

WORKERS' Power

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What The Miners Won p.3

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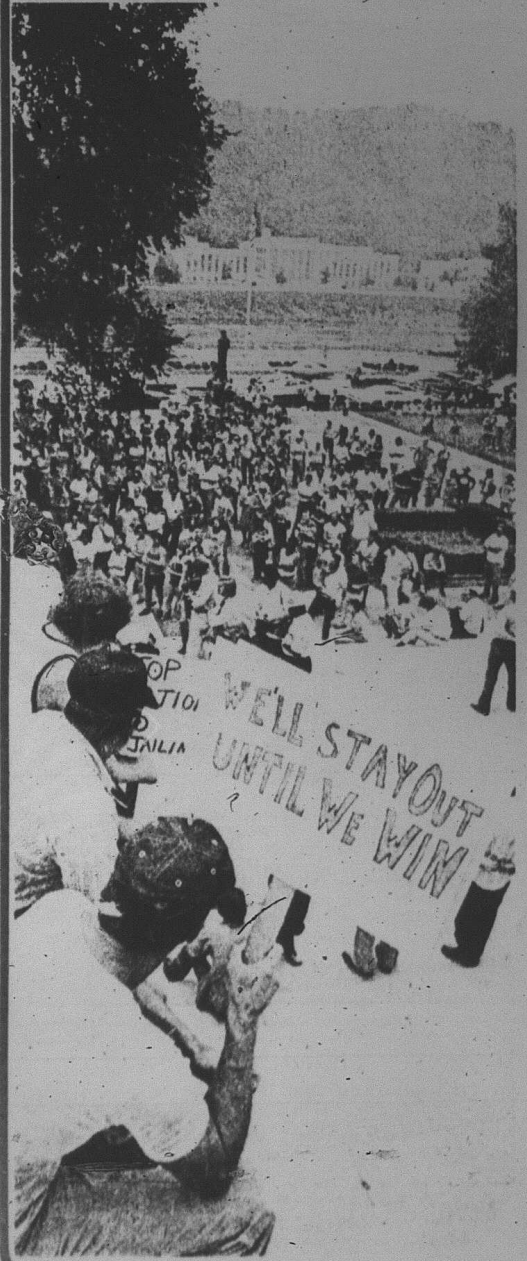
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FASTER, FRANK— I WANT
IT TO LOOK LIKE I'M
PURSUING YOU
CLOSELY!



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labor notes

by Jim Woodward

U.S. Steel has just announced its second price increase since June, but the government's Council on Wage and Price Stability (COWPS) says it does not plan a special investigation of the increase. In the name of fighting inflation, the Council recently opposed a health regulation designed to provide portable toilets and drinking water for farm workers—on the grounds that it would cost too much. Yet the steel companies, which have more effect on the economy than any other section of industry, are allowed to go on their merry, inflationary way.



The pay raises for federal employees that goes into effect October 1 averages only 4.83%—not enough to keep up with inflation. James Lynn and Robert Hampton—President Ford's agents who structured the pay increase—apparently realized this and made provisions for the needy. Which are: for top grade GS-15 employees, whose maximum pay is over \$36,000, raises of \$2,480 or almost 8%. For the more common GS-5 worker, the raise will be \$78 a year or just over 4%.

Here's how your tax increases over the last 20 years compare with taxes paid by the upper class. In 1953, the average family income was \$5000, and that family paid 12% in federal, state and local taxes. The wealthy family, earning four times the average amount, paid 20% of its income in taxes. Last year, the average family income was \$14,000; its taxes had almost doubled—to 23%. But taxes on families making four times the average income had gone up only half as much—to 29.5%.

The United Farm Workers union is slowly winning contracts from growers where it won representation elections last fall and winter. By June 23, the UFW had signed 46 new contracts covering 17,000 workers. At the same time, the union is starting boycotts of several companies who have refused to bargain, even though the union won representation elections. The new boycotts cover: West Foods (a subsidiary of E.I.), McFarland Rose Company, H.P. Metzler, and Maggio-Tostado, Inc.

The United Steel Workers union has announced it intends to extend its contracts with the major can companies. Contracts originally expiring next Feb. 28 will be extended to October of next year, after the USW's steel and aluminum contracts are settled. In return, the can companies will agree to model the new can contract on whatever the steel settlement is. The USW says the reason for the extension is so contracts can be negotiated in the more prosperous steel and aluminum industries before moving to the relatively depressed can industry.

The Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) has decided to call a one-day nationwide strike in protest of that country's wage controls. However, they still appear to be somewhat timid about it. The CLC leaders are calling it a "national day of protest" and a "withdrawal of services" instead of a strike, and it will not occur until October. The CLC is Canada's labor federation, similar to the AFL-CIO.

If you're a civilian government employee, you may be in imminent danger. Congress' General Accounting Office (GAO) recently checked health and safety conditions for the 1.4 million federal civilian employees in the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and Interior, the Veterans Administration, the Departments of the Air Force, Army, and Navy, and the Defense Supply Agency. In a check of 30 field locations, the GAO found 14,000 safety and health hazards.

This month's "Pig of the Month" award goes to Ralph Adams, Director of Unemployment and Workers' Compensation for General Motors. GM currently pays \$11.2 million in workers' compensation to retired employees who suffered injury or illness while working for GM. Adams thinks it's too much. "We are pouring millions of dollars down a rat-hole and it must be dried up," he says. A general Motors spokesman refused to reveal how much Adams is paid for making this kind of insult.

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

CORRECTIONS

In last week's issue, we inadvertently described the Independent Skilled Trades Council (ISTC) as the group of skilled auto workers who want to split off from the UAW and form a separate skilled trades union. The ISTC in fact has the opposite perspective—of staying inside the UAW and allying with production workers to change the union. The group we meant to refer to is the International Society of Skilled

Trades (ISST), a reactionary group that is trying to split off workers in the auto and rubber unions. We apologize to members of the ISTC for this mistake.

Through a typographical error, last week's Workers' Power referred to Bell Telephone's "successful" attempt to fire Harold Kincaid of Louisville. It should have read "unsuccessful."

The Ronald And Gerry Show

With an orgy of rhetoric that probably has not been equalled since the mid-1950's, the Republican Party this week threw itself into the fall election campaign.

For a few minutes, they may even have convinced themselves they have a chance to win.

Most of this Convention was a showcase for the elder statesmen, or aging dinosaurs, of the GOP—the Barry Goldwaters, John Connallys, Nelson Rockefeller, and even the ghost of stale old jokes by the late Everett Dirksen.

They all stressed the common theme that this election year 1976 is the last hope, the very, very last chance, to save American freedom from the galloping tyranny of big government spending and the runaway far-left liberalism of the Democratic Party.

This same "last hope" to save American civilization has been the theme of Republican conventions every four years for at least two decades.

The long tirades against big government, all the platitudes of senile conservative ideology, showered from the platform like a warm, golden rain. With a median income of \$35,000, it's no wonder that the delegates (97% white) were happy to drink it all in.

WHO RUNS IT?

However, all this rhetoric didn't reveal what this convention was really about—it covered it up.

The Republican Party, in 1976, stands for several things. But one of the things this party of Watergate, and massive domestic spying, definitely does not stand for is a struggle against big, powerful government.

It's also true that there is a shift toward conservatism inside the Republican Party—and the Democratic Party as well.

The shift is real, but it has nothing to do with Republican Convention rhetoric—and it has nothing to do with defending "individual freedom" in this country. This is the party which is most aggressively pushing vicious political repression like Senate Bill S-1, a bill which would have legalized Watergate and legalized the annihilation of the Black Panthers.

To understand what this Convention was about, you have to look not at what was said, but rather who was running it.

One of the factions at this Convention was basically the same super-conservative group that organized and pushed through the nomination of the right-winger



The Republican Party dragged out almost all its living skeletons at its Convention, from Barry Goldwater to Alf Landon. But for some reason, there were two they forgot to mention.



Barry Goldwater in 1964. They include, for example, Goldwater's 1964 campaign manager, Dean Rusk.

In 1976, these were the "moderate" forces at this Convention. They are the people who are the staff, the organizers and publicity men for Gerald Ford.

The other faction in the Republican Party of 1976 was really a strange combination of Deep South, far West and small town ultra-right wingers, along with assorted middle-class, and small-time profes-

sional types who were genuinely turned on by such overwhelming issues as the Panama Canal.

This was the amalgam which provided the base and the audience for the well-organized, professional staff which ran Ronald Reagan's campaign.

GOOD TRY, BUT...

Reagan's staff had the advantage that their supporters actually have control of many Republican Party organizations, as the voter base and actual membership of the Party shrinks. Furthermore, what Reagan's supporters lacked in sophistication they made up in enthusiasm and noise-making.

What Reagan's operators could not overcome, in the end, is the fact that the enthusiasm for Reagan, among the most right-wing middle-class elements, was not shared by much of the ruling class.

The people who really hold the reins of power—the sophisticated bankers, the steel and auto Boards of Directors, and even the oil companies—were glad to have Reagan around, but they saw no point in dumping an incumbent conservative like Gerald Ford for him.

Reagan himself, who is no country bumpkin but a thoroughly ruling class politician, understood this. By proposing Richard Schweiker for Vice-President, he showed that he is willing to make deals and alliances like any other politician. Unlike some of his farthest-right supporters, Reagan has no interest in splitting or destroying the Republican Party.

For the capitalists this year, Ronald Reagan has played the role of pressuring Gerald Ford, to make sure Ford stays far to the right.

Now, Gerald Ford himself will play the exact same role—to pressure the Democrats and Jimmy Carter even further right than they've already gone.

This whole game is what capitalist politics is really all about this year. It's not about personal freedom or stopping big government at all. The Republicans' real program is all-out, untrammled expansion of business profits for the next four years.

The only thing is that it won't be the Republicans who carry out this program. Most of the ruling class has already decided that Jimmy Carter and the Democrats are the best force to pick profits up and kick workers down the next four years. That's where most of their money is going this election.

All the Republicans' hoopla can't hide the fact they've already lost. It's Jimmy Carter who will carry out Gerald Ford's and Ronald Reagan's program.

That's the best way of saying that in this election, working people in this country have absolutely nothing to vote for!

MIDAS MUFFLER PRODUCTION WORKERS SAY: "NO SWEETHEART CONTRACTS!"

CHICAGO — Four hundred Teamsters struck two Midas Muffler production plants here for three weeks—over the objections of their local union.

The workers stopped the trucks with militant picket lines. They demanded a 15% increase, over their \$3.50-\$4.00 wage.

