

WORKERS' Power

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS FEBRUARY 20, 1978 #242 25c

MINER EXPLAINS:

If they break this Union they can take the others one by one...

'WHY OUR STRIKE IS YOUR STRIKE, TOO'

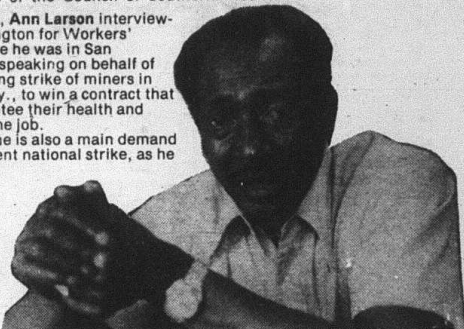
Workers' Power spoke recently with BILL WORTHINGTON, a leader of the coal miners' rank and file movement, about his views on the current national strike.

Worthington was one of the original leaders of the Black Lung movement in Eastern Kentucky, and later of the Miners for Democracy. Born in Harlan County, Kentucky, he worked in the mines for 33 years.

Today, Worthington works full time as regional director for the Black Lung Association and as head of the Miners Health and Safety Committee of the Council of Southern Mountains.

Recently, Ann Larson interviewed Worthington for Workers' Power while he was in San Francisco, speaking on behalf of the year-long strike of miners in Stearns, Ky., to win a contract that will guarantee their health and safety on the job.

That issue is also a main demand in the current national strike, as he explains.



Money is not the issue in this strike.

The operators are all saying, if it was a raise the men wanted, they'd give them the raise.

No, the issue in this strike is the men's right to withdraw from an unsafe mine.

Let's suppose that one mine goes out, over a safety grievance or for some other reason. And they go over to another mine and picket it for support, and the miners refuse to cross the picket line.

This is one of the oldest traditions in the coal fields.

Now the companies want the right to discharge anybody that's involved in this sort of strike. They want to take away our right to strike, take it clean out.

The men out in the field are saying that if the negotiators agree to something like that, the strike won't be over.



Now in the last contract, not many people took a good, hard look at it before voting to ratify.

This time, all the men are saying: 'We aren't accepting any contract on sight. We want to look it over carefully.'

In the [Black Lung] Association,

we do a lot of talking to miners. And it's my opinion that if the contract's not right this time, the men will send the union back to the drawing board to negotiate it over.

This time, the rank and file is more determined to use the democratic process and take the seat that the rank and file should take—running the union.



In my opinion, the companies are trying to break the back of the union.

The reason the companies are so set on busting the UMWA is Carter's energy plan. They want to triple the amount of coal they are getting now by 1985.

This means going into areas where there wasn't supposed to be any coal. And it means speed-up and unsafe working conditions. They don't want the union to stand in the way.

The companies are moving out west. And the union hasn't been able to organize there. About 40% of the coal production in this country is now non-union.

All this is nothing new. It happened before, when the mining industry moved into Appalachia because a lot of the coal had been



mined out in the midwest and because the union was organized there.

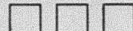
It took a long time for the union to catch up with them.

What makes it even harder now, though, is that now we're not only fighting coal operators, we're fighting a well-organized bureaucratic structure—oil companies, steel companies, and all these companies that have gone together and made one big monster.

This is what what we've got to fight. But I think we're going to win this one.

The miners have the attitude, 'as bad a winter as it is, we're going to stay until it thaws.'

Until it thaws, freezes over, and thaws again. They'll stick it out.



The operators were expecting—with 40% of the fields being scab coal—that they could keep their stockpiles from being worn down. But it hasn't worked that way.

The miners have been able to get together and have been able to

Coal: Showdown Time

Jimmy Carter brought the negotiations in the 10-week-old coal strike into the White House last week.

And in West Virginia, on the same day, a miner brought this sign to a rally: "Jimmy Carter, John D. Rockefeller—Puppets for the Coal Bosses."

Carter's Secretary of Labor, Ray Marshall, ordered the negotiators to produce immediate results. And while the union bargaining team was clearly more willing than the coal operators to talk, rank and file miners were in no mood to settle for anything remotely approaching the contract their bargaining council had rejected the week before.

At rallies in Beckley, Fairmont, and Charleston, West Virginia, miners cheered speakers who urged defiance of any Taft-Hartley back to work order Carter might sign.

And they signed petitions demanding the removal of Arnold Miller, their union president.

In Detroit, leaders of the United Auto Workers Local 22 kicked off a drive to collect food and clothing for the striking miners. This is an example which every union local in the country would do well to follow.

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close down most of the scab mines in Virginia and Kentucky during the strike.

The pensioners are helping out. They're joining with the working miners on the picket lines. They realize how important this strike is. They tell the younger miners: "This is it."

What will really win this strike is solidarity. In my opinion, the employers are out to bust all the unions in this country.

Their strategy is to take on the strongest union first—the United Mine Workers. Once they break that one, then they can move along and take the others one by one.

I think other unions realize this, and they see how important it is to support the miners.

In the 1930's, the labor movement all worked together. That is what we need now. We all need to stop talking to ourselves and get out and start talking with each other. We need other people.

The miners have a saying: United we stand, divided we fall. I think we should change that to: United we stand, divided we all fall.

March 1, 7:45 PM
Washington Irving High School, 16th and Irving Place, Manhattan, NY

Mineworkers Benefit/Rally

Sponsored by New York UMW Support Committee
Singers: Barbara Dane, Pete Seeger, Hazel Dickens

Picket Murdered

by Eric Harper

CLEVELAND—Thomas Moss was a worker, a father, a good union man.

Today he is dead. Murdered on the picket line by a security guard.

On January 30, a car pulled up to the picket line at Bargar Metal Fabricating Company. Two security guards got out with guns drawn. They wanted to search people on the line.

Moss, the picket captain, stepped forward and demanded that they show some identification.

They threw him against the car and put a bullet through his head. He died instantly.

The man who pulled the trigger is in jail. The man who hired the man to pull the trigger is free to carry on business as usual.

Bing Bargar is president of Bargar Metal. When contract negotiations broke down with the Uplolsters Local 48, Mr. Bargar was very concerned about his customers' property.

Bargar told the press that he decided to hire a security firm after hearing that union pickets had piled four feet of snow in front of the plant gate and had subjected customers to verbal abuse when they attempted to cross the picket line.

Mr. Bargar asked his friends in the business community for advice. A Chicago firm, National Investigation Bureau, was recommended highly.

National had recently done a good job for a Cleveland steel fabricating company during a strike by a local of the United Steel Workers.

No matter that the workers had complained about being harassed, about guns being fired in the air by trigger-happy guards. No matter that National wasn't licensed to do business...they got the job done.

National lived up to its reputation. Nine "security guards" showed up at Bargar Metals with night sticks and electric ca'tle prods.

On the afternoon that Moss

was killed, a security guard beat Lloyd Bice on the picket line, sending him to the hospital with neck and head injuries.

The man who pulled the trigger, William Hargrays, had two previous prison convictions—one for unlawful use of weapons. He was not licensed to carry a gun.

"SORRY"

At a memorial rally later in the week, Ben Shouse, president of Uplolsters' Local 48, said, "These things are not supposed to happen in this day and age." Labor officials and local politicians denounced Bargar from bringing in out-of-town thugs.

The press reported that Bargar was "sorry." But when asked whether the company would provide for Moss' four children, Bargar replied, "Frankly we haven't thought about that yet. There may be some benefits coming to them under the terms of the union contract."

No charges have been brought against this cold-hearted s.o.b.



At Thomas Moss' memorial services AFL-CIO officials speak to press.

Moss is survived by four children, the youngest is 18 months old. Their mother died just two months earlier.

The children face an uncertain future.

A number of unions have

donated to a fund for the family. If you'd like to help, send your contributions to: The Thomas Moss Jr. Family Fund, c/o The United Labor Agency, 3100 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE GREAT PANAMA CANAL DEBATE?

by Dan Posen and Marilyn Danton

"The national security of this country demands that the United States clearly have the right to intervene if there is any threat to the Canal, external or internal..."

"It is clear that we have the right to do this unilaterally, without any obligation to consult with the government of Panama... and this right does not terminate."

There you have a typical statement from the opening session of the much-heralded Great Panama Canal Treaty debate in the United States Senate.

The question is: which distinguished Senator makes these remarks? No doubt, it must have been some right-wing dinosaur.

Forget it. The speaker was Democratic Senator Frank Church of Idaho, a well-known liberal with an anti-war reputation. Church was one of the sponsors of the 1970 Congressional resolutions which forced the Nixon Administration to withdraw from Cambodia.

Church was the principal pro-Administration speaker in favor of the new treaties.

The treaties retain American control of the Canal. They are a

complete denial of the rights of the Panamanians to determine what will happen in their country.

MOVING FURTHER RIGHT

Even though the new treaties clearly spell out continuing American imperialist domination of Panama, it is also true that a huge right-wing publicity and pressure campaign has been mounted to denounce and block the treaties. The right-wing forces to defeat the treaties are led by Ronald Reagan and Jessie Helms (R-North Carolina).

"There is no Panama Canal," blare the posters. "There is an American Canal at Panama."

The incredible facts about the treaties, and the additional so-called "special understandings" agreed to by Carter and Panamanian dictator Torrijos (after the original version was rammed down the Panamanian people's throats), includes the following features:

- U.S. military force to remain in Panama up to the year 2000.
- Permanent rights for the United States, on its own, to send troops to guarantee the so-called "neutrality" of the Canal at any time, before or after 2000.
- This includes the right to intervene against either external or "internal" threats, meaning threats from Panama.

