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WORKERS' POWER

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS SEPTEMBER 20, 1976 #176 15c

FORD STRIKE MUST WIN:

- Shorter Work Week!
- Full COLA On Pensions!

by Elissa Clarke

Auto workers at Ford Motor Company walked out at midnight on September 14. With high spirits, they chanted "Now! Now! Now!" as the strike began.

John Dawkins, a Ford foundry worker, told Workers' Power, "I want everything I can get. And I'll stay out as long as I have to. We gotta strike just to keep what we got."

United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock declared bargaining was deadlocked. UAW negotiators left the table six hours before the formal expiration of the contract. Woodcock said the gap between the company and the union was so wide that it would be a "charade" to continue bargaining.

A strike was the last thing that the UAW leadership wanted. From the beginning, they kept their demands minimal and vague, and declared they would be "flexible."

The UAW invited Ford to walk all over them—and then they were surprised when Ford did.

Ford made its first offer on August 31. The UAW leadership was stunned, calling it "regre and full of 'take-away demands.'"

Since then, Ford has made two more offers, each only marginally better than the first.

ISSUES

What are the issues?

Ford's third offer finally spoke the union's demand for shorter work time. But their proposal ties time off to good attendance—and even workers with good attendance would not see any extra time off until 1978!

The UAW planted this idea, called "time banking." But its emphasis during negotiations was on extra days off staggered throughout the year.

The demand by the rank and file—32 hours work for 40 hours pay—is a far cry from either proposal. 32 for 40 would really shorten the work week, and open up substantial new hiring.

A cost-of-living allowance on pensions was not in the company's offer.

The UAW asked for a cash payment for retirees.. But several rank and file groups have stated that they will not settle for that, including the 30 and Out Committee, particularly in Flint, Michigan. It has mobilized thousands of retirees in demonstrations for the COLA on pensions.

Ford originally demanded that workers share the cost of health insurance, but they have dropped that demand. Still, they have offered little improvements in the health care package. By offering less than zero at the start, they hope to find more willingness to settle for zero.

Ford refuses to fold the cost-of-living allowance into the base pay rate. COLA is now \$1.14/hour. The union wants all but 5c folded in, which would mean future wage raises and other benefits would be computed from a higher figure. The company's best offer was to leave a 12c floater.

The other issue that the union is being forced to fight on is a wage raise for skilled workers. Ford skilled workers are militant. They are demanding parity with the building trades, which means \$2.50 more an hour.



Production, Skilled Trades: It's Time To Unite

DEARBORN, MI—Inside Ford Motor Company's world headquarters here, Leonard Woodcock (United Auto Workers President) and Sidney McKenna (for the company) negotiated during the final hours of the contract, due to expire that night, September 14, at midnight.

Outside, 700 workers picketed. They wanted to get a message to Woodcock: the UAW leadership might be willing to settle cheap—but the rank and file were not!

The demonstrators were largely skilled tradesmen. Ford tradesmen are militant and vocal about their demand for parity with the building trades. This would mean a raise of \$2.50/hour.

Tradesmen were joined by retirees and a handful of production workers. The retirees are demanding cost-of-living allowance on the pension.

Last contract, Ford skilled trades-

men voted to reject the offer. But they were outmaneuvered by Woodcock who said the contract was ratified whether they rejected or not.

This year, UAW Vice-President Ken Bannon has promised skilled tradesmen they can vote first on the offer, and he will go back to the table if they reject. But promises are cheap, especially from the UAW bureaucrats.

Skilled workers cannot win by themselves. If they want to avoid what happened with the '73 contract, they will have to unite with production workers.

If skilled workers are demanding \$2.50, they must demand it across the board, for skilled and production alike.

Towards the end of the demonstration, the picket line swelled as first shift workers got off work. They were mostly younger workers, apprentices

and others from Ford. There were signals among these younger workers of a willingness to carry the fight to production workers who were poorly represented.

One picket sign pointed the way forward. It was personally made by Chuck Saplan of the Tool and Die Unit, with seven years seniority. It said: "Humanize working conditions. Shorter Work Week. Production and Skilled Together in '76."

David McCullough
UAW Local 869

In Flint, Michigan, the 30 and Out Committee called a demonstration demanding cost-of-living on pensions. Four hundred people attended, mostly retirees. The demonstration was co-sponsored by several GM local presidents.

WHY UAW SHUT DOWN FORD see p.5

labor notes

by Jim Woodward



The United Farm Workers union has won a short strike and boycott against West Foods, a subsidiary of Dole. The UFW won an election and was certified as bargaining agent last December, but West Foods refused to bargain.

After a nationwide boycott of Dole and a later strike against West Foods, the company agreed to a contract paying \$3.30 an hour. That's a \$1.00 an hour wage increase. The contract also includes pesticide protections, a union hiring hall, and health and welfare and pension provisions.

The UAW has also signed a contract with Valley Vineyards, which will pay general field laborers \$3.35 an hour, the highest in the grape industry.

...

The United Rubber Workers strike against Goodrich and Uniroyal has ended. Terms of the settlement are similar to those reached earlier with Goodyear and Firestone.

...

Retired auto workers are demanding a cost-of-living provision be added to their pensions this year. The auto companies say they don't want it because that would make it too difficult to predict their future pension expenses. But both the aluminum and can industries have cost-of-living provisions on pensions. And to keep the cost of living payments from draining the pension funds, the aluminum and can companies simply pay the COLA from their current operating budget, rather than from the pension fund.

...

Two of the thugs who took part in the 1969 murder of United Mine Workers leader Joseph Yablonski and his family have been sentenced to life imprisonment. Paul Gilly got three life terms, and Claude Vealey was sentenced to one life term. Former UMW President Tony Boyle and several UMW District 19 officials have also been convicted of the murders.

...

At the United Steel Workers recent convention in Las Vegas, the union officers reported that the number of blue-collar jobs in the steel industry dropped to 357,800 last year. That's the lowest total since World War II, and it continues a long-term decline in steel employment even though steel production has risen. Thousands of jobs have been lost despite the union's no-strike agreement, which was sold to steel workers as a way to save jobs.

...

The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) is trying to cut its enormous backlog of unresolved cases—at the expense of the workers who originally brought charges of racial or sexual discrimination. The government agency has a backlog of 120,000 job-discrimination cases. They now plan to drop all 12,000 cases over three years old unless they can quickly locate the complaining worker. In those cases where the complaining worker is located, the EEOC will attempt to settle as easily as possible. This means they will seek to solve only the individual complaint, rather than investigating further to see if there is a pattern of discrimination involved. And if the EEOC rejects your three-year old complaint, you will now get only a form letter rather than an explanation of why the case was dropped.

The EEOC hints it may expand these procedures to more recent cases in an effort to reduce its backlog. But if the government really felt that ending job discrimination was a top priority, it should hire more staff rather than take short cuts on investigations.

...

The United Auto Workers has been licked by GM again. In a union representation election at the new GM Delco-Remy plant in Fitzgerald, Georgia, the UAW got smashed. The vote was 71 for the UAW and 184 for no union. There are now seven new GM parts plants in the South, and the union has not managed to organize one of them. We think it's an indication of how heavily bureaucratized and insensitive to workers' needs the union leadership has become. We also think that UAW President Woodcock looks a trifle silly when he demands that General Motors management stay neutral in these organizing drives. It's almost like asking GM to do for the union what the union's been unable to do for itself.

...

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

Year-Long Cover-Up

MURDER IN TEXAS

by Byron Gray

"I've killed a Mexican before and I'm fixing to kill another one."

These were the words of Frank Hayes just moments before he placed the barrel of his twelve gauge shotgun under the arm of Richard Morales and pulled the trigger. Hayes is the police chief of Castroville, Texas near San Antonio.

In a sworn statement to the court at Hayes' trial, his deputy, Donald McCall, told the jury "Frank struck Richard several times in the stomach with the shotgun," while he [McCall] was attempting to take Morales handcuffs off. McCall testified that then Morales was led off by Hayes and shot.

Hayes' wife, daughter, and sister transported Morales' body 350 miles and buried it in a shallow grave. They have admitted their guilt. But Mrs. Hayes was charged only with a misdemeanor, placed on probation for one year, and fined \$49.50. The other two were never charged with anything.

UNEMPLOYED

Richard Morales was a Mexican living in this small town in Texas. He was poor. A member of a family of nine, Morales quit school after the sixth grade. He could not find work.

Morales had been picked up a number of times by police for infractions ranging from drunken driving to attempted burglary. On the night he was murdered by Hayes, he was being sought for selling a calf, but not delivering it.

Police Chief Frank Hayes was tried in Morales' death by a jury of 11 whites and one black. Three prospective Mexican jurors were excluded from final consideration.

Hayes was convicted of aggravated assault and sentenced to 2 to 10 years in prison. Most, if not all of the sentence will be suspended.

The incident happened nearly a year ago, but was only recently brought to public attention through the activity of Mexican and Chicano communities throughout Texas and the Southwest.

NOT ISOLATED

The Morales case is not an isolated one. In the past year in San Antonio, police have murdered 19 Chicano youths between the ages of 16 and 19. This kind of brutality toward Mexicans and Chicanos is typical all across the Southwest. The oppression of Mexicans and Chicanos is similar to the racism black people face in this society.

Local groups in these communities have organized to resist repression. Public outrage concerning the Morales case has forced an investigation by the Federal Justice Dept.

Chicano Unidos, a Chicano rights group in El Paso, over 500 miles from San Antonio, organized a successful rally for investigation into the Morales case last month.

