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# WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS MAY 24, 1976 #161 15c

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JUN 1 1976

## 'Free Gary Tyler' Movement Grows



CHICAGO—Despite a torrential downpour, 80 enthusiastic supporters demonstrated here May 15 to free Gary Tyler.

Gary is a 17-year-old brother accused of murdering a white youth in Louisiana. Victim of a racist frame-up by the police, Gary sits on death row awaiting the electric chair.

The Chicago crowd chanted "This Ain't No Jive, We Want Gary Alive" and "Fight the Powers That Be, Gary Tyler Must Go Free."

Kenny Campbell spoke at the rally. He is a member of the West Side Coalition, a community group which distributed thousands of leaflets building the demonstration.

"A man has got to stand up for

his rights and that's what we're doing now," Campbell said.

Sharon Pena, of the Chicago Committee to Free Gary Tyler spoke, saying, "We know that Gary is innocent, but even if he had done it, it would have been self-defense. This is a frame-up."

A national movement to free Gary Tyler is now building across the country. Chicago was the second major city to set up a Free Gary Tyler committee and hold a demonstration. Detroiters demonstrated May 1.

Chicago high school students are now forming committees in their schools and organizing a petition campaign. Another demonstration will be held soon. If you want to join the Free Gary Tyler Committee in Chicago, call 663-0718.



# State Declares War On Black Family

## Gary Tyler's mother talks to Workers' Power

by Gay Semel

Police arrested the brother of Gary Tyler on Monday, May 17 in the latest incident of harassment against the Destrehan, Louisiana family.

Gary Tyler is a 17-year-old black youth who faces electrocution in a murder case that was a frame-up. A nationwide movement to free him has been building in recent months. (For more on the Gary Tyler defense, see page 5).

In a telephone interview with a Workers' Power reporter, Mrs. Juanita Tyler told about the arrest of her son Terry.

The two had just returned home after a speaking tour to build support for Gary.

Police arrived at the door asking to speak to Terry. Mrs. Tyler said, "When the police come, it makes me a little nervous."

Her fears were justified—they had come to arrest Terry for theft. Police claimed they had five witnesses who had seen Terry Tyler break into a house. So far no witnesses have been produced.

petition on the job-demanding Gary's freedom.

Behind the harassment, and behind Gary's frame-up, is racism.

Gary Tyler was originally arrested for obstruction of justice when he protested police methods in searching black students after the white youth died in an anti-busing riot. Later the charge was changed to murder.

**NOTICE**

The Destrehan police want the execution of Gary Tyler to serve as notice to all blacks. "Don't step out of line. If you do, we will get you too!"

Bail for Terry Tyler was set at \$5000—for a simple, unspecified burglary.

The judge who set bail is Ruche J. Mazno, the same judge that tried Gary Tyler, the same judge that refused to grant Gary a new trial after all the "witnesses"

stated they had lied.

This same judge is a member of the local White Citizen's Council—a polite name for the Klan.

Terry Tyler's arrest is another frame-up. Terry has been out of town a great deal building support for his brother. The police are still checking his whereabouts so that their "burglary" will have occurred when Terry actually was in Destrehan.

But the police cannot intimidate the Tyler family. "All it's gonna do is make me work a lot harder," Mrs. Tyler said.

This new outrage should make all who have been working to free Gary Tyler work harder. We must build the campaign to free Gary into a mass movement that will save his life and end the intimidation of his family.

We must build a movement that will teach the Destrehan police, and all racist forces, in or out of uniform, that they can no longer freely brutalize black people. □

### REVEALED LITTLE

The police would not reveal where this house was supposed to be, or when the robbery was supposed to have occurred.

The arresting officer told Mrs. Tyler, "I don't have to tell you nothing. It's none of your business."

The city powers of Destrehan are trying to scare the Tyler family into giving up their campaign to free Gary. The family is active in the New Orleans defense committee, and Mrs. Tyler has travelled across the country urging support for Gary.

Already Gary's father has lost his job, a brother was fired for attending the trial, and a sister-in-law has been fired for circulating a

### GARY TYLER DEMONSTRATIONS

- May 22
  - Boston—1:00 P.M., J.F.K. Building, Government Center
  - St. Louis—2:00 P.M., Federal Courts Building, 12th and Market
  - Louisville—1:00 P.M., Rally at Brown Memorial Church, CME, 8th and Chestnut. March to Federal Building.
- May 29
  - Cleveland—12:00 Noon, Public Square
- June 5
  - New York City—12:00 Noon, Albee Square, Downtown Brooklyn, between Fulton and Dekalb
  - Pittsburgh—12:00 Noon, Rally at Freedom Corners at Center and Crawford. March to Federal Building at 7th and Grant.
  - Springfield, MA—1:00 P.M., Rally at Winchester Square
- June 6
  - Cincinnati—2:00 P.M., Rally at Fountain Square. March to Washington Park.

# labor notes

by Jim Woodward

**Statistics with a message:** In 1974 five persons with income over \$1 million paid no federal income tax. Two hundred forty-four persons who made over \$200,000 that year paid no federal income tax. How much did you pay?

Laid off steel workers at the Bethlehem Steel Corp. have just taken a 40% cut in their **Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) payments.** The cut was made because the Bethlehem SUB fund had fallen below 35% fully funded. Republic Steel initiated a similar cut last month. If the funds fall below 25%, all SUB payments are cut off. At the same time, steel workers are forced to work overtime, some as much as 72 hours a week.

Next time you hear about an old-timer getting the run-around on his pensions, compare it to what the big shots get. The 1974 pension law established a limit on how much of a yearly pension a company can pay an executive and still count it as a tax-deductible expense. The limit is \$80,475. Pretty generous, you think? Well the Wall Street Journal, whose readers are mighty concerned about executive pensions, reports that few companies are very worried about the limit. Most are paying higher pensions, even though it adds to their tax bill.

The **United Mine Workers** union has abruptly ended its organizing drive at the **Scottia Mine** in Kentucky, scene of 26 deaths two months ago. A union official attributed the action to "a lot of fear... that if they voted UMW [the company would] close the mine." Also cited was internal dissension within the union between UMW President Argold Miller and a majority of the International Executive Board.

United Artists is making a new movie based on the record, "Convoy."

Fun and games dept.: Here's the list of unions that are holding their conventions in Las Vegas this year: International Brotherhood of Teamsters, United Steel Workers, American Postal Workers Union, National Football League Players Assn., American Federation of Government Employees, Flight Engineers, the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Journeymen, and the Marble Polishers.

NBC's technicians and newswriters have voted down a tentative settlement to their contract dispute and remain on strike. In Canada, members of the same union, **NABET**, are putting on the pressure in a different way. Shortly before a nationally-televised Stanley Cup hockey playoff game, the technicians told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp (CBC) that they were walking out unless CBC pulled all the commercials during the hockey game. They were protesting an impending ruling by Canada's "anti-inflation board" that could slash their wages. The ultimatum forced CBC to show the game without ads, no doubt causing a substantial loss of revenue for three hours of prime-time TV.

What's happening where you work? Send items for this column to: Labor Notes, Workers' Power, 14131 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, MI 48203. Or phone 313-869-5964.



# U.S. Trains Brazilian Torturers

## THE "AID" THAT KILLS

by Dan Posen

**AT A CEREMONY** during his visit to Brazil in February, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger proclaimed: "There are no two peoples whose concern for human dignity, and for the basic values of man, is more profound in day-to-day life than Brazil and the United States."

At the time, he was signing a new accord for close political and economic ties between the U.S. and Brazil.

Recently, 35 political prisoners in Brazil managed to smuggle out a 28-page report on the torture of tens of thousands of prisoners. Here are a few of the fragments of what it revealed about "concern for human dignity and the basic values of man" in Brazil:

"Political prisoner **Aurora Maria Nascimento Furtado**, among others, was murdered through the 'Crown of Christ' method of torture. This consists of a steel band that goes around the skull and a screw used to tighten it.

"Her corpse showed a depression in the skull where the band was placed; the eyeballs were protruding from the sockets...

"**Electric shock** is the application of electric currents to various parts of the body of the victim, particularly to the most sensitive ones such as the penis and the anus—attaching one pole to the former and introducing the other in the latter, or attaching one pole to the testicle and the other to the ears... among political prisoners the poles are generally introduced into the vagina and anus.

"To generate current the torturers use various devices—a magnet; a field telephone; a television apparatus; the 'mechanical piano player' which has various gears permitting control of the voltage of the electric current; and even shocks directly from currents of 110 or 220 volts.

"The shock burns the sensitive parts of the body and causes convulsions... and it is very common for the victim, on receiving the shocks, to bite his tongue, causing deep wounds."

### DRAGON'S CHAIR

Other methods of torture detailed in the report include: **dragon's chair** ("similar to the electric chair," during which the victim is also forced to eat salt, causing tremendous thirst and added shock); various kinds of **suffocation**, such as "plugging the nostrils and introducing a hose, through which water is piped into the mouth";

**Telephone**, which means beating both ears with the hands at the same time, breaking the eardrums; **barbecue**, "moistening some parts

of the body with alcohol and then setting them on fire"; and many more.

In addition, "there are innumerable cases of women political prisoners raped by the torturers, who generally take advantage of the times when the victims have fainted."

In just two years over 300 prisoners have been murdered.

Where are these methods invented? The organizations that carry out this torture are all official arms of the armed forces.

They include the National Information Service, the Commands of Internal Defense Operations/Internal Operations Department, Army, Navy and Air Force Centers of Information, Federal Police, Departments of Political and Social Order, and others.

The officers of these agencies, and their interrogation methods are instructed and designed by expert advisors from the United States.

Military officers come to U.S. academies and special schools for training. Top U.S. specialists in counter-insurgency and repression also go to Brazil to train them in the field. They operate either under diplomatic cover or as commercial representatives.

### U.S. EXPORT

That is Henry Kissinger's "concern for human dignity." The major U.S. export to Brazil is torture chambers of techniques of murder.

Once in a while an American "consultant" or "business agent," a man who has personally directed and encouraged these gruesome atrocities, gets kidnapped or killed by anti-government guerrillas.

Then, a massive outpouring of rage comes from the American government about "brutal terrorism in Latin America." American officials turn their fellow murderer into a selfless, shining martyr for freedom.

They never mention that the acts of their agents in Brazil are part and parcel of Washington's whole "economic development" policy for Latin America—a policy that means slow death by starvation for those lucky enough to avoid the torture chambers.



Brazilian coffee workers.

## .....AND IN URUGUAY



Just as the United States trains the Brazilian torturers, the Brazilian dictator gives friendly aid to its own junior partners in Latin America.

Pictured here is a scene of torture from Uruguay. This Uruguayan prisoner is tied to the "sawhorse," introduced by Brazilian military police. He will be left there for four hours.

Long before that, the body feels it is cut in two. During the same time he can be subjected to electric shocks, suffocation, torture or sophisticated beatings that will cripple him.

Treatment like this is made possible by economic, political and "technical" help from the U.S. government.

## "Ideal Deaths"

In the words of public relations consultants for Dersa, a highway construction company in Brazil...