In other words, the United States has given itself the right to militarily overthrow any future Panamanian government which the United States may decide constitutes a "threat to Canal neutrality."

And under the so-called "neutrality" provisions, American ships would have the right to go to the head of the line whenever the U.S. so demands.

the treaties—even though the result might be a major revolt inside Panama to throw the U.S. out altogether.

Do the far right forces who are opposing the treaty actually believe that they are defending vital security interests?

Not really. You could not possibly write a more old-fashioned straight-forward imperialist ripoff than the Carter Administration has negotiated.

But the far right is playing for a different prize. The anti-treaty campaign appears to be part of a well-organized master plan to capture the Republican Party for the 1980 elections.

The anti-treaty campaign is run out of the same computer mailing firms and the same ultra-conservative organizations which have blocked ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and are trying to wipe out affirmative action.

The Panama Canal Treaty does make one thing clear. Liberal or conservative, progressive or reactionary, all American politicians stand clearly on the side of U.S. imperialism.

1903: How the U.S. Ripped Off the Canal

"I took Panama."
—Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, 1903.

IN CASE YOU FORGOT your high school American history, here's how the United States got the Panama Canal in the first place:

- Panama was originally part of Colombia. Colombia wouldn't permit a canal through the isthmus.
- In 1903 a Panamanian secessionist led a rebellion in the isthmus provinces against the Colombian government with veiled assurances of U.S. support in exchange for a canal.
- The U.S. Navy blockaded the Colombian ports—the only route to the provinces was by sea—and aided the rebellion militarily.

- As soon as the rebels claimed control of the provinces, the U.S. recognized Panama as an independent country. The treaty establishing the Panama Canal was signed before the Panamanians even reached Washington, D.C. Conveniently, a Frenchman, Philippe Bunau-Varilla, was there to negotiate for them.
- The treaty set out the Canal



Zone which cut right through the middle of the country. The purpose of the canal was to improve U.S. shipping trade. The Canal Zone on either side of the canal itself

became U.S. property—Panamanians were not allowed in it.

• The Treaty guaranteed the U.S. "perpetual" control over the zone and the canal.

What about the people of Panama? See "What we Think"... page 7.

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LIBERALS, CONSERVATIVES

The fact that such a treaty has been negotiated by an Administration which proclaims its love of human rights and self-determination, proves how much Jimmy Carter's rhetoric about those principles is worth.

It also proves which side liberal politicians like Frank Church are on when there aren't hundreds of thousands of anti-war marchers fighting in the streets against American domination of other countries.

There is a slim chance that the far right might succeed and defeat

Will Carter choose postal contract as place to make a stand?

by Paul Broz

"Gains in real living standards must come primarily from improved productivity. Without gains in productivity, improvements in real incomes for some Americans can come only at the expense of others."

The words are Jimmy Carter's, in his economic report to Congress. He is calling on business to increase productivity—get more work from fewer people—or be faced with a situation in which the "have-nots" begin thinking about taking from the "haves."

Postal workers know about productivity. Postmaster Benjamin Bailar, in a recent report, put it down in black and white. "In the fiscal year 1977 we processed 92.2 billion pieces of mail, almost 2.5 billion more than in fiscal 1976, with 23,852 fewer employees. This represents a productivity increase of 5.2 per cent over 1976, and a 14 per cent improvement over 1971."

Postal employees are working harder and longer, and, as a result, are being injured on the job at an alarming rate. Out of a \$652 million postal deficit last year, \$639 million was for injury compensation.

Speed-up, excessive overtime, work overloads, and cutting out jobs are part of postal management's productivity game plan.

CONTRACT AHEAD

But postal workers are not rolling over and playing dead. Bargaining over a contract between the postal service and four different unions, which expires next July, promises to become an important showdown—a test of Carter's new "voluntary" wage and price controls, and a test of workers' determination to improve their lives at work.

The postal contract is one of only two major contracts expiring this year (the other is in the construction industry), and covers more than 600,000 people.

A poor settlement could be the first of a series of labor defeats. A victory would seriously challenge Carter's plans for squeezing more productivity out of an already hard-pressed workforce.

Postmaster Bailar is talking tough. It is likely that he will shoot for the elimination of the "no-layoff" clause, for ending cost-of-living on wages, cutting back delivery to five days (reducing the number of carrier jobs), and a wage increase of less than 3%.

Although since 1971 the postal service has been a semi-independent corporation, workers are legally forbidden to strike. Contract issues which cannot be settled between management and the unions are supposed to be decided by arbitration.

ONE SCENARIO

Some analysts see negotiations going something like this: Bailar bargains hard, while the press

portrays postal jobs as soft and cushy, with excessive benefits.

Then, around contract time, the public is threatened with a postage hike if workers get their demands. Government appeals to postal employees to do their part in holding down inflation by increasing productivity. Carter gets on TV and says he wants the post office to set an example for private industry.

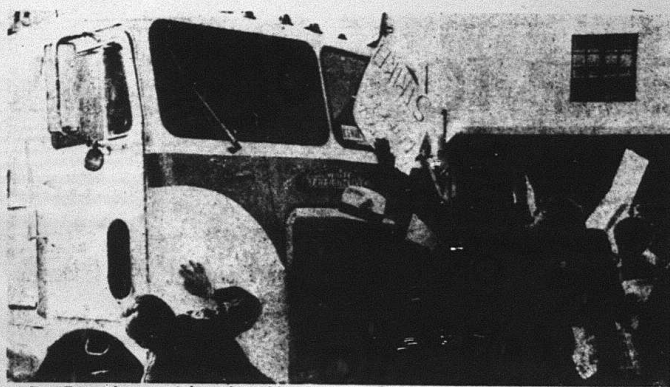
Next, this climate of hostile

"public opinion" is used to pressure unions—faced with a poor settlement—not to strike, instead to send the contract to arbitration, where Carter will have the upper hand.

If this reading of the tea leaves is accurate, the deciding factor in the success of this strategy will be the militancy of the rank and file—how far they can be pushed. Defying the law, in 1970 they struck and forced some concessions from a belligerent Nixon administration.

CONTRACT GROUP

This year, some rank and files are already organizing for a confrontation.



San Francisco postal workers block mail truck during 1970 strike.

A "United Contract Coalition" meeting, initiated by an independent postal workers' paper, "The Rank and File Postal Worker," is being held February 19-20 in Chicago.

Organized to "give the average postal worker a voice in the contract bargaining," and to help create "strong pressure and support from the rank and file and local union officials," the meeting has attracted the interest of many union militants.

Included among these are stewards and members, 10 local officials, and four rank and file groups or newsletters—from the three major postal unions.

The union's national leaders, at

the moment close-mouthed about the contract, are appealing to Washington D.C. for legislation which would ease the pressure on their ranks.

Angry workers have led protests and walkouts about overtime, and a national union convention in Houston saw a rank and file revolt against route-cutting. A strike of carriers was narrowly averted in Seattle.

Bargaining doesn't officially begin until mid-April, but informal talks have already begun. If postal officials, and Jimmy Carter take the hard line that many think they will, most postal workers, come July, will probably be talking strike.

NEWSPAPER STRIKE

STOP THE PRESSES!

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN—Several hundred persons turned out here February 11 for a rally and picket line supporting the striking employees of the Oakland Press.

The newspaper has hired 100 security guards, and brought in scabs from out of state to replace striking reporters and pressmen.

Speakers from labor, and women's and minority groups attacked Capital Cities Communications, owner of the Oakland Press, for its failure to bargain seriously. The paper proposes to eliminate cost-of-living on wages, reduce sick leave, eliminate job security, and make workers pay 100% of their medical premiums.

Yolanda Flores, representing the YWCA, said that her organization was supporting the strike because of their interest in what gets published in the papers and who controls it. She said the

Capital Cities officers "can't know in New York what our community needs."

Strikers, with the support of the United Auto Workers, are calling a boycott of the Oakland Press, urging residents to cancel their subscriptions and businessmen to stop advertising. The boycott seems to be successful, though it is impossible to tell for sure, as the newspaper won't make its records public.

A local minister concluded the rally with a benediction. "The church has been praying for too damn long with its eyes closed," he said. "The end of this prayer is going to be in the streets."

With that, everyone marched out to the Oakland Press building, shouting, "Stop the press! Stop the press!"

—DAVID KATZ

The Big-Power Scramble For The Horn Of Africa

by Dan Posen

THERE IS AN old saying that imperialists have no permanent friends—only permanent interests.

In the Horn of Africa today, the United States and Russia are putting on a demonstration of this fact that has seldom been matched before.

Just two years ago, U.S. military aid to the government of Ethiopia had soared to nearly \$30 million a year.

American Congressmen were screaming about Russian officers and a secret naval base on the Red Sea in neighboring Somalia.

Today, everything has changed. Up to five thousand Cuban troops and pilots are now fighting for Ethiopia, against Somalia, with several thousand more Cubans transported by Russian ships on the way.

That's why American television news reports are suddenly playing up the issue of Ethiopia, Somalia and the war in the Horn of Africa.

U.S. UPSET

The United States government is deeply upset by Ethiopia's becoming an important ally and military base for Russian interests in Africa. This would "threaten stability" in Africa, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance warns.

Apparently, during all the years when the United States used Ethiopia for its own military base, this did not "threaten stability." It seems it became dangerous only when the Ethiopian military government kicked American advisers out, and invited Russians and Cubans in.

