

JOBS WIPED OUT AS AT&T PROFITS SOAR

by Michael Stewart

NEW YORK — In January AT&T announced it was closing its Western Electric plant in Tonawanda, N.Y. That move eliminates 2000 jobs. Two months later they told why. Dividends will be raised 40c

a share. With over 570 million AT&T shares outstanding, the dividend increase itself amounts to over \$230 million a year.

That alone is the equivalent of 15,000 jobs. Tonawanda is not alone. The

layoff of Western Electric installers has reached as high as ten years' seniority in New York.

Such actions are not new to AT&T. During the depression when thousands of businesses were going bankrupt, AT&T never even cut its dividends once.

Instead it cut its work force—by 185,000 people, 40% of its 1929 level.

These layoffs are permanent—there will be no recalls. For those laid off, the future looks bleak. But not for John de Butts, Chairman of the Board of AT&T.

His dividends alone are more than the wages of a telephone worker. But even they are peanuts compared to his annual salary of \$381,000.

His only hardship is the prospect of having to retire on a pension of only \$240,000 a year.

WORKERS' Power

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HOW CIA BUYS

VETS FOR WARS

by Dan Posen

RECRUITING LETTER REVEALED

This letter was received by a black Vietnam vet, and ex-Green Beret, in Philadelphia. He gave it to Workers' Power with permission to print it. Many of his ex-servicemen friends have received identical mailings.

It is a letter recruiting American mercenaries to fight for the western puppet armies in Angola. It makes it clear that "this operation is organized and financed by the CIA." It gives a name and phone number in California.

Whoever compiled the mailing list for this letter gave it, or sold it, to somebody named Frank Renzi. That gives the original source a cover to hide its role in the recruiting. We do not know the identity or the nature of the "Renzi Investigative Service." Neither does the ex-serviceman who gave it to us. However, he assured us that whoever sent the letter could have gotten his name from only one source: the U.S. military. He has received other letters on the same stationery. Besides Angola, they solicit mercenaries to fight for the white supremacy regime in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), the Sultan of Muscat Oman in the Arabian Gulf, and non-combat duty for the Danish army in northern Greenland. Each letter carries the same grim reminder: "You could be killed or crippled... I do not recommend that you accept this dangerous employment... I am writing you this letter for your information only."

PASSES BUCK

That's how Frank Renzi, whoever he is, disavows his own responsibility and passes the buck to the agency who gave him the mailing list.

What all this means is that the CIA and the U.S. military are part of an international ring of mercenary recruiters. Under cover, without publicity and (they hope) without popular knowledge, they are feeding American ex-soldiers into murderous wars around the world.

The cannon fodder they have in mind are the soldiers who came back from Vietnam. Among them they hope to find thousands who cannot find jobs, have no training except killing, and will be desperate enough to go back to jungle or desert warfare as hired hands for imperialism.

They are especially eager to find those with special training in crushing popular movements, like the Green Berets, or those who have become addicted to killing and cannot return to living normal lives. So you thought the CIA only plays its "dirty tricks" in faraway countries? Think again. The CIA is right at home. Like a vulture, it is there, preying on unemployment and hopelessness and the desperation of ordinary young working class men.

Think about it. It's deadly serious. It's your friends, or your family, or you, they're planning to rip off.

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RENZI INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE  **THOROUGH INQUIRY AND RESEARCH**

RE: ANGO-LAN CIVIL WAR

American mercenaries are operating with UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and Unita's northern ally FRLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola).

The American groups are organized along the lines of Special Forces A and B teams. They have undergone refresher courses at Fort Benning, Georgia before leaving for Africa.

Ex-Special Forces would seem to have the inside track in being accepted although others with extensive combat experience and at least one military specialty such as weapons, medical, communications, and explosives, would qualify. In addition, helicopter pilots and mechanics are being sought. Salaries range from \$1,000-\$1,500 per month with a \$20,000 life insurance policy written on every man.

This operation is organized and financed by the CIA. If interested call David Durkin, in Kernan, California. Phone is 209-846-9152. There is no need to mention my name. Thank You.

Once again, I feel it is my duty to remind you, that you could be killed or crippled in the Angolan war. I do not recommend that you accept this dangerous employment.

SINCERELY,
FRANK RENZI

Under cover and with no publicity, the CIA recruits.

ATTICA



New York State is writing the final chapters of what is passing as an "investigation" into the 1971 Attica prison massacre.

That massacre began with lies, hypocrisy and cover-up by New York State officials. It is ending the same way.

"LACK OF FAIRNESS"

The Special Prosecutor says he has evidence that "amply demonstrates a lack of fairness and even handedness" in the way the state investigated and prosecuted the Attica cases. After discovering that many "unjustifiable homicides were committed by individual law enforcement officers" at Attica, he has started dismissing charges.

In particular, the only charge against a New York State employee has been dismissed—a trooper charged with reckless endangerment for random, indiscriminate firing. Suddenly, they're saying it's unfair to indict one trooper for the deeds of so many.

That was the only indictment ever returned against the army of police who killed 32 inmates and 11 prison guards. But 62 inmates were charged with a total of 1289 crimes. Before the Special Prosecutor discovered any "lack of fairness and even handedness," dozens of them were dragged through trials and brutally tortured behind bars.

ELECTION YEAR

Over four years later, it is good politics to drop most of the charges and let the memories of Attica fade away. In an election year, no one cares to take responsibility for prosecuting a white murderer of mostly black prisoners. So "in the interests of justice" most remaining charges on both sides are being dropped.

But not quite all. The Special Prosecutor, now dripping with fairness and even handedness, is pressing one last murder charge. It is against an Attica inmate who has since

escaped. He says, "The interests of justice do not require foregoing prosecution of a provable, intentional killing."

The only reason most indictments against prisoners are being dropped is the tremendous efforts of the Attica defense committees, which had to work for years and spend tens of thousands of dollars to drag the truth to light. The admission of gross unfairness by the prosecution is a victory. But New York State still insists on getting its last pound of flesh from the victims of Attica.

"PROVABLE, INTENTIONAL"

There were 43 "provable, intentional killings" at Attica. Every one was committed by the highest officials of New York State, starting with Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Not a single one will ever be brought to justice. None of them will pay a dime or spend a day in prison—as long as their system stays in power.

A LETTER...

Dear Workers' Power,

As an employee for the Missouri Welfare system, I see the atrocities of capitalism every day.

It's always been bad, but in the last few months, I have been seeing more and more examples of how the capitalists are trying to make the poor pay so they can keep making more profits.

There have been cutbacks in food stamps, cutbacks in benefits, and cutbacks in services. People continue to come into the office daily in search of food for their children.

One of my clients who had worked all of her life, was taken ill. It was discovered she had diabetes. She was only eligible for \$90 per month and medical "benefits." Although Medicaid paid for her insulin, it did not pay for her syringes. For her and many others, life under this

system has become a daily struggle for survival.

Today the system is starting another round of blows to the poor. The last viable service-paid day care is being sabotaged.

Until now, welfare recipients who have gotten jobs or were receiving training were eligible for full or partial payment of day care by the state. The new rule

says welfare can no longer pay partial payments—it's all or nothing.

For most of these people it will be nothing.

Public employees must unite to defend ourselves and our clients against these attacks. It will just keep getting worse unless we do.

H.N.
St. Louis

A Divorce...

Missouri is not the only place where life on welfare is barely life at all.

In Dallas, Texas, living on

welfare means a choice of death or divorce for Ida Flint.

Gordon and Ida Flint have been married 62 years. Ida Flint is now very ill. She needs full time nursing home care.

The Flints live on Gordon's \$488 monthly retirement benefits. It is not nearly enough to pay for the nursing home.

The welfare department says \$488 for two is too much to qualify for assistance. They also say that as her husband Gordon Flint, 88, is responsible for Ida.

The only way the welfare department will pay the nursing home bill is if Ida is alone.

So that Ida may live the Flints are getting divorced. □



AMERICAN DREAM
Gay Semel

labor notes

by Jim Woodward



Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly plant in Detroit has a new plant manager named John D. LaFontaine. LaFontaine has a tough reputation. He administered the cut in the work force at the Jefferson Avenue Assembly plant from 7000 to 2400. He's already begun with the harassment at Lynch Road. Recently a couple employees got written up for walking too slowly from car to car. The foreman told them there is a minimum speed limit of three miles an hour at the plant.

It seems that Clare Berryhill, a California state senator, had plenty of reason to lead the opposition to refunding the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. The Board was recently denied a needed appropriation because growers objected that the United Farm Workers Union was winning most of the representation elections. Berryhill himself owns vineyards in California. And in addition, he sold more than \$10,000 worth of his grapes to the Gallo Winery last year. Gallo has been among the most active growers in fighting the UFW, and no doubt was more than willing to give Berryhill a good price for his grapes.

According to the federal agency set up to administer the new pension law, employers are abandoning pension plans in record numbers. Over 5000 plans were terminated last year, or more than four times as many as expected. Employers claim it would be too expensive to provide the minimal pension guarantees required in the new law.

The Washington Post strike is virtually over, with all unions except the pressmen back at work. The mailers accepted what their local president described as a "pretty bad contract." It eliminated 10 or 15 jobs. The Post has hired 150 scabs for the pressroom and is making them do the work that 204 did before the strike. And the newspaper is gloating over a \$2 million savings in wages this year in the pressroom alone.

There also seems to be a move afoot to attack the newspaper unions in the Philadelphia area. Members of the Newspaper Guild have been on strike for almost three months at the Delaware County Times, where the company has hired non-union employees to replace the Guild members. And for the last four weeks, members of Local 141 of the Graphic Arts International Union have been on the picket line at the Jewish Exponent, protesting plans to transfer their work to a non-union shop in Burlington, New Jersey.

You work in an office and so you think you don't have to worry about health and safety on the job? Well, surprise. Every year more than 200 office workers are killed—yes, killed—in job-related accidents. And 40,000 suffer disabling injuries.

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

... AND A 3-YEAR OLD DIES

... Compared to some, the Flints are lucky—they've found a loophole to squeeze through in order to survive under the crushing, inhuman heel of welfare.

Three year old Frankie Reams of Detroit was not as lucky. Last week he was found dead of pneumonia. The welfare system is to blame.

Frankie was one of four children. His father, Frank Reams, has not been able to find enough steady work to support his family in Detroit. He worked odd jobs anywhere he could get them.

At the time of this son's death Frank Reams was working a part time job in Newport, Kentucky.

To survive the family receives Aid to Dependent Children.

When Mrs. Reams discovered her son was sick she took him to Redford Community Hospital.

BREATHING DIFFICULT

"Frankie was born asthmatic and was having extreme difficulty



breathing because of a cold," Mrs. Reams said.

The nurse at Redford Community insisted that we pay \$15 because the ADC medical card wasn't enough."

Mrs. Reams has no money so she drove to Botsford General Hospital. "The emergency room doctor wasn't very friendly. He gave Frankie a nose spray and a prescription."

Before she left a nurse at Botsford General had Mrs. Reams sign a certificate absolving the doctor of any fault in treatment.

A few days later Frankie died. The Reams are angry.

"Apparently if you don't have \$15 your little boy dies. I'm trying to think that oath doctors take [the Hippocratic oath] but if you don't have money it apparently doesn't apply," said Mrs. Reams.

