

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS NOVEMBER 29, 1976 #186 15c

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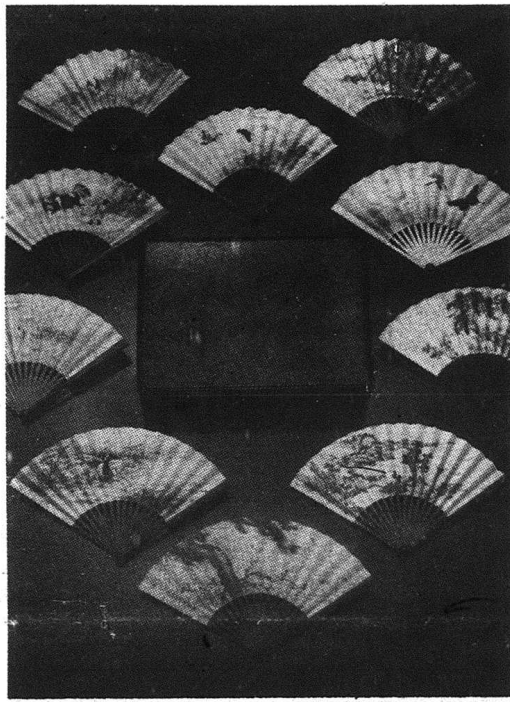
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For example, check out this item from the exclusive "Horchow Collection" of fine holiday gifts: "The Emperor's Fans," described as "a rare and prized gift" to the Emperor of China between 1840-1870. This means they were ripped off from China at some unspecified time.

You can put this item under your Christmas tree for the bargain price of just \$9500, all taxes and shipping charges included.

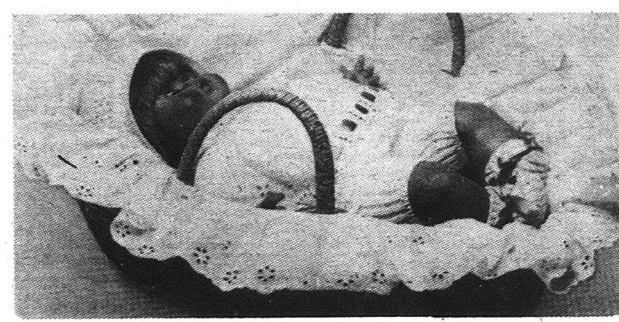
Horchow suggests an even better idea: "Just as the fans were created originally as a gift and are so rare and of such fine quality, you may wish to consider donating them to a museum as the ultimate gift."

What they don't say, but is well-known to the discriminating collector, is that by donating this gift you can claim a fabulous tax deduction next April!

Maybe, if you've worked a lot of overtime this year and need a way to get rid of the extra money, these fans are just what you're looking for.



If someone beat you to the Ch'ing Dynasty fans, or you were looking for something a little less extravagant, don't despair. Horchow still has plenty for you. Such as: "Our Pet Towel: Wipe off Fido's or Kitty's wet or muddy paws after a walk



Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, it's time to get serious about the holiday season.

In this Buy-centennial year, what could be more patriotic than a big shopping spree?

Of course, eight million unemployed workers may not have too much to spend

for their families this festive season. Not to mention most of the rest of us, who have to watch every penny we spend.

However, whether or not you're on a tight budget, Workers' Power thinks you might be interested in what some people will be buying to celebrate this time of peace and cheer.

What the Rich are Buying this Xmas

with our red cotton terry towel embroidered with five black paw marks. 16 by 24 inches." This is a steal at \$8.50, plus 95c tax and charges.

For a child you can buy a "French baby doll," \$65, while for yourself you may consider this Horchow exclusive... at \$350. "A magic carpet handwoven on primitive looms by children in a small village near Cairo."

All the charms of child labor are woven into "the all wool tapestry rug... each is a work of art." These children probably don't see the price of a "French baby doll" in a year.

Or you might want a ladder. Does \$750 sound a lot? Horchow's ladder, for scaling the walls of your private library, is made of "rosewood, black leather and brass studs," and is an exact copy of one "designed to help mount your elephant."

If none of these items turn you on, you can take your business elsewhere. Like the fur shops, for example...

Business is booming this season. Last month one firm, Bonwit Teller, showed more than \$500,000 of Grosvenor furs—lynx, fox, badger and coyote—to 200 customers.

One executive says, "We just had a president of sportswear firm call up and ask us to send a \$20,000 sable coat for his wife. Sounds like a good Christmas...."



Is this amusing? Yes and no.

This is the way the ruling class and its upper-level hangers-on celebrate the holidays. Spending hundreds or thousands of dollars on trinkets or gaudy display is what they are born to.

What isn't funny is the kind of Christmas that faces millions of working class, poor and black families in this rich country.

The people whose labor produced those riches will not be buying Mandarin fans or towels for dogs and cats.

For most of us, every modest purchase of Christmas toys chips away at a budget already stretched to the breaking point.

whatever happened to the great AMERICAN DREAM?

The Continuing Story of Patty Hearst: Justice For The Rich

by Gay Semel

Another chapter in the bizarre saga of Patty Hearst was written last week. She went home, after her parents posted one and half million dollars bail.

The \$1.5 million bail money came on top of the hundreds of thousands spent on high priced lawyers, endless tests, doctors with the right opinions and records, surveys and investigations.

Like days of old, this ruling class family spent a king's ransom to buy their daughter's freedom.

There is nothing wrong with the release of Patty Hearst. She should be free as should hundreds of thousands of others crammed into America's putrid prison system.

What is outrageous here is not that she was released on appeal—but what her release reveals about

the American way of justice.

Reasons given by the presiding judge for releasing Patty Hearst were:

- She has strong family ties.
- She is a person of strong character.
- She has resided all her life in the community.

If Patty Hearst were working class or black those reasons would be laughed out of court.

She was released because she is the daughter of a ruling class family. A "decent" interval was allowed following her sentence, so that there would be no uproar over favored treatment. Then she was released.

White in prison Patty Hearst did not reside in a hell-hole and

experience brutalization at the hands of prison guards.

ELITE PRISON

She went to an elite prison with airy rooms. Out her window lay green trees and rolling hills.

But Patty couldn't stand it. She threw temper tantrums and refused to do minimal tasks.

Most prisoners would have been thrown into solitary. Patty Hearst made the front page—and shortly afterwards was released on bail.

Even the amount of bail is a hoax. Many will claim the high amount is proof of the true fairness of the system.

Don't be fooled!

It doesn't matter how much bail was set—the Hearsts had it. And they would have had a lot more. For the Hearsts, \$1.5 million is only the tip of the iceberg.

After her release, Patty went to her family's plush apartment in Nob Hill. The papers were filled with stories of the happy family reunion.

They told of her first request—a mai tai (a rum drink)—what the family ate, who said what to who.

After a grueling experience the American princess returns home to a loving family. Yuck!



Patty Hearst, released from jail on \$1.5 million bail, rejoins her parents in their home. "It was like I never left," she said.



A different story for most prisoners. George Dobbins (left) in a photo from the autopsy report. Dobbins was killed by prison authorities who stabbed him nine times in the face and head. (Below) At Atmore-Holman prison farm, prisoners are forced to work in the fields sometimes until they collapse, for 25c a week.



That is justice
for the rich.

It is a very different story for the poor.

Beatings, Murders — The Way of Life At Atmore-Holman

At Atmore-Holman Prison Farm complex in Alabama, prisoners see a very different side of American justice.

There are no rolling hills, just 8,000 acres of flat, unshaded farmland. Inmates are forced to work in the blazing sun until near collapse for 25c a week.

Beatings and torture are part of the regularly scheduled events.

In 1972, prisoners formed Inmates For Action (IFA) to protest the inhuman conditions at the prison.

In January 1974, 1100 of 1200 inmates, black and white, organized to protest the inhuman conditions and the beating of an IFA member.

The response of the prison

authorities was an armed attack in which a guard was killed and a prisoner, George Dobbins, was wounded.

Prison officials took Dobbins away by ambulance. He died of nine stab wounds in the head before ever reaching the hospital.

Dobbins was stabbed nine times by prison guards in the ambulance.

Since then a "death list" of 23 inmates compiled by prison officials has been found. Number one on the list was Tommy Dotson.

In March 1974, Dotson was beaten to death by five guards. One of the guards died of a heart attack from overexertion during the long brutal pounding of Dotson.

Willie Menefree, who had found

the list, was also high on it. He was found dead of stab wounds on March 16, 1974.

On April 25, 1975, Charles Beasley, another Atmore brother high on the list, was found hanged in his cell.

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CIA Aiming For New Victim

Is the Central Intelligence Agency planning to murder Philip Agee?

That's the question hundreds of journalists, unionists and even Members of Parliament in Britain are already asking.

Philip Agee, an American living in Britain, is a former CIA agent. He became disillusioned with the CIA and wrote a sensational book "Inside the Company: CIA Diary" exposing its tactics in Mexico and South America.

Agee has also spoken out frequently in the last two years warning of CIA involvement in Portugal, Angola and other countries.

DEPORTED

Suddenly, in an unprecedented move, the Home Office of the British government has ordered Agee and another American to get out of Britain by the end of



Philip Agee, ex-CIA officer, author of "Inside the Company: CIA Diary."

November.

They have only 14 days to appeal the order, and little chance of success.

The other American affected is reporter Mark Hosenball, who works for the paper Evening Standard. Hosenball has also written about CIA activities in Britain. He was ordered deported as a "security risk," although the British government does not claim he has had any dealing with foreign agents.

