

IN THIS ISSUE
 CWA hounds militants . 3
 Italian Elections 4
 Terry Tyler Speaks 5
 Fletcher Acquittal. 5
 Baseball's Troubles . . 11

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS JUNE 28, 1976 #166 15c

"FITZ - GET OUT!"

Carhaulers Vote Down Contract

At the Teamsters International Convention in Las Vegas June 14, President Frank Fitzsimmons declared: "For those who would say...that it is time the officers quit selling out the membership of their union, I say to them: 'Go to Hell.'"

Less than a week later, an important section of the union gave Fitz his answer. The 20,000-member carhaulers division soundly rejected the national contract their leadership had negotiated.

The carhaulers are the truck drivers who deliver new cars from the factories to dealers. Theirs is one of only two nationwide contracts in the Teamsters Union. (The other is the national Master Freight Agreement.)

The carhaulers' contract expired May 31. Shortly before that date, the International announced that a settlement had been reached and that there would be no strike.

Anger mounted quickly when the terms were announced: The contract package contained language which worsened working conditions. It made drivers less able to control what routes they were given, and subject to harsher disciplinary action for resisting arbitrary management decisions.



Cheering Teamsters demand Fitz quit.

Members of Detroit Local 299 stood and applauded when one member said: "In Las Vegas, Fitzsimmons made some remarks that were totally unacceptable. I would like to make a motion that we demand Fitzsimmons resign."

WILDCATS

In Cincinnati, 400 members of Local 100 struck June 1. The strike lasted a week until the drivers were threatened with arrest and six months in jail if they didn't return to work.

But as the Cincinnati strike was being broken, 586 members of Local 332 in Flint, Michigan wildcatted. Their action threatened to close a GM assembly plant. After two weeks, the Teamsters International put Local 332 in trusteeship and a judge issued a back-to-work order.

But as the Flint strike was coming to an end, drivers for Automobile Transport Inc. (ATI) in Detroit, members of Local 299, went out for two days (see page 3).

At the same time the rejection of the national contract was announced, further negotiations are now in progress in Washington.

These three wildcats have been broken for the time being. But carhaulers in Cincinnati, Flint, Detroit and around the country have made their point real clear: "Fitzsimmons doesn't speak for us."

Read Teamster News

It was nice in Vegas, scene of the Teamsters Convention June 14-17, but real life has come crashing in on Frank Fitzsimmons and Co. since their return. And it's all in **Workers' Power**.

- Fitz apparently has had to back off his effort to install son Richard as President of Detroit Local 299. **Page 6.**
- The car haulers' contract negotiated by Fitz's special assistant Walter Shea has been overwhelmingly rejected. **This page.**
- The New York Times denounced the endorsement by Labor Secretary Usery of Fitzsimmons' leadership at last week's convention.
- Perhaps to soften this criticism, Labor Department sources revealed that their investigation into the Central States Pension Fund has found that millions are missing. As **Workers' Power** went to press, rumors were flying that this prime source of kickbacks, payoffs and gifts would be placed under government trusteeship.
- Finally, one week after returning to International Union Office after a five year legal ban as a result of an extortion conviction, Tony Provenzano was arrested for ordering the murder 15 years ago of a fellow Teamster official. **See page 3.**

This week and every week, **Workers' Power** has the most complete news and analysis of events in the Teamsters. We report the news as rank and file Teamsters see it and hear it—and especially, as they make it. That's why Fitz attacked **Workers' Power** repeatedly at his pre-convention press conference and at the Convention itself.

NEXT WEEK'S WORKERS' POWER will include full reports on the West Coast Associated Freight Strike and on the pension investigation, plus what happens between now and then. So if you're a Teamster, you should subscribe right now.

More important, you should write in with your news so others can read it. It won't be in the International Teamster or the daily papers, but if you write it, it will be in **Workers' Power**.

Why South Africa Exploded
 — see p.2

After the Battle of Soweto

The fighting in South Africa continued Monday and Tuesday this week.

On Monday, the battles spread from Soweto, a black township of over one million people, near Johannesburg, to the townships of Mabopane, Atteridgeville and Mamelodi, near Pretoria.

Official figures now say police have killed over 140, wounded over a thousand and arrested 900 people. Many of the dead are very young, 12 or 13 years old, with multiple gunshot wounds.

In each battle, the targets of the rebellions are the same: the government buildings which symbolize the system of police, pass books, segregation and brutality against black people in South Africa.

WE WILL RESIST!

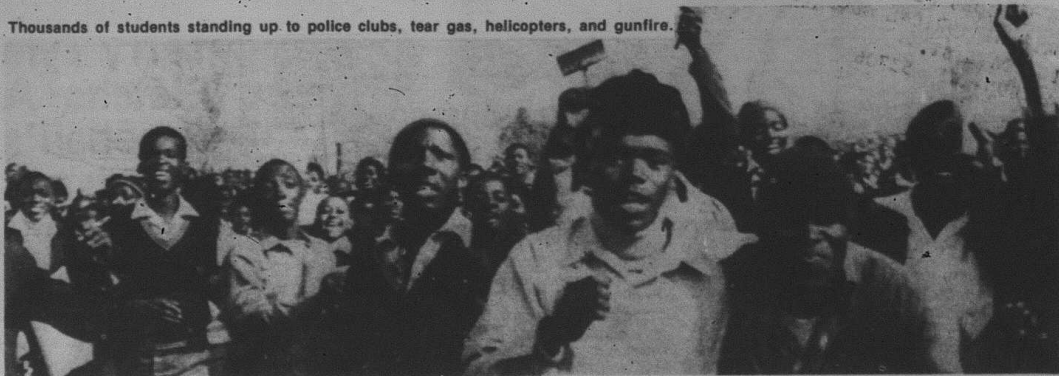
In Soweto, the fighting was spearheaded by mostly young students. But they are not isolated from the masses of black workers in the township.

Their message is clear: "We are through with accepting this white police state which is murdering us. From now on we will resist, every step of the way."

For the people of the townships, living in South Africa is like dying every day.

To go to work, they must take buses to their jobs for white

Thousands of students standing up to police clubs, tear gas, helicopters, and gunfire.



employers in Johannesburg or Pretoria. At nightfall, they must leave. When the buses are not running, they have to walk five, eight or more miles each way.

Everywhere they go, they must carry the "pass books" that identify their ancestry, their work records, their arrest histories. If caught without the pass books they may be jailed, heavily fined or deported to desolate "tribal homelands" to starve.

That is what the South African regime means by "separate development." It claims its vicious "apartheid" means long-term ra-

cial peace, harmony and stability.

But after the battle of Soweto, South Africa will never be the same. The regime can no longer claim, either to its white supporters or to the world, that apartheid means stability and order.

ONLY THE BEGINNING

The battle that began in Soweto will spread. The only question is how fast.

Clearly, there is underground organization in the townships, inside the schools.

From the outside, it is impossible

to tell whether this organization is directly linked to underground struggles of black industrial workers.

Last week's student battles have shaken the regime—but it will be the black workers who bring it down.

But the struggle in Soweto will create a climate for massive workers' upheavals, whether or not they break out immediately. The issues that triggered the student rebellion in Soweto are not separate from the whole structure of repression and capitalist exploitation in South Africa.

The struggle may become even more explosive this fall. Starting then, the regime plans to create "separate development" black states within South Africa where blacks without special permits will be forced to live.

Black South Africans will be forced to become "citizens" of these miserable "tribal homeland republics." That means that even the few rights they now have, on paper, in South Africa will be stripped away.

The rebellions over that issue may make the battle of Soweto look like a small tremor. □

labor notes

by Jim Woodward

Federal law says you cannot sue the postal service for not delivering the mail. So a store owner in California is suing nine postal workers because some advertising circulars he sent out a year ago were never delivered. With all the job cuts and speedup going on in the post offices around the country, the case sounds like a real joke. Except the judge is actually letting it come to trial, July 6.

The United Farm Workers union has announced that it is merging with the Agricultural Workers Association (ATA). The ATA is based among Puerto Rican workers on the east coast and has 6000 members. It does not as yet have any contracts with growers. Contracts for many Puerto Rican farm workers are negotiated between the Puerto Rican government and the growers. Puerto Rico then supplies the workers, who have no say about the terms of their contract.

According to the United Black Workers at the Mahwah, N.J. Ford plant, management regularly abused even the meager "voluntary overtime" provisions in the auto workers' contract. If a worker wants a personal absence day, or a medical pass, for instance, he is asked if he's working the next "voluntary" Saturday. The UBW reports that some local union officials have even been going around asking workers to work on Saturdays even if they don't want to.

A University of California report says that some employers are refusing to hire or keep women of child bearing age on their payroll. The employers are worried about exposing these women to health and safety damages, and find not employing them is easier than providing a safe work environment. The report was co-sponsored by the Heath Research Group; a Ralph Nadar organization.

Western Electric, a subsidiary of AT&T, recently admitted that it had falsified records and committed perjury to protect itself in a sex-discrimination suit. So the next time the phone company says you owe them \$4.95 for that long distance call to Parsippany, N.J., ask them if they've been falsifying records again.

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



...Can Kissinger Rush To This Man's Rescue?

Last month, when Henry Kissinger visited black African states, he promised his government's "unrelenting opposition" to white minority rule and vowed full support for majority rule in Southern Africa.

This week, in Germany, Kissinger met with South African Prime Minister John Vorster.

The reality of U.S. African policy was spelled out by Kissinger in a secret memorandum to President Nixon in 1970, which proposed:

"The Whites are here to stay, and the only way that constructive change can come about is through them..."

"Through some economic assistance to the Black States (a total of about \$5 million a year) we can help to draw the two groups together and exert some influence..."

"We would maintain public opposition to racial repression but relax political isolation and economic restrictions on the White States (South Africa and Rhodesia)..."

"We would take diplomatic steps to convince the Black States that their only hope for a peaceful and prosperous future lies in closer relations with White-dominated States..."

"We would indicate (to the

White regimes) our willingness to accept political arrangements short of guaranteed progress toward minority rule."

CIVIL WAR

That memorandum also predicted Portuguese colonialism would fall, and it laid the foundation for Washington's attempt to destroy independent Angola through civil war waged by neo-colonialist puppet groups.

