

WORKERS' Power

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LOUISVILLE

"Stop! Stop! The Racist Cops!"

by Tom Jackson

LOUISVILLE—The largest demonstration in the struggle for equal education in Louisville took place in celebration of Martin Luther King's birthday last week. An overwhelmingly black crowd of over 3000 marched through the downtown area.

The city government refused to honor the holiday and only gave an option to students to stay home. No businesses or industries closed.

In spite of inevitable reprisals, many workers chose to leave work to attend the march. It was this that made the demonstration a smashing success.

SOLIDARITY

At the courthouse thousands crowded up onto the steps and spread out across the plaza into the street. Black community leaders and black and white trade unionists gave short solidarity speeches. The two most popular chants: "FBI, CIA, WE'RE GONNA MARCH ANYWAY!" and "STOP! STOP! THE RACIST COPS IN LOUISVILLE!"

Referring to the labor bureaucrats who have built anti-busing organizations, one speaker said, "We think they should be concerned that there are more people unemployed in Louisville than there are people

being bused."

He spoke of the need for black and white labor unity, and pointed out that Reverend King was murdered while helping black and white workers organize in Memphis.

One high point of the rally occurred when a representative from Mayor Sloan's office tried to speak. Sloan is a racist. And he is against busing. His representative had to speak over loud objections and booing.

Another county politician, a liberal Democrat like Sloan, was the final speaker. But the crowd turned and left. He delivered his talk to several hundred people who were picking up signs and garbage, and waiting to leave.

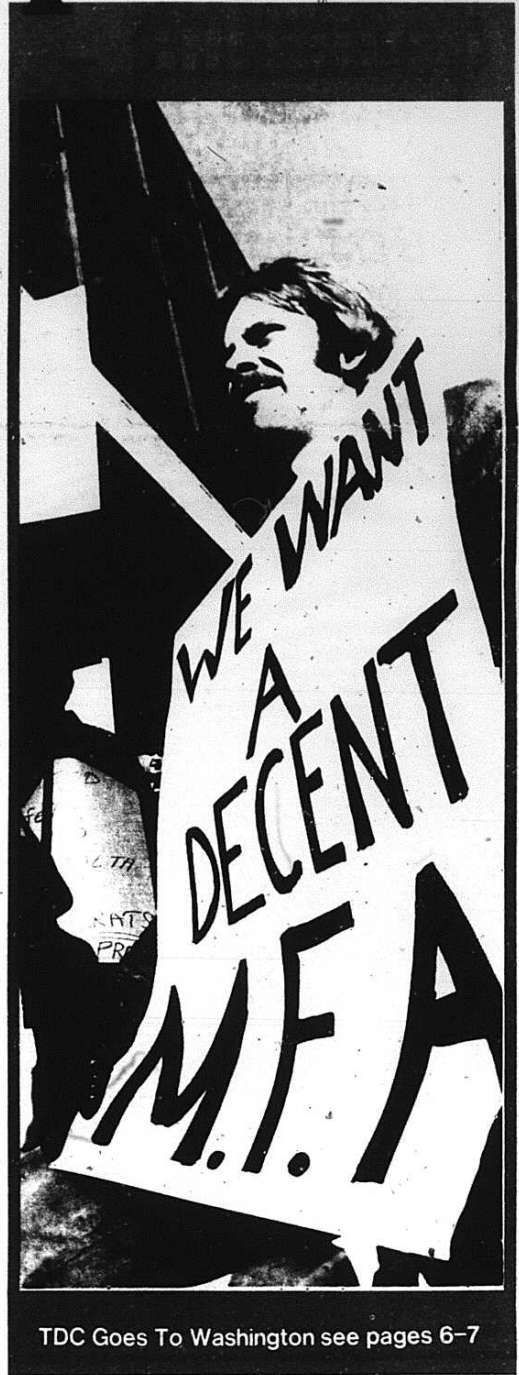
LAUGHTER AND OUTRAGE

The main speaker was comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory. He moved the demonstrators from laughter to outrage at the racism of this society.

Gregory was sharpest and clearest on the question that has racked and divided the working class in Louisville since last summer—busing.

"It's more than about busing. We know what it's about.... The biggest hangup in America is not busing. It's niggers on the buses.... All busing means to me is this! If the good schools don't come to me I'm going to them."

The racist anti-busing movement, which has tried to hide behind the issue of constitutional rights, was afraid for the first time to raise its head. For the first time since the racist resistance to integration exploded into violence last fall, the streets were ours. □



What Happened to the United Black Workers of Jefferson County
- see page 5

TDC Goes To Washington see pages 6-7



In this country laws are written to protect the bosses. Every year thousands of workers lose their pensions. Companies move or close down and the rights of years of labor are lost. They call it "too bad." They never call it "robbery."

But if a worker who works all day making cars takes a hubcap they call it "theft."

And if the law isn't enough to protect the boss, the courts will. Judges are part of society's upper crust. They know which side they are on.

Many are simply corrupt, accepting money and expensive gifts through the back door. But most don't need bribes to rule in favor of the rich and powerful. They do it as a matter of course.

Judges and bosses live in the same neighborhoods, their children go to the same schools, they play tennis in the same clubs.

Judges own stock in large companies. If they don't their mates do—or their brothers or sisters do. The bosses' point of view makes complete sense to them—because they're members of the same class.

But sometimes—although not very often—something upsets the deal. A judge rules against the company. This is the story of just such a time and how the company fought back.

LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER, WE'RE DRINKING THE WATER

labor notes

by Jim Woodward

The hot-shots at the top of the US Postal Service must think they're pretty valuable merchandise. They've signed a contract for \$100,800 to provide themselves with free medical examinations for the next year. The 3c rate increase on the next 3,360,000 letters will cover the cost, though. A

postal service spokesman said the examinations are being provided for the executives because the service "has a big investment in those people and we want to be sure they're healthy." These executives sound like the true "Fragile—Handle With Care" types, and should be treated accordingly.

Columnist Jack Anderson reports that a Labor Department inspection of an 11-story building in downtown Washington uncovered over 300 safety violations. Faulty fire extinguishers, dark emergency exits, and so on. The building is occupied by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

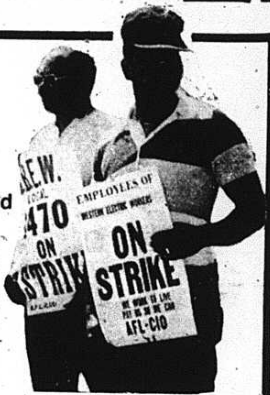
A survey of 142 of the largest corporations showed they paid an average of 22.6% in corporate taxes, less than half the established tax rate of 48%. Eight of the companies—Ford, Lockheed, Honeywell, S.S. Industries Inc., American Airlines, Eastern Airlines, American Electric Power Co., and Allstate Insurance—paid no taxes at all despite profits totalling \$843 million.

Since everything this year seems to be related to the 200th anniversary of the USA, this might be called the Bicentennial Sellout. Leaders of the Philadelphia building trades are offering cut-rate labor on Bicentennial-related construction projects. On all such projects, construction workers will now get time-and-a-quarter for working second and third shifts, rather than the normal time-and-a-half for second and double time for third shift.

The 127-day strike of flight attendants for National Airlines is over, largely because a federal judge intervened, ordering another vote on a contract the union rejected 507-348 in November. The judge ordered another vote because he claimed local union leaders campaigned against the proposed contract after promising the company they would support it. This judge, of course, was demonstrating the well-known impartiality of the judicial system. Have you ever heard of a judge ordering a new vote on a contract where union leaders sold out the rank and file rather than the company?

The phone company has an idea how to solve a security problem—don't put any windows in new buildings. That certainly does mean that no one will be able to get in through a window. Or out through one. Or even see through one. One AT&T spokesman admits some employees have complained that it's like working in a tomb in these buildings. But there are other advantages, says the company. Like, they don't have to pay for a window-cleaning service.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5965.



Eighteen years ago Reserve Mining began dumping thousands of pounds of cancer-causing waste material into Lake Superior each day. It has been known for at least the last seven years that taconite waste dumped into the Lake contains cancer-producing asbestos fibers.

Lake Superior supplies drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people.

In April 1974, US District Judge Myles W. Lord ruled the dumping a grave health hazard and closed the plant. Three days later a more compliant court allowed the plant to reopen.

In November 1974, Lord held new hearings on the case in light of "new evidence...that the dis-

charge is 10 times more dangerous than thought earlier."

The first result of those hearings was Lord ruling that Reserve pay \$100,000 to filter the drinking water of Duluth, Minnesota.

The second result was that Reserve decided to go after Lord. And they had the muscle to do it. Reserve is no penny-ante operation. It is owned by two giants of the steel industry: Armco Steel and Republic Steel.

Reserve is no poor relation of the two giants, either. It returns 90% each year, on its original investment. Computed daily, Reserve rakes in \$60,000 profit a day.

But while \$60,000 each day is taken off the backs of Reserve's workers, and the company's prac-

tices are destroying the lives of the workers' children, themselves and all those forced to drink the cancer-ridden waste, \$100,000 is too much to pay to filter the water.

So Reserve bought a battery of high priced lawyers to get rid of Lord.

Reserve charged Lord with "utter inability to act in...an objective, fair and impartial manner," and asked the appeals court to disqualify him from the case.

Reserve won.

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals removed Lord stating: "The record demonstrates overt acts by the district judge reflecting great bias against Reserve Mining Co. and substantial disregard for the mandate of this court."

