

WORKERS' Power

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NO CONTRACT NO WORK

POSTAL UNIONS CALL WEEK OF PROTEST

by Jack Trautman

Leaders of the New York City postal unions, Branch 36 of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) and the Metro local of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) have proclaimed the week of July 7-11 National Postal Workers' Demonstration Week. They have called on "postal workers throughout the nation to mobilize and demonstrate in front of their own Post Offices in every city and state in the nation that week."

"Time is running out," they say. "We must be ready and in fighting trim to win a good contract. Only workers can make management

negotiators move."

These slated demonstrations are the most important action by postal workers in the contract bargaining so far. They follow a June 19 demonstration held in Washington, D.C. Two thousand postal workers also organized by the New York locals descended on the capital where negotiations are taking place.

The top union bureaucrats were forced to endorse the Washington demonstration they had refused to call. James Rademacher, President of the NALC, felt compelled to join the demonstrators for a brief time before returning to the secret negotiations.

Postal workers in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, Louisville, Los Angeles, and elsewhere are organizing to make sure their locals join the national effort.

In Philadelphia, Postal Action, a rank and file group, is behind the effort. In Louisville and Portland, Committees for a Decent Contract, both newly-organized groups of rank and file postal workers, are taking up the call. Other contract committees are forming in Pittsburgh.

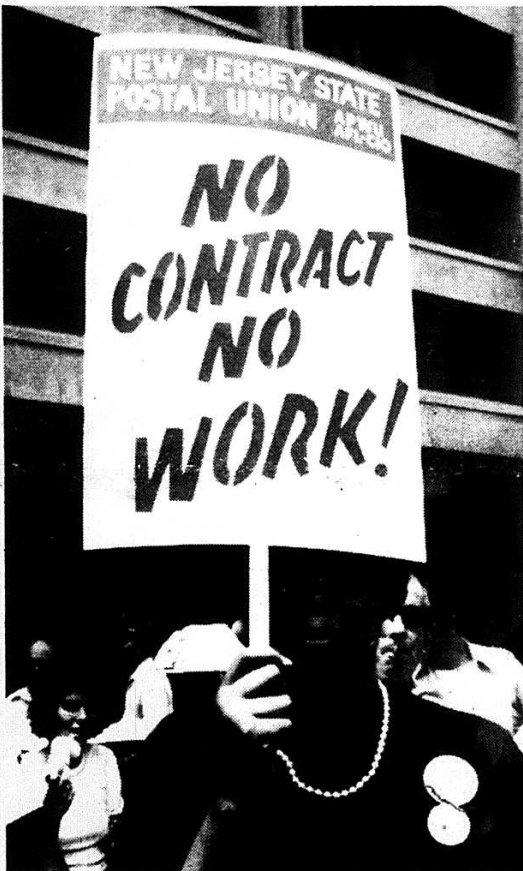
The APWU local in Oakland, Calif. has joined the movement and called a demonstration on July 8.

Isolation of militants is beginning to end as workers across the country begin to organize. Even small groups of two or three are an important beginning.

The demonstrations are an important step in the efforts of rank and file postal workers to crack open the bargaining process. Management and top union officials have carefully constructed a shell to keep workers out. The shell is beginning to crack.

Now is the time for postal workers to organize. The first step is to follow the lead of the New York locals and fight for demonstrations in the locals. If the local leaders refuse to organize a demonstration the ranks should call it themselves.

The New York local leaders say only workers can make management negotiators move. And we say only workers can make sure they don't get stuck with a sellout... by organizing and acting now. □



Demonstrators in Washington, D.C. June 19.

PLANT WAR IN FLINT

by Jim Woodward

FLINT, MICH.—What happened here last week would normally be called an industrial dispute, a job action, or slowdown. The workers in the vast Buick complex here have a better idea. They call it a plant war.

Full fledged wars and "mini-wars" occur here periodically. The latest one, though, was a major battle which lasted ten days. The workers won.

It all started Monday, June 16. Buick increased the speed of the motor line in their engine plant from 150 to 186 units an hour on the afternoon shift. They added only a few more workers. The net effect was a 27% speed-up.

In addition to getting more production, the company was anxious to set up and fire some people they didn't like.

But the increased line speed made it impossible for many workers to keep up. Defects that occur from time to time under normal conditions became the rule under the intolerable speed up. In short, Buick was getting little more than junk off the line.

By Saturday the company was so short of motors they called five hours overtime. In those five hours, Buick was lucky to get 50 good engines.

But management was also fighting. Charging sabotage, the company fired some workers and suspended others. These were just the ones Buick wanted to get rid of. Some were even on their breaks when the alleged sabotage occurred.

None were charged with acts

which could be proven intentional sabotage, such as throwing bolts in the distributors. To be sure, bolts did end up in some distributors, but to this day no one knows how that happened.

Management called in workers two at a time. They complained some of the bad engines were ending up in show-rooms and blowing up when they were started. They company threatened to move the work elsewhere.

By Tuesday the 24th, ten were fired and 20 more on penalties. Production increased.

In response to the ranks' pressure, there was a union meeting the next day complete with local TV cameras. Local 599 President Al Christner said he'd fight to get the firings reversed, but stressed doing "quality work."

"We forced the union into action," said one worker. "They didn't have a choice."

Wednesday afternoon was the final showdown. When the line started up, there was nothing but junk coming down. By lunch time, Buick had had enough.

The war had been costing the company as much as a quarter million dollars production a day. They gave everyone's job back with full pay, and added more workers in the most militant departments. But the war's not entirely over yet, as more workers are still needed in other departments. The decisive battle, though, has been won.

"Morale is excellent now, everybody's happy," one participant told Workers' Power. "By winning this war, we just ran ourselves a recruiting service for the next one." □

TELEPHONE WORKERS IN REVOLT

NEW YORK

You Make Your Own Breaks

by Ken Morgan

NEW YORK—On Monday, June 23 small groups of telephone workers stood in the afternoon sun outside the Second Avenue central office. This particular coffee break was special, because it represented a victory over New York Telephone and a large measure of self-respect.

The right to go outside on breaks—a right that exists in no contract between the phone company and Communication Worker—had been re-won, but that was only part of the story.

The fight began when the company announced that every frameman would be evaluated every day for production and quality. Third level supervisor Larry Lauterborn stated there was not a frameman in the building who could do the job, and he intended to change that or get rid of them.

The Absence Control Plan was retroactively applied to everyone who had been sick during the fire restoration period. And from now on, no one could leave the building on a coffee break.

The stewards organized a membership meeting to take action. Over 100 people filled the cafeteria. Chief Steward Tom Sites made it clear the stewards were ready to lead a battle, but there were risks involved.

One member spoke for many: "A lot of us thought our breaks were the most important part of the day. I think it's worth it."

Others angrily attacked Lauterborn's statement: "How many years did he work on the frame? Aren't we the ones who put this place together after the fire?"

Second Avenue was the site of a devastating fire which knocked out 175,000 phones last February.

"QUALITY DRIVE"

The meeting voted unanimously to boycott the cafeteria. It approved a "quality drive" on the frame. Stewards listed specific steps on how framemen could protect their jobs by doing "quality" work. Naturally, production would suffer drastically.

When management asked to meet with Chief Steward Sites on Friday, June 20 it looked like concessions were coming. Instead they only added three new demands.

Pay checks would be cashed on the employees' own time. There were to be no more "union meetings" on company premises. And if the boycott continued disciplinary action would be taken.

One steward had already received a warning for a "long break"—in fact, for helping organize the boycott.

"The situation on Monday morning was pretty clear. 'Workers' Power was told. 'The boycott continues, the 'quality drive' continues, we cash our checks like always, and if there is no progress we start going out on our breaks anyway. If there are suspensions, well...we're ready for that, too.'"

But the company's "hang-tough" policy turned out to be a bluff. When everyone stayed firm the company backed down. At a high-level meeting management agreed that evaluation of framemen would not be used for disciplinary purposes. All retroactive Absence Control Plan "steps" would be removed.

Leaving the building on the

breaks would be permitted.

Of course, New York Telephone will try again, and there will be more fights. But now the stewards and members know they can win.

"The real lesson of this whole thing," according to a steward who participated, "is that we're not too selfish or too scared or too stupid to hold together, the way they try to tell us." □

LOUISVILLE—Members of Local 10310 of Communication Workers of America (CWA) are on the move against harassment and job threats by South Central Bell.

Bell is requesting to charge the public for directory assistance (DA) calls. This would drastically reduce DA calls and enable Bell to fire large numbers of DA operators.

For the June local membership meeting, the rank and file group United Action leafleted and mobilized around a series of motions aimed at getting the Local to fight back.

The Local leadership's official stance on the charge for DA had previously been to suggest that people might write the Public

Service Commission. United Action and the DA operators knew that it would take more than that to protect their jobs—and they made sure their fellow workers came out to the meeting.

The result was at least a partial victory. A motion that the Local organize a statewide demonstration against the charge for DA passed overwhelmingly.

"OUT OF ORDER"

The other big issue in the Local is an insane company rule requiring short hair, for "safety reasons."

A motion calling for a Friday ban on overtime throughout the entire Plant Department (already begun by installers at one garage) was ruled "out of order," by Local President Dennis Dearing.

"I could get fired for that," was his comment.

That was not the first time Dearing ruled "out of order" the idea of fighting the company. Last summer when 800 angry members wanted the Local to organize a rejection of the '74 contract disaster, Dearing said that was "out of order," too.

"I don't need a wage increase," was his statement on that occasion.

Recently, an installer was suspended when she did not wear a hairnet. A grievance was filed and handled personally by President Dearing—who proceeded to let the time limits on the grievance die.

A motion was made at the Local meeting that the installer, a member of United Action, receive back pay from the union since she had lost it through the officials' incompetence.

The motion passed. Maybe the Local leadership will think twice before it lets another grievance die. □



CWA - CHANGES COMING?

"If you were making one thousand dollars a week, would you still come here and bitch?"

That's what Connie Carlson, a telephone worker, asked co-workers during the last round of contract negotiations. And, she reports, the answer was "Yes!"

Things haven't gotten better for employees of Bell Telephone since then, either, she says. With the recession, one of the world's biggest corporations is finding more ways to pinch pennies out of its employees—ways that hurt.

"One of the basic things that is really boiling is the absentee control plan. This plan, which is almost nationwide, allows no more than three absences of any kind and/or six days a year.

"They are including doctor's appointments, and there is no such thing as an emergency or child care difficulties.

"We are losing people with years and years of seniority and there is no chance of arbitrating.

SPEED-UP

"This is tied in with speed-up. Every department is seeing speed-up. Everything is 'work volume' or 'work productivity.' Many people's jobs are simply being phased out."

Telephone workers hope that the next contract will improve their situation. But that depends on how the union fights for a good contract.

Most telephone workers are represented by Communication Workers of America (CWA). CWA held its convention recently, and Connie was a delegate.

She reports, "A motion on contract negotiations came up on the first day of the convention. It would prohibit all news black-outs and require that a strike vote be taken before the expiration date of the contract.

"It would also require that a strike begin on the date of expiration if there is no offer from the company by that time. It would also prohibit the International from entering into any national agreement that might affect critical bargaining.

"There was very heavy debate on this issue. We lost, but it was really close.

The vote showed a lot of anti-International feeling.

"Last year during contract ratification," Connie said, "The company was leaking what the offers were. But the members were in the dark about the whole thing. We took a strike vote at the eleventh hour and the strike was called off.

"Many people feel the union sold out for agency shop in '76. Local leaders were really mad. They felt that they had been made to look like fools in front of their local members.

Local leaders aren't the only ones who were mad. The members are mad too, because they have to work under this contract every day. Many feel that the union needs a new leadership that will fight for them. They are disgusted with Glenn Watts, CWA's President.

"In every district and in between districts there are people who speak to each other and maintain communications about how to change the union structure and make it more responsive to the needs of the rank and file people. But mostly it isn't organized," she said.

WORRIED

Nonetheless, some CWA leaders were worried about the opposition.

A constitutional amendment designed to cut off rank and file opposition was put forward by the San Francisco local. This was easily defeated.

It would not allow anyone to "willfully publish and distribute unauthorized material in the name of the union or local, or (use) the

union seal in such unauthorized printed material that would tend to bring the union or local thereof into disrepute, or would tend to inhibit organizing efforts, or tend to create a breakdown in the confidence, morale, or unity of the rank and file."

"Even the constitution committee recommended against adopting this amendment, it was so outrageous! It was just resoundingly defeated."