The U.S. has the same goals today in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Kissinger's calls for "negotiations" by Zimbabwean liberation forces are aimed at splitting their movement and causing another bloody civil war.

That's why, on his trip to Africa, Kissinger met with the middle-class politician Joshua Nkomo, who wants to settle the war by "negotiating" peace with the white government.

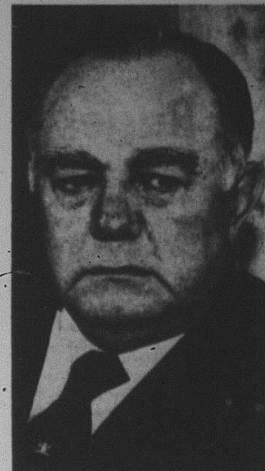
Kissinger's meeting with Vorster this week represents the same basic politics. For public consumption, he will claim the U.S. is putting strong pressure on South Africa to move toward "peace and racial equality."

In private, however, he will make clear that the U.S. government wants to keep close economic ties to this white-ruled police state—and that the only "guarantee" Washington really wants is a guarantee that South African capitalism will survive.

NAZI VORSTER

Kissinger believes that "constructive change" in South Africa, like the rest of Africa, must come through white politicians like John Vorster.

John Vorster is the Prime Minister of South Africa, the country where the philosophy of the Ku



John Vorster, ex-Nazi

Klux Klan and the Nazi Party is the law of the land.

The country where a black worker's life is worth about as much as the gold he brings up from the ground in a day's work.

John Vorster himself served time in prison in 1944 for collaborating with the Nazis. After the war, his Nationalist Party came to power and clamped a total reign of terror and slavery on black people.

Last week when massive black protests exploded over South Africa's apartheid laws, John Vorster was the man who vowed they would be "ended" "without any regard to persons."

That tells all we need to know about what Henry Kissinger meant, when he told the African presidents that Washington wants order and "peaceful transitions" in Africa. □

Workers' Power 166

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GOOD-BY TONY - WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU GO

TONY PROVENZANO, noted mafioso and Teamsters Union official, may be feeling he can't win this week.

At last week's Teamster Convention Tony ended a five year absence from union office. He had been barred by law because he had done time for extorting money from Dohrn trucking. Last week he was returned to office.

On Wednesday of this week Tony Pro was arrested for conspiring to murder a fellow union official, Anthony Castelli, 15 years ago.

Also arrested was Salvatore Briguglio. Both had been investigated extensively in connection with the disappearance of James Hoffa. Apparently the Hoffa investigation turned up an informant who talked.

Provenzano's lawyer is William Bufalino, who is also president of Local 985 in Detroit and an International Organizer and Counsel. Bufalino also served as counsel for many of the suspects in the disappearance of Hoffa, including Briguglio.

Congratulations, Tony. You deserve everything you get. □

County Workers' Strike Gains Wide Support

by Richard Hobbes

OAKLAND, Ca.—The strike by some 4000 Alameda County employees is now entering its fourth week with little prospect of an immediate settlement.

The county workers, represented by three locals of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) are demanding the same raise the administration granted the management bargaining unit.

Strikers recently staged a sit-in at the office of the chairperson of the County Board of Supervisors.

The union has been picketing the County Fairgrounds to prevent or delay the fair's scheduled opening June 27.

Workers making fair preparations (represented by IBEW and CWA) have honored these picket lines.



Picket lines stay up in Alameda County.

The lines continue despite a temporary restraining order.

Strikers have also been picketing the building site of the new county courthouse in Hayward. This has

slowed construction.

Management responded by spending more taxpayer's money on security guards and sheriff's deputies' overtime and stonewalling negotiations.

The bill for the first ten days of the sheriff's department overtime alone would have paid for two of the strikers' demands.

SUPPORT

Throughout the strike the union has emphasized that it is striking against management, not against other working people who would be hurt by the interruption in social services.

Slogans like "Jobs Not Jails," "Stop the Cutbacks in Social Services," and "Make the Corporations Pay" emphasize the need to re-order county spending priorities.

Support by community organizations is growing. A series of support demonstrations the week of June 21 will end with a rally and march to the Hayward courthouse construction site on Saturday June 26.

Nearly all other public employee locals in the area have provided moral and material support. Teamsters of Local 70 (freight) have consistently honored picket lines.

However, other unions have not been as rigorous in supporting the principles of labor solidarity.

Joint Council 7 of the IBT refused to sanction the strike. Many Teamster delivery drivers are crossing lines. Some building trades locals have refused to honor lines at construction sites.

Bus drivers at Alameda County Transit denied an SEIU request for a one-day sympathy strike. These bus drivers' contract with another public agency expires next summer.

A defeat for county workers now, will encourage the transit management to cut further into the wages and conditions of the drivers.

During this period of attack on public workers, coordinated action and mutual assistance is the only way the management offensive can be turned around. □

ANGRY CARHAULERS SHUT DOWN COMPANY

by Duane Hammill

Automobile Transport Inc. (ATI), one of the largest haulaway firms in the metro Detroit area, was shut down June 21 by Teamsters angry at the union hierarchy.

Using the only tactic that seems to make union officials listen, the ATI carhaulers wildcatted.

The strike, which lasted two days, began shortly after a specially scheduled Local 299 meeting for carhaulers. Discussion there centered around problems with the proposed contract.

The proposed contract had been turned down by carhaulers nationally.

UNION TRICKERY

Local 299 president Dave Johnson knew in advance of the June 21 meeting that the membership of the carhaulers division planned to wildcat all the major companies in the metro Detroit area.

After much discussion of the new language that the negotiating team had allowed the companies to insert, the executive board was asked by the membership to leave until a vote could be taken to determine the next step the rank and file would take.

But before a strike vote could be taken, Johnson came back into the hall and took over the mike. He pleaded with the 600 members present not to wildcat. Johnson

reasoned that if the carhaulers struck, the local would most certainly be put into receivership by the International.

This scare tactic seemed to work: only one of the five major car transport companies was struck. The threat of trusteeship is real for 299, but it may be very difficult for the International to implement because of the strength of the membership.

ATI SHUTS DOWN

Johnson asked for ten more days to work out the eight grievances presented to him by ATI employees. The drivers replied that they "were not going to give him 10 more seconds."

Well organized picket squads were posted at the ATI's Wayne terminal which works closely with nearby Ford production plants.

A spokesman for ATI strikers, Al Ferdnace, emphasized that the walkout was primarily directed at the Teamster leadership.

Even though only ATI was being struck, the employers and the union officials were genuinely scared. Their fear was real because of the possibility that the other four haulaway companies might go out.

The union even attempted to get the strikers to sell out by offering Ferdnace a Business Agent position. This and other union tactics were of no avail. The picketing lasted for a day and a half before a



James Calhoun, a member of Local 299, displays his ballot for the carhaulers contract. It is postmarked June 14, the same day it was due back.

summons was presented to the strike leaders.

Strikers remained out the extra half day to insure that no one would be fired. This effort was successful, but strikers are still angry.

They are ready to go back out when Johnson's 10 days are up, if re-negotiations are unsuccessful

from the membership's point of view.

Ferdnace summed up the feeling of Teamster members everywhere when he said, "The union officials expect us to lay on our backs while they shit on our faces. From now on we're not going to eat it!" □

CWA Officials Move To Purge Local 1101 Militants

NEW YORK — President Ed Dempsey and the executive board of Local 1101, Communication Workers of America, are making another move to stamp out all opposition in that local.

Four members of the United Action caucus here have been brought up on charges before the local's trial jurors and threatened with expulsion from the union.

The four New York Bell telephone employees who face charges are George Feldman, Ilene Wink-

ler, Brent Kramer, and George Wilson.

Recently UA ran candidates against the executive board in an election for convention delegates. The caucus did not win, but did receive 30% of the vote. This seems to have made the incumbents nervous.

After the election UA held a raffle to raise money to send a UA member to the convention (CWA national convention).

Now UA members are being

charged with fraudulent use of the local's name to raise money for "personal purposes."

TICKETS CLEAR

The raffle tickets clearly said "UA of Local 1101—CWA." The name of the caucus has been used for five years without objection.

Leaflets handed out about the raffle clearly stated the purpose for which the money was being raised, and that UA was trying to build an

alternative to the Dempsey machine.

What's really going on is that the bureaucrats in the local don't like the idea of the UA members going to the convention. They don't want the membership to get a full report of what our delegates do there.

They don't want members of Local 1101 working with members of other locals to fight the sell-out policies of International President Watts and the international union. They are embarrassed that UA is building a national challenge to

them. The Dempsey machine has already been weakened by bringing these charges.

Both supporters and opponents of UA have risen to the group's defense. They understand the charges are lies and the motivation behind them.

One chief steward who was instrumental in bringing the charges has had his position threatened by the ranks if he persists. If the local leadership pushes these charges to their conclusion, they might lose a lot more. □

George Alikar

PORTUGAL:

U.S. Plots Civil War As Election Nears



Masses of Portuguese workers, mobilized by the Presidential campaign for Otelo de Carvalho, will not accept U.S.-backed capitalist repression.

by Dan Posen

The week, five M-48 tanks and 20 ultra-modern armored personnel carriers from the United States were unloaded in Lisbon.

The reported purpose of this equipment is "the formation of an air-transportable mechanized brigade of 5000 to 6000 men that could contribute to NATO in the event of a war."

Workers in Portugal know very well what that means. Washington's gift of military hardware is intended to be used against them in a civil war.

ments of support for Otelo de Carvalho from revolutionary soldiers are now being read at meetings.

All this points to an even bigger round of struggles after the elections. Within six, nine or twelve months Portugal could once again be at the point of revolutionary crisis.

The U.S.-State Department and CIA are out to make sure that Eanes has plenty of firepower and elite forces when that happens.

ELECTION POSTPONED?

Because of this threat, revolutionaries are re-doubling their efforts to mobilize a massive working class vote against Eanes.

The election date, June 25, is now in question because one of the candidates, Prime Minister Azevedo, suffered a heart attack Wednesday. The voting may be postponed.

But when the vote does take place, the revolutionary left may be strong enough to prevent Eanes from winning a first ballot victory (i.e., more than 50% of the vote). That would force him into a run-off.