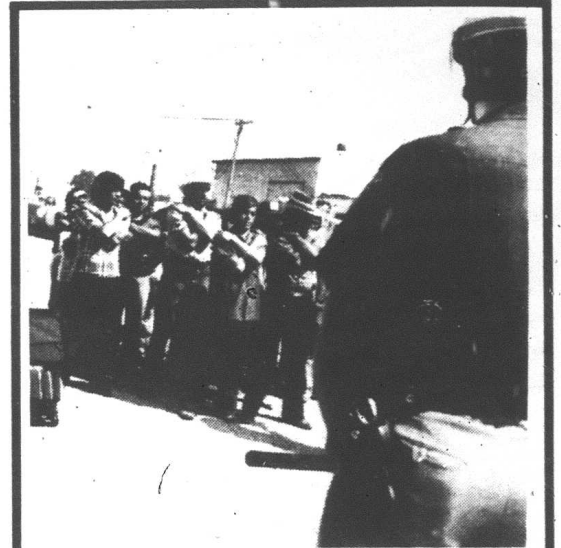
Chicano Unidos has been instrumental in actively fighting drug abuse and gang warfare in the El Paso's Chicano community. They have worked successfully to improve community health facilities.

As a result, three of the leaders

of Chicano Unidos have been framed on a firebombing charge. The charges are totally ridiculous. The only evidence against these three—"Los Tres de El Paso" is a book of matches, a rock and a plastic water jug found in their car.

If convicted, the three could spend as much as twenty years in prison.

Twenty years for organizing for a better life. And Frank Hayes? Well, he and his shotgun will be back on the street in no time!



Packing Workers Defy Strike-Breaking Order

WARREN, Indiana—Migrant workers have been striking Morgan Packing Co. here since August 24.

On September 3, the courts swung into action against the strikers, issuing a temporary restraining order. The order forced them to take down their barricades and allow the plant to reopen. Baldemar Valquez, an organizer for the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), said that the restraining order "in-effect grants a permanent injunction. In ten days, all the tomatoes will be canned."

The order allows the strikers to picket only when there is no work for them to do.

The strikers read through the order and voted to defy it. A spokesperson for the group noted that the judge called the working and living conditions of the strikers a national disgrace, but at the same time ordered the barricades down.

"The barricades are a symbol of our dignity and pride," he said.

HUMAN BARRICADE

Fifty of the strikers formed a human barricade to keep the plant closed. But federal marshalls formed a cordon around the scabs from the town and broke through the line.

Valquez and 45 others were arrested. They are presently released on bond.

The plant is now being operated by scabs, while the strikers picket.

Many families have come to understand the importance of union organization as a result of their strike. They have joined the FLOC, a farmworkers' organizing committee based in Toledo, Ohio.

The strikers demands include: steady work from May to October, ten-hour day, families on the same shift, a contract for next year, and correction of health violations in the company-owned camp where the migrants live.

Bill Connally

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SADLOWSKI TO RUN FOR STEEL WORKERS PRESIDENCY

CHICAGO—Ed Sadlowski, director of the United Steel Workers Chicago-Gary area District 31, formally announced on September 14 that he is running for the USWA PRESIDENCY.

His running mates for the other International officers will be announced later.

Over 200 supporters from different locals jammed the room where Sadlowski spoke at an early morning press conference. Blacks, Latins, whites, men, women, young and old cheered repeatedly as Sadlowski spoke about the issues facing the USWA and its membership.

Sadlowski stated that he sees the contest between himself and Lloyd McBride, District Director of the St. Louis area, as a choice between taking on the companies and trying to make deals with them.

"We must retire [the Abel-McBride machine] from business unionism so that we can return to aggressive, effective labor unionism," he said to loud applause.

JOBS, SPEEDUP, SAFETY

Sadlowski stressed the issues of unemployment in steel and the push by the companies for higher productivity.

"For years MacDonald [former USWA president] and Abel have been talking about the short work week, but they haven't done anything...I'm against sitting on productivity committees with the company while steel workers are without work."

Sadlowski also talked about the problems of health and safety in steel: "We need the right to shut down hazardous operations without loss of pay."

The need for union reform was another sore point that Sadlowski mentioned.

A more equitable dues structure, representation for blacks and Chicanos in the union leadership, and the struggle for the right of union members to ratify the contract, are all efforts that Sadlowski says he will support.

NEW DIRECTION?

Sadlowski suggested a number of things about the political direction of the USWA.

"The steel workers union must be in the vanguard of the fight to make the labor movement lead the fight to cure this nation's ills. The unions are the best hope of the working class American public."

Sadlowski went on to say that the problems of unemployment, poverty and inflation could only be dealt with by an active, fighting labor movement.

But Sadlowski's remarks about a new general direction for the USWA, and the labor movement in general, would be more welcome (and more believable) if he had said anything about the most important, pressing issue inside his own union.

The single most critical problem for steel workers today is the sellout "no-strike pledge," or "Experimental Negotiating Agreement" (ENA), signed by current USWA President I.W. Abel.

Sadlowski did not even mention the ENA at his press conference, and has not committed his campaign to fight it.

In plain language, Sadlowski wants to duck the no-strike question. He hopes the ENA would become a campaign issue.

For steel workers, however, this

would be a catastrophe. If ENA is not smashed now, I.W. Abel as a lame-duck union president could extend it till 1983! He could do this even if Sadlowski were already elected.

When asked, Sadlowski endorsed Democratic Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, though he was not enthusiastic. "I'm going to vote for him, but I don't plan to get involved in his campaign."

MOVEMENT BEGINNING

The sentiments expressed by Sadlowski at his press conference showed there is a movement in the USWA that is starting to break with

the old ways and ideas of Abel and MacDonald before him.

Instead of trying to get concessions from the companies on the basis of friendship, the supporters of the Sadlowski candidacy realize they have to fight against the company to get what they need.

Those supporters are the force that can turn the steel workers union around. They see Sadlowski as the person to lead that fight.

But such a fight will require the organization of thousands of steel workers. Sadlowski has built only minimal organization for his movement.

This was shown clearly at the

convention earlier this month where the delegates who supported Sadlowski were disorganized and ineffective all week.

An organization with a clear program, controlled by Sadlowski's rank and file supporters, with a slate of people committed to it, must be built if the Sadlowski campaign is to be a step forward for the new movement in the USWA.

Without a strong organization, Sadlowski has no way to prevent Abel and McBride from stealing the election with vote fraud and crooked counting. As of now, Sadlowski's only strategy against this is to rely on legal strategies

and Labor Department challenges.

Even if elected, Sadlowski by himself would be the captive of an Executive Board stacked against him: No single person, no matter how tough and well-intentioned, can beat Abel and the companies—let alone turn around the labor movement.

Without a strong movement and organization, a victory for Sadlowski is nearly impossible—and if won, wouldn't mean very much.

Without the strength of the ranks, all Sadlowski's promises will be little more than hot air. And there's enough of that in the mills already. □

South Africa: It's A 'Low-Intensity Revolution'



Inside South Africa, commentators have come up with a name to describe the three-month-old black rebellion. They're calling it a "low-intensity, unconventional revolution."

That's the same term the South African military uses to describe the wars being fought on South Africa's borders, against white rule in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and South African colonialism in Namibia ("South West Africa").

The white South African police state now sees the same struggle breaking out inside its own country. That shows how deeply it has been shaken.

POLICE MASSACRES

What white South Africa means by "low-intensity" struggle is shown by the number of young blacks the police have killed in the last week.

Last Thursday, 15 people were killed in one day, by police machine-gun and pistol fire. That brought the week's death toll in Cape Town to at least 23.

Then on Tuesday, 16 blacks were killed in another police massacre in the township of Soweto, near Johannesburg, where the black revolt and strike wave has been strongest.

Even the sketchy half-official reports show over 400 blacks killed since June. The real figure is almost certainly much higher.

A new wave of roundups and "administrative arrests" in the last week have raised the number of people who have been thrown in jail, according to official reports, to more than 2000.

South African government officials say, "There are no black leaders we can talk to" about the rebellion. Every known black leader and organizer in the townships is already under arrest.

Even newspaper reporters, who reveal some of the truth about the

police violence that the government wants to suppress, are being locked up.

NEW STRIKES

However, police murders and mass arrests have not slowed down the struggle. The pace has speeded up.

This week, blacks organized new strikes to shut down white industry in Johannesburg. Again they were

up to 70% successful.

Periodically, the strikes are met with explosions of violence by police, and fighting with government-backed strikebreakers.

However, the strikes in Soweto are mostly quite peaceful. The majority of workers support the strike by just staying home.

Government intimidation, and gestures toward "reform," have failed to break the unity of the rebellion. All week long the

mixed-race Africans in Cape Town, whom the racist government calls "colored," have continued their struggle too.

South Africa's rulers still insist the black rebellion is a "temporary show of frustration," or a momentary outburst "manipulated by agitators."

It is neither. This struggle is the beginning of the movement that will eventually smash white rule and capitalism in South Africa. □

"Is This A Strike Or A Lockout?"

This is the question Ford skilled trades asked Thursday night—two days into the supposed UAW strike at Ford.

Item: At River Rouge plant gate 11-A, one man reported two teeth knocked out while picketing an obscure gate of the plant.

Item: Ford runs its own steel operation. The coke ovens are still going. Economics says, Don't bank (close) the coke ovens if the strike is less than a month.

Item: Workers of the Ford maintenance and construction unit are given form letter allowing them to scab on the strike. Speakers at a meeting of the Independent Skilled Trades Council (IATC) in Dearborn held up such blank letters as an example of the weak way Woodcock and Bannon are running the strike.

Item: Local 245 Ford, supposedly in charge of emmissions control and building the Ford prototypes, is still at work. One of their committeemen was kicked out of the union after insisting that his plant be shut down along with all other Ford plants.

