

TEAMSTER STRIKE 1976 WHAT HAPPENED AND WHY

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS APRIL 12, 1976 #155 15c

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You Can Get Away With Murder

If Your Dad Owns St. Louis



Peter Busch

St. Louis is famous for many things. Two of those things are the baseball Cardinals and its beer. Both are owned by the Busch family. Recently they became famous for something else: Murder.

Peter Busch, 20-year-old son of August A. Busch Jr., was finally indicted for "criminally negligent homicide" one month after the killing of David Leeker in the Busch home.

Prosecutors had labeled the case an open homicide. This includes anything from murder to accidental shooting.

Peter Busch and his "good friend" David Leeker were together on the night of Feb. 10, 1976 when a .357 Magnum "accidentally went off" about 1-2 inches away from Leeker's head. The bullet hit Leeker between the upper lip and nose. Busch claims he tossed the gun on the bed and it went off.

After the killing, Busch went off to Florida. The police were

not concerned. Incredibly they did not seem to need Busch for their investigation.

Perhaps this was because heading the investigation was an employee of the Busch family. Major William T. Owens worked off duty hours for the Busch Family.

Owens said that his duties on the investigation would not interfere with justice. The question is: whose justice? When Peter Busch was indicted Judge Drew Lutten ordered Busch's \$5,000 bond continued. Busch spent a grand total of two hours in custody. He was then allowed to leave.

The charge finally brought against Busch was not murder. The only question the judge wants answered is "how big an accident?"

This is the kind of justice this system hands out. The poor go to jail and the rich go to Florida.

Gail Williams

BOSTON: Racists Run Wild

by Michael Hirsch

BOSTON — Racist violence exploded in Boston Monday. It happened when a gang of white teenagers took over the city's futuristic Government Center (City Hall) building.

The whites were from South Boston and Charlestown, on a march to promote a school boycott against integration in Boston schools. In most of the city, this boycott has flopped.

City Council President Louise Day Hicks, who is a leading Boston Democrat and the main organizer of the racist anti-busing forces, gave the demonstrators the keys to the City Hall chamber. There, they read a series of "demands" to an empty hall.

Then they went looking for people to beat up. Black lawyer Theodore Landsmark, on his way to City Hall, was caught by the mob. He was beaten and struck full in the face with the steel staff of an American flag.

Landsmark was treated for a broken nose and facial cuts requiring eight stitches.

COPS STAND BY

The attack on Landsmark was only the most extreme of several incidents. The crowd attempted to drag a black truck driver from his cab into the street. They went on to harass two young black women in the facility.

None of the white thugs were arrested. Police said the incidents "happened too fast to arrest the attackers." That means they stood around watching.

This mob attack got major



Black lawyer Theodore Landsmark attacked by white mob in Boston.

publicity only because Landsmark is the most prominent black lawyer in the city and a major figure in the construction trades.

Louis Day Hicks, directly responsible for promoting the would-be lynch mob, naturally "deplored" the attack.

To show how much she "deplored" it, she went on to repeat her demand that black people in Boston be forced to accept segregated schools and fourth-class citizenship. She put it this way:

"All of us must realize now exactly what polarization of the races has come to mean... I am

most fearful of the consequences that will be forthcoming" [unless busing is stopped].

On Monday and Tuesday nights, young people in the black Mission Hill district of Roxbury responded to the incident by going into the streets with rocks.

Although the police did nothing when Landsmark was attacked, tactical police force squads were sent to Mission Hill in force.

The state uses its power to protect the racists. That's why black people must organize to defend themselves.

FBI STILL STALLS ON CHURCH BOMBINGS

Twelve years ago a bomb went off in a Birmingham church, killing four young black girls. Today, the murderers still have not been found and a number of related bombings remain unsolved.

From the beginning, the FBI and the government have conspired to insure that these cases remained uninvestigated.

During the late sixties the FBI followed a policy of withholding information from local law enforcers. Recent attempts to investigate have been thwarted too.

In 1971 the State Attorney General of Alabama requested information from the FBI on the 1963 church bombing case. It wasn't until December, 1975 that he received a reply.

The FBI has no explanation for the delay. And the Attorney General isn't saying why he waited so patiently for so long.

The FBI released information only after newsmen learned of the FBI's refusal to cooperate.

Now the Attorney General complains that while he has now unearthed a whole series of bombings with enough information for a case to be made, the statute of limitations has run out.

The government and the FBI timed their delays nicely so that no one would ever have to be prosecuted.

Meanwhile murderers run free. Just one more example of justice in America for those who are black. □

Emily Danzig

GEORGE WALLACE

Under the New Image

Is the Same Old Racist



The man posing here with liberal Ted Kennedy...

labor notes

by Jim Woodward



Wonder why postal rates are going up and service is down? They try to say it's because of "high labor costs." But check this: in San Diego, since the Postal Reorganization Act was passed in 1970, the number of management personnel has doubled. At the same time, the number of craft workers has been cut.

One of the demands of United Parcel Service feeder drivers in their upcoming contract negotiations is to be allowed to use CB radios while on the road. UPS management has consistently refused to allow CB's...until the nationwide freight strike. Then, apparently concerned about the safety of its equipment, the company authorized the use of CB's during the strike.

During the Teamster strike, the Coalition for a Good Contract (CGC), a rank-and file group of auto workers, has distributed thousands of leaflets in support of the truckers. CGC says if the Teamsters win, "it will make our struggle for a good contract next September one step easier." One auto worker said the same thing, comparing this year's contract bargaining to the Presidential elections. "The Teamsters strike is the New Hampshire primary," he said.

It must have been a nice little party that the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce held: The guests were United Steel Workers President I.W. Abel, and U.S. Steel Vice Chairman R. Heath Larry. They were honored for the steel industry's no-strike agreement of 1971. Abel was so pleased with the honor he said it showed the businessmen "had crossed the great divide into the 20th century." While Abel has crossed back to the 19th century, it seems.

Most workers covered by cost-of-living clauses realize that they usually do not recover all of the wages lost to inflation. But it's shocking to see how little they do recover. According to an article in an AFL-CIO magazine, the average worker covered by a cost-of-living clause actually gets only 50% of the wages lost to inflation.

Recently the Michigan legislature passed a bill which would require a second worker to be present when there is work going on in a manhole. "The purpose of this act is laudatory in that it attempts to secure a high degree of safety for persons working in a potentially dangerous environment," said Governor Milliken, as he vetoed the bill. Despite its "laudatory" features, the governor said the bill was not "in the best interests of the state." It could have cost Michigan utilities \$10 million a year.

Sheldon W. Samuels, an AFL-CIO health and safety expert, said recently that the National Cancer Institute is holding on to reports on 150 industrial chemicals which are suspected of causing cancer. The Institute is a government agency. Its directory confirmed the existence of the 150 reports, but said they were not intentionally being withheld from the public.

Finally, a thought for workers who are concerned about their pensions. Bob Dorsey was recently fired from his job for illegal activities. Dorsey's job was chairman of the Gulf Oil Corp., and he was involved in making \$12 million worth of payoffs to politicians, including Nixon. Now the normal worker who gets caught, say, stealing a \$1.98 screwdriver from his company may be out of a job and on the street without a penny, if not in jail. Bob Dorsey did a little better. For bribing the President of the United States, Gulf fired him, but eased the burden with an annual pension of \$48,200, plus a lump sum payment of \$1.6 million. Dorsey also got \$54,000 in accumulated vacation pay, and holds stock options worth another \$1.4 million.

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: 313-869-5964.



... is the same hard-core segregationist who blocked Alabama school doors to black students.

Alabama Governor George Wallace is trying to clean up his image in his latest try for the Presidency. But a closer look reveals the same old racist underneath all those big, broad smiles and all that down-home southern charm.

Famous for having stood in the school-house door to stop integration in Alabama, Wallace is once again trying to mobilize support from the "little man" in America.

He claims he'll "send a message to Washington"—a message about too much government, too much red tape, and too little individual freedom.

Sounds good, doesn't it? A visit to the local Wallace headquarters here in Detroit opens up your eyes quite a bit.

MAD'S HOME BASE

The address is on the east side of Detroit, deep in the heart of School Board Region 7. This is the home base of Mothers Alert Detroit (MAD), the local anti-busing group.

A shabby little storefront, with only one small Wallace sticker on the door is the Wallace office. Inside, one big room, with dark grey walls, a bare wood floor, one naked bulb in the ceiling.

Alone at the desk by the phone sits the man in charge. And firmly in charge he is.

White, in his 50's, a long-time politico in the Democratic Party, is originally from the South. Kentucky, he says.

And "the Governor" is the only hope we decent Americans have, he says. He refuses to say what his name is.

After all the standard rap on how wonderful the Governor is, the real truth starts to come out. This man, in charge of Wallace's local campaign in Detroit, is no new-comer to politics—right wing politics, that is.

With a big wink, he lowers his voice to confide that he personally lent Mothers Alert Detroit its first \$200 to get off the ground—he even loaned the Wallace headquarters to them to hold their first meeting.

Now, don't misunderstand—he's not against blacks, he says—as long as they know their place. Most of the ones from the South, he says, "understand how to behave."

NAZI TIES

This fellow also takes credit for helping Donald Lobsinger form the Detroit group, Breakthrough. It is famous throughout Detroit as a split-off group from the American Nazi Party.

Breakthrough split off because they didn't like using the swastika as their symbol. Like Wallace, they preferred a more acceptable image.

The trusted friend of anti-busing activists and undercover Nazis—that's who is running the Wallace campaign in Detroit. And it's no accident, either. He and the Governor have been friends for years, he says.

The Wallace image may be cleaner this time around. But you don't have to dig very deep to find the real filth underneath.

Pam Walker

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST WALLACE

Saturday, April 10
Cobo Hall, Detroit
6:00 PM

Sponsored by the Red Tide and the International Socialists

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SHOWDOWN IN SAN FRANCISCO

Unions Fight For Survival

by Anne Larson

Nineteen hundred building trades workers struck the city of San Francisco April 1 to protest pending wage and benefits cuts totalling 5.7 million dollars.