The strikers are members of Teamsters Local 781. The local has over 10,000 members, mostly Latin American.

The local leadership, controlled by the Bernstein family, is well known for its sweetheart contracts and mobster connections. The Bernsteins didn't want the strike. They wanted the membership to settle for 10%.

The Bernsteins are doing well enough. President Joseph Bern-

stein got \$133,648 in various Teamster salaries in 1974. Secretary-Treasurer Joseph L. Bernstein got \$7,478, and Business Agent Robert Bernstein, \$76,743—for a total of \$297,869.

WHAT TIME?

After three weeks on strike, the local leadership sent out notices of a union meeting, but didn't mention the time on the Spanish side of the leaflet.

No one was allowed to speak at the ratification meeting. The contract was rammed through by four votes. Several people voted who had never been seen before.

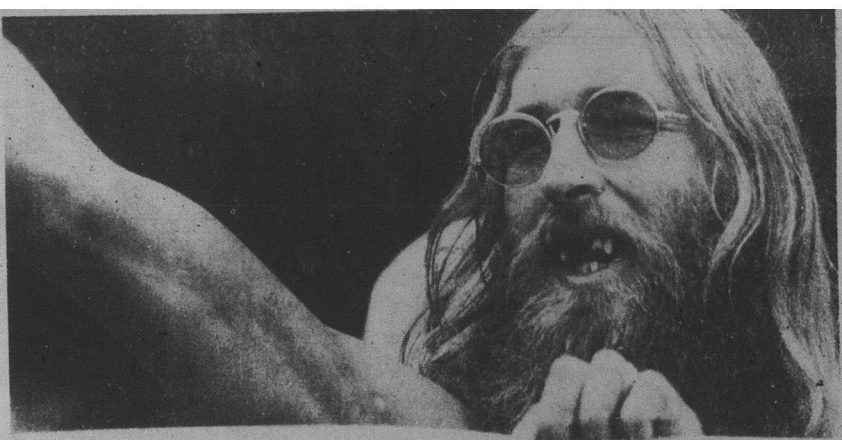
The workers are hopping mad and are continuing to organize to do something about it.

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Miners' Wildcat Wins Big Gains



No more injunctions

Ohio miner voices his opinion during the recent strike.

EVEN AS MINERS returned to their jobs after a four week anti-injunction wildcat that idled all of the nation's coal mines east of the Mississippi, the victories of their struggle continued to accumulate. On Tuesday, Federal Judge Dennis Knapp dropped contempt charges against the 213 members of UMW Local 1759. It was a huge fine, and the threat of jail from the contempt charges against the Cedar Coal Co. miners, that sparked the national protest against injunctions on July 16.

This solidarity is embodied foremost in the law "thou shalt not cross a picket line." The coal operators, and their allies in the courts, and the International Union, must break that solidarity if they are to maintain a dictatorship that steals the wealth of Appalachia, and leaves only choked lungs and broken bodies for payment.

Covering Up The Pension Fund Scandal:

The Teamsters' Watergate

SOLIDARITY STRUGGLE

Two months ago, a whole shift of coal miners was jailed when the miners failed to obey a back to work injunction.

This time, the mass solidarity strike forced Knapp first to postpone the threatened hearings. Then after two weeks he also promised to drop the injunction and cancel all previously invoked fines, if the Cedar Coal miners would return to work "as soon as possible."

The Cedar Coal miners refused the offer and voted not to return to work until all outstanding fines and injunctions (over 400 cases are pending against UMW locals) were lifted.

When Cedar Coal finally returned to work, August 12, most other mines went back too. Some vowed to stay out until the scheduled hearing August 18.

Even in West Virginia, where miners returned to earn their first paycheck in six weeks, the word spread, "If they mess with the Cedar Coal miners, we're coming back out."

For his part, Judge Knapp breathed a sigh of relief and jumped the gun by assuring everyone the day before the hearing that all charges would be dropped.

On the same day, miners got an even greater reward for their strike. Judge K.K. Hall cancelled the \$700,000 fine against the whole UMW that he had levied during last year's national wildcat strike.

NOT SETTLED

With the news of these victories the last strikers returned to work. The issue of injunctions is not settled.

Neither the courts nor the companies have committed themselves not to use further injunctions. But the miners' strike has forced them to back off, for the moment.

And the policy of mass jailing that was initiated lies in ruin before it was barely started. The solidarity of miners who are living out the principle "an injury to one is an injury to all" will not permit it.

by Ken Brown
CHICAGO—Bad publicity and government action have provoked the Teamsters Pension Fund to expose some small scandals in the way the fund has been run. Teamster officials are hoping this will cover-up the big scandals

involving themselves, the Mafia, and lots of missing money. The Health and Welfare Fund filed a \$14 million damage suit against a number of insurance companies charging them with defrauding the fund. The reputable Travelers Insurance Co. has been hired to handle the account.

Carhaulers' Fight Still On; Spirits Remain High

DETROIT—Carhaulers of Automobile Transport Inc. (A.T.I.) and Complete Auto Transit (C.A.T.) are in the second week of their strike against the local and international officials of the Teamster Union. The strike, which began August 9, was prompted by dissatisfaction over the union's efforts to re-negotiate their national contract. C.A.T. brought its striking employees before Federal Judge Richard DeMascio, but he refused to issue an injunction.

Morale is high among the men at both barns. Without the threat of a court restraining order the strikers are prepared to remain on the lines until they get satisfaction from their union representatives. Both barns are out completely.

The strikers have continuously stated that anyone can work. But the consciousness of the workers about their union officials has been raised to the degree that they all agree that this strike is the only way to make the officials listen.

INFORMATIONAL PICKETS

On August 13 the barns sent out informational pickets to two other barns: M&G Convoy and E&L Transport. This tactic paid off August 17 when the employees of E&L Transport walked out in support.

Also on August 17 the first meeting between the union officials and the strikers took place. The strikers had refused a meeting the previous day with the union and company officials claiming that they had no dispute with the company.

Though none of the issues have been settled one incident at the hearing gave credence to what the strikers have been saying all along. One of the BA's, Wilson Holsin-

ger, was questioned as to why he had affixed his signature to a contract that he knew the members were strongly against.

He didn't answer. This is a good indication that when he signed his name to the proposed contract he was not representing the membership, but rather the interests of the union bureaucrats and the employers.



Strike is directed at officials of Teamsters Local 299.

Fund director Dan Shannon, a former protege of Chicago's cleaning Mayor Richard Daley, has fired 28 out of the top 30 Fund executives.

The clerical staff has been increased by 200%—from 250 workers up to 750 to improve record keeping. It turns out the Fund didn't even have the names of the 385,000 union-members that employers were making contributions for!

Even William Presser, a Fund Trustee and International Vice President, convicted three times of defrauding the union, was reported to have resigned as trustee after taking the \$500,000 settlement before a Labor Department hearing.

COVER-UP TRICKS

These cheery reports were revealed to Chicago Sun Times reporter Art Petacque, Petacque just happens to have lived next door to leading mobster Leo Rugendorf. And he frequently writes articles useful to the mob.

It turns out that Nixon's former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, represents both sides—the insurance companies the Health and Welfare Fund is suing, and the Pension Fund itself!

Kleindienst, who was convicted of lying before a Congressional Committee, was hired by the Teamsters for his connections in the Justice and Labor Departments. Perhaps he taught Fitzsimmons and friends a couple of Watergate coverup tricks.

William Presser did not actually resign from the Pension Fund, despite earlier reports. The key man in making decisions for the fund, Presser works closely with Allen Dorfman, the mob's top man in the Teamsters.

Dorfman ran the Pension Fund until he went to jail for accepting a \$35,000 kickback on a loan. Since then, with no formal connection with the Fund, he approves every loan.

Dorfman's Amalgamated Insurance Agency handled the insurance for the Health and Welfare Fund until this year, and still receives service fees.

Over the last nine years his commissions and fees totaled \$21.5 million. Since the fees alone were \$18.3 million, Dorfman won't miss the commissions too much.

Dorfman owns insurance companies, condominiums, resorts and other projects, many of which received loans from the Pension Fund. He has houses in Chicago, Wisconsin, Florida, California and Las Vegas.

Dorfman also flies around in a \$3 million Grumman Gulfstream jet. He bought the jet from Frank Sinatra and leases it to the Pension Fund.

SIDE TRACK

The insurance companies sued by the Health and Welfare Fund are not mob companies. They are simply businesses getting in on the ripoff.

The Health and Welfare Pension Funds are not suing the real crooks like Allen Dorfman and his mob pals Tony Spilotro and Joseph Lombardo, who have siphoned off hundreds of millions of dollars. These fellows are still firmly in control, and so far unchallenged.

The trustees of the Fund are hoping to sidetrack the Labor Department's investigation. And already the Federal investigators are talking about voluntary changes that would limit the investigation.

As James K. Hutchinson, in charge of the Labor Department investigation, said, "We are interested in voluntary relief and compliance in any case, but only when we are satisfied that it fully meets the standards of the law."

The trustees are hoping that if things look like they are improving, the old fraudulent loans will be protected. However, the trustees are quite worried about the Federal investigation. And there is a real possibility that Fitzsimmons and William Presser could be indicted and perhaps sent to jail.

This is what all the "reforms" are designed to prevent, but it may happen, and open up an entirely new situation for the rank and file in the Teamsters union.

MASSACRE

Tel al-Zataar seige ends in slaughter; Palestinians battle for survival



Starving refugees escape from Tel al-Zataar: this massacre can be labelled "Made in Washington, Damascus and Tel Aviv."

by Dan Posen

NO ONE knows exactly how many Palestinian soldiers and civilians were massacred by the Lebanese fascist forces which overran the Tel al-Zataar camp in east Beirut last week.

As the camp surrendered, the young Palestinians of fighting age were rounded up, driven away and shot by the Phalangist (so-called "Christian") troops. At least several hundred were murdered in this way.

This doesn't count the thousands of Palestinian men, women and children who died during the two-month siege of the camp—from malnutrition, dehydration,

untreated wounds and infections, or under the rubble of bunkers destroyed by Phalangist shells.

Just before Tel al-Zataar was overrun, the Phalangists overran Palestinian and working class districts of Nabaa. Members of the Communist Party were rounded up, and tortured before being murdered.

Hratek Kazandjian was found with his head, both hands and both feet cut off. Keverk Kavandjian was publically crucified.

The victims of the fascist slaughter include both Moslems, and working class leaders of Christian origin.

The Palestinians were not fought at Tel al-Zataar. They were starved out, and cut off till their water and ammunition were completely gone.