Today, Ford skilled trades are the only organized force in the field against Ford. The strike as led by Woodcock is a disaster. Monday morning, September 20, these workers will announce their intent to take over this strike. On the 21st they will shut down the Ford scab operation at Local 245.

It is hoped by skilled tradesmen that this action will stimulate the ranks at GM and Chrysler into action. But this is not enough. The union rank and file will only unite around a very clear and precise program for each and every worker: 32-hour week, cost of living on pensions, \$2.50 raise across the board. □

Chrysler Workers Get Un-COLA!

by Karen Kaye

HIGHLAND PARK, MI—Workers' Power reported last week that Chrysler workers demonstrated at Chrysler headquarters here, protesting their quarterly cost-of-living (COLA) checks being held up a week in violation of the contract. Since then, investigation by several Chrysler workers has revealed that the reasons for the

delay given by both the company and the International Union are cover-ups.

The company announced in late August that the checks would be paid October 1 instead of the September 24 date as specified in the contract. Chrysler workers plan for these checks—a typical one would be around \$600.

The workers were angry—not only because of the money, but

because Chrysler does not let membership contract violations slip past them. The next day 50 workers protested at the union hall. But their anger and need was met with total indifference and callousness by the local president.

A.P. Tony Janette told his membership that UAW Vice President Doug Fraser said that the contract specified October 1 as the date for payment.

"Serve and Protect"

Highland Park is one of two little cities totally inside Detroit. They were built so that the Dodge Brothers (Hamtramck) and Henry Ford (Highland Park) could escape Detroit tax laws when their factories were first built. Ford moved his operation to Dearborn. Then Chrysler built up in Highland Park so that they are now the largest employer in the city.

Highland Park's devotion to Chrysler came out clear enough when a sizeable group of Chrysler workers protested in front of the Chrysler Headquarters there. The protest was about Chrysler holding up cost-of-living checks.

POLICE FREAK OUT

When Chrysler Plant Protection got freaked out because cars were being delayed into and out of the parking lot, they called the police. Within minutes, seven squad cars were on the scene.

All over Detroit, the company parking lots Chrysler workers use are notorious for rip-offs. And when your car is ripped off and you call the police, you can

wait for hours. But if a few cars are delayed at the parking lot in Highland Park the police arrive in a flash. They know who owns them.

In order to break up the demonstration the police used an old trick—bust someone on phone charges. A mob squad (undercover) pig started fingering people in the crowd, including Enid Eckstein of Local 51. He busted her, handcuffed her and charged her with "inciting to riot." This could never stick, so it was reduced to "improper conduct." But even this is a poney to protect the cops. Otherwise, how do you explain that it took over 15 policemen to handle a peaceful crowd of 50?

Highland Park police, just like those in Detroit, are crying for money—claiming they don't have enough money for men and equipment. But let their employer call and they seem to have enough material.

Let a company have a problem and the pigs are there on the spot. Let a citizen have a problem and there aren't enough police. Well, we know what the deal is. □

FISHY

This story sounded fishy to several Local 51 members. So they were forced to check it out with one union help.

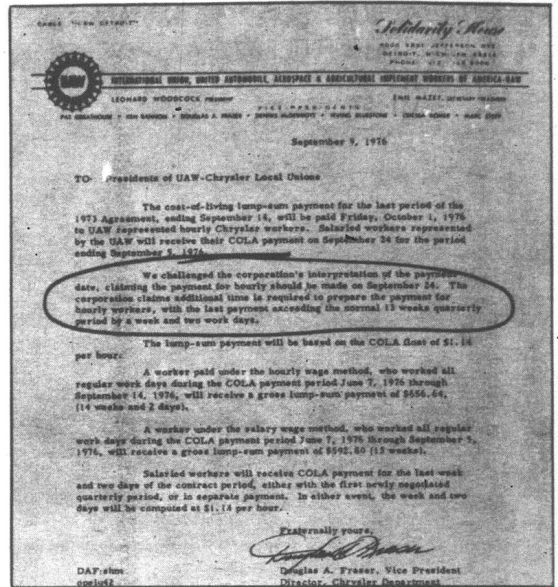
Since last week's demonstration, Local 51 Treasurer Richard Webster spoke with Fraser's assistant, Homer Jolly. Jolly said that the correct date for payment was the 24th, but that the company could no pay by then. Why not?

Webster began to get the answer when he spoke next with the International Representative from the salaried Local 889. He represents the people who process the COLA checks.

Rickles said that it might be possible to have the checks ready if 15 salaried workers had been scheduled for overtime to get the job done.

But the International Union had not demanded that the company schedule this overtime. This only made the workers angrier, since the company ruthlessly schedules overtime for hourly employees to get their car production out.

Continuing their investigation, Webster along with Enid Eckstein and Bill Parker from his local, then spoke with Richard Waskin, Vice President of the salaried local. The



three are members of the United Coalition group within Local 51. They learned from him that Doug Fraser had indeed admitted that the correct payment date was September 24.

EVIDENCE

Workers' Power has now obtained a copy of a letter Fraser sent to Local Presidents (reprinted here) which proves this.

Fraser and the International okayed Chrysler's violation of the contract. This is occurring at contract expiration time, when it is particularly important for the union to show the company that it will fight for its members' interests.

In the meantime, Chrysler is collecting extra interest on the money. If the interest is 5%, in one week they'll make \$3,000 off the \$3 million owed. The International and local union's refusal to act forced the members of the United Coalition to take on a job the local

officers should have been doing all along.

To find the source of the COLA ripoff, they ended up tackling the Local, International, Chrysler Corporation and even the Highland Park Police Department. The police arrested Local 51 member Enid Eckstein at the demonstration (see box).

MEETING ADJOURNED

The monthly membership meeting of Local 51, on September 12, passed a motion to support her and to continue to press for the checks. But President Janette declared the motion failed, and adjourned the meeting.

Local 51 members learned through this experience that if they want action and results they have to take things into their own hands. They also succeeded in putting Chrysler and the International on notice that the next checks had better be on time. □

Why Should Old Age Mean The Scrap Heap?

"Too old to work
Too young to die
We need cost of living
to survive."

from a picket sign carried
by a Flint sit-downer,
March 1976

Cost-of-living for retirees is one of the most pressing issues in this year's negotiations. This demand is to make retirement financially secure for those already retired and for the thousands of UAW members who are still working but would retire if they could afford it.

This society makes inadequate provisions for its elderly. Far too many workers must retire on Social Security alone, and face the indignities of poverty. It is common practice for American "senior citizens" to shoplift grocery items or eat dog food.

Unionists of every political stripe, including socialists, hold "retirement with dignity" as a common goal. In fact, this goal is shared by every segment of society. Retirement, we are taught, is supposed to be the just reward for a lifetime of labor. It is finally the time to do the things you never had time for before.

Socialists fight for a decent retirement, just as we fight for decent wages. But under socialism there will be no such

thing as retirement. Retirement was created as a reform of the capitalist system.

RETIREMENT HISTORY

Before capitalism, the vast majority of the population lived a rural, agricultural existence. Retirement did not exist because it was impossible. In pre-capitalist societies, the productivity of labor was very low. Whether it was sowing, harvesting, making clothes, or repairing tools, everyone had to pitch in. Old people worked until the day they died.

Capitalism's very high productivity of labor made retirement from the active workforce possible. Capitalism's efficient exploitation of labor has made work so demanding and strenuous that retirement is necessary.

It would be a nuisance to employ workers too old to keep up, better to be rid of them. Unions had to fight for pensions and social security because capitalists make no profits off retirees. They use you up and throw you away—and the pace of work has made many older than their years.

For 30 or more years you worked (to make someone else rich) and raised a family (to provide for new workers after you are gone). Now here's a gold watch. Send us a post card.

Capitalism lays out our lives before us in disconnected pieces. As children, we

undergo education to prepare us for our future jobs. Yet, work is so horrible that children are protected by law from the opportunity of using their knowledge in a practical way.

As adults, we work and raise children. We have little or no time to still be learning about the world around us or to develop many outside interests.

As "oldsters" we may now pass our final years wondering what to do with all this time we never learned to use constructively, worrying about making ends meet or becoming a burden to our children. It's no mystery why so many

fear retirement as well as look forward to it.

LEARNING, LEISURE, LABOR

Under socialism, people would not endure the stupidity of working too hard now to enjoy life later, when the work has made you too feeble anyway. Learning, leisure and labor would be three different means of personal satisfaction throughout one's entire lifetime.

In an economy planned to meet human needs, automation would reduce the hours of labor required to produce an abundant existence. The work week would grow progressively shorter. We all would have time to do the "things we always wanted to do" in our twenties as well as our seventies.

Work would no longer be toil. Because production would be under workers' control, we would have the ability to plan and organize our labor. The separation between learning and working would have to be eliminated, as workers would need and want to master the technology they now control.

Retirement would be a useless waste of the potential of humans who want to be respected and productive members of society. People would want to work as long as they were able to.

In the socialist future, the museums will display cases of gold watches, next to the sundials and hour-glasses. □



UAW Leaders Caught Between Ranks And Company

by Glenn Wolfe.

The Ford strike is on. And until the United Autoworkers union bureaucrats judge that the time is right to force through a lousy sell-out contract, it will remain on. That is the way the International Union leaders have operated for years, and they ain't going to change tack now.

Indeed, the union negotiators did not stop publicly hoping for a non-strike settlement until the last minute. These clowns thought they could turn back the companies' attack by promising them no trouble.

The bosses' reaction was predictable. They came up with the worst offer in twenty years. That insult, combined with growing pressure from the rank and file, finally forced the UAW to call the strike they did not want.

The bureaucrats offered the bosses cooperation, assured them the union would keep groups like the rebellious skilled workers in line. But instead of accepting this dirty deal, the companies took it as the signal to demand surrender.