At press time, tough negotiations between the unions and the Board of Supervisors were continuing, with no agreement in sight.

Mayor Masconi announced that it would be unfair "to have the slightest bit of optimism. There has been no progress at all in the negotiations."

San Francisco, like most big American cities, is headed straight for fiscal collapse.

A member of the Board of Supervisors recently predicted that "San Francisco will turn into another New York in five or six years if we don't hold the line on wages."

But it has not been easy to force the unions to bear the brunt of the municipal crisis. San Francisco's public workers are among the best organized in the country.

BALANCE SHIFTED

Last year, however, the balance shifted in favor of the city government. Taxes were raised in the wake of a successful strike by police and firemen.

In the wave of anti-labor sentiment which followed, the Supervisors were able to push through a proposition on the November ballot which slashed pay scales for city craft workers.

When the Supervisors attempted to implement these cuts along with a no-strike clause on March 31, they were immediately faced with a walkout.

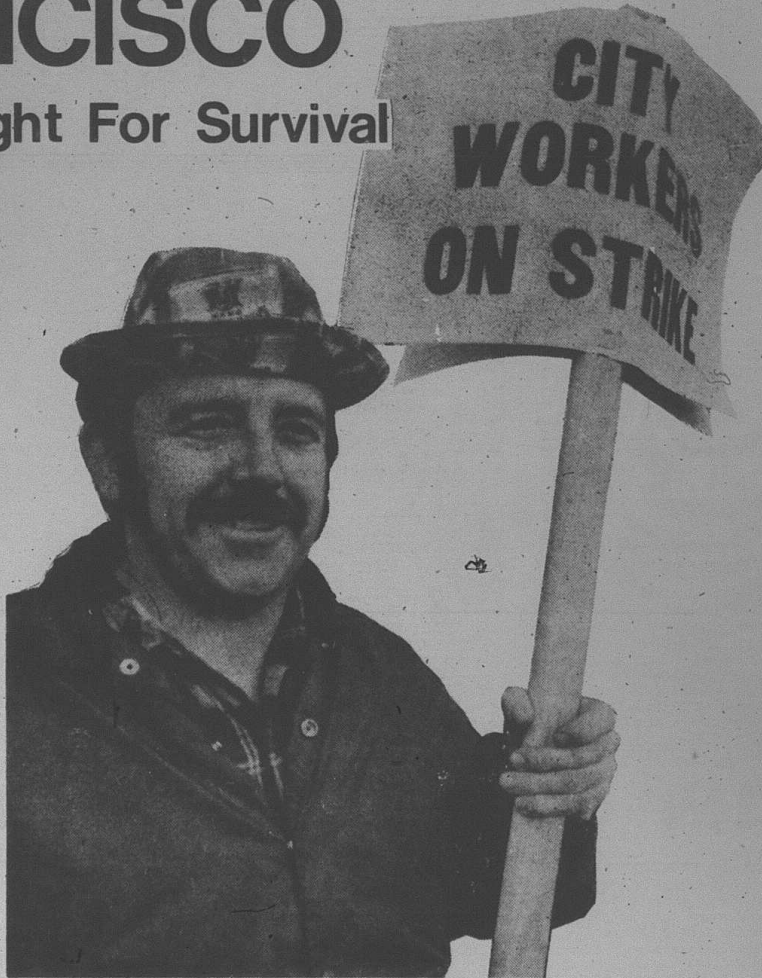
Most unionists realize that this strike is a virtual lockout forced by the Supervisors in an attempt to break the political power of the labor movement in the city.

"They're trying to wreck the unions," Ed Schach, a striking electrician, said.

"They're trying to sweep us under the rug and go back 30 years with our contract."

The craft unions have threatened to spread the walkout. George Evankovich, the head of the Laborers Union, told the Supervisors that "We'll escalate the strike until it's a general strike."

The San Francisco Labor Council voted to sanction any of its member unions that go out on sympathy strikes.



But few have done so. The vote was mostly for show.

WALKOUTS

The Municipal Railway drivers, who face a similar proposition on next November's ballot, walked out immediately in support of the strike. The longshoremen have partially closed down the port.

But most city workers are not supporting the strike.

The craft unions have for years relied on political connections at City Hall to win major contractual gains.

In the process, they have ignored the majority of city workers, many of whom are women and minorities.

The craft unions have failed to use their power to organize other public employees, to bring them up to their own standards.

They are now facing the consequences of this strategy. One hospital worker told a reporter why she could not support the strike.

As she crossed the picket line at San Francisco General Hospital she said, "It takes me almost a week to make what they do in a day."

City officials estimate that 80%

of city workers are crossing the craft workers' picket lines.

The craft unions' years of isolation and reliance on city politicians have left them dangerously weakened in their current confrontation with the Board of Supervisors.

But if they lose this showdown, the way will be open for an attack on all public employee unions in the city.

As striker Ed Schach put it, "The handwriting is on the wall if the businessmen and city win this in a labor town like San Francisco." □

Black Bell Workers On The Move

The fourth annual convention of the National Black Communications Coalition (NBCC) was held April 2-4 in Columbia, South Carolina. Fifty-seven delegates registered from all over the country.

The NBCC is an organization of black workers employed by the Bell System.

Its main base of support is among elected or appointed local officials and international staffers. In some areas, however, it does have significant rank and file support.

In the past, the main focus of the NBCC has been to get more blacks into positions in the CWA International.

NBCC fought at previous CWA conventions to get an elected ethnic affairs director with Vice Presidential status. They were unsuccessful in this, though there is now an appointed ethnic affairs director.

INDEPENDENCE

The main issue at the convention was the relationship of the NBCC to the CWA International. This was not discussed openly, but through the adoption of a constitution and the election of new officers.

The International wants to gain control of the NBCC, turning it into primarily a convention caucus of the CWA.

The other side favors more independence from the CWA, with the NBCC being open to non-CWA members.

Only one group there raised any action proposals to fight the attack against blacks in the industry. That group was United Action, a nationwide rank and file group in CWA.

The action proposals were discussed in the workshop on the CWA convention.

United Action presented three resolutions concerning the fight against layoffs, the need for upgrading traffic, and methods to make bargaining more democratic.

These received the support of the workshop and it is assumed that the new leadership will fight for them at the upcoming CWA Convention.

VICTORY

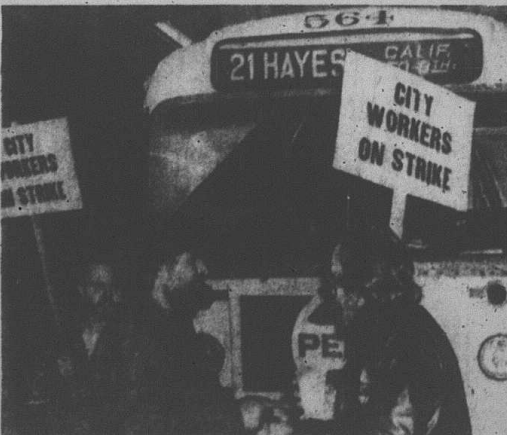
The NBCC meeting was a victory for those who favor a more independent stance from the CWA. Their constitution was adopted, along with their entire slate of officers.

The new president of NBCC is Jewell White, president of Local 5011 in Illinois.

If the new leadership is to build the NBCC as a serious rank and file black organization, it will have to move beyond mere independence of the International.

It will need an action program that fights racism. It will mean fighting both the company and the International.

The results of the fourth convention make this direction a possibility. □



San Francisco transit workers refused to cross city workers' picket lines.

1500 Face Layoffs At Ford Engine

DETROIT—The auditorium at UAW Local 600 hall was packed Sunday, April 4. UAW officials were talking about their response to the planned layoffs of 1500 at the Ford Dearborn Engine plant.

Ford is planning to move production of light truck engines from Dearborn to plants in Windsor, Ontario, and Cleveland. Two thousand employees will remain at the Dearborn plant, part of the huge River Rouge complex, to produce other engines.

The union officials had little to say about saving the jobs. "Ford has a heart" is the slogan they had printed up on buttons.

They urged support of the Mondale-Ford bill in Congress. This bill would set up programs for retraining those who lose jobs

when plants close. It would also provide funds for relocation. But it would do nothing, to save jobs.

ELECTION TALK

The officials spent most of their time talking about supporting a Democrat for President. Clearly this would do nothing to save the 1500 jobs.

Their only plan for action was to bus pickets to Ford World headquarters in Dearborn. But a picket of the headquarters will not shut down production.

The only way to stop the layoffs is to make them not worth it to Ford.

The way to a capitalist's heart is through his profits. □

Argentina

Argentina's "peaceful" right-wing military coup took another 30 lives last week.

Most of the victims were kidnapped and slaughtered by gangs of fascists. These professional right-wing terrorists work right under the noses of the police and the Army.

Hundreds of left-wing activists, unionists and people "suspected of subversive affiliations" are simply placed on death lists, picked up, driven into the countryside. They are left dead or dying, riddled with bullets in roadside ditches.

Last weekend, the bodies of nine men and six women were found scattered in ditches around the capital city. One was the leader of a small revolutionary workers' group.

But Argentina's rich are celebrating the ban on strikes and freeze on wages. At a lavish dinner party, one of the guests was so delighted by the coup she said her husband might even pay his income taxes this year—for the first time ever. □

Lebanon

The Moslem workers and peasants of Lebanon have smashed the political and military power of the far right wing armies and the upper-class Christian-dominated government.

Now they are seeing their victory stripped away. The government of Syria has stepped in to strangle the movement of working class and poor Moslems and Palestinians in Lebanon.

Syria has no intention of allowing the Moslem independent Palestinians to win political power in Lebanon. Instead, it wants a new coalition of middle-class Christian and Moslem politicians who depend on Syria for their power and survival.