The next thing to defeat is Ma Bell, and the union leaders who let the company walk all over its employees. And it will take an organized movement of rank and file workers to do that.

by Yvonne and Geoff

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COACHELLA

Farmworkers Build A Union in the Fields



by Dugan Wheeler

COACHELLA, Calif.— The United Farm Workers union is growing here. A year ago it had a small office which ran picket lines and coordinated the consumer boycott in Coachella and Indio. Now the union has a large office which is a center of a new organizing drive.

The office buzzes with activity. Field workers stop by to get leaflets. The staff, which has doubled, registers new members in the union and dispatches them to work. The UFW members and staff in Coachella are playing a vital role in building their union this year. They are involved in the first skirmishes for this summer's showdown with the Teamsters and growers.

The UFW has started an organizing campaign for the elections

which will begin in August under the new farm labor law in California. Since fifty percent of a ranch's peak work force has to be employed when the election is held Coachella will not have elections this year. Harvest ends there in July.

But the union is making its presence known in Coachella, so when field workers move north they will vote UFW. Before 1973 the UFW had 40 contracts in the Coachella Valley. Then the Teamsters moved in at the request of the growers and stole all but one UFW contract.

ORGANIZING

Each week, UFW organizers visit Teamster and non-union ranchers with a new leaflet.

One of the leaflets, printed in English and Spanish, entitled,

"Only 90 Days to Elections" tells the field workers that under the new law they will have the right to secret ballot elections, the right to a legal boycott, the right to strikes at harvest time, and that the UFW fought for that bill and for farm workers for years.

Workers' Power talked with several of the workers who are handing out the leaflets. Many of them have worked under both UFW and IBT contracts and can talk from their own dealings with the Teamsters. They said the Teamsters are nowhere to be seen, even though they have contracts they are supposed to service in the valley.

According to these workers many of the IBT workers are labor contractors, coyotes, who drive to Calexico every morning and fill their busses with workers at 1:00 am for work that day.

The Teamster shape up before work often breaks into pushing or fist fights. This is a sharp contrast to the UFW hiring hall. There the workers are dispatched under a fair and orderly system.

CHILD LABOR

A woman we talked to, whose brother is a Teamster field worker, told us of working in the fields when she was 14 and having a 50 pound lug fall on her back. When

she asked to see a doctor the foreman told her that the expense would be taken out of her mother's pay, so she went back to work. She is still bothered by a bad back. She supports the UFW position of fighting to end child labor in the fields.

While we were talking her mother came in with her 15 year old sister to get the teenager dispatched. The 15 year old was refused because the UFW Constitution does not permit anyone under 16 to join or work in the field.

An argument broke out and the woman told us that her daughter could get work in the Teamster fields. She was eventually convinced that the UFW is trying to win a decent wage for the adults so that the children don't have to work.

Such arguments do not always end this way. Many times the children and the adults go to Teamster fields because their contracts permit child labor. There are many 12 year olds working in Teamster fields.

If the IBT wins any elections it will not be because of their organizing effort. It will be because field wages are so low they make child labor a necessity. The IBT permits this situation to exist and is using it in order to win support.

The UFW field workers also expressed concern that the IBT

Graphics above and below are taken from United Farm Worker leaflets.



may bring loads of goons in to smash the UFW. In Coachella they still remember 1973 and tell of watching Teamster thugs and Hells Angels beat field workers at the command of Teamster bureaucrats.

The UFW in Coachella is confident of victory up north. The union is doing everything it can now for victory in the elections after August 28, so that next spring they can win back the contracts that were stolen from them by the growers and the Fitzsimmons.

West Virginia

WELFARE RIGHTS LEADERS HARASSED

by Zelda Wade

Amy Parks and Jean White are being prosecuted for welfare fraud.

Parks was indicted for \$2,417 received over 17 months. They called it illegal because she was getting child support payments. But these came irregularly. She could not depend on them to feed her five children.

White was indicted for \$1245.60, received over 21 months. She was getting survivor's benefits for Social Security, and thought welfare knew about them. She was caring for eleven children.

Welfare indicted the women without attempting to solve the cases. They didn't inquire into possible hardship. And the two were indicted before 70—80 other fraud summaries submitted earlier on which no action has yet been taken. Some of those cases are two years old.

Why were the authorities so eager to get these two women?

LEADERS

The two black women had become leaders in the West Virginia Welfare Rights Organization and civil rights movement.

Like everywhere else, the West Virginia social service system had out or withholds crumbs in order to discipline and punish poor people in their daily struggle for survival. Through their efforts Welfare

Rights in West Virginia has become a force to reckon with.

In an unguarded bit of testimony the state Welfare Commissioner admitted that the state rarely prosecutes welfare fraud. It does so only in cases involving either large amounts of money or prominent people.

Parks and White are accused of defrauding the state of only \$4,000 between them. But they were "prominent" in the movement for welfare rights.

REAL FRAUD

In reality, it is the State of West Virginia that should be tried for fraud and corruption. Some 250,000 West Virginia residents eligible for Food Stamps never receive them. Federal law states that no one has to apply for jobs at less than the federal minimum wage; but West Virginia requires people to apply for jobs at the much lower state minimum wage in order to get their stamps.

It is this type of injustice Parks and White are fighting.

They are being indicted, not only for the "crime" of trying to feed their children, but for trying to make sure that people on welfare could live in dignity.

[Amy Parks and Jean White need money for a lawyer. Send contributions to: Legal Defense, 400 Madison St., Fairmont W. Va. 26554.]



MOZAMBIQUE - FREE AT LAST!

Mozambique has become an independent nation after 400 years of Portuguese rule and a fifteen-year liberation struggle. With the final departure of Portuguese officials, power was turned over to the leaders of the liberation army, FRELIMO, which led the struggle.

But the road ahead will be difficult. Much of Mozambique's economy was built on the shipment of goods to and from Rhodesia and South Africa, through the port of Lourenco Marques. But that trade also helps keep the masses of South Africa and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) en-

slaved. Mozambique is under enormous economic and political pressure to keep open its ports, which are critical to the economy of the white supremacist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia.

How the new government responds to that pressure will be the first real test of the direction FRELIMO will take now (that it is in power). It will also be an indication of the strength of Mozambique's workers in pushing the liberation struggle all the way to final victory.

Women In Portugal

'In The Struggle We Are Becoming Free'

Interview by Laurie Flynn

For the Portuguese working class fascism was indeed a nightmare. Repression was everywhere. Spies, paid and unpaid, watched your every move at work and outside work. Deprived of independent organization, like trade unions and political organizations, we were unable to resist the massive exploitation by the bosses.

Women in Portugal naturally got a double helping of the misery and oppression under fascism. For women, their allotted place was at the bottom of the heap.

The whole of society was overlaid with a revolting morality, praised most in public by the rich and broken only by the rich in private. Gestures of affection in public were frowned upon. Sex was for procreation, not for enjoyment. Those seen to offend against this revolting code were brutally treated. Women who bore 'illegitimate' children were scorned and sometimes outcast.

Although the fascist state had no law against contraception, those working class women who tried to obtain it through the pitiful state assisted medical system, were humiliated and given the run around.

CHANGE

In the first year since the fall of fascism, the situation for Portuguese women has changed greatly. Women living in unhappiness and torture because there was no legal right to divorce for church marriages, are now free to go their own way. 200,000 women joined the line as soon as the law was changed.

As soon as the workers glimpsed the light of day, they organized themselves everywhere into workers' committees, residents' committees where people can develop their ideas and test them in struggle.

They have good reason to. While fascism has been swept away, the rich still remain and workers are not yet in control of their own lives. Maria Regina Livramento, a worker at the occupied Corame plant in Sacavem just outside Lisbon stressed this point strongly.

"It was absolutely desperate under fascism. Women were just slaves, without opinion. We had no freedom.

"Things have changed a great deal. But the right to divorce isn't everything. There are still the questions of poverty and exploitation of who is to rule this country, whether we go forward or back. In our struggle here in the factory we have changed our relationships.

"Women are involved in the occupation of the head office in Lisbon. Here in the factory itself, we help to direct the plant. This is very important. In the struggle we are becoming equal, though many, many women are not as involved as us. We are all learning to take our lives into our own hands.

"We haven't solved all our problems. But it's much better since April 25. Now our job is to finish the revolution off."

EXPLOITED

Marcia Macedo, a young woman worker at the Unilever company Fima Lever in Portugal, talked about the exploitation of women.

It manifested itself in Portugal under fascism but was part of an international operation, which still continues after April 25, 1974.

"The big international companies came to Portugal under fascism: Plesseys brought their computer matrix plant. Timex came here to do watch assembly. Applied Magnetics came with their electronics.

"They take on women workers to do these intricate jobs. They pay us lousy wages and they tell us that our work is unskilled. But in truth our work is far from unskilled. The employers draw directly on the skills that women have learned over many years in the home, skills like embroidery, sewing and weaving.

"If we did not have these skills, they couldn't get their matrices put together. We came ready trained and were described as unskilled when in fact we were highly skilled.

"Then after they've got some years of intensive work out of you, when they've used up your nimbleness or ruined your eyesight as in the case of the Plessey women, what happens to you then? Out you go onto the scrapheap—without a penny." □

For 40 years, Portuguese workers lived under the kind of regime most of us dread. People lived in constant fear, unable to protest, unable to strike, afraid to express themselves freely to their friends and workmates.

Then on April 25, 1974, after a massive wave of strikes, the army moved. Exhausted by a brutal war against the African people of Angola and Mozambique, many young officers were prepared to change their situation. That movement turned against the wars and against the Portuguese fascist regime itself.

As soon as the Armed Forces Movement staged their coup, the working class moved to the center of the stage. Everywhere workers organized, determined not to see reaction and big business restore their control.

In the year since April 25, the lives of literally



Women celebrate May Day in Lisbon, Portugal.

millions of people have been completely changed.

For women in particular life has changed. Fascism had bound them tightly to home and children, but revolution has opened closed doors. What was

impossible yesterday is reality today.

Judith Condon talked with Portuguese women about how the revolution has affected their lives, and where it will go from here. □



After April 25... Woman telling off a Lisbon cop.

Judith Condon interviews Fernanda Fortunato (19, worker from Plesseys) and Isabel Brito (27, worker from TAP, Lisbon Airport).

Fernanda: You can tell how bad conditions were by looking at some figures. Four and a half deaths out of a hundred for babies under a year because of poverty and lack of welfare aid. It was very expensive to get a doctor.

Nearly half of all births took place outside any hospitals, and nearly a quarter of all births took place without even a mid-wife present. Poor women in Portugal have big families.

The Catholic church was fully tied up with the fascist dictators, so you could not get contraception. They made sure of that. Only some middle class women (and who were able to afford it) knew about it.

Isabel: Can you imagine what it was like after the coup on April 25th? Suddenly everything changed, everything was possible.

Fernanda: People came out into the streets; they felt happy. There was new life.

TALKING

Isabel: For the first few days no one went to work. They just stood on the pavement, talking and talking. People went to cafes and talked again. Now no one had an excuse not to participate. There was so much to be done.

Take my father. He's fifty. Forty eight years of his life he lived under fascism. He had given up hope. He thought he would just work a few more years and then die. He never dared hope for a new life.

People were overcome with emotion, young and old alike. Suddenly they were free.

Fernanda: The journalists and workers took over the papers right away and threw out the old editors. Then they published many editions each day, with all the news of the revolution.

I remember clearly buying one such paper. I got onto a bus, and before I could read a page, other people had taken different pages from me. They were all talking and reading. No one ever talked to anyone before.

Isabel: And the word 'politics' was on everyone's lips. Before, that word was forbidden.

Fernanda: But there was a darkness in people's minds. They needed to find out what had to be done. Some who could see more clearly ahead had to give a lead. There would be meetings in every work-place.

We had to learn how to have meetings. We didn't know. The agenda would have so many points on it, that we would never get past the first few points. So the meeting would go on the next day.

More and more meetings, more and more deep discussions with everyone joining in.

At bus stops, instead of taking about

football or fashion, people have real things to talk about; about how the buses should be run, who should be in charge of transport...a thousand things like that.

CONFIDENCE

Isabel: There was an explosion of people's self-confidence. People came out on the streets and demanded an end to the colonial wars, an end to the secret police.

And then on May 1st, within that same week, thousands of people marched to celebrate. We were spontaneously shouting and singing, everyone was embracing and shaking hands.

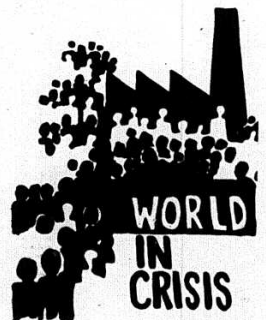
It was as if everyone knew each other. I can't begin to describe to you how beautiful, how exciting it was on that day.