And even the UAW's top Ford negotiator, Ken Bannon, couldn't go along with that. After all, his continued power and privilege depends on not being too obvious about betraying the union members



Autoworkers demanded retirees cost-of-living and more time off at pre-strike demonstrations.

who pay his inflated salary. The union made zero preparation for this strike. There was no campaign by the UAW leadership to focus union militancy around the key demands. The picket lines are deliberately being kept weak to allow Ford to move its stockpile of cars out of the plant lots.

Instead of building a strong and effective strike, the bureaucrats are trying to figure out how little they can come back with and still stifle the first stirrings of a rank and file revolt.



Those stirrings are the only real hope for auto workers in the 1976 contract. Already skilled workers have made it clear that they will "Vote No!" on a lousy agreement.

REVOLT STIRRING

If that sentiment can be spread to production workers during the strike, there is a chance of avoiding defeat. Production workers are the vast majority of auto workers.

The combined forces of skilled and production can send the Inter-

national back to the bargaining table to start threatening rather than wheedling. They can be forced to come back, second time round, with a decent share of the vast profits the Big Three are raking in this year.

In Flint, the large Buick local is on the offensive in its local contract. They are demanding that thousands of new jobs be created.

At the Hamtramck Assembly plant in Detroit, the union put up notices instructing Chrysler workers to stay on the job during the Ford strike. These were greeted,

not with the sigh of relief the union expected, but with talk of striking all three auto companies at once. That is the only really serious way of "taking care of business" with the auto giants.

CAN GROW

These signs of a militant response from the mass of auto workers are minimal so far. But if the strike lasts long enough, and the hundreds of rank and file organizers in the auto industry do their job, it can grow.

The individual anger and frustration in every auto plant in this country can be turned into a collective force to reject a rotten contract.

It used to be that if Ford workers accepted a bad deal, it was automatically assumed that Chrysler and GM would do the same. This time nobody is very sure of that.

The International may be successful in stuffing the ballot boxes to get an acceptance at Fords. But they had better understand that they still have two more hurdles to leap at GM and Chrysler.

It will take a guaranteed SUB fund, a shorter work week, COLA for retirees and a large number of good old fashioned dollar bills to silence the slogan, "Vote NO! Send 'Em Back For More!"

Fleetwood Wildcat Sparks Wild Union Meeting

DETROIT—Three hundred UAW Local 15 members turned out for their most spirited, militant union meeting in years September 12. In the aftermath of a wildcat strike at GM's Fleetwood plant where 10 workers were fired and 400 more given other penalties, the meeting voted unanimously not to accept the new local contract unless all discipline was removed with full back pay.

The atmosphere was such that the local union officials, who had started and then sabotaged the strike, felt compelled to change their tune.

During the strike, they had threatened to beat up strikers and labelled some "Communists" and "traitors." There was none of this before the angry workers at the union meeting. Those elected officials who dared speak tried their best to make it seem like they were on the side of the workers.

The hated International reps were not even present at the meeting. And a unanimous motion told the union to convey to International Rep Curtis McGuire that "we don't want him coming around here any more!"

President Rufus Coleman declared there were a lot of innocent people on the street. And instead of calling them "outsiders," said he would tell the International that no one should be sacrificed because the responsibility for the strike lay with the "union guys." He meant the local officials, who had kicked off the strike when two of them were disciplined, and then abandoned it.

Coleman changed his tune because the 300 members were there for one reason—to support the workers who had been penalized. Member after member rose to blast Coleman's conduct during the strike.

OFF YOUR BELLIES!

They insisted that he and the Bargaining Chairman get up off their bellies and stand up to management—not just about the discipline, but about the speedup they'd been experiencing in the plant too.

The leadership of Local 15 is deeply divided. Many officials have played a conservative, do-nothing role for years. But some still have a drop of union consciousness in their veins. They are disgusted with the union's cooperation in making scapegoats of the penalized workers.

One member of the Executive Board, Alice Rodriguez, resigned in protest over the actions of her fellow officials. However, it appears that for most, the fear of the International and losing their union jobs is stronger than their consciences.

The fragmentation at the top is useful for the rank and file, though, because it prevents the leadership from acting in a united manner against the membership. It allows greater freedom for rank and file action.

Fleetwood management has undoubtedly heard about the militant

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spirit at the union meeting. They know how significant it is for 300 workers to turn out and stand united behind those who had been disciplined.

Management will be counting on

the union leadership to sabotage the workers' new spirit the way they sabotaged the strike. Already, Solidarity House says they've reached a settlement with Fleetwood management, rejecting all

the grievances. It's up to the Fleetwood workers to show they won't stand for anything less than full reinstatement of everyone who was disciplined.



Mao created a massive personality cult, but he acted as part of a political machine.

Once They Called Him "Bandit Mao"—Today They Sing A Different Tune...

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, the American government called Mao Tse-tung a "Communist bandit" who had single-handedly created a sinister army to spread the international communist conspiracy across the face of Asia.

Stopping the "menace of Red China" became a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy in the 1950's, under John Foster Dulles.

The anti-China hysteria helped launch the career of an obscure Californian named Richard M. Nixon.

But now in 1976, Mao is enologized as a hero. Across the

whole political spectrum, newspapers and politicians have praised Mao as "a towering figure of the 20th century" and a "great revolutionary leader" who unified China for the first time in seventeen centuries.

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

Two decades ago, China was feared by Washington as the greatest threat to American dominion of the Pacific. Supposedly, the Chinese government was also plotting to "export revolution" to newly independent Africa.

But Washington's line has changed. The U.S. and China are becoming working partners in imperialism.

Last year, Mao and Chou En-Lai told American newspaper editor, C.L. Sulzberger, that the United States must maintain military strength in South-east Asia to keep Russia out.

Last year in Angola, China joined forces with the United States in a last ditch effort to smash the liberation movement fighting for Angola's national freedom.

And ten months ago, while Spanish workers celebrated the death of fascist dictator Franco, China was among the countries which sent condolences to the Spanish state.

THEN...

December 26, 1949—TIME/

"In the Kremlin last week, the peasant who had become master of 450 million Chinese met with the peasant who was master of 200 million Russians... it seemed likely they would forge treaties of friendship, alliance and trade, and prepare fresh blows at the soft underbelly of the non-Communist world in East Asia."

AND NOW

September 10, 1976—NEW YORK TIMES:

"If China's voice is listened to respectfully in world councils today, that is largely the product of the transformation accomplished by Mao after his conquest of the Chinese mainland in 1949..."

"The West—and particularly the United States—failed to appreciate the full magnitude of Mao's stature and potential for many years... It was an appreciation that grew rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s as Mao's revolt against Soviet domination fundamentally altered the international political topography."

American government officials today use China as an ally of the United States in the struggle between U.S. and Russian imperialism.

That is why they are now so lavish in their praise of Mao.

The Chinese government's unofficial spokesman in the West is author William Hinton. Hinton told a recent conference that "our two people [China and the U.S.] would be allied in war" against Russia.

The American government and the press are no more

truthful today than they were 25 years ago.

Once, it suited their purpose to portray Mao as a mass murderer, brutal dictator and raving lunatic. Now it suits them to praise him as a far seeing world statesman.

It all boils down to one thing: Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Henry Kissinger, and America's ruling class, are glad that Russian troops and nuclear missiles are tied up on the Russia-China border. To them China cities, factories and 800 million people are a very useful military diversion.

They couldn't care less how many millions of Chinese might die if a real war actually broke out—especially if it helped keep western Europe safe for America's multi-national corporations. □

THEN...

February 2, 1948—TIME:

"Fukien Province abounds in lush woodlands which, unfortunately, provide ideal hideouts for various killers, including Communists and tigers."

January 31, 1949—TIME:

"[As Chiang Kai-shek resigned last week] the Communist boss Mao Tse-tung had won the war... from Bering Strait to the Gulf of Tonkin, Communism was now the major force... Not since Hitler had stood on the French coast looking west across the Atlantic had the danger been so real."

AND NOW

September 20, 1976—TIME:

"The tributary messages of condolence that poured into Peking were testimony to Mao's already secure place in history. 'Chairman Mao was a giant figure in modern Chinese history,' said President Ford... As for the Russians, they almost ignored Mao's passing, giving it a brief mention on page 2 of Pravda."

THEN...

December 24, 1951—NEWSWEEK:

"We should make it clear that a gross violation of the armistice in Korea would mean more than a resumption of fighting in Korea: that we would hold China or Russia or both responsible even if the result were a third world war."

AND NOW

September 10, 1976—NEW YORK TIMES:

"Although its exact origins are still obscure and controversial, the weight of evidence seems to indicate that [the Korean war] was basically a Soviet initiative and Mao was not consulted."

BEHIND THE MYTHS OF MAO'S CHINA

by Dan Poser

Which was the real Mao?

• Was he the man portrayed in the 1950's—the cunning, power-hungry dictator who plotted for decades to seize power, then ruthlessly killed hundreds of thousands of people to keep it?

• Or was he the man we are told about today—the humane, statesmanlike leader with a vision of society of simple values, mass democracy and equality in China?

The answer is—neither.



Chinese peasants must produce a surplus, to provide for the construction of industry and the bureaucrats' luxuries.

Mao did not reshape China single-handed. He did not act as a superhuman genius. He represented a political machine—the Chinese Communist Party. Mao organized a new social system and a new ruling class in China through the Communist Party.

Mao developed much of the ideology and military tactics that brought the Chinese Communist Party to power. For another 28 years, he was the symbol and central figure who held the machine together.

Mao was first, last and always a man of the Party apparatus.

In the early 1900's Mao, like a whole generation of Chinese youth, rebelled against the poverty and cultural decay that western imperialism brought to China.