"No one classified him as an emergency. Now he's dead. They should have been in the room with me when I found him that way." "Frankie's gone. There is nothing that can be done to bring him back," continued Mrs. Reams.

"But I just don't want another little boy to die because his mother can't afford \$15." □

... THEY ALL SAY THE SAME THING

Workers' Power 150

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Tragically, there will be other Frankies and other Ida Flints. The welfare system is part of the capitalist system and capitalism has no heart.

Those who run the capitalist system use people like machines—when they are no longer useful they are left to rust. That is what welfare is all about—a human junkyard, a place where people are left to rot.

To end the misery of life on welfare we must end the system that produced it. □

Auto Network Holds Contract School

DETROIT — About forty auto workers attended an "organizers' school" here February 29. The day-long session was organized by Network, the rank and file auto workers' newspaper.

It was devoted to developing plans for the upcoming contract fight in the auto industry.

Jack Weinberg of Local 212 opened the conference by noting that "now we're going back to a situation where the rank and file auto worker is faced with the same kind of pressures as when the union was first formed."

"We face the pressure of job security, wages that you can live with, and just as important, having conditions on the job that you can live with from day to day."

"What we're finding is that the union as it exists today is not doing a sufficient job to defend us."

GOOD CONTRACT

Network is actively participating in this year's contract fight through the Coalition for a Good Contract (UAW).

The Coalition is circulating pledge cards throughout the auto plants. Signers pledge to vote "no" on any contract that falls short of the Coalition's goals in the areas of job security, wages, and working conditions.

Many participants at the Network meeting emphasized the Coalition's program on job security — a 32 hour work week at 40 hours pay.

This demand is getting increasing support in the union.

Also stressed was the role of Network.

Eldi Eckstein from Local 51 said, "We need a voice within this contract coalition that speaks 100% for the rank and file—a communications network that organizes and protects the interests of the ranks from any sellout in 1976."

Reports were given from a dozen locals, including representatives from Chicago and Canada.

And discussions were held on various problems encountered on the shop floor in soliciting signatures on Coalition pledge cards. □

Skilled Trades Strike Chrysler World HQ

DETROIT—Members of UAW Local 412, Unit 10, have been out on strike since February 26.

The 800 skilled tradesmen at Chrysler Headquarters cited Chrysler's practice of farming out work to non-union shops as the union's major grievance.

The company's refusal to handle backed-up grievances and paid progression were also at issue.

A number of picketers have already been arrested, and one Workers' Power seller was almost run over by a strike breaker's speeding car.

This last incident brought forth angry demands from the strikers that the scab be arrested by police.

But the cops, as usual, were much more concerned about protecting Chrysler Corporation than workers on strike.

Local 412 members have promised to stay out until victory. □



UFW Solidarity Picket Hits Sun Sweet, Sun Maid

DETROIT—Almost 200 people picketed a Meijers supermarket Feb. 28 in Plymouth, Michigan. They were supporting the United Farm Workers union. The union is now initiating boycotts of Sun Maid and Sun Sweet products (raisins and dried fruit). Those companies were most active in sabotaging the farm labor election law in California. The picket line was supported by many other unions. Signs identified participants from the auto workers, utility workers, service employees, communications workers, steel workers, AFSCME, and Teamsters. □

GM WORKERS VOTE TO OCCUPY PLANT

by Anthony James

On Sunday, February 15, more than 100 members of Local 216, United Auto Workers, South Gate, California, voted for a factory occupation if GM decides to close its South Gate plant.

The motion passed by the rank and file reads: "If GM decides to close the South Gate plant, we must answer that with occupation of the plant, like they are doing in Italy and England."

"We must defend our right to a job from the position of strength—inside the factory and not on the unemployment line."

"This meeting must elect a plant occupation committee, so that it can make preparations and plans for a sit-down strike, if GM decides to close South Gate."

The action came on the heels of reports from both the company and the union that a layoff scheduled from February 14 through February 27, would be extended until March 8.

In addition it was not clear how many workers would be called back even then.

The motion was raised from the floor by Rudy Sulenta, a respected militant. He has been active in the union for 20 years and is a past president of the local.

He asked the local UAW leadership if they had any idea of what to do in case of a shut down at South Gate.

"I KNOW"

When they replied that they did not, he said, "I know what to do." As he read his motion, the effect on the rank and file was electric.

One worker said, "It was a powerful moment. A powerful thing."

A union official tried to table it to the Executive Board but that failed. The vote was unanimous.

Even the union leadership voted for it! There was so much enthusiasm in the room that they did not dare vote against the ranks.

Moments later, one union official exclaimed, "What the hell have we done? We voted for a sit-down!"

All of a sudden, this same union leadership began to argue that the union had a contract to abide by, that they were legally bound not to take such actions.

They tried to take the issue to a re-vote, which obviously was breaking the rules of union democracy. But it didn't work.

The 'sit-down' motion was re-stated, and the union leadership lost by a sound margin, though it

was not a unanimous vote this time around.

Next, the union leadership put forward a motion that the Executive Board pick the plant occupation committee, but the rank and file voted it down.

The occupation committee is to be chosen by democratic procedure at the next union meeting in March.

RESPONSE

The motion was in response to events of Friday February 13, the last scheduled work day before changeover.

The changeover was scheduled to retool for production of the new Chevette. The South Gate plant was to join the GMAD plant in Wilmington, Delaware in production of the new car.

Until February 13, South Gate had been calling back workers who had been off work as far back as December 1970.

For many, February 13 was their first day back in the plant in a long time. Many had quit other jobs in order to get their old one back.

But that morning, 30 maintenance men on day shift were notified

that they were to be laid off indefinitely.

Detroit had informed the South Gate plant that this was not going to be a two week layoff, but probably a much longer one.

Due to the economy and the car market, the company had shelved its plans for South Gate. The Wilmington plant will have sole responsibility for putting out the Chevette.

When union officials found out, their only action was to hurry to notify both shifts not to come back to work until March 8.

NO DATE

Workers with low seniority were given slips with no return date stamped in.

The South Gate plant had been running two shifts for quite awhile. Now there is a good chance that only one shift will be called back March 8.

In addition, the usual change-over period for the standard models, which is August, has been moved up to June 2nd.

That means two months less on production of the '76 models than was originally planned.

United Coalition Builds for Good Contract

DETROIT—On February 22, 25 members of Local 51 met to discuss the upcoming contract.

The meeting, called by the United Coalition of Local 51 heard speakers from Lynch Road Assembly and Mound Road Engine call for united action around the national and local contract.

In 1973 both plants rejected their supplemental agreements. The memory of how the company gave them a rotten deal and the International sold them out is still very strong today.

Members of the United Coalition vowed a No Vote on the national and local contract if they were sold out again.

The United Coalition has joined with a number of other locals in the Coalition for a Good Contract. Part of the meeting was spent organizing the upcoming pledge card campaign.

Those attending the meeting have already taken the pledge cards into the shop where a good response is reported. □

It seems that auto makers want to get out as many of the '77 models as possible before September 15, the day the contract expires. The auto industry is preparing for a long strike.

So it is clear there is more behind these layoffs than losing the Chevette contract.

The occupation motion was a timely one. A lot of workers at South Gate are talking about it.

A young black worker talking to co-workers put it this way: "The way I see it, if working people aren't revolutionaries, they aren't nothing."

Another worker said of the motion, "Power lays in the union members, who really know what it's all about."

It remains to be seen what happens at the March membership meeting. The local leadership, the Executive Board, or the International may find a way to block any independent rank and file action at South Gate.

But you can bet the meeting in March will be packed. As one excited South Gate worker pointed out, "The rank and file is a powerful thing!" □



Jamaica strikes grow

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—Eight hundred workers at Sproed, Ltd., here, are on strike demanding the firing of the plant manager and a foreman, and the reinstatement of a wrongfully dismissed worker. The strikers are members of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. Their plant makes detergents and supplies for the baking trade. Within two days the strike spread to the whole complex, including clerical workers.

"The plant manager has been conducting a systematic campaign against us," said John Dwyer, the union convenor. "This dismissal merely brought matters to a head." The strike is an example of how the Jamaican working class is gaining confidence at a time when the country's economy is collapsing. The two mainstays of the economy, bauxite and tourism, are in decline, and the country faces a political crisis. □



Zimbabwe liberation fighters.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Set to break chains

break with Smith's regime.

Whether or not war will break out immediately is unclear.

Smith, with the backing of South Africa and Britain, is still trying to negotiate with the most conservative black Zimbabwean leaders, like Joshua Nkomo. They hope a sellout can be negotiated, and the black militant armed national liberation movement crushed.

LOOKS UNLIKELY

But such a settlement looks less and less likely.

South Africa, the main power pushing for that kind of solution, swings much less weight with both sides since its invasion of Angola was smashed.

Machel's move against Rhodesia may be a last minute effort to increase the pressure on Smith to settle. But it also means preparations for war are more advanced than ever.

Southern Africa may be on the verge of a new war.

The crumbling power of white minority rule is also cracking up alliances between southern African rulers. Angola was only the beginning.

Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) is ruled by a white minority headed by Ian Smith. Recently, Zimbabwe liberation forces have been crossing the border from neighboring Mozambique to wage armed struggle.

Smith's air force and artillery troops responded with an attack on a Mozambique border village. Mozambique president Samora Machel then announced a total

Spain's King Killing Strikers

On Wednesday in Vitoria, a city in Basque country in northern Spain, police fired on a demonstration of thousands of striking workers. Their bullets killed two.

"Give them an inch and they'll take a mile" is the problem facing Spain's government.

"They are the masses of Spanish workers, peasants and students.

Truckers, bakery workers and teachers have also been waging bitter strikes in the last week. Fascist thugs and riot policemen in Madrid joined forces to assault several hundred students marching

in downtown Madrid.

The government in Madrid still sits in power, pretending to move toward "democratic reform." But the only struggle for democracy in Spain is coming from masses of people who strike, protest and battle with police.

The government's only interest in "democracy" is to create a tame, middle-class front. It wants a toothless, fake parliament that agrees to keep workers powerless, wages down and real workers' organizations illegal.

But the government of King Carlos and his ministers has less and less support. Extreme fascists on the right, and an explosive workers' movement on the left, are both organizing against it. Both far-right and left-wing factions exist in the Army.

With no solutions, the government is losing support. The only solid ally the murderers holding power in Madrid have is the United States government.

Washington is racing full speed ahead to shovel \$1.2 billion in aid and credit to Spain, and to make Spain a full partner in NATO.



King Juan Carlos' government's only support is Washington.



China: Wall Posters Bloom

by Ken Brown

Only a few weeks after Chinese Premier Chou En-lai died, his hand-picked successor came under attack.

On February 7 the Chinese press referred to an almost unknown figure Hua Kuo-feng as the "acting premier."

This can as a surprise because Chou En-lai's closest ally, Teng Hsiao-peng, had been acting as prime minister and was expected to replace Chou himself.

Anti-Teng posters that are now appearing attack "unrepentant capitalist roaders" and those, like Teng, who stress "stability and unity" instead of "class struggle."