...THE LESSONS

FOR RESERVE: "If at first you don't succeed—buy, buy again."

FOR LORD: He learned that judges, like cops, turn against those who leave the fold.

FOR WORKING PEOPLE: The lesson for us is most important—under capitalism there is no justice for our class. The system is rigged in their favor from top to bottom.

We cannot appeal to it. We must overthrow it.

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Ford To Labor: Drop Dead!

The resignation of President Ford's Secretary of Labor and the walkout of the labor members from the Administration's Collective Bargaining Committee in Construction will create important openings for rank and file pressure in this year's contract bargaining round.

John T. Dunlop's resignation as Labor Secretary resulted from a broken promise. Ford had originally agreed to support the common site picketing bill which Dunlop engineered.

At the last moment, under pressure from the Republican right wing and the growing strength of Ronald Reagan, Ford vetoed the bill.

It is better that the bill did not become law. Other parts, besides the picketing provision, would have led to greater bureaucratization and government intervention in the construction unions. But the trade union leaders wanted this bill passed very badly.

CAMPAIGNED HARD

They had campaigned hard for it, and so when Ford double-crossed them they had to break with his Administration. Among those leaving the Collective Bargaining Committee were heads of the Teamsters, the Iron Workers, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Painters, the Carpenters, the Plumbers and the Operating Engineers. Ford's veto caused the labor leadership to break with the Administration, where raging unemployment and falling real wages did not.

"If President Ford can't support labor, I don't see how labor can support him," said Teamster chief

Frank Fitzsimmons, walking out the door.

Fitz has not found his backbone, however. Nor have the heads of the construction unions. They had no choice.

As the contract round approaches, growing rank and file militancy in both the Teamsters and the construction trades forces even these sell-outs to save face. Ford pushed too far.

Dunlop, Fitz and the others were forced to break with the current administration. In doing so they create tremendous openings for pressure from the rank and file.

COMPROMISE?

Last December 1, Business Week, the weekly magazine of the capitalist class, published an article entitled "1976: Labor's Year Of Compromise."

In it the editors explained that 1976 begins a bargaining round in which most major industrial contracts come up, beginning with Teamsters.

They point out that large wage increases would severely threaten the recovery and business profits. But, they counsel; things are not as bad as they first appear.

"It's going to be a tough year, but I think we'll get through it in pretty good shape," they quote William J. Usery, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and Ford's candidate to replace Dunlop.

The "good shape" Usery speaks of is a willingness on the part of the trade union bureaucracy to compromise. Thus the article's title.

Business Week confidently asserts that, "The

International Brotherhood of Teamsters seems likely to settle peacefully on a new Master Freight Agreement for some 400,000 truck drivers by the March 31 deadline."

Business Week's confidence came from the cozy relationship between the Ford administration, the Republican Party, and Frank Fitzsimmons. Only six weeks later, that relationship is shattered.

The politics of Fitzsimmons and company are not changed now that they are off the board. Far from it.

OUT IN THE COLD

They still believe in business unionism and class collaboration. But Ford's betrayal leaves them out in the cold. The split between Ford and Fitz means that Fitzsimmons will be more susceptible to rank and file militancy. He no longer has a Presidential friendship to protect and to protect him.

Ford's ability to intervene and mediate in the event of a national Teamster strike is also greatly reduced, without the support of Fitz and Dunlop.

And, contrary to the plans of the capitalist class, a strike is becoming increasingly probable. Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) is sweeping the country (see pages 6&7). It has already forced the Teamster bureaucracy to up their wage demand to \$2.50 from the original, although unannounced, bargaining position of \$1.50.

For the rank and file of the Teamsters Union, and for all workers covered by this bargaining round, "Labor's Year of Compromise" may end up very different. Rank and file organization can make a tremendous difference—it already has!

Ford Ducks Show The Way

[This article is reprinted from Network: The Voice of UAW Militants. Northville is near Detroit, MI. The 600 ducks wander the plant's grounds. The article was written by Bill Parker and Enid Eckstein, both members of UAW 51 in Detroit.]

A Detroit Free Press article of October 10, headed: "600 Ducks Eat Like Kings, Thanks to Ford-UAW Pact" reports on a very unique provision of the Local Union Supplemental agreement between UAW Local 898, and Ford's Northville Valve Plant.

The article states in part: "The only ducks in America who are guaranteed three square meals a day because of a UAW-Ford Motor Co. agreement got their monthly one-ton supply of corn as usual Thursday."

The article goes on to say that this has been a part of the contract with Ford since 1964. "The duck food was listed along with more conventional matters such as insurance, overtime, and lunch breaks."

All this just goes to prove that any reasonable demand can be placed on the bargaining table in the Local Supplemental Agreements, and if there is enough pressure, it can be won.

BREAKTHROUGH

Hearing about this great breakthrough in collective bargaining, Network rushed down to Northville and interviewed a rank and file duck leader named Donald.

He is the one credited with being the organizational genius behind this historic agreement for the ducks.

Q. Donald, what did you win in your agreement?

A. A monthly ton of corn to be delivered the first Thursday of the month.

Q. What did you have to do to get it?

A. We organized. You see there are 600 of us—mallards, Muscovys, domestic whites and some cross-breeds. We had to unite because Ford has always tried to keep us divided because we are different breeds.

We waddled around the plant, made a nuisance of ourselves. Basically, we squawked a lot.

Q. So, you think it was your actions that won you your guaranteed annual grain?

A. Yes, this proves it is the squawking duck that gets the grain. Compare our grain to our fellow ducks at the Detroit Zoo. All they get is chicken feed. We get high class grain because we flocked together.

IMPROVEMENTS

Q. Did you get improvements in your working conditions?

A. Our conditions are about the same. As it is now we are considered a tourist attraction. You know, parade around on weekends. But we are fighting for every Saturday off.

All this overtime is killing us. As it is, Ford claims there is a lot of feather bedding. But these charges just roll off our backs like water.

Q. So what do you plan to do to improve your lot?

A. Organize, spread our movement. We want to bring our plight to the whole union. We plan to hold a demonstration at the bargaining convention in March. We have a number of demands for the upcoming contract.

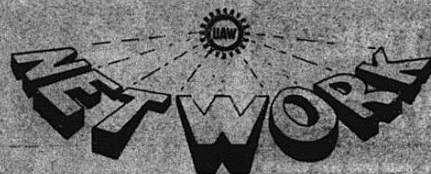
- Steward for every pond.
- Grain increase with every increase in the flock.
- Guaranteed annual grain (GAG).
- Fire any foreman who threatens or carries out the plucking of any duck.

Q. How do others in the union feel about the contract?

A. Most of the ducks feel we will have to fight this year. Some birds, the Woodcocks and other turkeys,

only want to improve fringes. But this inflation is no squawking matter.

Every day more of us just see the Woodcocks as a bunch of pork-choppers. And you know ducks don't like pork chops!



Auto workers and agricultural implement workers have been hard hit by layoffs, inflation, and speedup. 1976 is bargaining year. Contracts expire in nine months, and the United Automobile Workers Union—both the top leadership and the rank and file—is starting to get ready for the toughest bargaining situation in the past 25 years.

Rising to this challenge, Network has become a monthly newspaper, designed for widescale distribution to the UAW rank and file. It will be a campaigning newspaper, helping to lead the fight for a good contract in 1976—a contract that will provide job security, income protection, and defense of working conditions. Individual subs are \$3 for 12 issues. But the main purpose of Network will be distribution in plants. We will be selling bundles of 500 for \$5. UAW activists and Local Caucuses can use Network to help build a movement for a good contract and a strong UAW.

For bundles and individual subscriptions to Network write: Network, PO Box 39137, Detroit, MI 48239.

200,000 SPANISH WORKERS STRIKE

by Dan Posen

"The biggest show of labor strength since Franco came to power 36 years ago." That is what the nervous western press is saying about the strike wave now sweeping Spain.

By any standard, the Spanish workers' struggle is magnificent. Just one month after the crowning of King Juan Carlos, 200,000 workers have gone on strike, defied arrests and fought in the streets of Madrid with the riot police.

SUBWAY WORKERS

The strike wave focussed first around the subway workers. When the Army came to break the strike by running the trains, other workers—electrical, auto, construction, and bank employees went out in support. In four days, the subway workers won.

But that is only the beginning. At Standard Electrica, 13,000 workers are in the second week of their own bitter strike. Monday's "day of struggle" called by underground unions and workers' commissions shut down factories owned by ITT, Chrysler, and Kelvinator.

UNITED BATTLE

What are they fighting for? Under Franco, wages were forcibly beaten down for 36 years.

Today, the 15% inflation rate means massive poverty for Spanish workers. Through the struggle for wage gains, including in many cases demands for immediate 100% increases, the whole working class has united in a massive economic battle.

But the issues go further. Because workers feel powerful and united in their wage demands, they are also demanding freedom for political prisoners and full trade union rights.

The economic struggle in Spain's is the battle for basic political freedom.

Strikes are illegal—but 200,000 workers are striking, and the government is afraid to send the fascist police into the factories as it did under Franco.

Unions are illegal—but hundreds of thousands of workers are joining underground unions and other workers' organizations, and following their lead in struggle.

Parties are illegal—but the Communist Party is in fact organizing many of the strikes, and several liberal opposition parties are also trying to organize a political base.

There are also small, underground groups of revolutionary socialists who are active in building the strikes and demonstrations. They will grow rapidly as the workers' struggle becomes even stronger. □



Riot police in full gear wade in to break up bank workers' demonstration.