China was a dying feudal society under the control of the British military, and British and American economic interests. It was choked in corruption and misery.

The country was stuffed with opium drugs for the profits of western dope-dealers. Starving peasants wandered to the cities where they were shot for the crime of begging.

COMMUNIST PARTY FORMED

Chinese workers and young people rose in revolt. The Chinese Communist Party was organized in 1920. Mao was one of its founders.

In a few years the Party was a strong organization involved in massive workers' struggles. At the same time the national capitalist party, the Kuomintang, became a mass party with its own army under Chiang Kai-shek.

In 1925, revolution broke out in China. The young Communist Party and the Kuomintang were allies, calling for a "bloc of classes" in China to drive out imperialism and create a "national democracy." Mao himself was editor of the Kuomintang's weekly paper.

The Chinese Communists were ordered to stop agitating for workers' power, to keep guns out of the hands of workers, and to join and follow the discipline of the Kuomintang. This policy was forced

on the Chinese Communists by Stalin, the leader of Russia, who wanted to create an alliance between Russia and Chiang Kai-shek.

In 1927, the gates of Shanghai were flung open by the workers to greet Chiang Kai-shek's army of "liberation." But once Chiang Kai-shek controlled the city, he turned on his Communist allies and the workers. By the thousands they were shot, mutilated, tortured and burned alive in furnaces. Chiang Kai-shek ruled China by terror for the next 20 years.

NO WORKERS

After the wave of revolution had been crushed, the Chinese Communists in 1928 were ordered, again by Stalin, to create isolated "insurrections." These were easily smashed by Chiang's nationalist regime. Tens of thousands of workers were slaughtered.

The next time the Shanghai workers rose, it was Mao who sent in the Army to regain the factories and put them down. That was during the "Cultural Revolution" of 1967.

After 1930 the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) retreated deep into the countryside and cut off all

contact with workers.

Mao developed a new set of political views to justify this. He saw the peasants of China as the mass base for the Party—not the workers. Workers, he said, were "corrupted" by urban life.

In the countryside, the CCP carried out mild land reforms, and organized a Communist Party army of peasants against the Japanese occupation of China. But it did not call for peasants either to seize the land, or support a workers' revolution.

It was the army that brought the Communist Party to power in 1949, when Chiang Kai-shek's bloody, corrupt regime completely collapsed.

The working class had absolutely nothing to do with the Chinese Communist Party taking power. Workers were told not to strike, to stay on the job and stay orderly as the CCP took over.

In the following years, the Communist Party has emphasized building a new national economy, heavy industry, a powerful army and strong political structure.

However, this new system does not permit workers to control their own lives. It has nothing to do with socialism.

Any struggle of workers for higher wages, for equality in rates of pay, or political power is a direct threat to the Communist Party regime.

The government sometimes mobilizes mass ideological campaigns in the schools, the countryside, and the army. But it responds with repression if workers mobilize in the factories and threaten production.

To keep the urban working class from growing rapidly, the government periodically forces large numbers of young people out of the cities into the poorest sections of the country.

China today even uses the system called "contract labor," where labor shortages are filled by bringing in peasants who are

allowed to work for only a specified time and then must leave the city. This is the same type of system used by South Africa to recruit black workers for its gold mines.

The purpose is the same—to prevent workers from gathering together to create their own, independent organizations and means of struggle.

Chinese factories and unions are controlled by managers and "cadres" who represent the Communist Party machine. Communist Party ideology stresses that these cadres should "love the masses"—but that doesn't mean that the masses control the factory bureaucrats.

BUREAUCRACY

The cadres are carefully separated into at least 30 grades. They range from those whose incomes are close to workers and peasants, on up to the top bureaucrats who live in beautiful parks in Peking behind huge walls and greet

American Presidents at lavish state banquets.

That top bureaucracy, the top section of the Communist Party machine which has now held power 28 years, is the ruling class in China today. Under its rule, capitalism in China has been destroyed and replaced with bureaucratic collectivism. Under this system, the actual power and privileged life style of the bureaucracy grows every time industrial output expands.

NEW CRISES AHEAD

This is the system which Mao struggled to keep together for the last 28 years of his life. Despite material progress, this system is not a stable one. In 1956, 1959, 1966, 1971 and again today, the system has threatened to go into economic or political crisis.

Every time national output expands, new sections of lower bureaucrats demand the right to share some of the luxuries enjoyed

by the top ones. The result is "mass campaigns against bureaucracy," organized by the top bureaucrats against the lower ones.

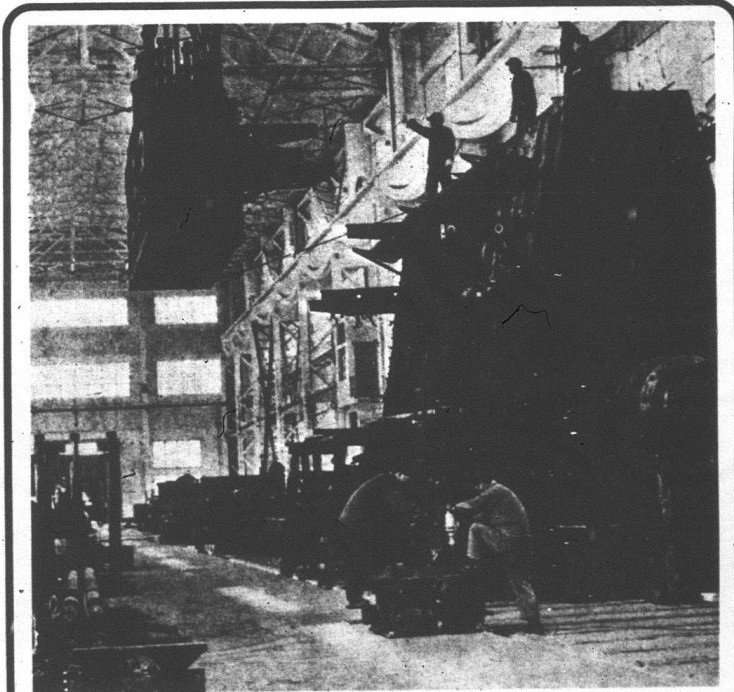
At the same time, growth of industry produces a large and more confident working class. Workers' demands for better lives cannot be permanently answered by "mass campaigns to criticize Confucius and Lin Biao."

This year, three of the Chinese Communist Party's oldest leaders—Chou En-Lai, Chu Teh and now Mao—have died.

The system they have left behind is strong. But crisis lies ahead.

Chinese workers are beginning to fight for their own interests. In Shanghai in 1967 and again last summer, there were a series of textile and other industrial strikes.

A new Mao will not create socialism in China. It will be a workers' revolution that overthrows the bureaucratic system and the Communist Party machine Mao left behind.



The "China experts" have already started debating the direction of China after Mao. But you can bet that one change Mao's successor won't make is to end speedup for the working class.

China, the state calls it "mobilizing the masses." They say the workers always unanimously and voluntarily vote for it.

VOLUNTARY?

Four days after Mao died, the Chinese news agency Hsinhua, bragged that electric machinery and printing workers are giving up days off to do "extra labor" [unpaid overtime] in honor of Mao's memory.

Of course, those who don't vote for it may be denounced as "rightists" and find their wages cut. If they strike in protest they can lose their jobs or find their factories occupied by the People's Liberation Army.

In the months to come, we can expect similar reports from factories all over China. Workers will be putting in extra hours and days of work to "intensify production."

Maybe this is part of the reason why capitalist governments suddenly find Mao so admirable. Wouldn't General Motors love it if everyone had to come to work Sunday, with no pay, every time a political leader died?

In the trade union movement, this kind of practice is called "speed-up" and "forced overtime." In

Books And Pamphlets On China

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"Pass Us by, Boycott Two Guys!"

Members of Local 1262 Retail Clerks struck 19 Two Guys outlets in New Jersey on August 25. Soon all 53 Two Guy stores on the east coast will be struck by 12 separate locals.

The workers are on strike because Two Guys is out to break their union.

Las year the company effectively launched a campaign that smashed the retail union in California. Now Two Guys is looking for blood on the east coast—but the plan they have may very well backfire on them.

When the contract expired in Jersey late in May, the union decided to see what they could get through negotiations.

Two Guys offered to take their pension plan, bite deep into their health plan, cut benefits for part timers, and start new hires at a much lower rate than seniority employees.

SCABS WANTED

When the strike started, Two Guys advertised for strikebreakers in local newspapers, and got enough scabs to keep their operations going.

In New Jersey the strike is being waged in a very militant fashion. Plenty of workers, many of whom are women heads of households, are out picketing to keep shoppers away.

Hearing shouts of "Pass us by, don't shop Two Guys," and "Don't shop Two Guys, they're union busters", many people are turning to other places to shop.

The Retail Union figures they're hurting 50% of Two Guys business. The parking lots around the stores prove the point—where hundreds of cars used to be there are only a few cars.

The strikers are determined to win, even if they have to stay out till Christmas.

Seattle Teachers, Staff Keep The Lines Solid

by Donna Ballinger

SEATTLE—Public school teachers and staff here formed picket lines September 7 and declared the city's first teachers' strike.

Teachers and staff walked out after months of getting no satisfaction from the Seattle school board in meeting their contract demands.

Last year, school employees gave up their pay increases to insure that many would not be laid off after a special school levy failed. By the end of the school year, 750 employees had lost their jobs.

When the school board suddenly "found" a ten million dollar surplus, anger was a natural reaction. The Seattle Teachers' Association, the bargaining agent, had predicted the funds were there.

Many of the 715 did not know they were rehired until the day employees were expected to report for work. Even then, many did not know where they were assigned.

MASSIVE SUPPORT

Ninety percent of the teachers and staff are supporting the strike. Students are honoring the picket



lines, with only 16,000 of 62,000 students reporting for school.