"Four deaths per kilometer (3/5 of a mile) is the ideal for tunnel construction. Six deaths point to the existence of medium risks, eight to high risks, and ten to impossible conditions. Considering all this and the stretch already contracted through the mountain pass, we haven't even filled our quota."

### Workers' Power 16f

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## LOCK-OUT

IBT Local 557 members in Baltimore have declared themselves locked out of their Smith and Solomon-Trucking Company hub.

They have begun picketing S and S at the New Brunswick, N.J. hub and authorization to picket other S and S hubs is expected from the International.

Just before the national freight strike, S and S closed their Baltimore, Md. hub.

The company pleaded poverty, but in fact they simply shipped work to their other hubs in New Brunswick and Pensacola, N.J., and Richmond, Va.

S and S moved freight during the strike and has continued to transfer work to the other hubs.

Nevertheless, S and S has the nerve to offer Local 557 members of Baltimore a miserly 30 cents first year wage increase with COLA the second and third years. This is \$1.35 behind the '76 Master Freight Agreement proposal!

Local 557 members are determined to keep S and S closed until they get what they want—wage parity with the rest of their union brothers and sisters.

One driver from the Baltimore hub who was picketing the S and S operation in New Brunswick said, "We'll stay here as long as necessary."



## Frye Fights Vote Fraud

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Bernie Frye, incumbent President of Steelworkers Local 3489, was defeated in local election here April 1st. But the membership, employees of Stran Steel, has recently voted down the Election Committee's report, refusing to accept the election results.

Frye charges that although the government ran the election, voter eligibility rules were misapplied to favor supporters of the new president, Rick Moats.

During the election, Moats and staffman William Noller ran a rumor campaign saying that if Frye were elected, Stran Steel would pack up and leave.

Both the company and the International have targeted Frye for attack in the past, because of his consistent support for rank and file struggles and opposition to the no-strike agreement.

Currently, Frye is awaiting a hearing on charges that he willfully wronged another member. The charges stem from his informing two temporary foremen that after 90 days, they would lose their union membership.

Though the charges were dismissed once, the International is entertaining an appeal. They, along with the company, are hopeful the rigorous fighter for the rights of the membership will be put out of commission. □

Mark Mullins

## Third World Workers Rally

BOSTON — The Third World Workers' Association rally here on Wednesday attracted 150 people, despite cold and rainy weather.

"We've been fighting for jobs here for 11 years. The unions and contractors in the city have deprived the community not only of jobs, but of self-respect. We have gone to jail, but we're going to keep on fighting Pirini [a local contractor]," said Leo Fletcher of the Association.

The Third World Workers (TWWA) was formed by minority workers who were dissatisfied with the failure to place minority workers in city and state-funded construction jobs in accordance with existing "affirmative action" plans.

### MILITANT ACTIONS

These workers have taken to the streets and picketed sites throughout Boston's minority communities demanding a minimum of 50% of the jobs.

These militant actions have met the predictable response in the current racist atmosphere of the city. On May 7, 2000 white construction workers, with the support of ROAR (the racist anti-busing group), demonstrated at City Hall.

Louise Day Hicks of ROAR, and James Kelly of the white vigilante thugs known as the South Boston Marshalls, denounced the "harassment" at job sites by the TWWA.

The president of the building trades unions accused the TWWA of demanding that non-union workers be hired for construction jobs. Union officials claim this cannot be done because there aren't enough jobs for their own members.

They neglect to mention that the union blatantly discriminates against minority workers.

The rally Wednesday commemorated Malcolm X's birthday.

Quoting Malcolm, main speaker Harvard Stephens said: "We don't go along with anyone who tells us to organize non-violently. With the violence of groups like the Klan around us, we have a right to defend ourselves."

"Then they call us radicals... but when you stay radical long enough, you win your freedom."

TWWA speakers announced their support of the demonstration in Boston this coming weekend, against the racist frame-up and planned execution of Gary Tyler in Louisiana. □

# U.S. Government Joins Forces With Anti-Busing Mobs

by Dan Posen

The United States Federal Government and the Justice Department have come out in open support for the white racist anti-busing mobs. The government plans to throw its weight into the scales to reverse court-ordered integration through busing.

The Ford Administration has ordered Attorney General Edward Levi to enter one of the pending anti-busing suits as a "friend of the court," (a legal term).

Levi's role will be to provide the court with "information" that busing leads to violence, disruption and "white flight." In other words, he will ask that busing be halted and schools again be segregated.

Levi is now supposed to be deciding which suit to intervene in. He will likely enter the Boston busing case which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He hopes to use this case as an example because Boston is the main symbol for the national anti-busing movement. This would mean a severe setback for any hopes of integration.

If busing is overturned, it will be because the racist mobs have convinced the courts that they can physically prevent the schools from operating.

Anti-busing groups like ROAR in Boston, along with the Charlestown and South Boston Marshalls, the Ku Klux Klan and others in Louisville, are making black children their victims in order to prove that integrated schools are "unsafe."

The government wants to use racial violence to "prove" this point. That explains the timing of this order.

The Justice Department's strategy will be to argue that busing be thrown out because it is "discriminatory to the community."

## EDWARD LEVI'S RECORD OF RACISM

Edwards' body was recovered from the Alabama River three months after the incident. An autopsy was unable to determine the cause of his death.

In Louisville, with school closing less than two weeks away, the white terror gangs will use the short time left to perpetrate all-out assaults in the schools and on the streets.

The local, state and federal government will respond to this violence the way they always have—by doing nothing. Racist violence will be unchecked unless black people defend themselves.

### IMPARTIAL?

The federal government is no "impartial" force. It is part and parcel of the racist structure that produces segregation and white mob violence. When the mobs organize to terrorize black and minority people, the government steps in, every time, to slap down black people and make concessions to the racists.

It is no wonder that Boston's racist leaders, Louise Day Hicks and John McDonald, emerged beaming from their meeting with Levi on Tuesday. It is no wonder that NAACP and other black leaders came out shocked and beaten.

"Why now? Why now?" NAACP director Roy Wilkins despairingly asked Levi about the timing of the government's intervention.

The answer is all too obvious. Racist violence is at its highest point, so pressure on the Supreme Court to stop busing is strongest.

Gerald Ford's Attorney General, Edward Levi, has a long and distinguished record in "preserving the ethnic purity" of schools and neighborhoods.

Ed Levi and his brother, Julian, masterminded an effort by the University of Chicago in the 1950's and 1960's that destroyed the housing of tens of thousands of black families in the Hyde Park-Kenwood sections of Chicago's South Side. Before the early 1950's, this "great liberal university" practiced "restrictive covenants" on land it owned. This meant that people who bought homes had to sign guarantees that promised, in effect, they would not re-sell or sublease to blacks.

After the courts blew the whistle on this Jim Crow practice, large numbers of poor and working class black people moved into Hyde Park. The area became known as an "undesirable" neighborhood for the white, middle class professionals and faculty of the University.

### "URBAN RENEWAL"

Urban Edward and Julian Levi's capable direction, the University used its financial power, its real estate holdings, its very close relationship to the Daley machine, and the threat of closing down, to organize a massive "urban renewal" project.

The result was to surround the University with expensive housing that the vast majority of blacks couldn't afford. Whole blocks of perfectly useable cheap housing were levelled.

An estimated 25,000 black families were bulldozed out and forced into much worse sections of the South and West Side ghettos.

The University of Chicago survived and prospered. So did Edward Levi. He went on to become the President of the University. From there he has risen to be the government's "Attorney General in Charge of Re-Segregating the Schools." □

Equally important, the resistance of the black community is now weakest—because for far too long, it has been led by the likes of Roy Wilkins, leaders who rely on the federal government for "justice" and have nothing to say when it stabs them in the back. □



Ford's renewed support for the anti-busing movement will encourage racist groups like the South Boston Marshalls (above). It will result in more incidents like the one pictured below in which a group of anti-busing white racists attacked a black man at random in Boston.



## All-White Juries Revived

Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and Attorney General Francis Bellotti have taken a giant step to exclude blacks from juries trying "race-related crimes."

They plan to create a "special unit" to investigate crimes involving racial violence. Those cases would go straight to the superior court level, bypassing the district court.

The trick is that this means sending defendants before a grand jury. Grand juries are almost entirely white. The current Superior Court grand jury includes only one black.

Thus juries in racial cases will be heavily stacked by the most racist, conservative forces.

By contrast, the Roxbury District Court (which will now be bypassed) includes considerable black representation. □

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Detroit Free Press  
5/18/76

### Klan Murder Charges Dropped

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (UPI) — Circuit Judge Frank Embry rescinded Monday to reinstate murder indictments against three reputed Ku Klux Klan members in the 1952 death of a black truck driver.

Embry affirmed his earlier ruling holding that the indictments were invalid because they failed to state the cause of Willie Edwards' death.

The indictments accused William (Sonny) Livingston, 34, a bail bondsman; Henry Alexander, 46, a plumbing contractor; and James York, 73, a retired city sanitation worker, of forcing Edwards at gunpoint to jump from a bridge into the Alabama River.

Embry said the indictments did not comply with the Alabama criminal code or common law because they failed to allege the cause of Edwards' death.

"Merely forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally, and probably lead to the death of such a person," the judge said.

Edwards' badly decomposed body was recovered from the Alabama River three months after the incident. An autopsy was unable to determine the cause of his death.

## Lebanon - Struggle And Betrayal

## A Nation Fighting For Freedom

The civil war in Lebanon now kills hundreds more people every day. There is no way to stop it. It will probably go on until the country is partitioned, shattered or occupied.

But the reason the slaughter continues now has little to do with the people of Lebanon.

The war is being forced to continue by forces which the people of Lebanon do not control—the United States, Israel, and Syria.

Lebanon's working class Moslems and Palestinian refugees are fighting for political rights, economic equality, social justice and the right to organize.

The powerful neighboring Arab state, Syria, poses as a staunch ally of Palestine liberation. But Syria's army has stepped in to protect the totally discredited Christian-dominated right wing government structure of Lebanon!

The Syrian government forced Lebanon's weak, corrupt Parliament to elect the most hard-line, right-wing Presidential candidate, Sarkis, to replace Suleiman Franjeh.

This means the war goes on—with Syria, supposedly the ally of Palestinian and Moslem Arabs, now openly fighting against them.

Syrian troops and the Syrian puppet army Sa'qa are shooting Palestinian and left-wing Lebanese Arab troops, blocking their supplies and strengthening right wing positions. It is now the extreme right wing, the Phalangists, who demand that Syria take total control of Lebanon's "security".

### ANOTHER JORDAN?

The Palestinians are facing, from Syria, the same kind of slaughter they suffered in Jordan in 1970 when King Hussein turned the Army on their camps.

In that struggle Syria watched and did nothing as Palestinians died. But this time the Palestinians have allies, the poor and working class Lebanese Moslems, and they are fighting back. They have no choice—if smashed in Lebanon, they have nowhere to go.

The rulers of Israel and Syria are bitter enemies. But they realize their common interests in this war. Israeli Prime Minister Rabin chuckles with satisfaction that Syria has killed more Palestinians and PLO fighters than Israel has killed in over two years.

Syria's crimes in Lebanon have been approved in both Washington and Tel Aviv. The United States, keeping its hands clean in public is

The Palestinian Arab people have been fighting for national freedom for generations. Today, they are more united and militant than ever.