This result would be an impressive show of strength by the revolutionary left and the working class. It would be a good start for the new round of struggles just ahead.

ELITE FORCES

Portugal's Presidential vote is scheduled this weekend. But the governments of the United States and western Europe know that this election will in no way settle the future of Portugal.

Massive new class struggles lie ahead in Portugal: The real purpose for Washington to supply hardware for a highly mobile, heavily armed elite military striking force is all too obvious.

Last year, thousands of workers' strikes, factory occupations and rank and file soldiers' rebellions swept through Portugal.

For most of the year, the Portuguese government was totally unable to use military force against these struggles. The great majority of ordinary soldiers were in revolt, and refused to be used against the working class.

At the newspaper Republica, at Radio Renascenca, at hundreds of factories and in agrarian struggles, workers won one victory after another because the regime had no reliable forces to use against them.

Efforts by the government to form elite right-wing striking forces, like the Military Intervention Unit (AMI), collapsed in total failure.

However, since last November 25, the government once more controls the armed forces. Chief of Staff Ramalho Eanes has waged a six-month campaign to wipe out soldiers' rights and destroy rank and file soldiers' organization.

THE NEXT CRISIS

This same right-wing general, Eanes, is now the leading candidate for President of Portugal.

But Portuguese workers have not been defeated. A series of powerful struggles this year have revived their fighting confidence and spirit.

First, there was a successful campaign of mass demonstrations forcing the government to release military prisoners. Then, there was a wave of national strikes and new battles for workers' control.

Most dramatically, the current Presidential campaign has seen an enormous revival of revolutionary sentiment in the working class, through the revolutionary left's campaign for former General Otelo de Carvalho.

This campaign is the only serious alternative to Eanes. It is based on mobilizing workers around a socialist program and organizations of struggle.

Literally hundreds of thousands of workers have been mobilized through mass assemblies, workers' and tenants' committees, agricultural co-ops and "dynamization groups" in this campaign. That means there is a new base to organize for "popular power" and workers' councils in the months ahead.

As a result of this workers' mobilization, underground organization among rank and file soldiers is starting to surface again. State-

The Italian elections are over. The votes are in and counted. The Christian Democratic Party, supported by big business and the United States, kept its small margin over the Italian Communist Party.

In other words, the election has settled nothing.

The maneuvering to form Italy's 39th post-war government will now begin. Once again, the Communist Party will probably be kept out of positions in the Cabinet.

No stable capitalist government

is possible in Italy without the Communist Party. So the government will fail, and collapse in the last 38.

Then the question of bringing the CP into a government coalition will boil up once again.

PORK BARREL

The power of the Christian Democratic Party rests on an overstuffed patronage machine that fills positions in the government, the

nationalized industries, insurance companies, civil service and the universities.

Millions of its middle-class supporters are rewarded with profitable jobs.

Vast sums handed out to pay for reforms, such as improved housing, wind up in the pockets of politicians and hangers-on.

So do untold millions in international bribes from Lockheed Corporation.

The upper classes manage to get away with paying virtually no taxes. Just like they do in this country, but in Italy it's even worse!

Meanwhile, southern Italy remains the poorest part of Europe; and workers in Italian cities put up with appalling housing.

SOCIAL TURMOIL

This is why Italy has been going through social turmoil for the last seven years.

In 1969, almost every major factory was either on strike, or occupied by the workers.

Since then, the last few years have seen a major upsurge of violence by fascist gangs, supported by the police and the right wing of the Christian Democrats; massive struggles for basic women's rights like divorce and abortion; and widespread struggles by workers and tenants over housing and social services.

Not long ago, for example, unemployed workers in Rome decided to show that the government was lying when it said there was "no work available." To prove their point, and to demand jobs, they marched into one of the

biggest hospitals in Rome and started cleaning it up!

Militant tactics like this show that Italian workers are ready to struggle for drastic changes in the way Italy is run.

The Italian Communist Party wants to participate in the government to reform Italian capitalism.

The CP campaign promised that voting for the CP candidates had nothing to do with any kind of revolution!

The Communist Party gained a substantial number of votes in this election. But the Christian Democrats also gained votes, mostly from the smaller Republican and Liberal Parties whose supporters voted for the Christian Democrats to keep the CP out of the government.

The result was another standoff—about 39% for the Christian Democrats, 35% for the Communist Party. The CP gained 49 seats in Parliament, the Christian Democrats lost three, and the CP also showed big gains in city elections in Rome and Genoa.

This means the political battles in Italy will continue. And the rising militancy of Italian workers may bring the struggle to a flash point.

As we reported last week, three groups to the left of the Communist Party ran a lost slate of candidates in the Italian elections. We do not yet know how many votes the slate received. We will report on the result of the vote for the revolutionary left next week.



Italian workers march against layoffs.

TERRY TYLER FIGHTS FOR BROTHER'S LIFE

The word is out. And it's being picked up and spread across this country. Gary Tyler must be freed from the Louisiana prison where he awaits death by electrocution.

Tyler is a 17-year-old militant black student from Destrahan, La. He was framed for a murder that took place when mobs of racists attacked a bus carrying black students home from a newly integrated school.

Support for Tyler's freedom is growing massively because his case touches the lives and conditions that thousands of young people—particularly minorities—face every day of their lives. Tomorrow, you or me could be Gary Tyler, and everyone contributing to his defense knows it.

Gary Tyler fought the hatred that the police have for blacks. He took a stand for equality, and ended up on death row.

The State of Louisiana is saying: "Fight us, fight racism, and you die." And ever-growing numbers of people are answering back: "Not a chance. Not if we have anything to say about it. And we will."

As part of the defense movement, Terry Tyler, Gary's brother, was in Detroit last week. Terry is a member of the National Gary Tyler Defense Committee. Here, he discusses the case with Lisa Abron, chairperson of the Detroit Committee to Free Gary Tyler. Terry began by explaining what happened that fateful day in Destrahan.

"On October 7, 1974, everybody was at school. This riot broke out at lunch when a black chick got busted in the head with a milk carton. Everybody was fighting.

"The white people were trying to get the blacks off the campus... So all the blacks were getting on the buses, and they rolled.

"Gary didn't come to school that day because he was suspended. The police picked him up three miles from school and brought him back. They told him to go catch the bus. Me and Gary were on the last to leave out.

"They bused us through the white neighborhood, instead of the usual route.

"The bus driver, Kojo, told everybody to put up their windows. Like, our cousin, said, 'Look at the white boys on the porch with their guns.' He said, 'Everybody duck.' A shot was fired.

"So, the Man told Kojo to pull his bus over, and told us to get off one by one. We got off.

"They arrested Ike cause he had this quarter with a hole drilled through it. Gary got real mad cause Ike got arrested.

GUN POINT

"They put Gary in a car, searched the buses, and took us down to the police station at gun point. Gary's arrest was changed that night to first degree murder."

Terry was in Detroit to help build a June 13th rally and march demanding Gary's freedom. 350 Detroiters, mostly young blacks, turned out.

Terry commented, "The rally was right on, and the demonstration was even better. We got a lot

of people) and that's what we need—more people."

Discussing other activities, Terry stressed the importance of a national rally that the National Defense Committee is organizing for June 24 in New Orleans.



Terry Tyler and Lisa Abron

The other major activity Terry talked about was the Freedom Fighters, a group he organized.

"The Freedom Fighters are a group of black and white students in Destrahan. We give as many fund-raising activities as we can: benefits and parties, sell buttons

and literature, and pass out leaflets about Gary's case."

The entire Tyler family has faced intense pressure to drop their struggle to free their son and brother. But Terry summed up their feelings—and the feelings of

thousands of Gary's supporters—when he said,

"I don't feel good about the whole thing, [but] I've got a strong mind about it. I'll do everything in my power to see that Gary doesn't get the electric chair."

RACIST, SEXIST CONSPIRACY EXPOSED

Flint Policewoman Acquitted

by Dan Posen

DETROIT—A 20-year-old policewoman has been acquitted in Flint, Michigan on a charge of shooting her 34-year-old partner.



Madeline Fletcher

Madeline Fletcher is black. The officer she wounded, Walter Kalberer, is white.

Last December 27, Fletcher and Kalberer exchanged shots in a wild shootout in front of Flint Police headquarters. Fletcher was arrested that same day, as she lay in a stretcher in a hospital emergency room.

She was charged with "felonious assault" and "assault with intent to do great bodily harm."

Her trial began in May and lasted five weeks. Fletcher was defended by Ken Cockrel, the most brilliant criminal lawyer in the state, who has defended many other victims of racist repression and frame-ups.

The case attracted enormous

publicity. And no wonder.

RACISM, SEXISM

The spectacle of police shooting each other on the street is uncommon enough in itself. But everyone knew that in this case the basic issue was the blatant and undeniable racism and sexism of the Flint Police Department.

Madeline Fletcher's testimony, backed up by the admissions of high police officials, proved she had good reason to fear a conspiracy in the Police Department to drive her out, or murder her.

She also proved she had shot her "partner" in self-defense.

On December 27, Kalberer tried to yank Fletcher out of their police cruiser. Then they fought with night sticks.

When Fletcher tried to walk away, Kalberer followed, beating her head and shoulders with his club.

Finally they exchanged shots, with three other policemen joining in. Fletcher was wounded in the stomach, Kalberer in the thigh.

A police dispatcher was heard over the air, shortly after the shooting, saying it was too bad that Madeline Fletcher's wounds were not serious enough to kill her.

The trial jury, which included several black members, realized that the prosecution's efforts to destroy her testimony and her character were a pack of lies. The jury foreman, a black woman, said she would have held out "six months," if necessary, for an acquittal.

This whole case should do a lot to

expose what the police are all about.

If white police are out to murder their own black partners, it is easy to imagine how they treat defenseless young black people in the community; who don't have the protection of a uniform.

There have been several recent examples of open racist violence inside police departments in the Detroit area. When layoffs hit the Detroit force, white police who were laid off "out of seniority" held a demonstration at City Hall with their guns and jumped several black officers on the scene.

Madeline Fletcher now says she wants her job in the Flint Police Department back again. But she would be better off without it.

The police are an institution of a racist system. They do not exist in any way to free black people from oppression—but to keep them down.