So much has happened. Yet there is still so much to do. The most important thing is that the working class must be completely re-organized; because the revolution is not over yet. It has only just begun.

We cannot sit back and let others control everything. And we must be ready to defend ourselves against the fascists and big business who have already tried twice in the last year to snatch back power with counter-revolution. We may also have to defend ourselves against American and NATO intervention.

And women will have to take an active part in this process of trying to build a new socialist society. It will be a hard struggle and women still have kids to look after.

That's why we have child care facilities at our meetings. Children shouldn't be an obstacle. We will have to take up arms when the time comes. □



MILITANCY GROWS

CHEVY GEAR & AXLE

Demanding Justice for Justice



Victor Jones

DETROIT—The Gear and Axle Justice Committee, a rank and file opposition in UAW Local 235, has recently seen evidence that its influence in the plant is growing. Wendy Weinberg, a leading

member of the committee, was elected District Committeewoman on June 25. The election was particularly significant because Weinberg had been fired twice by General Motors, and had twice won reinstatement with full back pay. She will represent the workers in Plant 6, second shift.

The day after Weinberg was elected, an election was stolen from another Justice Committee member, Victor Jones, who was running for District Committeeman for Plant 6's first shift, was cheated when the polls were closed two

hours earlier than the agreed-upon time. The ballots were then "counted," giving Jones only 27 votes.

The Justice Committee is fighting to overturn the results of Jones' election. Jones already has affidavits from thirty-nine workers who say they voted for him.

Weinberg told Workers' Power, "We're showing the company and the local administration that the Justice Committee is here to stay. They can't divide us, they can't crack us, they can't get rid of us because we have the backing of the rank and file."

IN AUTO PLANTS

Sitting Down At Cadillacs

DETROIT—In a production department at the Cadillac assembly plant, 19 people worked 4½ hours without a personal relief break recently because all the relief men were tied up on jobs.

When the 19 returned from lunch, three of them refused to work, and the production line had to be stopped. The bosses took one of the women involved to the office for disciplinary action. The line started again, and this time foremen stood everywhere—trying to intimidate people to do their jobs.

In response, even more workers sat down, and the line had to be stopped for a second time. The

missed jobs were caught up, and again, they tried to start the line. This time it continued to run.

But everybody—the foremen as well as the workers—knew that any kind of disciplinary action against the woman taken to the office would result in another sit-down. The bosses did not want to risk that possibility. Management returned her to the job, and all workers received at least one break after lunch.

Cadillac management pulls this stunt whenever they're short of help. But in the past workers would just clench their teeth and take it. This time, however, they clenched their fists, too.

Fighting For A Union

BENICIA, CA—Workers at Benicia Manufacturing Co. went out on strike June 26.

Current pay scales at this auto parts plant start at \$2.15 an hour, going up to \$2.70 after five years. There are no benefits, job security or working grievance procedure.

Benicia is closing a plant in Oakland, which had a Machinists contract with a starting rate of \$6.00. The whole operation is moving to Benicia, where workers are expected to do the same work for \$2.15 in an unbelievably overcrowded plant.

Local members of Red Tide, which is a revolutionary socialist organization of young workers and high school students and the youth section of the International Socialists, have given the strike full active support.

Some Red Tide members have worked at BMC. They have brought people to strengthen the picket line.

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

Strikers elected a negotiating committee, a strike committee, and adopted a series of demands. They

are running the strike themselves, and they are looking for a union that's willing to fight and won't sell them out.

A leaflet distributed by the strikers explains the situation: "Until recently we had a union called the United Transportation Union Local #1741. Members at Benicia were not informed of where the union was located, when its meetings were and who its representatives were.

"UTU's contract expired May 1. Our new 'union,' Industrial Workers Local #2882, signed a new sweetheart contract with Benicia April 1, one month before the old contract expired! Nobody was informed, no vote was taken either to decertify the old union or to recognize the new one, and no workers were elected to take part in the negotiation of the contract."

The "union" sent a "business agent" to visit the picket line for one day. He muttered a lot of vague "Well I don't know" about whether the union would support the strike. He then disappeared.

WE WANT UNION POWER!

The strikers have held firm against company threats to fire everyone, and the use of such tactics as security guards taking pictures.

They want \$4.00 an hour base pay with cost of living, safe equipment and ventilation in the plant, a medical plan and an end to sex discrimination in job classifications. Above all, they want "union backing and positive action"—meaning a real union that they can use to organize their fight.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES AT SCULLIN

ST. LOUIS—Eighteen men returned to work at Scullin Steel after their suspension period ran out, June 23. They had been disciplined for protesting the company's racist practices. All are black.

Weeks ago Scullin discriminatorily suspended a black worker. As a result 100 workers stopped working for the rest of the day. The next day Scullin hit 21 of them with suspensions. The union officials wouldn't act so the workers did—hundreds of them joined the protest and stayed out of work.

The union now suggests the 18 men file grievances to get back pay knowing full well that grievances can only be filed within 7 days.

Conditions inside the plant continue to deteriorate. Last week four men were injured when grinding rocks broke. Workers had put up notes two weeks prior for toolmen to check the rocks.

One worker fainted from the extreme heat in the plant and workers are forced to work overtime.

Before coming back to work one of the 18 was told to just do his work and keep his mouth shut. His reply: "I'm coming back into the plant smarter than when I left. The things I said were right and I'll say them again three times over if necessary."

Clifford Bruce

Support Rallies Held For Joann Little, Inez Garcia

CHICAGO—On Saturday, June 21 over 100 people flowed into Shilo Missionary Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side to show support for Joann Little. Little will go on trial in July in North Carolina. She is charged with murder for defending herself against a prison guard who entered her cell armed with an ice pick to rape her.

The meeting was the most successful yet in the national campaign to win Little's freedom. The audience included many women, black, brown and white, young and old.

Joann Little herself was the featured speaker. She moved her

supporters by her reserved but forceful words. She spoke of the cruel treatment and harassment of prisoners at Raleigh Women's Prison. Little herself was not permitted to leave her cell for six months there.

Emphasizing that she speaks for the countless women who suffer daily at the hands of racists and sexists—in the prisons, at work, in their homes and communities—Little pointed to the system we live under as the real enemy of oppressed minorities and women. Little's strength and courage stand as a model to all in the fight for dignity and equality, and an end to the system that stands in the way.

DETROIT—Hundreds of people attended defense benefit in support of Inez Garcia and Joann Little here, June 25.

The benefit was sponsored by the Women's Defense and Education Committee. The committee assembled an impressive array of entertainers for the event.

Among these was Florence Ballard-Chatman, formerly of the Supremes. She came out of retirement for the occasion. Comedian Lily Tomlin's performance demonstrated a keen perception of the oppression of women.

Unfortunately not everyone could attend. The inexpensive tickets were sold out early. Many women went home while \$12.50 seats were still empty.



Joann Little

200 Protest Cleveland Police Slaying

CLEVELAND—200 persons attended a rally to protest the police murder of Derrick Browne. Browne, 20, was gunned down by Policeman Ralph Thomas as he rode his motorcycle on June 6.

Police claimed that the bike was stolen and that Browne had turned and fired at them with a pistol. They also claim that they were only trying to shoot out the bike's tires—with a shotgun?

The rally, held June 22, at Glenville United Presbyterian Church, was addressed by Gloria Adams, who is Browne's mother.

Ms. Adams told the audience, "My son is gone, but I'm fighting to keep this thing from happening to somebody else's son. And if I should die of a heart attack today, you can say, 'That black sister went down fighting,' because I'm going to fight."

Members of several black motorcycle gangs attended the rally.

Browne, a quiet youth whose mother said he was afraid of guns, was not a member of any motorcycle gang. He had a receipt and registration for the cycle.

He fled the police supposedly because he was not carrying any drivers license and had recently been picked up for that offense. By the time the chase was out, he was clearly running for his life.

GUN

The police claim a gun was found at the site, some 10 feet from the



Gloria Adams, mother of slain man, speaks at rally.

body, which had one spent cartridge. However, further investigation proved that the weapon was not found at the time of the original investigation, but some four hours later.

Commenting on this, Ms. Adams said, "Everyone knows that policemen carry what are known as drop weapons—knives and guns that are either dropped at the scene or put in the pocket of the victim."

The Cleveland Police Department investigation proved wholly inadequate. Ms. Alameta Johnson, the first black woman to become City Prosecutor, charged that the Police Department refused to give her information relevant to the case.

The Shield Club, an organization of black policemen, claimed that two black officers who participated in the chase and who saw what happened were never interrogated. In an election year, these irregularities and the attendant publicity forced the case before the grand jury.

On June 24, the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury issued an indictment against Thomas for negligent homicide. The charge is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by a sentence of six months in jail and a \$1000 fine. Thomas has not been suspended from the force, as is customary when under indictment.

The charge is hard to understand. Ms. Adams said bitterly, "Why would anybody aim a shotgun at somebody if he didn't intend to kill him? You don't shoot at tires with a shotgun."

This is the second case of police murder in a month in Cleveland. On May 26, Dwayne Hawkins, 19, was shot by Policeman Sidney Rosen in the kitchen of the Hawkins home. Called to investigate a domestic quarrel, Rosen claimed Hawkins lunged at him with two knives. The bullet wounds, however, were in Hawkins' back.

A petition campaign is underway to force the removal of both these police officers from the force. □

UAW Local 961

UNC Leader Wins

DETROIT—Members of UAW Local 961 (Chrysler's Eldon Gear and Axle Plant) struck another blow against management in the recently completed local elections. Jordon U. Sims, incumbent President and Co-chairman of the United National Caucus, was elected to a second term of office. The UNC is the national opposition rank and file grouping in the UAW.

Sims, who was fired by the company years ago, missed winning an absolute majority on the first ballot by two votes. In the run-off he defeated Elroy Richardson, the candidate backed by Region 1 Director George Merelli. Sims ran against Merelli for that position at the last UAW Convention.

Sims' election is important beyond Local 961. As a leader of the United National Caucus, Sims has frequently spoken out against International administration policy. His statements to the plant about his union activity were clear:

"All local presidents are involved in internal union affairs in one way or another. Many choose the path of least resistance—to total and complete agreement to every little statement of the International leadership. I have chosen the path of what's best for Local 961 members...."

"The best interests of my membership are served by my being Local President and an active participant of the United National Caucus."

Despite this clear victory, Merelli and the UAW International are likely to continue attacks on Sims. The best defense will be for Sims to strengthen his base by building a UNC chapter at Local 961.

Bill Hastings



Jordon Sims

San Francisco Gay Teachers Win Rights

SAN FRANCISCO—When gay teachers and their supporters, 350 strong, marched chanting from a picket line into the San Francisco Board of Education meeting, they destroyed for good the Board's hopes that homosexual teachers would stay in their classroom closets.

The Gay Teachers Coalition and Bay Area Gay Liberation (BAGL) had mobilized for this meeting. Two weeks previously, the Board had passed an affirmative action policy extending protection to women and minorities but denying protection to gays.

On June 17th, Board members couldn't even complete the Pledge of Allegiance without having chants of "Liberty and Justice!" thrown back at them. Intimidated by such militant and sustained gay pressure, the Board reversed its earlier decision.

As a result gay teachers are now covered by affirmative action. This is an important victory, at a time when gay teachers have been victimized across the country.

"The union leaders were of little or no help," said elementary teacher Tom Aramiano. "James Ballard, president of AFT Local 61, promised to join our picket line, but didn't show. The Caucus for Democratic Unity (a rank-and-file

grouping within the teachers' local) was more sympathetic and distributed our leaflets."

Since it was organized in January of this year in response to police harassment in the gay community, BAGL has fought for the Coors boycott and for the United Farm Workers. It has won endorsements for gay rights legislation from Teamsters Local 888, CWA Local 9455, Retail Clerks Local 1100, the California Federation of Teachers, and the UFW. □

STRIKERS FIGHT SCABS, WIN UNION SUPPORTERS.

EUGENE, Or.—Forty-five assemblers at the Cal-Roof plant here struck for union recognition on June 18, demanding that their employer bargain with Teamster Local 57 for improvements in working conditions and parity wages.

Management has replaced the strikers with scabs and is trying to maintain production and deliveries. So far, however, the picket lines have been large and militant.