Syrian troops, disguised as Palestinian commandos from "As Saïqa" (a commando organization run by Syria), occupied several ports to stop the flow of weapons and supplies going to the Moslem fighters.

They have not touched the port of Junieh, where the right-wing Christian parties get their weapons.

PATROLLING BEIRUT

Saïqa troops are also patrolling sections of Beirut trying to force left-wing militias to disarm. This gives the Phalangist and other right-wing armies time to re-arm, regroup and prepare for the next round of fighting.

Syria's intervention in Lebanon has the unofficial backing of the United States. But it will not bring any kind of peace to the country.

It means only that there will be an even bloodier slaughter, as the right moves to re-take power and the Moslem resistance fighters are forced to wage the same battles all over again. □

S. Africa

Black workers in Springs, South Africa, are waging an important struggle against an increase in bus fares. They are walking six miles to work and back every day.

Bus fares are an explosive issue in South Africa. Black African workers are forced by segregation laws to live in "townships" miles from the "white centers" where they work.

To get to work, they must pay outrageous fares for transport. They are also forbidden by law from organizing for higher wages. Their only recourse is a boycott.

For over two weeks, the black workers of Kwa Thema township, who work six miles away in Springs, have been waking up every morning to walk to work, which starts at 8 a.m. The bus company, taken by surprise, is losing \$7000 a day.

As one worker, Joseph Ramathibela, said as he walked wearily home from work: "We will keep on walking as long as this increase remains."

The bus company must pay their drivers although there are no passengers. But let us see how long they can go on paying them while the buses return empty every day. □

SPAIN: A STRIKE WRITTEN IN BLOOD

More large demonstrations and street fighting occurred last weekend in Madrid and Barcelona, Spain, with hundreds of injuries and arrests.

This was only the latest battle in the massive upheaval sweeping through Spain. In the last three months millions of Spanish workers have struck. Hundreds of thousands have defied the fascist police to join demonstrations and mass meetings.

Details of a massacre of marchers in Vitoria, in the northern Basque country, early last month have been revealed. During a local general strike, workers and their families were machine gunned. This led to a larger general strike that paralyzed the whole region.

A leaflet issued by the co-ordinating committee of Workers' Commissions of the Basque Country, immediately after the massacre, explains what happened. It reads in part:

"The third of March 1976 will remain in the memory of the working class of Vitoria as one of the most dramatic in their history.

"From early morning a general strike (demanding re-hiring of fired workers) paralyzed all the large companies except Michelin, all the small factories, building sites, centers of education...

"At 10 AM the first large demonstration of the day took place. The police fell on the demonstrators with extraordinary violence, using rubber bullets, tear gas, firearms.

"At midday there was another massive demonstration in the Avenida del Generalísimo... (while) in front of the Telephone exchange a vast crowd of women were repeating the slogans that resounded throughout the city.

"Reinstate the fired workers! Less police, more work!"

"The whole town participated in the struggle.

"Some 5000 people gathered in the Church of San Francisco to discuss the situation and work out plans of action for the afternoon.

"But the 'greys' (fascist police) brutally attacked those standing outside the church—and at the same time began throwing tear gas bombs into the church through the windows.

"As soon as those inside the church began to leave, sick from the gas, the armed police charged them waving clubs in all directions. The workers tried to defend themselves in any way possible.

"Immediately, the police began to machine-gun the crowd. To kill. The screams of the crowd were so loud they drowned the noise of the machine guns...



Socialists march in Madrid demanding freedom for political prisoners. Mass strikers have swept that country as fascist power crumbles.

"Three comrades, Pedro Maria Martinez, Romualdo Burrosa and Francisco Aznar were murdered. More than a hundred were wounded... one with a bullet through his head, one with his liver destroyed, one with a perforated throat, one who had been hit in the testicles, another who had his leg amputated...

"Horror and uncontrollable anger extended throughout Vitoria as people heard the news.

"The same night the Committee of Representatives of the striking

factories issued a call of solidarity with the people of Vitoria, (to demand) popular justice for the murderers of the dead workers, the removal of the Civil Governor, Chief of Police, the Mayor, the dissolution of all repressive bodies... for an indefinite general strike of the whole working class and people of Vitoria."

The next week, practically all the Basque provinces were totally shut down. The blood of workers in the town of Vitoria has written the first chapter of the new Spanish revolution. □

THE CIA'S ANGOLA SLAUGHTER

Remember last year's war propaganda by the State Department that the victory of the MPLA (Popular Movement) in Angola would cause a "bloodbath by Africans against Africans"?

That line was pushed by Washington, by the government of China, by the regimes of Zaire and Zambia, and by "black capitalist" agents like Roy Innis who recruited U.S. ex-servicemen to fight as mercenaries against MPLA in Angola.

Well, there was a bloodbath in

Angola. But it wasn't exactly the way the U.S. government and its allies told it.

Many thousands of civilians in southern Angola were indiscriminately slaughtered by the pro-Western armies of FNLA and UNITA who occupied the territory until early this year.

Jane Bergerol, the best-informed western journalist in Angola, wrote that "The number of civilians shot by UNITA and FNLA troops must be counted in many thousands, as far as I can judge, more than the

number of military deaths in the war."

MPLA OFFICIAL SHOT

One of the victims was an MPLA official named Nogueira in a suburb of Huambo, shot dead by UNITA soldiers in front of his five small children.

Another was the family of an Ovimbundu farm worker, named Maria. Her child was shot and her home destroyed, though she had nothing to do with the MPLA or any other political movement.

There were also mass slaughters in Sa da Bandeira and Benguela.

Two hundred pro-MPLA civilians were brutally murdered in Sa da Bandeira, and over 500 more in Benguela, by troops of FNLA and UNITA along with Portuguese fascists before they fled.

FNLA and UNITA were armed and politically supported by the U.S., Britain and China. They were also backed up by South African troops who invaded ANGOLA at the personal request of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. □

Portugal - New Crisis Is Brewing

By Dan Posen

A national election campaign is underway in Portugal. Parliamentary elections will be held on the second anniversary of the anti-fascist coup of April 25, 1974.

The election occurs in the midst of a right-wing offensive by government and military forces. For this reason, one of the right-wing capitalist parties, the Social Democratic Center (CDS) will get a very large vote.

Before last November 25, there was no sign of CDS in Lisbon. It did not dare show its face in the open.

Now its members swagger around and beat up campaign workers for other parties. In large sections of Portugal, they have stopped the Communist Party from campaigning, and even Socialist Party meetings are being attacked.

Earlier this year, the right wing confidently expected the parliamentary elections to produce a strong right wing, repressive government. But that result now seems unlikely.

The CDS' election partner, the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), is in trouble.

The PPD was once, last summer and fall, the rallying point for the large capitalists and landowners against Portuguese workers struggling for workers' control and power.

Under PPD (and Socialist Party) ban-

ners, organized gangs attacked left wing and union headquarters in the north, burned buildings and cars and tried to smash workers' strikes.

The PPD was strong as long as the large capitalists saw it as their most reliable tool for counter-revolution.

Now, however, the PPD is badly weakened and split. Much of its support has now gone to the more right-wing, openly pro-capitalist CDS.

As a result the PPD goes into the election a weaker party. The largest single electoral party in Portugal is still the Portuguese Socialist Party (SP).

SP GOVERNMENT?

The SP has also moved rightward. It has dropped the elements of revolutionary rhetoric it once used to get left-wing votes. Now it presents a straight social-democratic program of capitalist reforms.

The SP will get only a minority of the total vote, but enough to make it the largest and governing party.

As a result, the Socialist Party will form a government—but a weak one. Already the PPD and the Communist Party are fiercely battling over which of them will have some influence in government decisions.

As the elections and the prospect of a

weak SP government comes nearer, the atmosphere in Lisbon has become even more tense.

Right-wing parties are demanding the right to force changes in the Constitution that the Constituent Assembly has drafted.

This Constitution, written mainly by the SP, means continued capitalist rule in Portugal.

However, big capitalists and landowners are furious over some of its provisions, which recognize the right of the government to take over land and even to break up monopolies.

There are dozens of rumors of a new right-wing coup.

It may take the form of forcing through a more right-wing Constitution—or it may mean the seizure of power by force from the Socialist Party ministers.

But Portuguese workers have kept their strength by waging strikes, factory occupations and demonstrations right through the election campaign.

Portuguese workers have turned down the demands of Socialist Party and Communist Party leaders that they end all strikes and demands till the elections are over.

This is the most important fact of all—for only the organized power of workers will be able to crush the right when it moves to seize power. □

WORKERS' POWER

Teamster Special

THE TEAMSTER CONTRACT BATTLE

by Jim Woodward

A lot was won during the 1976 Teamster strike. Only a tiny part of it had anything to do with what the negotiators put down on paper.

The biggest gains were the increased confidence, aggressiveness, and organization of the rank and file.

Here's what that means. Years ago, in a city like Detroit, the Teamsters Union was boss. The employers were in a distinctly subordinate position. Any grievance the union wanted to win was won.

In recent years, that changed. The employers got stronger; the union weaker. And the rank and file got pushed around—even in Detroit.

At the Roadway terminal, for example, 28 grievances were taken to the grievance board in March. The union only won two of them—for about \$100 total.

The strike this year has started to change that relationship around again.

After a three-day official strike and a two-day wildcat in Detroit, a decision was made to go back to work. Immediately one employer tried to fire Pete Camaratta and Ray Lewis, two of the strike leaders.

Within a few minutes none of that employer's trucks were rolling.

One Teamster told Workers' Power, "If they're not rehired, the whole city will be shut down again by tomorrow morning."

It wasn't long before the boss was talking about how the firings were all just a "misunderstanding."

HARD WORK

The boss's changed attitude was not the result of any tough talk by Teamster officials. It was the result of seven months' hard work by members of Teamsters for a Decent Contract.