The police cannot be "reformed" by getting blacks and women on the force, or by taking them over from inside. The only way to change them is to get rid of them, by destroying the capitalist property relations they protect.

Black police officers who want to keep their jobs are forced to become as brutal and vicious as any other color of cop. Becoming policemen or policewomen is no step forward for black people.

Discrimination by police departments should be exposed like any other kind of racism. But Madeline Fletcher goes back to her "job," she will soon be every bit a part of the system that tried to kill her.

Free Gary Now!

THE BATTLE OF LOCAL 2

A TEAMSTER TINDERBOX

by Steve Kindred

For years the Fitzsimmons and Hoffa factions ruled Detroit's Local 299 as a team. Jimmy Hoffa was the captain. Rank and file opposition was either bought off or bombed out.

When Hoffa was sent to jail in 1968, he selected Frank Fitzsimmons as International President. Frank would be an obedient and not too talented stand-in.

But Frank began to like the job, and Hoffa had to fight back. His starting place was to be the old stamping grounds—Local 299.

In the fall of 1974 local elections approached. The cold war between the Fitz and Hoffa groups caught fire.

Hoffa had three serious problems. His machine was mainly old, even though his local support was broad. Dave Johnson had held the local presidency open for Hoffa. Now Johnson wanted desperately to retire.

BARRED

Then Hoffa was barred by parole restrictions from entering the fight directly. If younger Hoffa forces, out of the barns, carried the ball, Hoffa's central role would begin to fade.

Finally, Jimmy wanted to avoid moves which would close his openings to sections of the bureaucracy. If he moved to re-gain power in the International those openings would be crucial.

But there was no way the isolated Fitzsimmons' faction could win the membership election. Despite his problems, Hoffa could have driven that faction out of the local. Instead, to keep the situation open, he arranged a deal—a secret coalition slate.

Dave Johnson would be president. Dickie Fitz, Frank's son, the vice-president. The other executive board spots gave the Hoffa group a 4-3 majority, but day-to-day local affairs would be in the hands of Earl Greyheck, a Fitzsimmons man.

For the deal to go through, all

Detroit Teamsters Local 299 is one of the most important local unions in the country. It is the home local of Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons and his son Richard. It was the home local of Jimmy Hoffa. It is one of the largest and most powerful locals in the Teamsters. Several years ago the local was in the news because of

violence between the Hoffa and Fitzsimmons forces.

Now the local is in the news again. Now it is because the rank and file is on the move. The actions of the rank and file in Detroit expose Fitzsimmons' claim to represent the members. And they are an example that can help build the rank and file movement around the country.

the other nominees had to be persuaded or forced to withdraw—including several popular rank and file militants in the Hoffa camp. Johnson enforced the deal. He threatened to decline to run.

He was willing to leave the presidency to Roland MacMasters, a long-time local muscle man. MacMasters was certain to make a deal with Fitzsimmons.

Johnson's threat, along with Hoffa's prestige and the lack of rank and file organization, overrode membership protests.

After the "unanimous" election of the single slate in December of 1974, no one ruled 299. Johnson spent much of his time in his Florida home. Hoffa was engrossed in efforts to break the legal restrictions barring him from union activity.

As the recession, unemploy-

ment, and the employers' attacks increased in seriousness, the Hoffa group had no policy to meet these problems. They were only holding things open.

With little local popularity, but much backing from the International, the Fitzsimmons faction—led by the Greyheck administration—let union representation decline to new depths.

VACUUM

In the fall of 1975 the rank and file began to move into the vacuum between the executive board factions.

In September workers at Interstate Systems struck over two issues. Freight hauled by owner-operators was growing and their stewards' effectiveness was dropping. The strike began to spread to

Dickie Fitz Is Out

DETROIT, June 24 — As Workers' Power goes to press it appears the attempt by the Teamsters International to impose control over the rebellious membership of Local 299 has failed for the moment.

Last week in Las Vegas, two anti-Fitzsimmons members of the 299 executive board, Bob Lins and Steve Riddle, had been pressured to allow an "investigation" of the local leading to a possible trusteeship.

International VP Harold Gibbons came in Wednesday as the investigator. When Gibbons arrived, the local executive board held another election to fill the vacancy created by Dave

Johnson's resignation.

Again the board rejected the contention by Richard Fitzsimmons, local VP and son of Frank, that he should automatically become president. Instead they again voted 4-0 to make Bob Lins president. The Fitzsimmons forces abstained.

Gibbons is quoted by the Detroit Free Press as "satisfied" with the results. He denied plans to place the local in trusteeship.

However, the International is not dead yet. Word out of the hall this afternoon was that on July 7, 8 and 9 a panel will sit in Detroit to "hear the feelings of the membership."

other cities. The whole city was electric.

The BA's stayed in the hall. Interstate strikers held firm when the company tried to fire them all. The stewards were protected.

The wildcat was basically a victory. This dramatic episode was reflected around the city. Rank and file activity in the terminals increased since the lack of protection from the hall and the grievance procedure continued.

In April, when Jimmy Hoffa was kidnapped and murdered, the man who had called the shots for so long was gone. Now the rank and file had to take their fate in their own hands.

Through the Interstate Systems, Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) literature found its way into Detroit. Here was an activity that involved the teamster militants out front. TDC focussed on the issues of the upcoming contract, not personalities.

The contract coalition showed that the problems of 299 were bigger than the problems of local union politics. Rank and filers around the country were moving.

Lacking effective opposition from either group of local officers, TDC in Detroit quickly grew to be the largest and most significant in the country.

This began a long string of rank and file victories in Detroit which soon made the 299 situation a crisis for Frank Fitzsimmons. Squabbles between factions are common. The defeat of an old bunch of officers and the taming of the new ones happens often.

But dri ing an active and angry rank and file back into the woodwork is much more difficult. The events of the spring of 1976 have made clear that if the ranks are organized and ready to fight, all Frank Fitzsimmons' money and political connections are nowhere equal in power.

EVENTS

- On the TDC-UPSurge National Day of Action, March 13, 400 Detroit Teamsters took over the 299 hall to begin the drive toward the contract's expiration.
- When the International and



In April, 4000 members of Local 299 rose

Local officials tried to push through the sellout freight contract, Detroit said "no!" On Monday, 4000 roared their anger at Cobo Hall two days after the back to work order. When it became clear that the rest of the country was not ready to wildcat, Detroit went back to work on Tuesday with no losses.

• In the election for extra Convention delegates, 10 rank and filers were elected. Only three of the 10 BA's running were elected. At the Convention, Pete Camarata, chairman of Detroit Teamsters for a

Goons Attack - Eyewitness Acc

They came to Vegas to get away from the rank and file. To act like rich people among the gamblers, pension fund thieves, politicians and government officials.

But one rank and filer reminded the Teamster officials that back home are 2.2 million members who

aren't patting the payroll on the back.

They couldn't stand even one soft voiced reminder from the membership. So they desperately struck back with a swift, organized and cowardly goon attack.

They cannot speak to the issues,

so they try to red bait. When that fails they try to frighten.

REMINDER

The reminder came on Thursday morning. They'd had their way at the convention. The cheering and the voting and the booing were all on cue. Fitz stayed cool in the chair. These were his people.

But on Thursday morning Pete Camarata, from the Teamsters for a Democratic Union in Fitz's home local, rose to enter one dissenting vote to the re-election of Frank Fitzsimmons.

In one moment the truth about the Teamsters Convention was revealed. That one vote represented at least a million.

Every self-satisfied delegate in that huge hall knew it. They know the ranks hate Fitzsimmons and the gangster-business unionism he represents.

They know Frank Fitzsimmons could never come close in a membership vote for President of the Teamsters.

Their desperate and cowardly counter-attack came on Thursday night. They'd gathered for one last fling before returning home. Fitz threw a huge cocktail party to say thanks.

But there was no escape from the quiet reminder—the big bald man from 299 who wouldn't go along.

Pete and Don, another TDU'er, and I decided to go to the party. On the way in, a few whispered that they admired what Pete had done. There were some friendly faces.

There was the effort to guide us onto the right path by a kind old man who draws \$150,000 of our dues money—to bring us into the fold.

WHOSE UNION?

But they couldn't relax with us there. We remind them of home—whose Union did we think this is anyway? The hostile stares got longer.

A man came up to pick a fight, but was restrained. Perhaps a

provocation to get us to leave.

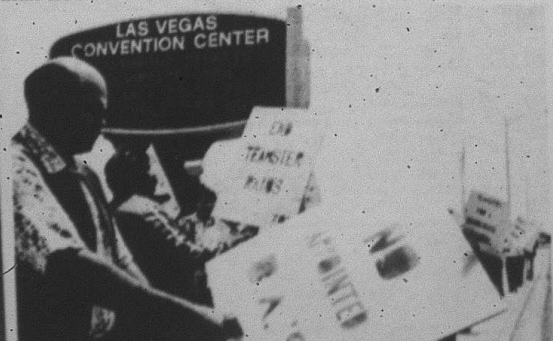
A "security guard" from the International offered to escort us out the door safely—to make sure there's no incident. It made sense, so we left.

As we came out of the plush casino, the Aladdin, Frank Fitzsimmons and his crew of guards and hangers-on were also there. We hung back to avoid any incident.

The attack was quiet too. Just the pop of a blind side sucker punch and the crack of a pointed cowboy boot hitting the stunned body on the sidewalk.

Don and I stepped into the fight. Some good people stepped in too—including an ex-LA Ram working as muscle for the union. Some of the help didn't work out that way.

At least one member of our "security guard" escorts stepped into us with his shoe. The commotion and the extra hotel guards on hand for Fitz ended the attack before their intended damage was done.



Pete Camarata joining a TDU picket line in Las Vegas.



roared their disapproval when their officers tried to order them back to work after the freight sellout.

Democratic Union (TDC's new name) led the fight to make the union more democratic. He cast the lone vote on record against Frank Fitzsimmons.

In the Convention Hall, Camarata was alone. But in Teamster living rooms around the country he was cheered.

Detroit is the center of the carhauling industry. The recently negotiated national carhauling agreement covering 19,000 Teamsters has just been overwhelmingly voted down.

Following the freight wildcat, the International moved in to pressure Dave Johnson to resign. The rank and file was out of his control.