Employees are striking for higher wages and better conditions. They are asking for a one year contract, 20.66% raise, (remember they gave up their wages last year), fair firing and re-hiring practices, restoration of special programs,

and an agency shop.

The school board's offer the morning of the strike was inadequate.

AFT SUPPORT

The American Federation of Teachers local here, the SFT

[Seattle Federation of Teachers] came out in support of the strike on its second day.

They have been picketing with the strikers, but are against the agency shop demand. The school board has had some success in dividing the two unions on this issue.

On September 11, school employees staged a rally of over 2000 at the school administration building to present their demands to the board.

They asked for negotiations, which had broken off, to be continued. The result was a school board official knocking a member of STA bargaining team to the floor.

Dave Moberly, superintendent of schools, tried to bar the STA from a press conference, but STA finally won out. Moberly then closed the schools officially. Picketers continued the rally on through the weekend leaving late and returning very early.

A Seattle judge ruled on September 13, that although public employees do not legally have the right to strike, school district employees do not at the present time have a contract. He could not order them back to work.

He did restrict picketing to informational pickets, and asked the strikers not to harass or stop people from crossing the line.

But that is of little concern since 95% of school district employees are not showing up at work. They are giving their time to the picket lines. It's clear who is winning in this battle.

INDY: STOP ARA SCAB CAFETERIAS!

Chrysler's Indianapolis Electric Company's third shift has shut down the works. Local 1226 members went on strike Tuesday night to fight union-busting by Chrysler and ARA Services, Inc. Plant,

At the Shadeland Plant, the cafeteria workers have always been in the UAW. Some have as much as 24 years seniority.

Recently a new company, ARA Services Inc., picked up the

cafeteria franchise. ARA immediately got rid of the UAW members and began to advertise for new workers from off the street.

These new workers were offered a ridiculous \$2.30 an hour wage and no union benefits.

Chrysler made some feeble attempts to stop the protest that started in late July. This protest was so effective that the workers

wouldn't even buy from the ARA stock vending machines. Finally, Local 1226 voted to set up pickets and close Chrysler down.

The picket lines kept out the first shift also.

As one worker put it, "We can't let this union-busting attempt to get even a toe-hold here. This is a union plant."

"What Do You Women Want Anyhow?"

by Candy Martin

IT'S COFFEE BREAK, and everybody is sitting around rapping. They're so into it that they forget you're there. Or maybe it's some new guy who didn't realize that you're a "girl" behind the goggles, hard hat and work clothes. Or else someone just dropped a steel bar on his thumb and just can't hold it back.

One way or another, someone says that four letter word.

The reaction is immediate. First, whoever said it puts his hand over his mouth and blushes. Then someone says, "Hey, man, watch it." And somebody else says, "Don't you know there's a lady here?"

I usually say, "Yeah, watch your fucking language."

After that, everyone laughs their

"I'm a female steelworker. The job I work 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, they ask a lot of good and very natural questions about women's liberation. This series will take some of them up."

embarrassment or a little. It's cool. They go back to talking the way they normally do, without treating you like you're some sort of rare species. But it always happens again the next day.

"WHAT LANGUAGE"

What kind of language to use in front of women is a question that comes up all the time when men are not used to working around women.

Some guys don't like to swear in front of anybody. That's cool; it's their



word, is the man who's silently undressing you with a leer.

A whole range of attitudes towards women were developed to justify the sexual oppression of women. Women are stereotyped. They are put on pedestals and patronized. All of this helped the ruling class keep women "in their place."

In the Victorian era, it was thought that women were physically incapable of enjoying sex. So sex was a subject of conversation that was taboo in front of women—and using cuss words was practically a sin.

There's still a law on the books, left over from the dark ages, that makes it illegal for a man to use "obscene language" in front of a woman.

Of course, the other side to "protecting" women is contempt. Because if we need to be protected, we must be inferior.

SISTERS IN STRUGGLE

Most women would prefer that the men we work with deal with us straight out, on the same level as anyone else.

Men should treat their sister workers as equals, worthy of respect. We need to be full partners in the struggle against this oppressive society.

Until we see each other as full partners, the bosses will be able to divide us by sex and race. We need a united struggle, or we all will lose.

business. Maybe it's their way of showing respect to people in general.

But most guys will admit that it's the way they normally talk. They just think they shouldn't do it in front of women.

Many women are insulted when someone swears in front of them. This attitude reflects the social hypocrisy that has developed towards women. It is a symptom of sexual oppression.

SEXUAL OPPRESSION

Men do treat women in insulting ways. More insulting than any four-letter

Which Way For The Teamster Rank & File?

Over a year ago, forty truck drivers and dock workers met in Chicago to form Teamsters for a Decent Contract (TDC). Although TDC focused around the freight contract, many Teamsters hoped that it would become an ongoing movement.

As one Pennsylvania driver put it: "There's no doubt in my mind that this is a nucleus...and I expect it to have a long, profitable life. We used to relate to things on an individual basis and many of us felt frustrated... We didn't have any collective effort. Now we have that."

The freight contract has come and gone. TDC had a big impact on those negotiations, even though the actual contract gains were marginal. Then came the Teamsters' Las Vegas convention. Fitz got up and loudly denounced TDC (renamed Teamsters for a Democratic Union) and other opposition groups and individuals.

After the contract and the official convention, most active rank and filers recognize that some sort of that "collective effort" is the only way to turn the union around and make it a fighting organization again.

But there are different ideas of how to go about changing the union, because it is an enormously difficult project.

Frank Fitzsimmons and his co-conspirators rule the union with a heavy foot, ready to stamp out dissent. Beatings and sometimes murder are effective persuaders.

In addition, the International Constitution is stacked heavily against democracy. And the union leadership enjoys the support and protection of various racketeers, judges, and national and local politicians.

Even when honest reformers are elected to local union office, more often than not they end up selling out because of the pressures of the situation.

So it's no wonder that many Teamsters who want reform look to someone other than themselves to change the union: a lawyer, perhaps, who will enlist the aid of the courts and the government; a journalist who will expose the whole rotten mess; or even a middle-level Teamster official who will run for office and change the union by himself.

PROD

This was the point of view presented to about 75 Teamsters who attended a conference in Washington early this month called by PROD—the Professional Drivers Council for Safety & Health.

PROD is a Ralph Nadar-affiliated group, headed by non-Teamster lawyers and law students. PROD's perspective is to reform the Teamsters Union through lawsuits, government intervention, and appeals to middle and upper level Teamster officials.

This approach is similar to the lobbying activities that large corporations conduct in Washington. Except PROD's activities are based on an appeal to reason rather than on bribes and payoffs.

Since PROD's strategy is based on lobbying and appealing to high placed union and government officials, it does not depend on using the enormous potential power that ordinary Teamsters have through their ability to withhold their labor. In fact, PROD cautions against using this weapon:

"We must be careful not to alienate our allies since a crippling strike could unleash a damaging backlash from the public and Congress. Ultimately, we believe



The same anger and frustration that brought hundreds of Teamsters out to this demonstration in front of Teamster Local 299 hall in Detroit, is building the TDU convention.

that we need to nurture good relations with the public and the government if we are to succeed in reforming Teamster working conditions through new laws and regulations....

CONFERENCE

PROD's approach to union reform was reflected at their conference, where they listened to speaker after speaker from government agencies, as well as several journalists.

The man from the Federal Highway Administration told the conference his attitude on the safety problem: what is needed, he said, are stricter rules so that there will be better truck drives. (PROD spokesman Arthur Fox disavowed this speaker by saying he had been invited only to show how bad some of the government agencies were.)

Virtually the only strategy presented at the PROD meeting was filing lawsuits. PROD may file suit against the dues increase adopted at the Las Vegas convention.

There was also some discussion of running reform candidates in local union elections... but no indication of what they would stand for or how their candidacy would fit into a broader movement.

There's a major problem with the PROD strategy, though: it doesn't work.

The idea that you can reform the union through the government or the courts is based on a lie we've all been taught since first grade. This lie says that the government and the institutions connected to it (courts, police, etc.) are neutral,

that they will protect the interests of the ordinary union member as readily as they will the President of the Teamsters or the interests of Roadway Express, Inc. All experience shows this to be untrue.

The courts will quickly issue injunctions for the employers, but rarely for the rank and file. The cops will crack the heads of peaceful pickets at a truck terminal, but will ignore the terminal manager who sends his trucks out dangerously overweight.

And the government will issue nice statements about getting rid of gangsters and thugs in the unions, but when the new laws are passed we still have the gangsters and thugs, but have lost basic union rights, such as the hot cargo clauses (Landrum-Griffin Act).

TDU

Teamsters for a Democratic Union is holding its convention this weekend. TDU's approach to changing the union is different from the PROD strategy. And although it may at first seem more difficult, in the long run it is more practical.

From its beginning, TDC (and then TDU) emphasized organizing the rank and file and using their power. Every TDC tactic leading up to the freight contract was designed to involve and mobilize the ranks: a massive petition campaign; organizing meetings in dozens of cities across the country; later, organizing meetings in individual barns; a trip to Teamster headquarters in Washington by a large delegation; mass demonstrations short-

ly before the contract expired; and the willingness to strike in case Fitzsimmons delivered a sellout.

STRENGTH

It was this organized strength that forced the union leadership to act: first, to increase its bargaining goal from \$1.50 to \$2.50; and then to call the first nationwide freight strike in this country's history.

It can only be the same sort of organized strength that will change the union—because a massive, organized rank and file movement has no one it can sell out to, no one it needs to be indebted to but itself.