The war between Ethiopia and Somalia, over control of the Ogaden desert region of Ethiopia, has given

the superpowers and their allies an excuse for open intervention.

While Russia is openly using MIG jets and thousands of Cuban troops on the side of Ethiopia, western powers with U.S. approval have begun a major airlift of arms aid to Somalia.

Besides weapons from France, Iran and Saudi Arabia, Somalia might soon receive troops from Egypt—and eventually the support of the F-5 jets which the Carter Administration this week agreed to sell Egypt.

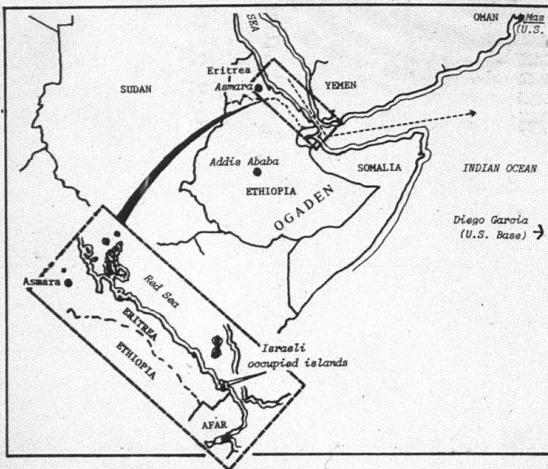
Neither American nor Russian imperialism has any real interest in the national rights or desires of the Ethiopian or Somali peoples. The great power interests lie in air and naval control of the Red Sea and East African coasts.

The Ethiopia-Somalia war itself is a territorial dispute over which government should control the mainly ethnic Somali people of the Ogaden.

The people of the Ogaden hate the Ethiopian regime, which has practically enslaved them for centuries, but they have very little say in their own future.

This war will probably end with Ethiopia's superior military equipment and Cuban forces recapturing most of the Ogaden and possibly even occupying some of Somalia's ports.

But this may be only the beginning of bitter imperialist rivalries in the Horn of Africa for years to come.



Russia, Cuba sponsor massacre of Ethiopian revolutionaries

THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA war, which is getting headlines now, is only one of the major struggles raging in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

Where do the superpowers stand on the struggles of the Ethiopian masses for their own freedom?

Supposedly, the Russians and the Cubans have joined the side of Ethiopia because Ethiopia is run by a "Marxist revolutionary" government.

Yet only one year ago, when the Russians enjoyed the privilege of a major naval base in Somalia, both American and Russian commentators claimed the government of Somalia was "Marxist" too.

Today, Russia labels Somalia a "fascist dictatorship". American officials call Somalia a "potential friend for the west."

The fact is that Russian and Cuban forces are playing essentially the same role in Ethiopia now that the United States did for decades under ex-emperor Haile Selassie.

CRUSHING STRUGGLES

Russian and Cuban forces are helping Ethiopia's military government try to save Haile Selassie's crumbling empire.

They are also helping the Ethiopian military try to crush the

revolutionary worker, peasant and national liberation movements that caused the overthrow of Haile Selassie himself.

The people of Eritrea, in northern Ethiopia on the coast of the Red Sea, waged a bitter armed struggle for independence after Haile Selassie's Ethiopia occupied their territory in 1962.

American jets, heavy weapons, napalm and millions in U.S. aid to Ethiopia were used against the Eritrean freedom fighters.

Today, the Eritreans have liberated over 90% of their country. Russia and Cuba, so-called socialist states which claim to support

national liberation movements, have taken over from the U.S. in trying to crush them.

The Russian Navy, in the Red Sea, is shelling Eritrean forces to protect a critical Ethiopian base at Massawa. Cubans helped Ethiopia recruit untrained peasant soldiers for a massive effort to recapture Eritrea.

MASSACRES

"Since mid-December," according to one recent report in the New York Times, "more than 1000 people—many of them teen-aged students—have been killed. Perhaps as many as 10,000 have been arrested in an operation to seek out names of members of the anti-Government underground, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party."

The EPRP is a revolutionary movement based among workers and young people in the capital city, Addis Ababa. Unlike the Ethiopian government, the EPRP demands workers' democracy and supports the Eritrean liberation struggle.

Naturally, the Ethiopian rulers and their Russian backers call the anti-EPRP murders "a campaign against counter-revolutionaries."

Many family members of EPRP members have also disappeared after going to police stations to identify their murdered relatives.

Government squads raid suspected EPRP members' homes between midnight and 5:00 am, dragging them away for immediate execution or "interrogation."

These are the same methods which Emperor Haile Selassie, for generations the United States' favorite ruler in Africa, used on anyone who opposed his rule.

So, next time someone tells you the United States stands for democracy—or for that matter, that the Soviet Union is a true friend of liberation struggles—tell them to ask the freedom fighters of Eritrea, or the revolutionary young workers of Ethiopia about it.

Drivers, Plant Workers Need Unity In Calif. Grocery Battle

OAKLAND Ca.—On February 22, two drivers, Dave Perry and John Neto, will face charges in front of Teamster Joint Council 7 for their role in last summer's nine-week Safeway strike here.

Last July, over 100 milk drivers and plant workers at Safeway's Oakland Plant struck against the company's take-away contract offer. The strike ended in stalemate: nothing lost, nothing gained.

During the strike, the picketers shut down the two major distribution centers in the area and sent pickets to a number of retail stores at a total cost of \$65 million to Safeway.

Dan Sullivan, secretary-treasurer of Local 302 which represents the dairy workers, ordered the strikers back to the milk plant, told other locals to cross the lines, and maneuvered with the Western Conference of Teamsters and General President Frank Fitzsimmons to have sanction withdrawn.

After the strike, Sullivan charged Perry and Neto with "picketing or causing to picket" the Richmond and Fremont distribution centers and the retail stores.

As if two men could force over a hundred angry strikers to do their bidding. The truth is that all decisions were made democratically by all who attended the daily strategy meetings.

THREAT CHARGE

Sullivan also charged that Perry threatened him. In fact, it was Perry who warned Sullivan against possible reprisals from other strikers. Even Sullivan's handpicked executive board convicted them by a close 4-3 margin.

Both were suspended from the union. Perry for 14 months and Neto for 12 and fined \$250 and \$200 respectively. The slightly longer suspension for Perry is an attempt to make him ineligible for union office next election.

Last time Perry lost to Sullivan by a mere 60 votes. With the help of the northern California chapter of Teamsters for a Democratic Union and local TDU lawyers, they filed an appeal with Joint Council 7.

Petitions demanding justice for Perry and Neto have been circulated locally and sent to TDU chapters around the country. Petitions have come in from the Vancouver, Green Bay, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles chapters so far.

Any fair trial would acquit Perry and Neto. But fair trials are rare in the Teamsters.

When Pete Camarata was expelled from Local 299 in Detroit, it was only because he was part of a growing movement in Teamsters that he was able to turn it around.

LARGEST CHAIN

The struggle of the Safeway milk drivers and plant workers is neither

isolated nor insignificant.

Safeway is the world's largest retail grocery chain. They will be entering negotiations soon with other grocery employers and the Teamsters for the first area-wide grocery contract in northern California.

The employers are out for blood. In the midwest, Kroger forced mileage pay, as opposed to hourly, down the drivers' throats with the help of the union.

More recently, Safeway has introduced a computerized production program in its warehouses. The union refused to effectively fight it.

Bill Grami and George Mock from the Western Conference are working hand in glove with local officials for an area-wide agreement. They want to push the rank and file as far away from negotiations as possible.

To win, the rank and file must overcome divisions and stand firm.

100 March To Stop Detroit Nazis

DRIVE THE RACISTS OUT OF TOWN



by Candy Martin

DETROIT—"I've seen enough. I come from Europe. I'm 67 years old. I know the Nazis. They're no good. Ship them out in a boat—with a hole in the bottom."
That's why Alvise Fontana came to the march against the Nazis held

here on February 11th. The Nazis opened up headquarters in Fontana's neighborhood on Detroit's southwest side two months ago.
With over a hundred people, last Saturday's demonstration was one of the biggest and most spirited protests held against the Nazis here to date. Unfortunately, the demonstration also displayed weaknesses in its ability to mobilize broad-based support from the surrounding community. (See "News Analysis," this page.)

RALLY

One of the speakers at the opening rally, a high school student named Tony who goes to Western and is a member of the Red Tide (youth group of the International Socialists), explained why he was there.
"Western has a history of racial tensions," he said, "a lot of race fights and a lot of people getting hurt."
"We have enough to deal with, organizing to bring the students together, without the Nazis here too."

"We're here to get the Nazis out—we have to let everybody know that."
And the marchers did. They walked and chanted from Patton Park for nearly a mile to the Nazi book store, handing out literature explaining the protest to people on sidewalks and in their cars along the way.

A moving picket was formed at the fascist storefront, which was protected by a tense cordon of police gripping billy clubs.

As chants of "Nazis out of the Southwest, Nazis out of Detroit!" and "We're gonna march, we're

gonna shout—NAZIS OUT!" rang out from the marchers, some on-lookers from the community crossed the street to support the picket.

Betty Zaorski was one of them. "I'm an old lady," she said, "and I've lived in Detroit all my life—we don't want them here."

"This is a real nice community. We've learned to live with everybody in this community—every nationality."

"Now they're trying to do what Hitler did in World War II."

As she pointed out a Workers' Power headline that said "The Nazis Aren't Joking—Don't Let Them Spread," she commented, "Well, we're not joking either!"