The campaign started in the People's Daily newspaper, at a rally in Shanghai sponsored by the Municipal Party Committee, and in Peking and Wuhan.

This is where the section of the Chinese leadership organized by Mao Tse-tung has a base.

Out of the 29 provinces and large cities in China, 12 have not joined in the attacks. These are mainly in the South, where Teng Hsiao-peng himself has a strong base.

The current campaign against "capitalist roaders" was not begun by the Chinese people. There is no sign that ordinary workers and peasants had anything to do with it.

THE REAL STRUGGLE

The real struggle going on in China has nothing to do either with "restoring capitalism" nor with organizing a "class struggle" of workers.

Capitalism was abolished in China in the early 1950's. Capitalists and landlords were expropriated by the Communist Party. Production of commodities for private profit was replaced with planning by a bureaucratic ruling class.

Neither Teng Hsiao-peng or

any other Chinese bureaucrat plans to restore capitalism. And neither Mao nor any of his bureaucratic faction want to replace their own class rule with real workers' power, socialism.

Instead the Communist Party leaders are debating among themselves about how to exploit

the Chinese workers and peasants, and keep themselves in power.

Teng is attacked for saying "It doesn't matter whether a cat is black or white as long as it catches mice."

This means he doesn't care whether all agriculture is collectivized—he wants whatever system of farming produces the most.

By and large, peasants are more interested in their own small plots than getting piece rates based on "work points" on government-owned communes.

This goes along with systems of piece rates and production bonuses for workers in industry.

SPEED UP

Teng is for using these measures in the same vicious way capitalists do, to force the workers to speed up and work harder.

He is also for rewarding factory managers and lower level cadres with some of the same privileges and luxuries the top bureaucrats enjoy.

Mao Tse-tung violently opposes this. He believes in ideological warfare to "convince" the masses to put in days of overtime work without any pay, to eliminate bonuses and material incentives.

Mao is also for cutting the privileges of lower level bureaucrats (not the top ones), because these privileges set a poor example and create an economic drain on a poor society.

These two points of view are loosely organized into unofficial factions in the Chinese Communist Party, where bitter fights

break out over economic policy from time to time. But they are simply debating how the bureaucrats can most effectively control, and get most unpaid production from, workers.

The interests of workers and peasants do not lie with either side in this struggle among bureaucrats. However, the fact they are fighting may open up the situation enough that workers and peasants can flex their own muscles.

This began to happen at the height of the Cultural Revolution in 1968, when the struggle among Communist Party bureaucrats widened into a nationwide upheaval and began to escape their control.

SECOND REVOLUTION

In February 1968, a revolutionary group called Sheng-wu-lien, which brought together 20 smaller organizations, called for a second revolution to give power to the workers.

It said the whole bureaucracy must be overthrown, not just those who were being denounced as "capitalist roaders" in a faction fight.

At that time Mao's supporter Hua Kuo-feng, the same man just named acting premier, became the Minister of Public Security.

He used this power to throw many revolutionaries, workers, peasants, and students in jail.

The factional struggle in China may heat up further in the next few months. But a new revolution, by the working class, is still the only way to bring socialism to China.

why china isn't socialist

CHINA'S COMMUNIST PARTY GOVERNMENT claims to be socialist, and ruled by the people. In fact, China is run by a ruling class.

This ruling class is a bureaucracy which controls the state machine, the factories, the press and all nationalized property. This bureaucracy is made up of the top leaders of the government, army, police, industry, schools, and commune functionaries.

They don't individually "own" companies, but they control production and organize the exploitation of workers and peasants by the state apparatus which they run.

The Chinese Communist Party, although it has 28 million members, is not a party run by or for workers. It is the machine which centralizes the rule of the bureaucracy.

This ruling class lives off the labor of the workers and peasants of China. Here are some of the wage levels which show the degree of inequality and exploitation:

- A top bureaucrat or "Grade 1 cadre" gets 738 yuan a month.
- The lowest, Grade 30 cadre, gets 20 yuan a month.
- An average city worker gets 50 yuan a month.
- The average peasant (which means many make less) gets about 12 yuan.

But these figures only show part of the picture of privilege and inequality. For example, the leading bureaucrats live in the beautiful Chungnanhai area of Peking, a residential park separated by guards from ordinary workers. They are chauffeured around in ornate Mercedes.

Other examples of the way the ruling class lives were revealed during the Cultural Revolution. Red Guards attacked Teng Hsiao-peng for ordering "high class food and hors d'oeuvres" from a restaurant in Peking, employing private railroad cars and flying his bridge partners in from around the country.

During the Cultural Revolution Mao and his faction made a lot of noise about a struggle against the privileges of a few top bureaucrats. But nothing has actually been done to remove this exploitation and equality—for Mao has no intention of attacking the system of bureaucratic rule that produces it.

TDC PREPARES FOR MARCH 13

Teamster Talks Getting Tough

Members of Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) are continuing to organize for coast-to-coast demonstrations March 13, amid reports that negotiations on the Master Freight Agreement have been suspended and that union officials "expect a strike."

Word from the negotiations in Chicago is that the employers are taking a very tough position. Sources say that they have been firmly pressing their demand for the Wednesday-Sunday work week.

One union official close to the bargaining told TDC that negotiations have been suspended until March 15. Workers' Power could not immediately confirm that, but if true it would mean chances are slim that a contract will be ratified by the April 1 expiration date.

The same union official said both union and management negotiators are following closely a petition of demands being circulated by west coast office workers—an indication that they are apprehensive about rank and file sentiment.

Another well-informed source in the Teamsters Union has said the union is "expecting a strike."

Reports from rank and file activists in Los Angeles and Detroit indicate that sentiment there is swinging strongly for a strike April 1. TDC is expecting this trend to develop rapidly in the coming weeks, and emphasizes that Teamsters across the country must be "ready to strike" to deal with the employers' offensive.

The rallies TDC is holding March 13 are

part of the preparations for a strike. The rallies will emphasize TDC's list of contract demands and call for a strike if the demands are not met.

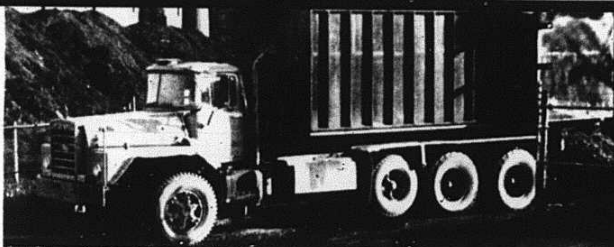
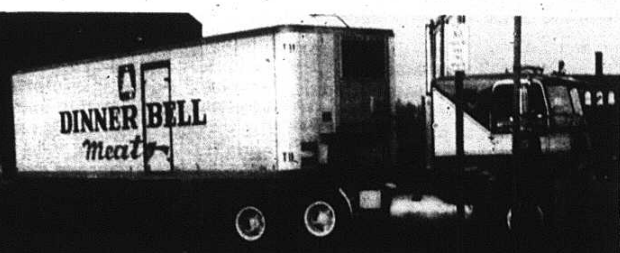
The latest list shows TDC demonstrations scheduled for these cities: Washington-Baltimore; Scranton, Pa.; Pittsburgh; Charleston, W. Va.; Cleveland; Cincinnati; Detroit; Louisville; Indianapolis; Chicago; St. Louis; Kansas City; Minneapolis; Seattle; Portland; California Bay Area; and Los Angeles.

David Katz

Why Does The Driver Of This

Truck Make \$1.66 An Hour Less Than

The Driver Of This Truck?



The truck at the top of the page hauls scrap metals for H. Rock & Sons, a company located on East 51st Street on Cleveland's east side.

Its driver, represented by Teamsters Local 422, makes \$5.55 an hour. Most likely he is black.

Dinner Bell Meats truck at left operates

out of a terminal directly across 51st Street from H. Rock. Its driver is a member of Teamsters Local 407.

Like other freight and grocery drivers, he makes \$7.21 an hour. The great majority of these drivers are white.

The difference can be attributed to one thing:

RACISM IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Wages, though, are just the beginning. By any standard, the lower-paid, black scrap driver has a much tougher job.

The scrap companies are notorious for running their equipment into the ground. Trailer brakes, for instance, often don't work.

A driver continually has to work around oil-covered metal, sometimes having to crawl all over it to put a tarp on top. Scrap yards are often mud-holes.

Working conditions are primitive. Workers' Power talked to a former scrap driver who put it bluntly:

"The locker room was just vile; the toilets were disgusting. The boss treated you as a nobody, and always let you know it.

"You really got a feeling of a plantation system. The owner was there all the time and always hassling. The slightest mistake and he was out of the office yelling."

Then there's the question of union representation. Local 407 (freight) has the same sort of status-quo minded officers as most Teamster locals do.

But there are still certain limits to what the boss can get away with in the freight barns.

The Business Agents make regular tours, or at least have weekly office hours in 407. You can get in touch with your BA, and it does make some difference.

For instance, when a worker at the Interstate terminal was ordered to empty trash barrels he said no—it wasn't his job. He filed a grievance and won.

LITTLE PROTECTION

Scrap drivers, represented by Local 422, in reality have little such protection.

No one knows how to get in touch with a BA, and there is no sense that the union will offer any protection. "Essentially the union

is something you pay dues to" said one driver.

That means the boss can demand anything. He can ask a driver to sweep the floor of his office, and get away with firing him if the driver refuses.

Cleveland is not an exception.

In virtually every city, the lower-paying, dirtier jobs, with less union protection, go mainly to blacks and other minorities.

It may be Chicago, where scrap drivers generally get \$1 an hour less than freight, and are represented by Local 714, a worthless,

gangster local.

Or it may be trash collectors in some cities, or mail haulers working for small companies with sub standard rates.

White drivers have jobs that are also tough; their wages have also been eroded by inflation; the

union officials regularly ignore or sell-out grievances—yet in every respect the better jobs go to white workers.

Almost everywhere, racism has left its ugly stamp on the trucking industry and in the Teamsters Union.

All Of Us Are Victims

It's not just blacks who are hurt by racism. In a working class divided by racism, only the boss profits.

Freight companies are among the most discriminatory of all American industry. Navajo Freight Lines, which has more than 600 over-the-road drivers, didn't have one black or Latin up to 1970.

Modern Automotive Services, a subsidiary of McClean Trucking Co., hired blacks only as garage-men and janitors.

In general, blacks and other minorities, when they are hired by freight companies, are confined to janitor, dock worker, serviceman or city driver jobs, while over-the-road and white-collar jobs are

reserved for whites.

But discrimination on the job is only one aspect of the situation. It's difficult for blacks to even get into the industry in the first place.

According to federal government statistics, blacks make up 16.3% of the work force in the Detroit metropolitan area, but have only 4.7% of the jobs in the freight industry.

The figure is for all freight jobs, including the dock and warehouse jobs that blacks get more often.

Again, in Cleveland, blacks are 14% of the work force, but have only 6.3% of the freight jobs.

In the South, where racial discrimination is most pronounced, its effects are clearest. The wage gap between whites and blacks is greatest in the South—but white workers in the South get lower wages than whites in the North.

seem to be the immediate beneficiaries of this system, rather than the companies who designed the whole set-up.

The companies are mainly to blame for this situation because they control hiring. But the Teamsters Union has done virtually nothing over the years to challenge it, and so shares the blame.