The movement begun by TDC in Chicago last August is shaking things up in the trucking industry. It has begun to spoil the cozy and corrupt relationship between the employers and top Teamster officials.

TDC had a profound impact on this year's contract negotiations, even though the terms of the settlement are largely a



The confidence gained during the strike was evident even as these Local 299 members voted to go back to work.

sellout.

Last fall, Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons said there would be no freight strike. All parties were talking about an early, peaceful settlement.

This spring there was the first national freight strike in history. That's because of TDC.

Last fall, Fitzsimmons announced that he wasn't going for wages in 1976. It was widely reported the union's opening wage demand would be \$1.50 over three years.

Under pressure, that was raised to \$2.50. The final settlement was \$1.65 over three years, plus cost-of-living in the second and third year.

The improvement is because of TDC.

The movement that TDC started was still too young and too weak to get its own way in this year's contract. But the strike put TDC on the map.

PAST ISOLATION

Before the contract fight began, rank and file fighters in the Teamsters Union were isolated and disorganized.

In most locals they didn't have any organization. Nationally they didn't even know each other existed.

To most of them, the idea of a

national movement that could actually influence the outcome of a contract was extremely remote. TDC and the struggle for a decent contract have changed that.

At the January 10 national meeting of TDC in Washington one activist said: "We felt we just didn't have the strength to fight until TDC." And now Teamsters are fighting, for sure.

The strike was an opportunity for rank and filers to use their new strength, to test their organization, and to build for the future.

During the strike, TDC grew. It grew in cities like Detroit, where it ran the official strike as well as the wildcat.

And it grew in smaller towns, like Wheeling, W.Va. and Billings, Montana.

Many Teamsters learned that their brothers and sisters could and would fight along side of them.

As one Detroit Teamster put it at the end of the wildcat there: "I worked 12 years with those guys and I never really knew them."

"In the last couple of days I've gotten to know them better than in all that time. When we go back to work now we are going to be like we never were before."

Here's What It Says

CONVOY, TDC's newspaper, summarized the proposed settlement well in a headline: "There's a contract out on YOU! Vote NO!"

With the exception of the wage package and a few relatively minor points, the proposed Master Freight Agreement is a pure and simple sellout. The major points are as follows:

- Nothing on the grievance procedure;
- Nothing on forced overtime;
- No change on road drivers' 70-hour slavery (a 70-hour, eight-day work week);
- No guarantees on pension or health and welfare improvements;
- Three sick days, instead of the ten demanded. But a doctor's note is required;

• A provision for pension contributions on casual employees that could encourage the use of more casuals rather than less under certain circumstances;

• Mileage increases for road drivers that, in percentage terms, are lower than hourly workers' raises. Road drivers will get air-conditioned cabs by 1978 and single room accommodations while on the road.

WAGES

The wage provisions are quite significant. The raises are 65c-50c-50c, in the first, second and third years respectively. There is no cost-of-living in the first year.

In the second and third years, there is an "unlimited" COL, under a formula that will compensate for about half the inflation in the first year and two-thirds in the second.

The wage and cost-of-living provisions are first of all inadequate. By the end of this contract (1979), Teamsters real wages (buying power) will probably be at—or below—their 1973 level.

In addition, the cost of the contract is less than the employers were prepared to pay.

That came out April 5. The Wall Street Journal reported that, "Some trucking groups lowered requested rate increases pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission because they had anticipated a more costly labor settlement with Teamster members than resulted."

Nevertheless, the wage settlement is the biggest any major union has won in years.

The only reason it's not smaller is Fitzsimmons needed some way to sell the contract to the ranks.

Without the fight TDC put-up, even the wage increase would have been peanuts.

RANKS' EFFECT

The size of the wage settlement shows that it is possible to have an effect on contract negotiations through rank and file organization.

This fact will have significant implications for workers in other industries whose contracts expire in coming months.

The size of the Teamster settlement, while inadequate, is large enough to encourage rank and filers in other unions to organize and fight.

TDC's impact will extend far beyond the Teamsters Union. □

A REAL HUSTLER?



"If Jimmy Hoffa was still around we'd never be in this mess." That was a popular sentiment among some Teamsters on the picket lines. But if Hoffa would have done things differently, his son apparently didn't know it. James Hoffa, Jr., now director of organizing for Local 299, gave newsmen his assessment of the settlement. "It's a good contract," he said.

THE STRIKE IN DETROIT

AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

by Steve Kindred

Last week for the first time ever, a nationwide Teamster freight strike took on the giants of the trucking industry.

The credit for this strike goes to the 400,000 rank and file Teamster members in freight. Their pressure and the organizing work of Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) forced the strike.

Special importance in analyzing the strike focuses on Detroit. That's where the best rank and file organization emerged, and where independent action kept the barns shut and the trucks off the road—solid—for two extra days.

The successes and failures of the Detroit strike contain important lessons for Teamsters and workers in every other industry. Here's the story.

Between Wednesday, March 31 at 6:00 pm and Tuesday, April 6 at 10 am, the real power of the Teamsters Union lay in the truck drivers, dock and clerical workers of Teamsters Local 299. For those five days they had the power to stop the never-ending drive by the employers to get more work out of fewer people for less pay.

The contract was up at midnight, March 31. But TDC had been talking about the issue for months. Since Pete Camaratta of Earl C. Smith Freight showed up at a TDC planning meeting in Cleveland on November 22, TDC had been distributing literature, holding meetings, hitting the mike at union meetings, educating and involving a growing number of rank and filers.

Victories had shown what could be done. At the December meeting they had forced passage of a resolution calling for separate votes on the supplements. On March 13 at the TDC/UPSurge Day of Action, 600 TDCers had taken over the 299 hall and called for a strike to win a decent contract.

At 6:00 pm in Patton Park, 300-400 gathered to prepare. Dispatch points were set up at Watkins coffee shop down by the river, at Town and Country by the airport, and at the Big Six coffee shop on the east side. Groups from different companies were assigned barns to picket. Some decided to picket their own, even in a wildcard, to make sure everything was peaceful and no unnecessary damage was done.

While the rally was on, Dave Johnson, President of Local 299, tested the water by floating a rumor that a settlement had been reached. The water was hot. It made no difference. No contract had been seen or voted on. Everyone knew the union's final compromise left many things uncovered.

Forced overtime in the city and seventy-hour slavery for road drivers. The grievance committee where the contract is continually rewritten and out of the members' reach. Increased health and welfare payments would not mean increased health and welfare coverage.

The union's Final Compromise had been printed in full in the most recent CONVOY, national newspaper of the Teamsters for a Decent Contract. Because of TDC in Detroit and around the country, the members were not in the dark as they went into this fight.

STRIKE IS ON

The strike was on—there was no doubt about it. For Frank Fitzsimmons, who had earlier said there would be no strike the choice was clear. He had to either step out of the way or place the union officials at the head of a token strike.

At 11 pm the word that a sanctioned strike was on was definite. In most locals the officials had control, kept the members in the dark, and made promises about a fight.

They then used their control to undercut the strike with the "interim" agreements with small outfits. These agreements allowed them to run. Then the officials were able to pull a well-organized and lightning quick back-to-work movement. It began within an hour of the announcement on Saturday of a tentative overall settlement. No details had been told to the

membership. In Detroit, most BA's didn't show their faces. The rank and file ran the strike. And they ran it solid. Nothing with more than four wheels came across the bridge from Canada.

To protect their jobs from scab outfits at the airports, the rank and file kept up a continuous battle to shut the whole airport down.

When drivers for A-Z refused to work Thursday morning under an interim agreement, they were fired. Thursday afternoon, Dave Johnson had to assure a meeting of strikers that no jobs would be lost from strike activity. The A-Z men were reinstated.

Down on the docks, a new outfit with an "interim" started to pull out containers normally handled by Angelo Cartage. Major, the Angelo steward, appealed for help. Forty to fifty men from all over town were on the scene. The problem was straightened out.



Steve Kindred is a member of Teamsters Local 407 in Cleveland and a member of the I.S. A laid-off driver for the Kroger Company, he has worked as a volunteer traveling organizer for the Teamsters for a Decent Contract.

He was active in Detroit during the strike, maintaining TDC communications nationally.

The views in this article are his own and do not necessarily represent either the TDC or the Detroit TDC.

These actions did more than keep the pickets solid. By showing the people in smaller companies that they would get backing, the active forces of the strike were swelled and everyone's confidence was increased.

The word is "solidarity," and it's been too long forgotten in the Teamsters Union.

OFFICIALS MOVE

But Dave Johnson and the other officials weren't twiddling their thumbs. At the meeting with strikers Thursday afternoon, he showed he'd say anything to break the ranks—to deliver to the companies the work the interim agreements promised.

In one breath he argued the interims didn't make any real difference; that it was only outfits hauling phone books. And then he said these agreements would break the front of the employers and prevent Taft-Hartley.

To stall for time, he offered to let the strikers negotiate another interim agreement locally. Yet he knew full well the interims were laid down in Chicago and putting together the best interim agreement in the world in Detroit would have zero effect.

A primary tactic of the officials during the strike was to create confusion.

After a rally had been called by the rank and file for Friday at 2 pm at the Hall, Johnson announced on the radio that it was cancelled.



Local 299 members march in front of the union hall the day they decided to continue the strike.

The turnout was small.

The strike was solid. Its backbone was the well organized barns. Interstate and Earl C. Smith held their line, helped others out, and manned the phones at the Big Six on the East Side. Shippers and Express Freight were together in the Watkins area.

On the west side, men from Key Line, Gateway and Roadway kept freight down and provided troops for the battle at the airport under the direction of an airport steward.

The steelhaulers and others covered the bridge from Canada and operated crews on the road to inform anyone running that a strike was on.

But by Friday, the lack of a centralized body representing the strikers began to show.

Dedication did not prevent exhaustion. The pickets tended to swell around 11 pm and then fade. Scattered strongholds were crucial but they need to be gathering into a strong unified pole.