Meanwhile, some Nazis wearing swastika armbands leaned out of a large window above the storefront. While they played the racist song "Old Black Joe," they hung a banana on a rope out the window.

The dangling banana—a monument to the fascists' sick, warped, racist slime—was supposed to be a taunt to Blacks.

There were perhaps a dozen Nazis present, including some whom they had imported from their Cleveland operation. Four or five of them mingled with a crowd that gathered across the street.

There, the fascists tried to lead chants of "Nigger Go Home" and "Comms Get Out." They attempted to organize a group to cross the street and counter-picket but could not get support.

After more than an hour, the demonstrators marched back to Patton Park, with chants that let the Nazis know they would be back, bigger and stronger. □



[Above] Anti-Nazi demonstrators march down Vernor Highway to the "White Power Bookstore" where they are greeted by a cordon of Detroit's finest [below] out to protect the fascists.

Next Step: Building A Movement That Can Drive The Nazis Out

During preparation for last Saturday's march and at the demonstration itself, the overwhelming attitude of the Vernor community was opposition to the Nazis and a firm desire to get them out of the neighborhood.

The Nazis chose Vernor on Detroit's southwest side because it is one of the few mainly white communities in this predominantly Black city. It is bordered by Arab and Latino neighborhoods. Some of residents of different nationalities live within the Vernor community itself.

There is an extremely high rate of unemployment for the neighborhood's youth. Many have dropped out or been pushed out of school, and have nowhere to go with their lives.

It is from this group in particular—young unemployed whites and youth gangs—that the Nazis hope to gain support. They have already begun to do so.

Many residents explain that they are very disturbed to see young kids hanging around the fascists' office, running their errands, doing their dirty work.

As the economic crisis in this country worsens, as unemployment grows and people find less and less future for their lives under capital-

ism, the Nazi's racist "solutions" will gain greater footholds.

On Detroit's southwest side, they have made a beginning. Some of the effects could be seen last Saturday.

While reaction to the anti-Nazi demonstration was mostly very supportive, there was also a certain amount of hostility to the marchers.

MIXED REACTION

Even though the amount of hostility was small, and in general the demonstration received sympathy and support, the marchers were unable to draw in active participation from the community.

Two women from the community who work at GM's Cadillac plant joined the demonstration but expressed dismay that many more people from the neighborhood were not marching. "The whole community should be out here filling the streets," one of them said.

Saturday's demonstration was originally called by the United Effort Against Fascism.

"Effort" was formed as a coalition on the original initiative of the Red Tide and the International Socialists. Its purpose was to try to bring together the various left, community, church and labor

groups which had been divided up in their efforts to oppose the Nazis.

But as time went on, the principal participation remained that from the Red Tide and the I.S., along with a couple of other smaller socialist groupings. The coalition, despite efforts to do so, was unable to mobilize broad-based support.

It is to their credit that the marchers went ahead and were able to build one of the largest demonstrations against the Nazis held so far here.

But many members of the Vernor community were not prepared to join an activity mainly supported by socialists.

Some thought that the choice posed to them was siding with the socialists or siding with the Nazis and wanted to do neither.

Some of them confused socialism with the dictatorial regimes in Russia, China and Eastern Europe, although these social systems have nothing in common with revolutionary socialism.

What is necessary now is to build the largest and strongest organization possible, with endorsements and participation from numerous local labor unions, rank and file groups, religious organizations, socialist, community and ethnic groups from the surrounding area.

They must agree on one and only one goal—that the Nazis cannot be tolerated, that they must be thrown out by organized opposition and action.

A massive education campaign about Nazism—its murderous history, its program to crush labor and for racial genocide—is needed in the schools, in union halls, and in the community.

Public demonstrations showing active, mobilized, mass opposition to the Nazis must continue. For that is the one way the Nazis will be forced out of every neighborhood in which they try to organize their racial, anti-labor hatred.

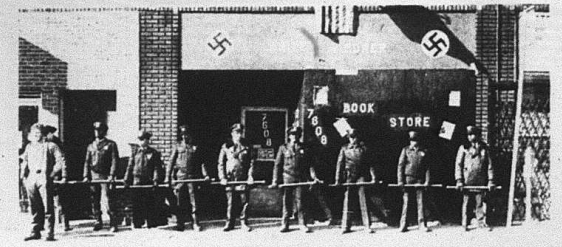
But those public actions must be broad-based and massive, and must mobilize strong participation

from the community itself.

Two weeks ago, an organization which has that potential was formed. It is a labor-based coalition called together by the 33,000-member United Auto Workers Local 600 here.

That coalition must be publicized and built to carry out these activities and to organize anti-fascist education. At the same time, other efforts must continue, so that the broadest and strongest forces possible are mobilized to "fill up the streets."

The Nazis must learn that it is not only socialists who are their staunch enemy, but all of labor and the whole community—socialist or not. That is when they will be driven out. □



What Mine Strike

by Jim Woodward

IT HAPPENED last Monday. The grim-faced TV newsmen, standing in front of an Indianapolis General Motors plant, announced that everyone there might soon be laid off because of the coal strike.

"How do you feel about that?" the newsmen asked one worker. "Well, I'm a union man," he replied. "But if it comes to losing our jobs, something's got to be done."

The auto worker's sentiment was echoed by a West Virginia coal miner who sadly told Workers' Power, "In a week, we'll have the whole country against us."

There's no doubt a lot of folks will be hurt when the lights and electric power go off. Before the strike is over, literally millions of workers could be temporarily laid off.

This will hurt. But the truth is, it will not hurt as much as the consequences of a defeat for the miners. Anyone who puts in an honest day's work has plenty of reason to support the miners' strike, no matter how long it takes.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that the wages you now receive, your working conditions, your cost-of-living, your seniority, or your pension are engraved in stone like the Ten Commandments and cannot be changed except for the better.

ENGRAVED IN STONE?

They can be made worse. And in part, this depends on what happens to the miners.

The coal operators are pressing hard with a big series of take-away demands. Your boss is probably not as stupid as he seems. If he sees that the coal miners, the most militant section of the working class, can be beaten, you may be next.

This is the normal state of affairs. A victory for one boss tends to make the others more aggressive, while a victory for one group of workers tends to inspire others.

But this year there's more to it than that.

For some time, most sections of big business have been bellyaching about declining profit margins,

lagging productivity, and increasing competition, both foreign and domestic.

Although they are making plenty of profits, they are not making as much as they feel they need. This is leading to a general squeeze on wages, working conditions, and fringe benefits.

COMPANY DEMANDS

The squeeze is causing a new phenomena in labor relations. It is becoming more common for the companies to be the ones who make the demands.

Companies which previously would have agreed to moderate gains in each union contract are now more willing to take long strikes. All over, company negotiators are taking hard-line positions.

In Latrobe, Pa., the United Steelworkers' contract with Latrobe Steel has always followed the pattern set by the Big 10 steel companies. No more. USW Local 1537 has been on strike for more than half a year, demanding nothing

more than what they used to take for granted.

In Los Angeles, Teamsters are in the sixth month of a strike against Acme Fast Freight, because the company is trying to break the national Master Freight Agreement.

The McDonnell-Douglas Corporation has not only been willing to take a long strike, but has announced its intention to maintain production with supervisory and "other" personnel, for the purpose of rolling back seniority arrangements. For a major company to threaten the mighty United Auto Workers with using scabs is a new development.

The miners' strike is unique because it is the first attempt by the employers to impose a "take-away" contract on a national scale. The scope of the take-away demands that the union leadership initially agreed to is breath-taking: The miners would lose their cost-of-living; they would lose full medical coverage; Sunday work would be permitted; overtime for

Mine violence? It happens every day

"COALFIELDS Violent, Guard Is Beefed Up" screams the morning headline.

The coal miners, it is suggested, have the morality of the Hells Angels, and the viciousness of Attila the Hun.

This is a curious picture, painted by the same American newspapers whose mastheads spout such slogans as "The news all the time, without fear or favor, bias or prejudice."

The undeniable fact is that the two-and-a-half months the strike has been on have seen a dramatic decline in coalfield violence.

True enough, striking miners have destroyed some property and engaged in some threats to stop scab coal shipments.

And three persons have been killed on the picket line. All were UMWA members, however. One was killed accidentally with his own gun; two were murdered.

THE NORMAL VIOLENCE

Balance that against the violence that has not occurred because of the strike.

In a normal two-and-a-half month period, about 30 miners are killed on the job.

When the mines are working, the miners usually go one at a time. A roof fall here, an unguarded machine there. Occasionally there is a major disaster.

Thousands go slowly, crippled by Black Lung. This state of affairs is called "peace" or "labor stability" by the press.

Coal mining will always be a dangerous job, but it can be much less risky if safety, rather than production, is the first consideration. In Great Britain, a coal miner is two-and-a-half times less likely to be killed than in the U.S.

The operators' proposed contract contains a number of features that would make mining significantly more hazardous:

• A new miner would have no union protection for 30 days.

This is a familiar feature of contracts in many industries, and management always uses this period to push around the new employee.

When the new worker is in a dark underground mine, unfamiliar with the hazards of methane gas, coal

dust, high-voltage power lines, and dangerous machinery, putting pressure on him to produce can be fatal.

• For the same reasons, the operators' demand to cut the training period from 90 to 45 days is nothing but civilized violence.

• Provisions for establishing incentive pay for higher productivity can only encourage overlooking safety standards.