The Palestine Liberation Organization and organizations allied to it, like the Palestine National Front in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and the Palestinian groups fighting for political rights in Lebanon, are a mass national resistance movement.

They are the only force recognized by hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fight with rocks and bare hands, against machine-gunning Israeli occupation troops.

In 1948, the Palestinians' land was ripped away and divided between Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan. In 1967, Israel seized all of it.

The Israeli Zionist government says the Palestinians are non-people, with no national rights.

The Palestinians are more determined than ever. But they are still far from winning their freedom. In fact, the events of the last few months show that all the Palestinians' enemies are quietly working together to smash them.

Palestinian soldiers and civilians, men, women and children, are dying by the hundreds in the Middle East every day.

orchestrating the slaughter behind the scenes.

Syria's role is part of an imperialist master plan to carve up the Middle East. This plan was based on the results of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

It calls for Egypt and Syria to help smash the independent Palestinian movement.

Then U.S. money and power will be used to make a deal to settle Israeli and Arab borders.

The Syrian regime's betrayal of the Palestinian struggle is isolated accident. It shows the role of the Arab ruling classes in the whole Middle East liberation struggle.

Syria's Baath Party government is not interested in liberating anyone. It is purely interested in expanding its own power and its own relations with imperialism.

No Arab ruling class victory, whether in Lebanon or Palestine, will ever bring the Palestinian people closer to liberation.

There will be no peace or freedom for the Middle East until the rulers of Syria, Egypt and the oil sheikhs are overthrown along with the Zionist state of Israel. □

# ISRAEL'S "LIBERAL" ARMY MURDERS ARAB YOUTHS

Israel's storm troopers have been on all-out rampage this week.

American capitalist papers since 1967 have praised Israeli administration in the occupied West Bank as "the most liberal, humane military occupation in history."

The murders of Palestinian Arab teen-agers have ripped away that mask.

Lena Hassan Nabulsi, 16-years-old, was shot on Sunday in Nabulus. The killing occurred a half-hour after a demonstration against Israeli occupation.

Army soldiers, who recognized her from earlier demonstrations, followed her to a friend's apartment and killed her on a second story landing. They later also shot two of her friends who protested.

### MACHINE-GUNNED

On Monday, an 18-year-old Palestinian refugee standing in a crowd of students was machine-gunned to death by a speeding soldiers' truck. The school principal saw an Uzi machine gun pointing out the truck window as it sped by, spraying the crowd.

Israeli authorities called the first murder an "accident." The second was "self-defense."

A third youth was killed Tuesday in Jerusalem.

Israeli soldiers, often only 18 or 19-years-old themselves, are sent charging into crowds of young Palestinians throwing rocks. Armed with machine guns and clubs, they break into people's homes, beating up residents and TV camera crews who record the brutality.

The soldiers have no training in controlling demonstrations. All they know is that the whole Palestinian Arab community hates them—and that no act of brutality on their part will be punished.

The Israeli soldiers are sent to terrorize, intimidate and kill Arabs, and they carry out those orders. But the Palestinians refuse to be terrorized.

The demonstrations, general strikes, and open fighting with Israeli troops by the West Bank Palestinian people have become a magnificent mass resistance struggle.

The Palestinians are completely united in demanding total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and an independent government controlled by the Palestinians themselves.

Israel's rulers cannot accept this simple, democratic demand. If Palestinians won any degree of political power in the West Bank, they would intensify their struggle against Israel's whole repressive structure, and against the massive Zionist seizures of the Palestinian people's land.

The PLO and its West Bank ally, the Palestine National Front, are clearly leading the struggle at this stage.

The PLO itself is an umbrella for very diverse political currents. Its leadership is heavily middle class. Much of its strategy relies on maneuvering in the United Nations and compromises with the capitalist ruling parties of Egypt, Syria and the oil states.

But the PLO is leading a struggle which has brought masses of Palestinians into open street battles against one of the most vicious armies in the world today. □



## 1500 March For Palestinian Solidarity

Palestinian Week (May 8-15) was celebrated in this country with marches and rallies supporting the Palestine struggle. In the Detroit area which has the largest Arab community in North America, over 1500 people marched through the rain in a militant display of international solidarity. The demonstrators, who marched six abreast, blocks long, chanted "Jewish people, yes. Zionism, no!" "Vietnam to Palestine, One Struggle, Many Fronts," and "Down with the Shah!"

At the rally, speakers called for a democratic Palestine to replace Zionist Israel. They emphasized that their struggle is against a racist state, not the people who live there. The march denounced the U.S. sending arms to Israel, which in turn uses them against the Palestine people. The demonstration, called by the Palestine Week Mobilization Committee, received support from the many Arab organizations in the Detroit area. □

# Angola: Workers' Struggles Resuming?

The successful war of national liberation has not marked the end of the struggle for the Angolan working class. The liberation struggle was led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, (MPLA), which is now the government.

Reports which first appeared in the Portuguese press claim that far-left groups, and possibly some organizations of workers inside the MPLA are carrying out strikes and political agitation, and meeting repression from the MPLA leader-

ship.

There have been arrests, both of Maoists and of leaders of former MPLA factions.

There has been too little information so far in the European and American press to say whether any genuine left-wing, independent working class or revolutionary opposition to the MPLA is involved in workers' struggles.

Reports in the western capitalist press, most of which supported CIA-backed puppet armies against the national liberation movement

MPLA, cannot be considered accurate or reliable.

### ARRANGEMENTS

However, MPLA itself is not a workers' movement or a revolutionary socialist party.

It is trying to work out arrangements with foreign-owned corporations to keep their money in Angola, while it continues its efforts to consolidate the new government. It is trying to find a basis for building national capital-

ism in Angola.

Angolan workers gave MPLA total support in the national liberation war. Clearly, they still support the MPLA government.

But there is economic crisis in Angola. Workers have to wait in line to buy scarce goods, while officers push to the front of the line.

The government tells workers they must not strike now, that Angola is free. Yet rising prices, which the government cannot control, forces workers to strike for

higher wages to catch up.

At the same time, independence has strengthened workers' confidence and increased their willingness to carry on the struggle. Promises of a better life in the far-distant future will not stop them.

As workers' struggles become more militant and widespread, the MPLA is almost certain to split. While the top leadership becomes conservative and bureaucratic, much of its base will move toward more radical or even revolutionary demands. □



# Nazis, Klan Invade Anti- Racist Speakout

LOUISVILLE — On Saturday, May 15, a speak-out against racism was held in a church in a black and white neighborhood here. It was sponsored by a coalition of protesting groups.

Speakers included both black and white community members and leaders who have been attacked or terrorized as a result of racism behind the anti-busing movement.

But a coalition of right-wing anti-busing groups came to disrupt the meeting and provoke a fight.

At first, the speak-out sponsors refused to let the disrupters inside. But standing outside, they made it nearly impossible for anyone else to get in.

"Reverend" Lowell Hughes of right wing vigilante group, Posse Comitatus, was passing out Nazi literature about the "Jewish conspiracy."

Bob DePrez, head of the National Association to Protect and Restore our Freedom, told the speak-out organizers that he would respect their requests to stay out but that he couldn't take responsibility for anyone except members of his group.

## MISTAKE

The organizing committee let them in. It was a mistake. They should have been barred because it was clear they were there only to disrupt and because of their politics. Among the crowd were known members of Klan and the Nazi Party.

Once inside, they stood in the back and had to be repeatedly shouted down by the chairwoman. When the chair made it clear they could not speak, DePrez led many of his followers out. It was only the presence of TV cameras that prevented a serious attack.

The speakers proceeded. Alfis Coleman, told about his house being bombed because he lived in a white neighborhood.

Later, another brother admitted he used to think Coleman was "the most stupid black man in the city" because he was asking for trouble in that neighborhood. He explained he had changed his mind when his own car was planted with a bomb.

He realized Coleman was brave, not stupid. And he knew that it would happen to someone like Coleman first, but that it had to be stopped there because it would happen in the majority-black neighborhoods next— neighborhoods like his own.

That was the main lesson of the speak-out. The disrupters had the nerve to leave their turf and organized a confrontation at one of our meetings in our neighborhood.

It can be seen only one way—as a direct escalated attack on the anti-racist movement. The protesting groups must be able to defend themselves.

Groups like the Posse Comitatus regularly train in the use of weapons. With them around, anti-racist groups can no longer assume that meetings will be peaceful.

Organizing for self-defense must begin now. And racist leaders must be informed what to expect, if they intend future attacks. □

# Working To Free Gary Tyler

by Byron Gray

WORKERS' POWER talked to four members of the Detroit Committee to Free Gary Tyler about how they organized inside the high schools.

Hoppi Williams, Tony Satan, Pepsi Bowman and Frank Runninghorse along with Sugar Jacobs are organizing support at Cody High School on Detroit's west side.

Hoppi, Pepsi, and Sugar are students at Cody and are organizing support inside the school. Tony, a former student at Cody, and Frank are working outside the school.

The four people interviewed are also members of the Red Tide, the youth organization of the International Socialists.

Hoppi: I just walk up to people and ask them if they've heard about Gary Tyler and tell them why it's so important. You know, the more they can divide us with racism, the harder it is to fight back against it. If we let one more Gary Tyler go by, there will be many, many more.

Tony: We just tell people, hey look. If you were in Gary's position what would you want. You'd want some support. You know, we're all in that position, we're all vulnerable to it anyway. We can all be subjected to something like this.

Pepsi: We're trying to get everybody to get into it. I'm working to get people to join the Gary Tyler committee. So far, I've gotten 17 or 18 people at Cody to join the committee.

Frank: There are also petitions going around demanding that Gary Tyler be freed. Sugar is in charge of this. Around 1000 people at Cody alone have signed the petition.

## WHITE RESPONSE

Pepsi: Cody is over half white. I've talked to a lot of white students at Cody and a lot of them have shown they can relate to Gary's case.

I haven't got any whites to join the committee, but a lot have signed the petitions.

Tony: I'm not in the school. I'm out on the street talking to people. White people don't just say, I'll do whatever you ask, but after they start listening about Gary they come on pretty good. I don't

pressure people. I just give them the rundown on Gary Tyler.

Frank: Most white people will sign the petition, but it's true that what's happening to Gary doesn't relate to them like it does to black people.

A lot of white people see racism as bad, but don't understand it in the same sense that you have to fight against it.



Hoppi Williams, Tony Satan, Frank Runninghorse and Pepsi Bowman of the Detroit Committee to Free Gary Tyler.

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A lot of white people see racism as bad, but don't understand it in the same sense that you have to fight against it.

**"You know, the more they can divide us with racism, the harder it is to fight back against it. If we let one more Gary Tyler go by, there will be many, many more."**

We are trying to build this on a completely open basis and that includes turning everyone, white as well as black, on to the necessity of fighting against racism. We've been quite successful in doing this.

## FRACTIONS

Hoppi: We've got the city broken down into fractions. We're the Cody fraction. Inside each school we have meetings. Then we have a larger meeting including all fractions where we let each other know what we're all doing.

Pepsi: Once people have joined the committee they want to know what they can do. I get them to pass out leaflets, take petitions and talk to people and get them to help me any way they can.