With the negotiations in Fitz's hands in Chicago, and a well-oiled rumor machine going out of the Hall in Detroit, the lack of a representative and democratic body of strikers to answer these moves and rumors left the Hall a lot of room to move.

SATURDAY MEETING

Such a body never got solidly formed. But a meeting of 60 people from 20 barns on Saturday noon blunted any effort to move the MCLAC carriers who signed a national interim agreement Friday night.

After that meeting it was also clear that the back-to-work move Saturday evening, after a complete tentative agreement was signed, would fail.

Sunday afternoon a rally at 2:00 drew 300-400 strikers. A Convoy special describing the deal was discussed. It was clear there would be no quick return to work for what Fitz was offering.

The back-to-work movement Saturday had been largely successful in other areas. But there remained the possibility that when those areas learned the details of the proposed contract, the strike would resolidify. That would be during the crucial Sunday evening road dispatch and dock start period and the Monday morning return to work by city drivers. Detroit's firm stand was the backbone of this possibility.

Sunday night hundreds of pickets gathered at the Town and Country and the Big Six. Crews were dispatched to cover all the barns. When it became clear where the trouble spots were, forces were required to concentrate.

At ATL, the company made a determined effort to move some freight out. As you drove up there was a set of double trailers with the front one on its nose. Apparently a defective hitch. Soon a force of 100 faced a police riot squad of as many. Trucks ready to roll were withdrawn into the yard.

After two road rigs from out of town stopped at the picket line, the cops cleared half the driveway for the safety boss to pull the rigs in. In

his excitement he plowed one rig into a management car.

For several hours the large picket kept anything from moving out. Later in the night most forces were withdrawn and six pickets held down a much larger force of police. A few rigs went out in a convoy, but it was clear the battle of ATL had been won by the rank and file.

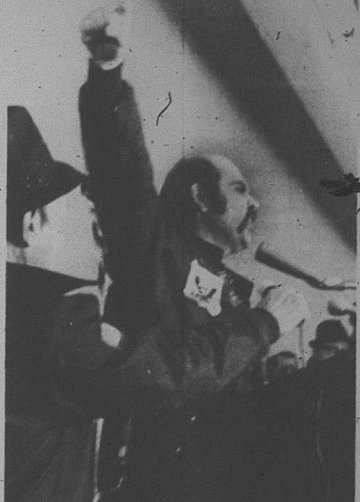
By Monday morning it was clear the rest of the country was rolling. Detroit had led but it was not enough. The mobilizations of the night before had stopped the scabs, but the morning lines were thin and in several places replacements for tired pickets were hard to come by.

"MEET WITH US ALL"

Dave Johnson asked for a delegation to meet with. The ranks said, "Meet with us all," and a meeting was set for Cobo Hall at 2:00 pm. For days the press and the union had been calling TDC a dissident minority. Three thousand members of 299 showed up. When the officials tried to kick out the press, a guard was thrown up and the press stayed.

Dave Johnson and International VP. Bobby Holmes tried to sell the tentative agreement. But as soon as it was clear there was no COL the first year, the anger of the rank and file at the settlement and handling of the strike began to come out in boos and catcalls.

Holmes made clear where he and the rest of the officials stood by shouting from the stage,



As Dave Johnson and Bobby Holmes left the stage, TDC leader Pete Camaratta took their place and the boos and catcalls turned to cheers and a standing ovation.

ROIT

"We don't need you." Then they left in their Cadillacs, turning off the sound system the members had paid for on their way out.

With a huge meeting, no sound, and an exhausted hard core, an organizing opportunity was lost. An overwhelming vote to continue the strike was taken, but the fresh people from the meeting were not organized into the strike activity.

Right after the meeting, the press announced an injunction had been gotten. The gatherings at 9:30 at the picket centers regarded the injunction as the worthless piece of paper it is when opposed by an organized rank and file. The lines went up again. The employers had seen the coverage of the Cobo meeting and made no determined efforts to run it Monday night.

When it was clear there were few fresh troops present and that some of the hard core were near exhaustion, a unified back-to-work move was discussed among those leaders on duty. It was now clear Detroit was holding alone. While the companies and the cops had moved cautiously Monday night after the Cobo meeting, it was clear they would get more aggressive.

NO FIRINGS!

A meeting was set up with the officials for that morning to obtain assurances that no one would be fired. After a clear demonstration that it is the rank and file and not the officials who hold the real power in 299, Holmes and Johnson were glad to end this embarrassing rebellion which showed that their Cadillacs, big salaries, and sun tans mean nothing when the rank and file is ready and organized to move.

They were glad to meet, answer questions and give assurances of their backing to anyone fired. Anyone who thinks the rank and file crawled back to work is sadly mistaken.

The Earl C. Smith Co. learned this quickly on Tuesday afternoon when they tried to fire Pete Camaratta and Ray Lewis. The barn was immediately closed by the rank and file, by BA Pete Caragosian who until last year had been the steward at Smith's, and by the Hall.

The picket line formed, exhausted strikers from Express Freight and CCC pulled up along with a carload of BA's, and the firing became a "misunderstanding." It may not have been intended, but this can and should serve as a precedent for all firings—those from smaller or weaker barns most importantly.

Other business remains undone. Both the Steelhaulers and the Clerical Workers backed this strike solidly. Their contracts are not settled. A well-organized strike might have been able to convert the strike into a legal one by uniting with the office workers.

But in any case, the solidarity of these groups will be remembered in the future if they do not get full backing from the rank and file of the freight workers.

RANK AND FILE VICTORY

The strike by the rank and file of 299 was a tremendous victory. It showed who the real Teamsters are—the workers; not the gangsters, parasites and dictators. It pushed before the public and the officials what our real problems are. It showed the power of an organized rank and file.

In Detroit and nationally the rank and file was not organized enough to break this sellout with one solid blow. We were not organized enough to break through the power of the officials, the companies, the courts, the government and the press. There's no shame in that.

If anyone thought this war to regain our rights and our union would be won in a single battle they were chasing a dream. The only shame would be in giving up the organization, communications, leadership, and solidarity we have gained. In failing to learn the lessons of this strike.

We will have the same fight in three years and many more before that. We've won a lot and laid the foundation to win a lot more. LONG LIVE THE TEAMSTERS' RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT.

Using the Press To Break Strikes

by Gay Semel

When 400,000 working Teamsters hit the bricks April 1, they knew they were up against heavy odds.

The trucking associations were out for blood.

The Federal government stood ready to invoke Taft-Hartley to "save the nation's economy."

The union leadership had promised the industry they wouldn't strike.

Within hours after the first strike began, rank and file Teamsters learned the odds were even heavier.

Spreading the anti-strike case for the bosses, the government, the courts, and the union officials was the national news media.

Their supposedly "objective reporting" was aimed at terrifying working people into opposing the strike.

Stories warning of impending food shortages filled the pages of the national papers and the pictures of our TV screens.

All the plants that would shut down if the Teamsters struck were listed.

The message was: if they strike, you'll lose your job—and then you'll starve!

HIGHWAY VIOLENCE

CBS radio told us hour by hour how the Teamster strike was bringing "violence to the nation's highways." They made it sound like you'd get shot if you left the house.

In an obviously desperate search for a hard luck story, NBC's Detroit TV news found 6000 pineapples with a transportation problem.

The pineapples, intended for sale by a local charity, were not delivered from the airport because of the strike.

The rotting pineapples were given equal time to present their cause. Actually the pineapples got more time than the tens of thousands of Teamsters.

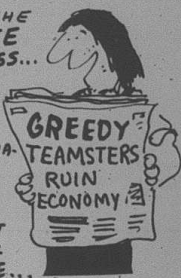
NBC's attempts to give support for the strike should have come as no surprise.

OUR NORMAN
THE GREAT THING ABOUT
THIS COUNTRY



IS THE
FREE
PRESS...

IT'S
NOT
LIKE
RUSSIA—
YOU
CAN
SAY
WHAT
YOU
LIKE...
AS LONG AS...



-YOU'VE GOT
TWO MILLION
DOLLARS TO
BUY A
PRINTING PRESS!

The week before the strike, NBC ran a news special on corruption in the IBT.

Every night, five nights running, NBC spent five minutes informing the viewing audience that essentially the

Teamsters union is run by crooks.

The message was, "Why should you support a bunch of crooks on strike?"

Little time was spent on the membership, its needs and why the ranks were ready to strike.

AFFECT EVENTS

But far worse than the concerted attempt by the capitalist press to diminish sympathy for the strike was the actual attempts to affect events.

When Fitzsimmons announced a settlement April 4 and ordered Teamsters back to work on Sunday, Detroit Teamsters refused to return without a ratification vote.

Their lines held. Detroit trucking was shut down—solid. But the banner headline of the Monday morning Detroit Free Press read, "Teamsters Return to Work/But Dissidents Urge Strike—Two Local Firms Still Picketed."

The clear impression given by the headline and the story was that the wildcat was weak.

The purpose was to scare Detroit Teamsters into going back.

The attempt failed. Teamsters who were unsure of what was happening came to work and met picket lines. They stayed out.

NOT OBJECTIVE

But there is a very important lesson to be learned from the attempt. A lesson that must be learned by more than Teamsters.

The newspapers are not objective. Neither is the TV or radio. They are owned and controlled by the same class that owns the trucking industry, the auto industry, rubber, electrical—the company you work for.

During strikes, and at every other time, they take a side—the bosses' side. They are used to influence public opinion.

They are not neutral. They cannot be trusted.

Read Workers' Power

You can't afford not to. Workers' Power is the only paper that has consistently given the true story of what's happening to Teamsters—before and during the strike. . . and after.

We report from the point of view of the worker—not the big shots. Maybe that's why Fitzsimmons denounced Workers' Power at a recent meeting of Teamster officials.

We're now offering special reduced rates for Teamsters—a years subscription for \$7.50. Find out what's happening every week.

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Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Ave.,
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Write if you want to order bundles.