Fascists Arrest 100's

The Spanish government is making a big show of "moderation."

One minister said: "The King has promised the country to listen to all grievances and open all doors."

Said another: "We cannot give the Communists a chance to say that nothing has changed in Spain."

ARRESTS

This "moderate" policy has meant arresting over 110 workers last weekend. In Madrid's main squares and industrial suburbs, dozens of people are arrested and beaten.

On Tuesday, police broke into bars and restaurants and swept through the streets to smash a demonstration before it could even begin.

Spain is still run by the same murderous fascists who executed five freedom fighters last summer. But they cannot simply shoot down 200,000 strikers, or even all the strike leaders. There are too many of them.

NO SUCH THING

There is no such thing as fascist "moderation." The truth is that more people are being arrested, tortured and murdered today than even in the last few years of Franco.

But the terrorist state machine is weakening. The government has too many enemies to silence them all. It does not know whether to compromise with the workers' movement, or try to totally crush it. The chances are it can do neither.

The Spanish regime of King

Juan Carlos is the last gasp of fascist rule—"Francoism without Franco." Its lease on life will be short.

Its main purpose was to keep the working class struggle quiet, while it created a more "modern," effective machine of industrial and political terror.

It has already failed. The working class is in the streets, demanding that everything change all at once.

And that is the only way things will change in Spain—all at once, through a struggle for real democracy and socialist revolution. Not through snail's-pace reforms and crumbs handed out to middle class politicians.

The struggle for democracy in Spain affects everyone. But at its root, it is a class struggle of workers. That is why socialist revolution is Spain's future. □

LISBON,
Thursday, January 15

**NO
TO
THE
WAGE
FREEZE!**



Portuguese workers have begun their resistance to the government's repressive New Year austerity plan. That resistance is spreading from local factories into a national campaign.

This Saturday, a large working class rally has been called against price increases and the government's wage freeze. A large number of national unions, most importantly the powerful metal workers, have organized the rally.

It is also supported by the Communist Party, the Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat (PRP) and other left wing groups.

To prepare for the rally, last Saturday building workers in Lisbon held a mass meeting.

This Friday, they will strike for two hours, from 9-11 A.M., to protest the government's cancellation of the big wage increase they won before November 25. In some areas, the two-hour strike will be extended.

It will climax in next Saturday's mass rally.

The rally will also protest the continuing arrest and imprisonment of left wing militants, especially in the Army.

Since November 25, over a thousand revolutionary soldiers and officers have been imprisoned. Demonstrations for their freedom have been met with armed, mounted police.

They swing machine gun bullets and ammunition belts. They rammed crowds of workers at Caxias prison with armored tanks. Outside Custois Prison in Oporto on New Year's Day, they killed four people with rifle fire.

The mass arrests of soldiers who support the workers' revolutionary struggle is, in effect, psychological repression. It is an effort by the government to intimidate workers. But demands to free the soldiers are gaining strength as workers regain their own militancy and confidence in the economic struggle. □

Will U.S. Escalate Angolan War?

The conference of the OAU (Organization of African Unity) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia has ended in failure.

It adopted no resolutions and set no policy for African states. It did nothing to solve the crisis over the war in Angola.

The result of the conference is a setback for the national liberation struggle in Angola. The liberation movement MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] had hoped for a resolution from the OAU recognizing the MPLA as the sole legitimate government and representative of the Angolan people.

The United States government, of course, warmly welcomed this stalemate.

Twenty-two African states, many of whom already recognize MPLA, supported the pro-MPLA resolution. But twenty-two others formed a hard "anti-recognition bloc."

The other two OAU member

states, Uganda and Ethiopia, tried to balance between these forces with a "compromise resolution," but that flopped as well.

The "anti-recognition bloc" is an interesting combination. And it clearly suggests that the United States was actively pulling the strings behind the conference.

The bloc includes the three North African governments closely tied to the United States: Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Egypt's economy in particular is heavily dependent on U.S. aid, loans and investments.

CLIENT STATES

The bloc also includes the "enclave states" which are dominated by South Africa: Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. It includes the most right-wing, pro-American states in West Africa: Kenya and Liberia. It is spearheaded by the two states which are actively campaigning to destroy MPLA and create a right-wing puppet Angolan state: Zaire and Zambia.

In short, the "anti-recognition bloc" is a virtual united front of the client states of American and South African imperialism in Africa.

It is clear that the United States, South Africa and other western powers wanted a deadlocked conference. It gives the United States government and the CIA what they want: a cover to escalate their shipment of arms, money and mercenaries to Angola.

Immediately after the conference broke up, Gerald Ford was demanding that Congress release tens of millions of dollars for aid to the American and South African puppets, FNLA and UNITA.

And, as MPLA forces continued a major northern offensive, FNLA officials threatened to mount "an international terror campaign" against MPLA's allies. As Washington and South Africa lose their grip on Angola, they are trying to drag Africa into an even wider and more brutal war. □

Nationalists Wreck United Black Workers

Racist leaders of unions in Louisville, Kentucky have organized and led much of the anti-busing activity and violence there. Black workers responded by organizing their own group—the United Black Workers of Jefferson County.

The UBWJC began by opposing union officials' racism and the use of union funds for actions against black people. After two months of valuable organizing work, however, the UBWJC has been thrown into a crisis. Its survival as an organization is at stake.

To explain why this crisis developed and what the issues are, Workers' Power is printing a statement sent to us from the Re-organization Committee of the UBWJC. This Committee's aim is to prevent UBW from being destroyed, and to carry on its important anti-racist activities.

EXAMPLE

From the beginning, the International Socialists have actively supported the UBW. United Black Workers have set an important example for the struggle in Louisville in several ways.

They are an organization of black workers, prepared to take independent action against the offensive of Ku Klux Klansmen and union racists.

Most important, however, is that UBW's success shows that black people can most effectively fight racist oppression when they are organized as workers. Through organized strength on the shop floor, and the power of the unions—when they can be broken from their racist past—black and anti-racist white workers can force an end to oppression.

The major opposition in the United Black Workers to this course of action has come from the leadership of a black nationalist organization, the Black Workers Coalition. The leader of BWC, Roosevelt Roberts, has also been a member of UBWJC.

COMMON GOALS

Unfortunately, rather than working together for common goals where UBWJC and BWC could agree, Roberts chose to carry on a red-baiting, race-baiting campaign against the IS. Last week, Roberts' campaign bore fruit when he jammed through a proposal destroying UBWJC by merging it with his own group, the BWC.

The UBWJC meeting was supposed to discuss a new constitution. One proposal had been submitted by Roberts and another by Fred Hobby, a member of the International Socialists, and the UBWJC. Both proposals were turned over to a Constitution Committee, to take the best from both.

Hobby was not a member of this committee, nor was he present at the final meeting of the UBWJC where Roberts made a vicious attack on him. The final proposal from the Committee was to be voted on at this meeting. It drew heavily on the draft submitted by Hobby.

The proposal focused on organizing black workers as workers. It proposed factory action committees, which would be groups of workers to be organized inside shops and union locals, to fight racism on the shop floor and practices of the union leaderships. It also proposed that the UBWJC

work with any group willing to fight racism.

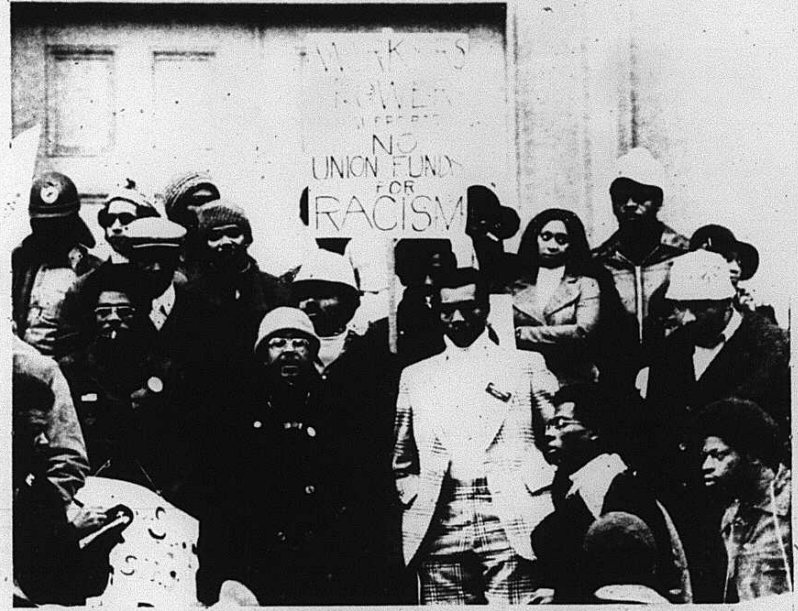
The proposal submitted by Roberts was vague, suggested no concrete actions and opposed the organizing of blacks as workers. Roberts' proposed direction for UBWJC was totally away from the

unions.

It opposed using the power of black workers to struggle to change the unions, and instead favored vague coalitions in the black community without any commitment to action.

Roberts decided to destroy the

UBWJC rather than lose control of the group. The following is an account of that meeting, an assessment of what went wrong, and a proposal by the Re-organization Committee for a way forward for black workers in Louisville who are determined to fight racism. □



The United Black Workers of Jefferson County have led black workers' struggle against racism in Louisville.

REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE STATEMENT

WHY THE FIGHT TOOK PLACE

It was obvious that something was unusual as Roberts called the meeting to order. First, the meeting appeared to be "stacked." Many workers attending had never been there before.