• The proposal to fire wildcat strikers or fine them \$20 a day is aimed at taking away the miners' only means of resisting dangerous conditions.

Do the miners have a right to turn down a contract which threatens their lives and their safety? Do they have a right to stop scab coal to win a contract with some protection against the hazards they face every day?

Let's ask it another way: what would you do in their place? □

David Katz



Steelworker

DETROIT—The same weekend that hundreds of unionists, including a large number of steelworkers, held their Union Bowl in Pittsburgh to support the coal miners' strike earlier this month, other steelworkers gathered here to support another coal struggle—the Stearns miners' strike.

The two rallies were called by Local Union #2659 from McClouth

Steel. About four hundred steelworkers and their families in all came to see the movie Harlan County, to hear speakers and music and to give their support and donations.

They obviously saw many of the same problems in their own union that the coal miners face.

Loft cheers came from the audience during Harlan County



An impressive showing of solidarity, this Stearns support rally drew 400 steelworkers and family members.

What Strike Is All About

Mineworkers in Stearns, Kentucky began organizing in December of 1975 when Blue Diamond Coal Company bought the Justus mine there.

Within 10 days, 80% of the miners had signed cards for union recognition.

Blue Diamond, according to one United Mineworkers official, has the "worst safety record in the coal industry." That's what the Stearns miners were most concerned about—their lives.

Blue Diamond also owns the Scotia Mine, a few miles away. Just before the election for union recognition at the Justus Mine, two explosions ripped through the Scotia mine in March 1976 and killed 26 men.

The UMWA won the Justus election overwhelmingly. Blue Diamond protested and refused to recognize the union.

In July, 1976 the miners voted 153-1 to strike. They have been out on strike ever since—facing attacks from private security guards,

bullets, and State Police, as well as beatings and arrests—because they want the right to a union and to work without getting killed.

They intend to get that right. □



The Kentuckians, members of USW

e Means For You

Saturday work would not be required; flexible starting times could be instituted; new hires would not have union protection for 30 days; the training period would be cut from 90 to 45 days; job bidding would be frozen for 18 months, rather than 6 months; and miners could be fined \$20 a day (or fired) for engaging in wildcat strikes.

whose stocks in recent years have been much sought after by the Wall Street crowd. A recent report done for the UMW by Washington economist Stanley Ruttenberg shows after-tax profits for representative coal companies in 1974-76 up 800% over the 1969-73 period.

IN TROUBLE

What this means for the rest of



s Support Stearns

when miners defended the right to strike as the union's most important weapon. Steelworkers Union officials surrendered that right through the ENA (Experimental Negotiating Agreement).

When one coal miner said, "Mineworkers are tired of the union officials being in bed with the

companies," one member of the audience shouted "Steelworkers!" to cheers and applause.

A videotape of the 19-month long Stearns union recognition strike against Blue Diamond Coal Company was shown. The audience watched, as one October afternoon on the picket line, 20 State Police in

the labor movement was summed up by the Committee of Concerned Unionists, a Pittsburgh group supporting the coal strikers:

"The simple truth is that the labor movement is in trouble. While the number of workers is growing, the percentage of organized workers is shrinking. While the corporations build bigger and bigger monopolies and reap unprecedented profits without paying taxes, the labor movement remains fragmented in many ways and does little to draw different unions together to fight these giants.

"What could easily be gained in the sixties, because of high employment and economic booms, is ripped away from us in the 70's because we are threatened with high unemployment and a shaky economy. The day when we could tell our bosses to 'take this job and shove it' and then find another job before the day was out, is gone.

"The companies can see all of this of course, as they created it. And they figure that it's their turn now to clench their fists and push

us up against the wall until we say 'give'."

The big push against the coal miners is being led by the steel companies, particularly by U.S. Steel, which is a major coal operator.

LED BY STEEL

The steel companies see a very direct relationship between their coal miners and their steel workers. They fear a big miners' victory could undermine their no-strike agreement with the docile leadership of the United Steelworkers union.

Teamsters also should be particularly interested in a miners' victory. There has been some talk that the coal operators will try to weaken the union by dissolving the national contract and bargaining on a local by local basis.

You can be sure that if they succeed at this, trucking employers will be lining up next year for a try at busting the national Master Freight Agreement.

And postal and construction workers, who have major contracts expiring this year, should be cheering the miners on.

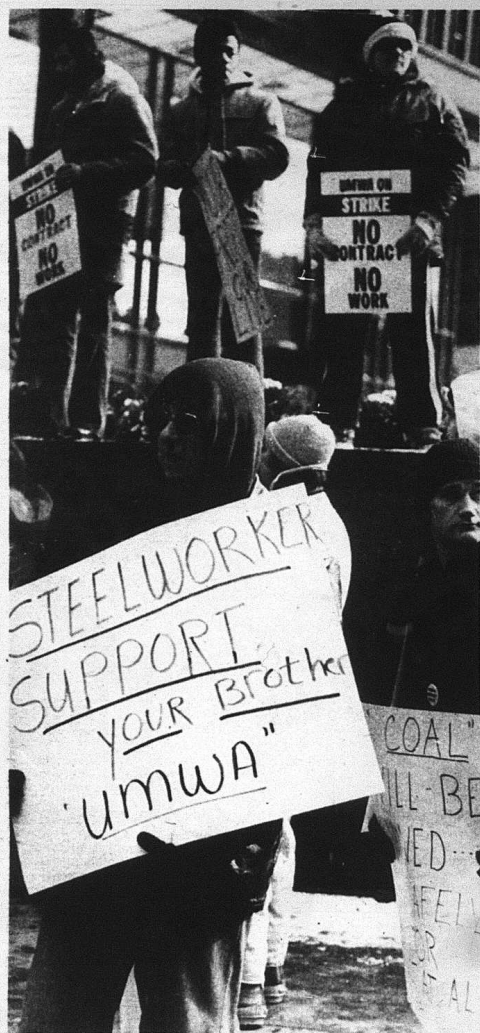
While the coal contract will not set a direct precedent for either group of workers, it will certainly establish either a good or a bad atmosphere for any negotiations coming up this year.

The Postal Service reportedly has its own set of take-away demands (see page 3).

A final element in this situation is the Carter Administration.

While the government will probably maintain a formal position of neutrality, Carter's economic report clearly states that wage gains—and particularly cost of living arrangements—are the cause of inflation. If the miners lose their cost of living protection, as the operators propose, your cost of living could be next.

Even if the miners' strike causes lay-offs and other hardships, we are cutting our own throats if we don't give the strike our full support.



A strike for safety

William King, on strike at Stearns, talks to Workers' Power about their struggle for union recognition:

We've been out 19 months since July 17, 1976 and they're still not running any coal whatsoever out of that mine.

We've been beaten. We've been shot at. We had five months of peaceful picketing. Nothing happening. Nothing going on.

Five months went by and then they brought their gun thugs in. These damned gun thugs shot up our little picket shack so bad it wasn't worth saving.

There was seven of us in that little old shack when they shot it up. We was going out windows and doors. Anything we could get out. It was hell.

Safety is the big issue in our strike. We were making as much money as the United Mine Workers when we came out.

It's the safety altogether.

I've seen 'em take these cutting machines that've got methane detectors on them that shut the machine off if they get in just a slight trace of gas to keep the explosion down. I've seen 'em cross these machines so they can get in as much as 10% gas and it still won't shut off.

But if you get a spark in that much gas and you have enough dust, you're gone.

The reason that coal company is fighting so hard to keep the United Mine Workers out is because of safety.

If you get the United Mine Workers you get a safety committee. If you find something unsafe, you refuse to work in it. You go out and you call your safety committee in.

That's what the company is so damned hard about.

full riot gear charged the pickets and began beating skulls.

Miners' bodies, some lying in blood, lay all over the ground as the sounds of clubs beating against heads came across the tape. Over 100 strikers and women were arrested. Ten are still in jail today.

It was one incident among many of violence during the coal miners' long and courageous strike for union recognition.

After 19 long months, one speaker at the rally explained the determination of the miners: "Blue Diamond has a choice—sign the contract or close the mine."

An impressive \$3,500 was raised for Stearns strikers in this support effort.

C.M.

Carter's Bright Idea: Raise Profits By Slashing COLA

by Kim Moody

IF YOU GOT a wage increase last year, if you aren't poorer this year than last, then you are the cause of inflation—says Jimmy Carter.

Since Carter considers inflation the main danger to the economy, he plans to ask you to take smaller and smaller wage gains, fewer and fewer new benefits.

In his Economic Report to Congress, the President asked the "business community and American workers to participate in a voluntary program to decelerate the rate of price and wage increases."

Specifically he said, "every effort should be made to reduce the rate of wage and price increases in 1978 to below the average rate of the past two years."

UNION CONTRACTS CITED

The Report of the President's Council of Economic Advisors,

which argues the case for Carter's position in great detail, says that today's inflation is being sustained by union-won wage increases and cost-of-living escalators in union contracts.

They say inflation in the late 1960's was caused by "excess demand"; too much spending by the government and consumers. In the early '70's, the Council says, companies fueled inflation by passing on increased costs to consumers. But now, they say, it is wages.

The Report declares that profits are not now to blame. In fact, increasing profit margins is listed as a top goal for getting the economy going.

Carter and his advisors are telling you that you must moderate your wage gains so that the employers can increase their profits.

inflation and concluded:

"If that wasn't a veiled hint that resisting expensive labor demands was patriotic, it would be hard to know what else it was."