Indeed, the racism of the top Teamster officials can be seen in the way they treat the huge non-trucking section of the union.

There are tens of thousands of black, Latin and women Teamsters, but most of them work in sweatshops, at or near the minimum wage, under sweetheart contracts where virtually the only function the union performs is dues collector.

Fitzsimmons' attempt to break the United Farm Workers union is largely an effort to expand the Teamsters' dues paying base—at the expense of Mexican field workers.

A rank and file movement that plans to change the trucking industry and the Teamsters Union must take on squarely the question of racism and defend black workers' rights. This is the only way to unite the union's membership.

No attempt to bury the realities of discrimination in this country will unite anyone.

If a rank and file movement is to succeed, every Teamster must be confident that this movement will stand up and fight for him or her.

Truck Bosses Hold Out On Equality

Just as in the steel industry, there is a "consent decree" for the trucking industry. The decree is a legal agreement signed by the government, employers, and the union.

The trucking industry consent decree is supposed to require employers to provide limited back pay for past discrimination and to stop discriminating in hiring and promotions.

It also requires that new hire include a certain percentage of blacks and Latins where employers have discriminated in the past.

On paper, the consent decree is a just development, although it lets the companies off much cheaper than they deserve. It gives blacks and Latins an opportunity to make up for past discrimination without throwing any whites out of work.

But in practice, the consent

decree is just not enforced. Many of the trucking companies are even holding out from signing it.

HYSTERIA

The lack of enforcement, however, hasn't prevented the bosses from trying to whip up racist hysteria over the consent decree.

Throughout the industry, white drivers are being told that blacks are going to take their jobs. Or that the government has ordered the companies to hire only blacks from now on.

Both are straight-out lies—and would be lies even if the companies were cooperating with the consent decree. These lies only serve the employers' purpose—to set whites and blacks against each other.

FIGHT EACH OTHER

The companies, of course, would rather their employees fight each other than fight the company. They want white over-the-road drivers, for example, to feel privileged, since they have higher paying jobs.

The companies want the drivers to feel that this privileged position depends on keeping blacks out of these jobs.

Blacks, on the other hand, will be resentful that they are denied the better job opportunities. They will naturally tend to focus their resentment on white workers who

INTERNATIONAL WO

"We'll Break Down The Barriers - We're Pushing

Interviews by Barbara Winslow

March 8 is International Women's Day. It is a working class holiday, which began with a massive strike of women garment workers in New York City in 1908. They were protesting sweatshop conditions.

Today society still oppresses women. Last year was International Women's Year, but what did it accomplish? A lot of publicity for rich and powerful women. They benefit from capitalism. But for the rest of us, things are getting worse. In 1975 the average wage for a white, male worker was about

\$12,900, for a white woman, \$7040, and for a black woman, \$5954. Unemployment is greater for women than for men. Social services are being cut back, making more work for women in the home. But women are still fighting back.

For international Women's Day, Workers' Power interviewed several women who are active in fighting the system. The fight is for equality—and more. Women don't need an equal share of cutbacks and poverty. These women are fighting—for themselves and for a future with no oppression.



Kathy Wessels

Kathy Wessels is a part timer at United Parcel Service (UPS) in Livonia, Michigan. She has worked for three years since she was 17. She is active in Teamsters for a Decent Contract and UPSurge.

"I work at UPS as a sorter. There are only two women on the afternoon shift. The rest have the lower paying jobs as loaders.

"There's a \$2 difference be-

tween the sorting and loading. UPS tries to make women believe they can't do the job.

"It's a struggle there. Supervision doesn't believe we can do the heavy work. You're always having to prove yourself.

"I think the reason women are prominent in the UPSurge movement is that our jobs are not traditional women's jobs. The women who make it have a lot of strength just through the process of survival.

"I've never been involved in a strike. I hired in three years ago, before UPS had a contract. A strike this year would devastate part timers. But it's necessary. I have to make the sacrifice.

"I'm confident we'll win. Three years ago our local voted the contract down. But it was rammed down our throats. There was no organization.

"Now we have UPSurge, we have a strong organization, so our chances are better. I'm willing to put my job on the line.

"I think we could effectively run our jobs ourselves. It's demeaning to have supervisors and managers using their authority over us. If you had control over your job it would be better."

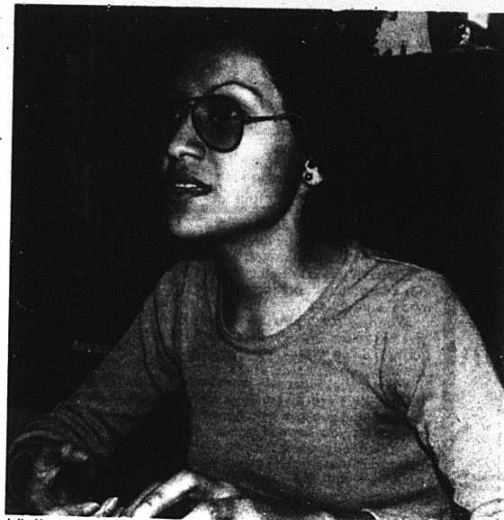
Julia Vaquera is a telephone operator in Seattle. She grew up in migrant labor camps, travelling from Texas to Oregon and back. She is a member of United Action, a national rank and file group within the Communications Workers of America.

"I can see the difference between what the media says is 'women's lib' and the real women's movement. For child care—migrant women have to get up at four or five in the morning, bundle up the little kids, fix lunch and then leave the kids in the car all day while they work in the fields.

"The kids are playing in the dirt, by a river—a lot of accidents happen where children drowned. These children could have been kept in a child care center, well fed and safe, instead of in a car and risking it every day.

"You never see two or three year old Chicanitos watching Sesame Street and learning the ABC's before they start school. They're in the fields or being taken care of by a woman in the labor camp who has many other kids to watch too.

"I'm re-educating myself when it comes to dealing with society today. I'm trying to put my energy to good use. By going in there and demanding, I can help other



Julia Vaquera

women be aware that we're the membership, we're the union. I want to do my share, to do what I'm capable of doing.

"I feel good now that I'm active

in United Action, but I'm sad that it took me 23 years to realize that as a woman I'm capable of doing so much. Now I'm finding where I can do my part."



Gloria MacLean with her daughter Danielle

Gloria MacLean is a student at Wayne County Community College in Detroit. Before that she worked in auto plants. She is a member of Women Against Racism, which has been working to defend school busing in Detroit. Recently she helped organize Black History Month at Wayne County Community College.

white.

"I quit because I couldn't stand it. The floor lady didn't like me talking back.

"Women Against Racism is something I've thought about deep in my heart ever since I was a little girl. For the first time, I've seen a group of women united to fight racism.

"The busing issue throws black and white women together. We don't want violence against our children so we have to find ways to solve the problem.

"We know we don't want our kids stabbing each other. After all, we're all working class people. For black and white women to get together and say we're going to fight racism—that will make the difference.

"We'll break down the barriers. We're pushing on."

Carol Flynn is a senior at Detroit's Osborn High School.

"Women have to put up with all kinds of bullshit from the teachers. Such as, 'men are genetically better than women.'

"We are also pushed by our counselors into typing and home economics classes.

"I tried to get into shop and the principal wouldn't let me in. 'It's a boys' class,' he said. He looked at me as if I was crazy.

"I also work as a cleaning woman in an office. I make \$2.50 and there is no union.

"There's no work for young people these days. All there is is

waitressing and fast food places like McDonalds.

"Places like that are the worst place to work. You have to be nice and sweet, the boss is always putting the make on you.

"I joined the Red Tide because it actively fights for women's liberation. For me, it was survival. It's not that I'm against men, I just don't want to be below them.

"One thing I've noticed from the Red Tide is that black and white women are getting together and not fighting over men.

"We're fighting for better jobs, better birth control, welfare rights, and fighting for their children.

"Things are really getting heated and people won't tolerate it any more."



Sara Buckley

WOMEN'S DAY

On"

Sharon Cotrell was the first woman to work in freight on the west coast. She is a member of Teamsters Local 692 and is active in Teamsters for a Decent Contract in Los Angeles.

"I got this job when I was 30. I needed money. I realized that lots of people were making a lot more than me and most of them looked like men.

"I work mainly with men. In the beginning they were unhappy to see me. They either ignored me or treated me with contempt.

"But they changed. They found out that I could, I would and I wanted to do the work."

"I talk to the men about why there should be maternity leave in our contract. After all, women have children for the community. They won't work if they're penalized.

"I'm on the bottom 20% of union seniority. I've been laid off a lot in the past few months.

"There would be a lot more women doing what I am doing if it weren't for the recession and depression."

"One of the things that got me fighting was the complete powerlessness my co-workers felt. They told me it was impossible to fight.

"But perhaps because I am a woman I am the first person to get involved. I've already been a fighter."

Celebrate International Women's Day With The I.S.

For date and location of I.W.D. activity in your city, see page 10.

Sara Buckley, United Auto Workers Local 212. Sara works as a press operator at the Mack Avenue Stamping Plant. She is active in the Coalition for a Good Contract, a rank and file organization of auto workers.

"Working conditions are generally shitty in the plant. For women one of the differences is the harassment from the men. The foremen usually want to hit up on you.

"If you go along with him, you might get a better job. If you refuse to go out with him, you get a worse job. A few years ago, another woman and I got rid of a foreman



Muriel Walker

Muriel Walker is a typist and the mother of a two year old boy. She plans to become a radio broadcaster. She is a member of Women Against Racism.

When asked why she joined Women Against Racism:

"I didn't join, they joined me. Being a black woman, there are many things I can do today. We still haven't overcome.

"Mothers are most concerned about busing. It's usually the mothers at home who have to take care of the kids. We have to go to the schools, and meet the teachers.

"I have a son who's two. I have to fight now for him. I can't wait until he's old enough to go to school.

"Women Against Racism has been very important. We're willing to defeat something nobody else is willing to defeat. Sure, there were a lot of pro-busing groups, but they didn't do anything. The fact that there was a group against MAD (Mothers Alert Detroit) began to shake them up.

"We started around the busing issue. We are thinking about doing something around the elections, especially when Wallace comes to Detroit. MAD has announced they want to support Wallace. We'll be there with banners against Wallace and against MAD.

"The women's movement should fight for equal rights and equal values. Today women are more aware of themselves. They don't believe in that old cliché that women should be barefoot and pregnant.

"Anytime you get a strong force of women together to fight for change, that's a hip ideal. Today, many women are involved in Teamsters for a Decent Contract, UPSurge and Women Against Racism. It's like an atomic bomb.

"Anyone knows when you get a lot of women together, you don't mess with them."



Jennie Vail

Jennie Vail is another part timer at UPS. She is also active in the TDC and UPSurge. She helps put out a local UPSurge newsletter, WRITE-UP.

"I don't know if I would call myself a fighter, but UPS has forced me to become one. It's really more that you take a strong position. It's whether you want this company to shit on you or do you want to stand up.