The deportation of Agee and Hosenball is causing a furor in Britain which could split and bring down the Labor Party government.

The journalists' union has protested the order, and several Labor Party members in Parliament are refusing to vote with the government because of the deportations.

The United States government denies having anything to do with the order to deport Agee and Hosenball.

However, at the exact same time, the Justice Department announced it is "seriously consid-

ering" prosecuting Agee for publishing his book about the CIA operations in Mexico and South America, where he was stationed.

Justice Department lawyers will not make their decision until he is actually deported.

MURDER RING

In other words, if Phillip Agee returns to the United States he may be put on trial for telling the truth about the CIA's international murder ring.

If he goes to any other country, the murder ring itself will have him in the open with no cover, no connections. He will be liable to be assassinated by the CIA's hit men at any moment.

It is 100% certain that the American government and the CIA are behind the order deport Agee, as well as the timing of that order.

Did the CIA simply quietly pass the word that they are going to bump him off, and the British government had better get rid of him first to avoid being embarrassed?

Who Pays For Post Office Profits?

PORTLAND, Oregon—Recently Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar said he was pleased to announce that the Postal Service had a \$15 million surplus for the last quarter. He said this may eliminate the need for a hike in postal rates next year.

Bailar attributed it to fewer workers. But he didn't mention the human cost to postal workers in terms of injuries to nerves and bodies that created this dollar surplus.

Portland is typical of what's happening to letter carriers nationwide, according to Bob Funge, President of Letter Carriers Local 82. The speedup drive, formerly called the Kokomo Plan, now has a brand new name—the "Methods Improvement Program (MIP)."

As a dozen jobs were eliminated locally in the last year, injury awards of all kinds have increased dramatically. Eighteen carriers have had to take light work jobs at stations, dozens have received workers' compensation awards, and half of all retirees went out with a disability pension.

Management wants to eliminate 15,000 of 200,000 letter carrier jobs nationwide. Funge guesses they're only half way there yet.

In the process, overtime has increased enormously, ranging from 10 to 30 percent of wages at stations where carriers have been eliminated.

The story of Joe Brost, a recently retired carrier, gives a good idea of

the real cost of the \$15 million surplus.

THE REAL COST

In a telephone interview, Brost told Workers' Power how he "refused to run for management." He said he "wanted to do the job right," not cut across laws or skip delivering third class mail, as he said his increased work load would force him to do.

Brost had done his job well for eleven years, but the new pressures and a poorly diagnosed low blood sugar problem finally got to his nerves.

Though other carriers at the post office suffer from the same ailment, the doctors still wanted him to submit to a psychiatric exam and management wanted him to retire. He chose retirement as the only way out.

Brost's case is not particularly unusual, nor is it at all extreme. Many of the less lucky postal employees have ended up with heart attacks.

What is needed is a coordinated national response by the postal unions to the employee cuts and resulting speedup. Philadelphia postal clerks showed the right idea recently when they won themselves some relief from the insanity of forced overtime with a wildcat strike.

Carter Frame-Up It's No Joke

by Steve Burns

The murder trial of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis entered its third week November 22. The prosecution's case seems so bad except for one problem: two black men could land in prison for life because of the state's lies and deceit. Carter and Artis are again seeing how our judicial system really works. And they're not laughing.

Readers of Workers' Power know a lot of the story of Carter and Artis' fight for freedom. Both men were unjustly convicted of two murders in Paterson, New Jersey in 1966, a time when the growth of Black Power was scaring conservative whites across the country.

Knowing they were innocent, Carter and Artis, along with others, built a large and powerful movement that demanded their release. After nine long years that movement won their release—for a while.

NOT QUITE ENOUGH

But the movement was powerful enough only to force a new trial, not to guarantee justice. A lot of people, thinking Carter and Artis were now free, let the movement dwindle in size, lose momentum, and become weaker. They thought "justice" and "new trial" were one and the same.

The fact is, both men have had to withstand more threats and harassment from the courts and the police. Indeed, a close look at what's been happening shows how little "fairness" there is within our court system. Check out the following:

- When Hurricane won his release, he kept on fighting for his and other prisoners' rights, including Gary Tyler. He kept trying to build the movement that could help protect all political prisoners.

- Within four months the courts used trumped charges of assault to restrict Carter's travel to only the state of New Jersey. The charges were thrown out as ridiculous: no beating, no guilt. But a fighter for freedom could no longer go around the country, helping build that movement so badly needed.

- At the retrial, the very first prosecution witness admitted she'd been out for "revenge" for her friend's death. She then described the wrong getaway car.

- The next prosecution witness agreed with the defense that Carter and Artis were far away from the scene of the crime. The whole "time sequence" carefully worked out by the state fell flat on its face.

- Then, the main prosecution witness. At the first trial he had said Carter and Artis did it. Then five years later he said they didn't. Then he said they did. Then he said



Hurricane Carter, in his jail cell.

he often lied. Then he said that he lied under oath. Then, at last, he said that without a shadow of a doubt Carter and Artis did it.

So that's where the trial stands so far. The prosecution's case should be a joke, but don't laugh. These ridiculous people, for all their lies and stupidity, somehow have been able to destroy these two men's lives for ten years.



Automated mail sorter. Computerization, speedup, overtime, and elimination of jobs built a \$15 million surplus for the Postal Service in the last quarter.

1800 Jobs Lost In Three Years

ATLANTA—The speedup and reduction in the work force which led to Bailar's \$15 million surplus exist in the South as well. In Atlanta, a Postal Service spokesman claims the number of employees "has dropped from 6200 to 4400 in the past five years."

This is a reduction of nearly one-third. No new employees have been hired in the past two years. Instead, the mail is moved through the use of immense amounts of overtime, as well as the use of temporary help.

The South is still recovering from

the last depression, and so the Postal Service has a large pool of unemployed workers it can draw on for temporaries.

Temporary employees (or the "89-day wonders") are very good for the postal budget. They are forced to work twelve hours a day, seven days a week. They have no rights, no chance for a permanent job, no benefits, 50c an hour less than the full time-and-a-half for overtime, arbitrary layoffs, and no injury insurance.

The increased use of temporaries may help the postal budget, but try counting on this job for a steady, secure income. If you do, your family may pay part of the cost of Bailar's \$15 million surplus.

Duane Hammill

Southern Africa News

SOMETIMES, ONE OUTRAGE overshadows another so fast you can't keep up.

A good example was this year's Miss World contest.

Of course, the whole purpose of "Miss America," "Miss World," and similar contests is the exploitation and degradation of women for commercial purposes. You wouldn't think the Miss World contest could get much worse than that.

But the government of South Africa found a way to do it.

Under South Africa's apartheid law, any form of competition between blacks and whites is prohibited. And anything that even suggests the possibility of black-white sexual contact is considered absolutely unthinkable.

So, South Africa did not enter just one contestant in the Miss World contest. It entered two—one white woman, one black. This was supposed to symbolize South Africa's claim that apartheid means "separate development" and justice for all races.

Believe it or not, participating in international beauty pageants, sports and cultural affairs, is important for South Africa to improve its image and promote contact with other countries. By accepting South African participation, international bodies give apartheid an appearance of legitimacy.

A number of countries withdrew from the contest in protest against South Africa's racist action. However, as you might expect, the United States stayed in.

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BANNING ORDERS are being issued against trade union activists in South Africa.

So far, 13 people have been banned. This means they may not write or speak publicly, attend meetings (this includes church), or engage in any union activity.

They will be able to live only where the government allows them, and will have no freedom to travel anywhere. They may not speak even privately to more than one person at a time, including their own relatives.

It is also illegal for anyone to mention the name of a banned person in public.

Of the 13 people banned so far, 11 are white. All 13 are involved in helping to organize black trade union activities.

Black unions in South Africa are allowed to meet and have educational discussions, although it is illegal for them to bargain, strike, or picket. Now, however, it is clear that the South African regime is determined to crush even this legal activity.

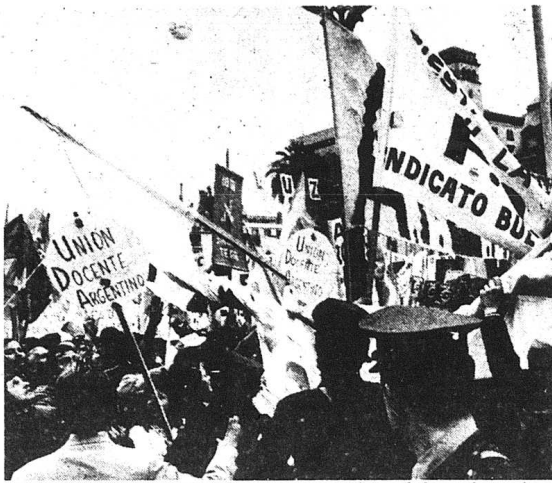
The banning orders are obviously intended to wipe out two black trade union educational centers: the Urban Training Project (UTP) in Johannesburg and the Institute for Industrial Education in Durban.

The Johannesburg center is led by Loet Douwes-Dekker, a Dutch Indonesian and Eric Tyacke. Both are on the newly banned list.

The Urban Training Project in Johannesburg involves around 20,000 workers, including members of African textile, metal, food chemical, and bus drivers' unions. The building that houses the UTP is a center for several of these unions.

In Durban (the home of General Motors in South Africa), seven people have been banned. They include Charles Simpkins of the Institute for Industrial Education; Jenny Curtis of the Institute of Race Relations; and officials and advisors of the Transport and General Workers Union, the Textile Workers Union, and the Trade Union Advisory and Coordinating Council.