LIES & DISTORTIONS

To say the least, the idea that wages cause today's inflation is a vast distortion. And to dismiss profit-taking as a cause of price increases, as the Council does, is a downright lie.

Inflation last year averaged 6.8%. Wage rates under major union contracts increased at an average 5.8%, according to the Labor Department.

Average weekly wages, adjusted for inflation and taxes, rose by 3.4%, but without a recent change in tax deductions, wages would have stood still.

According to the Council's own estimates, profits went up 11% in 1977 — running way ahead of wages.

So far, Labor's response to

Carter's call for wage "deceleration" has ranged from silence to feeble protest.

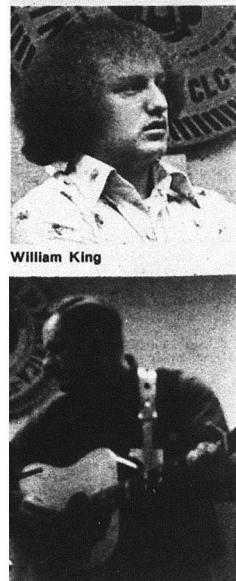
AFL-CIO President George Meany, the grand master of feeble protest, objected to Carter's voluntary scheme saying it was the first step toward compulsory wage controls. Meany did say that he would not expect unions to accept Carter's request to hold demands below last year's average.

WAGES FELL ALREADY

In fact, wage increases have been "decelerating" for a number of years. In 1975, average wage gains under major contracts were 7.8%. In 1976 they fell to 6.4% and in 1977 to 5.8%.

Real weekly wages are now below 1973 levels.

Next time your union leaders come around and ask you to volunteer your living standards so that profits can flourish, tell them where to go—to the company's treasury, that is.



Local 2659.

Speaking Out

What We Think

U.S. GET OUT OF PANAMA!

75 years of occupation

Listening to the debate on the Panama Canal Treaty would lead you to the conclusion that there are only two sides. For, or against the treaty.

But there is another side—that of the people who live in Panama. It is, after all, their country and their future that's being debated. Somehow that point never comes up.

The U.S. got the canal and sovereign rights over the canal zone 75 years ago. The canal cuts Panama in half.

The Panamanians have never been happy with this arrangement.

In 1964, Panamanian workers and students rebelled against this blatant form of U.S. imperialism. At least 21 died in riots and street fighting that took place.

It was this rebellion and the promise of more to come if something wasn't done, that led to the opening of negotiations on the current treaty.

Thirteen years later, the Panamanian people got the chance to vote on the treaty. It passed a referendum vote by two-thirds. But opposition was growing rapidly.

One foreign observer commented, "Another month of debate and the treaties would have been rejected the first time around."

A referendum today would almost certainly go down in defeat.

U.S. OUT NOW

The Panamanian people want the U.S. out now—not in 22 years with the permanent threat of American military intervention to "protect Canal neutrality."

And, why shouldn't they have control over their own country? Why shouldn't the Panamanian people get all the benefits and revenues from the canal? Surely the U.S. has been paid back over and over again for its investment 75 years ago.



Panamanians demand end of U.S. occupation.

This debate reminds us of the early debate on the Vietnam war.

Liberals argued that the U.S. should "negotiate" with the Vietnamese over what was going on in their country.

Conservatives argued that the war was correct and that the U.S. had the right and the duty to remain.

Back then socialists argued that the Vietnamese had the

right to control their own country and that the U.S. had to get out.

And that's what we think now about Panama. The Panamanians deserve the right to control all their country.

The U.S. has no business there and must get out immediately—with no strings attached. A treaty like that, we could support. The present one offers no solutions. □

As I See It

HOW MANY LIFE-TIMES IN PRISON?

by Barracuda

Question: How many years will a worker spend in jail for stealing \$2.5 million? 10 years? 20 years?

Hint: Answer in life-times. Race is a criterion.

Answer: Under the present judiciary system in the U.S., a worker gets 1-10 years for stealing \$10 in order to eat. If he steals \$2.5 million, he will go to jail for 25 million years. A worker's average life-time is 70 years. Theoretically, he will be in jail for 35,700 life-times. If he is from a minority group, it will be 50,000 life-times. One thing is certain: a worker will spend his one and only life-time in jail.

Question: How many years will a rich man spend in jail for stealing \$2.5 million? 10 years? 20 years?

Hint: Answer in life-times. Race is not a criterion.

Answer: Zero life-time. No time in jail. Probation.

Joel Dolkart, a rich lawyer, just proved this the other day. He was sentenced to five years probation for stealing \$2.5 million from two Wall Street law firms, by the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court.

The arguments before this decision was reached are interesting. Justice Samuel J. Silverman wanted to give Dolkart six months. Reason: The crime was not violent and Dolkart had already lost his job. Justice James J. Leff of the State Supreme Court said three years, because Dolkart was cooperating with the authorities and was unlikely to commit the crime again. Leff's decision was reversed and Silverman's was outvoted 3-1.

The scales of American justice are tilted against the poor, minorities and workers. The judiciary system is a facade used by the ruling class explicitly to control and incarcerate the workers.

The rules of justice and the laws of the land were created by the rich, and enforced by the judiciary system and other law agencies for the rich. When one of them gets caught in the web of justice, the whole sham is revealed.

At present, the concentration camps (prisons) of America are overfilled with the poor, minorities, and workers. Some of them are not there for stealing, since the ruling class has enacted numerous laws that could send any worker to jail at anytime: exercising your right to picket, self-defense against a law enforcement officer, attempted survival, exercising your right to strike, utilizing privileges meant for the rich in the pursuit of happiness, refusal to accept the freedom to starve and die in poverty of other conditions the rich impose on you, etc.

The truth is that the balance sheet of American justice is in the red, with workers paying the price. The symbol of Justice can see through her blindfold.

When you remember, this symbol was drawn up by the ruling class, this is not surprising. But it does not always have to be like this. The workers, if well organized can remove the fake blindfold and completely destroy the eyesight of that symbolic lady. With that lady permanently blind under workers' control, true justice will prevail. □

Fighting Words

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which He made a SCAB. A SCAB is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water-logged brain and a combination backbon[®] made of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles. A strike breaker is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class.

—Jack London

Where We Stand

Workers' Power is the weekly newspaper of the International Socialists. The I.S. and its members work to build a movement for a socialist society: a society controlled democratically by mass organizations of all working people.

Because workers create all the wealth, a new society can be built only when they collectively take control of that wealth and plan how it is produced and distributed.

The present system cannot become socialist through reform.

The existing structures of government—the military, police, courts and legislatures—protect the interests of employers against workers.

The working class needs its own kind of state, based on councils of delegates elected at the rank and file level.

The rank and file of the unions must be organized to defend unions from employer attacks, to organize the unorganized, to make the union effective. Today's union leaders

rarely even begin to do this. The rank and file must organize to return the unions to the members.

The struggle for socialism is worldwide. We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against workers of other countries, including racism and protectionism.

We are against the American government's imperialist foreign policies, including its support of racist minority regimes in southern Africa.

We demand complete independence for Puerto Rico. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The so-called "socialist" or "communist" states have nothing to do with socialism. They are controlled by a privileged ruling class of bureaucrats and must be overthrown by the workers of those countries.

Black and Latin people are oppressed national minorities in the U.S. They have the right to self-determination—to decide their

own future. We support the struggle for Black Liberation and the self-organization of Black people. We also fight for the unity of Black and white workers in a common struggle against this system.

We support women's liberation and full economic, political, and social equality for women. We demand outlawing all forms of discrimination against gay people.

Socialism and liberation can be achieved only by the action of a mass workers' movement. The most militant sections of workers today must be organized to lay the foundations for a revolutionary socialist workers' party.

This is why the International Socialists exists—to create that party. We are open to all those who accept our main principles, and who accept the responsibility of working as a member to achieve them.

Join with us to build a movement to end exploitation and oppression and to create a socialist world. □

The Socialist View

WHY SOCIALISTS DEFEND THE RIGHT TO ABORTION

by Emily Sharpe

MANY PEOPLE ask us, why do socialists support the right to abortion? Don't socialists believe in defending human life and human values?

The question often comes from women who were dismayed when they got pregnant, but had the baby and love their children despite the hardships.

It is precisely because we do value human life and the quality of life that socialists defend the right to abortion.

We do not want to see children come into the world without a parent who has the time, emotional maturity, or money to care for them.

We do not want to see one more woman die in an illegal abortion because she realized that she could not raise a child—but the government told her she had to.

Whether abortion is legal or not, women still get abortions. In fact, the number of abortions—one million a year—did not increase when abortion was legalized in 1973.

But the number of women who died decreased dramatically.

Previously, 250 deaths were reported every year from illegal abortions. How many more deaths went unreported is anybody's guess.

When abortion was legalized, it became a safer procedure than childbirth.

But why demand abortion rights? What about demanding better adoption procedures? A home for every child? Free, twenty-four hour childcare centers so mothers can stay off welfare? More education about sex and birth control?

In fact, socialists strongly support all these things. But we must live with the fact that we won't win these goals soon.

COMMITMENT

Having a baby—it sounds so simple, so appealing. But a child is a lifetime commitment. A child needs constant care, attention, and affection.

Can a woman make that kind of commitment if she is fifteen?

What if she is single, struggling to support herself? What if she is poor? What if her husband just lost his job or she fears her marriage is about to break up? What if she doesn't enjoy children? What if she is pursuing a career? What if she simply wants an independent life?

Raising a child can be a happy, fulfilling, glorious thing. But not every woman is in the position to raise an unplanned child.