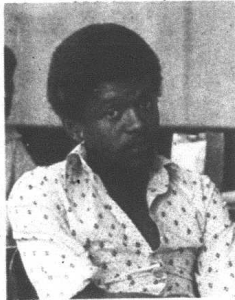
It may start with local campaigns to change the by-laws, to get elected Business Agents, or to fight some particular case of company harassment. It will end when the ranks throw out the crooks and traitors and take the union back in their own hands. The important thing is that it will be ordinary Teamsters who do this—not some high-priced lawyer, Congressman, or government bureaucrat.

Danny Kablack, steward at Pepsi Cola, Local 250, told "From the Horse's Mouth," newspaper of the Concerned Rank and File Teamsters of Pittsburgh, why he's going to the TDU convention:

"We need a permanent organization which will not only put reform candidates in office, but which will keep on their backs to fulfill their promises, and which can dump them when they betray those promises. TDU can be that kind of organization, and that's what this convention is all about." □

Teamsters for a Democratic Union is holding its first Convention the weekend of September 18-19, in Kent, Ohio. Convention organizers expect 150-200 people to attend. The purpose is to build an ongoing organization of rank and file Teamsters. TDU is based on two rank and file groups that were active around their contract expirations: Teamsters for a Decent Contract (freight) and UPSurge (UPS). Activists from these groups have been working hard to build the convention—they have handed out thousands of brochures and held local meetings. But TDU organizers have had help in building for the convention from two other sources: employers across the country who are cracking down on working conditions and pushing the union to back off; and from the International Union which is not leading an effective fight to protect its members. In recent months employers have provoked strikes throughout the midwest: at Schneiders, McLeans (Middlesex, Pa.), and among car haulers. Most recently eastern UPS has struck, several months after their contracts expired. TDU has supported all these strikes and this support has spread the commitment to building TDU to unite rank and file Teamsters.

SUPPORT REVOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA



Larry Smith

Fifty members of the International Socialists and Red Tide attended a weekend school on the revolution in South Africa. The school made plans for a campaign to support the liberation struggles in Africa.

On Saturday night, the film "Last Grave at Dimbaza" was shown. The film was made illegally in South Africa. It is a moving documentary about the horrors of apartheid.

A copy of "Last Grave at Dimbaza" was purchased by the I.S. and it will be used to build public meetings about South Africa.

Other suggestions for building solidarity with South Africa included a national day of

demonstrations, perhaps focused against specific imperialist targets like Chrysler or General Motors. A Red Tide organizer suggested that these demonstrations would be a good way to get young people involved in the solidarity campaign.

I.S. women's caucuses will be holding meetings about women under apartheid. Literature, speakers and posters were requested by members.

SPEAKERS

Speakers at the school included a member of the I.S. who had left South Africa. He spoke about the history of apartheid in South Africa.

"Apartheid is a form of fascism," he said. He then laid out the history of black resistance to apartheid since the 1950's.

Paul Irish, a member of the American Committee on Africa, spoke about the struggle going on in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). He said that liberation fighters were largely loyal to ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) though some favor ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union). A representative of ZANU will speak at the I.S. public meetings on South Africa.

KEY TO U.S.

Joel Geier, I.S. National Chairperson, pointed out that the struggle in South Africa is an international struggle. The struggle in Africa may be the key to the beginning of revolution in America. For liberation of Africa, the revolution must spread.

Dan Posen from Workers'



Barbara Winslow

Power, used Angola to illustrate how this theory (permanent revolution) applies to southern Africa today, and why revolutionaries supported the MPLA in the struggle against Portuguese colonialism.

Larry Smith, I.S. Black Organizer, said that national liberation is a step in the struggle for socialism.

"Ford workers in America and Ford workers in Johannesburg have a common interest," said Barbara Winslow. "To smash South African apartheid, to smash U.S. imperialism, and fight for international socialism."

She stressed that American investment in South Africa by corporations like General Motors, Ford, General Electric, and IBM, keeps the apartheid system strong. Capitalism is a worldwide system, and revolutionaries must be anti-imperialist and internationalist to smash it.

Where We Stand

WE OPPOSE

• CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION

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

• CAPITALIST CONTROL

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

• OPPRESSION

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

• CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT

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

• BUREAUCRATIC COMMUNISM

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

WE SUPPORT

• THE RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT

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

• LIBERATION FROM OPPRESSION

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

• SOCIALISM

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

• WORKERS' REVOLUTION

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

• INTERNATIONALISM

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

• REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

• INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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

Workers' Power News

We now have available the first of the **Workers' Power** stickers. They are black on white and say "Workers' Power—VOTE NO!" They are attractively printed and professionally cut. If you have a union contract about to expire and you don't like the new offer, then these stickers are a must. They will fit right in your pocket and go up in seconds. All I.S. branches are encouraged to order them, 200 for \$1.00. Please send cash with order.

taken responsibility for selling at four auto plants and one unemployment center. Sales for the latest issue were 104. The important thing is that every branch member sell every week.

Workers' Power sales are still strong at UPS. A quick survey we did this week showed that over 250 papers a week are being sold to UPS workers. New York topped the list with reported sales of 60.

A few branches are still not sending in regular weekly sales reports. See to it that your branch does. Sales report forms are available from Workers' Power Circulation.

Tom Dougherty

In Detroit one autoworkers branch is already campaigning with the paper. Five weeks ago their paper sales were only 68 per issue. Since then they have really tightened up. In addition to members selling where they work, the branch has

Workers' Power Sells In The Community

PORTLAND, Ore.—Our branch has been selling Workers' Power in the black community for a year. Over this year, we have sold more than 900 papers. What are our results? The I.S. is much more visible in the community. Many people have seen or read WP. They are familiar with our coverage of Gary Tyler, busing, and other issues.

Sometimes we run into a person who stops us before we have time to give our sales pitch, walks back into the house, and comes back with 15 cents. A fellow we met on the street bought one, explaining that his girlfriend had made him promise to buy her one the next time he saw us.

A person learns a lot selling the paper door to door. We find out what people think about the "system" and what they want to know about socialism.

We are forced to condense the political points we want to make concisely and effectively and we know that we are successful when someone buys the paper.

DEVELOP ACTIVITIES

For people we have met who

are dissatisfied with the way things are and are looking for our ideas as an alternative, we are developing activities which they can become involved in. Forums on topics of interest to the community, barbecues, visits to the homes of buyers are a few of the activities we are planning. So far we have been successful in organizing a large Gary Tyler rally. Workers' Power played a big part in getting people interested in Gary Tyler. We recommend community sales to any branch with the resources available. Here's how we do it:

We sell with 2-4 people. Before selling, we chart out a new area. As we go door to door, we write down the names and addresses of people who buy. Next week we return at the same time and day. We keep doing this until sales are down to a regular route, and then move on to a new area. We maintain the regular customers in the old area. Sales total between 15-35.

Our community sales have helped Workers' Power become a widely-known source of information and socialist ideas in our city.

Portland W.P. coordinator

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: PO Box 155, Tyler Heights Sta., Charleston, W.VA. 25312
- Chicago: PO Box 11268, Fort Dearborn Sta., Chicago IL 60611
- Cincinnati: PO Box 16075, Cincinnati, OH 45216
- Cleveland: PO Box 02235, Cleveland, OH 44102
- Detroit: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203
- Indianapolis: PO Box 631, Indianapolis, IN 46206
- Louisville: PO Box 1871, Lynwood, CA 90262
- Louisville: PO Box 70449, Louisville, KY 40270
- Madison: PO Box 725, Madison, WI 53701
- New York: 30 E. 20 St., Rm. 207, New York, NY 10003
- Philadelphia: PO Box 8262, Philadelphia, PA 19101
- Pittsburgh: PO Box 466, Homestead, PA 15120
- Portland: PO Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208
- Sacramento: PO Box 161332, Sacramento, CA 95816
- Seattle: PO Box 9056, Seattle, WA 98109
- Springfield: PO Box 795, Springfield, MA 01101
- St. Louis: PO Box 24135, St. Louis, MO 63130
- South Bend: PO Box 1223, South Bend, IN 46617

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

by Elissa Clarke

"Selma" is a new musical about the civil rights movement.

For the past four weeks, "Selma" has been playing at the Detroit Music Hall to black audiences.

The play is excellent. It dramatizes true struggles of black people, and brings history to life. This is why black Detroiters paid \$7.50 and up to see the play, and brought

"SELMA," book, music and lyrics by Tommy Butler; Executive Producer, Redd Foxx.

their children, to teach them this important history.

"Selma" was written and produced by Tommy Butler. Butler identifies so strongly with Dr. Martin Luther King that he selected himself to star in that role.

The main flaw in the play is that it reflects King's politics, totally uncritically. The themes that run most strongly through the play are religion and non-violence.

MUSIC

The play is almost entirely music, with very little spoken dialogue. The production borrows from the theatre of the '60's, guerilla or street theatre. It uses very few sets—just chairs arranged various ways to symbolize the church, a bus, a court.

The play also uses the black experience. It uses black music and dance. The atmosphere of the play is so much like a Baptist church that people in the audience call out.

"Selma" begins with King's assassination in April, 1968. After that, it is a series of flashbacks that dramatize the history of the civil rights movement.

The flashbacks begin with "Nigger Woman," a scene that portrays Rosa Parks and her refusal to give up her seat in the "white section" of a bus. With only a few chairs to indicate a bus, the actors do a magnificent job dramatizing this historical moment.

Although Rosa Parks was not the first person to be arrested for refusing to obey the bus laws in Montgomery, it was the first time the black community was organized to fight back.

BUS BOYCOTT

That night, Martin Luther King and Ralph Abernathy started the Montgomery Improvement Association in the church.

The next day, no blacks rode the busses. The Montgomery city government was stunned. They tried forcing blacks into the busses.