American corporations who invest in South Africa say their presence promotes a gradual liberalization of conditions in South Africa. These banning orders prove that the only thing they bring is more repression.



Before the military coup, militant demonstrations of Argentine unions fought police in the streets. Today, workers continue their struggle inside the factories.

ARGENTINA: Workers Resist The Torturers

Workers in Argentina are fighting back against brutal repression.

When the military junta took power in March, one of the first things it did was to ban all wage increases. Since then, rising prices have cut real wages by 43%.

In reply to this, shop floor militants have organized slowdowns, lightning strikes and sabotage. For example:

- Auto workers spray cars at the wrong temperature. The cars look all right when they come off the line. Two weeks later, however the paint crumbles.

- Biscuit workers have been putting one spoiled biscuit in each tin—so the whole package spoils almost at once.

- Huge electricity generators have mysteriously blown up.

- Last month at an auto plant, 40 new police cars fresh off the assembly line were parked outside the factory. When the police drivers came to collect them, they found the cars smashed to pieces.

MASS SOLIDARITY

In Buenos Aires 7000 power workers struck against 214 firings. The fired workers included every known militant, including the entire leadership of the union.

When the power stations were occupied by government inspectors and troops, workers worked normally until the soldiers turned their backs—then down to a crawl again.

Power cuts followed and the nervous government patched together a settlement. But as the workers started back to work, three of their leaders were kidnapped by the Navy's "snatch squads."

As soon as they heard of this, power workers resumed their strike. The government retaliated by arresting 500 power workers in their homes.

Still, the power workers are resisting and demanding the release of their comrades.

They also have demanded restored fringe benefits and better pay which have been taken away by the government. Dock workers in Buenos Aires have slowed down, work for similar demands.

KIDNAPPINGS

In the past month the leaders of the tobacco workers, the white

collar port workers and the paperworkers have all been kidnapped. Only the tobacco workers' leader was released.

Meanwhile other political opponents of the regime are regularly still kidnapped, tortured, mutilated and murdered. The powerful guerrilla movements, which tried to match the government's firepower, have been neutralized and are slowly being wiped out.

The generals have also had no trouble crushing moderate opposition politicians.

But despite this repression, they have not succeeded in intimidating, crushing or breaking the rank and file of the working class. They continue to fight back with strikes and slowdowns.

High Morals, Home & Abroad

by Dan Posen

As we all know, the United States conducts its foreign policy according to the highest moral standards. We know this is true, because the government itself says so.

In addition, both Presidential candidates made morality in foreign policy a key issue. Ford and Carter alike stressed U.S. prestige depends on its open commitment to world-wide democracy and human freedom.

Recognizing this, Workers' Power takes this occasion to salute the high moral standards shown by the U.S. government during and following the war in Vietnam.

Good Conduct Award

Last week, the United States for the second time vetoed the admission of Vietnam to the United Nations.

Ambassador William Scranton had an explanation for the Security Council: The action was out of concern for human rights. The Vietnamese government, according to the US, holds back information on the fate of several hundred American troops missing in action.

During the years these men disappeared, up to 500,000 American troops were napalming and massacring villagers, bombing North Vietnam into the Stone Age, and defoliating forests with poisonous chemicals.

Unfortunately, no one has asked the United States to "give a full accounting" of the prisoners of war it seized in Vietnam. This would be inconvenient, since hundreds of them were dropped from helicopters, electrocuted with field generators or tortured to death for refusing to provide information.

In any case, it is doubtful that the American government ever kept track of the prisoners it killed in Vietnam, or even what their names were.

The U.S. lost that war, but simply won't stop trying. That's why the government vetoed Vietnam out of the U.N. It had nothing to do with "human rights."

Scratch My Back

Meanwhile, there is information about the secret South Korean lobby in this country even more scandalous than what we already know. And this information illustrates yet another moral principle of United States policy during the Johnson and Nixon Vietnam war years.

This principle is called: "Scratch My Back and I'll Scratch Yours."

Back in 1970, the South Korean regime set up special secret lobby in the U.S. to bribe members of the United States Congress. Over the years, South Korea has purchased favors or friendship from Congressmen, corporations and Cabinet officials.

It is now known that very high Nixon Administration officials, including then-Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, were aware of this payola program from the beginning. And they did absolutely nothing about it!

In fact, the Nixon Administration informally advised the South Korean CIA on which U.S. Congressmen would be the easiest to buy, or the most useful. Now that's only amazing if you don't understand the high moral principles of imperialism and war.

The Nixon Administration deliberately let South Korea's CIA run free for only one reason. They wanted the South Korean government to keep its 25,000 troops in Vietnam, supporting Washington's war.

Washington purchased South Korea's continuing support for the war, by helping it buy influence in the Congress.

This is more than just another two-bit scandal. The cover-up of the South Korean lobby was one of the ways that the government morals on the Vietnam war became identical to its morals on American domestic politics.

This government uses bribery and blackmail, and encourages corruption in other countries as standard procedures. It cannot avoid those same methods becoming part of its own political system.

That is just what happened. The ruling class morals of the American CIA, the Vietnam war and the cover-up of the South Korean lobby America's became the morals of the Watergate break-in, Nixon's cover-up and his eventual pardon by Gerald Ford.

You might say the morals of imperialism begin right at home. That's where they end up, too.



Here's how Vietnamese prisoners were treated by the U.S. Now the United States government says Vietnam doesn't have the humanitarian credentials to join the United Nations.

GM COUNCIL APPROVES OFFER UAW Heads Get Scare In Auto Pacts

BY JENNY SINGER

Big Three auto bargaining draws toward its close with the meeting of the UAW's GM Council in Detroit November 23. Four days after a 12-hour "mini strike" the union staged at 16 GM plants, the Council rubberstamped the negotiating team's proposal. General Motors got a contract on the Ford pattern, but not as easily as both they and UAW leaders would have liked.

UAW Vice President Irving Bluestone noted in presenting the proposal to the Council the close calls at Ford and Chrysler, where skilled tradesmen nearly rejected. He referred to "leaflets distributed by the opposition, which call our wage gain piddling." (It was one cent new money.)

The best organized opposition to all three contracts has come from the skilled trades, especially in Detroit. The impact showed up in one improvement in the GM contract.

Skilled workers won the right to strike or go to arbitration over subcontracting of skilled trades work.

In contrast, the mini-strike had no impact on the contract. Many workers believe that the corporation and the union planned the strike to deplete GM's stock of unsold cars.

Irving Bluestone gave his reason for sending 80,000 of 390,000 workers on strike for 12 hours. A mini-strike meant "minimal hurt to the workers and less crisis for the corporation," he said.

UP AGAINST THE HOLIDAYS

UAW members have little hope of rejection at GM, in the vote scheduled for December 6-8. The timing of the contract expiration and the UAW's one-at-a-time bargaining strategy combined to put workers up against the holidays. And GM's skilled workers are less concentrated in the better-organized Detroit area.

Nonetheless, organized opposition to the contract continues. Many workers will use their votes to show their disgust with the UAW leadership.

The UAW leaders too see this year's ratification votes as a political referendum on itself. That's why union officials at Local 51 (Chrysler) exulted, "We won! We won!" when ratification was announced.

The Independent Skilled Trades Council is organizing for a large No vote. They plan a meeting to inform GM workers of the real terms of the proposed contract.

Members of the 30 and Out Committee plan to object to the proposal's lack of cost-of-living protection for retirees. The bargainers ignored the Committee's demand that GM match the \$600 retiree bonus paid for by working members.

UAW leaders have not delivered in this year's contracts. They got away with it—but just barely. Their efforts to create an atmosphere of hopelessness were only a few hundred votes more successful than oppositionists' efforts to organize.

UAW leaders are frightened by the close calls. GM workers have every reason to vote against this contract. A large No vote will put the bureaucrats on notice that they have everything to be frightened about. □



Independent Skilled Trades Council members picket Ford headquarters during the first stage of bargaining.

Harvester Workers Get Warmed-Over Contract

The UAW's new three-year contract with International Harvester was approved overwhelmingly at ratification meetings Sunday, November 21.

The 14-hour strike of 40,000 Harvester employees which concluded bargaining was the shortest national strike in UAW history until the 12-hour strike called the next day at General Motors.

Like their fellow UAW members in the Big 3, Harvester workers received only a meager wage gain, no cost-of-living for retirees, no short work week, and no guaranteed Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) protection. The new agreement is very similar to the Ford and Chrysler contracts signed earlier—in effect a continuation of the old agreement.

The new pact still leaves Harvester (and other agricultural implements) workers ahead of their fellow UAW members in the Big 3. Ag Imp contracts have always been

superior, dating back to when Ag Imp workers were members of the Communist Party-controlled Farm Equipment Workers Union rather than the UAW.

Harvester workers have had complete voluntary overtime since the 1940's. Hourly pay is about 50c higher. Qualification for holiday pay is much more liberal.

And the ratio of union representation is much lower—one steward for every 30-35 people, as opposed to 250-300 to 1 in Big 3 plants. More than anything else, this contributes to better working conditions in Ag Imp plants.

WHY IT PASSED

Harry Putnam, a steward at Melrose Park, Illinois, Local 6, told Workers' Power, "People voted so overwhelmingly for the contract for three reasons: 1) There weren't any outright takeaways. 2) Because our contracts are relatively strong

anyway, it makes a contract with no takeaways more acceptable.