Which Way Forward?

by Kim Moody

Seven months ago the International Brotherhood of Teamsters appeared to have an unbreakable bureaucracy at the top and a passive membership below.

But recently things have changed.

Rank and file dock workers and truck drivers have appeared on TV, been interviewed on the radio and had their pictures run in the newspaper.

This did not happen because the press and the media prefer workers to grinning celebrities.

It happened because a movement was born that is shaking things up in one of the nations most important industries, trucking.

This movement is led by organizations like Teamsters for a Decent Contract and UPSurge.

This movement brought about the first national freight strike in history.

The strike won the biggest wage settlement any union has won in years.

MORE TO DO

But there is much more to accomplish.

Although wages have been pushed far ahead of both the industry's and the union's first offers, it is not enough.

And the contract does not even begin to deal with the real issues Teamsters went out for: job security and improved conditions.

The next test for this movement will be the fight for a rejection of a contract that still

offers little protection for workers on the job.

And the word from TDC is that it is all geared up for just that fight.

But win or lose, sooner or later there will be a new contract. It is a tragic certainty that it will not end the problems faced by the rank and file.

The 1976 negotiations showed that the employers are out for blood.

In the best of times, any employer is out to maximize his profits at the expense of the workers. That is what capitalism is all about.

But we don't live in the best of times, even for capitalism. Although the U.S. economy is now in a recovery, the system that underlies it is still in crisis.

DEPRESSION

This recovery will be followed by another depression. In good times and bad the employers must squeeze harder and harder to keep the profits rolling in—and they know all of this.

Just as in the past three years, the employers will fight to rewrite the contract through the grievance procedure, through mergers and changes of operations, and through contract violations.

The shame of it is, the leaders of the Teamsters Union will then get away with it. In fact, Fitzsimmons' and his pals will help them more often than not.

The Teamster officialdom, pretty much from top to bottom, shares the concerns of the employers.

They want the employers to be fat and healthy and they are more than willing to let the workers' foot the bill.

Fitzsimmons and his friends are more like businessmen than like tradé union leaders.

To them the Pension and Health and Welfare Funds are money to invest, a pork barrel to plunder.

The growing rank and file movement that has grown in the contract fight can change this.

NEW LEADERSHIP

A new leadership is emerging. Those who have the strength and determination to continue the fight, to pick up the many issues that will follow the contract settlement, will eventually emerge as leaders capable of running a fighting, democratic union.

But it is not enough simply to replace one set of leaders with another, even if they are more honest and sincere than those they replace.

What is needed is a different program for the union, indeed a different idea of what a union is.

If the needs of the rank and file are to be met, the union cannot be a business, as today's leaders seem to think.

Nor can the union be a partner in the bosses' business.

The union's only reason for existence is to defend the interest of the workers and that means fighting against the interests of the employers.

It is workers who create all the wealth and products that the employers take for themselves.

Wages are only a small portion of that wealth.

The idea that the union should look after the bosses' profits is not only self-defeating, but based on a false understanding of reality.

Workers create the wealth, workers have every right to fight for all of it they can get.

Today the union and the employers rewrite the grievance procedure in favor of the employers.

A democratic, fighting union would rewrite it, every day, in favor of the workers.

Today, the union comes in with an inadequate contract after only two days on strike.

A real, 100% union would have brought the trucking bosses to their knees.

MILITANT, DEMOCRATIC

The fight is to make the Teamsters a militant, democratic union.

That means throwing out Fitzsimmons and all his kind.

It also means putting in a rank and file leadership that has the confidence of the membership and is democratically responsible to them.

But all this will take organization—a good deal more organization than TDC has today.

Solid chapters in every local must be built. Local steering committees that meet regularly need to be organized.

So does a national committee composed of those who have emerged as the real leaders of this movement.

This is the minimum that Teamster ranks need to carry on the fights ahead.

That kind of organization and that kind of leadership, do not just appear overnight. They are forged in real battles and real campaigns.

TDC has a good start to build

on. But many fights lay ahead.

The fight to stop Fitzsimmons from making all Business Agents appointed, the local fights for elected B.A.'s, the shop floor fights at each of the trucking companies, are a few of the fights that the rank and file movement will face in the coming months.

Each of these must be used to grow and become better organized.

"Who is this I.S. outfit, anyway?"

by Steve Kindred

"The International Socialists"—since the beginning of TDC, union and company officials have whispered this name along with vague accusations and slanders.

They hoped that a "red scare" would make Teamsters shy away from TDC and stop demanding more from the union and the companies.

The red baiting campaign failed to keep TDC from growing into the most powerful and well organized rank and file movement in the Teamsters in decades.

It failed because everyone could see that the charge that TDC is a "socialist movement" is a lie. People joined TDC to accomplish its stated goals.

TDC members wanted to work for these goals with any and all Teamsters who were willing to fight for them.

BROAD MOVEMENT

And from its beginning TDC was a broad movement with a broad leadership.

TDC included young and old, city and road, and Teamsters with beliefs ranging from conservative to the revolutionary socialists of the International Socialists.

The rank and file Teamsters in TDC refused to let the whispering campaigns of the International dictate to them who they can associate with and who they cannot.

And the red baiting campaign failed to destroy TDC because TDCers who are IS members refused to let the whispering make a mystery of the word "socialist."

Teamsters who are members of I.S. have been open about their views.

Some of the brothers and sisters felt that it would be easier for the movement if we hid part of our views.

But we knew that if we did that, when the red-baiting began, we would look like spies or secret agents. Then people would feel deceived. That would have made the red baiting very effective.

OPEN ABOUT BELIEFS

The other reason I.S. members were open about their beliefs is that we are not spies or secret agents. This is what red baiters want people to believe about socialists.

We are proud of our politics and activities and we want people to become convinced of them.

If we hid our light under a bushel, we would never take a single step toward convincing our co-workers.

At the same time that we have been open about our views, we have never misused positions of leadership in TDC to gain narrow advantage.

While we have felt it was important to inform those we work

closely with of our general views, and to answer all questions honestly we have not used our activity in TDC to try and convince anyone who didn't want to talk about it.

With those who were interested in finding out more about socialism, we were glad to discuss it. We love to discuss our political views. They are the center of our lives.

The final reason that we were open about our beliefs has to do with the content of those beliefs.

IMPROVE CONDITIONS

I.S. members are militants at our workplaces for the same reasons people joined TDC: to improve our living and working conditions.

But we believe that to fully succeed at this, the whole system of capitalism needs to be changed.

We believe that it should be changed into a society in which people who do the work decide democratically how to run it. Today's society is run by the people who own the corporations and run the news media.

We also believe that society can be changed.

But it cannot be changed for working people by any well meaning group, be they experts, scientists, or people who call themselves socialists.

It can be changed only by working people themselves, and only when the vast majority of people feel they can and must rule their lives.

As long as our unions are controlled by dictators and parasites, working people will not feel they can run society.

This is the connection between our goals of a socialist society and our commitment to building TDC.

CONFIDENT

We don't need to force anyone to accept our views.

We are confident that over time many will come to agree with us that socialist politics make you most able to fight effectively.

In some areas people have shied away from TDC because of the slanders of the International. Where this happened, the rank and file movement was weakened.

It has been a long time since revolutionary socialists played a leading role in the labor movement, as they did in the foundation of the Teamsters Union.

But when this happens, it both strengthens the rank and file and brings closer the day when working people will control society.

[This I.S. has published a special Workers' Power supplement which answers the slanders of the International and explains the connection of our socialist politics to TDC in more detail. Write to: Sun Distribution International, 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203.]

They're Looking Ahead



Tony Candela, Local 299, Detroit. Earl C. Smith Freight Terminal

"This strike did a lot of good, there's no doubt about that. It put a lot of fear into our union officials after all these years. There was never a show of strength like there was this year as far as I've been in this union. It's the first time everyone showed some decent unity.

"We accomplished a lot for being together only six months. The TDC was formed in August of '75. And since then we've put a lot of pressure on, and you can see what happened. As far as

this contract goes, it hasn't been settled. It hasn't been ratified and I can almost positively say it won't be by 299.

"Now what we're looking forward to is the three years that we'll have to organize for the next contract. The TDC will be much bigger by the next contract. Everyone that I've talked to so far wants to make sure that we're not stopping here. And these were people that were in the beginning against TDC."

KEEP TELLING THE TRUTH

Dear Workers' Power:

I enjoy your truthful, enlightening paper. It's about time someone told the truth about what's going on in Detroit.

I was told by management yesterday that I was fired.

I can think of no reason except that I told the terminal manager to go to hell, when he came out and tried to run you people away

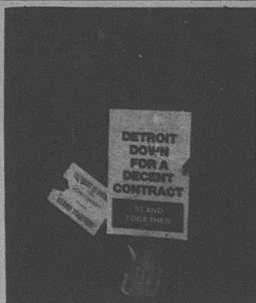
from our picket line the first night of Local 299's strike.

I work at Dorhn transfer. You may recall the incident.

Would you please send me your introductory subscription. Enclosed is \$1.00.

Thank you and keep up the good work.

Marion L. Spears
Romulus, Mich



Letters

to

Workers' Power

More On Hearst:

Who Are The Real Criminals?

Dear Workers' Power:

I am writing this letter to you because I know it has a chance of being printed and read by many conscientious people. It concerns Patty Hearst.

I know there must be many, as myself, who have mixed thoughts and emotions on what is happening with this trial.

Did Patty willfully participate? Did she love Billy Wolfe? Was she afraid for her life? and so on. It is just about impossible to finalize a decision on this issue when you consider all that has transpired.

In order to really straighten things out we have to put things in their total perspective. And that is: Patty Hearst is being tried in a bourgeois court, by bourgeois lawyers, for a bourgeois crime. And it is being covered by a bourgeois press.

No wonder we can't understand what is going on.

All these issues, "facts," and court procedures are what the ruling class think is justice and criminal. Bank robbers are criminals, not banks; courts are a place where justice is served, not where crime is legalized is what they say.