The refusal of teamster drivers to handle the scab doors and windows has crippled Cal-Roof's sales. UPS Teamsters have also stopped deli-

labor notes

by Jim Woodward

STRIKE FOR JUSTICE



If the official unemployment rate goes down next month, don't be surprised. It won't be for real. When there's high unemployment the method the Bureau of Labor Statistics uses to "seasonally adjust" unemployment statistics doesn't always work well. As many as 1.75 million more persons could be thrown out of work before the official rate will go up. In the meantime, the unemployment rate will go down, even though a million or so more people might be out of work.

C.L. Dennis, president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, is still trying to break the wildcat strike of REA workers. But before he finished that, he added a sellout of railroad workers to his list of accomplishments. A national railroad strike had been set for June 23, since the clerks have been working without a contract for months. Just before the deadline, Dennis postponed a strike for another month, saying he was concerned about a strike's effect on the economy. Dennis also announced that if there is a strike in July, it will not be a national strike, but against only one or a few railroads.

Western Electric has announced the layoff of about 290 more of its New York installers, effective July 4. The total number of New York installers now on layoff is 1000. Everyone hired after November, 1968 is out of work. Western Electric is a subsidiary of AT&T, which had profits last year of over \$3 billion. If the CWA were willing to fight, AT&T would have fewer profits and more employees.

Goons from the Teamsters Union invaded and broke up a meeting of the New Haven, Connecticut Central Labor Council recently. They were protesting the Council's support of the United Farm Workers union.

A court in Harlan County, Kentucky has found Billy Carroll Bruner not guilty of murdering Lawrence Jones last August. Bruner is a foreman for the Eastover Mining Company, and Jones was one of the United Mine Workers members on strike against the company's Brookside mine. The 13-month Brookside strike was won only 11 hours after Jones' death.

Five black women in St. Louis are suing General Motors for discrimination. The GM Assembly plant there had employed up to 150 black women, but by January 15, 1974 all had been laid off. UAW Local 25 is also a defendant in the suit. The suit is based on the fact that General Motors refused to hire black women before 1970. So, through no fault of their own, the women have less seniority when layoffs come.

Former staff members of AFT Local 771 in Oakland, California who recently were voted out of office are now trying to wreck the union. They are trying to create an independent union for children's center employees in opposition to the AFT. They hope to affiliate with the Teamsters.

Several hundred persons attended a big "payback party" in Detroit June 21 for Wendy Weinberg, a well-known militant at Chevrolet's Gear and Axle plant. Weinberg recently won reinstatement with back pay after having been fired in January. This is the second time in the past year she won her job back with back pay after having been fired by GM.

The government is beginning hearings on noise levels in factories. Businessmen are objecting to any limit on noise, on the grounds that it would cost money to implement. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is recommending a 90-decibel limit, while trade unions are demanding an 85-decibel limit. (The effect of 85 decibels is less than half the effect of 90.) The outcome can make a big difference for a lot of workers. The Communications Workers estimate that 770,000 more workers will suffer substantial hearing loss with a 90-decibel limit than with an 85-decibel limit.

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

very and pickup. The last straw for Cal-Roof workers was the firing of two women because of illness. One was hospitalized for uterine cancer and the other for hepatitis.

Both lost their health benefits because, according to the terms of the company health plan, they had to be employed during the period of illness to qualify for aid. After these firings, Cal-Roof workers decided they had to organize to fight for union protection and benefits.

The founder and president of the

corporation, Maurice J. Greenstein, recently announced in Portland that he fully intended to break the strike and retain the scabs as permanent employees.

Maurice Greenstein is waiting out the strike in comfort, while one woman on the picketline with two children to support is finding it hard to get along on \$35 a week strike benefits.

As she watched some young people crossing the picket lines to go to work, she said, "If only workers would stick together, we wouldn't have any problems." □



Which Side Are You On?

by Kim Moody

Uncle Sam Wants Your Job!

In 1974, labor productivity fell by 2.5%. It was the first annual drop in output per man-hour since 1947. While some drop in productivity is "traditional" during a recession, this was larger than usual. In any case, drops in productivity do not fit in with the Ford Administration's plans for economic recovery.

Along with holding down wages and maintaining high unemployment, Ford and his advisors want to get more work out of each worker—more work, for less money. This way the workers will foot the bill for economic recovery.

But productivity is a tricky matter. Crude speed-up often inspires rebellion by workers, and the Ford administration wouldn't want that. On the other hand, productivity gains that come from technological advances mean billions in costly investment. The companies can't afford that during a recession. So, the government has set to work to come up with some more sophisticated, cost-saving methods of increasing worker productivity.

To do this, the government has revived its National Commission on Productivity and Work Quality. The National Commission nearly passed into disuse a couple of years ago, but has been brushed up and put back to work.

Vice-President Rockefeller has been made its chairman, George Kuper its director, and the ever-present Secretary of Labor, John Dunlop, an advisory member. Its shiny new vice-chairmen are Westinghouse President Donald Burnham, and that well known productivity hound, Steel Workers' President I.W. Abel.

ACTIVIST

The Commission has no actual power, and operates on a low budget with a small staff. But don't be fooled by appearances. The Commission is an activist organization.

It has picked out a few target industries in which to intervene. In the food retail and transportation industries, the Commission has fought aggressively to change trucking and railroad operations. In particular, this means reducing the amount of trucking or rail hours needed to complete the same quantity of business.

The Commission, for example, has gotten the Interstate Commerce Commission to lift regulations in "experiments" directed at increasing rolling

stock efficiency. "Backhauling" has been advocated on behalf of the food industry. This would erode jobs by making drivers carry cargo both ways. Present regulations say they must return empty.

The changes advocated by the Commission for the retail food industry would save the bosses an estimated \$100 million a year. While some of that may not come out of labor costs, you can be sure that a lot of jobs are going to be lost along the way to increased productivity

INVOLVE LABOR

Aside from studies, advice, and testimony to government and industry, the Commission has another important function. The Commission is designed to sell its wares to the labor movement. Not only are front men like I.W. Abel put on the Commission, but union leaders are brought into "labor-management" boards in the various industries in which the Commission plans to peddle productivity.

The government wants union leaders to help keep wages and profits stable. To do this, they must keep their members in line.

Through productivity commissions and similar bodies, the labor leadership takes responsibility for policing speed-up, job-cutting and other vicious campaigns in the name of "productivity." The government's aim is to make the union itself part of the speedup campaign.

The food industry, for example, already sports a "Joint Labor-Management Committee on the Retail Food Industry." Labor leaders from important unions, like the Retail Clerks, the Amalgamated Meatcutters, and the Teamsters, sit on this committee and help plan schemes that will cost their members jobs and invariably produce speed-up.

Workers have no interest in these speed-up schemes. In fact, we have a definite interest in fighting them. That fight is going to have to take place in the workplace and in the union. At work we can resist productivity campaigns every day.

In the union we can fight to get rid of the leaders who lend their names and authority to the government's anti-labor program. We need leaders and unions that fight to save jobs, not leaders who try to help the bosses solve their problems. □

UPS Strike In Jersey

Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons has broken a strike of New Jersey United Parcel Service (UPS) workers. Fitz succeeded where UPS had failed.

The company had threatened to sue the members of Local 177's executive board personally and even take away their homes if they didn't end the walk out. They replied, "Go ahead, we'll go on welfare if necessary."

But when Fitz threatened to lift the local's charter and order them back to work, the members felt there was nothing they could do. One member said, "The local was left all alone. We had to fight the company and we had to fight the International."

At a union meeting June 25, the members reluctantly decided to go back even though they got no results in the two major issues of the strike.

The drivers had walked out June 20 when the company changed starting time. The change meant that drivers would lose up to \$38 a week in overtime pay.

UPS then fired a shop steward at the Farmingdale center whom they accused of organizing the walkout.

HARASSMENT

These incidents were only the latest in a long history of company harassment.

At the Secaucus center four men with twenty-two to thirty-eight years seniority were fired. They couldn't keep up with the speed-up.

At other centers, smoking areas were drastically reduced. Workers were forbidden to get coffee anywhere except in the company

cafeteria. One worker said, "They don't treat men like human beings." Another said, "This had to happen."

UPS responded to the strike by trying to intimidate members and their families.

At the Secaucus center, management had men on the roof with cameras, photographing the picket line.

They sent telegrams to workers' homes telling them not to come in because there was a strike. As one picket said, "It's a lockout now."

SOLID

The strike proceeded solidly. Local 177 held a membership meeting that overflowed into the streets.

At the Edison center someone left an old beat up tractor trailer and a bull-dozer in front of the gate.

Many people said they weren't going to let UPS divide the part timers against the full timers as they've done at other places.

Around the country management has been trying the same kind of harassment as in New Jersey.

In New York when the company imposed the same change of starting time, the leaders of Local 804 didn't even try to stop it.

Evidently that's the kind of leadership Fitzsimmons likes.

177 members knew ending their strike was a defeat. But most felt they would have to keep on fighting.

Everyone was mad at the International. One member said, "Fitz should be put up against a wall and shot."

Many people said the New York and New Jersey locals would have to get together to fight the company and the International leadership.

One member said, "This strike just shows that UPS locals have to work together. If we had 804 and 177 together we'd have the whole east coast sewn up." □

Cleveland Teamsters Protest Fitz Dinner

CLEVELAND—Thirty Cleveland area Teamsters from Local 407 braved Sunday afternoon thunder-showers to demand that union leaders take steps to halt layoffs.

The June 22 picket line at the Sheraton-Cleveland was directed at Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons. The pickets themselves were an urgent statement of how layoffs have hit Teamsters.

Among the unemployed protesters were drivers with up to 33 years experience and 15 years with the company that had laid them off. Fitzsimmons was in town to give a speech for the "Bonds for Israel" dinner honoring local Teamster boss Jackie Presser.



Outside the posh hotel, the contrast between the unemployed Teamster and the arriving guest was especially sharp.

One luxury car after another disgorged its finely dressed cargo of politicians, Presser lieutenants and rich parasites. As one limousine, complete with bar and color TV, pulled up to the hotel, a disgusted picket told its occupants, "Enjoy your fancy dinner, our dues helped pay for it."

As the highlight of the affair, Presser was presented with a gold medal for hustling Israeli war bonds. The award was aptly described by a local TV commentator as "something only money could buy."

Fitzsimmons, the target of the demonstration, spared himself the discomfort of his union members' protests, by slipping in through another exit.

Fitzsimmons avoided the mess-

age at the front of the Sheraton-Cleveland, but it will come through loud and clear many times to come.

The pickets demanded banning of all overtime during layoffs, company payments for health coverage of laid off workers, and no layoffs due to mergers or changes of operations. They also called on Fitzsimmons to re-open the Master Freight Agreement to provide members with the protection they and their families deserve. □

POSTAL WORKERS FIGHT BACK

JACK TRAUTMAN

CONTRACT 1975



A second printing was necessary after the first week! Don't miss it. A Workers' Power pamphlet available from Sun Press for 35c postpaid. 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

SIT DOWN!

From the CIO to Britain— Now Back to Us Again . . .

"Sit Down!" was a cry that built the CIO in this country. In the late '30's hundreds of thousands of American workers sat down and occupied their factories, demanding union recognition. Through the years the trade union leadership has become increasingly conservative. The cry became a whisper—and the whisper has become silence. With few exceptions the sit down strike has been abandoned as a tactic by the American labor movement.

In Great Britain, however a wave of sit-down strikes has swept the country. Occupation as a tactic was first used to fight permanent layoffs. The logic is simple. If a company threatens to close a plant and lay off the work force, the only power the workers have is to seize the machinery. A strike will not work because it is precisely what the boss wants—to end work. A strike makes it easier for the owner to close down, sell his equipment and stock and move out.

But if the workers seize the factory, nothing can be moved out. The stock and the machines stay exactly where they are and the owners are forced to negotiate. Thousands of jobs have been saved in Britain. And where an occupation could not save jobs it usually won severance pay of thousands of dollars per worker.

OTHER ISSUES

As the success of the sit-down strike grew, British workers became more sophisticated in its use. Workers occupied over other issues such as wages and health and safety. Again the logic is simple. During cold and rainy weather the inside of a factory is far more pleasant than the pavement outside. An occupation keeps striking workers together and builds up morale. Even more important—nothing moves through the barricaded doors. Scabs cannot get into work. Deliveries cannot be brought in and stock cannot be brought out. Everything stops.

Occupation as a tactic is one of labor's most powerful weapons. But it is more than that. The idea of occupying a plant challenges one of the basic assumptions of capitalism—the idea of private property. During an occupation workers take over the boss' property and decide how it is to be used or not used.