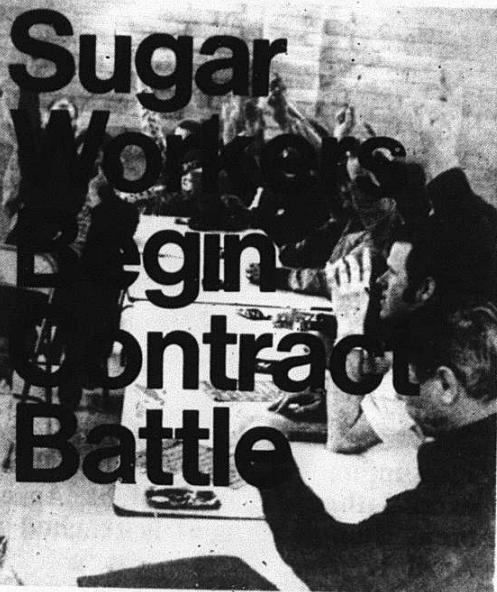
"One of the lessons we'll learn in this strike is about the people who work side by side with you every day.

"You'll learn what friendship is by the people who go in and the people who stay out."

major demand is for a shorter work week. This would allow those of us with low seniority to stay on the job. A shorter work week would also give us more time to take care of the house, the kids and have a social life.

"I've been active in the women's movement because I wanted to end those silly ideas that women don't have skills and intelligence to do the same kind of work men do.

"I'm a socialist because I see no sense in people in my plant or anywhere working so hard and not getting what we need to live well. A few people control our union and control the plants. As long as this goes on, we will get the worst end of it."



by Anne Larson

KERMAN, Ca.—California sugarcrowers have launched a campaign for a decent contract in '77.

Thirty-six workers from four locals met in Kerman on February 22 to draw up demands for their upcoming contract fight. The meeting was called by Sugar Workers United Rank and File (SWURF), a caucus in the Sugarworkers Union.

"This is the year of the contract," SWURF Chairman Art Apodaca told the group opening the campaign. "Last time, we all got together and hollered at the last minute. We learned that doesn't work. We have to get ourselves organized and start hollering now if we want to win."

SWURF was founded in 1974 after a last minute effort to reject a sell-out contract negotiated by the union leadership failed. Rank and file groups from several locals formed a statewide organization to prevent a repeat of that defeat.

FULL YEAR

This time, sugarcrowers are starting their fight a full year before their present contract expires.

Strike committees have already been elected at two locals, at the initiative of SWURF members. The group also won a promise from the International Union to provide benefits in the event of a strike.

SWURF is now fighting for better representation for seasonal "campaign" workers on the Sugar Council. The Council bargains with the industry. Several SWURF members have been elected to the Council in the past year.

CONTRACT DEMANDS

At the February 22 meeting, sugarcrowers presented their proposals for the contract. After a lively discussion, the group agreed on a series of demands to fight in negotiations.

[See box.]

SWURF also made plans for newsletters at locals where it is active. These will publicize current grievances and contract preparations.

"The contract demands we have here are a good start," said Marshall Shires, SWURF Communications Director, at the end of the meeting. "We plan to do everything we can as a rank and file caucus to obtain this minimum in our negotiations."

Much more still needs to be done. Only a small number of workers are now involved in the contract preparations. But there are many more who will be.

As Orville Crisp of Salinas put it, "There are a lot of people ready to hit the pavement over this contract. We just have to get them organized."

SWURF members vote on a proposed contract demand.



Art Apodaca: "This is the year of the contract. Last time, we all got together and hollered at the last minute. We learned that doesn't work. We have to get ourselves organized and start hollering now if we want to win."



Ken Dursa: "The way these companies work, they put this little raggedy-ass pile in front of us and get us fighting among ourselves trying to divide it up. That's not right. This isn't a competitive thing."

SWURF's Contract Demands:

- \$2.50 an hour wage increase each year for two years for all job classifications
- Double time for Sundays and overtime; triple time for holidays
- Five additional days of paid vacation
- \$500 a month pension at age 55, or after 30 years employment
- 100% employer-paid dental plan
- No discrimination against campaign workers in wages or benefits during their active employment
- Right to strike over grievances; 30 day limit on the grievance procedure



Movin' On

by Kim Moody

TDC In Action

April 1 - No Contract, No Work

To everyone's amazement Frank Fitzsimmons is saying that he will not extend the Master Freight Agreement if no settlement is reached by April 1.

In effect, Fitzsimmons is saying that Teamster policy for 1976 is "no contract—no work."

There was a time when every unionist understood that it was his or her right to withhold their labor. There was a time when every unionist except a company unionist, knew that the best way to force a new or better contract on an unwilling boss was to use that right.

Throughout the labor movement it was a matter of basic policy that if you didn't have a contract you didn't work. It was an effective policy.

Over the years, however, the union leaders have allowed this basic right, the right to strike, and the traditional policy of no contract—no work to be eaten away.

EXTENSIONS

Instead of a policy of no contract—no work the leaders of the biggest, most powerful unions grant the employers "extensions of the old contract."

If the expiration date comes due and the union has not reached a settlement, the union officials let the old contract stay in force rather than going on strike to force a new contract on the employers.

The no-contract—no work policy held the threat of a strike over the boss's head. It said to a reluctant employer: either you grant our demands or we shut you down.

What does an "extension" say to the bosses? It says, "Walk all over us, we are too tired to fight."

The Teamsters Master Freight Agreement and UPS contracts contain a standard set of clauses that allow the union to extend the contract after its expiration date.

The clauses are designed to cover every situation and to allow Fitzsimmons and his friends to avoid a strike at all costs.

This is just what the leaders of the Teamsters have always done—avoid a strike at all costs.

This year Fitzsimmons is saying that he will not extend the contract.

The union proposals for the Central States UPS contract, which expires only a month after Master Freight, concludes with the statement, "No Contract—No Work."

DIFFERENT

It is hardly necessary to tell Teamsters how different this is

from the way both freight and UPS contracts were settled in 1973.

The reason for Fitz's rediscovery of the no contract—no work policy and a difference between 1973 and 1976, is that an angry rank and file is well on its way to being organized.

Teamsters for a Decent Contract and UPSurge have already had a significant impact on 1976 negotiations. And now they are forcing Fitz to talk tough.

But talk is not the same as action. And one would have to be asleep at the wheel to take Frank Fitzsimmons at his word.

To put it another way, a no contract—no work policy in March is a lot easier than in April—and it's April that the rank and file have to worry about.

Union leaders like Lebnard Woodcock of the United Auto Workers have for years played a phony game of labor brinkmanship. They talk tough, talk strike, and bluster for weeks before the contract.

But when the deadline comes, Brother Woodcock and others like him manage to come up with a last minute, and always history-making, agreement.

Miracle of miracles, a strike is avoided and everything is settled. Of course, the whole thing is a pre-planned shuck.

In the past, Hoffa played with this approach, though he never actually called even a token strike. Fitz, however, has preferred just to play nice guy to the employers.

But Fitz may not be as dumb as he seems. He may well have figured out that in the face of a militant, organized rank and file, he has to try something new. So, this year he talks tough and says he favors no contract extensions.

Whatever Fitz's game, the rank and file of the Teamsters' union cannot afford to trust him to stick by his word. The rank and file need their own no contract—no work policy.

A real no contract—no work policy for the rank and file can mean only one thing: that on April 1, 1,450,000 freight workers hit the streets unless there is a duly ratified contract.

This means that no matter what Fitz is trying to pull, the rank and file are committed to a strike.

For example, Fitz may declare a "tentative" agreement on or just before April 1 and extend the contract for the duration of the ratification vote.

Since it takes a two-thirds rejection vote to get a strike, an extension would mean no strike even if a contract were rejected by a majority.

In that case, there would be no pressure on either Fitz or the bosses to negotiate anything better.

PRESSURE

If, on the other hand, the rank and file walked out on April 1—regardless of any "extension," the pressure would be on both parties to come up with something the ranks would accept.

If the contract were rejected by a majority but less than two-thirds and the workers were on strike, both parties would have to negotiate an offer they could sell to the strikers.

If the rank and file of the Teamsters' union are going to beat back the employers' offensive and force Fitzsimmons and the Teamster officialdom to bargain a decent contract, they are going to have to decide now on a strike and a clear policy of no contract—no work come April 1.

MILWAUKEE—About 40 people from Teamsters Local 200 met here Feb. 22 to form a chapter of Teamsters for a Decent Contract. There were road and city drivers and dock workers present from many of the major trucking companies in Milwaukee, such as Consolidated Freight and Foreway.

A steering committee was chosen with representatives from the different companies, which will plan a larger meeting. There was excellent TV and press coverage. And some people were heard to say, "We're ready for a strike." □

KANSAS CITY—TDC meetings were held February 29 here and in St. Louis. About 25 Kansas City Teamsters heard John Sumner talk about UPSurge and Dan LaBotz speak on TDC. Most of those attending were from Yellow, Chief, and UPS.

Both meetings discussed plans for TDC's March 13 demonstrations. □

LOS ANGELES—About 85 people attended an enthusiastic TDC meeting here February 29. In addition to discussing TDC activities, the meeting heard an auto worker from GM's Southgate plant report that their local membership meeting had voted to occupy the factory to protest layoffs. The need for solidarity between workers in different industries was emphasized. □

OAKLAND, Ca.—Eighty persons attended the Northern California UPS meeting called by "Concerned UPS Employees" February 28. UPSers from Southern California, Washington state, and Nevada also attended. The group voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with UPSurge.

There was some confusion on the reported takeover of contract bargaining by the International in the 13 western states. Mike Lynn, a Business Agent from Local 70, claimed that the International had not taken over bargaining. But rank and filers from up and down the coast said their officers were telling them otherwise.

The group is circulating a petition of contract demands, which are similar to UPSurge's Central States contract demands. If the International has indeed taken over bargaining, the petition will be circulated in the 13-state area. □

SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Some twenty members of Locals 404 and 671 got together here February 28 to organize Western New England for TDC. They said there was great interest in DC, but attendance was low because union officials were red-baiting the movement. But during the meeting one Teamster commented, "What's communism, anyway? Dictatorship by one man, right? And what do we have in Local 404?" Everyone laughed at the reference to the local president.

At the end of the meeting, a small steering committee was established and a system of inter-barn communications set up. "It was agreed that a second, larger meeting would be called, and work towards the contract deadline of March 31 would be carried forward." □

CLEVELAND—Eighty people attended a TDC meeting here February 29. The meeting was held under threat of disruption, since an attack had been made on TDC members at the Local 407 meeting February 22. There were a number of people present who may have been sent to disrupt the TDC meeting. But the turnout was large enough to prevent any such attempt. □

Big Contract Unit for UPS?

PITTSBURGH—On February 22, UPS workers in Teamsters Local 249 met to elect stewards and committees, and to turn in contract proposals to the International.

The main discussion on the agenda was a proposal from the International for the formation of a UPS bargaining unit covering the whole Eastern Conference of Teamsters. If implemented, this would mean a standard contract throughout the conference.

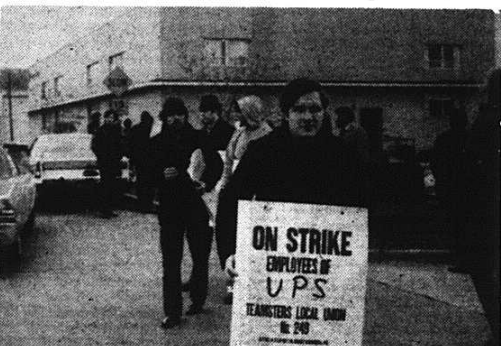
The expiration date of all contracts would probably be extended to July 31, with Local 804 in New York City excluded since its contract does not expire until fall of 1977.