Frank: We're trying to talk to the

news media to see why they didn't cover our last demonstration. We have been thinking about maybe holding a picket line in front of a big TV station or a newspaper office next time, and demand that they cover Gary Tyler and start printing the truth about him. This way they can't miss it.

The committee is trying now to get speakers into the schools.

had an appointment. They saw me with some Red Tide papers and they told me not to go up with the papers or I would go to jail.

Hoppi: There's not too much the administration can do really. We're within our rights to try and help free somebody.

Tony: After they find out what's happening, there'll be so much support that they can't really say anything about it anyway.

## THE POLICE

Frank: The pigs are hassling us. In some places people have been arrested. Not at Cody yet.

Unless you are a student at a school you have to be 250 feet away from the school to sell papers or pass anything out and even then they'll try to pull the bull on you. So we call our meetings away from the school.

We hold them outside. At the last meeting we called there was about 25-30 people there. When the pigs saw that many people, about five or six pig cars pulled up, and that scared people away from the meeting.

Tony: This kept a whole lot of people from coming anyway.

Frank: Cody has been pretty successful. We've built a good working team there. These people organizing at Cody are aggressive, self confident, and they know what they're doing.

They take care of business, you know. That's the key to success in building something.

Tony: We're just striving to get Gary free. □

## ADMINISTRATORS

Hoppi: So far we're not getting too much trouble inside the school. We're trying to do things a little safely now. We're not pushing the administration or anything. They are not too cool about the Red Tide.

Tony: I was going into school. I

We're trying to get teachers to let Gary Tyler speakers come in and rap it down to the class: So far this hasn't worked out.

Hoppi: Some of the teachers support what we're doing, but they don't know how far they can go. They're scared that they might get into some kind of trouble with the administration and lose their job.

A closed meeting of students and parents was held in the black community in Southern Baptist Church to insist the students be reinstated as a group and to discuss the issue. Most students have now been taken back.

This incident is typical of the escalating attack on black students

# Violence Grows In Louisville Schools

At Fairdale High School, in the white South End of Louisville, a black student was beaten up by a white student here last week. Charles Summers, the white principal, suspended the white student.

The next morning, when he returned to school, his teachers allowed him into their classes. Summers did nothing.

Black students protested his return and demanded that the principal stick behind the suspension. Nothing happened. So 50 black students refused to go to class.

Summers told them they could go to class or be suspended. They left and Summers suspended them.

## TERRORISTS

A student's family is supposed to be immediately notified of a suspension. For blacks who are bussed, this is particularly important because they may be alone in an all white area when they leave school. But many families, with family members home all day, never got called.

Rumors ran through Fairdale

and Shawnee High that as buses of black students made their way back to Shawnee, they would be attacked by anti-busing terrorists. Both schools had to let out early and special security precautions were taken.

A closed meeting of students and parents was held in the black community in Southern Baptist Church to insist the students be reinstated as a group and to discuss the issue. Most students have now been taken back.

This incident is typical of the escalating attack on black students

as the end of the school year approaches.

The daily suspensions of black students are so high that they are often returned to their "home" schools in special buses. The number of fights has increased. Black students are now openly talking about the attacks they expect on the last day of school.

The violence around busing is escalating daily. The black community must organize its own defense as the school administration, courts and police have shown they are on the other side. □

# THE UPS STRIKE

## What Did It Win?

by Jim Woodward

"These kids don't want to grow up in the same garbage we're being fed," explained one picket. The feeling on the lines was, "We've had enough. The Big Brown Machine has gone too far."

It was that kind of sentiment that was responsible for a two-week strike against United Parcel Service (UPS) in 13 Midwestern states, and for a one-day wildcat strike that followed when the Teamsters Union settled cheap.

Since last fall, rank and file Teamsters had been organizing for this contract. They had been preparing to fight the largest trucking company in the country. And they had been preparing for what most of them considered an almost inevitable organization, UPSurge.

For two weeks, the strike was official. The union gave its sanction to the strike, but UPSurge activists were the driving force behind it. When the sellout came, UPSurge was able to continue the strike only one more day. Only fragments of UPSurge's list of demands were won.

On the surface, some might say that UPSurge failed, that it lost.

In fact, that would be a serious misunderstanding of what happened. The rank and file emerged from this strike stronger, more united, more experienced and determined than ever.

UPSurge grew and developed tremendously in that one day wildcat. And for UPS employees, that's more important in the long run than the fact that they lost this particular round of the fight.

### MAY 17

Here's what happened on the day of the wildcat, Monday, May 17th:

For the first time, UPSers in the thirteen Midwestern states acted together—with one voice.

Prior to the strike they had met, formed UPSurge, listed their de-

mands, and organized local groups. When the Teamsters Union called local meetings on May 15-16 to discuss the proposed settlement, UPSurge members were ready.

In city after city, the membership said "NO!" to the settlement. In some places, like Detroit, they took informal votes.

"Everyone who wants to stay out stand up"—and out of a crowd of 600, all but 20 were on their feet.

In other cities, the union leadership wouldn't even allow an

official vote.

decided to continue the strike. The membership responded. In Columbus, Ohio, three or four full-timers and 15 part-timers set up picket lines Sunday at midnight. The union stewards refused to participate, but the lines grew to 150.

### CLEVELAND

In Cleveland, UPSurge decided to concentrate on shutting down the Metro center.

Two hundred fifty workers joined the lines throughout the day, including a large contingent from the Highland Heights center.

Workers at the Elyria, Ohio hub felt they were too small and isolated to set up picket lines.

But when UPS called them back to work, the company found that 39 of their 40 workers were too sick to come in.

The strike spread to Toledo, where UPSurge had previously had practically no influence.

In Detroit, part-time workers were the backbone of the strike at the Livonia hub.

"There are people from my shift out here who would have stabbed me in the back two months ago," said one part-timer, an UPSurge activist from the beginning.

And that underscores one of UPSurge's most dramatic successes—united part-time and full-time workers.

Before the strike, it was widely feared that many of the part-timers might scab. UPSurge made special appeals to part-timers, demonstrating that it was in their own interest to join in the fight.

And across the Midwest, part-time workers signed up. In some places, they became the leaders.

## FIGURE THIS ONE OUT

In Louisville, picket lines were so well organized that the pickets had a chance to show off their skills. They were doing figure-8's on the picket line—which is difficult unless you're well organized—when a supervisor came out to read off a list of 120 workers who were being fired.

As he read, the supervisor found himself inside one end of the figure-8. Name by name, the end of the figure-8 around him became smaller and smaller. Tighter and tighter. Before the end of the list, he freaked out and dashed inside to safety.

And the firings later turned out to be empty threats.

unofficial vote. In Cincinnati the union reps adjourned the meeting and walked out. UPSurge took it over and continued. In Kansas City, UPSurge members walked out of the meeting on Saturday and headed straight for the picket lines.

On Sunday evening, the UPSurge Central States steering committee conferred by telephone and

### TRUCKS STOPPED

Virtually no one crossed picket lines. The major cities that did not participate in the strike were Akron and St. Louis. Elsewhere, the brown trucks did not roll.

Why then could the wildcat be broken at the end of only one day? If UPSurge had been preparing for this strike since last fall, if they had at least the passive support of most of the membership, why couldn't they continue the strike?

The answer is that a strike is not like an election—you don't automatically win when you've got 51% behind you. A strike is like a war.

You need to be able to deal with an enemy that will throw everything it can at you. You need to have experience, confidence, and audacity to keep fighting and come out on top.

The UPSurge people were, by and large, new to this sort of thing. Very few of them had ever been in a strike before. They had been preparing for months, but they had no battle experience. Their organization had not been tested.

In the space of one day, this group had to take on the biggest trucking company in the country, the leadership of the biggest trade union in the country, and then the federal courts, U.S. marshals, and local police departments.

The truth of the matter is that they did extraordinarily well. By itself the company could not get them back to work. Nor could the union leadership. UPS had to call in



the government to break the strike.

Even after a two week official strike, UPS workers still wanted to fight. They were prepared to pull off a wildcat strike. They were prepared to run the risk of firings. They were not prepared to fight injunctions.

But the next time they will be.

The one-day wildcat did not change the contract proposal. But it did something far more important. It changed UPS' workers.

One of the benefits of a strike is that it always tests people. And it develops them. During this strike, many UPSurge activists learned more and gained more experience in one day than they had in the previous months of organizing.

Some leaders were found to be more talk than action. But new leadership developed in the course of the strike... people who jumped at the opportunity to take on the company in action.

Not only did individual leaders of UPSurge grow during this strike, the organization as a whole did as well. The new group in Toledo is one example.

In other cities, such as Cincinnati and Columbus, UPSurge will grow. In Cleveland, UPSurge held the largest meeting it's ever had Monday night... on an hour and a half's notice.

### STRONG ORGANIZATION

One of the things that UPSurge activists learned during the wildcat was the critical importance of strong local organization. And of national organization as well.

The existence of a central office and an area-wide steering committee meant that the strikers could

act in a unified manner. They went out together and went back to work together. Had it not been for the central organization, UPS could have picked them off, city by city.

It's hard to measure in precise terms what the strike accomplished. But one of the best indications is a leaflet put out by Detroit UPSurge the morning after the wildcat. It was called "The Strike Is Over, The Fight Has Just Begun," and here's part of what it said:

"UPS eat your heart out. You think you won but you're wrong. We won. Oh, we didn't beat you. And we took a few busts. But, we dared and we did (when you said we couldn't) and even your pals the union couldn't stop us.

"We took the picket lines down. Now it's true the injunction scared a lot of people because jail and fines are scary things. But you, the Brown Machine, lost your power to scare people yesterday.

"You said, 'Go to work or we will fire you.' The people said, 'Go scratch yourself.' And you John DeGroat and Bob Coy (union officers) said 'Ditto.' Some of the people listened (as they always will). But some acted, and it's those you have no hold over any longer.

"Something snapped inside those people's minds and hearts. Something said to them and to us, WE REFUSE TO OBEY YOU ANY LONGER. YOU ARE INCORRECT AND WE ARE RIGHT. YOU MIGHT HAVE THE POWER AND THE MONEY ON YOUR SIDE, BUT WE DON'T CARE! WE ARE FED UP WITH BEING TREATED LIKE CATTLE. WE CAN THINK AND ACT TOGETHER, WITHOUT YOU, AND WE CAN WIN!"

## THE CONTRACT

One disgruntled UPS worker emerged from the Detroit union meeting May 15 and said of the tentative contract that had been presented: "It's nothing more than what freight got. They would have given us that without the two-week strike."

Indeed, if the freight contract was a sellout, the UPS contract was a sellout as well. And a big one.

The central strategic issue in the UPS negotiations this year was the necessity to stop the company's offensive against the work force. To put an end to the labor relations innovations that save money for UPS, but make work miserable or unsafe for the employees. To put an end to those UPS innovations that are being enthusiastically copied by the freight companies.

The most important manifestation of this trend was the issue of part-time workers. Thousands of full-time jobs have been destroyed in recent years at UPS, while the part-timers who hold those jobs are worked unmercifully to squeeze out every possible penny of profit for the lowest possible wage bill.

The first and biggest and most important sellout of this contract was that nothing was done to reverse the part-timer trend.