Second, Roberts opened the meeting with an agenda change—old business before the new organizational proposal. Then Roberts launched into an attack on the democratically arrived at document as "ultra-left shit." He attacked members of the International Socialists who were not present to defend themselves. He complained that "white communist ideas" had been brought into the group by "crippled blacks" who were incapable of thinking for themselves.

Roberts never once mentioned that the Constitution Committee consisted of one minister, two Harvester workers, a woman worker from GE, a Ford worker, and a construction worker.

He continued to express his negative feelings about working with whites—even though there are no whites in the UBWJC. Roberts concluded that there was no reason for having two different organizations, the BWC and the UBWJC.

In the midst of his race-baiting and red-baiting hysteria, Roberts called for a vote to merge the two groups into one—retaining the name BWC. The stacked meeting passed the proposal.

Why did Roberts attempt to destroy the only black organization in Louisville with members from over 11 unions? Why destroy the group that had initiated the legal suits against racist practices by two UAW locals, IUW locals, and potentially seven more?

Why did he want to destroy the most progressive labor group in the city—black or white—and the group that had organized a major demonstration against racism on November 22?

WHICH SIDE IS ROBERTS ON?

The answer is simple. The UBWJC was the most progressive group in the city, while the BWC continued its backward practices and was rapidly becoming invisible. At the beginning of the busing crisis, the BWC under

Roberts' unchallenged leadership, came out opposed to busing.

While Roberts was refusing to use his organization against the racist movement in Louisville, while Roberts refused to further the struggle for self-determination, the anti-busing movement gained easy ground in all of Louisville's factories.

After nearly a month of debate with "crippled blacks with white ideas," as Roberts characterized his opposition, and after every other group in town was immersed in the struggle against racism, Robert's BWC changed its mind.

The immobile BWC was too late to prevent the racist movement from snatching union funds, but Roberts finally realized his political error. He'd been on the same side as the KKK, the American Nazis, and other right-wing groups. An uncomfortable position indeed. His change demonstrated that the "cripples" had taught the healthy to stand.

During this period black workers from the local GE plant called for a city-wide meeting to plan workers' response to the growing racist campaign. Out of this city-wide meeting the UBWJC was born.

Several black workers brought progressive white workers to this meeting, white workers willing to fight the racism in their locals. Roberts called for a motion to have them removed. He stated that whites couldn't be trusted and that it was against the philosophy of the BWC.

Many black workers opposed this, informing him this was not the BWC. But the motion passed. The white workers left, and so did several blacks...who never returned.

Roberts had refused to take action against the anti-busing whites, yet quickly moved against those white workers who were willing to fight racism.

Yet all the action directed against the racists in the weeks before had come from integrated groups. They had organized against the Ku Klux Klan. They had provided defense for blacks whose homes were being burned and rocked by racists. The BWC took the conservative position that blacks shouldn't live there. Most black workers felt that blacks should live where they want!

A body of eleven members were elected to form an executive committee, to provide leadership for the group. But Roberts dominated all meetings. Attendance fell off week after week. Some workers said they "refused to ever join the group" thinking it was a front for the BWC.

WHY ROBERTS WRECKED U.B.W.

It was not Roberts' reactionary position against whites which kept black workers away, so much as his generally conservative political ideas. In the UBWJC there were many leaders, and many more were being developed. Roberts felt threatened by other workers who could think, speak and act. This is why he destroyed UBWJC!

We question Robert's distrust of "white ideas." We say to the BWC, which is currently receiving federal funding—over \$7000—that the federal government does not kill black workers in Angola on one hand, and help black workers in Louisville on the other. We feel that the BWC cannot further the struggle of black liberation as long as it is tied to the purse strings of the oppressors' white government.

We feel that the BWC serves as a channel to cool off the anger of exploited black workers by encouraging them to fight through the white-dominated courts with white racist judges.

We think that it is inconceivable for black leaders to take black workers to the same court that pronounced black people as being 3/5 of a person.

Many black workers are serious about struggling against racist union leaderships, racist companies with racist hiring and firing policies, and a racist society. We are making every effort to maintain a black workers' organization in Louisville. We have to be independent of federal manipulation, and independent of the political backwardness of the anti-trade union BWC.

We are certain that we can build this organization. It is a greatly needed instrument in the fight for black liberation, and against racism in Louisville. We will win. □

Cornelius Morris
Re-organization
Committee, UBWJC

Shaking the "Marble Palace"

TEAMSTERS MARCH ON WA FITZ FLEES

"I was just informed that somebody down here—I'm sure Frank Fitzsimmons wouldn't do it to us—called the police on us. Well, he's way down in Florida, but I want the word to get to Frank Fitzsimmons. We're in Washington, Frank. You're in Florida. I don't care if you're in Timbuktu or Las Vegas. TDC is going to be there—you're going to have to see us one of these days."

That was Frank Brewer, a Teamster from Indianapolis, speaking to a crowd gathered in front of the Teamster Union's International headquarters in Washington, January 10.

They had travelled from all parts of the country to the "Marble Palace," as it's often called, to speak to their union leadership. But the doors were locked.

Standing on the steps of the Marble Palace, looking across the street at the US Capitol building, James Specero of Los Angeles Local 208, said, "This international is gradually being taken away from us."

That, probably more than anything else, was what brought the 130 or so Teamsters to Washington. They were a delegation, representing thousands more back home, all

members of Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). And they were ready to fight—for a decent contract and to regain control of their union.

PETITIONS

TDC brought the delegation to Washington to hand almost 20,000 signed petitions to their union leadership. The petitions were in support of TDC's contract demands for the national Master Freight Agreement (MFA). The present MFA expires March 31.

The International union is asking for wage and cost-of-living provisions similar to TDC's demands. But other vital issues, such as unemployment, the grievance procedure, safety, and company harassment are not mentioned.

The TDC hopes to change all that. And if one thing was clear after the day in Washington, it's that the group has an excellent chance of being successful. The determination and confidence were obvious in all the speakers.

"WE ARE THE UNION"

Here's Frank Brewer again: "You get your big business, you get your big government officials, and you get your big high union paid officials and



The picket line in front of Teamster headquarters was enthusiastic. popular chants was: "Frank Fitzsimmons, slick as oil; You'll get yours like T

they get together and they go out on the golf course and they conspire to make us live the way they think that we should live.

"And we do have a democratic society: we are the union, we are the government, and we are big business. And without us, what are they gonna do? They ain't gonna do nothing but say 'Have mercy on me'."

Bob Grant of the Chicago Independent Truck Drivers, hit on the same theme: "We've got a lot of people that have told us, well, this thing can't be done and you can't beat a system. Well, we're going to tear the system down. We did not build that system. No rank and file member in the labor movement ever built this bureaucracy."

The confidence has come from one thing: the existence of

a national rank and file group, Teamsters for a Decent Contract. James Specero: "We felt that we just didn't have the strength to fight until TDC."

But TDC has done more than give Teamsters strength and confidence in themselves. It's changed other things as well.

WOMEN

Normally the Teamsters Union is thought of as almost entirely men. TDC is different, as large numbers of women are involved as well. Some are truck drivers and dock workers. A few are clerks in freight offices. Some are wives. And everyone knows that they are a vital part of the TDC movement.

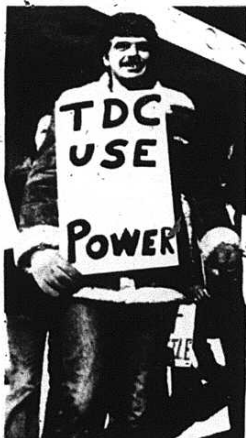
Ken Paff, TDC Secretary, told the meeting, "The struggle

for a decent contract is for our families as well as for ourselves. Those men who didn't want to bring their wives better wake up and get them involved in the struggle too."

And another Pittsburgh Teamster, Bill Cherilla, told the meeting: "You know we're getting hammered from the bosses, we're gonna get hammered from the union officials. But when we have to go home and get hammered at home it makes it awful tough. So with the wives behind us, I think it's going to make our end result a lot easier."

One woman truck driver, Anne Mackie from Cleveland, led a large contingent of United Parcel Service workers to Washington. Mackie is editor of UPSurge, a rank and file paper for UPS workers. The UPSurge movement is playing a vital role in the success of TDC, and a large number of the UPSurge activists are women.

One of TDC's greatest successes has been developing this unity between different sections of the industry, between men and women, and husbands and wives. It's that unity that gives TDC a real chance of success in its fight to win a decent contract and to return the Teamsters Union to the rank and file.



Joe Nabach, New York, Local 804, introduced as a UPS worker, currently fired: "I'm one of those fired-up UPS workers."



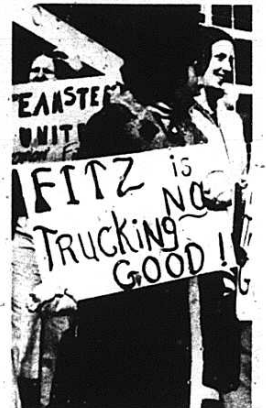
Anne Mackie, Cleveland, Local 407, reported that there were UPS workers present from ten cities. She urged all UPS workers to attend the big UPSurge rally in Indianapolis, January 31. That meeting will set UPSurge's contract demands for the Central States UPS contract, which expires April 30.



James Specero, Los Angeles, Local 208: "The reason I came here is because I wanted to meet a lot more angry people. I'm angry. I wasn't too angry before TDC came. But when I started reading this then I really got angry. I got angry with myself. I got angry with some of my officials, and with some of the brothers that I work with. Because we have been sitting down too long."