The Palestinians were not defeated at Tel al-Zataar by the Lebanese Phalangists. They were defeated by the Syrian Army.

The Syrian government sent thousands of troops into Lebanon last Spring, to support the Lebanese right. The Syrian regime was afraid that a victory for Palestinians and Moslems, fighting for equal rights in Lebanon, would lead to a social revolution.

Syrian forces have pinned down

the Palestinians' forces all over northern and eastern Lebanon. That was why the Palestinians could not bring reinforcements to back up the defense of Tel al-Zataar, and why the Phalangists finally overran it.

It was no accident that the right wing armies rejected all cease-fires or negotiations to evacuate Tel al-Zataar, or that they massacred every unarmed Palestinian soldier they could round up.

This war began nearly eighteen months ago, when Phalangists massacred a busload of 27 unarmed Palestinian refugees. Every right-wing victory in this war has been followed by a slaughter.

The massacre at Tel al-Zataar is a part of the right-wing parties' political aims in this war. They are out to wipe out the Palestinian resistance movement, smash all left-wing Moslem power inside Lebanon, and drive the Palestinians out of the country.

BLOCKADED

American papers and television are playing up the horrors of the war in Lebanon as a civil war between Christian and Moslem communities. But this is only a small part of the story.

The western powers, especially the United States, want to cover up their own full-scale involvement in this war.

That involvement is the main reason this struggle is so long and bloody. Seven U.S. and French ships, loaded with arms for the fascist armies, were unloaded in the last few weeks.

The Phalangists are also well-equipped with arms and ammunition from Israel and Iran. Their protectors, the Syrians, are armed

to the teeth with tanks and artillery supplied by Russia.

Israeli ships are blockading the Lebanese coast, stopping arms shipments for Palestinians and left-wing Moslem forces.

Washington is in this dirty war up to Henry Kissinger's neck. Unlike 1958, there are no U.S. marines in Lebanon—but Israel, Syria and the right-wing political leaders and arms merchants of Lebanon are doing his dirty work for him.

MORE FIGHTING

The international bankers, corporation heads and oil sheikhs have fled Lebanon. They are aiding the slaughter from the outside.

Lebanon itself is dead. Its internal economy, never strong, is now totally shattered. It is hard to imagine how any central government could ever be formed again.

The fascist armies, supported by Syria and the most privileged Christian Maronites, believe they can rule Lebanon again by a total victory over the Palestinians and poor Moslems.

But the right is still a long way from that total victory. The Palestinian refugees are now fighting for their very survival. The next round of fighting will be even more hideous.

When, and if, the Lebanese right wing forces win the victory they are after, they will soon face their own day of reckoning. The Phalangists and other fascists in Lebanon now owe all their power to Syria.

They will find that the Syrians, who have occupied over a third of Lebanon, are not eager to leave. If this war in Lebanon ever does end, the next war may not be far behind it. □

Killers Invade Mozambique

The white racists who rule Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) are celebrating the raids by their troops deep into the independent African state of Mozambique. The reason for the attacks by white Rhodesia are the growing success of African liberation forces, deep inside Zimbabwe. Over 600 Zimbabwean liberation fighters and Mozambican villagers were killed in early August.

This raid is a serious temporary defeat for the Zimbabwean liberation struggle. However, this raid and others are a desperate attempt by the minority (5%) white regime to smash a mounting guerilla war

which they cannot win. The ruling whites are so fearful of the liberation fighters, that only convoys truck goods between major cities. African farmers and laborers are forced to run their cattle over the roads each day, so the whites won't be hit by land mines. Grenades recently exploded at one of the posh white night clubs in Salisbury, the capital.

This raid is not the first time Mozambicans have lost their lives for the war to liberate Zimbabwe. Earlier in June, 21 people were massacred at a village called Mapai, 60 miles inside Mozambique from the Rhodesian border.

Here is an account of what happened.

THE ATTACK had begun at about 5:30 a.m. Nearly a hundred Rhodesian soldiers—most of them black—arrived in Jeeps, Unimogs, and Pinchas, while jets circled above and a helicopter commanded the operation.

They were seen by many people on their way to Mapai, but were disguised as Mozambique soldiers. "They had Frelimo uniforms and shouted Frelimo slogans whenever they came across anyone," said one commander.

The first people to die were some children who had camped outside

after a full day of independence anniversary festivities.

Nine boys and girls aged between ten and 15 were shot dead. Another child, seven civilian men and one civilian woman were killed later, and seven civilians were wounded.

The only Mozambican military presence in the village was a 12-man section of army, who were in the social center at the time of the attack. After the first shots, ten of them managed to get out of the house but two remained inside.

They died as bombs were dropped from the Rhodesian aircraft, detonating ammunition that

was kept on the ground floor. An explosion followed and the whole house became a shapeless mass of concrete.

LIVE IN HUTS

About a thousand people live in huts and houses around the center of the village, which is composed of a two-story house, a school and the garages and offices of the N'gala transport company. There are also two food stores next to the garages.

Inside one of the garages, there were seven completely burnt-out buses and three trucks, also completely destroyed.

Four Rhodesian soldiers were

killed but no bodies were left behind. The Rhodesian troops went around the village destroying all that belonged to the N'gala transport company.

When they left, they took with them a bus from the transport company and stole money from the company's employees and offices.

According to the local people who witnessed the attack, it was directed by Sergio Pais Mamede, son of the former Portuguese owner of the N'gala transport company.

His father founded the first food store in the area, and later acquired more than a dozen other food-stores all over the district. He also started the bus company. Until the recent events it had 22 buses, and received big land concessions from the Portuguese government.

In 1975 Pais Mamede left for South Africa, then Rhodesia.

His cousin took over the place but also left the country after many disputes with the workers who wanted better salaries. He took 400,000 escudos (money) with him.

At the time of the attack, the

transport company was being run by a workers' committee. The trucks brought supplies to the villages and transported peasants' crops to the market. The buses were the only public means of transport, apart from the railway, in the region. □



Ian Smith, Rhodesian Prime Minister, sends troops to massacre villagers in Mozambique.

CITY RECALLS COPS AS DETROIT DIES

by Kate Stacy and Dan Posen

DETROIT—"Someone's going to be hurt, beginning tonight. Don't let it be your child."

That warning was issued by a spokesman for vacationing Mayor Coleman Young, as the City Administration announced a 10 pm curfew on everyone 17 or younger.

About 450 laid-off policemen have been recalled to active duty here.

Uniformed and plainclothes policemen will be assigned to every street in the downtown area. If city detention facilities are not sufficient to hold the arrested, police announced prison facilities could be converted in 10 to 15 days.

POLICE BEEF-UP

This massive police beef-up followed an explosion of publicity about teen-age gang activity, which has spread from the east side ghetto to the downtown white business area.

When fighting, robberies and even gang rapes broke out at a Cobo Arena rock concert last weekend, police on the scene stood by watching, saying the security guards inside could take care of it. They then left the scene entirely.

In effect, the police unofficially went on strike—saying that unless the City called back all the police laid off earlier this year, they would not even pretend to offer security downtown.

It worked. The city's newspapers are screaming for blood. The head of the Detroit Urban League is among those calling for the return of "STRESS."

STRESS is the killer unit of police "decoys" who gunned down 17 people on the street a few years ago. Coleman Young was elected Mayor because he promised the black community STRESS would go.

Over the summer months, the teenaged black gangs have been growing astronomically. The largest now have memberships in the hundreds.

CITY DYING

What lies behind this crisis is a city that is dying on its feet.

While auto industry profits break records right and left, there are still thousands of automobile and related industry workers out on the streets.

Nationally, black youths entering the work force in the midst of economic instability cannot expect jobs until the early '80s. In Detroit, young black people will not land steady jobs until much later—if ever.

Cutbacks in the school system have been massive. All sports, music, art, and after-school activities have been totally eliminated.

Nine more schools are being closed due to the cutbacks. All of them are in the east-side area, the same devastated economic disaster area where gang growth is most strong.

A generation of young black people in this city is growing up without hope—and seemingly with no way out. Some will become radicals and revolutionaries. But many others will—and have—turned to gang organization as the only way they can survive.

Many join because they are forced to—and for those who rise to the top, crime is the way they can gain some of the success enjoyed by the owners of the businesses and factories.

While gang violence remained in the east-side ghetto, the City Administrators largely ignored it. But now that it has spread to hit whites or downtown business, it is

being sensationalized in the press to create a "bring-back-the cops" climate.

These new repressive measures are intended to affect all black teenagers.

Under the pretext of a campaign to break the back of gang organization, police are being given assurance they can pick up, manhandle and brutalize young blacks without any fear of the consequences.

This City Administration has no jobs, no program and no money for the black community. Instead, they

have a simple, cheap and racist non-solution to a serious problem that cannot be solved under today's class society.

The only thing that they offer is more, and more, and more cops, with the authority to terrorize the whole black community.

The city's problem, however, is that police terror is really no solution to the hopelessness and despair that all black Detroiters feel and the young feel the most.

They will force young black people to fight back at the repressive measures aimed at all of them. Hundreds more cops will do little to

break up the gangs, but they will spread an escalating climate of fear and violence throughout the city.

The city administration, despite its blackness, has upped the violence ante. They are foolish to believe that the game will stop there.



Klansmen March In Louisville

LOUISVILLE, KY—On Saturday, August 14, 200 members of the United Klans of America marched down Preston Highway here. It was an open celebration of racism, with shouts of "White Power," and "Good thing no niggers are here."

In their publicity, the Klan said

New Busing Ordered

The U.S. Sixth Court of Appeals in Cincinnati has ruled sections of Detroit's desegregation plan unconstitutional. They have ordered more extensive use of busing for integration.

The desegregation plan begun last January only integrated a third of Detroit's schools. It has been widely criticized because two-thirds of the schools remain over 95% black.

The judges ordered more extensive busing of white students, but noted that only an integration plan including Detroit's white suburbs could accomplish actual integration.

Previously the Court of Appeals has approved such a program—called metropolitan busing. That plan was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Detroit's school population is more than 70% black.

that the march was not only an anti-busing march. It was a KKK parade, openly anti-black, openly anti-communist.

Sherman Adams, head of the Kentucky branch said, we marched "to show the people we're around and ready to fight."

Jesse Jent, the Indiana Grand Dragon, added, "When our forefathers said all men were created equal, they weren't talking about jungle bunnies."

The march was made up of Klansmen on horses, scores of Klansmen walking silently, several parade floats with Klan dignitaries, a military unit, a youth group, aged 8-16, and a ladies auxiliary. Almost everyone was hooded and robed. They carried American, Confederate, and Klan flags.