The International is in the process of similarly consolidating UPS bargaining in the Western States.

An Eastern Conference rep came to the Local 249 meeting to urge UPS workers to grant power of attorney (bargaining authority) to the Eastern Conference.

BARGAINING TOOL

A majority voted in favor of this motion. As Pittsburgh UPSers know all too well from their strike in 1973, a company as powerful as UPS can run around a strike in a small area, isolating it. Negotiating one Eastern Conference contract offers UPS workers a bargaining tool which the company cannot ignore or run around: a potential



The 1973 UPS strike was lost because it was isolated. An Eastern Conference contract could make a regional strike possible.

Eastern Regional strike.

But workers who voted for this proposal did so with reservations. As explained at the meeting, contract negotiations will be handled by a 25-person steering committee, all appointed by IBT head Fitzsimmons. There will be no rank and file representation—a definite loss from the last contract round for Local 249, where the stewards and committee played a

role in negotiations.

The tool of an Eastern Conference for UPS workers will be useful only if they organize to take advantage of it. UPSurge, the national paper of UPS workers plans to sponsor an Eastern Regional conference in April. It will help lay the groundwork needed for rank and file UPS workers to have a voice in negotiating the contract they have to live under. □



This new pamphlet on the freight industry and the Teamsters Union charges that "a small group of power-hungry, money-hungry individuals literally threatens your life."

50c postpaid.

Order from: Surr Distribution, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.

LIVING DEATH IN STATE PRISON

Dear Workers' Power,

I would like to bring my case to the attention of Workers' Power readers and most especially to the oppressed people that know the

reality of what justice here in Amerika is all about.

I am an inmate of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAllister, Oklahoma.

On February 8, 1974, I was transported to a hospital in Oklahoma City for an examination that was derived from a mass assault on me by prison guards—the results, broken ribs, and first and second degree burns from tear gas on my back and testicles.

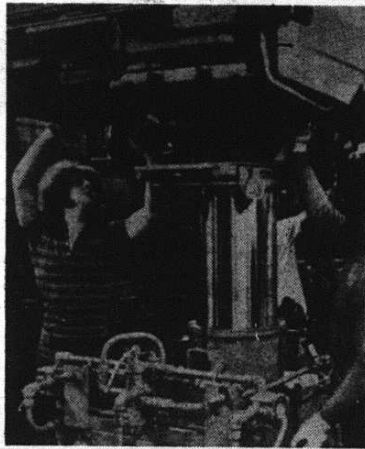
On that day, I was accused of overpowering a prison guard, taking from him his gun, money (which was said to be \$24), and handcuffing him to a toilet paper rack. Later I was apprehended and charged with escape and robbery in the first degree of a prison guard.

On September 18-19, 1974, in which I was my own attorney, I was convicted and sentenced to seven years for escape and 30 years for robbery of the guard.

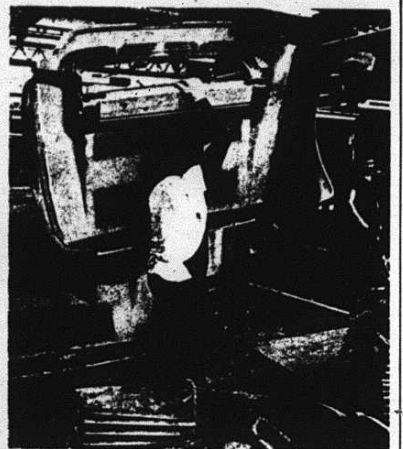
I have filed a Post Conviction Relief Application (appeal), but on February 20 of this year it was dismissed by the Oklahoma District Court.

I can prove my innocence. I have all the necessary legal material to win my case. But this system here in Oklahoma don't like "smart ass niggers." I need help or I am dead with 30 years.

Your brother in the struggle,
Ervin Lee McCoy
Oklahoma State Penitentiary
McAllister, Oklahoma



Death at work is a by-product of capitalist profits.



MEANY AND THE CIA

Dear Workers' Power,

The following is from The Sunday World, an Irish newspaper, February 15, 1976.

US Labour boss 'is CIA agent'

A TOP U.S. Labour leader, and staunch supporter of the Provisional Republican Movement has been named as a C.I.A. operative.

George Meany, the powerful president of the giant AFL-CIO and a close friend of Ex-president Nixon is listed in "Who's who in the C.I.A." as having been working for the C.I.A. since 1948.

"Who's who in the C.I.A." is a thick, authoritative work naming 3,000 operatives of the American Cloak and Dagger fraternity.

Mike
London, England

System Must Kill To Keep Us In Fear

Dear Workers' Power,

I broke out in a sweat reading your article on how 24 year old Larry Ryboski was hounded into a heart attack by management at GM's Fleetwood plant. I began to relive everything that was hellish in the two years I spent working on the same trim line that killed Larry.

There was no tactic too dirty and inhuman for those vicious bastards at Fleetwood when they wanted to destroy a worker. I remember when Trim Superintendent Bobby Hall was brazenly taking out bolts put in by a guy in our section when the car had left our floor and gone into the repair hole; then taking him off the job and accusing him of shoddy workmanship. They were mad at him because every time he was off, he brought in a doctor's note so they couldn't say anything.

When I protested, they threatened to fire me if I didn't "mind

my own business." When I didn't back off, they took me illegally off my job, put me on what was called the "punishment job," and gave Cal Searcy and Larry's murderer Ron Tyree the job of breaking me.

They harassed me every minute, stood over me constantly, repeatedly threatened me with no one else in earshot, knowing I couldn't answer back. It would be the word of two bosses against mine. I wasn't allowed to go back to my regular section even on my breaks to see the guys I knew.

After a few days of this had driven me to the brink of a nervous breakdown, my doctor ordered me off work. I returned a few weeks later, and when they saw my will wasn't broken they soon switched me again to the grueling punishment job, and my torturers again took time off from their useful work to keep me company. I wrote up every

grievance I could, with the cooperation of the committeeman who was trying to get them off me with no backing from the local.

One day Searcy called me off the job for a chat. I still remember his words. "You can put up a brave front, but we know when you go home after we've been on you all shift you can't even sleep. You're only human, and sooner or later you're going to crack or make a mistake. And we've got nothing better to do than keep on you till we get you. So you'll save yourself a lot of grief if you learn to live with the system we have here."

Some of it was bluff, for when I refused to renounce my sins, they still allowed me back on my regular job. They were becoming embarrassed at the spectacle they were creating. But they made their point. The system has every worker deal with the company alone. For each of us it was easier to live with it than to have our lives made miserable if we challenged it.

Of course I hated Tyree. I used to daydream about throwing that skinny skunk to the floor, smashing his brains out, and then stomping him into the cracks in Fleetwood's woodblock floors.

But the more I thought about it, the more I understood that killing such a lowlife worm wouldn't change anything. It wouldn't even have saved Larry's life.

GM has seen plenty of Tyree's kind killed and it doesn't bother them. They can always find someone who'll give up their humanity for a white shirt, a buck an hour, and a few promises about the golden ladder. In fact, even the ones hired to be nice foremen, who step out of the way to let the Tyrees do the dirty work, are just part of the good cop/bad cop routine.

As Searcy said, it's the system when you get down to it. The nice bosses need the Gestapo ones, and in the end the whole thing works because in the back of our minds, everyone is afraid of the company. The system needs to kill even a "weak guy" like Larry to keep that fear back there.

So when you decide you've had enough, don't let them trick you with a few scapegoats. In place of their system of every man for himself, we need our own system of unity and solidarity. Auto workers can start building that system by uniting this year to fight for a better contract, and we can finish building it when we make a revolution in this country and establish workers' power.

Judith Condon
for Women's Voice
London, England

Joe, former
Fleetwood worker

Letters

to

Workers' Power

Celebrate!

International Women's Day

FROM
LISBON
AND...

Dear Workers' Power,

The PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat) sends revolutionary greetings to Workers' Power and to American workers on International Women's Day. We support all the working women of the world who are exploited and oppressed by the capitalist system economically as well as ideologically.

The struggle for the liberation of women must be part of a broader struggle against capitalist and imperialist oppression. The liberation of women is a revolutionary task which implies a cultural revolution beyond the taking of state power by the working class.

There cannot be liberation of women without socialist revolution!

Revolutionary Party of
the Proletariat
Lisbon, Portugal



Russian women, 1917. "What it [Women's Day] concealed in itself, no one even guessed..."

LONDON

Dear Comrades,

Women's Voice, monthly women's newspaper of the International Socialists, Great Britain, sends greetings to Workers' Power for International Women's Day, March 8, 1976.

1917. St. Petersburg, Russia. International Women's Day.

"In spite of all directives the women textile workers in several factories went on strike, and sent delegates to the metal workers with an appeal for support... It had not occurred to anyone that it might become the first day of the revolution... the initiative being taken of their own accord by the women textile workers, among them no doubt many soldiers' wives... a mass of women, not all of them workers, flocked to the municipal Duma demanding bread. It was like demanding milk from a he-goat... Women's Day passed successfully with enthusiasm and without victims. But what it concealed in itself, no one had even guessed by nightfall."

Leon Trotsky

Judith Condon
for Women's Voice
London, England

Joe, former
Fleetwood worker

Heat Is On - Ford Motor Fires Plant Chairman

RAWSONVILLE, MI.—A potentially explosive situation has developed at Ford's plant here in the wake of the firing of Bill Stephens, plant chairman.

Management took this action as a result of a fight last week between Stephens and line foreman Ralph Brewer.

Accounts of the fight vary. But the consensus is that a scuffle broke out when chairman Stephens was called by the workers on a line making windshield wiper motors. They wanted representation in a work standards dispute.

The heat has been on at Rawsonville for several months. Callbacks of laid off workers have not kept pace with rising production schedules.

The atmosphere in the plant became tense on Tuesday. The word was passed that Stephens had been fired. Management was clearly fearful of the possibility of a wildcat strike. The Local 898 UAW leadership has made no effort so far to explain to the workers what they intend to do.

SOMETHING...

However, day shift workers reported Wednesday that Local 898 President Art Garrigus was in the cafeteria at lunchtime. He said a strike may come if "something isn't done about the matter."

Just what this "something" is, he didn't spell out.

Committeewoman Angie Nettro suggested that we call Solidarity House and find out why our Plant Chairman hadn't been represented by our International Union at the hearing when he was fired.

I did, but got the message that

"It was not the place of the international to get involved in local matters at this stage of the game. The rules simply forbid it, you understand."

I understood—but decided not to argue with the man because he clearly couldn't understand our concern.

Rank and file workers here are bewildered, confused and angry. And no wonder. In place of

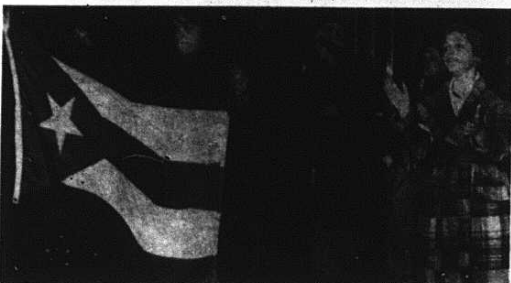
workers' power that the union should represent, we get red tape and bureaucrats.