LABOR, CONTROL

Everything in a factory, from the machinery to the telephones, has been built by the labor of working people. Yet workers never decide what should be done with them. In a strike the bosses still control the factory and everything in it. In a sit-down strike, it is the bosses who are thrown out and the workers who, for the first time, control the factory.

American workers must learn from British workers. Capitalism is in crisis. Latest figures officially list unemployment at 9.2%. We all know it is really much higher. Many workers have already been laid off. Many small companies will go out of business. Large corporations will close specific plants.

The bosses will try to save their profits at the cost of jobs. Our jobs. The cry "sit down" must once more be raised across the land. □

"We're No Boot-lickers!"

OCCUPYING

by Carole Kiernan

YORK, ENGLAND—On June 8, I spent the day with workers occupying Boot's building site here. The site is on Coney street, one of the busiest streets in York. It is estimated that 3000 people pass through the street in one hour.

The foundation of the occupied building was built in the 14th century. The Boot firm was the lowest bidder of several companies that bid on the job of renovating and rebuilding.

Conditions on the site are extremely dangerous. In eight weeks, 38 workers have moved on. Management has refused to repair gross safety hazards or to supply special equipment, such as protective clothing for working around asbestos.

The men decided to occupy. Those inside have varying years of experience in construction—from 7 to 26 years. Collectively they have 105 years of experience. They all say the health and safety conditions on the Boot's site are the worst of any site any of them have worked on.

John, a miner for 16 years before becoming a building worker said, "Conditions here are worse than in the mines."

The Boot's occupation has received tremendous support. Two of the many telegrams that have come in giving support caught my eye. One from the Squatter's Association said: "Solidarity with the Boot's occupation. Boot's management

proves almost as stupid as the York City Council. Our fight is your fight."

The other came from the Fulford Cemetary gravediggers. It said: "Dear Brothers, we'd like you to know that we give wholehearted support for your occupation of the H. Boot, Coney St. site. Your fight against dangerous conditions is an example to everybody. Poem: 'Don't work in unsafe conditions, as you might be one of our additions.' Best of luck and keep the 'boot' on your foot. From your brothers."

The following is an exclusive Workers' Power interview with the Boots construction workers. They discuss why they occupied and how they did it.

Key to their success is building support among other workers for the occupation. The men discuss how they have done this and how their wives have been involved from the beginning.

Some of the leaders of the occupation are members of the International Socialists of Great Britain.

The issues and tactics they discuss are of importance to workers in the US as well as Great Britain. The occupiers urgently want to spread their ideas to trade unionists everywhere. They also want your support. Messages and donations can be sent to Eric Goulding, 221 Melrosegate, Tang Hall, York, England. □

MARTIN: Three weeks back Larry and young Gary were on a scaffold which was secured to the chimney, which is illegal. The whole thing suddenly gave way and they went through a roof. They are lucky to be alive. A wooden beam was the only thing that held them, and it was full of woodworms (termites) and they would have fallen eighty-five feet.

LARRY: We found out later on that they were digging under the foundation at the same time that we were on the roof and you know the foundation in 600 years old.

GARY: I checked the same scaffold today and it had dropped another two or three inches with no weight on it. We would have put ten tons of masonry on it if we hadn't decided to occupy.

LARRY: The week after that, George, a brickie, stepped back into a hole and hurt his back. He went off sick. He sent sick notes in, but they sacked him. The day after that Gary stepped on a nail and had to go for medical attention. Another bloke was working down in the hole under the foundation and a boulder fell and hit him on the leg.

MARTIN: The next atrocity was when most of the blokes were working down in the cellar with asbestos dust flying around. The men asked for protective face masks. The foreman put in the request to the front office. The response he got from the office was, "They are only laborers, let them buy their own."

MARTIN: I don't know how to tell you this, but... I was down-

stairs to make the tea and clean up, and this little engineer, 25 years old, came up to me and said, "Martin, I am not asking you, I'm telling you. Get up in my office and clean it out." He was swearing.

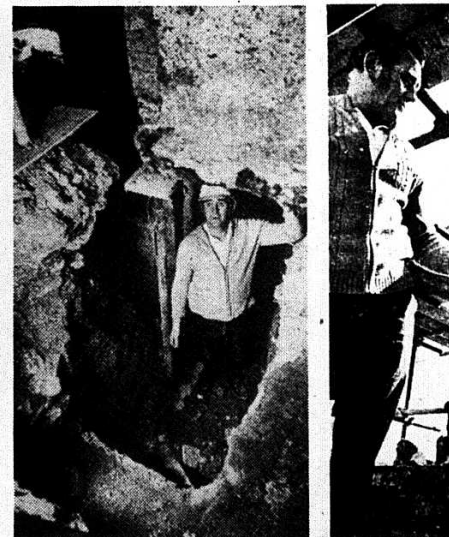
I answered him by saying, "Who the hell you think you are talking to? I have a son and daughter older than you. Don't speak to me like that. I'll see the union about your attitude," which I did.

The same week that this happened to me seven other laborers went to the office and complained about the safety and they were sacked on the spot.

GARY: Management treated us like school kids. We had had enough. We joined the union.

When Martin found out that we had all been sacked, he called Eric. Previous to our joining the union

"I'm prepared to sit here five years. Each day this thing goes on and we get support, I even feel more militant."



For a while the Henry Boot workers wondered which union to join. They thought of calling the miners when the bosses asked them to get down in this chamber and do a bit of tunneling. At that time there were no supports at all under the overhanging wall. They've only been put in since the occupation.

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These construction workers occupied this site after Henry Boot and Co. fired some of the men who'd joined the union. Boot's didn't want to have troublemakers on their hands. It might have meant an end to their profitable and dangerous building practices. Doubtless, the company will continue to use such methods on other sites. Appropriately enough, they've just landed a contract to rebuild Flixborough, where a massive chemical explosion killed 23 workers last year.

Eric had been the only trade unionist on the site. Eric was at a trade union branch meeting when we got sacked. We called a meeting the following day, May 24, to decide on a plan of action. Eight blokes and their wives met.

Our wives wanted to be included. They wanted to be involved, backing it all the way. We also have the backing of the students. They keep us supplied with food, drinks, bedding, stand guard for us outside the site, and they, also, have collections for us and our families.

MARTIN: We met again May 26, and decided to take the building over, to occupy. This is the first time in England that a building has been occupied by builders in the

building trade.

GARY: Our plan was to arrive before management, but when Martin arrived at 6:00 am, management was working at the back. Myself, Larry, and Eric climbed up the scaffolding and made entry through a window. We went back downstairs and let Martin in before we barricaded ourselves in front and back.

The police came up and management came from back to front. Management tried knocking the door down. Larry proved stronger than the management bloke. The police left shortly, but told us that we were trespassing.

MARTIN: Things fell our way,

because we took some action. We called the press and got ten reporters here and eight photographers and got nation-wide television and newspaper coverage. We kept management out altogether unless they signed a pass which said, "I agree to vacate the premises when asked by the occupation committee."

MARTIN: The same day they cut our water supply off. We found the tap and turned it on again. We barricaded the cellar so management couldn't get in. They cut the telephone off, too, but we arranged to have the phone in the name of the occupation committee and we would pay the bills during the occupation.

GARY: We sent leaflets out and collection sheets to the various unions, building sites, and factories. We even got support from Imperial Typewriters in Hull. You know that is an American owned company.

There are a couple thousand there who have been occupying for almost four months. They have put their case before the arbitration board in London.

MARTIN: We managed to get a free press agent who sold the stories to the press. The leaflets and news coverage spread the word. Support in the form of resolutions, telegrams, and money have come in from unions in York, Hull, Coventry, Bristol, North Hampton where some other builders are on strike against the Henry Boot firm for wages. Lincoln, London, Scotland, and Wales.

GARY: We sent a telegram to the Trade Union General Office saying, "Urgently request official support. Request immediately reply." Martin confirmed that the telegram was sent, but we never got a reply.

GARY: We have full support of the wives. They've been coming down every day and sometimes make us dinners. There are also three women as well as three men on the occupation committee. The committee is Martin, John, Arthur, Jossie, Mary, my wife, and Janet.

This committee decides how the money is going to be distributed, how security is handled, who can tour the site, etc. Eric is shop steward and Larry is deputy shop steward. They are our spokesmen outside the occupation. We have daily meetings at 10 that most of the wives come to.

BARRY: My own mother has been dead set against strikes, but she was all for it after she saw the

conditions and read the article in *Socialist Worker*. She even knocked the rent down for me and my family.

LARRY: We had put in a lot of complaints, none were responded to. We demanded our jobs back. We wanted all persons permanently laid off to get their jobs back and for all workers to be treated with respect. We wanted all safety conditions to be made before productive work would start. We aren't going to start rebuilding until these things are done. Management did nothing.

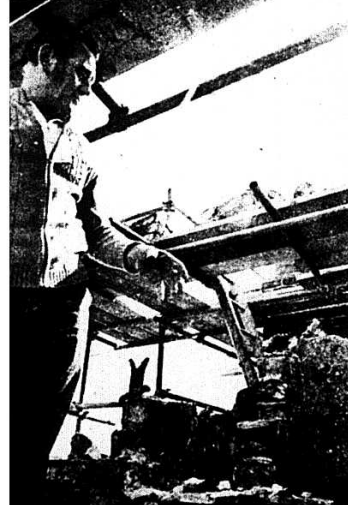
ERIC: Boot's could end up losing this contract, in fact. They are already seven weeks behind and I will take at least three weeks to put things right in here for us to be willing to start productive work.

BARRY: An interesting thing happened that I don't think any body has told you and that is: The Member of Parliament from York came down to see the site. We were showing him the scaffolding a round back, and a lot of bricks an slates fell from the roof!

Every day that we have been in this building in occupation we have found more danger, more unsafe scaffolding, and other things.

BARRY: We're going to stay in this place until all our demands are met. If they try to remove us, all of us will go to the top of the scaffolding and they will have to remove us from there. If they try to remove us, some of our trade union supporters and our wives will sit in

MARTIN: I'm prepared to sit here five years. You know I've never been militant, but these were the worst conditions that I have ever seen. And you know what? Each day that this thing goes on and we get support, I even feel more militant.



This is why Lawrence Sadler joined the union. And this is why he, his fellow workers, and their wives are occupying Henry Boot's Coney Street site—where they were building shops for Singer sewing machines. The scaffold above Sadler was attached to the chimney, a nice cheap trick which saved Henry Boot and Co. a few bucks and nearly cost the men their lives.



The men had to demolish the chimney to which the scaffold had been attached without their knowledge. The lack of support when the chimney went, the lousy planking (illegal), the weight of the bricks on the platform (illegal), and the men on it (all in a day's work), caused it to slump six inches. The men's hearts were in their mouths.



This piece of scaffold had an interesting base—a wooden plank on the roof tiles below. Not surprisingly, when the platform slumped the plank came loose and the scaffold tubes smashed through the roof tiles. By sheer luck the whole mess didn't end up in the street below, killing or injuring the workers or some of the passers-by in this busy shopping street.



The base of this piece of scaffold at the back of the building also showed the meticulous attention for detail for which Henry Boot is now rightly famed. It was on a thin sliver of wood which in turn was on top of loose rubble. At one stage, management told workers to clear up the rubble!

WHAT

Postal Contracts: Time's Up!

The Postal Workers' national contract will expire in less than one month. And, despite many promises of an early settlement, there is still no sign of progress.

The negotiations are stalled. At the same time, they continue in the strictest secrecy.

For postal workers, a great deal depends on the outcome of these negotiations... their standard of living, their working conditions, even their jobs themselves.

In addition, the postal negotiations will affect millions of other workers as well. The postal contract is just the first in a long series of national contracts to be negotiated in the next eighteen months. Teamsters, auto, communications, mines, and many more will follow.

Because of this, the postal contract has become an important test. It comes at the same time that the government has undertaken a campaign to hold back wages and spur a national campaign for productivity... speed-up.

This is their solution to the present economic disaster, and they are determined to achieve a victory in the first round.