What right does the government have to tell you that you must bear an unwanted pregnancy? The same government that cuts back on welfare, cuts back on day care, cuts back on schools. The same government that can't provide jobs, can't provide decent housing, can't make

our cities safe.

We say, "Don't tell us we can't have decent jobs, we can't have housing and food and cars and gasoline at prices that we can afford, but we can't have abortion. Women have the right to choose."

LIBERATION

As socialists, we believe in women's liberation. But liberation will never mean anything if a woman does not have the right to control her own body. Women cannot be equal participants in society if we are chained to our biology.

In this society, women take the ultimate responsibility for their children. Despite the progress made by the women's movement, it is still women who watch the kids and wash the dishes.

A woman with children—especially a single woman—does not have a lot of options. Jobs are hard to get, particularly jobs that pay

well enough to support a family.

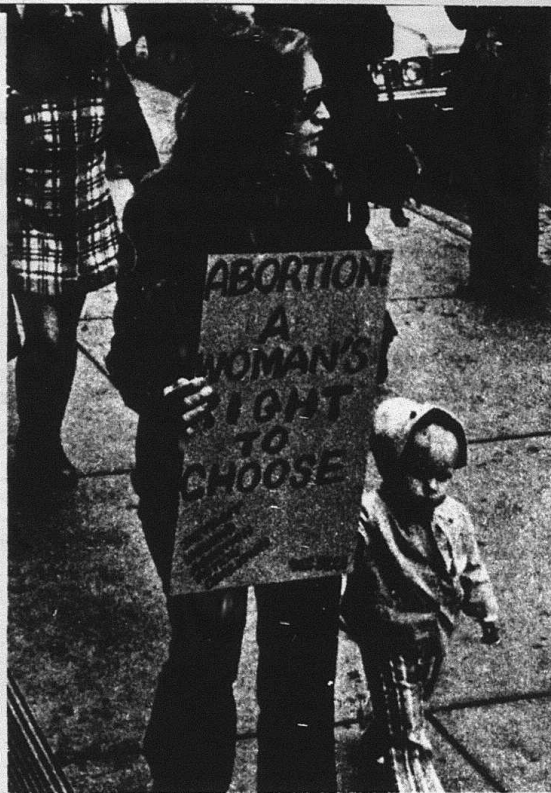
How often is your boss going to be sympathetic when you miss work because of a sick child? How many day care centers take children under two? How many have hours that accommodate second shift workers?

BATTLE RAGES

Abortion was legalized five years ago, but it is still a raging battle. People who are against abortion—look at who they are. They are conservatives—some of them members of the Klan and the John Birch Society—who feel that a woman's place is in the home. They believe that women should be married, that they shouldn't work.

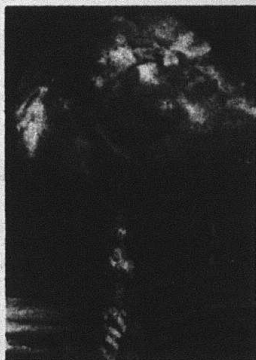
If that is what you choose, fine. But if you choose something different, you have that right too.

We urge you to join with us in defending every woman's right to abortion, every woman's right to choose. □



Hundreds of thousands marched to win the right to abortion. Why?

Letters



HERE NUKIE, NUKIE...

Dear Workers' Power,

Everything about the American government is uptight, but these days they are trying to appear relaxed and friendly and hip by using nicknames. Yessirree, nicknames, for everything from President Jimmy all the way to those downright sweet-sounding little things they call "nukes."

What's a nuke? Doesn't it just sound like a pet for your kid? "Here, Nuke!" A nuke is a tactical nuclear weapon, a "mini-bomb." Not mini for those it's dropped on, oh, no. It's only mini

because the military wants to convince people the use of them won't start World War III.

You can be sure they are moaning that the US wouldn't have been run out of Vietnam if only the sentimental US public had been willing to go along with a few nice, clean nukes.

They have been researching tactical nuclear weapons for years. Now that they have them, they have to psych up the public not to start a revolution or something should they decide to use them say, in Zimbabwe.

Hence the cute nickname.

While they're coming up with mind-numbing little words, maybe they'll come up with one for that substance they used in Nam and in the Congo. Don't call it napalm, that's a nasty 60's word, call it NAP.

We have nicknames, too.

**Yours for the REV,
Toni Hawk
Austin, Texas**

There are eight murders, beatings, rapes, muggings, and robberies an hour—on television. □

REVIEW HAS READER IN FEVER

Dear Workers' Power,

I am really tired of reading movie reviews in Workers' Power that complain that the movie didn't show the working class uniting to rise up against capitalist oppression. There are other things for movies to be about!

Saturday Night Fever was a fun, optimistic movie. It didn't make you hate yourself, as your reviewer Mark Harris says.

It made you feel good because Tony Manero was such a nice guy, and because of the things he learned during the movie—that he wasn't a shit compared to his saintly brother, that he didn't want the prize if he got it because of discrimination, that chicks are people too. And it made you feel good because you felt like you'd been out dancing yourself!

Harris complains that Tony says there are only two kinds of women in the world—good girls

and cunts. But that's not the message of the movie—the movie shows it's wrong for Tony to think that. It's on the side of Annette, who gets gang-banged, not on the side of the gang-bangers.

JOBS FOR ALL?

Harris seems dissatisfied that Saturday Night Fever didn't show Tony's gang merging with the Puerto Rican gang to march for jobs for all. Why didn't he notice that it showed one man becoming disgusted with "everybody crapping on everybody else" and deciding not to do it any more?

Saturday Night Fever showed some young men the way some young men actually are—self-centered, male chauvinist, prejudiced, not union reformers. They were not the way we

socialists wish everybody would be. They didn't do anything to fight capitalism.

But it was still a good movie.

**Irate Movie Lover
Detroit**

Prison reader wants information on I.S.

Dear I.S.,

I would very much like to know more about the International Socialists.

About myself: although I am doing a 20 year sentence for second degree burglary, I feel as though I am more a P.O.W. in the fight against capitalist imperialism than a mere prisoner of this state.

At this time (and for the next 67 days) I am on lock-up (the hole). I now have 40 months in on this

Relax and enjoy it, Mark Harris!

20 years. But being here in Oklahoma, I may have to put in 40 more months. I am 25 years old, from OKC and this is my first (and last) time to prison.

I was first doing my time at the Oklahoma State Reformatory at Granite, Oklahoma, where I joined an organization known as the "United People's Liberation Movement." That is part (most) of the reason I am on lock-up now.

**In unity and heart,
Name withheld**

Small Vote Adds Up To Big Defeat For Atlanta AFSCME

But challenger vows new effort to rebuild union



AFSCME members demonstrating.

by Jack Bloom

ATLANTA, February 11—The Atlanta city workers union election was held today. When it was over, the challenger, James McKinney, had been defeated by nine votes.

The defeat stunned all who had been associated with the campaign and had seen the extent of the support McKinney had almost everywhere.

The defeat appears to be a result of the deep demoralization and defeat the workers have experienced. And their cynicism that nothing could make a difference in the way their union was functioning.

LOW TURNOUT

The turnout was almost unbelievably low. The actual vote count was 57 for the incumbent, Cleveland Chappel, and 48 for McKinney. A total of 105 people voted. This is approximately three percent of the membership.

Some of this can be explained by the fact that the election was held on Saturday, far away from the work sites and from people's

Grady Hospital, which is organized by the union. This is even though the hospital is a block away from the polling site, and some of the union members were working there during the day.

Grady is by far the weakest section of the union, but still only 20 people showed up. There are about 650 union members in the hospital, out of a possible 3000.

Probably the most graphic demonstration of apathy came from the 14th Street Water Works installation, which is the strongest shop in the union.

Last election, the chairman of the city workers section of the union campaigned only at 14th Street. He won easily. This time only one person from the installation bothered to show up and vote!

HANDS OFF ATTITUDE

One worker from 14th Street explained it: "They just couldn't deal with it any more. They feel they can take care of their problems themselves, and they don't want to mess with the rest of the union, and they don't want the rest of the union to mess with them."

Obviously, for the short term, they may be able to "take care of their problems themselves." For the long term, it's a losing proposition.

McKinney himself analyzed his defeat: "Of course, people do feel defeated after the major setbacks they have suffered. And they feel they're going to have to try to make it on their own from now on. They just don't know any more if they can make a difference."

The outcome of the election could have serious results for the union. Many members are very disaffected. January is one of the two months of the year when city workers who have signed union cards are allowed to withdraw from the union. In January 172 quit.

That means that the union is now below the 50% plus one representation that it needs in order to retain its status as recognized

bargaining agent, and in order to keep dues checkoff. It will have to produce proof that it represents 50% plus one in September. In June, workers can withdraw again.

The union's survival is at stake. The policies that helped produce last year's strike defeat, and that have led to mass withdrawal from the union, have not changed. Will AFSCME be able to pull it out of the bag?

FUTURE

On the other hand, McKinney is just back at square one. His campaigning has taken him all through the union. He has met several solid union members who are concerned about the union and interested in strengthening it. If the union can be held together,

they could form a base for organizing for the next time around, and for pressuring the current leadership to institute new policies.

McKinney and his supporters are still licking their wounds. But they are ready to go on.

McKinney laid out his next steps: "We got 48 people who voted for us. We're going to try to organize these people throughout the three chapters—if they want to be organized."

"And try to push our resolutions and proposals through on the chapter floors and in the committees. We will not turn our backs on the union."