Several hundred anti-busing demonstrators followed, and hundreds cheered and applauded as the Klan passed by.

RIGHT GROWS

The Klan is making a bid for the leadership of the anti-busing movement. They see this as a chance for the racist right-wing to grow.

When busing started in Louisville one year ago, Workers' Power warned: "For them (the Klan), the busing crisis is a golden opportunity. They believe that for the first time in many years, an audience for their philosophy of race hatred and violent attacks and intimidation will be growing. We must begin now, while they're still weak, to organize a movement that can wipe this kind

of scum off the street."

The Klan does not lead the anti-busing movement yet, only a section of it. They are still weak, having to call on out-of-state Klansmen to swell their ranks to over 200.

But the cheering crowds on Saturday are an indication of the growing respect they have from whites who are against busing. The black community in Louisville has suffered bombings, beatings, and harassment for a year since busing began.

Black and white workers have to stand up to the Klan. We should

"We Have Not Yet Begun To Fight!"

NORTH HUNTINGTON, PA. — Strikers at Westinghouse Transport here erected a sign near the terminal gates. It was four feet high and 15 feet long and said, "We have not yet begun to fight!"

The strikers, Teamsters Local 30, are in the ninth week of a contract strike. Their employer, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric, refused to sign the Master Freight Agreement that was negotiated last May.

The courts have aided the company by granting an injunction limiting picketing to four strikers. All others must stay one half mile away.

take a lesson from our brothers and sisters in the United Mine Workers union. When the Klan started preaching union-busting and racism down in Harlan County, their rally was busted up by mine workers.

Klansmen had to run for it, tripping over bed sheets all the way.

The demonstrations against the Klan and in support of equal education will begin soon. The first is on Saturday, August 28 in Louisville. We have to smash the Klan, and we can start by building this demonstration.

Criminal charges have been filed against seven men who the company alleges damaged equipment during an attempt by scabs to bring trucks out.

On Wednesday morning, August 11, the company made their final offer, which was not much different from the original sub-standard offer. But added to the deal was the understanding that the seven charged would remain fired.

Local 30 Business Agent George Householder recommended acceptance.

The vote was 38-0 to reject the offer.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

"Rock-a-bye baby, in the tree top,
When you grow up,
You'll work in a shop.
When you get married,
Your wife will work too,
Just so the rich will have nothing to do."



August 26 is Women's Equality Day, the 56th anniversary of women's winning the right to vote. Women's Equality Day also commemorates a long and bitterly fought struggle for women's rights in general.

The struggle began in 1848—and from then to 1920, millions of women organized, demonstrated, picketed, and went to jail to win the vote.

Achieving that goal was an important victory for women's rights; however, the struggle for women's liberation did not end. We have the right to vote, but we have little else. You can really see it in this

The organized women's rights movement began in a small upstate New York town, Seneca Falls. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Fredrick Douglass, all abolitionists and feminists, organized the first women's rights meeting in July, 1848.

At that time, women had no legal or civil rights. A married woman could not keep her own earnings or property. She could not vote; she could not sue or be sued in the courts.

Her husband could beat her, rape her, desert her, take her children or her earnings. In some states a man could legally kill his wife for committing adultery. A woman could legally do nothing if her husband committed adultery.

Women were not able to go to college. They were kept out of medicine and law. And, of course, they did not receive equal pay for

equal work.

The feminists who met at Seneca Falls worked out a program which demanded equal pay for equal work, opening up the professions for women, an end to the double standard against women, greater education for women, and the right to vote.

Stanton and the other pioneer feminists knew that the vote was just one reform in many needed to improve women's position in society.

"We know that the ballot, when we get it," wrote Stanton in the 1860's, "will achieve no more for women than it has achieved for men."

SLAVERY

The majority of working women in America needed a great deal more than the vote.

election—both Presidential candidates, Carter and Ford, offer working class women greater unemployment, inflation, and discrimination—and nothing else.

On the occasion of Women's Equality Day, Workers' Power writer BARBARA WINSLOW traces the history of the struggle for women's equality, and discusses where we go from here.

Black women were savagely exploited as unpaid workers. Slave women bred children for their master's profit. They were whipped, raped, their children stolen from them, their husbands, fathers or themselves murdered.

Their cry was for an end to slavery—for freedom.

White working women were wage slaves. The greatest numbers worked in the northern textile mills. They worked 14 to 16 hours a day earning \$1.65 a week. They had no union to protect them from employers who fired them or lowered their wages.

These women definitely wanted the vote. But they also organized the Lowell Female Reform Association which fought for the ten hour day, higher wages, and protective labor laws for working women.

When women finally won the right to vote, 72 years later, over

8½ million women worked. They were largely concentrated in the lowest paying job categories—clerical, domestic and textile. One million black women worked, primarily as agricultural workers and domestics.

Their lives were very similar to those of the first feminist workers. These women worked the same long hours—12 to 14 hours.

The average weekly wage was \$5.25. A garment worker earned \$3.50. That garment worker took home 68% less than the man working next to her.

Garment workers marched in women's suffrage parades. And, as they fought for women's rights, they also organized into unions and demonstrated for the 8-hour day, and an end to sweatshop conditions, and child care for working women.

TODAY

Today, 56 years later, women can vote. But this year, all we can vote for are two candidates who will only continue the attack against women and the entire working class.

Working women are the key leaders of a movement for equality on the job and in society. As part of the working class, they have the ability to organize more powerfully than any other women.

Today 37 million women work outside the home, but only four million are organized into unions.

A major demand of working women is for organization.

Women are still primarily concentrated in the lowest paying and worst organized job categories—service, domestic and clerical.

Higher wages, job security, and an end to race and sex discrimination on the job and in the union remain the major issues for working women.

And the overwhelming majority of working women, like their sisters of the past, have two jobs. One is in the factory, office or mill; the other is in the home, taking care of a husband and children, four to six hours a day. Cutbacks in services

and other social services mean more work for women in the home.

The struggle for women's equality means child care for all working parents, better jobs and schooling for women, equal pay and equal job opportunities.

And this can only be accomplished if a working women's movement organizes their millions to fight

against all aspects of women's oppression. Women already in unions are in the position to lead this new movement.

Elizabeth Stanton pointed out in 1867 that winning the vote wasn't the major issue. "The ballot is not even half a loaf, it is only a crust, a crumb." The fight has only begun.

"What Do Women Want Anyhow?"

by Candy Martin

"I'm a female steelworker. The job I work now is the third job I've had in heavy industry. Since there are so few women in the mill, men generally treat us, especially at first, as some sort of strange species. Along with some smart remarks, there are a lot of good and very natural questions about women's liberation. This series will take some of them up."

"When I first put in an application at a steel mill, I was actually a little terrified. I needed a job, and I was tired of working for just over two dollars an hour. But I had heard about how rough the work was, and maybe it was true that I just wouldn't be able to cut it."

The personnel manager who decided to hire me (now check this out) said, "You know, we usually don't take women in here. But since you've worked construction, maybe we'll take a chance on you."

That mill job was the easiest one I'd ever had.

Still, just about every time I meet a guy I haven't worked with before, he shakes his head, a little like a father, and says, "But you don't belong in here. This work's too hard for a woman."

Since he thinks he's only trying to show concern, he's usually a little taken aback when I get uppity and say, "Hey, I got news for you—you men think your work's so rough—well it ain't nothin' like what we women have to put up with." And I tell him what it was like to bust ass as a waitress and a secretary for less than half the money.

MUCH, MUCH HARDER

The truth is that the work is not too hard for a woman at all. And that what are traditionally called "women's jobs" are often, much, much harder.

So why does everyone think women can't do the work? In fact, women have always worked, and they have always worked at jobs that men have done. Today, if you look at the Department of Labor's job categories, you find that there are women working in every job that exists.

Women can do the same work men do, they do now, and they always have in the past.

When black women were forced into slavery on the southern cotton fields, no one said they were too feminine to do the work. When Rosie the Riveter was made into a famous stereotype during World War II, no one said that women can't handle "men's jobs."

The ruling class changes its propaganda about women's capabilities in the newspapers, television, schools, and advertisements depending on its needs for a larger or smaller workforce. When it's convenient to have women in the home caring for male workers (husbands), women are sweet and lovely and dumb and meant only for motherhood. When women are needed in the factories, the whole tune gets changed.

DEFENSE

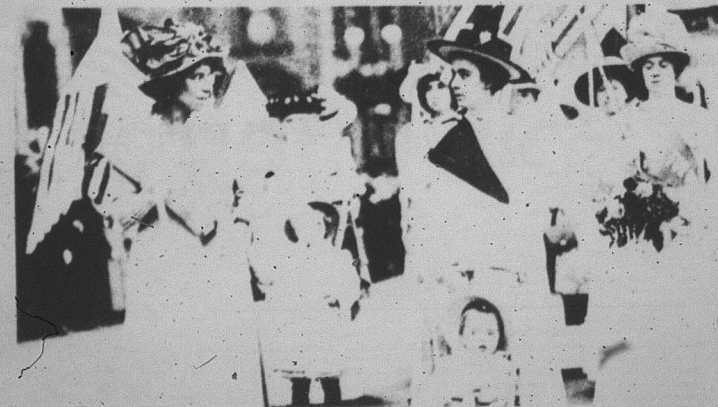
The guys I work with will always find one woman who is "lazy" and use it as proof of their argument that women can't handle the job. Of course there may be a dozen men who sit on their asses for that one woman who is "lazy." But the point is that there's nothing wrong with being "lazy"—in fact, it's often our best defense. When the boss is ripping us off for two or three times the value of our work, the less amount of toil everyone can get away with, the better.

Now there may be a few exceptional jobs that most women will not be strong enough to handle. Because it's true that women, in general, are not as strong as men. A lot of that's because of the way this society trains us.

Men are taught to take on rough sports and hobbies and to be masculine and muscular, while women are taught to be soft and demure. When I was a sports lover in high school, for instance, the boys were sent out to play soccer and football during gym class. But our gym teacher was giving the "girls" classes in etiquette! We were taught not to develop our bodies.

Because of that kind of training, most women do not have the same degree of muscular strength that most men have. But if there are a few jobs that are so tough women simply cannot manage, then no one should have to do them! If I am not strong enough to handle a certain job, no man should have to bust his ass at it either.

The answer is plain and simple. Provide more jobs for everyone, to make it easier on all of us. This, of course, costs money. But a society that is based on people's needs rather than the private profit of a few rats, will use technology to all workers' benefit. We can make all jobs easier, without threatening anyone's survival.