"3) The UAW top brass was so tight with the company that people felt it was hopeless to try to do anything about it. They had us backed up against the holidays, and people felt why go out on strike and not get anything more to show for it in January?"

THE "NEW" CONTRACT

The Bonus Hours Plan in effect since 1974, in which workers received half an hour paid time off for each week of perfect attendance, was scrapped in favor of one to one and a half weeks more vacation. This was a gain for the workers, as use of the earned time off was subject to much company arbitrariness.

Harvester's demand for part-time temporary employees was beaten back. Although the Big 3 won this demand, it had been the main stumbling block to union acceptance of Harvester's previous offers.

The SUB Fund was bolstered for high seniority workers at the expense of younger ones. The wage increase of 3% per year plus 19c matched the Big 3.

Retirees will not receive the \$600 one-shot bonus paid for by working members' cost-of-living. Except for one penny for the dental plan, Harvester contracts have never allowed "diversions" from the COLA to pay for other benefits.

Putnam concluded, "Although we weren't organized to fight them, there's more hatred than ever before for the union leadership. They barely got the contracts through in Ford and Chrysler, and they only did it in Ag Imp because our contracts were better to start with." □

Contract Quiz

The UAW struck 16 of GM's 119 plants for 12 hours on Nov. 19. Workers' Power asked workers at the Chevrolet Gear and Axle plant in Detroit what they thought of the mini-strike strategy.



"The union should have struck all GM plants instead of making it a mini-strike. I think we got the same pact that Ford and Chrysler got. I thought they didn't get anything, so I figure we got the shaft too."

Ray Dewberry

"I was hoping to go out but all along I knew we wouldn't. I knew that it'd be a big sellout and nothing would come off and we wouldn't get any time out of this place."

Tom Wright



"It was the worst thing you could come up with. It would cause a layoff for people with less than one or two years, with no strike fund. Just a way to save the strike fund and the company some money."

Scott Woods

"I think it was a quick one. I think we should have stayed out a little bit longer. But if we would have stayed out longer we still might not even have got anything."

Ben Moore

"I thought it was a bunch of you-know-what. That's what it is, just something to try to make the union, the International, look good. We got the same thing as Ford."

Alvin Johnson



"I thought the strike was stupid. I thought everybody should strike if we wanted something."

Jackie Loston

"It was a surprise to me that there was any strike at all. The only reason I can figure is because they felt they were going to have a hard time getting the contract sold to the membership so they wanted to come across as militant. I know at our plant the feeling was that we were not struck because we would hurt General Motors too much."

Wendy Weinberg

THEY CALL THIS ORGANIZING?

The UAW bragged that it won a pledge from GM not to interfere with the union's efforts to organize GM's Southern plants. In return the union agreed not to "demean the Corporation as an organization."

The UAW's reputation is so bad and its organizing so bureaucratized that it cannot even win a union election without a license from the company. If the UAW were

running an aggressive organizing drive, controlled by the workers in the Southern plants, it either wouldn't need this pledge or would win it along with a host of other demands.

As it is, this is the company's only concession. We predict General Motors won't be sorry when it has the UAW to act as policeman over its Southern workers.

By the way, when was the last time the UAW "demeaned the Corporation"?

RACISM — IT'S AT&T'S NUMBER

AT&T brags about being Number One. It is the biggest utility, the biggest monopoly, and the biggest profit-maker in the world.

But AT&T is Number One in one area that you won't find recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records—AT&T is the world's largest and most ruthless exploiter of blacks and other minorities.

by Frank Newman

There's one and only one motivation for AT&T's racist hiring practices—higher profits. The Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) proved that black and Latin phone workers lost \$724 million per year because of discrimination.

The economist Victor Perlo calculated that the direct and indirect profits AT&T makes as a result of its super-exploitation of minority workers comes to more than a billion dollars a year.

AT&T has a policy of freezing blacks and women into certain job categories. This way, Bell keeps the workforce divided and weakened.

WHO WINS?

White workers are then open to the racist myths pushed by management, and society in general. Black workers are equally convinced that they have little in common with white workers. They see them as part of the problem. This keeps the union weak.

It's easy to see who wins.

Racism has always been part of the system at Bell. Before World War II, the only job a black person could get with the phone company was in maintenance. Blacks were 9.7% of the population—and 0.7% of the workforce in tele-communications.

By 1970, black employment at Bell was roughly equal to the black percentage of the population. But this did not mean Bell had changed its racist policies. In the boom years of the '50's and '60's, AT&T hired large numbers of new workers. Not enough whites could be found to fill the openings at the bottom. The phone company was forced to open its doors to blacks.

Black women were hired as operators in the '60's. Operators have the worst paying jobs in the company; there isn't an operator today who makes as much as five dollars an hour. The job is tedious, boring, and mind-destroying.

Bell sent special recruiters to southern high schools to hire black women for operators' jobs in the north. Why?

The pay and working conditions were worse than office work. By the end of the '60's, operators were

making \$80/week in New York City. And they often had to work split shifts—four hours in the morning, and four hours at night. Their schedules changed every week. White women would not take the job. The phone company hoped that southern black women would be grateful for any job at all and would resist unionization.

KEPT DOWN

Blacks were excluded from all the better jobs in the company. Bell had a system of 62 job classifications. Every one was coded by sex and race. Virtually no blacks were managers, except at the lowest level. Hardly a black person could be found in a top craft job such as switchman, cable splicer, or PBX installer-repairman. Very few blacks were admitted to better paying craft jobs.

Even the present 10% black employment rate in the phone company is racist when you consider several factors. First, Bell employment is concentrated in the biggest urban areas. In those areas, blacks are considerably more than 10% of the population. They should therefore get more than 10% of the jobs.

The 10% figure is not reflected up and down the job hierarchy. Blacks remain concentrated at the bottom. There is no excuse for keeping blacks out of craft jobs. All training for Bell-crafts is done on the job. No specific background is ever required. So Bell can't fall back on the usual racist excuse that black applicants lack the skills necessary for the job.

EEOC

The 1960's brought not only increasing black employment at the phone company. They also brought a militant black movement that was determined that the new hiring not relegate blacks to the worst-paying jobs in the company.

In 1970, in response to pressure from the black movement, the EEOC and the Justice Department filed suit against AT&T. In January 1973, after more than two years of court hearings, the case was settled.

AT&T agreed to pay 13,000 women (mostly black) and 2000 black men a total of \$15 million in back pay. In addition, the company



AT&T's racism is not confined to its treatment of black workers or even black customers. In 1975, the New York Telephone Company used racism to sell phones. In a poster designed to show city life and all the advantages of phone service to urban dwellers, AT&T used a picture with only one black in it—a black youth snatching a white woman's purse! The poster was met with outrage by black phone workers, who are shown here demonstrating against the advertisement outside New York Telephone headquarters.

agreed to hire specified percentages of minorities and women for the better jobs, and to eliminate segregated women's jobs.

The ruling represented a real victory for black and women phone workers, even though the \$15 million was just a drop in the bucket compared to the amount of money that had actually been lost.

RACISM AS USUAL

Almost three years have passed since this agreement was signed. But very little has changed. Racist hiring and employment practices are still very much business as usual, as the interview here with Irvin Brown illustrates.

A year ago, the EEOC found that most Bell companies had not met even the modest quotas which it had set two years before.

But that's only part of the story. Even where blacks have gotten the better craft jobs, they've been subject to continuous harassment from foremen and management.

AT&T's goal is to drive blacks back down—to force blacks back into the lowest paid jobs. Then AT&T can say, "We tried. We did all we could, but most blacks simply aren't up to the rigors of the job."

Then they can go back to business as usual—ruthless and profitable exploitation of blacks, and keeping the union weak by dividing blacks and whites against each other.



A black person doesn't have to work for the phone company in order to get screwed by it. The Bell System finds numerous ways to discriminate against its customers simply on the basis of their being non-white.

Bell classifies its customers A, B, C, or D according to their credit standings. If you're classified D (the lowest), you have to pay a huge deposit just to get a phone installed.

But the D rating has nothing to do with your personal credit history—it's determined by what part of town you live in. If you live in a black area, like New York's Harlem, you have to pay.

Henry White, of Harlem Teams for Self Help, writes: "We did a test to find out which areas were being charged deposits. We had one person call giving the same name, same business address, and the same salary.

The only difference was his home address—one was in Queens, the other was in Harlem on Lenox Avenue and 129th Street.

The person on Lenox Avenue was told that he had to pay a \$40 deposit. The Bell representative told the caller who

claimed to live in Queens there was no deposit required."

Here are some other ways Bell finds to make it tougher on its minority customers:

- Studies have shown that it takes longer to get a phone installed, and you have to wait longer to get it repaired, if you are black or Puerto Rican.

- Telephone business offices are only open from nine to five on weekdays and are almost never located in the black community. Those that are require up to a two hour wait just to see a clerk. This means that it is impossible for most blacks to follow through on their complaints over billing errors or poor service.

- Almost no Spanish-speaking operators are hired to serve Chicano or Puerto Rican neighborhoods. Even in emergency situations, where the caller spoke no English, operators have been disciplined for speaking Spanish on the board.

- While Bell has agreed on paper to end discrimination against its black employees, it has not even gone this far to end its equally racist discrimination against black and minority customers.



Irvin Brown, fired Bell employee from Louisville, Kentucky.

Fired for being Black - and two minutes late

Irvin Brown was fired from South Central Bell last August after working for two months. The official reason was "lateness." But in this interview with Workers' Power, Brown brings out other reasons.