All of this news coverage and the showing of "facts" is supposed to focus on one thing—the guilt or innocence of Patty Hearst in her bank robbery charges.



Patty Hearst on her way to court

They go no deeper or further than this, and this is why "Justice the American way" is a farce.

They are not even touching the real issues and real criminals in our society—which is the entire capitalist system.

As far as I am concerned the only crime Patty (or Tania) committed was that she got caught. And no amount of "guilty or innocent" false front is going to fool me.

I'm neither a Democrat or a Republican.

In the struggle,
Bill Passera
New Orleans

White Rule Under The Gun



Dear Workers' Power,

U.S. News and World Report, a business magazine, has recently given a good example of "objective" news reporting. Get what they say about the struggle in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

"Immediately under the gun are Rhodesia's 240,000 whites. Their rule is being challenged by 6 million restive blacks demanding majority government.

There's no chance of military aid from Britain or the U.S. There's only scant hope of South African help. Rhodesia stands alone. It is hemmed in by black neighbors, ostracized by most of the world for its racial policies."

(March 15, 1976)

"Rhodesia stands alone" they cry! But what they mean is white-minority rule stands alone, and racist exploitation is what really is "under the gun"!

The article goes on to explain the "grim future" the government will face with many blacks in its army: It ends with a reference to "white morale," and to a "no-holds-barred race war."

This racist anti-black propaganda is matched by the magazine's vicious anti-labor ravings. The magazine regularly reports on legal decisions which give employers added leverage against workers, and tactics to obstruct unionization.

U.S. News and World Report is on the shelves of most public and school libraries. Our money is used to advance this and other pro-boss publications. But none of this junk serves our interests.

What we need is news and information that tells it from the workers' side. Information we can use against the boss.

For that, Workers' Power is the best paper around. It deserves to be circulated more widely than it is now.

Just compare the U.S. News and World Report's coverage of southern Africa to the excellent centerfold Workers' Power recently had on the struggle there.

But it is up to us to spread the word and get Workers' Power out to our friends and fellow workers. Together we will win!

Jerry Pavlich
Detroit

STOP ATTACK ON ABORTION RIGHTS

Dear Workers' Power:

I was glad to see the article in the last issue on the anti-abortion movement.

It is important for people to be clear on who's behind this attack.

Most disturbing to me is how invisible that movement seems to be now, while they are building support and mustering their forces for what will be a full-scale campaign.

Readers of Workers' Power should be on the look-out for any activities of this movement, information on its strategy and ways we can build a challenge to it.

While thousands of poor and working women in the U.S. have benefited from the liberalization of abortion, the real threat to even this minimal protection is not widely known.

Right now we must begin to build a movement that can counter the anti-abortion propaganda and upcoming campaign.

We must use Workers' Power to publicize this attack on women.

We must build forces that can win extension of the present limited laws toward more protection for poor and working women.

Free abortion on demand!

Diane Edwards
Seattle

WARNING - NO THINKING ALLOWED HERE!

Dear Workers' Power,

I very much enjoyed your article "Hell on a Conveyor Belt," which very clearly conveyed the nature of the capitalist division of labor.

This division, in which one group of people controls production and another group actually produces, is not only inhuman, but incredibly inefficient.

It reminded me of something that happened recently in the machine shop where I work.

A group of us were discussing how a certain job was being

routed between the machines. As we talked we devised a plan that would cut machining time on the part in half.

The stupidity of the way management was routing the part was just too much, and, finally, one of us approached the shop superintendent with our plan.

His response was classic: "My job is to plan the routing, your job is to run the machine as you're told. Now get back to work."

The worker who had approached him, a really excellent young machinist, learned the "right" lesson.

His comment was, "Well, I guess I'll never try thinking again."

Even when people start out being interested in their work (and machining can be interesting) they are made to hate it by experiences like this one.

Work should be the central creative expression of our individual talent, but it seems like under this system, it is required that you hate it. How efficient is that?

John Reynolds
Portland

Workers' Power Special On Teamster Strike

This edition of Workers' Power contains a special four page supplement on the Teamster strike that has just ended.

The significance of this strike will not be lost on the millions of other workers whose contracts will be re-negotiated this year. For here was a contract in which the rank and file had a voice for the first time in many years.

It was not a direct voice, not a large voice, that is true—but without the rank and file Teamsters for a Decent Contract, there would have been no strike and the

agreement would have been even worse. That is clear to everyone in the industry.

The lessons of the Teamster strike are important to rubber workers, electrical workers and auto workers who also face the task, over the next few months, of forcing their union leaders to put up a fight for a decent contract.

The lessons of this fight are equally important to the Teamsters who lived through the strike. Now they face the task of organizing to take back the union from the corrupt bureaucrats who run it.

That is why we have begged and borrowed several hundred dollars from supporters of Workers' Power to print thousands of extra copies of the supplement for free distribution across the country.

International Socialist branches will be organizing to distribute large quantities of this supplement at Teamster barns. It is critical that this be done immediately to ensure the greatest political impact.

We need the help of our readers too. Help us distribute the supplement, ask your seller for extra copies or call us and we will see you get as many as you need.

Over the past few months Workers' Power has built up an unassailable reputation for its expert and detailed coverage of events in the Teamsters' union. It has been second to none.

Even Business Week and the large daily papers, with all their resources, could not compete in terms of reporting the news from around the country.

But the capitalist press did use their large circulation to try and undermine the struggle of rank and file teamsters—a struggle that Workers' Power supported all the way down the line.

Our support deserves your support. Take up the special supplement offer, become a subscriber and make sure you get the real news of the workers' struggles every week.

TDC LEADERS TO SPEAK AT I.S. MEETINGS

The I.S. National Office has just announced that several leading members of the Teamsters for a Decent Contract have agreed to speak, in their personal capacity, at

I.S. meetings on the Teamster struggle to be held in major cities across the nation on the weekend of April 24th. Further details next week.

THE PAMPHLET
THOUSANDS OF
TEAMSTERS ARE
TALKING
ABOUT

CONSPIRACY IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

IN THE
WORDS OF
ONE UPS WORKER:

"This'll blow your mind. I bought 100 of these goddamn books myself because I read it and I'm so clearly impressed with the facts behind this booklet. It tells you about [UPS Chairman] Jim Casey making three-quarters of a million dollars last year. It tells you about TDC and UPSurge. It is current. It tells you about the profit margins of the trucking companies, how they're screwing their employees. Interlocking directorships, how everything is controlled by a few. You buddy, you're really screwed. This'll open up your eyes."

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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.

TEAR DOWN THE WALLS

"We have for our motto the following words: Educate, Organize, Agitate. We have for our final goal the abolishment of prisons throughout the world."

The National Prisoners Association, established and chartered August 18, 1975, has recently published a statement of purpose and goals.

The Association's long goal is the abolishment of prisons throughout the world.

The statement explains, "Prisons, the major institution under the capitalist system, an institution used to punish the victims that it created and dares to call criminals..."

"We realize to accomplish our goals we must first abolish the social system that makes prisons necessary."

"We realize that prisoncrats will never give anything without a demand. They never have and they never will. Therefore, we must be prepared to reach our goals by any means necessary."

IMMEDIATE PROGRAM

The N.P.A. has formulated a 12 point immediate program. Included in the demands are the immediate release with government allowance of all prisoners over 55;

Mandatory release of all prisoners at the completion of one-third of their sentence, or five years, whichever is first; mandatory release of all first offenders after serving 12 months.

The association is also demanding mandatory minimum wage scale compensation for all work done by prisoners; mandatory work release, with two days furlough per month, for all prisoners upon completion of one year confinement.

They also demand abolishment of all Segregation units and all Behavior Control Techniques.

The N.P.A. wishes to work with any and all groups who are working for a new social order.

For more information write George E. Blue, PMB 27559-138, Atlanta, Ga. 30315.

JOIN US

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

The Politics Of Fear In

'Helter Skelter'



On August 8 and 9, 1969 a young man who at times called himself Jesus, Christ, at others, The Devil, sent his followers to viciously slay seven people.

The grisly Tate-LaBianca murders sent chills down the spines of Americans from New York to California.

And the name Charles Manson became a household word. Why would anyone commit such incredible acts of slaughter?

Horror greya Susan Atkins, one of Manson's girls and a member of The Family, told her story to a Grand Jury: Was she remorseful?

No! To her, fear and death are beautiful. Atkins described drinking Sharon Tate's blood after stabbing her numerous times.

It is the story of these bizarre murders and the detective work,

trial and conviction of Manson and his five co-defendants that was the subject of a two-part made-for-TV movie shown on CBS last week.

Helter Skelter was based on the best selling book of the same name by Vincent Bugliosi, prosecutor in the trial.

The film showed how Charles Manson had intoxicated and warped the minds of his followers into believing his fantastic world—the world of helter skelter.

Following numerous acid trips and satanic rituals, Manson put together his future vision. It is a vision based on racism, paranoia, and the desire for power.

Helter Skelter is Manson's name of the war to end all wars. The "karma," he believed, was changing, and it was the black man's time to be on top.

The black man, thought Manson, would rise up and defeat the white

man in a world wide race war.

But Manson and his followers would escape this fate. At the beginning of the war they would go into the "bottomless Pit," supposedly in Death Valley, to wait it out.

After blacks won the war, they would be forced to turn to the white man—because according to Manson, they are helpless without the white man. And the only whites left alive would be Manson, and his Family.

So Manson and his followers, who by then would number in the thousands, would agree to come

out and rule the world for the black man. Manson would have all power!

The murders of Sharon Tate, her house guests and the LaBiancas were done to set the stage for Helter Skelter. That is why the word "pig" was written in blood at the scene of both mass murders.

This happened in the late sixties, when the Black Panther Party had popularized that term for the police, the capitalist class, the establishment.

Manson's theory was that the police would suspect black militants, go after them and the black movement would rise up, setting the stage for the beginning of Helter Skelter.