From the sweatshops of New England (top), to the fight for the vote (above), to winning equal rights as workers (right), women have organized for freedom.



New Battles Lie Ahead In Portugal

Socialist Party Caught in the Middle

The pace of events in Portugal today is much slower than it was last September, October and November.

Police walk the streets of Lisbon, as they do every city in the world. Last summer and fall, with capitalist authority collapsing the police practically stayed in hiding.

Today, there is no threat of an immediate coup or civil war. There is no open, mass rebellion by soldiers against discipline in the Army. The workers are not on the verge of an all-out struggle to take power.

Because of this, papers all over Europe and America say that "stable, democratic government" is replacing the last "two years of revolutionary anarchy" in Portugal.

But stability in Portugal is only on the surface. Step by step, a new stage of the revolutionary process is beginning to unfold.

SOCIALIST PARTY PROGRAM

One of the first steps is a crisis ripping through the Socialist Party. The SP won the Parliamentary election in April and formed the new government in Portugal in July.

In spite of its name, the Socialist Party stands for a capitalist program. SP leaders such as Prime Minister Mario Soares, want to use socialist phrases to gain acceptance among workers for measures that would guarantee good profits for new investors.

However, restoring profits in Portugal today would mean wiping out the freedom, the power and the better living standards that Portuguese workers have gained in two years of struggle.

The government wants to give employers back the power to fire, to lay off and speed up their workers.

The economic policies of the new Socialist Party government mean direct attacks on workers.

Socialist Party ministers called in police against demonstrating teachers. When the police were unleashed, they went on a rampage and viciously clubbed many of the demonstrators.

These are the same teachers who voted for, or are members of, the Socialist Party.

The first major attacks on workers' control in the factories will take place in the North. This is where a large section of production workers supports the SP.

In order to carry out the "austerity measures," which the bosses are demanding, the Socialist Party is heading for one confrontation after another—with the SP's own base, the very people who put it into power!

GROWING SPLIT

The impact of these policies has created a bitter and growing split inside the Socialist Party.

The right and left wings of the Socialist Party are bitter enemies. The same struggle which runs

throughout Portugal—the demands of the capitalist system, versus the strength of the workers—is ripping the SP apart.

Because of this split, the SP is often unable to take any position. A motion was raised in the National Assembly, against allowing ex-President and fascist Antonio de Spínola to return to Portugal. The Socialist Party—which runs the government—was so badly split it had to abstain!

The allies of the SP left wing in the military, the group of "moder-

ate" officers led by Major Melo Antunes, have been purged from the Army by the far right.

Meanwhile, left-wing members of the SP are being purged from positions in the state machine—by the right wing of the same SP!

At the same time, the SP itself cannot control the growing power of much more extreme right wing forces inside the military apparatus.

Some of the established left-wing SP leaders now fear that they can do nothing to control either the right wing of their own party, or the growth of the far right in Portugal.

The traditional SP left wing is represented by politicians, such as Agriculture Minister Lopes Cardoso. However, there is another force inside the SP with a working-class base.

This opposition is called "The Group for the Defense of a Socialist Program." It was organized by a

well-known and respected metal workers' leader, Kaldas Barreto.

This working class opposition, inside the SP, demands that the SP defend the official Party program calling for socialism and a struggle against western imperialism.

Sections of the working-class left of the Socialist Party are open to the revolutionary left. A very large portion of SP workers voted for the revolutionary left Presidential candidate, Otelo de Carvalho.

Many of these workers are joining the new revolutionary movement called GDUPS ("dynamization groups of popular unity").

These are being organized by the PRP (Revolutionary Party of the Proletariat) and other revolutionaries who built the Carvalho campaign.

Through the GDUPS, many of the left-wing workers in the SP can be finally won to an independent revolutionary organization.



Kindergarten children in Soweto display their knowledge of the symbols for victory over apartheid.

South Africa - Police Terror

A wave of arrests, roundups and "administrative detentions" is sweeping through the black townships of South Africa.

The white racist government is desperately trying to snuff out the black rebellion against apartheid, by jailing every possible black leader.

Those arrested include Winnie Mandela, leader of the Parents' Association in the black township of Soweto. Her husband, Nelson Mandela, leader of the outlawed African National Congress, has been serving a life term on a dreaded

prison island for the last 14 years.

SEIZED

Leaders of groups like the Black Women's Federation, student organizations, the Black Consciousness Movement, and every other opposition movement among the black and colored (racially mixed) populations, have been pulled in from the streets or seized from their homes.

The fascist South African regime gives itself the "right"

to hold anyone, for any or no reason, for any length of time, on any charge or no charge at all.

None of this will succeed in suppressing the new black explosion in South Africa. For every leader that is jailed, a hundred more are emerging. Every temporary lull in the struggle only sets the stage for more fighting.

The white South African rulers know very well their days are numbered. That is why they are turning more vicious than ever before.

by Jack Weinberg, UAW Local 212

Get Fridays Off — And Live!

EVER SINCE HENRY FORD started building his cars on a continuous assembly line, the big auto companies have been carrying out a drive, year in and year out, to turn out more and more cars with less and less workers.

For example, between 1956 and 1973, two peak auto production years, the number of cars built per year went from 5.9 million in '56 to 9.6 million in '73. Yet in that same period the size of the workforce remained pretty much constant. Over this period, management was able to boost production by better than 60%.

During the economic slump and mass layoffs of 1974 and 1975, management found it could use fear, intimidation, and harassment to speed up workers still faster.

In 1976, with production back to 1973 levels, Ford Motor Company needs 11,000 fewer hourly workers than they needed three years ago. Similar patterns hold for GM and Chrysler. And in the years to come, they will continue seeking ways to cut the work force while increasing production.

SQUEEZE

In part, the increased production comes from new technology and automated equipment. But mainly it comes from management's drive to perfect the techniques for squeezing more and more work out of each employee each hour. Each hour, the worker is forced to put out a greater effort than should be required in a normal hour's work.

These days, when an autoworker has worked 40 hours, the muscles and nerves are already 50 to 60 hours worth of tired. And manage-

ment has gotten 50-60 hours worth of work. Then, to top it off, management has the right to schedule forced overtime—practically without limit.

Management finds it cheaper to run overtime than to hire more workers. They also find that if workers get used to working regular overtime; they are less militant in pushing for a high enough hourly wage to "make it" on 40 hours pay. This means

management can get away with a lower hourly pay rate.

THREATENS HEALTH

The pace and intensity of work in the auto plants today threatens to cause serious health and nervous disorders among the workers. Autoworkers need a stronger in-plant union, more power for elected representatives, and an all-out drive to roll back production

standards.

But at the same time, auto workers need to seek relief in another area as well.

Over the past 25 years, the number of cars produced in the U.S. each year has gone up at an enormous rate. The reason is that in 1950, there were only 50 million cars registered in the U.S., while by 1973, that figure had jumped to 125 million. This represents a 250% increase.

Even though management has succeeded in producing more and more cars with fewer workers, the enormous rise in car sales means that the big four car makers still employ 660,000 hourly workers.

But if car sales stop going up at such astronomical rates and if management's insane drive for production continues, the size of the workforce will decrease sharply.

This would mean a long-term trend of massive permanent layoffs for autoworkers, unless something is done to prevent it. And it is certain that American car production will not continue rising at the old pace.

In order to protect their jobs then, autoworkers will have to find ways of forcing management to keep up the size of the work force.

SHORT WEEK

The only answer lies in the direction of a shorter work week, no forced overtime, double-time at a minimum for any overtime worked, and high enough wages so that workers won't need the overtime.

The demand for shorter work week at full pay for autoworkers is fully justified by the fact that autoworkers already produce more than 40 hours worth of work in 32 hours.

If this demand is not fought for and won, the United Auto Workers will become a declining union with a shrinking membership. Its power to protect the remaining members from management's infinite greed will diminish.

The leadership of the UAW understands this. The UAW Bargaining Convention last fall, supposedly set the goals for 1976 auto bargaining. There, they stated that job security through shorter work time would be the union's highest priority.

Now it appears they are chickening out. All that UAW leaders talk about under the heading of short work time is a management-oriented absentee control plan called "time banking" that would reward workers with an extra day off for 16 weeks perfect attendance.

In truth, the reason for high rates of absenteeism is the killing pace of work.

Management now says it wants to fight absenteeism by depriving workers of vacation credits for each week in which an absence occurs. They got this idea from the UAW's proposal for "time banking."

The solution to absenteeism, and the solution to the long term problem of job security, must be short work week at full pay. All the other proposals are frauds.

32 FOR 40

It's time for the UAW to establish the goal of 32 hours work for 40 hours pay. This would give autoworkers a three day weekend every week to rest up and prepare for the next week's work.

We can start moving toward the 32 hour work week by negotiating for extra three day weekends in each contract. Our goal should be Fridays off, every week—with full pay.



"You've done such an outstanding job operating two machines we are having you work a third..."

Auto Talks In Sixth Week

UAW IS ON THE RUN

AS AUTO CONTRACT bargaining enters its sixth week, the UAW continues to offer its membership nothing but total retreat from the gains made in past contracts.

Week after week the union has refused to take the initiative on any of the pressing issues facing autoworkers: crushing inflation, harassment and speed-up on the job, and job security.

Instead, it is the companies which have set the tone. Their proposals have condemned absenteeism, demanded more involuntary overtime, refused adequate new money to retirees to keep up with inflation, robbed workers of paid health benefits, and "restructured SUB" to take protection away from low seniority workers.

On every issue it is the company which has defined the limits and set the terms, while the union has sat politely and meekly by.

With only three weeks left to

contract expiration, September 14, the best the UAW has been able to manage is a demand for more paid holidays.

The demand is clearly a response to rank and file calls for a shorter work week at full pay. Even this demand, which falls far short of one day off per week, fails to specify how many days the union is bargaining for.

Record profits have made the companies bold this year. In the last quarter, GM made 10 million dollars a day, Ford made 5 million, Chrysler, the smallest, only made 1,000 dollars per minute.

In 1977, they want a repeat performance—and more. When hard times hit again, as they did in 1973-74, GM, Ford, and Chrysler want a nest egg. They intend to get it by going on the offensive against the living standards and working conditions of the UAW membership.

Flabby UAW leadership has encouraged the attack. Woodcock must retire next year

and he's looking for a new job, especially one as Secretary of Labor if Jimmy Carter becomes President. If Woodcock can get a government cabinet post by not raising militant demands, he will probably try for that "flexible" negotiated peace.