UNION LEADERS

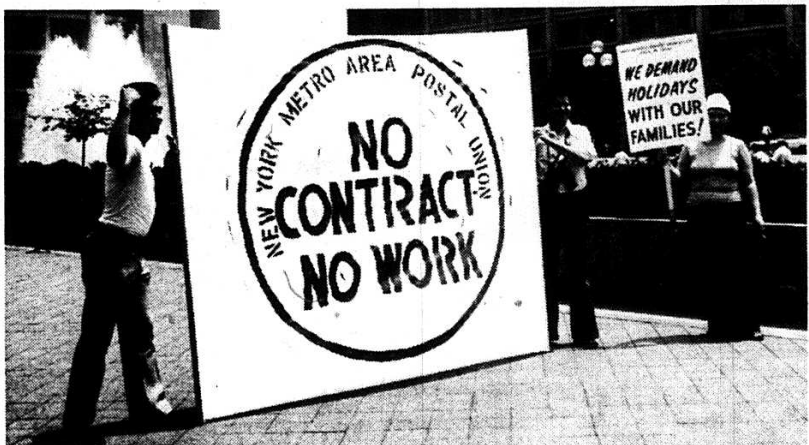
The top leaders of the postal unions, Francis Filbey of the APWU and James Rademacher of the NALC, are well aware of this. Nevertheless, they are silent. They stall. They force the membership of the postal unions to sit idly by, disorganized and uninformed.

Worse, this is a deliberate policy. It is a calculated plan for defeat.

The truth is that the leaders of the postal unions, like so many labor leaders today, will not fight. And they have a reason. They agree with the government and the employers, in this case the US Postal Service. They agree that the workers will have to pay for today's crisis.

Already the results of their strategy can be seen: harassment, speedup, inflation, everything that the Kokomo plan has come to symbolize.

There is only one alternative. That is an organized, informed, and fighting rank and file.



And fortunately, it is not yet too late. In nearly a dozen cities now, rank and file committees and caucuses have already been formed. At the same time, efforts are underway to organize committees in many more places.

And, pressured by an increasingly militant rank and file, some local union leaders have begun to fight. The leaders of the New York APWU and NALC organized a demonstration in Washington two weeks ago. Now they have called for a National Week of Demonstrations, beginning July 7.

NEXT THREE WEEKS

The next three weeks, therefore, are extremely important. And the key steps for militants are clear. First the National Week of Demonstrations must be made a reality. And second, rank and file committees for a decent

contract must be organized in every branch and city.

At this point, the first demand must be no extension of the contract. The APWU and the NALC are both committed to "No Contract, No Work," but their plan, clearly, is to avoid this by extending the contract.

This demand can be won, although it may well take a strike. Nevertheless, a victory on the extension would force the negotiators into the open. That would provide the basis for a real fight on the contract.

The postal workers' struggle must be supported. It is clear that the government will go all out against them. And if the government is successful, it will be in a stronger position when the next negotiations begin.

A successful postal fight, on the other hand, can flatten the government's plans in the first round. And it can open the way for a real advance by all workers.

Ladies' Auxiliary of the Ruling Class



After speaking in behalf of poor nations during the day, Mexico's President Echeverria threw a lavish party for delegates to International Women's Year Conference. Mrs. Echeverria came dressed as a peasant.

by Karen Kaye
Will Jihan el-Sadat and Leah Rabin shake hands even though their countries are at war?

Sadat is the wife of the President of Egypt and Rabin the wife of the Prime Minister of Israel. Both are delegates to the International Women's Year Conference being held in Mexico City.

And that is the question the press has been asking. Is sisterhood powerful enough to overcome political differences?

The conference is sponsored by the United Nations. Delegates are trying to draw up a ten-year plan for advancing the status of women.

A lot of publicity has been given to the different opinions expressed by delegates from rich and poor nations.

APPLAUSE

President Echeverria of Mexico drew applause from third world delegates. He said that "the liberation of humanity and the transformation of the world economic order" were necessary before women could be liberated.

"Anything else," he continued, "is... adaptation to the positions of the ruling classes."

The delegates from the advanced nations took the opposite viewpoint.

"Women must be in decision-making positions in the power structure along with men to build a more just world order," said Patricia Hutar, the U.S. delegate.

What lies behind all these fine words?

Mr. Echeverria tried to separate himself from the world's rulers in his speech. But in 1968, just before the Olympics were held in Mexico City, he had at least 500 protesters killed.

EQUALITY

Mrs. Hutar talked about her commitment to women's equality. But she spoke for the government that is steadily wiping out protective legislation. Those are the laws that protected non-unionized women from the whims of their employers.

Mrs. Sadat and Mrs. Rabin won't shake hands, but neither has to scrub the floor. They have something else in common, too.

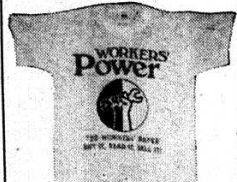
In the last year the governments of both nations had to put down food riots. Each had raised the price of food so high that workers' families were going hungry.

All these delegates are rulers


Workers' Power #125 will be on sale July 23, one week later than normal, due the I.S. National Convention. The paper will then be published bi-weekly through the remainder of the summer. In October, Workers' Power will become weekly.

of their nations. It isn't the power of sisterhood that ties them together. It's the power, and privilege. They all have it, they all want to increase it.

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Letters

to

Workers' Power

On to a weekly!

Dear Comrades,

Last year I took out a subscription to Workers' Power and I have had a letter from you asking me to renew it. I think the paper is excellent. Can you send me five copies of each issue? I can sell these to comrades in our IS branch and to US students who are up at the university.

I also want to pass on fraternal greetings from the Norwich IS Town branch and the University Students branch. We are looking forward to seeing a weekly Workers' Power. It's easily the best socialist paper I've seen from the States.

Steven Cherry
Norwich, England

JOANN LITTLE - THE STRUGGLE MUST CONTINUE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you know the Joann Little Defense Fund, Inc., has been successful in obtaining the change of venue for Ms. Little's trial. At the pre-trial hearings attorneys Karen Galloway and Jerry Paul presented conclusive evidence establishing Eastern North Carolina to be the most racist section of the state.

Judge McKinnon was forced to recognize that Washington, located in Beaufort County, Eastern North Carolina, would not be the suitable place to insure that Joann Little would receive as fair a trial as the state of North Carolina is obligated to provide.

The trial site has appropriately been moved from rural Washington to urban Raleigh, located in Wake County, North Carolina. July 14, 1975 has been confirmed as the official date for the commencement of the proceedings.

The Joann Little Defense Fund, Inc. would like to thank your organization at this time for the

support you have shown throughout these ten hectic months. Our success is due to your effective organizational efforts in educating people throughout the country regarding Joann's plight, and assisting in providing the legal representation so necessary to obtain Joann's release.

My brothers and sisters in struggle, the Joann Little Defense Fund, Inc. must now call on you once more to continue your efforts to organize your forces, and to give continued support to Joann Little throughout the even more trying months ahead.

We shall all be together on July 14, 1975 in Raleigh, North Carolina!

Patricia Chance
For the Joann Little Defense Fund, Inc.
Durham, North Carolina

from a
Workers' Power Forum

FRAME - UP! THE CASE OF HARLEL JONES

Greetings, Brothers, Sisters, and Friends

[Editor's Note—the following letter from Harlel Jones was read at a Workers' Power forum in Cleveland June 22 by Harlel's brother. Harlel Jones was a leading figure in Cleveland's black community in the 1960's. In 1972 he was railroaded to jail solely on the basis of testimony from a paid FBI informer.]

justice, and equality for all. But as the years materialized, they began to wake up the majority of American people.

Their protests against the injustice being perpetrated by this country became the thorn in the side of the establishment, who were the profiteers of this unjust war. They told of the murder of innocent refugees of all ages. They also were the first to speak about the corruption of Officials in this Capitalist system.

And what was the reaction of this system? The future minds of this nation were brutally murdered at Kent State! And by the hundreds, they were hauled into Court on all kinds of frame-ups, perpetrated by the ruling class and its agencies.

Today the American people are starting to wake up. They have found out that what the protesters were protesting about was all true. They saw that we were bombing Cambodia. They found out that the highest officials in government offices were connected with every crime in the book.

I feel that the Watergate situation was one of the most eye-awakening events for the American people. We saw Richard Nixon fall from the White House. We saw the Vice President resign, and plead guilty to criminal charges. One of the top Law Enforcement Officers in the country, Attorney General Mitchell, was convicted of criminal charges.

Today hundreds of people in high offices are being exposed for what they really are, CRIMINALS against the American people. Now I think it's time for the people of America to free all political prisoners who were caught in the Spider Web, framed and sent to prison.

I have stated from the beginning, Friends, that I am innocent of this charge. I am willing to take a lie detector test, not only on this charge, but all other charges that they put against me before this.

I feel that my Attorney, Gary Kelder, has been a great inspiration to me. He has stood up and started to pull the dirt from under the rug through his brilliant investigations and legal work, but he needs help... Your Help. He's a man who believes in right and justice for all people, and I feel that with your help and his, I will walk out of this Concentration Camp a Free man.

I am dedicated to the people, and if my enemies felt that by framing me that they would break down my will power, and stop me from standing up for my fellow man... then they got another thought coming!

Other men greater than I, all over the world have stood up to oppression and unjust systems, and they too were hauled off to prison, and some were even murdered. Reading, hearing, and knowing, some of these Revolutionary people, and how they stood up, have made me stand a lot straighter.

And I say to myself, and to you all, I am a man, and I can take the best that my enemy throws at me... and survive.

Yours In The Struggle,
Harlel X. Jones
Lucasville, Ohio



My words are coming to you this evening through the lips of another. But I feel in his heart, and in the hearts of many, that they are about the most sincere friends that I've come in contact with.

As most of you out there well know, I am incarcerated in the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, a concentration camp for political prisoners, the poor, Black, White, Yellow and Red, people of the world.

My great friends who are sponsoring this Forum tonight are people who believe in the Constitutional Rights of all human beings. They are the same ones who have brought light to many people in this country for the last 10 to 15 years.

They are the ones who fought and struggled for the Civil Rights of all people. They went to jail and some were even murdered, but they kept on struggling.

They were the first ones who brought to light the awful war in Vietnam, which cost the lives of 55,000 American Citizens. They are the same ones who told the American people that their government was bombing in Cambodia.

People at first laughed at these outspoken believers of freedom.



Filbey (left) and Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar.

"Column on Frances Filbey's Secret really hit home"

Dear Workers' Power, Kim Moody's recent column on "Francis Filbey's Secret" really hit home. If the union leaders were doing their job, fighting for us, they would have nothing to hide. Instead, they put "service needs" before our needs. They go along with the idea that postal workers, not big business, should subsidize the postal service.

What I want to point out is that "Filbey's secret" is kept at all levels, from top-level negotiations to work floor grievances. The average shop steward (hand-

picked by our local president) handles grievances just like Filbey bargains for a contract.

The worker submits a grievance, and the steward says "don't worry about it, I'll handle it." The steward then goes into private (secret) discussion with management, and later informs the worker of the decision. It's all done behind closed doors, and most stewards give in to management's arguments about "needs of the service."

It gets worse the higher up the union ladder you go. A worker

who goes to our paid union officers with a grievance often gets a lecture about coming to work on time and not causing trouble.

What we need is to open up the APWU to the rank and file, from top to bottom. Only that way can we start putting our needs first and management's last. This is our goal in Postal Action, and I urge all like-minded postal workers to join us in the fight.

Paul Roose
Phila. Local APWU
Postal Action

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.

Detroit: I Do Mind Dying

In 1963 blacks broke the color barrier in many Detroit auto plants. Blacks were hired in the greatest numbers in Detroit's Chrysler plants. For blacks the exploitation all workers experienced was made far worse by the profound racism pervading every aspect of plant life.

Dodge Main was a typical plant; 99% of all general foremen were white, 95% of all foremen were white and 100% of all apprentices were white. The better jobs were held, overwhelmingly, by whites.

White workers had openly supported racism in the plant. During the 50's, when some blacks were upgraded into previously segregated departments, white workers had walked out.

INDIFFERENCE

When blacks looked to the UAW for relief they found little more than indifference. The UAW had a national reputation as progressive on racism.

Walter and Victor Reuther had been prominent civil rights marchers. But when it came to fighting racism on the shop floor, the UAW leadership fell far short.

In July 1967 there was a rebellion in Detroit's black community. Those events laid the basis for a movement in the plants. In May of 1968 the spark was lit.

Chrysler fired several blacks for leading a walkout over speed up and harassment. Within days the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM) was formed and a movement was born.

By fall there were RUM groups in almost every important inner city plant. Anywhere black workers began to organize to fight racism on the job and in the union they adopted the name RUM.

THE LEAGUE

The League of Revolutionary Black Workers was the umbrella organization for the RUMs. Their experience is important to all militants in the UAW and to revolutionaries.

More than anywhere else, the movement of black workers in Detroit began to define its goals in terms of real power. The power to control what happened in the shop floor, the power to take on the corporations, and the power to control the economy.

For years there has been little attempt to come to grips with the League. Finally a book has been written on the Detroit movement. *Detroit I Do Mind Dying*, by Marvin Surkin and Dan Georgakas, unfortunately is not the one so desperately needed by those who are now trying to build a rank and file movement in the UAW.