Control is the whole name of the game. Otherwise, to quote the man from Solidarity House, "All hell would break loose and anarchy would be the result."

Well, with the blizzard of red tape we're snowed under, maybe a little "anarchy" around here might not be such a bad thing. □

F.B.

FREE PUERTO RICO!



CHICAGO—On March 1 supporters of the struggle for Puerto Rican independence participated in an International Day of Solidarity.

The demands of the picket and the rally were Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists, Free Puerto Rico, Free All Political Prisoners. Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irwin Flores, and Andres Figueroa Cordero are among the prisoners. On March 1, 1954 they attacked the US Congress to protest US colonial rule and the declaration of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Carmen Collazo, daughter of Oscar Collazo, the fifth nationalist prisoner brought a message from her imprisoned father. Her father

attacked Blair House, temporary residence of President Truman on Nov. 1, 1950.

MESSAGE

The message read, "Don't be disappointed if you are not successful in freeing us from prison. Because you have already achieved something."

"You have brought forward the struggle of Puerto Rico to be free. What's important is the liberation of our country."

Dan LaBolz of the International Socialists, spoke about the need to fight imperialism in this country. "At this time the people in the working class who fight against racism and imperialism are a small minority."

"But in the future we will be a majority and our slogan will be 'Free All Political Prisoners, Free Puerto Rico, Free the American Working Class.'"

"If our time freedom can mean only one thing—socialism." □

ASARCO Gets License To Kill

A company in Tacoma, Washington, that has been charged with causing a possible epidemic of cancer among its employees has been given a five year extension on cleaning up its pollution.

The Asarco company refines copper at its Tacoma smelter. It also produces commercial arsenic.

Recently doctors warned that the smelter was a serious threat to the health of both the workers and the community. They pointed out that children living in the neighborhood had four and five times the normal rates of arsenic in their hair and urine.

And they said that the lung cancer rate of the smelter workers indicated a possible epidemic.

But Asarco threatened to move rather than clean up its operation.

Now the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency has given the company five more years to meet its standards.

Apparently murder is legal—for business. □

Miners' Families Can Keep Homes

Residents of the Green Valley Trailer Court in Logan County, West Virginia have won a victory in their continuing battle with the giant Pittston Coal Company. They will not be evicted.

The 92 families are miners, miners widows, and UMWA pensioners. Most are survivors of the 1972 Buffalo Creek disaster.

A slag dam in 1963. The flood killed 125, leveled 16 coal camps, and left 4000 homeless.

The dam had been improperly constructed by the Pittston Coal Company.

The Green Valley Court is the largest of 14 set up by the state for the victims. They never got the permanent housing the governor promised.

Then the Green Valley's owners announced they intended to remove the trailers.

Residents formed a Citizens Committee to fight the evictions.

Pittston has received a tremendous amount of bad publicity over the whole thing. So now the company has bought the land and is giving it to the state.

It cost Pittston \$500,000, which no doubt it can write off as a tax loss. □

WHAT'S ON

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MEETINGS

AMHERST, Saturday, March 6, 1 pm, University of Mass. Peters Auditorium, Gossens Hall. Speakers: Jane Grassof, Denny Mattau, Elaine McCardie of the APVU and Sandy Toppe.

BOSTON, Sunday, March 7, Film Salt of the Earth. Speakers: Isabel Nabach, TDC, Elaine McCardie and Anne Foster. Contact Boston IS for location.

NEW YORK CITY, Friday, March 6, 7:30 pm. Diplomat Hotel. Speakers: Muriel Walker, Women Against Racism, Isabel Nabach, TDC, Mary Anne Marcott, TDC, Irene Winkler, United Action (CWA).

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, March 6. Speakers from Women Against Racism, TDC and on Portuguese revolution. Contact local branch for details.

CHICAGO, Sunday, 4:00 pm. 537 South Dearborn. Gloria McLean, Women Against Racism, Gay Semel, Editor, Workers Power, Laura Hodge, steering committee UPSurge. International Polluck musical entertainment.

BLOOMINGTON, Friday, March 5. Ballantine 005. University of Indiana. 7:30 Kate Slacy from Women Against Racism. Pat Goldsmith and Maggie Nolla.

MADISON, Monday, March 8, 4:00 pm. Brooks Street YWCA. Speakers from AFT, plus speakers on women and revolution, and the rank and file movement.

LOUISVILLE, Saturday, March 6, 6:30 pm. Swiss Park. Wilda Dean, Harbin of Harlan County, Gay Semel, Editor Workers Power, Anna Palmer, APVU.

ST. LOUIS, Saturday, March 6. Clay and Brick Workers Hall. 4020 Manchester. Marilyn Danton IS Executive Committee plus other speakers.

SEATTLE, Saturday, March 6. Camp Fire house. 722 18th Ave. Julia Vaquerio United Action, UPSurge activist, Sue Domnick, Seattle IS organizer.

PORTLAND, Sunday, March 7. Contact Center. 1532 Southwest Morrison. 7:30 pm. Films: Roll Over and The Woman's Film. International Polluck plus speakers.

BAY AREA, Contact local branch for details.



WE OPPOSE

- **Capitalist Exploitation**
We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.
- **Capitalist Control**
Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.
- **Oppression**
Capitalism needs inequality—because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there and justify it. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the workforce when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.
- **Capitalist Government**
The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying, and wars.
- **Bureaucratic Communism**
Russia, China and the countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working classes of those countries.

WE SUPPORT

- **The Rank and File Movement**
The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.
- **Liberation From Oppression**
We support the struggles of every oppressed group to end its oppression: the struggle for equality and justice by blacks, women, native Americans, and all oppressed people. Support from the entire working class movement will make both these struggles, and that movement, stronger.
- **Socialism**
Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.
- **Workers' Revolution**
But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.
- **Internationalism**
The struggle for socialism is world wide. Nations fighting to throw out foreign rulers must have the support of the international working class as in Angola today. So must every struggle of working people to end their oppression, as in Portugal today, and in Russia and Eastern Europe.
- **Revolutionary Party**
The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.
- **International Socialists**
The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

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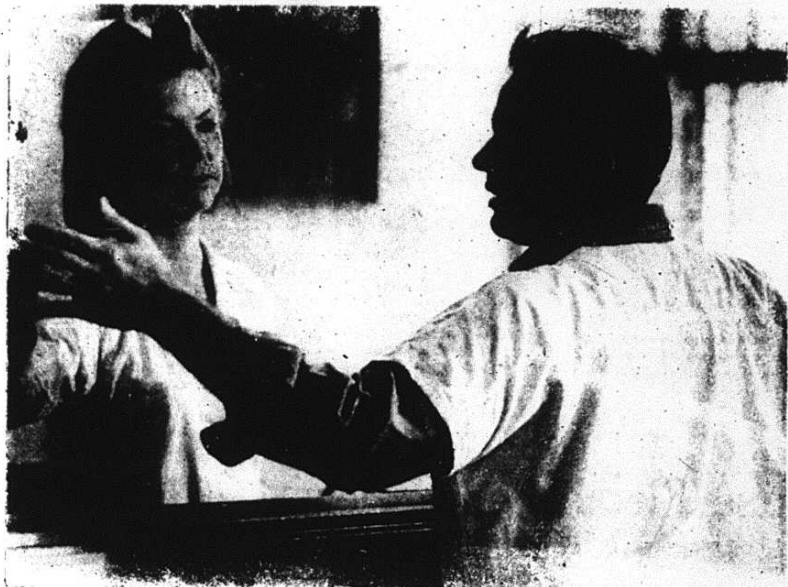
If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or, would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to: **INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.**

Name

Address

Union

MAYBE THEY ARE DRIVING US ALL CUCKOO?



McMurphy and Big Nurse in a scene from "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Thanks to Jack Nicholson and company, Ken Kesey's brilliant work, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," has been made into the most powerful movie of the seventies.

Nicholson plays R.P. McMurphy, the wreckless social misfit who loves to gamble, fight and rebel. He is doing time for statutory rape. McMurphy is so lazy that he fakes insanity to avoid prison work and ends up in an insane asylum.

In the asylum he finds a rigid system of discipline administered by the Big Nurse. She emasculates and humiliates the patients with

crazier than the average asshole on the street."

Many of them are victims of this inefficient social system. Kesey's book refers to this system as the "Combine" that chews up its human parts and discards them. The patients who are not victims, like McMurphy, are the people the Combine could not control—those who refuse to be regimented.

Instead of being the bad guy McMurphy emerges as the hero, while the Big Nurse comes to represent everything repressive and evil. When McMurphy's fingers are sinking into the throat of the Nurse, the viewer is tempted to scream out, "Kill the bitch!"

But this story is not simply about a mental hospital; it is about the entire system of control under which we are forced to live. The Big Nurse mentality, the hierarchical line of authority, the rigid discipline and the petty rules permeate our society.

Our schools, our factories, our prisons, our offices, and our government all contain basic elements of Ken Kesey's insane asylum. The key element, of course, is control.

NO SAY

The people at the bottom of the "line of command" have little or no say in the decisions that affect and shape their daily lives. These people have no influence, in spite of the fact that they make up the vast majority of the population.

The Big Nurse plans every detail concerning the operation of her ward. She decides who is "well," which persons need electric shock or lobotomies, what music will be

heard and at what volume, and whether or not the patients can watch the World Series.

None of these decisions really affect her: she just gives orders, does her paper work and goes home at the end of her eight hours. But the patients can see and feel the effects of her decisions during every moment of their lives in the hospital.

Similarly, in our factories, the speed at which a wage earner works, the relative safety of his or her working conditions, at what time the bathroom may be used, and the nature of his or her tasks are planned by managerial "experts"—people who do not have to live with the consequences of their own decisions.

DEMOCRACY RIGGED

The Big Nurse claims to run the ward democratically, but McMur-

phy quickly finds out that if a vote is taken it is invariably rigged against him. In the same way, "employee representation" plans are rigged against the worker.

For both the patient and the worker, the whole situation causes a great deal of frustration. The patients broke windows, screamed, cried and made tremendous issues out of cigarette rationing and not being able to see the World Series.

Several times a day within the walls of my plant a frustrated worker will roar, "You Asshole!" In an Ohio plant a worker was recently fired for yodeling on the assembly line.

But I don't want to dwell on these small rebellious actions. I am sure you have seen symptoms of the "blue collar blues" in your own place of work.

Also, I do not want to over-emphasize the parallel between Kesey's insane asylum and the

modern work place. Management uses gestapo-like tactics against us—from personal files to secret informers.

But we are not up against anything as severe as shock treatments and lobotomies. We have a certain degree of freedom, we have numbers, and we have power.

In the bittersweet ending of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," the audience is exhilarated by the dramatic way in which the Chief casts off his chains and wins his freedom.