Clearly, the auto companies believe that auto workers were hurt so badly by the layoffs that they will not strike under any circumstances, and will not pressure their leadership to deliver a good contract. Certainly the UAW leadership has done everything to encourage that attitude.

SAY NO

It is auto workers who must be willing to say "no" to any contract that falls short of certain minimal demands. What is needed is:

• Job Security—a real shorter work week, to provide more jobs. A new SUB program that guarantees a full 52 weeks SUB for all eligible UAW members. High seniority

workers need protection, but not at the expense of the lower seniority workers. Extra days off—but not if it is paid for by taking away other benefits in the contract.

• Decent Working Conditions—Since some people got back from layoffs, the speed-up and harassment has been tremendous. Health and safety conditions have gone down hill. Union representation is under attack. An "absentee control" program will not bring people back to work if there is forced overtime and horrible working conditions.

• Income Protection—The COLA formula should rise to meet inflation cent for cent. The base pay should be raised to make up for lost money. Retirees need COLA-protection on all pensions.

This is the minimum. If the union is not willing to confront the companies, the Big Three will continue to demand more.

Pat Gallagher
Valerie Dixon





Rita Drapkin, UPSurge spokesperson, addressing UPSers on the steps of Teamsters Local 249 Hall in Pittsburgh.

UPSurge DEMANDS: SET STRIKE DATE!

PITTSBURGH—Sixty people met in front of the Local 249 Teamster Temple in pouring rain on August 15. The meeting was called by UPSurge East to protest the black-out of information about contract negotiations.

Two television stations and local newspapers were there to report on the rain-drenched Teamsters who were denied a warm, dry meeting in their hall.

Bob Falgione, full-timer and UPSurge activist, addressed the crowd. "We elect our Business Agent, and he's not authorized to call a meeting—even when 200 signatures are collected on petitions demanding one! We elect our steward and he is not allowed to attend negotiations—even on our own local supplements!"

Rita Drapkin, UPS part-timer, raised three demands:

- A strike deadline be set
- Ratification or rejection by secret ballot in the union hall
- If there is a strike, no return to work without a ratified contract or as long as there are any repercussions against rank and file members.

These demands passed unanimously. They will be sent to the local Business Agent and to the Eastern Conference Negotiating Committee.

UPS-East Talks Going Nowhere

Eastern Conference United Parcel Service (UPS) workers have been working without a contract since August 1 when they overwhelmingly rejected management's first lousy offer.

Since then the union has continued negotiations at a leisurely pace—extending the contract day by day, meeting only three days a week.

Teamster officials are freezing the rank and file out of their own contract negotiations. They broke their promise to faithfully report progress of the negotiations.

PRESSURE FOR STRIKE

UPSurge East, the regional organization of rank and file UPS workers, voted at its August 7 steering committee meeting to pressure for a sanctioned strike.

UPSurge East organized a petition campaign to demand that the union call meetings to keep the membership informed. UPSurge planned to raise motions at these meetings that would express the

outrage of the membership to Bill McCarthy, chief negotiator.

The petitions were circulated in most major hubs and centers. They were tremendously popular.

However, McCarthy still refused to authorize such meetings. And none of the local officials dared to call meetings on their own.

In one city, Pittsburgh, UPSurge held its own meeting in front of the union hall in the pouring rain.

PROGRESS MINIMAL

A leak to UPSurge East indicates that progress on negotiations are minimal. The major issues have yet to be settled. Only six out of 44 articles are resolved.

The company and union have come to agreement on only the smallest points, like the question of credit union check-off. The company had been fighting the credit union because they wanted employees' savings invested in UPS under the Employee Thrift Plan.

The important issues, like the health, welfare and pension plan for part-timers, are unsettled.

auto contract '76 auto contract '76 auto contract

"absenteeism"

CHRYSLER SAYS...

Chrysler corporation says it had a big problem this last quarter—absenteeism. You may ask how serious this problem could have been to a company that managed to squeak by on \$1,000 per minute from April to June. But Chrysler claims the average absentee rate was 7.4%. The company is presenting the United Auto Workers union with methods to deal with the "problem" in their upcoming contract, now under negotiation.

Under the current contract, employees are entitled to full vacation benefits if they've worked 26 weeks. Chrysler's Bavinger wants to raise that 26 week requirement. Or else make vacation time dependent on a good show-up record, whatever that may be.

The union also sees absenteeism as a "problem." They haven't said much about the conditions that make people stay home—speedup, overtime, unsafe equipment. The union is showing little fighting spirit on this issue, suggesting increased "absentee pools," and more hiring of part-timers on Mondays and Fridays.

What Chrysler Workers Say

If the union isn't saying much about the "absentee control program," Chrysler workers certainly are. Workers' Power asked several members of UAW Local 51 what they think about Chrysler's proposals on absenteeism. Local 51 workers at Chrysler's Lynch Road Assembly and Mound Road Engine plants.

Nick Peralta thinks the program is "Absolutely wrong. It's bad enough right now, the work. You work hard all day long, it's a tough job. You need your vacation time." He added, "The absentee problem isn't as bad as they claim it is."

Another Chrysler worker brought home some of the causes of absenteeism. "People take off because they're overworked. Why bring in part-timers, when you should bring in full-timers and lighten the load?"

Doug Fraser has suggested that "We're dealing with social change... Younger people have adapted to making a living on four days a week" because of the high pay in auto work. A member of Local 51 had his own explanation.

"People take off because they're overworked. The people on the line don't put down on paper describing what it's like. He can feel it in his muscles when it's time to go home."

Bill Parker stated, "Chrysler can go to hell. Right now they've got about 4100 people making 53 cars an hour. A year ago it was 4400 making 48 cars. No one can come in every day."

"Absenteeism is a fact of life in Chrysler. If they have 10% absenteeism, then they should have enough people to cover for that. "Vacations and other benefits are mine, and I'm not giving it up so that Chrysler can solve its problems. No way!"

Probably the sentiment of Chrysler workers towards the plan was best summed up by a woman who said, "That plan? It's a piece of junk!"

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Fighting For Pension COLA

"We are disappointed with the International in this year's negotiations."

"If we go on strike, I don't even know what we are striking for."

These remarks were made at a meeting of the 30 and Out Committee in Flint, Michigan on August 18. The 30 and Out Committee is an organization in the United Auto Workers union (UAW), composed mostly of local presidents and other secondary officers. The Committee is strongest at General Motors.

Eighty people attended, including local officers from eastern Michigan and Ohio. Members of the Committee tried to focus the union's contract demands on a cost of living allowance (COLA) for retirees and a shorter work week. The Committee, along with others, has sponsored several successful demonstrations to emphasize these demands.

Frank Runnells, Local 22 President, moved that the Committee urge rejection of any contract that does not meet three minimum requirements:

- Cost of living relief for retirees
- Significant movement toward shortening the work week
- No contractual language that ties time-off to good attendance.

The motion passed. This action by the 30 and Out Committee raises the possibility of a rejection of the contract if no progress is made.

UAW REFUSES ACTION

UAW President Leonard Woodcock and other negotiators have refused to take action on COLA for retirees. They claim their hands are tied because they signed a pension agreement through 1979. So far, the only demand the UAW leadership has raised for retired members is a dental plan.

The UAW leaders are also bad on the issue of a shorter work week. One proposal calls for an additional 12 days off a year—far short of a real short work week. Another calls for limited time-off tied to good attendance.

Those meeting in Flint expressed varying degrees of dissatisfaction with the UAW bargainers. They hope their motion will put pressure on the International leadership to make progress in those key areas.

PRESSURE GROUP

The 30 and Out Committee has acted as a pressure group on the International, while at the same time they remain a wing of the administration of the union. In the past, pressure by the Committee on bargainers would get results, and they would be able to deliver the goods to their own membership.

However, in the last few years, the International leadership has moved so far to the right that pressure alone will not do the job.

To make progress on the COLA for pensions, or on the shorter work week will require a real movement to press for the demands and then to reject the contract if necessary.

To win these demands, the local officers in the 30 and Out Committee need to mobilize the rank and file of their locals.

Unfortunately, the 30 and Out Committee will probably settle for a cash payment for retirees' out of the existing negotiated package, rather than real COLA protection for retirees.

Enid Eckstein

I.S. Branches

- National Office: 14131 Woodward Ave., Highland Park, MI 48203
- Austin: PO Box 8492, Austin, TX 78712
- Bay Area: PO Box 132, Oakland, CA 94604
- Bloomington: PO Box 29, Bloomington, IN 47401
- Boston: PO Box 8488, JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114
- Charleston, W. VA: PO Box 155, Tyler Heights Sta., Charleston, W. VA. 25312
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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

to Workers' Power

A NEW BILL OF RIGHTS?

Dear Workers' Power,

We need a 15th ammendment to the Constitution—the right for workers to piss in peace.

I read the recent article about women having rotten washroom facilities at US Steel in Gary, and how they decided to get together and do something about it.

Well, the women (and men) at Gary are not alone.

Women at US Steel Clairton Works in Pa., have been upset about the same problem. We often have to walk twenty minutes just to find a bathroom on the job, and then the foreman gets mad at us for being gone so long.

There's often no soap, drinking water, or sanitary facilities.

Many people can't even shower the crud off their bodies after work because the locker rooms are so crowded.

So, some of the women got together, and then found out that the men have many of the same problems, and that many of them want to get decent facilities too.

A group of people, men and women, have started meeting, and bringing their case to the union. They started a petition at the plant, that so far has gotten a strong response.

Management, of course, has responded too. Some of the washrooms are quietly being fixed up. (Think that's a coincidence?)

At the same time, there have been rumored threats of punishment for getting signatures on the petition.

It's really something when with all the millions they get out of our work, the companies are too stingy to even provide for our most basic physical needs.

A Steelworker Pittsburgh



Dear Workers' Power,

I've read lots in your paper about the employers' offensive—including the productivity drives coming down on working people now.

It's all part of the growing economic crisis and the scramble to protect profits.

It wasn't until recently that by my own experience really began to show me what all that means.

In my department, they called a meeting—free eats included—to let us know that because we're so "special" we'd be helping management carry out some little "experiments." Just a few changes in job functions here and there. Real slick. They had quite an "experiment" all worked out. All of this turned out to mean:

- ADDING job functions to our regular workload.

- Two people who transferred out of my work group recently aren't being replaced.

- Instead of four people performing one of the jobs, three will do it from now on.

- Certain jobs outside of our unit will be done away with altogether since our "reorganized" jobs will include some of their work.

- We are in for a crackdown on absenteeism and no more paid time-off for doctor's appointments.

- More overtime, and probably forced overtime at that, in the busy periods ahead.