Why did Bell want to get rid of Brown? For one reason, he refused to get into the pro-company spirit.

Another more important reason is that Irvin Brown is black. South Central Bell did not fire Brown because he is black, they just made it much harder for him to survive.

I was hired by South Central Bell to operate a mail inserting machine. The office I worked in had two white women who were temporary employees hired through Manpower. They always had a choice as to what jobs they were going to do. All the fucked up jobs were done by me. Seniority didn't mean shit.

I complained about my job assignments to the program manager and about the fact that they were bypassing me on overtime as well. It always died there—nothing was ever done.

together one of the phone bills I was supposed to be thinking about saving the company such and such dollars. I didn't care to hear all that bullshit—I was doing that job so I could pay my bills! I just wanted a job. That's why I had to go.

One of the things they did when they were in the process of firing me was to add up all the minutes that I had missed by coming in late and figure out my total time lost. Then they multiplied that figure by how many employees they had. They told me that if they let me slide they would lose that amount of money by me setting a bad

the time I was fired they used the fact that I was unable to keep up on that job that used to be done by four people.

As far as the people I worked with, everybody in the office acted like they were part of the same clique or something. One day I had to call in and tell them I'd be late because a friend of mine was on his way to town and I had to wait and give him the keys to my house. When I got to work everybody in the office knew why I was late. The supervisor had broadcast what I told her when I thought it was in confidence. She was setting me up.

When I got to work everybody hassled me, saying I ought to know better than to call in such a jive excuse as that. It became clear to me that I wasn't going to be there long. By the time I was fired the supervisor already had me divided from the rest of the employees through this whole clique thing.

"The job I was doing had four people doing the operation when I was hired. It didn't take long before it was just me doing it. At the time I was fired they used the fact that I was unable to keep up on that job that used to be done by four people."

The program manager was a brother, too —no, he wasn't no brother. I used to wear my hat to work and I'll be damned if he didn't come up to me and tell me I had to quit wearing my hat! He said there was only one other black dude in the building besides himself and that it made them look bad for me to come to work and keep my hat on. He told me to start carrying myself 'real nice' like the other clerk in the building that was a black male.

South Central Bell is a trip to work for. You have to strictly be a company person. According to their propaganda, every time I put

example! And when I asked them about the times I had come in early, they wouldn't answer that.

And it wasn't like I was the only one who came in a couple minutes late some mornings. The day I was fired, for example, I came in two minutes late. The woman from Manpower came in three minutes late and they didn't say a thing to her.

SPEED-UP

The job I was doing had four people doing the operation when I was hired. It didn't take long before it was just me doing it. At

WHERE'S THE UNION?

Within my office there were union members who knew what was coming down. I didn't know that I was being marked down for being one or two minutes late. But they did. Why didn't they say something?

If there had been a steward in my department, none of this bullshit would have happened. I finally found out how to get in touch with the steward—after I was fired.

I should have had a steward present the first time I was marked down for being late. When you come on the job, the union steward should come to you and let you know what the union is all about. The company sure lets you know where they are coming from! We need a union that can teach the members how to fight and give protection against harassment.

What We Think



THE FRUITS OF RACISM: A DIVIDED WORKFORCE, A WEAK UNION

It is not hard to document racism in the telephone company. A tour of any big city Central Office will do. One floor will be overwhelmingly white and male. Another black and female. The first floor is where the switchmen work; the second—the operators.

Racism and AT&T are almost synonymous. The question is not "Is there racism?" but "How do we fight it?"

The question of racism is clearly of prime importance to black workers who must daily face rotten jobs, rotten pay and supervisors continually riding their backs.

But it is also of prime importance to white phone workers.

UNITY

More than in any other industry, unity of all workers is crucial to a successful fight against AT&T.

AT&T is the world's largest monopoly. In effect, its Board of Directors is a cross-section of America's ruling class. Its resources and influence are vast, reaching into every aspect of American life, from newspaper editorial policy to various government agencies.

AT&T also maintains a large number of supervisors. Management is equal to 30% of the workforce. They act as a reserve army of scabs ready to work the equipment in the event of a strike.

Under these conditions, divisions among telephone workers spell disaster.

The history of phone workers' struggles is filled with fights that failed because one group of workers did not support another.

That is one of the basic reasons for AT&T's racist and sexist hiring practices—to keep workers divided.

There is another key reason that the question of racism in the phone company is crucial to all phone workers—the union.

The union is run almost entirely by older white men. They in no way resemble rank and file telephone workers of today, which include young men, women and blacks.

Nor does the leadership fight for the needs of the ranks. Tens of thousands of telephone workers have been automated out of jobs in the last few years. The union has done nothing.

To turn the union into a fighting organization, the rank and file will have to take it over. As long as the rank and file is divided and suspicious, those at the top have little to fear. They can continue to sell phone workers out, year after year, with little challenge to their cushy positions at the top.

But the problem is even more complicated. The question of how to fight AT&T's racist and sexist practices threatens to further weaken the union.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

In 1971, for reasons that were not all in the interests of phone workers, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) filed its first and biggest suit against AT&T. In hundreds of pages, charts, graphs, and statistics, the EEOC documented the shocking racist and sexist practices of the phone company.

The result of this suit has been a comparatively meager affirmative action program. It called for slowly upgrading blacks and women into jobs they had previously been excluded from. Although decades of injustice were to be rectified at a snail's pace, the EEOC suit marked a real victory for all minority and women workers. The racist and sexist hiring practices of AT&T were declared illegal.

A major and serious flaw in the ruling, however, is that the Affirmative Action program supercedes the seniority system in the CWA contract. The CWA correctly sees this as union busting and has spent much time and money fighting in court to have the affirmative action program overturned.

But the CWA offers nothing to black and women workers as an alternative, and thus leaves women and minority workers with little choice but to support the affirmative action program as it stands.

To fight the union busting aspects of the affirmative action program the CWA must fight for its own program to upgrade women and minority workers. It must prove to these workers that it is their union as well, and a champion of their cause. Not to do so will drive blacks and women from active support of the CWA, leaving the telephone workforce further divided.

First, the CWA must stand for preferential hiring.

Blacks and women who have been excluded from the better paying jobs for decades must be given preference in hiring for new jobs.

But this must not be done at the expense of white male workers already working for the company. They must not be demoted, or forced out of their jobs through harassment. Instead, the CWA should be fighting for more jobs.

It is AT&T that has viciously kept blacks and women down; it is they who must now be forced to pay for their long standing policies of discrimination.

steelyard blues

GENE DEBS:

The Ideas We Need Today

On Nov. 7, at a Steelworkers Fightback campaign meeting of 100 Houston, Texas area steelworkers, USW Presidential candidate Ed Sadlowski was asked if he was a socialist.

"Yes," he replied, "in the sense of Eugene Debs."

It is not easy for someone who seeks the leadership of the largest industrial union in this country to defy conservative prejudices and proclaim himself a socialist. We are glad Sadlowski did.

But if Sadlowski wants to pattern himself after Debs, he still has a long way to go.

Debs was a true class fighter—a leader of workers who preached for socialism and for a union policy that would make it possible for workers to fight the bosses every day without compromise.

Debs began his union career as leader of a very conservative

railroad "Brotherhood" that believed in dividing workers along narrow craft lines. It also believed in cooperating with the boss, rather than fighting.

BOLD NEW PLAN

But when he saw that this wouldn't work, Debs came up with a bold new plan. He was the main organizer of the American Railway Union.

The ARU fought for unity of all railroad workers in bitter struggle against the railroad barons. It

won the confidence of railroad workers by calling and winning a militant national strike against the Great Northern Railway.

Historians call 1894 "the year of the Debs revolution." In that year, the young ARU, in an act of solidarity, struck all the nation's railroads to support workers striking the factory that built Pullman cars.

The striking railroad workers were hit by a counter-offensive that included the government, the railroad companies, and the conservative craft unions.

Debs led the fight bravely, in the face of court injunctions, mass firings, a National Guard strike-breaking effort, and the arrest of the strike leaders. The strike was finally broken.

As a result of this experience, Debs committed the rest of his life to combining militant union struggle with the battle to overthrow the entire capitalist system.

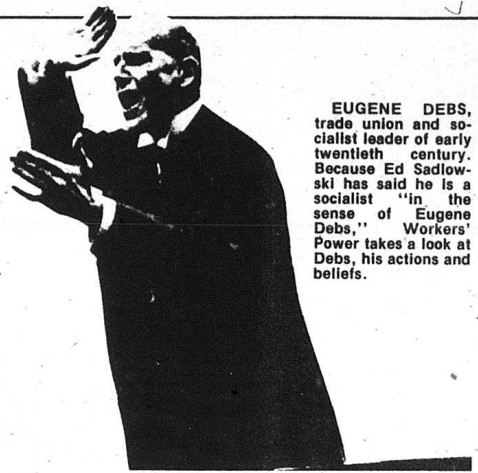
IWW FOUNDER

Eugene Debs was a founder of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a revolutionary union dedicated to uncompromising class warfare.

He always refused to support any Democratic or Republican politician for office. He criticized those workers who "strike and boycott the effects of the capitalist system while voting industriously to perpetuate the system."

Debs believed that the unions, along with the socialist political organizations, were training grounds for the "proletarian revolution which knows no race, no color, no sex, and no boundary lines."