Johnson had come in for a good deal of heat as he rode the fence between the pressure of the International and the pressure of the rank and file. Retirement in Florida probably began to look even more attractive.

The International's aim was to pull a quick move to replace Johnson with Dick Fitzsimmons. Then they'd use muscle and payoffs to divide and confuse the membership before the next local elections in December, 1977.

If that was not possible they planned to put the local under trusteeship and accomplish the same purpose. They reckoned without the rank and file.

Several things combined to remind them that Teamster power might explode in their faces. 2600 signatures were collected calling for a local-wide vote for Johnson's replacement.

Camarata's place as top vote-getter in the Convention delegate elections would make it difficult to cast the rank and file as a minority. The timely rejection of the carhauling agreement served as a further reminder.

Finally, there is a simple and overwhelming sentiment in the local that Dickie Fitz will not do. His last public appearance at the strike vote meeting was greeted by uniform boobying by the 1800 members present.

NOT ORGANIZED

This rebellious sentiment has not been organized. Public leadership of the fight against Fitzsimmons and trusteeship has stayed with the politicians—the retiring Dave Johnson and Bob Lins, new President of 299.

But it is only the unorganized,

but everpresent, determination of the ranks that has given their efforts any clout. More important, it has served notice on the wavering Lins that he would be finished in 299 if he gave in to international pressure.

For the moment a battle has been won. It is an important one, an inspiration to Teamster militants around the country. But the 299 membership is now an even greater threat to Fitzsimmons.

He will continue to probe. He will try to confuse and buy off. Only by staying on the offensive can the rank and file remain secure.

The by-laws of Local 299 can be made the most democratic in the nation. Through a local paper and meetings, the rank and file can be brought into local affairs so that everyone understands and has a stake in the struggle.

Instead of seeking peace with the Fitzsimmons faction, its behavior can be exposed and its power reduced.

Instead of leaving politics to the politicians, allies can be gained in other Detroit and Michigan locals by helping rank and file movements there.

Through the Teamsters for a Democratic Union, the fight against Fitzsimmons' brand of unionism can be taken onto the only scale where he can be beaten—national. And beaten by the only power he is afraid of—unbought, but angry and organized Teamster militants.

Fights on the issues will organize the membership, give a clear example of a different kind of unionism, and show it pays to organize.

This will not happen automatically. Backroom politics, even of the rank and file variety, will confuse and divide the membership. It will take organization.

It will take work and patience. The stakes—job security, working conditions and dignity—leave the ranks no choice.

“Would we all be the same?”

“Okay, so none of the countries in the world that call themselves socialist are socialist or communist.

“But what about socialism itself. Isn't that a society where everything is the same, where everybody dresses alike, lives in the same drab housing, and eats the same drab food?”

“I'm an individual, I don't want to be like everybody else.”

One of the ways that the ruling class tries to discredit socialism is by claiming that it would reduce everything to dull regimentation. The also tell us that capitalism gives us variety, and the chance to lead exciting lives.

WHOSE INDIVIDUALITY?”

Capitalism proclaims individuality as its highest virtue. But let's look at the reality beneath these lies.

The pleasure of “individuality” in this society is really only for a very few—the few who own the massive companies like General Motors, AT&T, U.S. Steel, UPS, Consolidated Freightways, and the other businesses that dominate our economy.

The rest of us are expected to work for these companies, doing monotonous, mind-deadening jobs.

That means working on an assembly line, driving 70 hours a week, typing away at an office, or answering directory assistant calls continuously.

In all of these jobs and many, many more, most of our individuality has been taken away.

Indeed, capitalism could only develop in the first place by deliberately setting out to take away the individuality of working people.

This system requires a disciplined, regimented-work-force, which can totally control to get the maximum amount of work out of us for the lowest cost and thus get the highest profit.

When capitalism first developed in this country in the 1800's, it deliberately set about to destroy our individuality.

The then-new system forced its workers, whether they liked it or not, to keep set hours, to do the same work day after day, hour after hour, minute after minute, and to regard this work as their only aim in life, to sacrifice their small personal pleasures to endless toil.

THE EXTREME

Today, modern capitalism has carried this through to the extreme. Look at United Parcel Service.

UPS workers even have to dress alike, wear their hair the same, in addition to accounting for every second, including rest room breaks, that they spend on the clock.

Massive resources have gone into developing phoney sciences of time-study, and industrial relations.

These are not sciences at all, but simply ways of disciplining us even more in order to get more work out of us. All this further erodes our individuality.

But it is not just on the job that our individuality is taken away. What about the public school system?

The schools don't care if the

students learn to express their own ideas or develop their own individual abilities.

No, what matters most is that these students learn to be disciplined, to learn the way to become “good” workers.

In overcrowded class rooms, the discipline is more important than learning. Students are disciplined to not wear hats in the class room, to keep quiet, and come and go at the ring of a bell.

HOUSING

Or, how about housing. Supposedly we can live in any kind of housing we want. But segregation keeps black people from moving freely.

And without a lot of money, most people live in housing that continuously falls apart, or in small apartments with no privacy.

Even new housing often looks all exactly alike. Individuality in housing is for the bosses, not for us.

But, if this is really what capitalism is like, how did people get the idea that this monotony is what socialism is all about?

One reason is that the most drab and uniform things in our society are those provided by the government or developed by the government. And Ronald Reagan and others tell us that socialism is government control. But, as we pointed out in an earlier column, socialism is not government control, but workers' control.

TOTALITARIANISM

Another reason is that all of us have been told time and time again about how regimented and totalitarian the societies of Russia, China and East Germany are.

But again, these countries are not socialist or communist. They are run by bureaucratic ruling classes for their own benefit.

These societies certainly are as bad or worse than capitalism when it comes to destroying individuality, but they are not socialist.

Real individuality, the full and complete development of the distinct capacities and talents of each individual will be possible only when society is run for human need, not profit.

Today, individuality is often thought of as personal quirks or tastes. And that's largely because we rarely get to express our individuality on more than personal matters, since society excludes us from having much of an impact.

In a socialist society, working people will rule collectively. This will mean more individuality, because each person's ideas will be important, not just those of a few businessmen or politicians.

When we can use our energies for more than trying to stay ahead of the bills, how much more rich and individual our lives will be. □

[Future columns will discuss the ways capitalism works to keep workers divided while attacking their individuality.]

“Workers' control means real individuality—for everyone.”

count

The attackers fled into the casino to blend in among their backers. Fitz scurried off in his limousine.

The line was drawn. The sympathetic and patronizing officials drew away from us. When the word came down from the Union officials, the police lost their sympathy for us.

We were alone in a Teamster and gangster owned town.

We left for Los Angeles and then Detroit where the power is numbers of people, not numbers of dollars.

Some rank and filers will say the incident should be buried so that others will not be frightened. The stakes are high for these officials. If they can frighten us they will.

But the stakes are high for the rank and file too. Our jobs and futures are at stake. Our only protection is a strong democratic union.

People will keep fighting. They can't stop that. People have to. If we fight together and make clear that their violence will only hasten their fall, we will win. □

High Court Gives Nod To Racism

by Kate Stacy and Frank Newman

In a recent seven to two decision, the Supreme Court ruled that there was nothing unconstitutional about the job application examination of the Washington, D.C. police force, even though blacks fail it at a higher percentage than whites.

The Court claimed that there was no evidence that the different failure rate was the result of a "racially discriminatory purpose." As a result, the examination will not have to be changed.

This decision will lead to even worse employment opportunities for blacks, women and minorities. It will also make access to good housing and education even more difficult.

This decision is one of the first of a series expected to contrast sharply with previous Supreme Court precedents.

The "old" Supreme Court was the Warren Court of the 1960's. It was considered much more liberal on civil rights issues.

PRESSURES

The pressures of the black liberation, women's liberation and anti-war movements of those years forced it to take legal decisions ensuring access to equal rights for blacks and other minorities.

The "new" Supreme Court—known as the Burger Court—was largely selected by Richard Nixon in the early to middle '70's, as Supreme Court judges retired and after these movements had declined and lost their mass support.

The Burger Court is reversing the liberal reforms. It has ruled that proof of racially discriminatory intent is necessary before the law will step in.

By contrast, in 1971 the Warren Court prohibited any employment examination failed in disproportionate numbers by members of one race. No proof of discrimination was required.

All employment exams and aptitude tests contain many references drawn from middle-class white culture, but virtually none which relate to the daily experiences of black people.

Blacks do worse on these exams than whites, even though their higher failure rate has nothing to do with ability or intelligence.

RACISM

The Court's decision reflects the recent growth of racist forces in this country.

In the past few years, the Klan has come out of hiding, and racist mobs have rioted against busing for integration.

President Ford has shown support for the racists, and now the Supreme Court is doing the same.

To stop this trend, and in order for black people to move ahead, will require another militant mass movement.

The American courts overlook illegal practices by employers and landlords daily. It is highly unlikely the courts will find these criminals guilty of conscious discrimination, particularly with the absence of the kind of massive pressure against racism and inequality that existed in the '60's.

AUTO MOTION

The Road Forward for Auto Workers

How SUB Was Won - And Lost

by Jack Weinberg, UAW Local 212

In the summer and fall of 1973, while UAW contracts were being negotiated, problems like massive layoffs and SUB fund bankruptcies seemed light years away to practically all auto workers.

Plant populations were way up. Lots of overtime was being worked. Most of the membership felt their problem was not too little work—but too much!

As all auto workers know, SUB stands for "Supplemental Unemployment Benefits." SUB is a fund financed by a complicated formula of contributions made by the company and by deductions from the paychecks of people on the job.

When people are laid off, if they have enough seniority, SUB pays them a supplement to their unemployment check so that they get almost their full

working pay.

But there's a big problem with SUB. Besides not covering many lower-seniority workers, it can go bust. It is not backed by the assets of the corporations. If too many workers are laid off, SUB payments will exhaust the fund and the payments stop.

This actually happened for the first time in 1958, when there were mass layoffs and the SUB fund didn't stand up. But SUB was then a new plan, only three years old.

UAW members believed there had not been enough time to build up the funds and fully develop the program.

But the layoffs of 1974 were a different—and much worse—story.