One black who was forced to ride the bus explained how he got around it. "I just sat down in the white people's section, and the bus driver stopped the bus and threw me off!"

The black cab companies charged bus rates to take people where they had to go, and blacks with cars picked up their brothers and sisters. The sheriff complained about "all them niggers in the street."

This is one place where "Selma" falls short. Instead of acting out the bus boycott, Butler merely uses characters talking about it in their homes and the church.

The cast of "Selma" is all black, except for one liberal white minis-



ter. All the racists are played by blacks wearing white masks. This has the effect of reducing the audience's anger toward the racist characters. You keep remembering that a black actor is behind the mask.

Butler explained that he did not want to be guilty of racism-in-reverse. "I didn't want to be guilty of the same thing in portraying bigots in the play. So the bigots wear masks. Bigotry, after all, hides behind a mask."

To me, the mask technique was a cop out. One of the points of the civil rights movement was to unmask racism.

NON-VIOLENCE

Butler is afraid of many issues that more realistic treatment of the civil rights movement would raise. He said, "You see, the civil rights movement was... a downer. There were a lot of beatings, and killings and the whole thing."

Since the politics of non-violence is no answer to these questions, Butler manipulates history to make his point.

He is so down on the "black power" movement that succeeded the civil rights movement that he adds a scene about the Watts riots, even though it is out of historical sequence.

The debate between non-violence and self-defense is taken up through the character Marcus, the most militant member of the Montgomery Improvement Association.

Marcus is effectively isolated from the rest of the movement. He is used mostly to give Butler a sounding board for rhetoric on the virtues of non-violent struggle.

Marcus finally sees the error of his ways when one of his comrades is killed in the Watts riot. He then travels back in time to participate in the Selma-Montgomery March. The Watts riot took place in 1965 and the march to Selma in 1963.

But it was partly the limitations of the non-violent strategy that forced black people to riot. The riots of 1965-1967 expressed the militant sentiment that was soon organized into the much more effective Black Power movement.

CHURCH BOMBING

Act Two portrays the bombing of the church in Birmingham, Alabama in which four young girls were killed. A woman from the congregation sings a moving eulogy to the four children, "Poison Hiding in the Church."

The final act ends with the Selma March. This is an inspiring scene. The small cast's excellent acting makes the audience feel as if they are witnessing this event.

The marchers are beaten back several times by the racists. But they go on with renewed determination, and the movement grows.

After the play is over, the cast invites the audience to join hands and sing the hymn of the civil rights movement: "We Shall Overcome." Although this could have been a tacky conclusion, it is really quite moving.

The best thing about the play was the feeling it gave of black people acting together to make changes, to fight racism. We will feel that again as a new movement is built.

Port Gibson Blacks Defend NAACP, Renew Boycott

Black people of Port Gibson, Mississippi—about half the town's population—have resumed a boycott of 12 white-owned businesses. A boycott that originally ended in 1969.

During the civil rights movement these businesses were boycotted for over three years to protest job discrimination and exclusion from city politics.

The businesses went to court to break the NAACP-organized boycott. Seven years after it ended, a racist judge slapped the NAACP with a whopping \$1.25 million fine. The boycott was ruled an illegal secondary boycott because of the political demand. But as one striker commented, "The businessmen are the politicians."

NATIONAL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

The fine threatens to throw the veteran civil rights organization into bankruptcy. A national fund-raising campaign is underway to post the 125% of the judgement needed to appeal to a higher state court. It is, unlikely to reach that goal by the two week deadline.

In response, blacks in Port Gibson quietly, and with little organization, are threatening to make the renewed boycott just as lengthy as the first—if not longer.

The businesses are quietly letting it be known that they are open to a deal. The price tag is apparently \$300,000 in lawyers' fees.

The original boycott? In the 75% black county, only seven officials are now black. At the originally-targeted businesses, the job discrimination has only decreased marginally.

FINE TO DESTROY NAACP

The fine, of course, is a blatant attempt to destroy the NAACP. It should not be paid. This time around the NAACP should be following the lead of Port Gibson's blacks.

One of the picketers pointed out that stopping the flow of money into white racist businessmen's pockets is about the only tool blacks have. The picketers have a much better handle on the problem than the NAACP, which only seems interested in finding enough liberal money to take the matter back to court.

Kate Stacy



Workers' Power

EAST COAST UPS ON STRIKE!

PITTSBURGH—After four and a half months of negotiations and numerous contract extensions, 20,000 Teamsters are on strike against United Parcel Service in the Eastern states. Apparently the union's negotiators realized that they were at an impasse on Tuesday, September 14, when the company didn't even show up for the scheduled bargaining session.

The strike began at 5:00 pm the next day, and appears to have caught both UPS and its shippers by surprise. Hundreds of thousands of packages are sitting in the hubs.

Several major shippers had avoided UPS in recent months for fear of a strike. Recently the company had assured them there wouldn't be one, and now such major shippers as New Process and Simplicity are stuck with truck loads of packages in the hubs.

The membership had authorized a strike by a 98% vote six weeks ago, and so a frequent comment on picket lines here was, "It's about time!"

JOB PROTECTION

One of the major strike issues is protection of full time jobs. The company has been trying to introduce part time workers for some time, but in the Eastern states there are still a considerable number of full time inside workers.

Winks Gramc, a Local 249 B.A. and member of the negotiating committee, told strikers in Pittsburgh Thursday morning that UPS had announced openly that their intention is to phase out all full

time inside jobs across the country.

UPS wants to do this by moving full time inside workers to other jobs, and to replace any full timer who quits or retires with two part timers. That makes this regional strike a matter of national concern.

Another issue is wages for part-time workers, who are generally paid less in the Eastern states than in the Central states. Other issues include improving working conditions and the grievance procedure, resisting production standards, and keeping the employee pension plan in the hands of the union.

Many rank and filers are skeptical of the union's desire to continue the strike until these demands are met. The record so far is not good.

UPSurge, the rank and file organization of UPS workers, is encouraging strikers to put on the heat by passing motions or notifying their officials that there should be no return to work until the rank and file votes to do so. □

To Be Young And Black In Detroit

"Why Are They After Me?"



If you're black and under the age of 18 it's total hell for you in Detroit. About three weeks ago Mayor Coleman Young put out a pack of juvenile control laws.

It is now illegal for any youth to be out after 10 pm. It is also illegal for any youth under 18 to be without the supervision of an adult any part of the day.

...

My name is Mona Scott. I was put on probation for one year for a trumped up dope charge. My judge sentenced me to school. It's kind of funny. Even the courts realize that the schools are prisons.

Anyway, I was notified by my probation officer that if I get stopped by any police officer it would be violating my parole. Since that call, I have been stopped three times by the police, resulting in three parole violations.

The first time was an arrest at Osborn High School. Earlier that day two students were stabbed. While I was leaving from school two police officers approached me, saying, "You're under arrest."

There was no charge, nor was I booked for anything. Yet I was held for three hours.

The next day I was stopped by two police officers at a red light. Just total harassment.

The cops approached me saying, "What have you been doing?" and "You better keep your nose clean."

AND AGAIN

The next day, I was stopped again because I was eating while driving. I received a ticket for

eating a sandwich while making a right turn, otherwise known as careless driving.

I'm not in a gang, nor do I have anything to do with gang members. Yet I have been harassed every day by the police.

This is just my story. There are many more. Since this pack of laws have come out the police have been able to run amok in every way they see possible.

They have done nothing to prevent the rising gang problem. Unless you think it helps to put 600 full time police officers back on the streets to terrorize all black youth—no matter who they are. And if you think like that you must be out of

your mind.

If the police were to serve and protect, like the little emblem on their car says, you really wouldn't have to worry about being robbed, or worse yet, getting beat up by a police officer.

So, Mayor Young, by giving the police the power to go out in the streets and legally harass all young black people, you have just guaranteed to all parents the unsafety of their child—who might come home with a broken arm or even worse. Dead.

And if you don't believe me, check out the TV seven days a week on one of those cop shows. Or even ask your child. □

Red Tide Says: Black, White Students Unite!

by Kate Stacy

DETROIT— "The school year has just begun, there is an oppressive curfew on young people, and there is a real need for unity among young people to stand up for our rights and fight for our needs together. Let's not start this year out with a race war. We have too much to lose."

That was the message of a leaflet distributed by the Western High School chapter of the Red Tide after a shooting of a student several days ago.

The student, a white, was shot apparently because his girlfriend is black. He is now in critical condition. The young black man who did the shooting felt that "black women are too good for white dudes."

As the Red Tide leaflet pointed out, "This philosophy is very similar to that of the racist Ku Klux Klan, who often lynched black men for looking at or going out with white women."

"Only die-hard racists would support laws or rules that prohibit interracial couples. These type of laws today exist in racist South Africa, which black people are trying to revolt against."

The Red Tide is the youth section of International Socialists.

Possibilities of violence between students in Detroit's high schools

this year are increased incredibly. The threatening presence of both street gangs and the police—and the arbitrary harassment of black and white students that they are waging is raising the prison-like atmosphere and tension among the students to new heights.

The Red Tide is organizing to turn that situation around. "Students at Western should keep their cool and not let this incident blow up into a race war." The leaflet continues. "It is in the best interests of all students black, brown and white, to fight against racism and to not let this thing go any further.

Or else many more people will be hurt, many people will get busted and the pigs will have a perfect excuse to come in and fuck over everybody. The school administration will use it as an excuse to tighten up and crack down on students even more."

The Red Tide believes that the city-wide harassment of young people that is now being carried out by the police and the mayor is a brutal publicity stunt. The city is in tremendous financial trouble, like many others.

It is desperately trying to convince the public that the problem is youth crime, rather than the profit system that is lining all the major cities up in bankruptcy courts. □

WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

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