"Let us scorn and repudiate the



EUGENE DEBS, trade union and socialist leader of early twentieth century. Because Ed Sadlowski has said he is a socialist "in the sense of Eugene Debs," Workers' Power takes a look at Debs, his actions and beliefs.

cowardly compromisers within our own ranks," he said, "challenge the robber class power, and fight it out on that line to victory or death."

So far, Sadlowski's actions, and the "Fightback" campaign reveal none of Debs' boldness or daring.

At the USWA Constitutional Convention last September that kicked off the Fightback campaign, Sadlowski told his supporters to lay low—not to make a vigorous floor fight on the issues.

With this caution, Sadlowski missed the perfect opportunity to kick off his campaign as an uphill battle against entrenched authority.

And over-caution has characterized the campaign ever since.

PERSONALITY

If Sadlowski were truly a Debsian, he would never run on a vague, personality slogan like "tough enough to make a difference."

When running for office, Debs stated: "No vote is wanted on account of the personality of the candidate. Better a thousand trained, tried and true men united on the solid basis of principle than ten times that number thrown together on the shifting sands of personality."

Debs understood that what counts most is building a movement of the dedicated, committed fighters and militants. When Debs ran for office, this was his main goal.

Debs used to say: "If I could lead you to freedom, I wouldn't. Because if I could lead you there, someone else could lead you out."

Sadlowski's cautiousness comes up in a thousand different

ways.

Sadlowski promises that, if elected, he will hold a referendum on the ENA no-strike deal. A Debsian approach would be more direct and forceful. Sadlowski would declare the election itself a referendum on the ENA, and would promise, if elected, to mobilize the power of the union to smash the no-strike deal.

NOT SPECIFIC

He speaks out for elected staffmen—at steelworkers' wages—but won't offend staffmen by pinning himself down on any promises to implement this plan.

He speaks out against the Democrat and Republican Parties and for a Labor Party—but then announces he voted for Carter.

This indecision is hurting Sadlowski. He's neither fish nor fowl. He raises, in his speeches, many socialist and class struggle concepts—but then retreats from their implications.

He campaigns under the slogan "Steelworkers Fightback" but then holds back in actually helping steelworkers to fight back.

In reaction to Sadlowski's left-sounding speeches, all kinds of right-wing garbage gets stirred up.

But then his campaign fails to organize the kind of enthusiastic fighting rank and file movement in the mills that captures the imagination of the workers. That movement could break the hold of the outmoded prejudices that the right-wing maggots feed on.

To win, in February, he will have to inspire workers. He's going to have to start acting a little more like Debs. The time's coming when he's going to have to fish or cut bait. □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward



A three-judge federal court in Albuquerque, N.M. has ruled that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) must have a warrant to conduct safety inspections. The case began in February 1975, when the Sandia Die and Cartridge Co. refused to admit OSHA inspectors without a warrant.

When the New Mexico OSHA Director got a search warrant, the company challenged it in court. In August of this year, the court upheld the challenge on the grounds of the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. The court said OSHA has to show probable cause of some violation of the law. In plainer language, the court said that a businessman's property rights are more important than a worker's health and safety.

Who says you can't beat United Parcel Service? In Los Angeles, package car driver Mary Deaton has just won her job back, and a retroactive pay award of approximately \$11,000. She was fired last winter for, as one Teamster put it, "an accident and chairing an UPSurge meeting the day before."

Some Teamster Business Agents involved in the long east coast UPS strike are getting a little worried...about their own jobs. The BA's are taking a lot of flak because they haven't been able to supply UPSers with information on the contract negotiations. A lot of them are elected, and elections are coming up soon. Already one BA in Worcester, Mass. has been dumped because he couldn't supply the rank with any news.

Detroit's expensive new Renaissance Center development may be shiny on the outside, but on the inside it's a mass of safety violations, according to construction workers. Among the hazards are unguarded elevator shafts. Members of Elevator Constructors Local 36 refused to work for four days at the end of October, and Pipe Fitters Local 636 has filed suit because of these hazards. A sheet metal worker was killed October 18 when he fell to his death, and a Pipe Fitters-lawyer says there have been 3,800 accidents since construction of the giant project began.

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.

Steel Campaign News

On Monday, November 21, Lloyd McBride announced that he had received 1,791 Local Union nominations for USWA Presidency against only 223 nominations for Ed Sadlowski.

Sadlowski campaign headquarters has neither confirmed nor denied these figures—but they appear to be fairly accurate.

It is little surprise that McBride was able to win nominations from the vast majority of small locals outside of basic steel. These are the easiest for the machine to control.

More worrisome for the Sadlowski effort is the fact that the "Fightback Team" is doing far worse than expected in the big mill locals of Sadlowski's home District 31.

Last week, Sadlowski lost another of the major locals he should have won. Local 1010, representing 10,000 steelworkers at the Youngs-

town Sheet and Tube Mill in Indiana Harbor, voted to nominate McBride by a margin of two votes.

This local was considered a Sadlowski stronghold. Fightback expected to carry it overwhelmingly. As a result of this disappointment, Sadlowski announced a shift in campaign tactics.

LARGE MILLS

At a Fightback-sponsored smoker last weekend in Indiana, Sadlowski called for an end to the policy of concentrating on bucket shops during the nominating period.

Previously, Fightback supporters from the large mills were encouraged to distribute leaflets to small shops rather than organize in their own mills. This caused a vacuum that the right-wing Abel machine

supporters were only too happy to fill.

Sadlowski now asks supporters to start concentrating on the big mills, saying: "We saw in the early nomination results that we don't have what we thought we had."

This week, Sadlowski and his running mates for top office have secured enough nominations to assure them spots on the ballot. Jim Balanoff, Fightback candidate for District 31 Director, also now has the needed nominations.

Fightback still has a good chance of winning, but only if it succeeds in generating the kind of enthusiasm that can produce huge turnouts and overwhelming votes in the big mill locals.

In the early nominating period, this task was badly underemphasized. Hopefully, the results in District 31 will serve as an early warning. □

WORKERS' POWER Wants To Hear From You! Write: 14131 Woodward, Highland Park, MI 48203

Juanita Tyler Completes Tour

BOSTON—Juanita Tyler spoke in this city's South End November 21 at a benefit for her son. Gary Tyler, 18, faces execution or life imprisonment because he is the victim of a racist frameup in Destrehan, Louisiana.

After relating what has happened to Gary, Mrs. Tyler said to the audience of 50 that Boston, was a place where the racism surrounding busing was strong, as it is in Louisiana. She urged the audience build the fight against this racism, pointing out that what happened to Gary can happen again. Gary's case began when he was on a school bus surrounded by anti-busing rioters.

Warren Thomas of Family and Friends of Prisoners spoke for many in expressing solidarity with the Tyler family. Susan Page, whose home is under attack by racists, and who has been taken to court several times on false charges, also spoke.

Terry Tyler, Gary's brother, described how police in Louisiana are now trying to frame him too. He thanked the committee to Free Gary Tyler for its work.

The rally ended with music provided by local groups. □

Chicago Nurses Strike

CHICAGO—"The Hospital is trying to make nurses work when they're sick and make them lose pay for days they're too sick to work. That's bad for nurses' health and for their pocketbooks, and nothing could be worse than sick nurses caring for sick patients."

Margaret Morris, president of the Cook County Hospital nurses' unit, explained why the loss of the first day of sick pay is the hottest issue in the strike of nurses at Cook County and Oak Forest hospitals here.

The contract offered by the Health and Hospital Governing Commission (HHGC) would also effectively cut wages by 8%, once inflation is figured against the 2.9% increase offered.

The nurses, whose contract expired June 30, have been on strike since October 27.

The HHGC got help from the courts in its attempt to break the strike. An injunction was obtained on the grounds that the nurses are municipal employees and the strike is therefore illegal.

FINES

Cook County Judge Walter Dahl has fined the Illinois Nursing Association (INA) \$1000 and \$10,000 for each day the strike persisted. The INA is a nurses' professional association which has given vital help to the strikers. Dahl has slapped huge fines on individual strike leaders too.

The INA has filed a counter-suit on HHGC for failure to bargain in good faith.

Doctors of the House Staff Association are supporting the nurses' fight. They rallied at the office of the HHGC director November 12, but he refused to speak to them.

Many suspect the HHGC will use the strike as an excuse to cut the number of beds in the hospital. It has already gone from 1500 beds to 1300 since September 1975. Further cutbacks in public hospitals will be felt by the community as well as the nurses. □

LOST AND FOUND

Dear Workers' Power,

While visiting friends in Wisconsin, I saw a sign with an attractive, young, smiling woman on it. It read, "I Found It." My friend said this was one of many signs around the city which had been causing a lot of controversy.

It has now been disclosed that what is being "found" is Jesus Christ, and the advertising is being done by a coalition of churches trying to "save" people with a somewhat new approach.

They are also doing a telephone campaign and door-to-door canvassing to contact the maximum number of people about how religion has changed their lives.

When I objected to having these

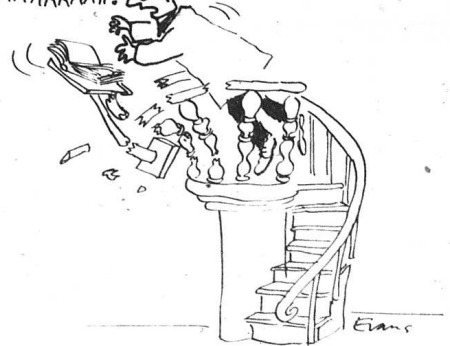
people impose their religious beliefs on me or on others, my friend pointed out the bumper stickers on the back of the car ahead of us. One sticker said, "I Found It" and right next to it was another sticker which said, "But Who Wants It!"