### MINIMAL CONCESSIONS

The company did make some minimal concessions that will help some part-timers, but which will not effect UPS' continuing use of part-timers.

Some part-timers will have the opportunity to get full-time jobs. Part-timers will have the right to bump onto more desirable shifts. They will get two floating pension plans. (That's for all those part-timers approaching 65 years of age.) noted one critic.) In addition, the company's demand for part-time drivers was successfully resisted.

Some of the other contract changes are:

- Wages, cost-of-living and sick days modeled after the freight contract
- The right to use CB's in road equipment
- Air conditioning in road equipment
- Some new contract language on supervisors not doing bargaining-unit work

• Nothing on other membership demands, such as appearance standards, the grievance procedure, or voluntary overtime.

On many of these points, specific contract language had not been worked out by the time the membership was instructed to go back to work. So the company may still try to slip in some more loopholes.

The international has declared—contrary to the explicit wishes of many of the locals—that the voting will be by mail ballot. This is likely to occur in two to three weeks.

With a contract as bad as this one is, there's only one thing to do when the ballot arrives: VOTE NO!



# UPSurge East Set For Fight

While UPSurge is busily mobilizing UPS workers in the Central States to reject their contract offer, UPSurge activists in the East are gearing up for their own contract fight.

Prior to this contract round, contracts in the East have been negotiated by Joint Council areas or districts with varying expiration dates.

A negotiating committee, ap-

pointed by Fitzsimmons, is now meeting with company representatives three days a week to negotiate one contract for all states on the east coast from Maine to South Carolina, plus West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Although the committee has been meeting for over three weeks, they have yet to agree on a common expiration date—at least not one they have announced to the rank and file.

## UPSurge PLANS

The UPSurge Eastern States steering committee has met and begun to map out plans for this contract fight.

Workers' Power spoke to Rita Drapkin, part-timer from Pittsburgh Local 249, and member of the steering committee.

"At this point our fight in the East is for a common expiration date no later than July 31. Either all our contracts must be extended to July 31 or those of us who can legally go out on May 31 must do so—at the same time extending primary picket lines to those areas still working.

"As we saw in Indiana and Illinois, we cannot depend on the union to do this. It will take a strike just to keep the conditions we have now, let alone to win on any issues."

Both the company and union are aware that organizing has begun in the East and they have begun a counter-offensive. Red-baiting has started in Baltimore and Harrisburg, but it's had little effect in either area.

And it is no accident that the story of 125 Louisville firings (none of which occurred) had much wider coverage in the East than it did in the Central States.

The company and/or union's public relations people realize that rumored firings will intimidate rank and filers. But UPSurge has been equally busy in dispelling these lies.

## REMEMBER: THEY ARE WATCHING YOU



PHOTOS:

Far left, picketing at the Livonia hub in Detroit; top, at Cleveland's Ciolette hub; center, UPS supervisors Ed Mastay and Julian Brayboy (with camera) in Detroit.



# After the Strike: What Next?

The next step after the wildcat must be a campaign to vote down the proposed contract. After that there's a much bigger job ahead... to deal with the leadership of this union.

The union's actions over the last several weeks prove beyond all doubt that its present leadership will never fight for the membership.

The entire two-week strike was staged. It was planned as a means of wearing out the ranks. The union never intended, never tried to fight. The proof is that they could have gotten the same settlement without a strike. All that was won was modeled on the freight contract, which comes more or less automatically. There was nothing more, except for a little window dressing.

## CONTEMPT

It's clear that the negotiators did not want to fight. UPS knew this and as a result treated them with contempt, demanding that Dan Darrow of Akron and Boy Coy, the Detroit local president, be replaced as negotiators.

When Coy presented the terms of the contract to the Detroit meeting, one member spoke for many when he walked from the union hall in disgust. "We ain't gonna get anything out of them [union officials]," he said. "UPS owns this hall."

Then came the wildcat, and the

union leadership proved this time that it would indeed fight... to break the strike. In a few cities, the union sent BA's out to the picket lines to break them. In others, union officers got on TV to say the strike was unauthorized.

When an UPSurge attorney attempted to intervene in federal court in Detroit to stop UPS' injunction, the judge phoned the union's lawyer. "We do not object to the injunction and will not contest it," the union told the judge.

## THROW THEM OUT

It's clear that the task now must be to build UPSurge into a powerful enough movement to throw these bums out. That means fighting them on every issue, large and small. Opposing them in every election for steward or for local president, and replacing them with others who've got the guts to fight.

There's one more thing, too. These characters are part of an international conspiracy. They take their orders from Frank Fitzsimmons or from the regional barons of the Teamsters Union—Roy Williams, Louis Pelck, William Presser, Bobby Holmes, and the others. No movement in UPS can succeed without dealing with this fact.

And since UPS is only a small part of the Teamsters Union, UPS workers cannot do the job themselves. This summer, Teamsters

for a Decent Contract (TDC) will be establishing an ongoing rank and file group dedicated to turning the union around.

UPS workers should join with

TDC in forming this group. Together, the union can be straightened out. Then the job of straightening out the companies can begin in earnest.

# 'The American Way'

From the beginning, UPSurge activists have had to contend with red-baiting. Some militants felt that the presence of some socialists in UPSurge would hurt the movement.

The fears of others were fanned by cynical company and union officials who inspired anonymous poison-pen letters.

One letter sent to Teamsters' wives in Louisville read, "Think about the people out of work because a company is on strike. Think about the loss of jobs, the splitting of families, and the violence... We don't need the kind of 'help' that Anne Mackie and Vince Meredith want to give us. They think we are a bunch of dummies." The letter was signed only, "Wife of a decent, concerned Teamster."

In Baltimore, the letter writer signed himself, "A Red Blooded American Teamster from Baltimore." He challenged, "Are you a red-blooded American who believes in the American way of life, or are you a socialist working toward the goal of destroying our union and our country? ... Do you really want to give up a dollar a week out of your paycheck to help support the socialist party? As for me, I'll shake my chances and solve my problems the good old American way."

## RIGHT TO STRIKE?

And what was the good old American way on Monday, May 17? Do we have the right to strike in this the 'land of the free'? Is the policeman your friend? Are the courts fair and honest in this country? Is this a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? Or do some people count for more than others?

On Monday, May 17, UPS workers all across the midwest voted with their feet. This contract stinks, they said. Only a handful of

## INJUNCTIONS

In every city which struck except Louisville, UPS got an injunction within hours. "Irreparable injury, loss and damage," screamed the company. "Injunction granted," replied the federal courts.

In Kansas City, a U.S. marshal came out to the picket line and stood practically arm in arm with a UPS supervisor. The supervisor read out the names of the picketers. The U.S. marshal repeated them as injunction violators.

In Cleveland, ten police cars, U.S. marshalls, and plain clothes policemen joined forces to break the picket line at the Metro center.

In Detroit, the police were both petty and serious. At 7 am they were giving out \$1.00 parking tickets for strikers' cars parked at the same place they had been parked for the previous two weeks. Later in the day, they were arresting people. One strike leader was hauled in for tying her shoe in the driveway.

On Monday, May 17, the courts belonged to United Parcel Service. The U.S. marshalls belonged to United Parcel Service. The local police all across the midwest belonged to United Parcel Service.

On Monday, May 17, the courts, the federal government, and the local police were in the service of the big corporation. But really, that's the way it always is. That's the American way.

Sometimes you just need to squeeze the system a little to find out who's on your side and who's against you.



# FIRINGS BACKFIRE ON UPS

UPS has always had a policy of firing militants and crushing shop floor organization. In the past UPS has been able to defeat wildcat strikes through this strategy. And they wanted to do the same during this strike.

UPS wanted the opportunity to wipe out UPSurge. On the day of the wildcat management thought it had its chance and quickly played its hand.

In Cleveland, 20 strikers were told they were fired, in Louisville 125. UPS had the Louisville firings publicized throughout the country.

If they could make the firings stick in cities with reputations like Cleveland's and Louisville's, UPS

would have the green light to wipe out militants everywhere.

Cleveland is the home of UPSurge editor Anne Mackie. In Louisville are UPSurge leader Vince Meredith and the strongest shop floor organization in UPS.

## THE UNION

UPS thought they could count on the cooperation of the weak and corrupt Teamster leadership in carrying out this union-busting step.

But the union was forced to tell UPS "no."

The depth of the wildcat convin-

ced the union leadership that mass firings might make it impossible to bring people back to work, or to get the contract through.

The company was eventually forced to recognize this and back off from their Big Idea.

The union officials also realized that while an outraged rank and file might not be able to get back at the company immediately, it would be able to dump union stewards and local presidents.

For example, Roy Williams, chief negotiator for the union has ambitions to become Secretary-Treasurer of the IBT. He'd have a hard time on the basis of a selfout

contract, mass firings, and broken union organization at UPS.

## NO FIRINGS

To get his wildcatting home local, Kansas City, back to work, Williams had to promise "no firings." His lieutenant on the negotiating team, Bob Coy, President of Detroit Local 243, followed suit and promised amnesty to get Detroit back to work.

Without union cooperation, UPS was forced to rescind the firings. For the first time, UPS had not won a wildcat. The rank and file organization was too powerful to crush this time.

# THEIR PROFITS, OUR DEPRESSION

by Frank Conner

Last year, we were in a depression. The auto companies, getting ready for this year's contract talks, told everybody how poor they were and how much money they were losing.

This year, sales are picking up, but the auto companies are still talking poverty. They are saying it's the workers who will have to help them out on this contract.

It's time to separate the myth-making from the reality.

In 1975 Ford, the probable target company, reported \$24 billion in sales.

After deducting for production and advertising costs, there was still \$2.9 billion in the kitty. This figure is basically profit.

About one billion represents the

cost of maintaining and buying new equipment. An investment which simply means more profit in the long run.

Only \$152 million went to income taxes, less than 1% of total revenue. Most of the rest was used for interest payments and advertising and executive salaries.

## PROFITABLE DEPRESSION

After all this, Ford still came up with almost \$323 million in reported after-tax profits. This is in the worst depression year for the country since the thirties.

From GM the 1975 figures were even better—\$36 billion in sales, \$5.6 billion left after deducting the costs of sales, and \$1.25 billion in after-tax reported profits.

Even Chrysler, the weakest of

the Big 3, had \$11.6 billion in sales with \$1 billion left after deducting costs of sales.

Chrysler actually managed to turn this into a \$259 million loss! The ability to turn profits into paper losses must be how executives earn big salaries.

All this talk about poverty is simply used to protect company profits while attacking workers' standard of living. The fact is that workers produced those profits, and they have the right to fight to get them for themselves.

There is every indication that the high sales and accompanying profits will continue this year.

Already in the first three months of 1976 Ford has reported profits of \$343 million. GM has reported profits of \$800 million and even

Chrysler is reporting \$72 million in profits.

At this rate the Big 3 will make \$4.9 billion this year—clear and free. Auto makers themselves are predicting that this will be the second best year in their history.

## "COST-CUTTING"

Increasing car sales are not the only reason auto companies have been making such good money.

Profits have gone up because workers are being speeded up and cracked down on harder than ever. GM says half of the increase in its profits in 1975 came from "cost-cutting" measures.