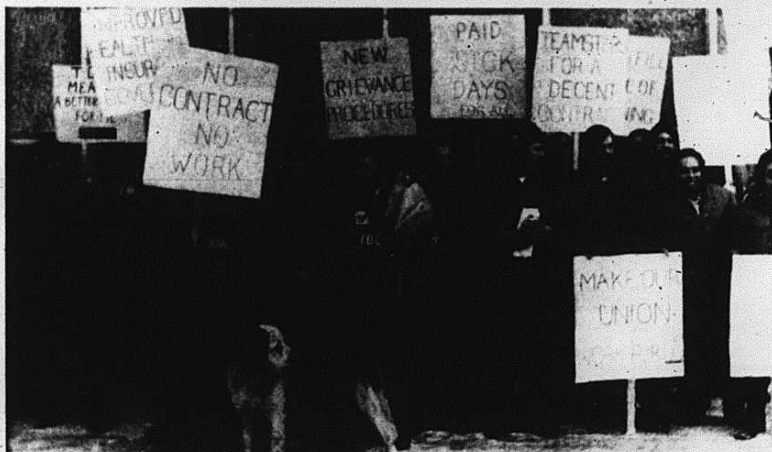


Frank Fitz-Sellout, Washington, Miami, La Costa, Las Vegas, IRT President: "No comment." Actually, one TDC member barely avoided arrest while gathering straw at a Washington construction site to provide this dummy with some guts.



WASHINGTON; TO FLORIDA

Photos: Doreen Leitz.



While the main TDC activity was in Washington, forty Teamsters also picketed Detroit's Local 299 union hall. The picket, sponsored by the Detroit Metro Chapter of TDC, was in support of the Washington delegation.

One United Parcel Service worker told reporters, "We are here to support the TDC delegation in Washington. A lot more of us wanted to go, but not everyone could afford it."

The picketers came from Locals 299, 243, and 337.

Most, however, were UPS workers. The Detroit TDC chapter also sent representatives to Washington.

Several union meetings were scheduled for the hall that day, but all were cancelled when the TDC demonstration was publicized. When that was announced at the main rally in Washington, one wit, mindful of recent 0° temperatures, claimed he knew why the meetings were really cancelled. "Inclement weather—it's getting too hot," he said.



As the TDC members marched, one of their most Tony Boyle!"

What Next?

Between now and time the freight contract expires March 31, the Teamsters for a Decent Contract has a big job: organize, organize, organize! "What we have to do is to have meetings, put out literature, try and reach as many people as possible, urged Pete Camaratta of Detroit Local 299.

Although the petition drive will continue, the main emphasis has shifted to holding local meetings and forming local TDC groups. Ken Paff, TDC Secretary, urged TDC members to travel to nearby cities to help set up new groups.

The focus of all this activity is directed at April 1, the day after the contract expires. TDC's slogan is "Ready to Strike!" One sign carried in front of Teamster headquarters read: "No Decent Contract, No Work."

The speeches emphasized the same theme.

Mel Packer, of Pittsburgh's Local 249, urged TDC to be prepared for court injunctions. "Take a lesson from the mine workers," he said. "It's just another piece of paper. You can't mine coal with an injunction and you can't drive a truck with an injunction."

Packer went on: "For years they've been telling us that we were the April Fools. On April 1 they said, 'You're the fools, here's another lousy contract.' No more! We got a joke for Frank Fitzsimmons and we got a joke for the companies. On April Fool's we got a real big joke for 'em when we go out. Just keep spreading the word and you just keep talking to people, and just get up on that morning and go, 'April Fool, Frank, it's all over!'"

Bob Grant from Chicago also spoke to the possibility of government intervention in a strike. "Let the National Guard come," he declared. "Let the goddamn army come. They did it before, didn't they? They drove our trucks. They tore up the tops, they tore up the transmissions, and they ruined them. Let 'em drive the goddamn trucks."



Frank Brewer, Indianapolis, Local 135: "I've been called a radical; I've been called a trouble-maker; I've been called somebody that's trying to destroy the rank and file. They can call me a son-of-a-bitch as long as they listen to me. They can call me anything they want to as long as they respect my demands along with my brothers and sisters in the Teamsters..."



Bob Grant, Chicago (Independent) Truck Drivers Union: "I think everybody up here, bar none, has said that you've been called names. I've been called everything but my name."



"We've come here today from all over America. From Detroit, from Pittsburgh, from Los Angeles, from Louisville. From some 20 states in all, this delegation of rank and file Teamsters has come to Washington to meet with Frank Fitzsimmons, our union president. But Frank Fitzsimmons, who dines with the trucking executives, will not meet with the rank and file who have come from all over the country.

But that is of no concern to us! Because our message is to the rank and file of the Teamsters Union: our fellow dock workers, city drivers, and road drivers who move America's freight. To those Teamsters who are not working, or only working as casuals; to those Teamsters whose working conditions are going downhill; to those Teamsters whose rights to a safe job are nil; to those Teamsters who have no justice on the job; to all these our message is this: WE ARE ORGANIZING OUR POWER TO DEMAND A DECENT CONTRACT!

We have seen the contract proposals Frank Fitzsimmons has presented to the trucking companies. Fitzsimmons is boasting of the big wage increases he is asking for, but you and I both know that if it wasn't for us

out here, he would be asking for a lot less. And it is also certain that he'll settle for a lot less too, unless we make it perfectly clear that we won't!

Our message is also to all the other 2½ million Teamsters and their families. We are saying that ALL our members have the right to a decent contract and real representation. TDC wants an end to Second Class Citizenship in the Teamsters Union. Our success will strengthen and build this union as an organization which must protect and serve its entire membership.

And our message is to the American people. Our contract comes up April 1. Yours will soon follow. If we end up with a bad contract, you can expect no better. TDC aims to unite the organized power of the IBT rank and file to fight for a decent contract. What we win will be a pattern for others, and importantly, our example will show that organized and united, the rank and file can win what it needs.

[Part of the statement of Pete Camaratta, Detroit Local 299, at TDC's press conference on the steps of Teamsters headquarters.]

TDC Rolls In L.A.

LOS ANGELES—Ninety Teamsters turned out last Sunday for the third public meeting of Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) in L.A. Plans were made to step up the collection of petitions. Fund-raising schemes were approved. And perhaps most important, the meeting agreed to push for local endorsements of TDC at Teamsters local membership meetings in January and February.

In addition, there was a report from the chairman of Local 208 Rank and File Contract Committee, John Franklin. He compared the contract proposals of TDC with those of the International. He also outlined some of the contract proposals being made by the employers in negotiations around the Western Conference supplement.

Franklin said these included a massive attack on past work practices, as well as making "gross insubordination" and "willful damage of employer's property," grounds of immediate firing. □

PLAYING COY?

DETROIT—Bob Coy, President of IBT Local 243, Detroit, MI told Teamsters attending January's membership meeting that the TDC and UPSurge were in the majority correct and were raising issues that should have been raised much earlier.

Coy is not known for being an oppositionist, far from it. He's bucking for an International post and is a solid Fitz man. But the phenomenal growth and appeal of both the TDC and UPSurge movements among Teamsters has made him, and many local bureaucrats, sit up and take notice publicly.

Nevertheless, no one was fooled. And the real question was, if the union leadership really supports this TDC and UPSurge movement, why weren't they on the TDC picket line Saturday noon, January 10, in front of the local hall. About 40 Teamsters, mostly from UPS and Local 243, turned out in support of the TDC delegation and picket line in Washington, DC. Neither President Fitzsimmons, who was in Florida, nor Bob Coy cared to show. That action speaks louder than any lukewarm support speech. □

Cab Strike Ends

SACRAMENTO — Cab drivers and office workers went on strike on the New Year's Eve rush, but the strike ended on the eighth day. Local 165, which represents 260 drivers and 50 office workers, was forced on the fifth day to appoint four new negotiating committee members.

"The International felt that the previous committee members' personal opinions toward company representatives prevented meaningful negotiations."

The new compromise contract, which was approved with reluctance, is void if the fare increases proposed by the company are not approved.

"I think the guys were worried that they wouldn't be getting any strike benefits. There have been rumors about that, and I'd be surprised if I got anything," said one worker.

An operator was reported as saying, "We're disappointed. We are dissatisfied..." She added that Local 165 recently raised its monthly dues. "I pay \$11.50 a month and I've got nothing to show for it." □

WELFARE CUTS

ST. LOUIS—Public employees are getting it. New York City's crisis was truly a vision of things to come.

The Missouri Division of Family Services is laying off workers and eliminating jobs. It was an early Christmas present from the administration to both workers and clients.

Three per cent of the workforce was eliminated statewide. 77 St. Louis workers are being laid off. Higher level jobs are being eliminated. The employees are being demoted, their wages slashed. 500 to 700 workers are rumored to be gone.

The clients, of course, will not be getting the services they need. Once again workers and poor people are the first to be affected by "necessary economic measures." □

Gail Smith

PITTSBURGH TEACHERS

FINED \$400,000 A DAY!



by Joe White, Parent-Student Strike Support Committee

PITTSBURGH—The courts and School Board have mounted an all-out offensive to smash a teachers' strike here. 4000 teachers have been out since December 1.

Following the Pittsburgh teachers' mass defiance of a back-to-work injunction, Judge Donald Ziegler fined the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) \$25,000 on January 12, plus \$10,000 for each additional day the teachers stay out. The judge also slapped a fine of \$100 per day on each striking teacher.