In winter and spring of 1974, massive layoffs wiped out tens of thousands of jobs in the auto industry. At two of the Big Three, Chrysler and General Motors, the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) funds went bankrupt.

Workers who expected SUB to make up almost their full paycheck suddenly found themselves cut off.

As SUB headed for jobless bankruptcy, the UAW leaders began telling the membership that SUB had never been intended to give protection against massive layoffs.

They said the membership were simply mistaken to think otherwise.

But the UAW leaders were lying.

SUB, NOT JOBS

When SUB was first negotiated in the 1955 contract, the union leadership proclaimed it as a "Guaranteed Annual Wage" for all auto workers with two or more years' seniority—whether they worked or not.

The record is clear. The UAW leadership first negotiated SUB in order to head off a movement in the union for job security and a shorter work week.

As the 1955 contract approached, two giant locals, Ford Local 600 at River Rouge and Chevy Local 659 in Flint were campaigning vigour-

ously for the UAW to go after a 30 hour week at full 40 hours pay.

Walter Reuther and other top UAW leaders opposed this drive to shorten the work week. To head off mounting sentiment in the union, they began campaigning for an alternative program.

They called it the "Guaranteed Annual Wage," and after it was negotiated the name was changed to SUB.

The SUB in the contract convinced most auto workers that they no longer needed to worry about creating more jobs through a shorter work week. They felt their security was assured.

Following the UAW's SUB victory, the final remnants of organiz-

ed opposition to the Reuther machine in the UAW were mopped up.

"FEELING OF SECURITY"

General Motors understood this perfectly. As Alfred P. Sloan, then GM President, put it:

"The real benefit... is that the new plan gives our workers a greater feeling of economic security; and perhaps in the long run that is enough."

And for nearly 20 years, it was. Between 1963 and 1973, there was a ten-year period with no major recession in auto. Millions and millions of dollars were paid into the SUB fund.

NL Strike In Sixth Month

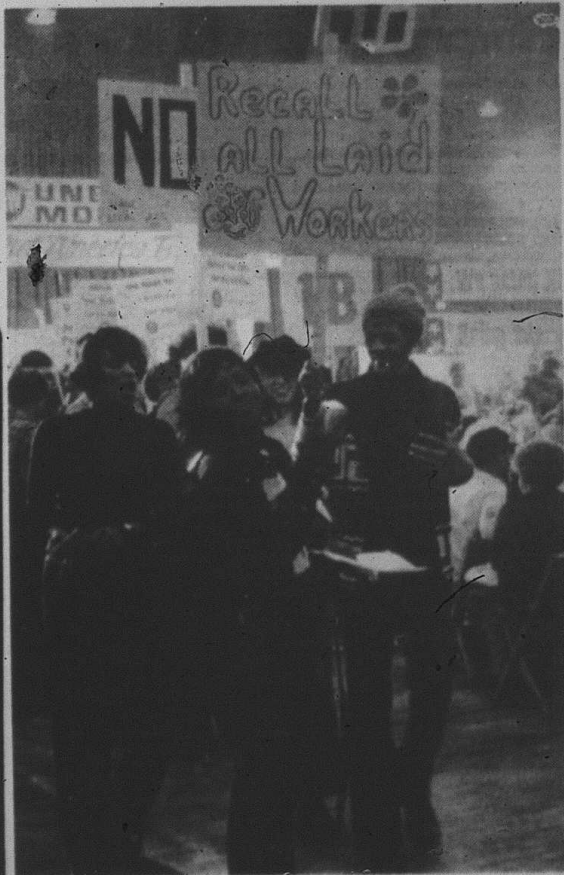
NEW JERSEY—The strike at National Lead Industries in Sayreville is entering its sixth month. The company has arrogantly refused to negotiate on the key issues of the strike even though it is a multi-national giant with subsidiaries in 20 countries. It operates almost 60 plants.

The company's products range from specialty steel to railway bearings, to Dutch Boy paints.

The company continues to insist on layoffs and speedup as part of any contract settlement. When asked what the issues in the strike were, a striker responded, "There is only one issue—the company is trying to break the union. There's a lot of issues, but that's what it all boils down to."

Building solidarity is difficult however, because the company's different plants are represented by several different unions.

[Send letters of support to: Local 8-3600; the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, Chevalier Ave., Sayreville, New Jersey.]



The mass layoffs of 1974 destroyed the "feeling of security" that auto workers once enjoyed.



Paying to keep SUB alive isn't what GM had in mind.

Large numbers of auto workers kept on working in the plants, even though they hated the work, because they felt auto jobs at least established security for themselves and their families.

Informed people in the union knew this "security" actually depended on prosperity and full employment, which couldn't last forever.

In August 1973 the rank and file opposition group, United National Caucus, warned, "SUB and pension funds must be protected against bankruptcy by having contractual guarantee that they are backed by the entire assets of the corporation."

But few union members saw any reason to pay much attention to this warning.

THE BUBBLE BURSTS

Only five months later, however, the bubble burst when massive layoffs began hitting the auto industry. Soon it was obvious to all that SUB fund bankruptcies were just a matter of time.

When the SUB funds at GM and Chrysler went broke, and checks stopped coming, laid off members felt angry and betrayed. But all they heard from the UAW leaders was that the profits of the auto companies were "paper thin."

The most imaginative program the UAW came up with was to pay out union money to launch an advertising campaign to convince Americans to buy American cars.

The UAW leaders rejected any and all proposals to force the auto companies to make good on the promise of full SUB for 52 weeks. Instead, they excused and apologized for the bankruptcy.

SHOCK TREATMENT

When layoffs hit, many workers greeted them as the beginning of a long paid vacation.

Workers facing layoffs in other industrial countries of the world were resisting with militant tactics like plant occupations and strikes—and were having some success.

But American auto workers had confidence that their union would make sure they got up to 52 weeks' SUB, as they fully believed they were entitled to.

Instead, when SUB went broke, they got a shock treatment they won't soon forget.

Today, most of the seniority workers laid off in 1974 are back on the job.

But the UAW membership no longer has the "feeling of economic security" that Alfred P. Sloan and other management officials' once thought was so important.

Trust in the UAW, and its ability or willingness to protect the membership, is at an all time low. Actual support in the ranks for the present UAW leadership is now very thin.

The old Reuther machine, now headed by Leonard Woodcock, stays together, and stays in power, only because real alternatives to it have not yet come forward. But its days are numbered.

More On The Angola Trials

Dear Workers' Power,

I must disagree with your conclusions regarding the Angola mercenaries trial.

Costas Georgiou, alias Colonel Callan, is a mad dog, of course, and shooting is too good for him. But the others may prove more useful alive than dead.

They might, for example, be exchanged for captive freedom fighters—being held by South Africa or Rhodesia; or they could be kept hostage against any further mercenary activity in the area.

There is no danger of any of the captives mobilizing a counter-revolutionary army should they manage to leave Angola alive. The MPLA military victory has been decisive.

Now on the agenda is the liberation of the rest of Southern Africa. We can expect that many atrocities will be committed against the Africans in the coming struggle, as has often been the case in the past.

The possession of live prisoners by the revolutionary forces would be an obvious deterrent.

The mercenaries themselves are less guilty than those who paid them and sent them out, while remaining far from the fighting themselves. These are the ones to whom no mercy should be shown.

R.F. Kamper
Detroit

From Britain . . .

Dear Workers' Power,

Our local trades council (which is the body to which trade union branches send delegates) has set up an international committee, of which I'm a member.

I cover North and South America and have been providing a news sheet covering the struggle in U.S., Canada, etc. So the

stuff I get from Workers' Power is now reaching a wider audience.

Any new pamphlets you do will be gratefully received at this end.

I pass on fraternal greetings from the comrades in the Norwich branch to you.

Steven Cherry
Branch Committee
Norwich
Norfolk, England

Letters

to

Workers' Power

A Bi-Centennial Hero For Working People

Dear Workers' Power,

I have an excerpt from a speech by August Spies, a member of the First International and the Knights of Labor and a martyr convicted at the Haymarket riot trials.

Spies spoke for eight hours. He arraigned the social system and he proved that violence was constantly and extensively used to over-awe the industrial class.

"In addressing this court, I speak as a representative of one

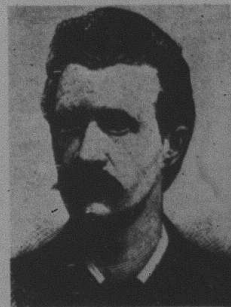
class to the representatives of another. I believe that the state of castes and classes; the state where one class dominates over and lives upon the labor of another, and calls this order;

"Yes, I believe that this barbaric form of social arrangement with its legalized plunder and murder, is doomed to die and make room for a free society, a voluntary association for universal brotherhood.

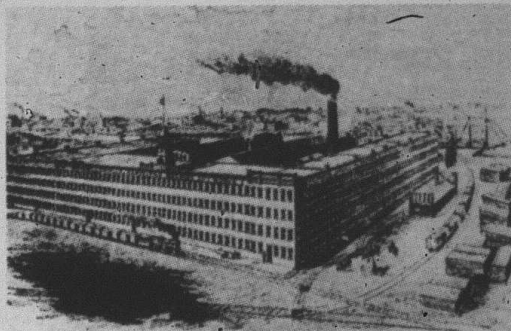
"You may pronounce the sentence on me, honorable judge, but let the world know that in 1886, in the state of Illinois, eight men were sentenced to death because they believed in a better future, because they had not lost faith in the ultimate victory of liberty and justice.

"These are my ideas; they constitute a part of myself. I cannot divest myself of them, nor would I if I could.

"And if you think you can crush them out by sending us to the gallows; if you would once more have people suffer the penalty of death because they have dared to tell the truth, I say, if death is the



August Spies, one of the Haymarket martyrs who were hanged for a "terrorist bombing." Like many of today's prisoners, they were framed—the bomb was thrown by a police agent.



The McCormick Harvesting Works, Chicago, built in 1873, where the Haymarket affair had its beginning.

penalty for telling the truth, then I will proudly and defiantly pay the costly price.

"There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are strangling today."

This is rather a lengthy quotation, but I find it inspiring.

It helps to renew my strength and reinforces my beliefs. For we can see here, one hundred years ago, the same as today, this is the true "American Dream," not the red-white-and-blue bicentennial package the capitalists are trying to sell us.