As everyone knows that means fewer workers worked harder to get every ounce of production out of

them. Last year, as the economy and industry were deep in depression the auto companies did a lot of crying. But they still managed to do pretty well.

This year they are practically drowning in money.

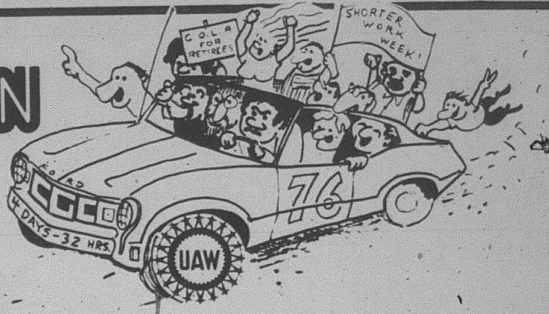
In the contract talks, the companies will plead hardship. They will say workers have to help them by paying their own medical insurance and not asking for better wages.

Auto workers should think back over the past couple of years and decide who has suffered the greater "hardship." Then they should be prepared, not only to preserve what they have won in the past, but also to win real gains in the future. □

# AUTO MOTION

The Road Forward For Auto Workers

Fifth of a Series



Last week this column described a rebellion by black, production-based auto workers in the mid-60's against management abuse and against the failure of the United Auto Workers union to give them

by Jack Weinberg

Skilled tradesmen have always been an elite group inside the auto plants. They are hard to replace and expensive to train. Except in periods of depression and recession, they can pick up and get another job if they are dissatisfied with their conditions much more easily than the unskilled worker.

Management needs a much greater degree of active cooperation from skilled trades than they do from non-production workers. A machine repairman can spend fifteen minutes or can spend ten hours fixing a break-down. A die-maker can put three months into building a die that won't work because there is a mistake in the blueprints—and not say a word.

Skilled trades, by the nature of the jobs they do, and because of the skills they possess, confront management from a much stronger bargaining position than does the unskilled worker.

When the union is strong, this difference is small and not important. But when the union is weak on the shop floor, or non-existent, the tradesman is a first class citizen in the shop and the production worker is a second class citizen.

## HEROIC ROLE

When the UAW was first organized, the gap between trades and unskilled workers was closed. Tradesmen played a heroic role in the organizing drive, fighting for the principle of industrial unionism: one union to include all workers in the industry, skilled and unskilled.

But in the 1950's, management succeeded in breaking the strength of the UAW in the shops. Hostility and tension between skilled and non-skilled began to grow.

The attack set back conditions for both skilled and unskilled workers. But it was much more difficult for management to totally smash the conditions of the tradesmen than of the production worker. It was more

difficult for the UAW to absorb their elected representatives into the Reuther machine.

Management's policy of almost totally excluding blacks and other minority groups from the trades, made this a racial tension as well. Management was doing all in their power to make sure there would never again be unity and trust between skilled and unskilled workers in the shops.

## MANPOWER EROSION

The companies' attack on shop strength resulted in manpower erosion in the skilled trades. This combined with a recession meant that very few skilled trades apprentices were trained from the middle 1950's, through the early 1960's.

Then, starting in 1964 and 1965, as production soared back up, a great shortage of skilled tradesmen developed.

Auto companies began hiring tradesmen in great numbers from construction and from other related trades. To off-set this competition, the AFL-CIO tradesmen won huge wage gains which set them far above UAW standards. By 1966, there was an acute shortage of tradesmen in the auto industry.

One reaction to this situation was the growth in size and influence of the International Society of the Skilled Trades (ISST)—a movement trying to break skilled tradesmen out of the UAW to form their own separate skilled trades union.

ISST organizers argued that the skilled trades got little help from the UAW because it was production dominated. The ISST leadership was also openly racist. Thus they fed into the two major weaknesses between skilled and unskilled that management had fostered.

Their effort was financially supported by the far-right wing. But the failure of the UAW to fight effectively for any of its members gave this breakaway movement

protection against this abuse. Another group in the UAW also raised a challenge to the policies and practices of the UAW leadership and its machine in the mid-60's. It was a very different group: the skilled tradesmen.

some appeal.

The other reaction to the shortage of skilled tradesmen was a drive headed up by elected UAW officials based in the skilled trades, to demand an immediate wage increase for tradesmen of one dollar per hour.

In 1966, a delegation of skilled trades leaders met with Reuther and demanded that the contract be reopened and the skilled trades be granted a one dollar pay raise. Reuther turned them down, but told them: "Go out and build yourself an army." He explained that if they wanted to win their bargaining demands they would have to build up the pressure.



## On Strike For Parity

DETROIT—Local 155 of the UAW struck Ferro Manufacturing Corporation on May 5 and is still on strike. Ferro workers make eight-way power seats for Cordobas and Lincolns. Prolonging the strike could stop production of both car models.

The highest paid production worker at Ferro makes around \$5/hour. The old contract puts an 8c cap on the COLA and provides no dental insurance or vacation pay. The Ferro workers are out to get parity with the Big Three auto workers.

Above, Local 155 workers on the picket line at Adair warehouse are trying to stop the shipment of auto seats made at Ferro.

Milton Fisk

Reuther believed a skilled trades reform movement inside the UAW would weaken skilled trades separatism.

## DOLLAR AN HOUR

Skilled trades leaders met and elected the Dollar an Hour Committee. By April 1967, this committee represented a strong force at the Skilled Trades Council meeting that was held in Atlantic City.

Besides wages, the committee demanded protection against job erosion and new technology, an end to sub-contracting, and strengthening the lines of demarcation between job classifications. It was a program addressing the major problems facing the tradesmen.

Reuther gave a very fiery and militant speech at the Council meeting. Most of the delegates believed he had committed himself to supporting the program of the Dollar an Hour Committee. Even delegates committed to the program of the Dollar an Hour Committee voted for the leadership resolution, believing they had won.

But the Committee continued to mobilize its pressure.

In summer 1967, bargaining was underway, and Ford was the likely strike target. The Dollar an Hour Committee called a demonstration for the lawn of the Ford headquarters. Eleven thousand skilled tradesmen showed up—a tremendous show of force.

The wage package Reuther final-

ly negotiated at Ford's gave tradesmen 50c an hour increase and gave non-skilled 20c an hour. It failed to meet the other skilled trades demands at all. Worse, it included a clause placing a 16c per year cap on the Cost of Living Allowance agreement that had been included in UAW agreements since 1948.

Reuther had allowed this in order to get a wage increase the skilled workers would settle for.

Most of the skilled trades leadership urged the membership to accept the contract as a partial victory.

## VOTE NO

But a major segment of the Dollar an Hour Committee held firm. They got television time. Reuther went on the air explaining to the membership why they should vote for the contract. The Committee members followed, explaining why the vote should be "no."

The main argument centered around the cap on the Cost of Living. Art Fox, a Tool and Die Committeeman from Local 600; Ford Rouge, and a trained economist, explained that the cap would cost each worker more over the life of just one contract than the wage increase was worth.

He pointed out that inflation would be a serious problem between 1967 and 1970. Reuther denied this saying, "Forgive them for they know not of what they speak."

Fox also pointed out that once the principle of unlimited COLA was bargained away, it would be lost forever, without a fight to get it back.

The membership voted to accept the 1967 contract. They believed the Reuther machine that the wage increase was a good deal, or at least, was no disaster.

But Fox proved right. Over the life of the 1967 contract, inflation was a problem. The cap cost the average UAW auto worker \$1,400 in three years. Reuther had to admit he had been wrong. And in 1970, it took a ten week strike at General Motors, to get the cap taken back off the Cost of Living.

Those who survived the Dollar an Hour Committee and continued the struggle, formed the United National Caucus. Skilled tradesmen who wanted to seriously challenge the policies and practices of the Reuther machine, learned they would need to organize a caucus that would appeal not just to the trades, but to all UAW members if they had any hope of being successful.

Next week's column will discuss the growth of the United National Caucus into a group attempting to unite skilled and unskilled UAW members again. □



# Letters

to

## Workers' Power

### Lying Through Those Gleaming Teeth

Dear Workers' Power,

This is certainly one of the most chaotic election campaigns I've ever watched, and your coverage has really helped me keep things straight.

Last week I was amazed by an incident on national television involving Jimmy Carter. The man will tell anybody anything, whether the cameras are rolling or not.

There had been a small to-do about foreign officials contacting Carter's staff to find out more about the man, arrange meetings, etc. On NBC news Carter condemned foreign intrusions into U.S. domestic politics, and went on to state he would not meet with foreign officials while he was "a candidate for his party's nomination, as a candidate for the Presidency."

He said he would consider meetings as President-elect only with the full knowledge and guidance of the State Department. That statement was made to reporters as Carter went in to give a speech.

A half-hour later, CBS news reported the incident too. Only they had a different film clip of Carter's response—the one he had given to the big-wigs he was speaking to.

This time he said "it would be inappropriate to meet with foreign representatives until after he got his party's nomination. After that, it would be appropriate."

Now I know we're all used to politicians, kings and Presidents lying. Lying through their teeth.

### Workers' Power Wants To Hear From You

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

But please be brief.

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

# HOSPITAL - THE \$102-A-DAY NIGHTMARE

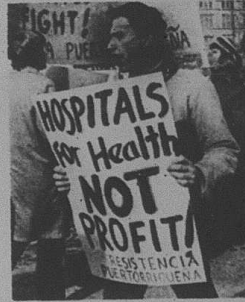
Dear Workers' Power,

I have spent a lot of time in and out of hospitals and doctors' offices in my life, and have grown to know and hate them well. But what is happening to me now is enough to make me want to take an ax to the whole damned industry.

I'm having a cast put on to straighten my back. "Quick little trip, in and out. Nothing to it." Ha!

I get the cast on a Tuesday. But I won't be in the hospital to get it unless I go in two days ahead of time, because that's when the hospital bed is available. If I don't take it then, someone else will.

So, with my insurance company paying \$102.00 a day I will lay



there, getting no treatment, waiting for my "quick little trip" to get over and done with.

The insurance company doesn't

care—they just raise their rates. And pass them on to their customers—with a little extra profit-padding on the side. And hospital costs keep right on spiralling—making the idea of not having health insurance a nightmare for anyone to contemplate.

Good medical care in this country is neither a right or a privilege. It's a luxury that can only be afforded by those with money, power, privilege, or all three.

Sometimes I wish I believed in Hell. The idea of some of these greedy worms rotting and burning forever and ever really turns me on.

K.S.  
Detroit, MI

# We All Need An UPSurge!

Dear Workers' Power,

Over the past seven months I have worked to build an organization we all know very well. An organization Workers' Power supports and has written about in great detail. An organization that was the real backbone of the recent UPS strike—UPSurge!

And during these past months I have been fortunate enough to meet some pretty terrific people. People who have spent many hours listening to my questions, lending a hand, or just letting me let off steam.

The people who I'm writing

about are not just the people I work with (they're pretty terrific too), but are the members of the I.S. (Red Tide and Workers' Power). It is these people I would like to thank.

On Monday, May 17, UPSurge defied the Teamster Union and United Parcel Service and refused to return to work. The members set up picket lines across 13 mid-western states. Some lines were successful, some weren't. The lines at my center succeeded with the help of the I.S. When the going got a little shakey, these people came to help.