"DETROIT I Do Mind Dying, A Study in Urban Revolution" by Dan Georgakas and Marvin Surkin, St. Martin's Press, 250 pp

Detroit I Do Mind Dying provides a decent historical background on the activities of the League. But the weaknesses of the book are both many and major. Several chapters are devoted to schemes the League developed to broaden its base. But very little space is spent on the in-plant organizations that the League created.

CHANGED RELATIONS

For black workers at Dodge Main the very existence of DRUM changed race relations in the plant fundamentally. DRUM had a paper membership of around 700 and was usually able to mobilize several hundred workers. Detroit I Do Mind Dying tells us nothing of how DRUM was built and what its overall impact was on the plant and the workers in it.

Why was it an all black organization, and how did the whites in the plant view it? What happened to those who were active in DRUM? Did DRUM's position of getting more blacks elected to union office or into management mean anything in the long run?

And finally how did the UAW International, Chrysler, and the

Deep in the gloom
of the oil filled pit
where the engine rolls down
the line.
we challenge the doom
of dying in shit
while strangled by a swine...
... For hours and years
we've sweated our tears
trying to break our chain...
But we broke our backs
and died in packs
to find our manhood slain...
But now we stand
for DRUM's at hand
to lead our freedom fight,
and now till then
we'll unite like men
For now we know our might
and damn the plantation
and the whole Chrysler nation
for DRUM has dried our tears
and now as we die
we've a different cry
for now we hold our spears!
UAW is scum
OUR THING IS DRUM!!!!

League poem



Hamtramck Police Department mobilized to smash DRUM? These questions and their answers are important to gaining an understanding of the League.

The relationship of the League to the union is completely skipped over. Was DRUM a caucus within the union or an attempt to build a union for black workers?

EXPANDED

As the League expanded and became more involved in the community, the problem of the relationship between community struggles and plant struggles became pressing.

Should the League be based in the factory, the community or

among students? It was this question that was to polarize the League and was one of the questions involved in its eventual split. Because the authors give little insight into the internal political dynamics of the League, the struggle is reduced to one of personalities.

As the political fight in the League intensified, so did the repression against it. All the major in-plant leaders were wiped out of the plants.

Emil Mazey of the UAW publically announced the UAW would do nothing for them. By 1971 there was nothing left of the work in the plants and the League split two ways.

During its brief life the League

captured the imagination of all those fighting racism. Yet it had many political weaknesses. Beyond those already discussed was the relationship of the League to the white workers in the plant.

There was little question that most whites in the plant were racist. Black workers at the time had little choice but to organize to form their own groups to insure that their problems were taken seriously.

ALLIANCES

The problem was that, seeing all whites as honkies, they made no attempt to make alliances with any whites to fight the company. This led to their further isolation. However, the RUMs consistently raised the issue of racism and exposed the relationship of the company and the union in maintaining racism in the plants. Through action the League proved that it was possible to fight the company and win.

Today the situation is different in part because of the effect of the League. And those in the League learned that their attitude toward white workers had been wrong. To successfully fight the company, unity is needed on the shop floor.

In 1975, in many of those plants where DRUM existed, there are now caucuses that are committed to fighting the UAW International, the company, and racism in the shops. Most of these caucuses are majority black but all have significant numbers of whites.

Today there is a higher degree of black-white unity in the plants than in the past. And more than ever there exists the possibility of building a unified rank and file movement.

Militants and revolutionaries eagerly await a real analysis of the League and the movement in Detroit so we can learn from its successes and not be doomed to repeat its failures.

Beth Cady

POSTAL WORKERS FIGHT BACK

[Postal Workers Fight Back, by Jack Trautman. Sun Press, 1975, 28 pp. Available from Sun Press, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, Mich. 48203. 25c each; 10 or more 10c each.]

If you have a postman, buy two copies of this pamphlet—one for yourself and one for the postman. If you are a postal worker, buy ten and take them to work.

Postal Workers Fight Back is an important pamphlet. It does something the postal unions have neglected. It presents in a clear way the issues facing postal workers as their contract deadline approaches. And it suggests a set of minimum demands that should be included in any contract that is accepted.

Because the postal union leaders have not done these things, because they have insisted on secret negotiations, postal workers are not in as strong a position as

possible this year. And so the pamphlet discusses the need for rank and file organization as an essential part of the fight for a decent contract.

Both postal workers and the rest of us will learn from this pamphlet. It talks about what is going on in various cities, locals, and postal unions.

KOKOMO PLAN

Most of us have heard about the Kokomo Plan. Now you'll learn about the carrier in Portland working under the Kokomo Plan who was suspended for ten days. Why? Because he went a few yards off his route to buy a coke in the corner store.

Most of us have heard about automation. Now you'll find out about the new letter sorting machines that killed a man in New York.

And if you haven't heard it

before or didn't participate in it, there's the story of the 1970 nationwide postal wildcat strike. And how that strike proved that it's possible for rank and file workers to beat the post office, the President, the courts, the army—and their own union leaders if necessary.

The pamphlet ends with a brief section on what lies beyond the 1975 contract—the implications of the economic crisis the country is in. And the need for a more rational economic system—one that is run by workers rather than by the wealthy few.

Postal contracts expire on July 20 this year. If you're a postal worker and you've read this pamphlet, you'll be in a better position for the fight that's ahead.

If you're not a postal worker, this pamphlet will tell you why your mail may stop coming after July 20—and why that's a good thing.

Jim Woodward

"How We Use A Workers' Paper"

Members of the St. Louis International Socialists branch have known for a long time the value of Workers' Power. By reading Workers' Power, working people can see what kind of an organization the International Socialists is.

The paper shows that we are an activist organization, that we are involved in working class struggles, and that we believe in a world-wide revolution to overthrow capitalism.

This is what convinces them to become members. But to do so we have to make sure that they get the paper every issue.

WP COORDINATOR

Central for us in St. Louis has been the role of the Workers' Power coordinator. This has not been just an administrative post. The coordinator has had to fight at times within the branch for a more central role for the paper in the branch's activity.

Coordinators in other branches must be prepared to fight politically for an activist and interventionist role for the paper. This means not just selling at plant gates and to friends. We must sell also to people we work with and meet on picket lines. We must show workers that Workers' Power can help them in their struggles.

WORKER READERSHIP

It goes without saying that we want workers to read Workers' Power, but we want more than that. We want them to be active with us. This means asking them to write for the paper and to help us sell it.

Several of our newer members were selling the paper for weeks before they joined. And they weren't just selling one or two copies. They were selling fifteen and twenty copies.

DISTRIBUTION

As soon as the paper arrives in town the coordinator picks it up and gets it to everyone in the branch. This is a bit of extra work but it insures that all members have the paper and are ready to sell it within hours after it comes into town. This will be much more important when

WORKERS' Power

MONTHLY NEWS PAPER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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BLACK JOBLESS

RATE:
25%

Jobs for People in Georgia

Prisoner Leader Murdered



Bundles of Workers' Power are available . . . anywhere from as few as 10 copies to as many as you can sell. The cost is only 10c a copy, and that includes second class postage.

Why not try taking a bundle and see how your friends and fellow workers like it. Write to: Workers' Power Circulation Dept. 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

the paper goes weekly this fall. We have our plant sales worked out so that every plant is sold at within four days, most within a day and a half.

Very important here is that we do not overextend ourselves. Some people do not sell at plants. This way they can fill in for someone when they get sick or have to leave town.

Every member always has the paper with him or her. We sell it to everyone we meet. It doesn't matter whether that is in the laundry, in a cab, at the airport, or in front of the fire station.

We know that we have to begin now to build a consciousness among workers in this city that there is a newspaper that is on their side, and that paper is Workers' Power.

THE WEEKLY PAPER

This fall Workers' Power is going to become a weekly paper. We must begin now preparing for that. In St. Louis we have had educational for new members on the history

and the role of the paper. We have discussed goals and strategy for the paper in branch meetings. And we have a distribution network that gets the paper out fast.

Workers' Power is the best tool that we have for advancing a workers and socialist revolution. All that we have to do is to get it into the hands of those who can make that revolution.

Jimmie Higgins

NY Forum On Working Women

NEW YORK—More than 50 people, nearly half of them men, came to hear about building the working women's movement on Friday evening, June 20. The speaker was Barbara Winslow, the secretary of Cleveland CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women.)

She stressed that building a working women's movement requires the same effort and the same strengths as building a fighting labor movement.

Winslow cited CLUW as an organization that can fight for the rights of working women. But, she said, the rank and file must be organized within CLUW or its bureaucratic leadership will render it powerless.

Women's issues also range far beyond the workplace to a confrontation with the entire social organization—the entire way we live. As Winslow said, it is not an accident that the same organization, ROAR, that fights against integrating schools in Boston is also busting up women's rights rallies.

To build a strong women's movement requires organizing ourselves to control our workplace, building a strong rank and file movement.

We must also build an effective political organization that will be able to link all the struggles—community, workplace, women and minorities. Women can't change society alone—and neither can men.

Florence Feinstein

What We Stand For

The International Socialists are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member of our organization to achieve them. We stand for:

WORKING CLASS REVOLUTION

Working class revolution will destroy capitalism. Reform schemes cannot patch it up. The wealth produced by workers will be collectively controlled by workers to provide a decent life and freedom for all. Today that wealth is stolen from working people by the capitalist class. Socialism can be won only through workers' revolution. The capitalist state must be destroyed. So must its institutions: the legislature, army, police, and courts. A socialist society will be ruled democratically by mass organizations of all-working people.

MASS ORGANIZATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS

Today the trade unions are the only mass working class organizations. We work for rank and file control of the unions to make them fighting instruments of workers against the employers. We fight for workers' action against the economic and social crisis of capitalism: Defend working conditions. No controls on wages. 30 hours work for 40 hours pay to fight unemployment. The right to a job at union wages for everyone. Organize the unorganized. Nationalization of industry without compensation and under workers' control.

BLACK LIBERATION

We stand for black liberation. Full equality for black people and all national minorities. Defend the black community and other oppressed peoples against all forms of racism, police terror and discrimination. We call for independent organization by black and other specially oppressed people to struggle for their liberation and to build the unity among all workers that will lead to socialism. Independence for Puerto Rico.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

For complete social, economic and political equality for women. Free quality childcare, birth control and abortion on demand. Abolish oppression of gay people, and all sexual oppression.

YOUTH

Equality for young people. The right to good jobs for all youth. Stop police intimidation of young people. For schools controlled by students, teachers and community. For a revolutionary socialist youth movement.

AGAINST IMPERIALISM

We oppose US imperialism, its nuclear weapons and its alliances such as NATO. Unconditional support to movements for national liberation. We oppose Russian imperialism and its war bloc, the Warsaw Pact, which controls Eastern Europe. For an independent movement of the working class and oppressed peoples everywhere against imperialism, East and West.

FOR WORLD SOCIALISM

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. Workers' councils, political parties and trade unions were all crushed. Today Russia, China and the rest of the "Communist" countries are not socialist, but societies in which workers are exploited by a bureaucratic ruling class. We support workers' struggles in Russia, China and Eastern Europe for democracy and freedom. For workers' revolution to overthrow Stalinism and replace it with socialism.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win the fight for socialism the most militant sections of the working class must be organized into a revolutionary party. The revolutionary party is a political force linking workers in separate factories, unions and industries, helping to organize and lead them to take state power and control society as a class. All the activity of the IS is directed toward building such a revolutionary party out of the struggles working people are waging today.

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Trade Union

NY Sanitation Wildcat

A spreading wildcat shut down the New York City sanitation department July 1, when all 10,000 sanitation workers walked off the job.

The strike followed a court ruling which overturned an earlier decision barring the city from laying off sanitation workers in violation of the union contract.

The judge who issued the ruling proclaimed, "The city has been playing Santa Claus to these workers long enough."

Layoff notices have been sent to 19,000 city workers, including 3,000 sanitation workers, as a result.

John DeLury threatened that if the court ruling went against the union, 10,000 men would walk out. "It won't be Fun City, it'll be Stink City."

But DeLury neither called or endorsed the mass walkout. Mayor Abe Beame and Governor Hugh Carey are threatening to call in the National Guard.

NEW YORK—Sanitation workers here recently staged a wildcat strike to protest the threatened layoff of 3000 workers. The wildcat stopped service in a third of Manhattan and many neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

In one garage, workers removed parts of the trucks' distributors to immobilize them.