If paid, these fines would total over \$400,000 a day. Now the Allegheny County Sheriff has seized the union's property and assets, and is threatening to auction them off Monday if the fines aren't paid.

In addition, the School Board is using the carrot-and-stick on high school seniors. Letters were sent out with the bare-faced lie that seniors would not graduate on time unless they scabbed. The carrot is that students would receive an "A" for every day they cross the

picket line.

So far, however, the strike remains solid. Right after the fines came down, PFT President Fondy told a packed mass meeting to ignore them. He promised that individuals would not have to suffer financially because of the individual fines.

Community support for the teachers is also beginning to grow. This is despite the fact that the union leadership has done nothing to organize or encourage it. There are now parents and trade unionists out on the line with the teachers. Last week, the Parent-Student Strike Support Committee handed out over 4000 leaflets at supermarkets.

This week, Committee members directly leafleted the schools. They successfully turned away some seniors who would otherwise have been breaking the strike. At Monday's School Board meeting, half a dozen speakers blasted the Board's scabbing, strike-breaking tactics.

Most important of all, the solidarity of rank and file teachers themselves still remains firm. □

SUN SHIP SELLOUT

CHESTER, PA—"I'll go out on a limb," said Ernie Wilson, president of Boilermakers Local 802. "I'll go out on a limb and predict that we've negotiated a contract that you guys will be proud of."

Within an hour that limb cracked. A meeting of over 1300 workers from the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. heckled and disrupted their union officials, and voted 3-1 against the recommended contract.

This rowdy mass-meeting began the first official contract strike in 20 years at the Sun shipyard.

The union claimed the contract had been approved nearly 3-2. Members of the strike committee challenged the vote. They cited the larger number of votes than the number who signed in at the meeting, and that whole stacks of ballots had been found in the ballot boxes.

A second strike vote ended the eight day strike at Sun Ship. The tally was 860-843 in favor of the new contract. The closeness of the vote revealed the deep divisions within the 3000 member union. Many workers were angry about the final wage offer of \$1.51 an hour.

About a hundred rank and filers stood outside the union hall encouraging their co-workers to sign a petition demanding an investigation of alleged vote fraud. However most workers returned to work Tuesday, January 13. □

A Sun Ship Worker

SHOCKED

The union leadership was shocked by the workers' hostility and rejection of their "30 straight hours of hard work" at negotiations. Widespread cynicism and distrust of the union, as much as of the company, seemed as much a factor in the vote as any specific issues in the contract.

The union's claim that the new contract would make Sun the highest paying shipyard in the country was met with jeers and disbelief.

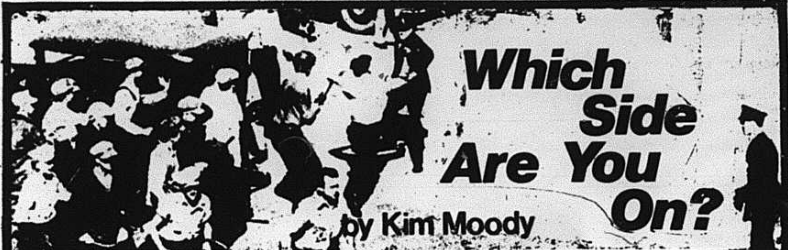
After the rowdy meeting Sunday, January 4, many of the 3,500 shipyard workers enjoyed their first week on strike at home, or gathered in the union hall or bars around the shipyard. While many felt the strike was a sacrifice that had to be made, others, though less vocal, felt itchy to settle and get back to work.

On January 8, Philadelphia area radio and TV announced that further negotiations had led to a tentative settlement. At a January 10 meeting, the Local 802 President began by threatening any worker who tried to disrupt the meeting from the floor. The Chester police were pacing the aisles.

SAME PACT

The Business Pact then read the exact same pact they had recommended before the strike. Controversial issues included the length of the contract, the 60c-35c-35c wage formula for three years, putting off a paid dental plan and a 12c a year cost-of-living increase to the second and third year.

About a third of the meeting got up immediately after the pact was read and, many yelling "Strike" and "It's the same old shit," walked out, presumably registering their "no" ballots on the way.



HOW SOCIALISTS BUILD THE WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT

Attempts by Teamster union officials to red bait leaders of the Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC), was discussed in this column last week. This red baiting has led militants to ask the following questions.

What part do socialists play in the working class movement?

To begin with, mass movements do not come about simply at the whim of socialists, Communists, or anyone else. Mass movements arise because workers know they are getting ripped off. As a Workers' Power editorial stated some weeks ago, TDC "exists for one reason: the top leaders of the union are not doing their job." The economic crisis of capitalism is putting the squeeze on workers' living standards. If the union leaders won't fight the squeeze, then the rank and file will find new leaders and new ways to fight.

Throughout history, many of the workers in the leadership of the labor movement were socialists and radicals. Many of the leaders of the early American Federation of Labor were socialists.

Thousands of rank and file militants who built the big CIO unions of the 1930's were socialists, communists and radicals. The organization of the powerful Central States Conference of the Teamsters was initiated by revolutionary socialists. And today, many of the rank and file movements that are trying to bring the unions back under workers' control are led by socialists.

Why are socialists such effective working class leaders?

There are two reasons. The first is socialist politics itself. Socialist politics are based on the

knowledge that the interests of the bosses and those of the workers are directly opposed. Socialist politics are concerned only with advancing workers' interests. So socialists are ready to fight unconditionally for the working class. Most labor leaders sympathize with liberal or conservative politics. Their politics tell them that when they try to get something for workers, they must do it without hurting the bosses. So they are not ready to fight unconditionally for workers. Often they are caught in the middle and have no solutions.

A large part of the reason that the bosses and union bureaucrats are so powerful is that they have their own national organizations. They are a small minority compared to the working class, but they are quite effective at keeping the rank and file down and disorganized. This brings us to the second reason that socialists are effective working class leaders. Socialists too, realize that being well-organized is essential to being effective.

The I.S. is a national organization. Its members have the advantage of the accumulated experience and resources that organization brings. For instance, as militants and leaders in their unions, I.S. members have a lot of responsibility. But they are not alone. Decisions on what approach to take to the company or union are based on careful thought by many people.

The I.S. decides general policies democratically. Everyone then carries out the decision. So I.S. members know that other I.S. members in their union all over the country will be carrying out the same policy, not suddenly changing their mind or disappearing. They can depend on each other. And they are helped by Workers' Power, which carries articles about their struggle. □

Letters

to

Workers' Power

Angry In Philadelphia

Dear Workers' Power,
 In a recent issue of the Philadelphia Bulletin readers were told how much local companies are doing to help their employees keep physically and mentally fit. Philadelphia Electric, for example, has an ice hockey league, a country club, and offers courses in persuasive

conversation and public speaking.
 Bell Telephone pays employees expenses for college courses. And Rohm and Haas, chemical manufacturers, treat their top executives to a lecture series on the hazards of drinking, smoking and lazy living.
 What the article did not point out was all the horrible things

these companies are doing every day to ruin workers' physical and mental health.
 At Bell Telephone, for example, speed up and harassment are so bad that 62% of all people who train as operators each year either quit or are fired because of the enormous pressure.
 Philadelphia Electric (P.E.) has added to workers' worries by raising their electric bills by 63% in just one year. Now they are demanding another 9.7% increase!

P.E. is also building three nuclear power plants in the area, even though the safety systems against nuclear accidents have never worked in test cases. These plants are also already producing hundreds of pounds of plutonium each year without adequate storage facilities for this cancer-producing by-product.

And then there is the much publicized case of Rohm and Haas, where 54 workers died of cancer over the last 20 years due to the exposure to Bio Chloro Menthol Ether (BCME), a cancer-producing chemical made at the plant.

Seven years ago the company paid to have a study done which showed the dangerous nature of this chemical. The company not only did nothing to protect its workers from exposure but kept the study a secret from the workers.

To top it off, Rohm and Haas was recently cited for dumping millions of gallons of this same chemical into the Delaware River and polluting the drinking water for the entire city of Philadelphia!

The only health these companies are concerned about is that of their profits and their executives who are getting fat on corporate expense accounts. As for the rest of us, they really don't give a damn.

An Angry Philadelphian

NO UNION

Dear Workers' Power,

Your paper defends capital—by defending the unions, which are inherently oppressive and are the last effective cops for the institution of wage labor.
 The bosses should give you a reward for your efforts at reforming and thus preserving their last protectors, the unions, against the spontaneous and wide-spread hatred of the workers.

S.F. Worker

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.

In struggle,
 Jerry Heft
 US Penitentiary
 Leavenworth, Kansas

WORKERS' POWER has a special fund to provide subscriptions for brothers and sisters who are in prison. If you are a prisoner, or know of a prisoner who would be interested in the paper, let us know. We will be glad to send it. Write: WORKERS' POWER, 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203.

PRISONERS WRITE W.P.

Capitalists Come In All Colors

Dear Workers' Power,

I'd like to point out something that all the other socialist papers have totally ignored, or joined in with the capitalist press in lying and skimming over.

I'm talking about the actual extent and involvement of US imperialist hegemony in Angola and the rest of Africa. Also, your exposure of black lackeys and the role they're playing in the oppression and mercenary, all-out attack on the freedom struggle of their African brothers.

The article on Roy Innis (of C.O.R.E. fame) accurately portrayed his role in joining with the capitalist oppressors of the Third World people on the national and international scene.