This religious revival will be taking place all over the country during the next few weeks.

If anyone comes knocking at my door to tell me they "found it," I'll tell them they can just keep it to themselves because I know belief in Jesus Christ is not going to protect me from being exploited by my boss, good Christian that he is.

Sharon Pierre
Gary, IN

"THE LORD PROTECTS THOSE WHO LEAD USEFUL LIVES - AAH - AAAAAAAH!"



How U.S. Steel Welcomes Women

Dear Workers' Power,

I am a woman steelworker employed by U.S. Steel. Where I work there are several women's washrooms. Recently, on account of some hell being raised at union meetings, these facilities have been upgraded. They were painted and now are cleaned more regularly.

All over the mill, however, one critical aspect of women's washroom maintenance has been ignored. There is never anything in the sanitary napkin dispensers. NEVER.

The story is that two years ago when the first women were hired in at the mill, they were greeted in the cafeteria by a huge box of Kotex with a sign that said "Welcome, Ladies!" Thanks, guys, but when those were gone: That was it.

This is a small problem, compared to others we face, but it is important to women. What makes me angry is that every washroom has dispensers installed. Like the company knew they should be there. Almost every week someone loses a dime in these dispensers.

If a woman asks to go to the hospital, she makes herself the object of the boss's rage and male co-workers' ridicule.

So I decided to find out what the

regulations were concerning sanitary napkin dispensers in women's washrooms at workplaces.

First I called the County Health Department. They referred me to a number that referred me to the County Department of Environmental Resources. They told me that they didn't cover that stuff—call the State. The State Health Department referred me to a number and I thought I almost had it—but that office only covered food establishments—which U.S. Steel definitely is not. Then they told me to call the Labor and Industry section of the State Health Department. As far as they knew, the Federal Government handled all that stuff since OSHA was decreed.

So I called OSHA. They referred me to an inspector. He said, "We don't have any regulations concerning sanitary napkin dispensers at workplaces. The only regulation is that the bathrooms must be sanitary." What specifics? "No specifics. It is up to the inspector."

I hung up. I know that 9 times out of 10 the inspector would be a man. So if they sent one, he wouldn't blink an eye. He'd probably say, "Carry it with you." Just like the foreman.

I learned my lesson—if you take your gripe to the "proper regulating agency," you get the proper bureaucratic run-around. The only way to get something changed is when we, the workers, demand it.

Steelworker
Clairton, PA

What's "Male Oriented"?

Dear Workers' Power,

I feel the recent letter printed in the Nov. 8 issue of Workers' Power by Patrick Haggerty of Seattle demands a reply. The letter reported a survey of recent Workers' Power issues that claimed a bias toward "male-oriented" articles.

For example, the survey said the Sept. 6 issue contained 13 male-oriented articles to only three woman-oriented ones. I readily found two of the taken three—a review of Alexandra Kollantai's "Communism and the Family" and the story of a woman steelworker.

So what was left? I counted three articles on the upcoming auto strike, articles I'm sure were either written or influenced by IS women auto workers. (Yep, women actually work in those plants.) I also found two articles on pollution (another women's issue?), as well as articles on Attica, San Quentin, Rhodesia, Detroit gangs, busing and racism, rubber workers, migrant workers, steelworkers, speedup, Chile, Portugal, and assured strikes.

Why are these articles male-oriented? Because a majority in the unions is male? Because articles about anything but sexism [obviously of no interest to men] are

Free Carl Osborne!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I recently wrote you a letter about the case of Carl Osborne, a man who may become one of the first to suffer the death penalty, recently re-instated by the Supreme Court.

In the letter as well as in the information I sent, I stated that Carl Osborne is a black man. This statement is erroneous. Carl Osborne is white. The error was due to problems in communication and a false assumption on my part.

The death penalty that the rulers of this country are planning to give Osborne is a death penalty which will be used exclusively on minority and working class people. No matter the color of Osborne's skin, he remains, just the same, a victim of U.S. "justice."

I once again encourage all progressive minded people to support the struggle of this man for freedom.

Yours in struggle,
Paul Winslow
New York

male-oriented? Does that make articles on subjects other than racism white-oriented?

The point I'm trying to make is that the division of articles in Workers' Power into "male oriented and woman oriented" categories is ridiculous. Whether Workers' Power devotes enough space to women's and sexual liberation issues is another question, a question that must have a less quantitative answer.

Fraternally,
Bob Whist
Austin, Texas

SMOKING OUT JIMMY CARTER

Dear Workers' Power,

Shortly after reading your article on Jimmy Carter's good friends the Smith Bagley's (heirs to the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco fortune), I picked up my Union Newsletter and saw a large advertisement that we

don't buy Winston, Salem, Camel or Vantage cigarettes. These are R.J. Reynolds cigarettes and they are not union made.

The very same issue of the newsletter endorsed Jimmy Carter for President.

It would be a surprising contradiction—if we didn't know the ways of the ruling class.

In struggle,
S.D.
Los Angeles

VICTORY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVOLUTION



SMASH APARTHEID!

WORKERS

ARTIST

South Africa Poster and Button Available from Sun Distribution

"Smash Apartheid" poster is 23" x 28" with black and white lettering on a red background. Price: \$2.50 postpaid.

Buttons are black and red on white. Price: 50c. Orders of ten or more: 40c

Order from: Sun Distribution
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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 other 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 class 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. 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
313-869-5964

Detroiters Demand:

GM OUT OF SOUTH AFRICA!

DETROIT—"GM Must Go, Freedom for Soweto!" This was one of many spirited chants by over 125 people who marched in front of the huge General Motors headquarters here November 20.

The demonstration, sponsored by Workers' Power and the Red Tide, began a campaign to support South African freedom fighters and for an end to that country's apartheid system of racial separation and oppression.

A leaflet distributed at the march explained the demand, "GM Out of South Africa":

"GM has investments in South Africa totaling \$125 million. These investments support South Africa's apartheid policies. In GM's plants, black workers are kept in the lowest job classifications, which do not pay sufficient wages for a minimal standard of living.

"GM is one of many US corporations in South Africa; companies that pay huge taxes to their military machine. During the 60's, US investment in South Africa tripled, right after the crushing of the Black movement by the powerful government security machine.

"The more viciously they can exploit the workers, the more profits they make. Apartheid makes South Africa a very 'good' place to invest, one of the best in the world.

IMPERIALISM

"The US flag follows the dollar wherever it goes—this time to southern Africa.

"We call for an end to US imperialism in South Africa. We are united with the movement in South Africa in its demand that foreign investment leave South Africa. Millions must take up that cry—Get Out and Stay Out!"

After the rally, the demonstrators enjoyed refreshments at the Red Tide office.



The Workers' Power and Red Tide picket line covered almost the entire block. To continue the campaign, the two groups are endorsing a rally and march on Saturday, December 4 beginning at 1:30 p.m. at Grand Circus Park. The rally call reads: "Let it be resounded and shouted over the rooftops, that the once sleeping giant of Africa is now awake, and awake forever, and never to doze again." For more information call the rally committee at 897-2040 or Workers' Power/Red Tide at 869-8656.

Cincinnati: Big Crowd For South Africa Film

CINCINNATI—An overflow crowd of more than 200 attended a showing of "Last Grave at Dimbaza" here November 12, sponsored by the I.S. This film exposes the conditions under which

South African blacks are forced to live and work.

Many in the mostly black audience commented that it showed them for the first time just how repressive and anti-human conditions are for black South Africans.

A white worker on her way out the door said, "I knew very little about this before I saw this movie. There's going to be a bloodbath there, and those bastards [the white regime] deserve everything they get."

After the movie, a postal worker and member of the IS spoke about the conditions that blacks in this country share with blacks in South Africa.

She described how racism and segregation in this society serve to keep the system going for the capitalists. Whites and blacks are pitted against each other rather than against the capitalists who exploit them both.

ENEMY

She explained that the enemy of South African workers is our enemy too—the big corporations like GM and Xerox. What is needed here, as

I.S. Holds East Coast Conference

NEW YORK CITY—On November 13, 80 people attended an East Coast conference sponsored by the International Socialists. The theme of the conference was "The Struggle for Workers' Power."

The first topic of the conference was the success of the employers' offensive and its effect on working people: lower wages, worse working conditions and record unemployment.

Given the bankruptcy of the present union leadership, the discussion pointed to the building of a strong rank and file movement as the only way to turn this offensive around.

Another discussion concerned the growth and significance of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union. Speakers included leaders of the TDU and UPSurge, the rank and file group at UPS.

FILM SHOWN

In the afternoon, the film "Finally Got the News" was shown. It told the story of the fight against racism in the auto plants during the late 1960's.

The film was followed by a discussion of the increase in racist attacks in recent years. Everyone agreed on the need to build a strong united movement to defeat these attacks and continue the fight against racism on the job and in society.

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
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Union

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VIEW FROM THE BLEACHERS

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

WILL THIS HOCKEY MACHINE SELF-DESTRUCT?



by Dan Posen



Step right up, Ladies and Gentlemen!

See a living legend perform at the Chicago Stadium (good seats still available at \$12.50, \$10.50, \$8.50 and the upper balcony).

His name is **BOBBY ORR**, the greatest hockey player in the world. He skates, he shoots, he scores like no one you ever saw.

• Watch him whirl on ice like a ballerina, pass like a wizard and rush the length of the ice with the puck, going around opponents like they were wooden dummies.