Lea P.
St. Louis

Why We Defend Adam Clayton Powell

Dear Workers' Power,

The letter from D.K. (Workers' Power, June 21) about the lead article on Wayne Hays and Adam Clayton Powell, missed the most important point.

As the article (in Workers' Power, June 14) pointed out, Wayne Hays was the Congressional leader who led the successful drive to destroy Powell and drive him out of Congress nine years ago.

D.K. writes: "In Dan Posen's article, Powell, as set off by Hays, appears to be an innocent, clean Congressman who, because he was black, was victimized on trumped-up charges."

In fact, the article didn't actually say that Adam Clayton Powell was "innocent"—or, for that matter, "guilty"—of anything.

The reason for this is simple: the question "Was Adam Clayton Powell innocent or guilty of the charges against him?" is totally irrelevant.

Adam Clayton Powell was purged and ridden out of Congress on a rail for the simple reason that he was a powerful black Committee chairman who wouldn't take orders from the likes of Wayne Hays.

Powell was not expelled from the House of Representatives because of any corruption on his part. The fact that he enriched himself and padded his staff payroll had nothing to do with it.

The white power structure in Congress wanted to get Powell, because he introduced labor legislation that was too liberal to suit them, and he sponsored too many social programs for the benefit of his constituents in Harlem.

Powell was drummed out of Congress by the votes of the same southern Democrats who fought for decades against black people in the South even being able to vote! And the northern "liberals" went right along with them.

What was really wrong with Adam Clayton Powell was that he was part of the same Democratic



Congress told the people of Harlem they couldn't elect anyone to represent them who didn't meet the high-moral standards of Wayne Hays.

Party that supports a racist system. He never told the masses in Harlem who supported him to take their votes away from the racist, corrupt Democratic Party.

For this reason, socialists never gave Adam Clayton Powell political support in any election. But

we supported the black people in Harlem in trying to defend Powell from the racist mob in Congress who drove him out of the House of Representatives. No other choice is possible.

Dan Posen
Kate Stacy

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.

Fight The Bosses'

Offensive

The working class in this country is facing a full-scale offensive by the employers. In every industry a drive is on to cut real wages and benefits, speed up production, attack working conditions, and periodically lay off masses of workers.

All this is being done for one basic reason: to maximize the employers' profits. And in one industry after another, it is succeeding.

But the employers' offensive has encouraged resistance by groups of workers in various industries. To be successful, these new rank and file movements have to simultaneously fight the employers at the workplace, and organize to win back rank and file control of the unions.

The I.S. National Convention next month will discuss how revolutionary socialist workers can help build and lead these movements. This week, Workers' Power summarizes resolutions introduced by the I.S. Executive Committee on this topic.

Some of the results of the employers' offensive are quite dramatic. For example, American auto workers are not working harder than auto workers anywhere in the world. In fact, U.S. auto workers are so heavily exploited that European companies, Volkswagen and Volvo, are building plants here.

In the mines, the employers, courts, and union leadership have teamed up to stop wildcat strikes directed against dangerous working conditions. Many miners have ended up in jail.

These are only a few examples of how the employers' offensive against workers and their unions is advancing.

In the trucking industry, workers felt the bosses' drive to expand profits in a particularly sharp way.

For a year before the Teamsters' Master Freight Agreement expired, the government and the press said that their wage settlement must be held down in order to "stop inflation."

The Teamsters' union leadership did, in fact, accept a very bad contract. They made concessions to the employers, such as the "flexible work week," which will create worse working conditions and make working Teamsters' lives more difficult and dangerous.

In addition, the Teamsters' wage settlement was within the repressive "non-inflationary" bounds set by the government's Labor and Treasury Departments.

TEAMSTERS ORGANIZE

However, the Teamster Freight contract was better than it would have been if the

rank and file had not organized.

Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC) organized enough pressure that the union had to call a brief national freight strike.

TDC showed that rank and file workers can organize a national network, capable of influencing union affairs and bargaining. In the process, many Teamsters developed a sense of their own ability to affect things.

Most important, TDC showed that organizing around contract issues can be the first step in building an ongoing, rank and file opposition movement in a major union.

The impact of TDC was felt. The Teamsters' Las Vegas Convention. Even though Fitzsimmons' International machine was totally in control of the Convention, the pressure of TDC in the union provoked him to burst out:

"To those who say... it's time, the officers stopped selling out the members of this organization, I say to them 'Go to Hell!'"

The work begun by TDC now remains to be taken up by an ongoing group, Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU). In United Parcel Services (UPS), the most vicious of all trucking employers, the rank and file movement UPSurge illustrated many of the same points. UPSurge was able to lead a coordinated wildcat strike in eight cities for one day, in protest against the union's acceptance of another sellout contract.

SOCIALISTS

The Teamsters contract fights show one more thing:

RED TIDE HOLDS SUMMER SCHOOL

DETROIT — A summer school held last week by the Red Tide, youth section of the International Socialists, showed the dynamism of this group of revolutionary young people.

Held in the country outside of Detroit, the school was the first of its kind, and proved to be a success. Members and friends of the Red Tide discussed the revolutionary socialist politics the group is dedicated to.

Thirty-five people attended educational and inspiring classes on a variety of subjects. The sessions included the history of socialism, the role of young people and the Red Tide in the revolutionary movement, the labor movement, and the class struggle. There were also workshops on first aid and birth control.

LIVELY DISCUSSION

Lively discussions were held on how to fight the racism and sexism of this society.

Many of those present had

become involved with the Red Tide as it organized against racist violence in the schools over the past few months. Others had been involved with the group's work with the Committee to Free Gary Tyler.

The integrated group of blacks and whites agreed that the exploitation of workers, minorities, and women was solely the result of the capitalist system that exists in America today.

Several rounds of applause accompanied the film, "Salt of the Earth," a moving story of working class solidarity and victory over the ruling class. Also shown was a film on Chile.

Hiking, camping and swimming were enjoyed between classes.

Enthusiastic militancy and unity marked each of five days of activity as everyone present agreed that we must all join with the Red Tide to change the miseries of today's society by overthrowing capitalism now.



West Virginia miners, battling for the right to strike, fought the cops, the courts, and their own union leaders.

that socialist workers can play a key role in helping to build and lead the rank and file movement.

The pattern of resistance to the employers' offensive is just now beginning. The 1976-77 contract bargaining has only begun. Major contracts in auto, steel, telephone and the coal mines remain to be settled.

Socialists have not created the basic conditions that make rank and file organizing possible. The bosses have done it for us.

But the International Socialists will be active in every possible rank and file movement in the industrial unions. We are a part of the growing

new workers movement, and our ideas and politics can help to build it and lead it.

The vast majority of workers in this country today, even those who actively participate in rank and file struggles, do not agree with us about the need for workers to control the factories and run society.

However, they will accept many of our political ideas about building the movement, about relying on mass action rather than lawyers and courts, about creating ongoing rank and file organizations on a clear program of struggle.

Out of this process, a new generation of both rank and file and revolutionary working class leaders is being born.

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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

.....

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 revolutionaries, 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.

VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

THE WORKERS' POWER CAVALCADE OF SPORTS THE WORKERS' POWER CAVALCADE OF SPORTS THE WORKERS

WILL OWNERS' GREED

DESTROY BASEBALL?

by Frank Newman

The big news in sports last week was Oakland A's owner Charles O. Finley's sale of star players Vida Blue, Rollie Fingers, and Joe Rudi to the Yankees and Red Sox for a total of \$3.5 million.

That is, until Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn's order blocking the sale "in the best interest of baseball."

But there's only one "best interest of baseball" as far as the team owners and their hand-picked puppet, the Commissioner, are concerned—to get the maximum profits out of the game in the shortest period of time.

If that means screwing the players and fans in the process, that's what they'll do.

FEUDALISM

For decades, to maintain the most control over their players while paying them the least possible, the owners made use of what's called the "reserve clause."

The reserve clause bound a player to one particular team, year after year, the way a serf was bound to a feudal lord in the Middle Ages. Players had the choice of playing for the team that "owned" them or quitting baseball.

In 1969, St. Louis outfielder Curt Flood, insisting that he wasn't "a piece of property to be bought and sold," challenged the reserve clause in the courts when owner August Busch informed him that he was being traded to Philadelphia. Three years later, the Supreme

Court acknowledged that Flood's arguments were correct and that the reserve clause does in fact constitute restraint of trade.

But bowing to owner pressure, the Court ruled that despite all the valid arguments for its abolition, the clause should stand simply on the basis of past precedent!

That's like saying that since we've had human slavery for thousands of years, it's worth keeping for the sake of tradition! "For the sake of tradition," Curt Flood's brilliant career was destroyed.

HYPOCRISY

The owners claim that if the players were free to play where they chose, all the best players would play for the best teams, destroying competition. This is sheer hypocrisy.

Even with the reserve clause, the richest teams can buy the best players when they choose to. The last fifty years has seen one team, the Yankees, win half the pennants in the American League and two teams—the Dodgers and the Cardinals—win half the pennants in the National League.

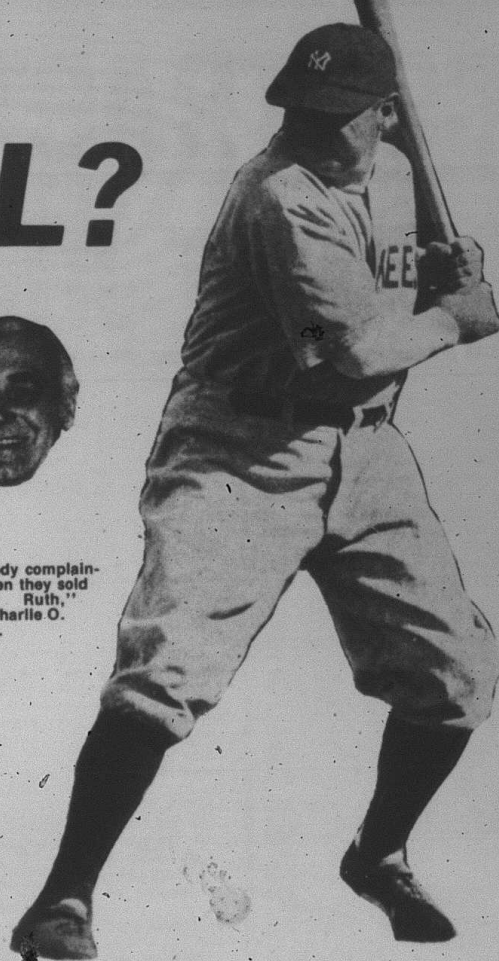
Cash money investments like the Yankees' purchase of Babe Ruth, and the Dodgers' and Cardinals' sleazy acquisition of a minor league "farm system," are responsible for this.