I guess I'm not just thanking you folks for the help on the lines, but also for some help with my education. I've learned a lot these past months.

I've learned who the people are you can count on in a pinch. Who will walk your line with you, and who will run you down when UPS snaps their fingers.

I've learned that laws and court injunctions were made to protect big companies. That the average worker has no rights when he tries to better his working conditions. That cops and security guards are the next step, when

harassment and red baiting fail to divide the people.

But most important, I've learned that there is a definite need for unity and solidarity between workers everywhere. That when all the people shout together, their voice is heard. That in the near future when all people believe in an UPSurge (and speak out), that finally the worker will have a voice in the running of this society!

Thanks,  
Jennifer J. Vail  
Detroit-Metro Steering  
Committee, UPSurge

# P. O. Freezes; Stoppage 'Chills' Management

Dear Workers' Power,

For the past month, postal clerks in the downtown Pittsburgh office have been nearly freezing to death. A new ventilating system with blowers positioned over each head of the working area of the clerks, has been causing unbearable conditions.

Complaints were given to the supervisor and the safety captain was informed, however they did not get them turned off.

On Saturday, Zip-Mail-Translator clerks finally got fed up. "We should just walk off this damn machine," one clerk said. Soon the word was passed down the line. Seventeen workers got up off their consoles and refused to key the mail till the boss turned off the air conditioning.

The boss refused to go along. He is an acting supervisor—so it just goes to show that you're either on one side or the other. This was the same acting supervisor who is known for walking around the Pittsburgh post office with a sign clipped on his ass that read "Insert Here"... thoughtfully put there by some of the workers.

The boss was pretty nasty and said he didn't know what to do about it. "Call the engine room," replied a clerk. The work stop-

FOR THE LAST TIME, NO SHIVERING AT WORK!... AND SHOW SOME RESPECT!



page lasted 15 minutes until the fans were shut off.

This was the first time that ZMT clerks really stuck together

and they won. Clerks are now more confident and know that they do have the power to control their own working conditions and

more importantly, to fight off the attacks made by the boss.

A postal worker  
Pittsburgh

# Pamphlets From Sun



50c

## Revolutionary Feminism



50c



50c

## Fighting To Win!

CLASS STRUGGLE UNIONISM

25c



25c

## WHAT'S ON

Seattle, May 26. Leonard Crow Dog, AIM leader, will speak with Yvonne Warrow, Colville Indian defendant, at a public forum at 7:30 at the University of Washington. Co-sponsored by the I.S. and Red National Legal Defense Office.

# I.S. BLACK CAUCUS TO HOST CONFERENCE

The National Black Caucus of the International Socialists is sponsoring a conference to be held June 12 in Detroit, Michigan.

"The Struggle for Black Liberation at Home and Abroad" is the theme. The conference is intended to educate for action.

The crisis of capitalism affects all working people—but it affects black people most. Because of the racism of this system, blacks have been kept in the worst position in society.

When the depression began at the end of '74, blacks were hit hardest. They were the first laid off and are now the last to be called back.

Black unemployment is still 12% while the unemployment rate of society as a whole is 8%. The unemployment rate of black youth is 40%.

The income of black families is still only 60% of that of white families. Because of lower incomes, blacks are also the main victims of the recent cutbacks in food stamps and health care.

Black children are the biggest victims of cutbacks in education. Ghetto schools have always received less funding than white schools—now the problem is even more severe.

### GROWING RACISM

But the situation is far worse. As the system deteriorates, the vicious, racist propaganda of groups like the KKK is gaining a wider hearing among sections of the white middle class and working class.

The racist violence in Boston and Louisville are just two examples. This fall, more cities will introduce busing plans and racist organizing will grow in those cities.

The racists have already learned from Boston and Louisville that the police, the courts, and the government will not stop them.

In short, the system's crisis has wiped out most of the advances won by black people in over a decade of struggle. Capitalism gave little to blacks and then, only after a massive movement was built demanding it. As soon as that movement died down, the few victories were ruthlessly taken back.

Clearly a new movement must be built, a movement that will go beyond the temporary reforms won by the old movement. What is needed is a movement, black and white, that will tear this racist system



down and build a new society, free of oppression and exploitation.

The crisis of capitalism, its effects on the black community and building a new movement are the themes of the June Conference.

### PANEL

The first session will be a panel on THE CURRENT CAPITALIST CRISIS AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY—A NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION.

Speakers will discuss: Busing and the Rebirth of the KKK, The Struggle in the Unions, Black Women and the Fight Against Racism and Sexism, Blacks and the Democratic Party.

The second session, BUILDING A NEW MOVEMENT, will discuss The Death of the Old Movement and the Role of

Blacks in the Struggle for Liberation and Socialism.

A second speaker will discuss The International Socialists and Blacks.

A third evening session will discuss THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. Featured will be a speaker from ZANU (Zimbabwe African Liberation Union.)

Other speakers will discuss World Capitalism and Southern Africa, and Building Support for the Movement.

Members of the IS Black Caucus and friends from across the country will be attending.

The first two sessions will be by invitation only. The evening session will be open to the general public.

Friends of the IS interested in attending any of the sessions should speak to local IS members of their Workers' Power sellers.

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## 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.....  
 City.....  
 Union.....

# Where We Stand

## 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, gays, latinos, 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.

# Workers' Power

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

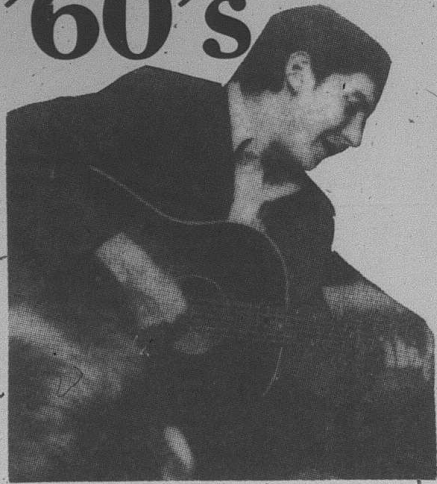
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# Phil Ochs - Singer of the '60's



by  
Larry  
Jaye

Phil Ochs burst into the sixties protest movement singing "All The News That's Fit to Sing." He faded in obscurity by "Rehearsals for Retirement." Ochs committed suicide by hanging April 9, 1976, at his sister's home in Far Rockaway, N.Y.

In 1962, Ochs began his career as a "writer/interpreter" in New York City. He found himself in the company of Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Tom Paxton, and Pete Seeger.

When Ochs released his first album in 1964, "All The News That's Fit to Sing," he was already fitting his two careers—politics and music—together.

He was totally committed to the political energy of the decade. His music came out of its momentum.

His reputation grew quickly. Audiences clung to every phrase, as he announced, "Call it peace or call it treason/Call it love or call it reason/But I ain't marching anymore!"

## ANTI-WAR

The anti-war theme of this album was strengthened by "The Draft Dodger Rag." His support for the civil rights movement was underscored in the hard hitting "Here's to the State of Mississippi." "Here's to the land you've torn out the heart of Mississippi find yourself another country to be part of."

Phil Ochs belonged to the "movement"—student radicals,

civil rights activists, anti-war demonstrators. His style and eloquence were uniquely his own, but his lyrics and anger, were both drawn from and shared by his followers.

He played anywhere. On a sound truck, on a stage, in a bar—wherever people would listen, Phil Ochs was there.

"Pleasures of the Harbor" was released in 1967 and drew more critical praise than any other album. Ochs combined his biting satire in "Small Circle of Friends" with a lyric gentleness in the title cut.

It was on this album, at the height of the protest movement and his career, that Ochs recorded "Cross My Heart"—the first of a series of deeply introspective songs:

"I don't know/But it seems that every single dream/Is paint with pretty pictures in the air/But it tumbles in despair/And it starts to bend/Until by the end/It's a nightmare. But I'm going to give all that I've got to give/Cross my heart and I hope to live."

Perhaps cynicism had begun to creep in his soul—or, perhaps Phil Ochs was beginning to see what his followers would not recognize for years to come.

The clouding of formerly well defined political causes and the fading of high energy radicals into varying states of tranquility and/or apathy brought with it a new genre of "folk/protest/topical" music—

Phil Ochs wrote almost all of the songs he sang. Two of his main concerns were black liberation and the labor movement. In "Links On the Chain," reprinted here, he talks about the loss the union movement suffered by failing to give full support to the civil rights movement of the 50's and 60's.

## LINKS ON THE CHAIN

Come you ranks of labor/ Come you union corps/ And see if you remember/ The struggles of the fore/ When you were standing helpless/ On the outside of the door/ And you started building links on the chain

When the police on the horses/ Were waiting in the bend/ Riding through the strike/ With a pistol in their hand/ Swinging at the skulls/ Of many a union man/ As you built the links on the chain

Then the army of the fascists/ Tried to put you on the run/ But the army of the union/ They did what could be done/ Oh the power of the factory/ Was greater than the gun/ As you built one more link on the chain

And then in 1954/ Decision's finally made/ Oh the black man was a risin' fast/ Racing from the shade/ And your union took no stand/ And your union was betrayed/ As you lost yourself a link on the chain

And then there came the boycotts/ And then the freedom rides/ And forgetting what you stood for/ You tried to block the tide/ Oh the automation bosses/ Were laughin' on the side/ As they watched you lose your link on the chain

You know when they block your truck boys/ by laying on the road/ All that they are doing/ Is all that you have showed/ That you've got to strike/ You've got to fight/ To get what you are owed/ When you're building all your links on the chain

And the man who tries to tell you/ That they'll take your jobs away/ He's the same man who was scabbin' hard/ Just the other day/ And your union's not a union/ Till he's thrown out of the way/ And he's choking on your links on the chain

that would not include Phil Ochs.

## LAST ALBUM

In 1969 came "Rehearsals for Retirement," complete with a cover photo of Phil Ochs on a tombstone.

In the title cut from this album Ochs asked: "Where are the armies that killed a country/and turned a strong man into a

baby/Now come the rebels, they are welcome/I wait in anger and amusement/In my rehearsals for retirement."

As the decade of protest faded into the 70's and Ochs' contemporaries adjusted their music to fit the times, Phil Ochs could not adjust.

When all the causes faded, Ochs felt he had outlived his usefulness. A friend said "he was in a deep state of depression because the words just weren't coming anymore."

Phil Ochs' last professional engagement was July 31, 1975 at Folk City, where his career began. He had been drinking so heavily that many people demanded their money back.

Barbara London, a New York friend, said, "He got a raw deal. I saw him sleeping in the streets. He was saveable, but the people who could've helped him didn't seem to want to. Now they're going to have a big benefit."

Although still unofficial, a Phil Ochs benefit is planned for May 28 in New York.

The proposed list of performers is headed by Dylan, Baez, Seeger, and John Lennon. Half the money will go to Ochs' 12-year-old daughter, Megan, and the other half to charity.

## Indian Leader Free

Leonard Crow Dog, spiritual and political leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM) is free. He was released from the Lewisburg (Pa.) State Penitentiary in late March on \$25,000 bond.

He is now appealing two assault convictions in which he was framed.