"I plan to call my major supporters up to let them know that I am available to work with them and support them in the local." □

Labor Notes

by Jim Woodward

The National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees' pension fund has decided that "no pension funds should be invested in any manner that would financially assist or aid or support the present government or economy of South Africa." The Pension Fund covers 70,000 persons, largely Black and Latin workers. It is the first national labor-management pension fund to outlaw South African investments.

"Road Wear Not Due to Truck Traffic," says a February 2 press handout from the American Trucking Associations (ATA). Edward V. Kiley, an ATA official, goes on to assert that deterioration of the highways has nothing to do with the higher weight limits adopted by Congress, and that only one out of every 200 or so trucks is ever over-loaded. We're told Kiley's next press release will comment on the amazing similarity between Frank Fitzsimmons and St. Francis of Assisi.

The National Labor Relations Board must have just finished Alice in Wonderland when they came up with this decision. Normally, you can refuse to cross a legal picket line without being subject to reprisal from your employer. For example, if you're a phone installer you don't have to cross a picket line at a struck factory to do your job. But the NLRB has just decided you no longer have this right if the picket line is set up by public employees. Their reasoning: public employees aren't covered by the National Labor Relations Act.

Remember what fun it was to be a kid? Well, life isn't a lark if you're working in the fields. The new minimum wage law has a section permitting growers to apply for waivers of the child labor laws. About 83,000 ten- and eleven-year-olds will be allowed to work in the fields for eight weeks during harvest season. Congressman Bob Packwood of Oregon was enthusiastic about this waiver. He explained that "children are safer picking strawberries than playing in the park" and extolled the virtues of outdoor life.

Harry Patrick, former Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers, has taken a \$36,000 a year job with ACTION, the federal agency which runs the Peace Corps, VISTA, and other community programs. After Patrick was defeated for the UMW presidency last year, he first said he planned to return to his job as a coal miner. In September, he said: "They can't kid me any more about what goes on and how fat labor leaders get. Because it's the truth... It is very easy to get tuned into that kind of life of sitting behind a desk with your feet up on it and wearing three-piece suits and driving automobiles and forgetting about down in the field."

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

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.

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 Portland: P.O. Box 4662, Portland, OR 97208

'I AM A MAN'



(left) King and Ralph Abernathy in Memphis, the day before King was shot. (right) Police dogs attack Black children in struggle to integrate Birmingham in 1963.



"Bull" Conner: "What do you want?"
Young Black girl: "Freedom."
 Birmingham, Alabama, April 1963

by Marilyn Danton

NBC's six hour drama—"King"—based on the life of Martin Luther King, brought to life the massive struggle of Black people for equality and freedom in the South.

In moving, dramatic scenes actual news film of the events was spliced into the made-for-TV special. There in all the original horror was the reality of Birmingham: firehoses, vicious police dogs flinging and attacking school-age Black children.

We relive the shooting of Viola Liuzzo, a white woman, as she drove civil rights marchers back and forth in the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery.

We see once again the striking sanitation workers marching with signs that read "I am a Man."

The documentary left no doubt as to where the credit for the victories of the civil rights movement belong: to the hundreds of thousands of Black people led by Martin Luther King and others who marched, sat in, were beaten, jailed and killed to achieve the right to eat, go to decent schools and to vote in the South.

King made it clear: "We have not made one gain in civil rights without non-violent direct action."

The Kennedy brothers, Johnson and the Democratic Party, who today are given credit for the passage of two civil rights bills come off as the passive footdraggers they were.

When King decided to integrate Birmingham—one of the toughest Southern towns at a time when the movement was faltering, Bobby Kennedy, then Attorney General, argued, "This is going to destroy everything. If only you'd wait a few months."

As the Kennedy brothers watched Public Safety Commissioner "Bull" Conner attack the school children with firehoses and police dogs on the evening news they exchanged the following comments:

RFK "What do we do?"
 JFK: "What we always do—nothing."

Later, after Kennedy had been assassinated and the 1964 Civil Rights bill passed in Congress, King began the voting rights campaign in Selma, Alabama.

President Johnson argued: "But you're going too fast. Congress isn't ready for another civil rights bill."

King went ahead and after three attempted marches, the killing of Viola Liuzzo, numerous beatings, a voting rights bill, the 1965 Civil Rights Bill passed Congress.

SINISTER PLANS

Behind the scenes, other government officials were laying out sinister plans that would only come to fruition in April 1968.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, while supposedly directing the Bureau to defend civil rights workers against the KKK and white racist attacks, was in fact using the resources to lay the basis for destroying King, one way or another. Hoover called King "The most notorious liar in the United States."

In vain Hoover directed his forces to get the goods on King and discredit him by proving that the Communist Party had masterminded

the civil rights movement.

While none of the investigations turned up anything to prove serious Communist Party involvement, the top aides so feared that they would be fired that one stated:

"We must mark King, if we haven't already done so, as the most dangerous Negro in this country."

Hoover's plans were stonewalled until King, over the heads of his advisors, spoke out against the Vietnam war.

Johnson gave Hoover the green light and the stage was set for King's assassination.

Fake tapes were sent to Corretta King to prove that King was unfaithful.

Fake letters, forging King's signature, state that SCLC was broke and being investigated by the IRS because of mismanagement of money.

Young Blacks were paid by the FBI to disrupt the first march in support of the Memphis sanitation workers by physically attacking King.

Finally, on the day King was assassinated a security man assigned to a point with a clear view of the balcony where King was later shot was ordered off duty because a "government man" had supposedly discovered that there was a contract out on the security man's life.

In a dramatic closing, the film all but states that the FBI had King killed.

Overall, the documentary was impressive and surprisingly accurate in its portrayal of the events, especially on the role of the Kennedys, Johnson and the government.

Despite the violence heaped on King, his followers and the movement, King remained committed to non-violence to his death. He never understood that it was the movement, and not the non-violent

tactics, that won the victories.

In a dramatic fictionalized dialogue between King and Malcolm X included to show the non-violent King as the hero over the "violent" Muslim leader, the debate inside the movement over strategy is framed.

But, despite attempts to discredit him, the telling argument was made by Malcolm.

"It didn't cost this country anything to integrate lunch counters, busses and schools. It didn't cost this country anything to give voting rights to Black people."

"But to get jobs, housing and the rest, it will cost this country billions of dollars. This country won't give those up without a serious fight that goes beyond non-violence and fights power with power."

Malcolm X understood something else as well. He came out against the war in Vietnam in 1963. Two years later he was killed.

In the dialogue he tells King, "At least we have one thing in common, we're both dead men." □

THREAT OF ABORTION AMENDMENT

A YEAR AGO, the Supreme Court ruled that your boss doesn't have to include pregnancy leave in your insurance coverage. Since that time, our friends on Capitol Hill have been promising legislation that would overturn the Supreme Court decision.

The pregnancy disability bill has just been reported out of a House subcommittee, where it successfully dodged an anti-abortion amendment.

Supporters of the amendment want to deny benefits to workers whose pregnancy ended in abortion. Rep. Edward Beard (D-Rhode Island), who proposed the amendment, vowed to take the fight to the House floor, where anti-abortion language is likely to receive strong support.

If abortion surfaces as an issue in this battle, women will be the losers.

An abortion amendment could tie up this legislation indefinitely. Some Congressmen have promised women that they will not allow the reactionary amendment to pass.

Rep. Ted Weiss (D-New York) said: "The very purpose of the bill is to eliminate discrimination against pregnant women. I don't want to eliminate one kind of discrimination while at the same time replacing it with another." □

E. Clarke



Civil rights supporters march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, demanding the right to vote for Blacks in the South.

Ali: Time Runs Out

by Sandy Boyer

Muhammad Ali has been the greatest boxer and greatest athlete of recent times. But against Leon Spinks, his talent ran out.

There were moments of the old Ali: float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. But too few of them.

All just can't seem to put it together any more. In the last round, when he needed a knockout to win, he hurt Spinks but couldn't

put him away.

It reminded me of what Joe Louis said after he got knocked out by Rocky Marciano, trying a comeback: "I could see the openings, but I couldn't hit them."

FIGHTING FOR MONEY?

We know why Joe Louis kept on fighting after he was too old. His money was gone and he had no

choice.

No one knows whether Ali is a millionaire or whether he's broke. I have to believe if he still had the money he made over the years, he'd have quit long ago. Especially after the punishment he's taken in the last few fights.

Personally, I wish both Ali and Frazier had retired after the "Thrilla in Manila." Neither one has had a really good fight since then.

If this was an important night in

sports history, CBS took care not to rise to the occasion. Brent Musberger seemed more interested in shilling for upcoming CBS shows than in fighting.

Often he didn't even seem to know what was happening in the ring.

I hope Ali retires for good now. It's possible he could beat Leon Spinks in a rematch. But it is clear he will never be anything like the fighter he used to be. □

WORKERS' POWER

“You tell me what kind of country this is. Why should we do the dirtiest jobs for the lowest pay? Why should we pay the most money for the worst kind of food and the most money for the worst kind of place to live in? I'm telling you we do it because we live in one of the rottenest countries that has ever existed on this earth. It's the system that is rotten; we have a rotten system. It's a system of exploitation, a political and economic system of exploitation, of outright humiliation, degradation, discrimination—all of the negative things that you can run into, you have run into under this system that disguises itself as a democracy... You and I want to create an organization that will give us so much power we can sit down and do as we please. To create a new society and make some heaven right here on this earth.”

May 19, 1925-
February 21, 1965