It's unlikely that getting rid of the reserve clause will make competition any more one-sided than it is now.

As Willie Stargell of the Pirates puts it: "A player, like anybody else, doesn't want to move his



"Nobody complained when they sold Babe Ruth," says Charlie O. Finley.



of fairness. It's because Kuhn is a stooge of a faction of owners led by the Dodgers' Walter O'Malley.

O'Malley is trying to organize the owners to refuse to bid on players who play out their options and become free agents. That way, the players would still have to go back to their old owners, begging for a job.

O'Malley wants to prevent players like Rudi, Fingers and Blue from being able to play for new teams. That's why he ordered his puppet Bowie Kuhn to prevent the Oakland management from selling them.

This same Walter O'Malley, who wants players to have no freedom, has a different standard for owners. He invented the principle of "Take the Money and Run," when he moved the Dodgers out of Brooklyn nearly two decades ago.

That principle explains why there have been eighteen franchise changes in the last twenty-five years, with more planned. And it explains why baseball is ceasing to be America's most popular spectator sport.

PUBLIC EXPENSE

Owners are eager to cash in on the huge gate receipts which are inevitably theirs when they move their team to a new city. And after a few years of dropping attendance, nothing prevents them from packing up and leaving, as the Braves and others have done.

TV revenue and the promise of stadiums built at public expense for them to occupy are two other lures to owners to skip town.

As another incentive to move teams from city to city, curious tax laws allow owners to maximize their depreciation write-offs of player contracts over a five-year period.

After the five years are up, if they aren't actually making a profit, they simply sell at no loss to new buyers who will start the process over again in another city.

This is resulting in an end to the loyal hometown following which has helped make baseball the great sport. It is, and puts its entire existence in jeopardy.

Yet these same owners have the gall to scream that "player greed" is destroying fan interest.

Bowie Kuhn's latest decision will mean a mass of owners' lawsuits that could snarl baseball for years. But the owners will go right on saying the Players' Association is what's dragging the game into chaos.

family from one city to another, year after year. [If the reserve clause is abolished, I won't put an ad in the paper saying, "Have bat, will travel!"]

Blue and Fingers came in. Oakland owner Finley started unloading all the players who were "playing out their options," and whom he couldn't control after this season.

He started by trading Ken Holtzman and Reggie Jackson to Baltimore. Then just six hours before the trade deadline, he sold the other three stars for cash to Boston and New York. He sold them because he couldn't get rid of them any other way.

When Bowie Kuhn "vetoed" this deal, it wasn't out of any love

OWNER FACTIONS

The reserve clause was struck down last winter by an arbitrator's decision that the owner could exercise the contract "option clause" for only one year—not forever!

That's where the case of Rudi,

WORKERS' POWER

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The cast of characters includes (left to right): Rollie Fingers (\$1 million), Vida Blue (\$1.5 million), Joe Rudi (\$1 million), and Bowie Kuhn (price not announced).

WOODCOCK SET TO TRADE UAW CONTRACT FOR CABINET JOB

by Valerie Dixon

DETROIT—Leonard Woodcock, President of the UAW, has high hopes of trading in his job with the union for one with the government. Woodcock hopes his early endorsement of Jimmy Carter will translate into a cabinet position with the Carter administration next year.

Woodcock, who is committed to remaining UAW president until after the auto contract negotiations

late this summer, is open about his designs:

"I'm not an aspirant [to a Cabinet job]. But when I say that I'm committed [to being UAW President] only through this year, I'm not being too damn subtle, either."

Woodcock must retire as UAW President next May when his term expires. Many of the members of the UAW International Executive

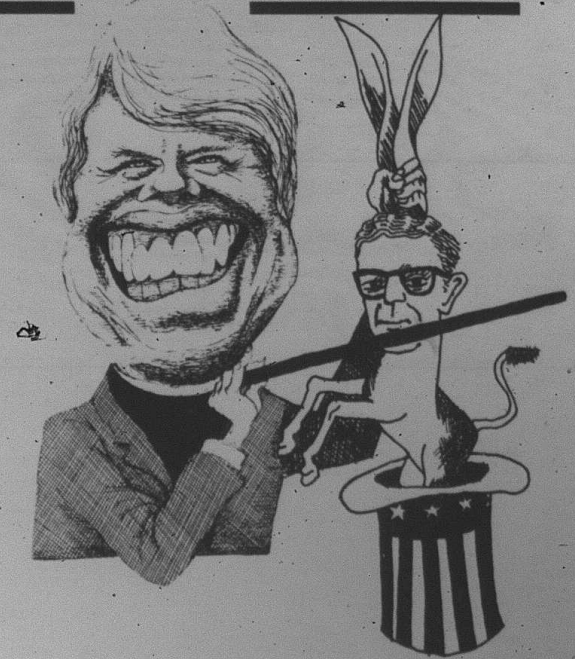
Board (IEB) would like to see Woodcock leave early to join the cabinet.

APPOINTED PRESIDENT?

If he did, the Executive Board would be able to pick a new UAW President in January. They would not have to wait until May when the elected UAW Convention Delegates normally choose the next president of the Union.

Long standing tensions between Woodcock and Doug Fraser, UAW Vice President, make this an attractive alternative to IEB members. Divided themselves over who should be the next president, nevertheless the top leadership would like to avoid an open split at the May UAW Constitutional Convention.

So far, all the top UAW leaders have agreed to postpone open campaigning for the UAW presidency until after the 1976 contract negotiations end. With the possibility now that the IEB may choose the next president in January, right



after contract negotiations, there will be growing pressure on them to bring out their differences in public earlier.

STRONG CONTRACT IMPACT

This situation may have a strong impact on contract bargaining. To prove that he is a suitable candidate for a cabinet position, Woodcock will be trying to settle with no strike and with a package that the business community considers "non-inflationary."

Translated into everyday language, this means a contract sellout.

But some of the top UAW leaders may have their own reasons to blow up this kind of sellout and undercut Woodcock's chances for a cabinet appointment.

In the next few months, there will be a lot of wheeling and dealing among the top UAW leaders. If they prove unable to keep their act together, this could lead to important openings for the rank and file.



200 March For 40-Hour Week

SAN FRANCISCO—On June 16, 200 people demonstrated here during hearings of the Industrial Welfare Commission. The marchers demanded a \$4 an hour minimum wage, the 8 hour day-40 hour week with double time for overtime, and the retention of existing health and safety protections for California workers.

The rally was called by the Coalition for Workers' Rights, a broad group backed by Northern Alameda CLUW, Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality, CWA Bay Area Council, SEIU Locals 250, 616, 535, 400, and 715, AFSCME 1695, CASE, and several other women's groups and public workers' unions.

California's Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC), a board appointed by the governor, will decide later this month on minimum wage, hour, and overtime laws for the state's working people. These rulings are particularly important for workers in private employment and those who are not

union members. Women, minorities, and youth are especially affected.

Ordinarily when the IWC holds public hearings, mostly businessmen turn out.

This year was an exception. Pressure from the Coalition forced the IWC to schedule night time meetings.

The Coalition ran training classes in public speaking for workers who wished to testify but had no experience addressing a large group. And a militant demonstration was planned to back up the Coalition's demands.

This year the businessmen showed up in force, as usual. But they met a chanting, singing picket line and a crowd of workers inside the hearing room ready to testify and answer back.

The results of the IWC's deliberations will not be announced until later this month. But the Coalition for Workers' Rights will certainly have an impact on their decisions.

SUGAR WORKERS SAY: "NO SELLOUT IN '77!"

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Angry campaign (seasonal) workers demonstrated at the Sugar Council meeting here June 15. Their action helped beat back an attempt to strip rank and file sugar workers of control over negotiations in their upcoming contract.

This year, the ranks are more prepared for their contract fight than ever. Strike committees have been set up in a number of locals.

And in the past two years, several rank and file delegates have been elected to the state's Sugar Council. Under the union's constitution, the Council has the right to negotiate with the industry. In fact, the ranks are so well prepared that the international and the more conservative members of the Council are afraid that the strike may be too militant for their liking.

At the last Council meeting, a resolution was introduced to strip the Council of its right to negotiate with the industry. Instead, the resolution delegated this authority to the President of the Council, Jim Kellum of Manteca, and the President of the International, George Oneto.

Some union members believe the parent International, the Distillery Workers, was behind the resolution.

But when the Council delegates came back to their meeting room for the afternoon session June 15, they were greeted by a group of rank and file workers.

"NO SELLOUT"

The group, called the "Campaign Workers To Vote Committee," carried signs, reading: "The Buck Stops Here," "Council Negotiates," "No Sellout '77," and "Equal Rights for Campaign Workers." They were organized by SWURF—Sugar Workers United Rank and File.

"In the negotiations, we want our own people to talk with us, not some outside folks talking for us," demonstrators told the Council delegates.

International President Oneto, in town for the meeting, was visibly shaken by the workers' presence. "I'm not going to allow any signs in this meeting room," he told the demonstrators.

But the delegates had gotten the

message. When the vote came, the resolution failed, 13-8.

UNITY

"When it got right down to it, the Council just couldn't sell us out right to our faces," said one of the demonstrators.

Mike Tilson, a member of the Committee, presented a statement to the Council about the special needs of campaign workers. He said the Council "must include in its policy the fair and equal consideration of campaign workers."

"We can't go into the contract fight divided," Tilson concluded. The Council warmly applauded his talk.

Oneto was clearly unhappy about the way the meeting went. Before he left, he took a few pot shots at the dissidents. "I believe in free speech and all that," he told the group. "But, as Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said, it's not free speech to get up and cry fire in a crowded theater."

It sounded almost as if Oneto was beginning to feel the heat himself.

Anne Larson