For a few dollars more, these black lackeys will help exploit, maim and kill, delay and interfere with the just struggles of their kindred people, and probably their very own sons and daughters here in fascist America.

And what is even more appalling is the ludicrous fallacies and contentions of many of the so-called black leaders. That combined group of black lackeys in Washington, who persistently and continuously mislead the masses of black people and working people on the murderous nature of US foreign policy. They keep pushing the idea that the ruling class-Pentagon clique should develop some kind of foreign policy in regards to the African continent.
 These so-called leaders want us

to believe that Amerika has somehow maintained a hands-off policy towards Africa.

But all of us who are familiar with the ruling class know very well that Amerika, and the entire West, has been exploiting, murdering, dis-assembling, and interfering with popular elected governments all over the Third World.

It is my fervent hope that Workers' Power will continue to expose and identify the capitalist exploiters, whether they be black, white, or technicolor. They're all capitalists and the enemy of blacks and workers.

The line must be drawn, and no imperialist lackeys tolerated, because capitalists come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

In constant struggle,
 Eugene Jones
 Buchewald Stalag
 Raleigh, NC

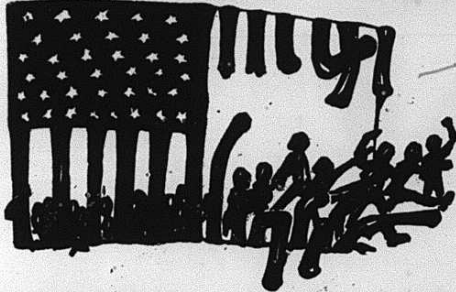
IMPRESSED

Dear Workers' Power,

I had the opportunity of reading your (Our) publication of "Workers' Power" and I must say that I was really impressed with what you put into the paper. You deal in realism.

I am being help captive here at rahway state Kamp and I am without funds. Could you send me your back editions? It would be most appreciated by myself and my comrades here alike.

Yours In Struggle,
 Erluke Winters
 Rahway, N.J.



SUPPORT WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

Dear Workers' Power,

Included in this letter you will find a check for two dollars. Workers' Power has been very instrumental in helping to broaden my knowledge of the struggles of the working class as well as the international struggles of the Third World.

As you probably know, I am one of the captives who has been fortunate to receive the paper free. This in itself says something about how positive the efforts of the International Socialists are and why all the readers of Workers' Power should get down and support the fund drive.

I think that anyone who has paid any attention to radical publications from the '60's up until now realizes that the two main elements that have caused the demise of many have been lack of practical content and/or the lack of support (financial). At a time like this I think that we should be about supporting those things that we claim to believe in.

The imperialists would like us to believe that there is a resurgence of the type of attitude that the amerikkan public maintained in the '50's. I don't believe this and I feel that we need tools like the Workers' Power newspaper to reaffirm our belief that there are people struggling all over the globe.

Many folks are claiming that there is too much apathy as far as the Left is concerned. I choose to believe that there are some apathetical people on the Left. I think that we should not try to cop out by making blanket statements.

If we have the spirit of struggle and if we are taking care of business, we will not have much time to spend with apathetic folks. In closing I hope that this small amount will help, this is the best that I can do. We captives don't make much in slave wages. I hope that the drive will be successful.

Haja Watu Amla
 Rahway, N.J.

ESCAPING A FRAME-UP

Dear Workers' Power,

I'm in solitary confinement in a federal prison.

In a couple of weeks I will stand trial for attempted escape. Rather than rely on a court-appointed attorney, I will defend myself. In the past, attorneys have allowed me to be convicted without

making a sincere defense.

Last Monday in US District Court in Topeka, Kansas, I asked that a statement the government alleges I made be suppressed. I have only a dim recollection of the interrogation during which they contend I made incriminating statements.

I was interrogated by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation accompanied by a prison guard a few hours after being removed from the intensive care unit of the prison's hospital. I had been unconscious two and a half days after striking my head in a forty-foot fall.

I remember that the agent laid a piece of paper on a table beside my hospital bed and that I refused to sign it knowing it to be a waiver of my right to remain silent.

At the hearing in US District Court both the agent and the guard testified that I read the waiver and orally agreed to the interrogation.

I know I didn't read the form. I'm extremely near-sighted and it would have been nearly impossible for me to do so since my glasses were being held as evidence.

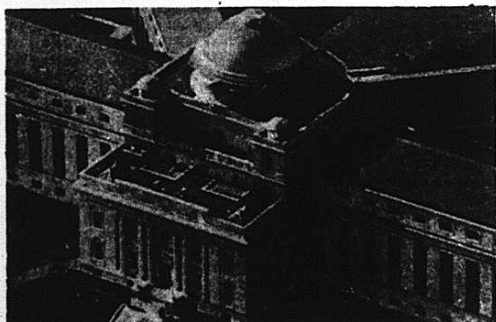
The government will use these alleged statements at the trial to prove a conspiracy to escape as well as the attempted escape, seeking to double my punishment. I can receive a five-year

sentence on each charge.

During the last four years I have written letters to the press and to members of Congress and filed lawsuits complaining of conditions in prison. In these, I have adhered strictly to the truth.

In response, the officials have lied repeatedly, yet they are the ones who have been believed. I am growing very bitter about this.

I know now that the system cannot be changed through non-violence.



Leavenworth Prison

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS GROW IN CANADA

TORONTO — "This convention has been really exciting for me. I'm going back to build my branch—to bring the people I work with into the I.S.," said a potash miner from Saskatchewan.

His remarks summed up the spirit of the first national convention of the Canadian International Socialists held last January 9 through 11 in Toronto.

Barely 10 months old the group had made significant steps forward. It grew from a small group in Toronto to five branches across Canada: Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston, and Saskatoon. The convention was attended by over 60 people, including 21 delegates.

I.S. militants are active in steel, auto, meatpacking, hospitals, potash mines and the public sector. The groups has also begun student work in the Toronto area.

One of the most significant achievements of the Canadian I.S.



David McNally, Executive Committee member of the International Socialists. "The time to build a workers' combat organization in Canada isn't five or ten years away—it's right now."

has been its monthly newspaper, Workers' Action.

BEST PAPER

In its short history Workers' Action is already the best working class newspaper in Canada. Each issue reaches thousands of worker militants.

Workers' Action speaks to their needs, their struggles and their aspirations. It is fighting for militant industrial resistance to the liberal government's wage controls. The paper is so successful that bi-weekly publication is being planned.

The group has also published a paper in Portuguese, "República do Trabalhador," which has received widespread distribution in Toronto's Portuguese community.

The convention itself marked the strengthening and maturing of the group politically.

The opening session, "Tasks and Perspectives," emphasized that the world stands on the edge of revolution. First Portugal, then Angola, Spain, Europe and finally North America.

"The potential here in Canada is enormous," said Don Lucas, National Secretary of the group.

GROWTH

This point was picked up over and over again as members from steel, meatpacking, hospitals, and other industries discussed the enormous potential for the growth of revolutionary ideas among the people they work with.

Next the group discussed perspectives for women's liberation. Speaker after speaker underlined the group's firm commitment to women's liberation and the integral connection between it and socialism.

The other major discussion of the convention was on immediate industrial perspectives. The need to consolidate the work of the group was stressed.

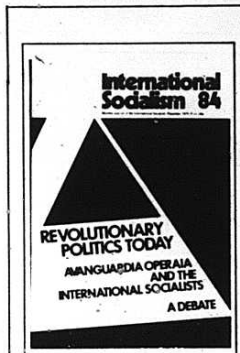


The Canadian I.S. will focus its growth in the industrial midwest, in particular, Hamilton and Sudbury. Work in steel and auto will receive the highest priority.

The convention closed with tremendous enthusiasm and pride in the accomplishments of the group. The tasks ahead are enormous, but all present felt certain that the Canadian I.S. is up to them.

International greetings were extended from the British I.S., the United States I.S., and the I.P.P. in Portugal.

Gay Semel



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

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Trade Union

HIDDEN FROM HISTORY—GENOCIDE IN AMERICA

“... I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. . . It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and I have no blankets, no food; no one knows where they are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever.”

by Byron Gray

These were the words of Heintot Tooyalakot (Young Joseph), Chief of the Nez Perce Indians of Wallowa Valley, now part of Washington and Oregon.

Chief Joseph was surrendering to General Oliver Howard in September, 1877. He and his small band of warriors brilliantly fought off the United States Army for four months over 1300 miles. The Nez Perces were fleeing to Canada for their freedom.

Last Friday evening, Xerox Corporation, part of what America is today, gave us the opportunity to 'view' this page in history.

KILLING

"I Will Fight No More Forever"

begins with the killing of a Nez Perce brave by a white man. The brave and his son were accused of stealing their own cattle. The son, enraged in his sorrow, avenges his father's death. This is in May, 1877.

This was the first white man ever killed by a Nez Perce Indian. The Nez Perces had maintained a long friendship with the white man. It began in 1805, when they saved the Lewis and Clark Expedition from starvation and dysentery.

The television scene turns to Joseph and his chiefs in a parlay with General Howard. Howard has just given Joseph thirty days to move his people out of the Wallowa Valley, a "green country of winding waters, wide meadows, moun-

tain forests, and a clear blue lake." They were to crowd onto a small reservation.

RELUCTANT

Joseph, realizing the impossibility of defending their home without being totally destroyed, reluctantly agrees to Howard's terms. Only four years earlier, President U.S. Grant had issued an executive order giving the Wallowa Valley to the Nez Perces forever.