Somewhere in the future of this world, a time will come when all persons will have cast off their chains. In this future process of liberation, the exhilaration felt will be multiplied a thousandfold. □

Bill Payne
Teamsters Local 249
Pittsburgh, Pa.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest; United Artists; adapted from the book by Ken Kesey; starring Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher.

every subtle question and every piercing glance.

The inevitable clash between the authority of this Big Brotherish ogre and the efforts of McMurphy to organize the collective resistance of his fellow "loonies" is the central theme of the movie.

McMurphy is anything but the villain. By causing trouble for the Nurse, he is not just trying to disrupt the orderly routine. He is struggling to restore some life and human qualities to a cold and merciless institution.

He quickly sees that the men in the asylum are not "insane." So he politely says, "You're not any

Indian Leader Jailed In Racist Frame-Up

by Byron Gray

Leonard Crow Dog, spiritual leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM) has been in prison since November. He has done nothing to warrant his being there.

Crow Dog is an Oglala Sioux from the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. He is a doctor, priest, teacher, historian, and political leader of the Sioux people.

Crow Dog has been tried and convicted three times since June, 1975. In all three cases, the facts prove his innocence.

He was first tried on charges of "interfering with a federal officer in the line of duty" during the 1973 liberation of Wounded Knee.

During a truce in the 71-day occupation, four postal detectives armed with revolvers and handcuffs sneaked into the hamlet.

They were caught, disarmed and taken into the museum where Crow Dog happened to be.

He lectured the detectives on Indian civil rights. Within an hour they were escorted unarmed beyond the perimeter of Wounded Knee.

Crow Dog was sentenced to 11 years for this "crime."

However the judge was forced to suspend the sentence due to public protest.

His second trial came in November, 1975. Crow Dog was convicted on charges of "abetting an assault and battery." The charges resulted from a September 3, 1975 incident.

Two well known goons, who regularly beat up AIM members, were caught sneaking into Crow Dog's back yard.

After a brief fist fight, they were run off by some of Crow Dog's relatives who were guarding the place for him. Crow Dog never laid a finger on the goons.

But two days later, Crow Dog and several others were hauled off in a massive pre-dawn raid on his home by more than 100 FBI agents.

He was found guilty by an all-white jury, and sentenced to five years. There has never been an Indian on a South Dakota jury.

"EXPLAINS"

In his decision, the judge explained that, "Crow Dog, though himself not striking a blow, should have prevented this fight; because he as a medicine man and leader was the responsible person on the spot."

Crow Dog's latest conviction stems from an incident in which an intruder broke into his home and made a pass at his wife. Crow Dog threw him out.

Again an all white jury found him guilty of assault.

For three weeks in late 1975, Crow Dog was held in solitary confinement in Terre Haute, Indiana in a cell where the ceiling was too low for him to stand up and which had no windows or lights.

Since November, he has been shuffled from prison to prison. His family and friends are not even sure where he is. □

WORKERS' POWER

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WORKERS' POWER

Teamsters' Demands For UPS Contract Revealed

by Jim Woodward

The Teamsters Union's negotiating proposals for the Central States United Parcel Service contract have recently been made public—and they are considerably better than could normally be expected.

But this is not a normal contract bargaining year. The UPSurge rank and file movement has swept through UPS hubs across the country, and union officials are under considerable pressure.

That's why these contract proposals are as good as they are.

Among other things, the union is demanding significant improvements concerning part-timers, the grievance procedure, overtime, wages, and cost-of-living.

BLACK LUNG FUNDS CHOKED

by Calvin Williams

A new Black Lung benefits bill passed this week in Congress has been met with wildcat strikes by angry miners in West Virginia's militant southern coalfields.

Rank and file miners met Sunday, February 29 in Danville, West Virginia, to show their dissatisfaction with the bill. Wildcats followed the next day, spreading to five counties.

At one time, more than 5000 miners were off the job.

The new bill was backed by United Mine Workers president Arnold Miller, and the UMW.

THIRTY YEARS

It gives miners automatic black lung benefits only after 30 years in the mines.

This is despite the fact that medical evidence shows that most miners have contracted black lung after 15 years of mining.

The original bill, backed by the Black Lung Association and the UMW, demanded automatic benefits after 15 years. But this died in a congressional committee last year.

Nevertheless, Miller has called the new bill "a major victory for the nation's miners." Chances are high that President Ford will veto the legislation.

Miller denounced the strikes in a message which was broadcast throughout the coalfields on some radio stations every 10 minutes.

Miller himself came to power in the UMW party on top of the militant black lung movement of the '60's and early '70's.

That movement stopped coal production in numerous statewide wildcat strikes.

Now he is just another bureaucrat, afraid of the power of the rank and file, and reduced to groveling in Congress for a pittance of support.

This bill is one more reason that a new rank and file movement is needed in the coalfields. □

The negotiating proposals were obtained by UPSurge, which made them public.

In doing so UPSurge said, "We believe that the negotiations should be done in the open."

"The Union leadership too often has kept the membership in the dark until a contract offer is agreed upon with the company."

"Then there is an attempt to rush the contract through without adequate discussion by the membership."

Among the union's negotiating proposals are the following:

- No new part-timers to be hired after May 1, 1976. All present part-timers to be offered full-time jobs prior to hiring new employees.

- Part-timers to be paid time and a half after three hours, and double time after five hours in any day and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

- No layoffs of full-time workers while there are any part-timers on the payroll.

- Under no circumstances will supervisors perform the work of union members.

- Double-time after eight hours a day for full-time employees. All work after ten hours to be voluntary and paid at triple time.

- Employees have the right to refuse work if the weather is bad and the highway patrol has advised travel warnings.

- Two additional paid holidays a year.

- AM-FM radios in all package cars and AM-FM and CB radios in all road equipment, at company expense.

- \$2.50 an hour wage increase over three years. Full cost-of-living protection (1c for every .2 increase in the CPI, with no cap).

At the end of the union's contract proposals, there is this message: "NO CONTRACT—NO WORK AFTER APRIL 30, 1976."

It's a message that UPSurge and Teamsters for a Decent Contract have been hammering home for many months, and it's good to see that the union officials have finally noticed.

Contacted by phone for her comment on the union's demands, UPSurge editor Anne Mackie told Workers' Power,

"We're delighted that the organizing work UPSurge has done is beginning to pay off. We've got our union leadership riding down the right belt."

"But the hard work's just beginning. We've got to keep organizing and keep up the pressure to be sure they really fight for what they claim they want."

"If we want to win more than a fraction of these issues, it will mean a strike or at least the serious threat of a strike."

"Between now and April 30, we've got to prepare for that strike, and make sure our leaders are doing the same." □

UNION NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS' AREA UNITED PARCEL SERVICE MASTER AGREEMENT

ARTICLE 31. Part Time Employees

Section 2. Change to read as follows:

"The Employer agrees that effective May 1, 1976, no new part time employees shall be hired and all present part time employees shall be offered full time employment prior to hiring new employees. Any part time employee who accepts full time employment shall be given priority for re-hiring."

ARTICLE 17. Equipment, Accidents and Reports

Paragraph 1, 2, 3, and 4. No Change.

Paragraph 5. First sentence: Add the word "adequate" in front of "Heaters".
"The Employer shall provide and maintain adequate AM-FM, CB radios and C.B. Radios in all road equipment." The Company shall provide and maintain AM-FM radios in all package cars. Sun visors shall be installed on all equipment.

Excerpts from the Teamsters' Central States UPS bargaining proposals.

Teamster Local 70 Endorses TDC

OAKLAND, Ca.—Teamsters for a Decent Contract scored a big victory here February 26. Local 70, the largest freight local in California, voted 102-67 to endorse TDC's contract demands.

This was no small accomplishment, since the union officials knew the motion was coming up for a vote and were prepared to oppose it.

The previous Tuesday, the local's stewards had voted to recommend passage of the motion at the general membership meeting.

In response, Local 70 President Jimmy Muniz and Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Mack sent a telegram from the Master Freight negotiations in Chicago to be read at the meeting.

The telegram opposed the TDC motion, stating that it would be no help to Local 70 officers in the "complicated" negotiations going on.

The message implied that the International might allow Local 70 to get out of the National Master Freight Agreement if it didn't make too many waves.

WITHDRAW?

Local 70 has long tried to withdraw its power of attorney from the International on the grounds that it could negotiate more successfully on its own. The local has many superior conditions in freight, such as the 8:00 am starting time and exclusive union hiring hall.

John Larson, editor of The Fifth Wheel, a Bay Area rank and file Teamster newspaper, spoke in the debate on the motion. He pointed out that Local 70 could no longer stand by itself.

The companies are moving their operations to areas which undermine Local 70's conditions, causing widespread unemployment in the local.

Other speakers pointed out that the officials were opposing endorsing a set of demands which the local had itself supported many times.

The local officials had trouble arguing against the need for the rank and file to pressure for a

decent contract. In the end, they couldn't get enough people to toe the line.

The meeting was about three times as large as most local meetings. TDC had leafleted most freight barns and held some barn meetings before work to get people to the meeting.

AID MARCH 13

The victory gives TDC a big shot in the arm for its next test of strength on March 13.

On that day TDC will hold a demonstration at the Western Conference of Teamsters headquarters in Burlingame to further influence the negotiations now going on.

Many local officials now realize that TDC is a force to be reckoned with. Some are already trying to discredit TDC with the time-worn charges that it is just out to get power; it is just a bunch of commies, or whatever.

These charges will have to be taken head on and turned around on the officials.

TDC is indeed about taking power, but not for a small group of union politicians. TDC wants power for the rank and file of the union who have so little say in contract negotiations.

TDC will be judged on its program and its practice, not on the political affiliations of its members.

For most union officials, any rank and file union members who stand up for their rights effectively are automatically labeled communists or radicals.

Members of the International Socialists who are Teamsters support and build TDC because they think that the only way for Teamsters to stop the attacks of the employers is to organize the rank and file as a united force. □



Save Philadelphia General Hospital!

On February 25, 3000 of Philadelphia's 20,000 nonuniformed employees stayed off their jobs. They marched from Philadelphia General Hospital (PGH) to City Hall to protest Mayor Rizzo's decision to close the city's only public hospital and turn it into a hotel to serve nearby Civic Center.

The march and rally were called by The Coalition to Save PGH. The group includes District Councils 33 and 47 of AFSCME, the NAACP, the Welfare Rights Organization and several other civil rights, religious and community groups. The demonstration hampered some city services with more than 50% of the workers in the Sanitation, Streets and Water Departments off their jobs.

Demonstrators chanted, "Save PGH!" and "We put him in, We can take him out!" and carried signs. One read, "A Life for a \$400 Doorknob" referring to the thousands of dollars spent recently to renovate Rizzo's Chestnut Hill home.

Calling Rizzo such names as "Your Imperial Highness," "Hypocrite" and "Another Hitler," speakers at the rally attacked the spending priorities of the Rizzo Administration. They cited the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on lavish Bicentennial projects while PGH has been allowed to run down through years of neglect.

While many speakers demanded a campaign to recall Rizzo from office, the leaders of many of the unions involved supported him in the last election. For instance, Earl Stout, President of AFSCME District Council 33, representing 19,000 city workers, led the parade. However, he is a close political ally of Rizzo's. His union could have done much more to get city employees out for the march.

The hospital closing may be a first step towards massive cutbacks in city jobs. □