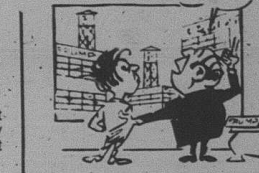
And on and on and on. As one of my friends said the other day, "This outfit we work for definitely has its shit together."

South Central Bell has been harassing the public and jamming the courts with new demands for the rate increases.

Their latest would net the company upwards of \$50 million, treating regular customers like us to a 50% hike on monthly service charges.

But just in case they don't get all of that, they have another strategy to cut costs.

MEY ALL THAT I OWN IS THE RESULT OF DILIGENCE AND HARD WORK



BUT WHOSE?



They're treating us, the workforce that provides these services, to a slick program of speed-up and job elimination.

They're training management to "streamline" production and get rid of all "force surplus." That means get rid of as many of us as possible.

Sound familiar? Probably. Because, as I've been finding out, ours isn't the only department, nor the only Bell System company, nor the only industry, where workers are facing all of this.

It's everywhere and there's only one solution: We have to organize ourselves and make our unions fight back.

Workers' Power is right on the mark!

M.S. Frankfort, KY

WE OPPOSE

• CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION

We live under the capitalist system. The wealth produced by working people is stolen from us by private employers. They prosper from our labor.

• CAPITALIST CONTROL

Capitalists use their profits only to make more profits. When they need fewer workers, they create unemployment. When they need more money, they speed up work, downgrade safety conditions and raise prices. The capitalist system spends little on health care, a clean environment, or social services, because these things make no profit.

• OPPRESSION

Capitalism needs inequality—because it needs profits, it can't provide enough for all. So it gives some groups of people worse jobs and lower pay, and labels them inferior. In particular, capitalism locks black people into the bottom of society, and spreads racist ideas to keep them there and justify it. Capitalism keeps women responsible for taking care of the workforce when it is not at work, including children, who are too young to work. Women who work for wages have two jobs.

• CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT

The government serves the capitalist class. Its only purpose is to protect the private profit system. It protects its interests abroad through economic control of other countries, spying and wars.

• BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM

Russia, China and the countries with economies like theirs are also oppressive class societies, run by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats. They are not socialist and must be overthrown by the working classes of those countries.

WE SUPPORT

• THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

The unions protect workers from their employers. But today's unions are run by privileged officials who sell out because they support the capitalist system. They want labor peace not labor power. We support the struggle for rank and file control of the unions.

• LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION

We support the struggles of every oppressed group to end its oppression: the struggle for equality and justice by blacks, women, gays, latinos, native Americans, and all oppressed people. Support from the entire working class movement will make both these struggles, and that movement stronger.

• SOCIALISM

Society should be run by the working class. The wealth produced by those who work should go to fill people's needs, not to private gain.

• WORKERS' REVOLUTION

But the capitalist class will not give up their rule and profits voluntarily. Socialism can be created only when the working class seizes control of the factories and makes their own government. The working class will rule democratically because it can own society's wealth only together.

• INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is world wide. Nations fighting to throw out foreign rulers must have the support of the international working class as in Angola today. So must every struggle of working people to end their oppression, as in Portugal today, and in Russia and Eastern Europe.

• REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

The most class conscious members of the working class have the responsibility to lead the struggle toward socialist revolution. To do this they must build an organization to put their consciousness into action and make their leadership effective.

• INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

The I.S. is an organization of revolutionary socialist workers. We are open to all who accept our basic principles and are willing to work as a member to achieve them. Join with us to build the I.S. into a revolutionary party, to build the movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world.

Fight for Freedom!

Dear Workers' Power,

Permit me to bestow upon you my greetings. Once again I find myself criticizing you for negligence in the case of Brother Delbert Tibbs. He's been on The Row since 1973, and y'all haven't given him any coverage.

In fact, I think if it don't be for Brother Gary Tyler, Brother Tibbs probably wouldn't have gotten what little play y'all gave him.

If you're gonna fight for humane rights, then you must do it right. If you're gonna fight for justice, then you must be just. If you're gonna fight for Liberation, they you must first be liberated.

For a person, being physic-

ally free with a slave mentality is worse than being mentally free and physically incarcerated...

But we're united now. At least some of us are striving side by side, although we know that, in order to reach our goal, some of us have to die.

Let the deaths be few, and the Life be plenty, as we go through the streets trying to recruit the many.

We've come too far to throw it all away, cause we gain more and more ground every day. So let's not falter in our strides. Let us be the men and women we were born to be, and not the slaves that we are.

When the time comes to

battle, let us not run and hide!

How come you don't print anything about Assata Shakur? She is as important in the struggle as anyone else is.

Remember what she did, she done for the people. Brave and beautiful woman, child; struggling and striving not for recognition, but for the freedom of her people.

From all the Brothers in the hole at West Pen..

- Nkrumah Ali Mumitt
- Shiddigg Yazid Alim
- Sudolo El Lutunjo
- Malugu Gahigi
- Abullah
- June Swoope
- Tabu Rafi
- Shotgun
- Muhammad
- Lumumba



REPORT WORLD EVENTS

Dear Workers' Power,

I was glad to see that your coverage of the international events has increased in the last few issues. As far as I can tell this is true of both the number of articles and the depth of the analysis.

In the past, the paper seemed to only cheer on workers' struggles in the U.S. without providing the proper analytic framework with which to understand these struggles

in any complete way.

What is absolutely necessary at this time is clear demonstration of the international context of domestic struggles and their international repercussions.

This means relating what are seemingly unrelated events in a way that exposes the international structure and effects of modern capitalism.

Workers' Power to some extent does this, at least implicitly, but these connections have to be made very

explicitly, and more frequently.

This doesn't have to be done on some pretentious theoretical level, and in fact must be treated in a concrete, straightforward manner. Just saying that capitalism screws things up isn't enough.

I'd like to see Workers' Power make a clear analysis of the current Middle East situation and what the implications will be for the American worker.

I'd also like to see a fuller

explanation of the International Socialists' point of view of events in Southern Africa.

Your treatment of labor issues in the U.S. has been very good—the consequences of these labor struggles are made very clear, as tactical questions.

I hope you will do the same for international issues in the future.

Andrew Feller Swarthmore, PA

MARQUETTE PARK

Building A Black Movement

CHICAGO'S NEW MOVEMENT

In Chicago this week a small group of young ministers have stood up to Chicago-style forced segregation and racist terror with more courage than any other section of Chicago's established black leadership. They call themselves the Martin Luther King Jr. Movement, and they use the experiences of the 1960's civil rights movement as their model. But these are different times. The struggle against the racist oppression of black people will require a different kind of movement with different methods. A look at the history of the old civil rights movement shows why.

THE NON-VIOLENT STRATEGY

In the late 1950's and early 1960's, the U.S. economy was growing and expanding. A number of ambitious capitalists and liberal politicians decided the time had come to modernize and industrialize the stagnating economy of the Old South. This decision put them into direct conflict with the old rural-based, backward thinking southern political power structure. Those who organized the civil rights movement wanted to take advantage of this split within the white ruling class to advance the cause of black people's rights by forging an alliance with white liberal capitalists and politicians.

The black civil rights leadership developed a strategy of non-violent direct action to build this alliance. They held marches, sit-ins, pray-ins, and swim-ins both to mobilize and unify the black community, and to gain support from liberal middle and upper class whites who already had negative attitudes toward "southern backwardness."

The civil rights leadership understood that most of the white liberals were racists in their own way and could easily feel threatened by a powerful, unified black movement. But a movement that could peacefully accept insults, beatings and even cattle prod attacks, was easier for liberal whites to accept. Despite this, the white liberals proved not to be very reliable allies.

The movement was able to win some important gains—particularly in the South. Legal segregation was weakened.

Southern black people re-established the right to vote. Throughout the nation, black people were inspired by this movement, gaining enormous pride and self-confidence.

But non-violence then became an obstacle. When black people in Birmingham, Alabama, fought back against racist terror, Martin Luther King, Jr. advised them, "If blood must flow in the streets, let it be ours."

REBELLIONS AND BLACK POWER

In 1965, there was a black uprising in the Los Angeles ghetto streets of Watts. Dr. King called for and defended the use of national guard troops against the Watts black community. Each step of the way, civil rights leaders like King wanted to keep the movement within the boundaries of what they thought would be acceptable to white liberal public opinion. By the mid-60's, the needs of the black masses and the interests of middle and upper class, white liberalism were no longer in harmony. The old civil rights movement stopped being a dynamic force.

When the civil rights movement faltered and proved unable to fulfill the great expectations it had awakened among black people, the massive disappointment erupted in big city ghetto uprisings. These rebellions frightened white liberals half to death and convinced the government to use both the carrot and the stick on the black community. More gains for black people were being won now than during the whole non-violent period. Many previously all-white jobs began opening up to black people. In place of "non-violence," the main slogan became "Black Power."

But the FBI and the police also crushed the most militant political wing of the black movement's leadership. Most of the rest of the leadership made its peace with the establishment. They sought false solutions through Democratic Party reform, black capitalism and poverty program grants. Demoralization swept the majority of the black community—in the form of a widespread sentiment that progress through struggle is no longer possible. In the absence of an effective black movement, the most vicious forms of white racism are now rapidly on the rise.

DECLINE FUELING RACISM

Today, American capitalism is no longer economically healthy and expanding. The capitalists now need to cut the living standards of the entire American working class. They want to pull this off by getting blacks and whites to fight one another over how to cut a shrinking pie. The most extreme forces of white racism, such as the Nazis and the Klan, are seeking an alliance with reactionary capitalists and politicians to build a white racist movement to take back the gains black people have won.

Today, many white workers support or sympathize with this right-wing racist movement. They have been convinced

"How we're getting people to the rally"

Members of the Red Tide and other young people have been organizing in the black West Englewood community for the march to Marquette Park. Workers' Power discussed with them how they are doing it.

Chico got involved in the work today. He tells why that happened:

"There's a lot of racial conflict in our neighborhood. Recently some whites hit a six-year-old girl with a pop bottle and busted open her head."

"We're tired of that stuff. Then we saw the Red Tide, and it made a lot of sense."

Jenny, another new organizer, says, "We go door to door. I tell people why, when, and where we're marching. And then I try to sell them a button of the Martin Luther King Jr. Movement that says, 'I'm marching against racism August 21'."

NO JOBS FOR YOUTH

Joy, Red Tide member, explains: "We try to convince people they've got to stand their ground and fight for their rights. In my experience, the younger people are more militant. We're tired of coming out of school and getting no jobs."

