFW, and Bufalino's charge that the UFW boycott was to blame for the loss of work among lower-seniority drivers, led many of the drivers to accept the line the company was giving them," Fred said.

It's undoubtedly true that the UFW boycott is one reason why some Gallo drivers haven't had work in recent weeks. It's a loss of work that could be stopped in an instant if the leadership of the Teamsters would stop their union-busting attacks on the UFW.

SPEED-UP

But there's another reason Los Angeles drivers aren't working, according to Fred. "They've been

MARCH WITH THE FARMWORKERS

Saturday, May 10

• New York 12 noon. Assemble at 59 St. and Fifth Ave. for march to rally at Union Square.

• Detroit 9 am. Assemble at Christ the King Church, Grand River just south of McNichols. 10-mile march and walkathon to the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 9844 Woodward.



pushing a speed-up," he said. "They've increased the load of trucks from an average of 250 cases to over 300, and have been harassing drivers to make their deliveries in less time."

"The current contract," said Fred, "guarantees the company the right to make its own rules and to fire employees without a warning letter for violating them."

"Recently they fired a driver who got sick after his second delivery, by claiming he was refusing to work."

"Initially the President of Local 848 refused to even handle the grievance. Finally, after the driver had been denied unemployment benefits and sold his house, a grievance was filed. It will be several years before it is settled."

"Fitz [Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons] and his man in LA, Sam Gelman, will not do anything for us," Fred said.

He explained how the present contract had been ratified. "Gelman told us Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego had already settled for much the same terms, so we went along too, even though the contract wasn't very good. The next day, the Riverside drivers came up to LA to set up a picket line—because they hadn't settled."

"It just shows why, no matter how many goon tactics the Teamster leadership uses, they'll never be able to organize farm workers. All the workers in the fields know that the Teamsters are there to collect dues. But the UFW is there to fight. It has a grievance procedure, protection against pesticides, a union hiring hall, and consistently defends the workers against the growers."

"We need to make our union a fighting union too. We have a lot more in common with the field workers in Modesto than the company or the union want us to know," Fred continued.

"What must be done is to show other Gallo drivers this connection. The UFW could help a lot if they put out special leaflets to Gallo drivers explaining the company's lies."

"I'd like to see Teamsters who support the farm workers get together and go out to these picket lines and talk to any Gallo drivers who actually counter-picket."

"One thing we have to show the drivers is that Gallo's policies toward us can only be beaten if we join with all other Gallo workers—and that includes the farm workers who are fighting for and deserve UFW representation." □



IBT UFW Ranks March Together

"Everybody here is rank and file. We've all got the same problem. The problems of the farmworkers' strikes are everybody's problem." That's what Betty Krantzdorf (right), a Philadelphia organizer for the United Farm Workers, had to say as she marched in the Rank and File contingent in Washington April 26.

A member of the Teamsters union (left), was one of 40 Teamsters in the Rank and File contingent. They supported the United Farm Workers' struggle

and opposed the attempts of the Teamsters leadership to wreck the UFW.

That's the rank and file approach to the farmworkers' fight for unionization. As the rank and file movement grows, this approach can become the way for the UFW to win. Without support from the Teamster bureaucrats, the growers could not hold out against the UFW very long. And when the Teamster rank and file is organized and fighting, Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons will very quickly lose the power he now has to attack the UFW. □

MORE APRIL 26th MARCH ON WASHINGTON COVERAGE—begins page 7