THE TRIAL

During the trial, Manson demands to be his own defense: "No one can represent me as a person" he cries out.

And the judge at first allows him to represent himself. At one point Manson screams out to the court: "You created me. You made me what I am."

It was a telling statement, one with a lot of truth in it. Manson and his bizarre Family are the creation of a capitalist society in decay—of drugs and mass murder in Vietnam—of racism and poverty—and lots of money for a very few.

Charles Manson is one of the

sickest products of this society—of its violence and degradation.

He was a kid from a broken home who spent more time inside a jail than out in his 35 years of life. Today he sits on death row—along with his followers, awaiting the outcome on whether the death penalty is constitutional or not.

But, there was something about this made-for-TV movie that was more sinister than the murders of a wild band.

Slowly and subtly in the beginning, and out front in the end, the message comes across loud and clear: Law and Order is the answer.

"What will happen next?" is the question Bugliosi asks in a post-script. "Will the social compost heap from which Manson sprung produce an even more virulent virus?"

Then it's all clear. The purpose of this well-done spectacle, besides making money for its sponsors and getting Nielson rating points for CBS, is to support the forces of law and order—the police, the courts, the government.

To rid society of its misfits is the problem, says the film—and law and order are the answers.

But there's only one way to stop giving births to the Mansons and the rest of the strange and crazy people capitalism has created who commit such crimes: By destroying the system—once and for all.

Marilyn Danton

After the Mine Explosions — Someone Must Pay!

"We regret to inform you, they are all dead."

The following poem was written by Iva Stidham, sister of Dennis C. Biggs, who was killed in the recent Scotia mine explosion.

Fifteen miners died March 9, at the Scotia Coal Company's #1 Black Mountain mine in Oven Fork, Kentucky. The next day 11 more men were killed.

This non-union mine had repeatedly been warned by government

inspectors for safety violations. Only the day before inspectors had found the level of methane gas in the mine critically high.

But the government only warns about safety hazards. The company ignored the warnings and ordered the men to work.

As a result, 26 people are dead. The poem is reprinted from The Mountain Eagle of Whitesburg, Kentucky.

IN MEMORY OF DENNIS BIGGS

It was just an average, rainy winter day, With the TV on I worked and cleaned away. Then the telephone brought the tragic news, The mine, Scotia Mines, has blown today.

Hurry, hurry get there fast as you can. Some men are trapped inside that dark, cold ground. Look at the list of names, Oh, no, oh God, no, my brother is trapped underground.

Oh, God, you know they can't be alive. Hours have gone by—they are still trapped inside. No air to breathe, no help for their wounds. Oh, God, please let them be found soon.

Then, the saddest news I ever hope to hear. The words, "We regret to inform you, they are all dead." They're all dead; they're gone forever. The anguished cries, the weeping, nothing will make it better.

That cold, dark, gassy mine took them away. They were all someone's father, husband, brother, or son. And that Scotia coal mine took their lives today. For all those lives SOMEONE must pay.



The Scotia mine explosion took its toll on the relatives above-ground as well as on the miners.

WHITESBURG, Ky.—A five man government panel is now hearing testimony on the causes of the methane gas explosions that killed 15 miners in the non-union Scotia Coal Company mine near Ovenfork on March 9.

Already one young miner has testified that the mine supervisors deliberately obstructed safety investigations by members of the federal Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA).

He testified that he temporarily adjusted ventilation curtains to satisfy the federal inspector who was making an on-site inspection.

Another young miner, Gary Smith, testified that it was "common knowledge" that mine supervisors "robbed air" from one section to bring ventilation up to standards in an area being inspected.

It is rumored here that charges may be brought against mine operators here as a result of that investigation.

Arnold Miller, the President of the UMWA, has criticized the panel.

He has called for the removal of two of its leading members, Robert E. Barrett, the new administrator of MESA, and Harrel Kirkpatrick, the Kentucky commissioner of miners and mineral resources.

Miller has charged them with responsibility for dispatching the rescue crews killed in the second explosion.

Miller would do better to concentrate on organizing the hundreds of non-union mines in Eastern Kentucky.

Federal inspectors, investigations, and panels, cannot make a mine safe. Only the rank and file miners, backed by the UMWA, can do that.

There are many "scabby, gassy mines" in Eastern Kentucky and there will be many more explosions to come. The longer the UMWA puts off the fight to organize Eastern Kentucky, the more coffins there will be.

Cal Williams

WORKERS' POWER UPSurge VICTORY

Firing Backfires On UPS In Cincinnati

JOHN JASPERS works part time for United Parcel Service (UPS) in Cincinnati. He was fired on March 12.

That same evening he was reinstated, with apologies from management.

Jaspers spoke with Workers' Power reporter ELLEN DONNELLY, and explained how and why it happened.

"People had been asking me questions about the contract.

"I got a copy of the union's proposals that UPSurge got hold of.

[UPSurge is the national newsletter of rank and file UPS workers. Their contract expires April 30.]

"I cut out the parts that applied to part-timers and made copies.

"I brought some Convoys [the newsletter of Teamsters for a Decent Contract] and leaflets about the March 13 TDC-UPSurge demonstration.

"I told the guys to come into the break room ten minutes before work.

"I expected 15 or 20 people. It turned out that just about the whole workforce came out—that's about 80 guys, and ten or 15 supervisors—we've got a surplus of them at UPS.

"I started out trying to bring people up to date about the negotiations with the information I got from UPSurge. I told them I thought there'd be a strike.

"Someone turned the TV off and everyone crowded around me.

"But as soon as I started talking—I don't think I even got more than a word out—this guy, Frank Sharp—the boss of the other supervisors—came up and told me to go with him.

"I told him I was on my own time. I wasn't punched in or in a work area or hindering their productivity.

"I told him I wasn't going with him but he kept walking expecting I was behind him.

STARTED TALKING

"So I started talking. A couple of supervisors took some literature I put on a table to show their bosses they were confronting me.

"I kept talking and this guy, Mike

"I told him, 'Where UPS property begins, the Constitution ends.'"

Veerchek, a supervisor acting for the whole operation here, interrupted me.

"I was just going to tell people about the UPSurge/TDC Rally on March 13.

"He asked if the information I had was authorized by the union.

"I told it wasn't but that it was information pertaining to the contract.

"I told him the workers had a right to know what was going on since it was their contract.

"I kept talking to my people and this supervisor grabbed all my UPSurges.

"I turned to him and said, that's my private property.

"I grabbed them from him. We had a tug of war and I finally got them.

"Some of the guys—my fellow UPSurge ones—were screaming at Veerchek. The other ones were dumbfounded and couldn't believe it.

"I started telling people about the rally anyway, yelling over his head, and he yelled, 'This man is discharged.'

NOT THE END!

"I told him this wouldn't be the end of it—that we'd settle this in court. I told him 'Where UPS' property begins, the Constitution ends.'

"I had it in the back of my mind that I would go through the union channels but I doubted if the union would stand behind me."

Jaspers then left. He told Workers' Power what happened while he was gone.

"This is all hearsay—what people told me later. Ninety percent of the sorters slowed down."

"Within 10 minutes packages were piled up to the height of a worker.

"Men on the run-up shelves said no packages were coming up the belt. After about 20 minutes they had shut down the whole operation.

"I was surprised to hear that some of the rookies (new people) were really behind me. You know, part-timers are loyal to the company in the beginning.

"Before this I had 40% behind me and UPSurge. Now it's more than 75%.

"One of the loaders told me his supervisor ran around saying this won't solve anything.

"They called everyone to the break room. This is never done except for legitimate breaks.

"Mike Veerchek got up and said that I should have had the consideration to ask permission of management to have the meeting. People were heckling him.

"The guys told me he was really beating around the bush to avoid apologizing outright. He was trying to pacify the workers so they'd go back to work.

"Finally another supervisor just butted in saying he was trying to apologize.

"They promised to try to get me back to work that night.

"Another supervisor called me up and said that Veerchek was



Demonstration in London—part of the international campaign to save Desmond Trotter.

FREE DESMOND TROTTER!

On March 18 the death sentence against 22-year-old Desmond Trotter, a revolutionary in Dominica, was upheld.

The decision to send Trotter to the gallows was confirmed by Britain's Privy Council, the final court of appeal for death sentences in some parts of the British Commonwealth.

Desmond Trotter was convicted two years ago for the murder of a white tourist. He had nothing to do with the killing. The evidence against him is lies.

But Desmond Trotter was the target of a police frame-up

because he was involved in organizing unemployed youth in Dominica.

Trotter is to be murdered to reassure foreign investors on this economically backward island. Only a flood of protest can now save his life.

His supporters in Dominica are making a tremendous last-ditch effort, collecting ten thousand signatures from all over the island in less than a week.

The final decision will be made by the Minister of Home Affairs and the Governor, who answer to Dominica's Premier Patrick John.

They must be convinced that if Desmond Trotter dies there will be both serious civil riots in Dominica and a world outcry that will badly damage the climate for investment.

The urgency of this appeal cannot be over-emphasized.

Telegrams of protest may be sent to Premier Patrick John, Roseau, Dominica, West Indies.

The telegrams should demand the execution of Desmond Trotter be stopped and that he be freed. Send a telegram, because Desmond could be dead and buried before a letter comes.

sorry. They thought they made a wrong decision.

COME BACK

"They asked me to come back to work and that if I didn't feel like it that day they'd pay me anyway.

"For the next three days, Veerchek spent half the day talking to me—trying to get buddy-buddy with me.

"He didn't talk about what had happened."

Jasper reported that there have been changes at UPS as a result of the slowdown.

"Some grievances got settled at the initial stage for once. It built up a lot more support for me and UPSurge.

"The slowdown showed everyone what power they do have when they stick together. It really gave us a sense of power.

"Since UPSurge, they don't bother us about speed-up. They used to ask guys to go out into the parking lot and threaten to fight with them.

"UPSurge pulled people together."

WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

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