"And younger people don't believe that Jesus will come down and save us, like a lot of older people do. They know they have to go out and get it themselves."

Jenny comments, "A lot of people say they support us, but they won't come themselves. They say they're afraid because they've got a city job, or they're just plain scared of the Nazis."

"I tell them everybody's scared. To march, you don't have to say 'I'm not scared.' You have to say, 'I'm willing to go over there and fight.'"

Sharon, a Red Tide member, added, "Some say 'we don't have to go to Marquette Park, but if the racists come in here we'll take care of them.' But just yesterday, two blocks away, the Nazis came around in a sound truck, saying, 'Niggers Beware.'"

MOVEMENT AGAINST RACISM

Jenny continued, "The march is a start. I don't believe marches by themselves can end racism. The real purpose of the march is to mobilize people behind the movement—to show the Nazis and the KKK that we won't stand for this."

"We have strength in our numbers. In general, we should rely more on movements of people, rather than on the courts."

"We already have many rights that are just on paper. For example, we have the right to go anywhere we want, but if we go to Marquette Park, we'll get our heads beat in."



Sharon, of Chicago Red Tide

Hoppy explained his feeling about the young working white youths in Marquette Park. "I think they are mis-directed and misled by the people who are organizing. I mean the Nazis in particular."

"But we have to fight against those people because that kind of racism is dangerous to the whole working class, black and white. And we will work with anyone who is fighting racism."

"I don't believe in non-violence for its own sake. For the march we have to be non-violent. If we weren't, we'd be the ones who would be hurt because we are grossly out-numbered."

Sharon talked about the effect of the work on her: "I've learned how to organize, how to get people together and how to keep people together. How to go out and talk to people—strangers—who may not be friendly at all, and talk about my politics."

"One of the most important things is learning to have patience and keep my temper. That helps them control their feelings too. We have some pretty good conversations, and sometimes I can convince them."

Jenny, who is not a Red Tide member, talked about that: "All my life I've heard communism and socialism are bad, but then I met the Red Tide. Some of the talk about revolution turns me off, but the platforms are good and most of what they say seems to be the truth. So I'm just listening and talking to them right now."

Betty remarked, "I'm not a member, but I'm going to join. The Red Tide is a together organization of young people. They handle their politics really well."

"Mostly everything they were telling me I already agreed with. I know how it feels to be working and getting ripped off. And I like the way they're organizing young people."

UPCOMING GARY TYLER EVENTS

SEATTLE—Rally and dance at the Langston Hughes Center. August 27. 8 pm till midnight. \$1.00 donation. Music by Universe.

CLEVELAND—Benefit picnic and rally. August 29. 1:00. Woodhill Park, East Blvd., & Kinsman.

that they can protect their own living standards by joining an attack on black people. But they will discover that attack directed today against blacks is the opening of an attack on the living standards of the entire working class, white as well as black.

BUILDING A NEW MOVEMENT

Chicago's Martin Luther King Jr. Movement has taken a strong and courageous stand against the racist offensive. It is no surprise that in looking for a new path forward, people return for inspiration to an old form of struggle. But to succeed, the movement will have to go beyond the principle of non-violence and political liberalism. There is no other way for it to become an effective mass force.

The movement still lacks the strength and following in the black community to out-mobilize the white racists, led by

the Nazis and the Klan. To win that following, it will have to use the methods of direct action in day to day struggles: defending blacks against racist attacks; fighting rotten school conditions, housing conditions; and sanitation; organizing to fight for jobs. By showing it is possible to struggle and win, the self-confidence of the black community can be re-kindled and a solid mass organization can be built.

The International Socialists and the Red Tide are prepared to join in and help build this movement. We believe that a strong movement in the black community can not only fight and defeat the racists, but can also pave the way for a united working class movement. Our goal is to unite black and white, working and poor people, in common struggle over common interests. It is this kind of movement that will someday be able to smash the rotten, racist, capitalist system altogether.

Rubber Strike Still On Despite Wage Pact

by David Katz

A settlement of the major economic issues in the four-month rubber strike was reached in Washington last week. But that does not necessarily mean the strike will end soon.

As negotiations continue on non-economic issues, Firestone, the target company, has resurrected the fight over work rules. Local union officials Workers' Power talked to thought the company had dropped its demand for work rules changes during the talks in Washington. They said there is no telling how long the strike will go on now.

ECONOMIC SETTLEMENT

The tentative wage and cost-of-living agreement came after Labor Secretary W.J. Usery intervened in the strike for the third time.

This time the government proposed, and the negotiators accepted, an economic formula which gives rubber workers an uncapped cost-of-living clause; but does not provide full catch-up pay for inflation losses in past years.

Before the strike, the United Rubber Workers union (URW) was demanding \$1.65 in the first year alone, just to restore wage parity with auto workers. The settlement provides \$1.35 over three years. The cost-of-living formula is uncapped, but is not sufficient to cover 100% of each dollar lost.

Improvements were also made in pensions. This includes an increase in the pensions of already-retired workers. The tire companies originally insisted that a pension increase for these retirees was not a negotiable issue.

Auto companies are currently saying the same thing about their retirees' pensions. Unlike the URW, the auto workers' union has accepted this argument.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

After the tentative economic package was accepted, company-by-company negotiations resumed on other issues.

Firestone wants to go "back to pre-union days" on work rules, said URW Local 7 Treasurer Sernicola. The dispute focuses on the meaning of the term "reason-

able effort," describing the amount of work required. Previously, disputes over the meaning of reasonable were settled through the grievance procedure. Firestone now wants to leave that up to supervision.

Sernicola says he thinks the URW members would accept the contract's economic settlement, although they aren't too happy with it. But "not with those work rules," he added.

Other matters still under negotiation include health and safety issues, job security, and industry demands that some "unprofitable" plants accept lower wage rates.

LENGTHY STRIKE

The rubber strike has been the longest major strike in years. It could have been shorter—and won considerably more—had the URW leadership been willing to take a more aggressive attitude.

What happened was that URW President Peter Bommarito simply sat and waited... and waited. He thought the auto companies would quickly pressure the tire industry to give in. They didn't. They may have done precisely the opposite. Bommarito is now complaining that the auto companies "interfered against us" by urging the tire companies to hold out.

With enormous inventories of tires hidden away in warehouses, the rubber strike did not seriously interfere with auto production, even after four months.

Bommarito would not take the steps that were necessary to put the squeeze on the auto manufacturers: mass picketing at the struck plants to stop supervisors from working; picketing other tire plants that were still working; and perhaps most critical, mass picketing of the warehouses to shut off the flow of stockpiled tires.

All of these measures would have required confronting the courts as injunctions were issued. That's why Bommarito resisted taking these steps. And that's also why the rubber strike so far has been a stand-off—despite considerable sacrifice on the part of the workers and their families—when it could have been a short, clear-cut victory. □



A rubber workers demonstration earlier in the strike.

Workers' Power

Letter Carriers' Convention

RANKS MOVING TO STOP POSTAL SPEEDUP

HOUSTON—The national convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), just concluded, was a turning point for postal workers. The current productivity drive by the Postal Service set an angry tone for the entire week of proceedings.

Time after time, convention delegates stood up to say "NO" to both management's plans and their own union leaders. The nearly 5000 delegates nixed the majority of anti-democratic proposals put forward by the official "Re-structuring Committee."

Proposals to lower convention delegate ratios, lengthen the term of union officers, and freedom to censor local reports to the national union magazine were all soundly defeated.

DISGUST

Disgust with the 1975 national contract also was aired. The delegates adopted an amendment to their union constitution forbidding a contract longer than two years.

The campaign for national presidency of New York Branch President Vince Sombrotto fit the militant mood of the convention. Sombrotto heads a reform slate running in the upcoming national elections. While Sombrotto himself played a low-key role, his supporters led these fights.

Many delegates felt that a national strike was the only thing that could halt management's productivity drive. But a motion for a nationwide job action in September was tabled.

Retiring President James Rademacher's announcement that the Kokomo (speed-up) plan was defeated took the steam out of any strike movement. And Sombrotto supporters are waiting to see what moves their candidate will make if elected. They don't want to commit themselves to leading a strike without national support.

After the hottest debate of the convention, the delegates voted by a small margin that any local or national strike action will require a national referendum. As several delegates pointed out, this rule will have little effect when a group of carriers decides to walk out.

"In 1970," said one delegate after the vote was taken, "it was illegal to strike, but the carriers took that beautiful position...if carriers decided to take action again, this new amendment won't stop them either."

RANKS ORGANIZED

A convention caucus organized by supporters of the Rank and File Postal Workers met throughout the week to discuss the convention issues and organize floor strategies for key resolutions.

Caucus members used their newspaper to reach hundreds of delegates. The paper's stand supporting Sombrotto's campaign but blasting him for not leading a fight

on current issues was popular among nearly all the militant delegates.

"Now we have a network of carriers throughout the country," said Ted Kuhn, vice-president of Branch 2183 Melrose Park, Illinois and caucus member. "By 1978 we should be ready for the contract and the NALC convention in Chicago."

The carriers' convention sets an example for the whole labor movement. It was a sharp contrast to the recent Teamsters convention in Las Vegas. There paid union officers got together to applaud the dictator Fitzsimmons and lash out at the rank and file.

The great majority of delegates to the NALC meeting were working carriers. They fought to protect the traditions of democracy in their union.

And they put union leaders and management officials on notice: carriers are fed up with speedup, and it is only a matter of time before they walk off the job. □

WORKERS' POWER

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Kokomo: Who Won?

In his opening address to the Convention, retiring President James Rademacher announced that the Kokomo plan is dead. He claimed that an arbitrator had ruled against the use of the "Letter Carrier Route Evaluation System" by the Postal Service.

But U.S. Postal Service officials claim that the arbitrator's decision was a victory for them! What is the real story?

In fact, the decision gives the green light to speedup attacks. Carriers won only a symbolic victory by forcing the Postal Service to specifically back off from Kokomo.

But, like the Kokomo plan, new programs involve measurement of mail and routes, and the use of computers to determine route lengths and other work

conditions.

One delegate at the NALC national convention denounced the new measurized system being tried out in Norwalk, CA.

Another pleaded to Rademacher: "In Garden City [N.Y.] we are losing routes. The newspaper today says that [arbitrator] Garret's decision allows MIP-SOP [similar to Kokomo] to go into effect... I urge you to get some fair route standards, or when route inspections come up in September, we're going to get killed again."

The only reason carriers obtained even a symbolic victory on Kokomo was because they threatened to strike if it was implemented. The only way carriers can stop speedup, by any name, is to make good on that threat. □