Some of Joseph's chiefs, and many of his warriors, strongly urged Joseph to stay and defend their homeland. Joseph continued to counsel peace, but the Army made it impossible.

In the first battle Howard's forces attack. Outnumbered two to one, the Nez Perces drew Howard's soldiers into a trap. They kill a third of them, routing the remainder.

After this battle, Joseph realizes he cannot return to the Valley or reservation without punishment. He and his chiefs choose Canada.

From this point on, Joseph and his small bands of warriors brilliantly outmaneuver and defeat Howard's forces and three other battalions of the U.S. Army.

Time after time Howard thinks he's trapped Joseph, but "the fox" slips away or counter-attacks, baffling the frustrated General. Howard finally gains enough forces to surround and defeat the Nez Perces only 40 miles from the Canadian border.

ROMANTIC

The TV portrayal of the story is a romantic one, and the relationships of the individuals and sides are important.

Manifest Destiny, the notion that whites were destined by the Almighty to rule this land, is vaguely snuck into the story.

Howard and his sidekick Captain Wood are constantly at odds with themselves and each other, at just what to do about their feelings.

Howard has a past history of being "easy" with Indians. But he will put them down and destroy Joseph and the Nez Perces, if necessary to carry out his orders.

Wood feels differently. He is in constant hope that the Nez Perces will make it to Canada. He presses Howard from time to time to let them go.

He carries a deep conviction that what is happening to the American Indian is wrong. However, when his superior officer orders him into battle against this "victimized" people, he follows the order.

The Nez Perces were driven off their land by "destiny." They were forced to destruction, either by a reservation or war. They chose war in hopes of winning. They had no chance.

The brutal way in which they were tracked down and destroyed was effectively concealed from the production.

ENTIRE PEOPLE

The entire Nez Perces people, including the elderly, women and children, as well as warriors, were in this march for their freedom. They had little food, sometimes none. They wore only what was on their backs. They had few blankets. Most of them walked. They were always moving and had no time to rest.

Many died on the way. Many starved. Many became ill.

They nearly made it. And who were they up against? The United States Army. When soldiers attacked they did not save the women and children. They slaughtered any Indian they saw, if they could. Infants and women, young and old were found dead,

their bodies "riddled" with bullets.

Other bits of history were concealed from TV viewers. The Nez Perce remaining after the surrender were herded into cattle cars and sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They were confined on a swampy bottomland, as prisoners of war.

After a hundred died, they were transferred to a barren plain in Indian Territory. The Nez Perces sickened and died. In 1885 only about 285 "captive" Nez Perces were alive.

Chief Joseph was taken to Washington and put on view. After many eloquent appeals to return to his homeland, Joseph was sent back to Indian Territory.

He never saw Wallowa Valley again.

CENTURY LATER

In this Bicentennial year, nearly 100 years after the flight of the Nez Perces, this brutal treatment of Native Americans continues.

Native Americans are today penned up on reservations. They have no opportunity for a decent job or for return to their culture.

They are not allowed political representation. They suffer from malnutrition and disease. They live in shacks.

And any Native American who stands up militantly against this inhumane treatment is either harassed, jailed or murdered by the FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or local vigilante committees.

This racist capitalist system has no place for free people. Today, as yesterday, organized violence and terror keeps Native Americans in "their place."

The show was quite moving. But it is the truth about today's American Indians that brings me to tears. □

WORKERS' POWER

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Workers' Power

DETROIT: DEFEND BUSING!

by Kate Stacy

DETROIT—Buses will roll next week beginning a new school integration plan. It's difficult to tell if it will go smoothly—or if there will be protests and violence.

All the city officials are ducking the issue, refusing to support busing in this majority black town. Their lack of support leaves a tremendous hole for the racist anti-busing forces to march through.

The city has scheduled dozens of meetings to "prepare" the community. At these meetings, city officials, one after another, implore people to "obey the law because it is the law."

Some of them encourage anti-busing advocates to organize to change the law.

SELLOUT

The list of Detroit politicians refusing to rally behind this minimal desegregation plan is enormous. It is headed by the city's black mayor, Coleman Young. The list includes the majority of the members of Detroit's central and regional school boards, and some leaders of the politically powerful United Auto Workers union.

The failure of Detroit's black leadership is most striking. City schools are over 75% black. Blacks are probably more integrated into the city government here than in any other major American city.

And yet, the court ruled, Detroit schools are deliberately and illegally segregated—so segregated that black children receive an inferior education.

The judge who ordered the plan described it as "the absolute minimum the Constitution allows." The degree of integration was cut back to appease the small core of racists who have been kicking and screaming to maintain the "whitest" schools possible.

RACIST VOICE

In Detroit, as in Louisville, the racists are the only clear community voice. As a result, they are having a tremendous effect—despite their few numbers.

To make things worse, the planning to insure smooth implementation of busing has been woefully inadequate. It is nearly impossible for parents to get any specific information about the situation their children will face next Monday.

At a regional school board conference on desegregation, one parent in the "police workshop" asked how violence on the buses would be handled.

The reply: "That question was answered in the 'transportation workshop.'" This was typical of the vague and evasive answers the politicians gave.

The officials seem determined that busing will begin in a tense, uncertain and explosive atmosphere.

This strategy is almost identical to that used by city officials in Louisville, Ky., last fall. Rather than trying to convince the community to support integration, the city urged Louisville citizens to simply abide by an unpopular law they could do nothing about.

In the tense early days of busing, racist organizing and isolated acts of violence quickly ignited the flames of community racism.

The city immediately lost control of the situation, as it became clear to racist forces that they could do something—they could break the law, and the police would only half-heartedly restrain them.

If the city's black Democrats were serious about stopping racism



and segregation in Detroit the climate could be completely different.

DEFEND BUSING

A major reason black people are not excited about the busing program is because it's so minimal. It won't have much effect on the quality of their children's education, although it will improve it.

Most of the city's leaders say they support metropolitan busing, a much better, more effective integration plan.

Yet these leaders—from Coleman Young to the UAW—have

consistently refused to mobilize black and white people to demand a better busing program.

And they do nothing—absolutely nothing—to oppose or counter the racist anti-busing organizing that is going on.

For black people in Boston and Louisville, the racists' response to school integration has meant a climate of fear, violence and repression.

A clear, militant show of support for busing in Detroit could help turn their situation around. It would also effectively squash racist organizing and potential violence here in Detroit.



Workers' Power
Special Issue
DEFEND BUSING!
Now Available

One copy, 5c; twenty copies, \$1; 100 for \$2.

Women Organize To Stop Racists

Some women in Detroit are fed up with both the racist organizing against their children and the city's refusal to protect their children. They are forming a group called "Women Against Racism."

One woman, who had been in Louisville last fall when busing began there, said, "The main problem in Louisville was that all the parents had to deal with the situation by themselves. Neither the city or the police would do anything, really, to stop the terrible violence. But if we can join forces, we can protect all our children better."

Another woman said many people would want to join Women Against Racism. "I've talked to many parents and they're all concerned with one thing—the safety of their children. And they want to do something about it."

The first thing the women decided to do was counter the racist anti-busing organizing that gets all the publicity now. A Detroit group called Mothers Alert Detroit (MAD), a racist anti-busing group, has been demonstrating for months.

FIRST ACTIVITY

Women Against Racism's first public activity will be to picket against a MAD demonstration on January 22 in front of the Federal Building.

On January 24, the weekend

before the busing program begins, Women Against Racism will hold its first big meeting. They plan a press conference, an organizing meeting and rally.

The group decided to choose several schools and concentrate on the areas around them to get their message across. They will print a brochure that explains why Women Against Racism formed and convinces other women and mothers to join.

The group will put pressure on the city and the police force to make sure that all the children are treated equally. In Louisville and Boston, black children have been arrested and suspended from school for things that white children get away with. This racist treatment won't be allowed here.

WHAT TO DO

The women believe their group will grow rapidly because it fills a real need for Detroit parents. They want women to:

- Attend Regional School Board meetings and argue against the anti-busing racists.
- Participate in demonstrations against MAD and other racist groups.
- Help distribute Women Against Racism literature in your neighborhood, workplace, and community.
- Join Women Against Racism. For more information call 869-3137.

Local 51, 212 Militants Join Contract Fight

DETROIT—Two local union causes voted to join the Coalition for a Good Contract (UAW). The United Coalition from Local 51 and the Local 212 Chapter of the United National Caucus voted to join at January 11 meetings. Both locals cover Chrysler plants.

The Coalition for a Good Contract (UAW) was formed in December. Various forces from all over the UAW wanted to work together on specific contract demands. Present contracts with the Big Three expire September 14.

ENTHUSIASTIC

At the United Coalition Steering Committee meeting there was an enthusiastic discussion on the Contract Coalition. U.C. members spoke about using the Contract Coalition as both a way to be involved in a national effort and to aid organizing efforts to improve

the local supplements at Chrysler's Mound Road Engine and Lynch Road Assembly plants.

The United Coalition was successful in 1973 in voting down the local agreements at both plants. The Lynch Road agreement was finally passed on the third vote. Mound Road has been working without a local supplement since 1973.

After unanimously voting to join the CGC, the United Coalition set a first goal of 500 pledge cards signed prior to the next meeting of the CGC. That meeting will be at the time of the Collective Bargaining Convention.

The 212 UNC thoroughly discussed the program of the CGC. Aghin there was enthusiasm for the Coalition as well as hope that it could help broaden the influence of the Caucus in the local.

Bill Hastings