The first stems from an incident in which two well known goons on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota were caught sneaking into Crow Dog's back yard. They were run off by his relatives. Crow Dog never laid a finger on them and yet he was convicted and sentenced to five years.

In another conviction, Crow Dog was protecting his family from an intruder who broke into his home. Crow Dog threw him out. For this, he also got five years.

Both convictions came in the racist South Dakota courts. Both juries were all white.

Speaking at a recent Native American support rally in Philadelphia, Crow Dog's wife, Mary, talked about the September 5 incident in which 100 FBI goons invaded their home.

"They arrested my husband, kicked his legs out from under him and laughed. They threw my son (two years old) across the room—he was in a sound sleep."

"In South Dakota they treat us like we're less than human. It's not because they just don't like us," she continued. "Sixty-five percent of the unused energy [natural resources] in this country lies on Indian land."

## No Payless Paydays

NEW YORK—Several colleges were shut down for the afternoon of April 14 as over 2000 AFSCME members employed by the Board of Education turned out for a demonstration to say "no" to Chancellor Kibbee.

The Chancellor has demanded that workers take either a two week wage deferral or else a furlough. They chanted, "Hell No, We won't go—Send Kibbee on furlough!"

As Victor Gotbaum, head of New York AFSCME, negotiated inside with Kibbee, the demonstrators shouted their answer to Kibbee's demands: "No! No! No!"

Last week Victor Gotbaum finally took a stand against payless furloughs, forced vacations, and Kibbee's newest threat: more "wage deferrals." At chapter meetings on all 20 CUNY campuses, resolutions were passed supporting Gotbaum's stand and holding him to it.

Before going in to see the Chancellor, Gotbaum promised that workers at the BHE would not suffer any cuts which are not shared equally by all district council members. Upon emerging from the meeting, he proved himself a liar and still snugly in bed with the BHE.

At first he said he couldn't reveal what happened at the meeting until the agreement's written up by the lawyers. The demonstrators shouted back, "What are you saying?" and "What's the deal?"

So Gotbaum was forced to give the details. If the professors ratify their contract and if BHE workers get state aid, then they would get back their 11 days lost vacation time and have just a one-week deferral.

The membership will be voting on the "agreement" April 21.

One worker said, "We've got to vote it down. But if we do, the Chancellor will furlough us. So the only way to beat this is to put pressure on Gotbaum to call out the rest of the council in support of us."

"If we let them get away with this now, it will set a precedent that won't be easy to stop."

Chris Richards

# Ballads of Struggle

One of Phil Ochs' best known songs is "Love Me, I'm a Liberal." Ochs, a radical, wanted to show the hypocrisy of liberals, who stand ten degrees left of center in good times, ten degrees right of center if it affects them personally," he said in the introduction to the song. Two verses show his view:

I cried when they shot Medgar Evers/ Tears ran down my spine/ And I cried when they shot Mr. Kennedy/ As if I'd lost a father of mine/ But Malcolm X got what was coming/ He got what he asked for

that time/ So love me, love me, love me, I'm a liberal.

Oh the people of old Mississippi/ Should all hang their heads in shame/ Now I can't understand how their minds work/ What's the matter, don't they watch Les Crane?/ But if you ask me to bus my children/ I hope the cops take down your name/ So love me, love me, love me, I'm a liberal

His understanding of problems facing working people is seen in his "Automation Song." The chorus

goes like this:

For the wages were low, and the hours were long/ And the labor was all I could bear/ Now you've got new machines/ For to take my place/ And you tell me it's not mine to share.

Though I laid down your factories and I laid down your fields/ With my feet on the ground and my back to your wheels/ And now the smoke is rising/ The steel is all aglow/ I'm walking down a jobless road/ And where am I to go/ Tell me where am I to go?

# ABEL SLATES BEATEN IN LOCAL STEEL VOTES

by Pat Morgan

Backers of United Steel Workers District 31 Director Ed Sadlowski emerged victorious in the Chicago-Gary district, local union elections. Sadlowski claimed victory in 85% of the local contests and cleared the first major hurdle in his as yet unannounced campaign for the USW Presidency.

Sadlowski's strength was best displayed in the election results of the large basic steel producing locals. Sadlowski supporters won office at Bethlehem Steel, Burns Harbor, Ind. (Local 6787); Youngstown Sheet and Tube, E. Chicago, Ind. (Local 1011); Inland Steel, E. Chicago, (Local 1011); Interlake Steel, Chicago (Local 1657); U.S. Steel South Works (Local 65); and U.S. Steel Gary Works Sheet and Tin (Local 1066).

Of particular importance were the victories at South Works and Inland Steel. In these two elections company-backed pro-Abel incumbents enlisted the aid of the local Democratic Party, the CIA-influenced "Labor Party," and the FBI, to conduct vicious red-baiting campaigns against the pro-Sadlowski challengers.

In spite of charges of communism, John Chico at South Works (Sadlowski's home local) and James Balanoff (the district's largest local) won their local union presidencies by margins of nearly 2-1 in large voter turnouts.

## NO VICTORIES

Even the two major defeats suffered by the Sadlowski forces failed to become victories for the current USW President I. W. Abel.

At Republic Steel (Local 1033), the incumbent president narrowly defeated a divided opposition by claiming ties to Sadlowski. And at Gary Works (Local 1014) there was a complicated five-way contest with not even the incumbent slate obtaining an Abel endorsement.

In fabricating and non-ferrous metals section of the district, Sadlowski supporters did as well as they did in basic steel. Notable victories occurred at Reynolds Aluminum and Danley Machine.

Outside District 31 Abel lost a number of important contests.

At Kaiser Steel in Fontana, Calif., the incumbents strongly backed by Abel, were defeated by two reform slates. The reform slates, ran on the issues of corruption, seniority reform, and union democracy.

In Pennsylvania, a group called Workers in Protest won 60% of the vote at Jones and Laughlin Steel in Alliquippa.

Two contests saw the re-election of prominent Abel opponents. Juan Chacon was re-elected president of Local 890 in Bayard, N.M. and Ed Mann and John Barbero of RAFT were re-elected at Youngstown Sheet and Tube in Youngstown, Ohio.

The results of local union election show widespread discontent with Abel and the current policies of the USW bureaucracy.

## CORRUPTION

The common theme of many of the reform campaigns was opposition to local corruption and undemocratic practices, and for a tough-

# RUBBER DEADLOCKED

## Ranks Resist As Court Hits Pickets

AKRON—As the United Rubber Workers' strike enters its fourth week, both sides are deadlocked. Though Firestone is the target company, the "Big Four," Firestone, Goodyear, Goodrich, and Uniroyal, are all down.

Union negotiators in Cleveland seek a wage hike of \$1.52 for production workers and \$2.00 for skilled workers, plus a cost of living allowance over three years.

The companies have offered only \$1.15 over three years, plus COLA that does not go up until the Cost of Living goes up over .7%.

A propaganda letter from Goodrich to its striking employees called this the "richest offer" ever made by the industry.

## MASS PICKETING

While the union leadership has done little to challenge that assertion, there has been no lack of militancy on the picket line.

Three times mass pickets have prevented anyone from entering the plants.

On the first day of the strike, April 21, hundreds blocked the gates until Summit County Common Pleas Judge Sam Bell issued an injunction limiting the number of pickets. Sheriffs deputies serving the injunction were met with resistance from the picket lines.

On May 3, mass picketing was broken up by union officials acting on the behalf of Judge Bell. The companies' legal tool, Judge Bell, was determined to make his injunction stick.

On Friday, May 14, hundreds again swelled the picket lines in a "guerrilla action" to prevent white collar employees from picking up their paychecks.

Summitt County deputies broke up the lines when they read Judge Bell's latest court order: disperse or face arrest.

Sources say that the union officials had to argue with the ranks

stand against the steel companies.

The opposition to Abel will no doubt cohere around the expected Sadlowski bid for the USW Presidency this year. In District 31 local elections, the Sadlowski-endorsed slates fought over a variety of local issues.

In some locals, such as Gary Works Local 1014, the Sadlowski-



DETROIT—Local 101 of the United Rubber Workers is still trying to stop the movement of tires in and out of Detroit warehouses. Members of Local 101 are in the fifth week of their strike against Uniroyal. Pickets are stationed at Adair and Great Lakes warehouses. Interstate Freight trucks are being spotted-hauling tires at both warehouses. Other freight lines are also involved in this scab operation. A driver who bought Workers' Power as he was leaving the Interstate barn in Detroit said, "There are still plenty of tires in there, and nobody is keeping them from being shipped out regularly." It is believed the tires had been shipped in from Great Lakes. The pickets at the warehouses are still getting cooperation from the majority of truckers. Most of them turn back if they are carrying tires.

to prevent mass picket lines from being re-established later in the day.

Both Goodyear and Firestone filed contempt of court motions against Locals 2 and 7 for the mass picketing.

At Goodyear's Marysville Ohio conveyor belt plant, 20 workers were indicted on charges of rioting connected with the April 21 picketing.

Goodyear then announced that they were fired, regardless of the outcome of their trial. Several others not arrested face 30 day suspensions.

Already the union's strike fund is dangerously low. Weekly benefits were dropped from \$35 to \$25 in spite of a "loan" to the strike fund from the URW's General Fund.

A special URW Convention has been set for May 27 in Chicago mainly to raise dues and beef up the sagging strike fund.

endorsed slate demanded the elimination of the no-strike ENA and company-union productivity planning. They also demanded ratification by the membership of all agreements.

During his term in office, Sadlowski himself has proved unwilling to take a firm position on any of the most critical issues: the no-strike deal, racism and the

# RUBBER NOTES

## LITTLE RUBBER

While the Big Four are being struck, contracts with smaller rubber companies are expiring. For example, the contracts covering General Tire's two plants, in Akron and Waco, Texas, expired on Monday, May 17.

But union negotiators agreed to continue to work day to day under the old contract.

Both locals had overwhelmingly voted to authorize their leaders to call a strike. Why none was called is a mystery, especially to those 2700 GT workers involved.

## RUNAWAY SHOPS

An important issue in these strike is the runaway shop.

Rubber companies seek cheap labor in the South and use the

threat of moving plants against workers in cities like Akron.

Not all the striking URW members are tire builders. Thousands work making rubber hose, conveyor belts, and other rubber products.

They are the most susceptible to the runaway tactic. As usual, rubber companies are offering them less than they are offering tirebuilders.

URW Local 5 (Goodrich, non-tire) President Matt Contessa summed it up.

"Last time we negotiated, the Akron plant took 13.8 cents an hour less than the other plants. And they still moved the hose room down to Oneida, Tennessee. They can put out all the releases they want, but it's obvious they refuse to have any compassion for the people who work for them."

consent decree, layoffs and the loss of jobs. He has limited himself to secondary issues such as the dues increase.

The experience of the last three years with Arnold Miller in the United Mine Workers union should show that this timid kind of union reform just will not work.

A Sadlowski campaign may be important in breaking the Abel-

machine's grip on the USW. But just like Miller, he will be ground to pieces between the pressure of the corporations on the one hand, and the rank and file on the other.

To win back their union and to take on the corporations, steel workers will need a broad-based rank and file movement—not just the election campaign of one moderate reformer.