Union President John DeLury has refused to take strike action to stop the layoffs. One worker said of DeLury, "He stopped the trucks for a \$10 raise. For a third of the department being laid off he doesn't raise a finger."

The city retaliated against the

striking workers by 140 suspensions. Many workers feel that the union will let them be fired. The workers agreed to return to work when a court ruled that the city had violated a guarantee of employment in the present contract and could not lay off any sanitation workers.

But the workers view this as a temporary victory. The city has appealed the ruling and the question is being re-argued. One rank and file leader expressed the view that the 1976 contract would show that "the union just sells you down the river"—by giving up the no-layoff clause. □

SCHOOL BOYCOTT

NEW YORK—Teachers and parents boycotted schools here this week to protest the massive cutbacks in school budgets and the layoffs of school staffs. In District 3 (Harlem and the Upper West Side of Manhattan), rank and file activists in the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) initiated the boycott.

They were overwhelmingly supported by parents' associations, but opposed by the UFT machine headed by Albert Shanker. The teachers and parents also held demonstrations before school, stopping traffic at major intersections to gain support for the protest.

The situation in District 3 is not isolated. All over the city, teachers and parents have been carrying out mass actions to protest the cuts. In some areas, school workers are cut back 30% and vital programs are ended.

Rank and file teachers will be working with parents' groups over the summer to plan mass actions and boycotts, to organize a fight for a good teachers' contract, and to protest against cutbacks when school reopens in September. □



BLACKS DRIVEN FROM TOWN

by Kay Stacy

Bands of racist white vigilantes drove thirteen young black men out of the small town of Taft, Ca.

The thirteen were the town's entire black population. They held athletic scholarships at the town's junior college. The whites are mainly oil workers.

The violence began when three drunk whites began threatening three black students as they walked along the street.

One threatened Joe Rhone, a black, with a knife as a second jumped on Rhone's back. Rhone defended himself, and one of his attackers was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

When the attack was reported in the town's paper the editor was beaten up for being a "nigger-lover."

Meanwhile, a mob of whites returned to campus and threatened several black students. The police were called and jailed twelve blacks, calling it "protective" custody.

The police showed their true sympathies, however, when they "escorted" these black people to a town 30 miles away, where they were left.

The ability of racist white mobs to fight school integration in Boston was the precedent for this and other attacks against black people across the country. Racist terror in

Boston helped create an atmosphere which encourages mob-violence elsewhere.

At issue is the right of black people to simply live in this society. Even after decades of struggle and civil-rights laws, this right is not secure.

It is especially serious when the terror against black people is

organized by white workers. The most serious division in the American working class is racism. White workers organizing to drive out black people is a disaster for working people.

White racist mobs must be stopped, if the working class is ever to fight together to end exploitation. □

Chemical Workers On Strike

by Tom Jackson

LOUISVILLE—Members of International Chemical Workers Union, Local 604, have been on strike against Reliance Universal, Inc. for over a month.

The contract expired June 2, but the company had closed the plant and hired armed guards the day before the strike vote. They made no offer and refused to even talk to the union for two and a half weeks.

The plant manager is famous for his boast that he would break the union. Everyone knows he's trying.

The workers didn't take this lying down. The first week of the strike windows to the building were broken and railroad tracks leading to the building filled with concrete. There were picket line confrontations between unionists and scabs.

Sixteen workers have been arrested. An injunction to limit picketing is in effect.

The union has dropped 30 of the original 47 demands.

Union members are mad—but not just at the company. The business rep decided to take a week's vacation during the strike.

The rank and file of the union knows that they have to get around the cops and the courts.

Teamster trucks, driven by bosses, which carry goods from the struck plant could be stopped by a slowdown on the docks at distribution centers.

This is the kind of action that will make the plant manager eat his words. □

WALLS AND BARS

Struggle In The Prisons



by Elizabeth Jones

RACISM

An all-white jury found Delbert Tibbs guilty December 14 of rape and first degree murder. Recently the court handed down the death sentence.

Tibbs, is a Chicago writer accused of the murder of a young man and the rape of his teenaged hitchhiking companion. He has always said that he is totally innocent and over 200 miles away when the crime was committed.

Tibbs is black; the dead man and the young woman are white. Tibbs was "identified" by the victim at a time when she saw his picture alone, even though he did not match her original description of her attacker.

An all-white jury had to decide whether to believe a white woman or a black man. Racism invades every aspect of this society. The struggle to free Tibbs is continuing. □

death in an ambulance on route to a hospital. The second was beaten to death by prison guards.

Inmates for Action is a state-wide Alabama prisoners' rights organization formed in 1972. It presents grievances, conducts basic and political education classes for fellow prisoners, tries to negotiate with prison authorities, and has organized harvest-time work stoppages to back up their demands.

Authorities have made it clear they intend to wipe out the leadership of IFA. It is known among the inmates that there is a "deathlist" of prison activists circulated among the guards.

The Attmore prison plantation is known as the "southernmost part of Hell." □

ATTICA

A New York State supreme court justice ruled that there was no evidence of government interference with the Attica Brother's legal defense team.

Judge Joseph Mattina was reported as saying that he did not believe the testimony of ex-FBI agent Marjory Cook. Cook has testified that she infiltrated the Attica Brothers' defense for the FBI.

She submitted written reports detailing secret defense plans and turned over internal defense documents. In return the FBI paid Cook \$400 a month.

Mattina's ruling came as he denied a motion to dismiss an indictment against Attica Brother Shango Kakawana. Shango's defense lawyers asked for dismissal on grounds that Cook's spy activities prejudiced their case.

The judge had refused to release the overwhelming bulk of FBI and other government testimony to the defense.

American justice slithers on. □

LITTLE

Joann Little is filing suit against the estate of Clarence Alligood. He was a Beaufort County, NC, jailer whom Little killed while he was trying to rape her. The sheriff of Beaufort County at the time of the slaying is also included in the \$1 million damage suit.

The law suit also includes a class action on behalf of all female inmates in the jail. It charges that male attendants watch the women prisoners as they bathe, undress or use toilet facilities.

The male attendants are accused of exposing their genitals and making vulgar and obscene remarks against the will and beyond the control of the women prisoners.

The court is asked to declare the described conditions unconstitutional. Little's own trial is scheduled to begin July 14 in Raleigh, NC. □

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MURDER

Frank X. Moore, one of the Attmore-Holman Brothers, was murdered by Alabama state prison authorities April 26. The authorities claim Moore committed suicide.

Moore is the third leader of Inmates for Action (IFA) apparently murdered by prison authorities. One was stabbed to

FBI OCCUPIES PINE RIDGE

by Kay Stacy

June 30—Armed federal government agents are occupying Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, where two FBI agents died last Thursday.

The agents were felled by gunfire from a reservation home as they attempted to serve four arrest warrants.

Over 200 FBI and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agents carrying automatic weapons are roaming the northwest section of the reservation searching for 16 Native Americans they charge were involved in the six-hour gun battle.

The battle ended when the FBI lobbed tear gas into the home and the Native Americans escaped into surrounding farm lands and wooded areas.

FBI agents poured into the area, first from Rapid City, SD and Minneapolis, then from Chicago, Denver, Omaha and Quantico, Va.

AIM

The enclave of farm houses where the shootings occurred was known as a home and center for

supporters of the American Indian Movement (AIM).

John Trudell, a leader of the Movement, said he was afraid "they're going to use this as a justification for shooting our people and locking them up."

He also charged that the FBI linked the killings of the agents with the militant American Indian Movement without evidence.

"They're using it to attack our credibility. They've already convicted us," he said.

AIM led the 71-day Wounded Knee occupation at Pine Ridge reservation in 1973. AIM has been the central leadership of the struggle of Native Americans for human dignity and decent living standards.

The response of the federal government has been vicious. The government carries out its retaliation through its control of the BIA and its police force, the FBI, and the traditional tribal council leaders.

A systematic terror campaign has been waged to break the back of AIM support among Native

Americans. AIM people have been murdered, beaten, raped, falsely arrested and imprisoned, fired from jobs and driven from their homes and communities.

BRUTALITY

Much of the brutality has centered in Pine Ridge. Since the beginning of the year six people have died as a result of BIA violence.

In early June, Russell Means, AIM leader, was shot in the back by the son of a BIA agent. Means, incredibly, was arrested after the shooting and held without medical treatment for hours.

No charges have been brought against his attacker.

It is no surprise that Native Americans respond to these racist travesties of justice by organizing to defend themselves. The ruthlessness of the federal government makes it a question of their survival.

The Native American's struggle for civil rights and freedom from government terror deserves and requires the support of all. □

Workers' Power



Policeman stands over body of Native American murdered by FBI.

POSTAL POINTS

Wilmette, Illinois

American Motors postal delivery vehicles were recalled due to a defect in steering, leaving the Post Office with no delivery vehicles. So management is forcing the workers to provide the needed transportation.

Postal workers get paid only \$3.25 per day for compensation. This small sum does little to compensate for wear and tear on the car.

Neither does it compensate for the family car being tied up during the day. But the workers have no choice.

Seattle

"Sub-clerks do the same work as clerks, but have to work all holidays without holiday pay, and never know in advance what days they have off, or even if the days will be consecutive.

"This period of second-class citizenship is indefinite — you never know when you might get to be a regular. The union should fight on this issue."

—a sub-clerk in the Seattle PO.

Washington, D.C.

"There's a lot more harassment, particularly when you are out sick. Even if you come in with a doctor's note, you have to go downtown to the company doctor more often.

"There's a lot more work for us. The bags are heavier.

We used to have nine men on the outside deck, now there's only four. They want to reduce it down to two men.



"They've cut back on the number of workers by not replacing those who retire. And they tell us we're not working fast enough."

—Robert Mastano, mailhandler in Bronx GPO

"I've been a sub for two years now. I only get 24 hours work a week. I have to pay rent of \$245 a month and that's just what I make on this job.

"I have two children to support. So I have to drive a gypsy cab to make enough to live. So I don't have to go on

welfare." —Miguel Ramos, letter carrier in the Bronx, N.Y.

Philadelphia

The June Meeting of the APWU here passed a key resolution in preparation for the upcoming contract fight.

The resolution states that the local president shall call a special membership meeting soon after the national negotiations are completed. The meeting will allow rank and file members to discuss the contract before voting on it.

Postal Action, a rank and file group in the local, played a major role in sponsoring the resolution. They proposed the special meeting in their newsletter, the Dispatch.

And they fought on the meeting floor to guarantee that the special meeting would be accessible to all Philadelphia APWU members. The final resolution stated that the special meeting will be held on a weekend in a large hall.

In the event of a rotten contract, this special meeting could mark the beginning of a rank and file contract rejection movement in Philadelphia.

Louisville

Postal workers in this city have organized a Committee for a Decent Contract. They have a series of demands which they consider necessary for the contract.

These are: keep the no layoff clause; Decent COLA — 1¢

for every .25 rise in the Consumer Price Index; Promotions according to strict seniority to prevent racist discrimination;

A wage increase of \$1 per hour each year of the contract; no time and work standards to be changed without approval of the local and national unions (no Kokomo Plan);

Voluntary overtime at double-time pay; voluntary holiday work at triple time pay.

Postal stations were leafleted before the union meeting on June 23 to build support for these demands. At the meeting, union officials treated the Committee as an enemy.

But to cover their flanks they agreed to set up a strike committee and to schedule a local meeting to consider the contract once it comes out.

These steps would not have been taken except for the action of the Committee for a Decent Contract.

Detroit

"The union leaders don't fight for us around working conditions. It gets lousier every day."

The only thing the union does for you is to get checkers and cards for you when you take a break! When you complain about conditions they tell you to write it up.

They don't help you, they don't follow it up, they don't do anything for you. We need to get together and make the union fight for us!

— Mike Taylor, Clerk

South Bend, Ind.

"Some of the people here have been talking about what it would be like if we lost the no layoff clause ... hell, conditions are bad enough now with increased mail volume and speed-ups and supervisor harassment.

"Before we lose the no layoff clause you'll see mailmen in the streets with picket signs, not mail."

"Management knows we won't give it up, but they think that we'll bargain away wage demands and conditions to keep it.

"To hell with 'em, I say, Let's Strike!"

The postal workers have gotten nothing but bad press ever since negotiations got underway. Between them and management, people think we're asking for a piece of heaven.

"Man, I have three kids and a wife. All I want is a wage that covers the cost of living. What we've got now doesn't nearly cover it. If my wife didn't work too, we couldn't make it."

"We lost our civil service benefits a few years ago, now they want to take our job security."

"We should have fought 'em then, we have to fight now or there won't be anything left to fight for.

"I don't want to strike, but I will. I may never have another chance."