• Watch him practically float over the rink as he leads the Chicago Black Hawks to victory.

• Watch him turn into a cripple, at age 28, before your very eyes.

Bobby Orr is a superstar. From the time he was eight years old, he was spotted as the kid who could become hockey's all-time great.

During nine seasons with the Boston Bruins, he lived up to it. Bobby Orr is to hockey what Julius Erving is to basketball, what Pele is to soccer, what Hank Aaron and

Catfish Hunter put together are to baseball.

Bobby Orr set practically every record for hockey defensemen. He also set some kind of record for knee operations: six. One on the right knee, and five separate operations on the left knee.

Two of these operations came

last year, his tenth professional season, when he was able to wobble onto the ice for only ten games.

At the end of last season, Boston Bruins' management saw no further use for their damaged superstar. Orr became a free agent and was signed by the Chicago

Black Hawks.

Arthur Wirtz, who owns the Black Hawks, gambled big money on Orr's knee. He has the money to gamble, and he also has a 20,000-seat building which has about 3000 seats empty every game the Hawks play.

The once-great Hawks have

declined to a dull, punchless team which one reporter calls "Somnifer on skates." With Orr, they become exciting, flashy and highly marketable.

BREAKING APART

Before the season started, Orr played seven games with a Canadian all-star team against top international competition. Even though he hadn't played in nine months, even with impaired skills and rusty instincts, he was brilliant. In two games he was Canada's top star.

With the Black Hawks, he was brilliant again—for nine games. Then it happened—his left knee swelled up like a balloon.

Bobby Orr flew to Toronto where his doctors performed an arthroscopy, meaning they opened the knee. When they did, broken bits of cartilage, fragments of bone, fluid, and other remnants of what used to be Orr's left knee spilled out.

The doctors will repeat this every few weeks, as long as Bobby Orr keeps playing. How long can it go on? One doctor put it bluntly: "There are only a certain number of miles left in that knee, and he has to decide how to use those miles."

In other words, Orr's knee, now consisting of nothing but ligaments, is literally breaking apart. He has a chronic, degenerative arthritis. With every game he plays, he comes closer to being permanently stiff, sore, or crippled in that leg.

Bobby Orr is still trying to play. In a week or so, chances are 50-50 he will skate back out on the rink to try it yet one more time.

INSANITY

What kind of insanity is this? Why does a 28-year-old man risk becoming a cripple? He has already proven everything there is to prove about his skill and courage. He is a symbol of physical conditioning and accomplishment for millions.

It isn't for money, Orr is already a millionaire. He has a five-year, \$3 million contract which he is entitled to collect even if he can't play another game.

You can understand why Arthur Wirtz and the owners of the National Hockey League want to keep Orr playing as long as possible. To them it's strictly box office and cash receipts. They're just ordinary bosses.

But they hold no club over Orr's head. He only plays now because he wants to.

CONDITIONED

I suppose the only way you can explain Bobby Orr's drive to keep playing the game is conditioning.

Before he was a teenager, a system that converts sports into profit had discovered him. The system invested thousands of dollars to perfect and refine his skills, to market them for a fortune later.

In the process, the system created a hockey machine who would probably feel his whole life was a failure if injuries forced him to retire at only 28. He can't stand the thought that maybe, from a business standpoint, the Bruins were right to dump him when they did. So Bobby, Orr, the greatest hockey machine anyone ever saw, is in the process of self-destruct.

The name of that system is capitalism. That's what will be responsible if #4 finally has to retire to crutches or a wheelchair. □

"We Told Them What To Do With The Turkey."

Steelworkers Locked Out At Metalwash

"This plant is not open for union employees because no contract extension has been agreed upon by union."

ELIZABETH, N.J.—The gram-mar wasn't very good, but the message was clear. That was a note scribbled by management greeting workers at Metalwash Machinery here when they reported for work about five weeks ago.

Metalwash is a small shop, but it custom designs and produces machinery on a large scale—and business is good.

The members of United Steel Workers' Local 4938 had attempted to negotiate a better contract when the old one expired. Their wages are sub-par for USW-organized plants.

But the lock-out was just about the only response management would come up with to the workers' contract proposals. Metalwash made only one proposal of its own—a threat to put a time limit of six months on their Blue Shield coverage if the workers continued to refuse to accept a contract extension.

Local 4938 membership includes just the 49 plant workers at Metalwash. Its president, Ritchie Grmek, works in the plant himself. Grmek, along with union members Manny Diaz and Joe Hrudowsky, told Workers' Power that management is taking a very arrogant stand towards them.

"HIGHER CLASS"

"The company's lawyer doesn't know a thing about the shop," said Diaz. "He just comes for the contract meeting and then wants to

dictate to us how to negotiate. He thinks he's higher class and we're just laborers."

Metalwash management has also attempted to disrupt the workers' picket line by calling the police. They claim the workers are harassing office employees and creating a health hazard with the bonfire they keep in a metal drum.

"They wanted to give us a turkey free this year to get us back on their terms," said Hrudowsky. "We told them what to do with the turkey."

"They think we're shit," he added, "but all the members feel united we stand." □

Carhaulers Fight To Reform Teamsters Union

DETROIT—On a cold November Sunday, 75 Teamsters and their wives marched in front of the Local 299 hall here. The demonstration was called by the Detroit chapter of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union as part of a campaign to get back the jobs of 52 fired carhaulers.

While most of the demonstrators were carhaulers or their wives, TDU members from other jurisdictions were there to show solidarity.

Al Ferdnace, a fired car hauler and leading TDU activist, said, "There are people here from freight and grocery, from Locals 299, 337 and 243, all together. And that's what TDU is all about, uniting and using our power."

The 52 carhaulers were fired during a series of wildcat strikes last summer in Flint, Michigan, Detroit and Cincinnati. The strikes were in protest over a sellout contract negotiated last spring.

REJECTED TWICE

Twenty thousand carhaulers are covered by this national contract. Twice they have rejected this settlement by majority vote. Most recently, the vote was 6400 against, 3718 for.

The Teamster officialdom, however, considers the contract approved and binding.

Under the International Union's Constitution, workers covered by any national agreement must have a two-thirds vote against the contract in order to reject it. So, in spite of the large vote against the carhauling agreement, the carhaulers have been stuck with this contract.

Realizing that the "rules" were stacked against them, carhaulers struck around the mid-west. Unfortunately, the strikes were not coordinated or jointly organized. This made it easier for the employers to fire the leading militants.



Carhaulers and their wives picketed at the Local 299 hall November 21.

Since that time, carhauler militants have come in touch with TDU and as a result, with each other. In Detroit and Flint, the carhaulers have been a solid core for TDU.

Now, the carhaulers are working together through TDU to build a joint defense campaign and to continue their fight against this unjust contract.

ATLANTA HEARING

A number of the grievances of

the Detroit carhaulers will be heard in Atlanta, Ga. The demonstration in Detroit was directed at the Atlanta hearing and at Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons. Fitzsimmons is in Detroit to testify before the Grand Jury inquiry into the death of Jimmy Hoffa.

At the demonstration, Detroit

TDU leader Pete Camarata announced that the demonstration would be followed by a workshop on-how to fight for elected stewards and business agents. This is another elementary bit of democracy that Detroit Teamsters lack.

Carhauler Russ Schramm urged everyone to get involved in these

on-going fights to change the Teamsters union.

He said that the fact that there were people there from different unions and jobs pointed the way to put an end to sell-out contracts and firings, and to "put the union back in the hands of the rank and file where it belongs."

TEAMSTERS MAY HAVE DUMPED BIG UPS DEMAND

PITTSBURGH—It appears that the Teamsters Union has substantially given in on he main issue in the Eastern States United Parcel Service strike—the use of part-time employees for most inside jobs in UPS.

This was indirectly confirmed when two Business Agents reported two of the points which remain in dispute in the 10-week old strike, which affects 20,000 workers.

One of these unsettled points is, according to the report, whether or not full time drivers who become unable to drive will be guaranteed an eight-hour job at full time rates inside the hub. This would seem to confirm rank and filers' worst suspicions that the union has already agreed that most inside jobs will eventually become part-time. Union officials will neither confirm or deny this.

According to unofficial reports, there are several other unresolved issues. One is whether or not

part-timers will have the right to bid on full time vacancies.

It is not known what the other points of dispute are. Not much news has filtered through the press blackout imposed after a news leak by federal mediators November 12. The mediators prematurely reported that a tentative settlement had been reached.

SKEPTICAL

Local union officials have made little specific information available to the rank and file. They claim that UPS had dropped the vaguely-worded discharge clause and the productivity clause. Most rank and filers view such reports with skepticism, holding off opinions on an offer until they see it in black and white.

Most of the local supplemental agreements are reportedly settled, with the exception of New Jersey. There the company continues to try to take away conditions which these

workers gained in previous contracts. Specifically, a 10% night differential and a specific system of break periods referred to as "plus 50" are in jeopardy.

Informed sources from both sides state that the parties are very close and hope to get the strikers back to work the week after Thanksgiving. Yet stories carried in a few local newspapers cite no evidence of progress and speculate that the strike will run through Christmas.

As the strike moves into December and UPS loses a greater part of its Christmas business, the bargaining power of the rank and file will begin to diminish. For that reason it is especially critical that organized pressure again be brought to bear on the union to extend roving pickets into non-strike areas of the South and Midwest.

Shutting down additional hubs while the Christmas rush is still on will add the pressure needed to win this strike.

WORKERS' POWER

A revolutionary socialist weekly, published by the International Socialists.

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